

**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 Iilonga	<i>(Labour and Social Welfare)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Mines & Energy)</i>
Ms Muharukua	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>

SECRETARY

Mr. J Jacobs

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

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

DTA OF NAMIBIA

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

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

MONITOR ACTION GROUP

Mr J Viljoen *(Chief Whip)*

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

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

REPUBLICAN PARTY

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

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

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

Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Kaiyamo	
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Kasingo	
Mr I Katali	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms J Kavetuna	
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Rev W Konjore (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa – Amadhila	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms A Muharukua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms M Mungunda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Assistant Whip)</i>
Ms T Mushelenga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
MR N Nashandi	
Mr T Nambahu	
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms E !Nawases-Taeyele	
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr V Simunja	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Deputy Speaker)</i>
Dr N Tjiriange (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr R /Ui/o/oo	

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)

Mr J //Garöeb	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr M Goreseb	
Ms G Tjombe	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

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

Mr R Diergaardt

Ms I Hoffmann

Ms A Manombe-Ncube

Mr C Namoloh

Dr R Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)

Mr P Smit

(Minister)

(Deputy Minister)

(Deputy Minister)

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
23 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? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions?

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYS: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 24 and 27 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?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: KING NEHALE GATE

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. As you may recall, on the 4th of March 2009 I announced in this august House that the King Nehale Gate of the Etosha National Park was closed for visitors. This was a result of heavy rain that caused flooding and destruction of road infrastructure, including the road that leads into Etosha National Park through King Nehale Gate. You may also recall that it was during that time that five tourists were lost in Etosha National

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Park when they used the road without authorisation. The vehicle in which they were they were travelling got stuck in the sand, but they were rescued after 3 days.

In order to prevent further incidents, the Ministry of Environment of Tourism closed the King Nehale Gate on 28th of February 2009. When the floods subsided, the Ministry repaired the damage to the road infrastructure. I am happy to announce to the public that the King Nehale Gate of Etosha the National Park is now open with effect from the 14th of April 2009. The public and the visitors are invited to make use of the gate to enter the National Park on the understanding that when you are in the park, please obey the park regulations. Do not enter when you are told “no entrance”, keep to the public roads and make sure you are within the speed limit. I thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. Any further Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION OF
COMMITTEE STAGE**

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

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

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

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 22nd of April 2009, Votes 01

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HON NGHIMTINA**

to 07, 10, 11, 14, 17, 28, 29 and 30 had been agreed to and Votes 13, 18 and 19 have been introduced.

Vote 15 – “MINES AND ENERGY”, N\$164,306,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Chairperson, as the custodian of Namibia’s rich endowment of mineral, geological and energy resources, allow me to present to this august House Vote 15 of Ministry of Mines and Energy. Our Ministry promotes and regulates the responsible development and sustainable utilisation of these resources for the benefit of all Namibians.

The objectives of the Ministry of Mines and Energy in the current Medium Term Plan is to ensure:

- That the output of mineral and energy production is optimised for the benefit of Namibia;
- That mineral and energy production benefits the entire Nation;
- That the Nation is provided with an adequate supply of energy;
- That the negative impact of mineral and energy resource exploitation on the environment is minimised; and
- That the understanding of the geo-environment is enhanced.

The Ministry is engaged in activities that have a significant and far-reaching impact on the overall performance of the national economy and in line with Government policy to promote economic growth and uplift our people socio-economically. These activities involve mineral exploration and mining, diamond production and beneficiation, measures to mitigate the possible effect that the electricity shortage has on the national economy as well as running the high-resolution airborne geophysical survey programme.

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Mining has been one of the busiest and most productive components of the national economy, particularly in terms of minerals exploration. Our country has attracted exploration and mining companies from all over the world, making it currently one of the most favourable destinations in the industry. Namibia honours her commitments to the international community in terms of satisfying accords related to mineral sector whilst ensuring that investors are good corporate citizens.

With this in mind, it is a great pleasure to outline our Ministry's Budget proposal according to the programmes outlined in the **Medium Term Expenditure Framework**. The first programme being the:

OPTIMISATION OF OUTPUT OF MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTION:

In an effort to optimise the output of mineral and energy production, we have budgeted an amount of N\$45,278,000 to carry out the following activities:

It follows that, during the last Financial Year, we have increased the coverage and finalised geological maps to 48.5% of the country, geochemical sampling to 12% of the country, and high resolution airborne geophysical surveying to an almost complete coverage of 90%. We shall continue with the geological mapping programme, and make these data digitally available in an easy to use format. An internet-based metadata-database, which will allow clients to view maps and other data products available from the Geological Survey online, is currently in the testing phase. The interpretation of remote sensing data plays an important role, as our country is vast, and the number of geologists in our Ministry is small, so that they cannot visit all the remote places. It is, therefore, important that the Ministry continues with its acquisition of these data. We will undertake an even larger high-resolution airborne geophysical survey compared to 2008, to ensure total coverage of the country this year. An amount of N\$19,500,000 has been budgeted for this. It has been proven that exploration expenditure and availability of high-resolution geophysical data are directly correlated, and in these times of uncertainty, our data are essential for promoting Namibian mineral resources.

Mapping and geophysics are also used for infrastructural development and the search for underground water, which contributes to sustainable development of our country. The minerals database continues to be constantly updated as new

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data is acquired, and a number of new reports in the mineral information series are nearing completion. Airborne and ground geophysical surveys are continuously carried out to provide comprehensive and detailed data sets for use in mineral exploration, as well as the search for underground water and environmental research. A total amount of N\$3,200,000 is budgeted for these activities.

Under the geological sample storage and database project an additional core-shed, additional to the one in Windhoek, was established at Tsumeb. The new facility will store all the core samples from the northern, north-western and north-eastern part of Namibia. The geological information stored in these facilities promotes geological research, mining and exploration activities in Namibia. The earth data database is used to manage this valuable information. An amount of N\$560,000 has been budgeted to maintain and add new modules of the borehole data.

As an initiative of the Geological Survey to establish environmental baseline studies and to provide information to stakeholders in mining, a regional geochemical sampling survey has been started. The target of the project is to depict natural geochemical distribution of elements all over Namibia, to enable delineation of potential mineral deposits. An amount of N\$1,500,000 is allocated to carry out this programme. To be able to analyse the samples collected the existing geochemical laboratories at the Geological Survey require a technical upgrading that includes specialised training of staff. The geo-laboratories upgrading and staff training requires an amount of N\$1,800,000 this Financial Year.

Honourable Chairperson, the Ministry administers the implementation of the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Act, 33 of 1992 and the Health and Safety Regulations. In order to provide the requisite services to the mining industry and Government, we have budgeted N\$6,377,000 for this purpose.

The mining operations recorded considerable high levels of exploration, production and export earnings up to the third quarter of 2008 just before the world economic crisis. The minerals export value totalled N\$16,480,658 164 mainly due to the demand and the commodities price boom that continued into first half of 2008. As a result the sector contributed 12.4% (2007) to the GDP and accounted for 58% (2007) of export earnings.

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Langer Heinrich Mine reached the design capacity output and work on the stage two expansion programme to increase its annual production of 2.6 million pounds of uranium oxide (U₃O₈) was completed in 2008. Uranium mining licences for Trekoppje (Uramin Namibia) and Valencia Uranium were granted for the development of the two uranium deposits, which at full capacity will make Namibia the third-largest producer of uranium in the world after Australia and Canada.

The Tsongari Lead/Zinc Project in the Kunene Region, a joint venture company between a Namibian and Chinese company has reached an Advanced stage and the mineral rights holder has recently applied for a mining licence and their application is under consideration.

Skorpion Zinc Mine and refinery produced a total of 145,396 tonnes, indicating a 3% decline, and earned over N\$2.3 billion in export earnings, recording a 38% decline in value as a result of the drastic drop in the average price of zinc by 41% from US\$3,236.26 per ton in 2007 to US\$1,900.34 per ton in 2008. At the backdrop of the financial crisis, total diamond production dropped by 5% to 2.2 million carats during 2008.

During the Financial Year 2008/2009 our Ministry implemented the Gazette to levy royalties in terms of Section 114 of the Act on the other minerals in addition to diamonds and dimension stones, resulting in substantial, though not fully as desired contribution to the State Revenue Fund a total amount of N\$33,815,457.76.

After passing the Minerals (Prospecting and Mining) Amendment Act, all licence holders are now paying royalties, with the exception of Weatherly who are willing, but unable to, due to the global financial crises. In addition, the finalisation of the Minerals Bill and its Regulations are at an advanced stage and I will table that Bill during the course of this Financial Year.

Cooperation with strategic development partners to draft the Uranium Policy, Legislation and Regulations has been initiated to ensure the safety and security of uranium as a country's strategic resource and to comply with the requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Further options in

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consideration of the Cabinet directive to look into nuclear energy generation are also being undertaken.

Honourable Members, the expectations of increased employment in the mining sector was not realised as the labour force declined by a notable 18% during 2008 due to the ongoing financial crisis that led to low demand for minerals and depressed commodity prices. As a result, the industry had to cut down on labour, with Weatherly Mining Namibia placing all their mining operations under “*care and maintenance*”. The likelihood of copper mines to resume operations in the near future appears very slim.

The Oshikoto Gold Project in the Otavi area has had its own challenges due to the complex geology; however I am now informed that a stronger technical and financial partnership will advance the project to feasibility stage to determine the viability of the Project. The deposit is suitable for open cast methods but may also employ underground mining to optimally exploit the deep ore body.

Despite the economic downturn, Namibia continues to attract reasonable levels of interest in the mineral exploration and mining sectors, notably from the expanding economies of China and India as well as Japan and Brazil, countries that have not historically had visible presence in the Namibian mining sector.

In the last Financial Year, we issued 128 Exclusive Prospecting Licences, 235 Mining Claims and 4 Mining Licences. We are proud of these achievements and are motivated to do more with the current Budget allocation.

Exploration for base and rare metals, precious metals and industrial minerals throughout the country are progressing well, with notable interest in phosphate as an industrial mineral offshore, attracting several companies. Diamond exploration in the Kavango and Caprivi areas continues, albeit at a much reduced pace due to the depressed diamond market.

I am further pleased to report that exploration for uranium remain strong as demand for the long term supply of uranium has been relatively stable since the decline in the commodity price early last year. We shall use the

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allocations to ensure that activities on projects of strategic nature are realised to deliver value to our country.

Honourable Chairperson, I should state that the world economic crisis has had a very devastating effect on Namibia's diamond sector with potentially more than 1 600 employees losing their jobs. The sector has further been negatively impacted on, as the cutting and polishing factories experience difficulties in sourcing funds to purchase diamonds and thus are unable to maintain or increase the level of employment and production capacities. A number of them have already laid off several employees.

On the international level, major export markets for diamonds are currently in recession and consumers are reducing their spending on diamond jewellery due to the credit crunch.

Honourable Chairperson, on a positive note, however, the demand for the industrial minerals is predicted to grow. Cement manufacturing has already taken centre stage with construction of one of the cement factories already in full swing. The growth will mainly be fuelled by the acceleration in industrial and infrastructural construction activities. The southern African regional demand for industrial minerals such as cement is expected to reach 24 million metric tonnes per year by 2014.

In order to realise cement production in Namibia, our Ministry has granted three mining licenses to three projects earmarked for cement production. These are Ohorongo Cement at Otavi; Cheetah Cement at Otjiwarongo and Karibib Portland Cement in the Karibib/Usakos area.

Construction work for Ohorongo Cement has started in earnest and the plant is expected to be completed by December 2010, providing the much needed employment opportunities to the north central communities and beyond. The N\$2.5 billion cement project will have an annual production capacity of about 700,000 metric tonnes of cement and will generate about 300 direct jobs with 2,000 indirect jobs.

The time for Government to only regulate and watch the private sector make huge profits alone is now a thing of the past. Our Ministry has now registered

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a special purpose company, Epangelo Mining (Pty) Ltd in order to fully take part in the exploration and mineral development of this country.

Honourable Chairperson, with respect to hydrocarbon exploration, in the last Financial Year the first exploratory well was drilled in block 1711 in the Namibe basin. Although we did not manage to encounter oil in this well, three gas-bearing zones were intersected, suggesting that there are hydrocarbons in this block. The operators are currently doing a final evaluation of the drilling results to delineate and quantify the gas resource. We are waiting on the results of this evaluation with anticipation.

**ENSURING THAT MINERAL AND ENERGY PRODUCTION
BENEFITS THE ENTIRE NATION:.**

An amount of N\$18,877,000 has been budgeted to pursue the activities below:

We have a moral responsibility to ensure that mineral and energy production benefits the Nation. Black Economic Empowerment is a noble tool in this endeavour. It aims at addressing the economic imbalances of the past by seeking to fairly transfer and confer ownership, management and control of Namibia's oil, gas and minerals to previously disadvantaged Namibians. As soon as the TESEF is finalised, we envisage having the Black Economic Empowerment charters for the electricity, petroleum and the mining sectors in place.

In the award of both consultancy and contractors' work for the rural electrification programme over the last few years, we continued to place emphasis on Black Economic Empowerment credentials as one of the selection criteria. In addition, the contracts for the wiring of schools, clinics, Police Stations and other Government buildings in rural areas are exclusively awarded to small and medium enterprises (contractors) residing in those areas that amounted to about N\$3.6 million in the last Financial Year. These measures are meant to enhance our Black Economic Empowerment Programme.

Honourable Chairperson, our Ministry is providing technical and financial assistance to a large number of previously disadvantaged Namibians who

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make their livelihood from Small Scale Mining. I inaugurated the Erongo Region Small Miners Association (ERSMA) in August 2008 at Karibib with a donation of N\$500,000 from the Minerals Development Fund in my Ministry. ERSMA is regional body that groups eight cooperatives and associations from various constituents in Erongo Region and is a brainchild of the Stakeholder Forum consisting of: our Ministry, Rio Tinto Rössing Uranium, Navachab Goldmine, the regional political leadership, and various small-scale miners in Erongo Region. The Ministry's intention is to emulate this association around the country wherever small mining projects can be feasible.

Five small-scale mining projects were awarded to various consulting firms to produce feasibility study reports during 2008/2009 Financial Year and to assess whether these projects will be technically and economically viable for small scale mining operations. An amount of N\$3 million has been budgeted for this purpose, for implementation during the current Financial Year.

In the course of this Financial Year, we shall continue to increase resource allocation from the Minerals Development Fund to small miners. Through the Geological Survey of Namibia and its counterpart organisation, the German Geological Survey, we are assisting the small-scale miners and a sales kiosk is currently being built for the sale of mineral specimen at the Spitzkoppe turn-off. The Ministry laboratory assists these people with mineral analysis. However, I must reiterate that additional funds are required to expedite the development of this sector.

To address the persistent skills shortage within the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the industry, the Minerals Development Fund sponsored students to attend training at the Zimbabwe School of Mines to the tune of N\$810,150 and all the fifteen intakes for last year are currently placed at various mines in Namibia for practical attachments. This is an ongoing programme aimed at building adequate Namibian capacity in the minerals industry for the next 5 years and another 15 students have already registered for the 2009 academic year.

In order to enforce the legislations and regulations, inspectors visit the operations to discuss issues related to health and safety. As a result of the ongoing engagements, our industry has had a commendable record with only one fatality in the last year. We shall continue to improve this record to a

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fatality-free mining sector. We shall emphasise that mining companies should not put profits before human lives.

To encourage dialogue with the industry, Our Ministry conducted a two-day Mining Information Sharing Workshop for all stakeholders from 18 to 19 February 2009, to sensitise them about the importance of communicating with the Ministry with regards to Mine Regulations and other statutory requirements. The workshop proved successful and has now been incorporated to be a regular activity.

The Diamond Industry will be in a depressed state for the next year and a half, – depending on how quickly the global economy and therefore consumer confidence will take to rebound. Diamonds will continue to play a major role in the country's economy going forward. We are already witnessing increased sales, albeit at reduced prices, at Namdeb which is reflective of a rebound in consumer confidence globally.

For that reason, diamond security must continue to be a priority by our Ministry. We will continue to be vigilant to protect the rough diamonds at source to ensure that diamonds are recovered in processes that are as much "hands-off" as possible. To do this, we rely on technology but more importantly our inspectors who have been deployed on-site at operations onshore and offshore play an indispensable role to make sure that all operators play by the rules and comply with all the statutory obligations.

Though onshore diamond resources are progressively depleting and require innovative ideas to continue mining them viably and sustainably, offshore mining, on the other hand, has continued to show potential and great promise. That is, Namibia continues to be the global leader in offshore prospecting and mining technology which has paved the way for offshore production to exceed land production with over one million carats of diamonds mined in 2008.

Given the above, I should now inform this Honourable House that Namibia is serving as the Chair of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme during the year 2009. The Secretariat is hosted at the Ministry of Mines and Energy and will be holding the annual Intercessional and Plenary meetings in June and November of 2009, respectively.

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Honourable Chairperson, value addition to Namibia's mineral commodities is a stated policy position of the Namibian Government. which is in line with Vision 2030 and NDP III and SWAPO Party Manifesto. Already 16 cutting and polishing factories have been established and commissioned since the promulgation of the Diamond Act in the year 2000. Unfortunately, much of the gains realised so far are being eroded by the ongoing financial crisis. Nonetheless, our Ministry will continue to monitor global developments that impact on this key sector.

A major study on the marine terraces along the Skeleton Coast. as part of our geological surveying activities currently carried out, will assist in determining the diamond potential of the area. Nevertheless, a large portion of this year's allocation will go towards activities geared primarily for the monitoring and regulation of the industry and promotion of growth, diversification and stability of our diamond industry.

PROVISION OF ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF ENERGY TO THE NATION:

An amount of N\$79,910,000 is required for the activities stated below:

Oil and gas exploration remains a critical element to achieve security of supply of energy to the Nation and we continue to focus on these activities. Exploration and supporting activities (such as licensing) attract huge investments, resulting in substantial revenue for the State. We expect petroleum exploration in Namibia to continue at a steady pace, albeit the global economic meltdown and the consequent reduction in exploration capital. Our Ministry is encouraging the exploration of coal-bed methane in the country and has issued new exploration licenses in this regard. If discovered, coal-bed methane can go a long way to solve our energy shortage in the country. Other oil and gas exploration activities are continuing on- and offshore Namibia as planned and we remain hopeful for a discovery of petroleum in the not too distant future.

As far as the Kudu Gas Field development is concerned, we have noted the slow progress in bringing this project to fruition and continue to monitor

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developments in order to come up with appropriate action from our side. We will report on progress in the next Financial Year.

Honourable Chairperson, the energy sector has been doing well during the past year, especially by ensuring that the Nation has been adequately supplied with electricity and petroleum products. However, high crude oil prices during the first quarter of last year have again resulted in soaring fuel prices at the pump in a range of N\$10 to N\$11. With the onset and increasing grip of a global economic downturn in the last quarters of 2008 to date, oil prices tumbled down to the record lows as a result of a decrease in global energy demand due to economic recession worldwide. Pump prices have now substantially reduced and stabilised at the level of N\$5 to N\$7 as a result of reduction in crude oil prices.

Our Ministry continue with rural electrification, providing village reticulation and connecting all wired localities to the main electricity grid in all Regions of the country. During the 2008/2009 Financial Year, an amount of N\$45 million was budgeted for rural electrification and 41 villages in twelve Regions have benefited from this programme. The budgeted amount for rural electrification has now been increased to N\$56 million in the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

The Ministry has a Solar Revolving Fund that so far saw the expenditure to an amount of N\$1,152,000 that led to the installation of 149 solar systems around the country.

In the last Financial Year we spent N\$258,000 on a fuel-efficient woodstove manufactured for the promotion, marketing and training on fuel efficient woodstoves in the Karas, Kunene, Otjozondjupa, Oshikoto and Erongo Regions. A total of 59 people benefited from this training of which 65% were women. In addition, the Ministry remains committed to the restructuring of Electricity Supply Industry.

The negotiations through the Permanent Joint Technical Commission (PJTC) between Angola and Namibia to develop the Baynes Hydropower Scheme are progressing well. The Cunene Consortium was appointed to conduct a full feasibility study. Equally, the Ministry has engaged NamPower to investigate the possibility of constructing a Small Hydro Plant on the Orange River and progress on this is at an advance stage. In an attempt to address the power

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shortage in the country, NamPower is currently constructing a HVDC line (Caprivi Link) to interconnect Namibia to its northern neighbours. Our reliance on cheap imported electricity from South Africa has put us in a vulnerable position and it might be necessary for us to make some tough choices in future in order to ensure adequacy, reliability and security of power supply to the country.

**MINIMISATION OF THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF
MINERAL/ENERGY RESOURCE EXPLOITATION ON THE
ENVIRONMENT:.**

We have set aside an amount of N\$9,388,000 for the following efforts:

Our Ministry increased its activities in environmental geology as well as urban and regional land-use planning. All major mines in Namibia were monitored by the division of Engineering and Environmental Geology of the Geological Survey. Our geologists collected hundreds of samples around the mines and analysed them. In some cases severe environmental problems exist around the roughly 200 abandoned mine sites in Namibia.

Examples are Berg Aukas, Oamites as well as the active Tsumeb smelter. Our Ministry developed strategies to mitigate adverse and negative impacts on human health and solved these problems.

Uranium mining is booming, especially in the sensitive areas of the Central Namib. Beside the two existing uranium mines (Rössing, Langer Heinrich Trekkopje and Valencia), we expect three or even more additional mines to be opened within the next years. This development will create thousands of jobs but housing, infrastructure, as well as water and electricity supply have to be organised in a relatively short time and with a minimised impact on the Namib Desert environment.

To assess all those aspects, their cumulative or synergistic effects and to develop a comprehensive strategic management plan, our Ministry took the lead to conduct the first-ever in the world Strategic Environmental, Economic and Social Assessment (SEA) for the Mining Sector. A series of baseline surveys and studies of the highest standards and with the best available

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methodologies are undertaken by our Ministry through the Geological Survey and its sister Geological Survey from Germany. This will guarantee sustainable development in the coastal area not only according to international best practice, but by setting a new standard.

ENHANCEMENT OF THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE GEO-ENVIRONMENT:.

An amount of N\$10,853,000 will cover efforts to enhance the understanding of the geo-environment.

The geological aspects of new infrastructure developments, existing and new waste disposal sites, and coastal zone changes are monitored on a regular basis. Further projects include the application for the extension of the Namibian continental shelf in accordance with the International Law of the Sea, the co-management of the Benguela Current Commission, the influence of geological processes to climate changes, the utilisation of geological resources and biodiversity and the international cultural aspects of our natural heritage with respect to the World heritage Convention and the United Nations International Year of Planet Earth. Our Ministry has also been elected by representatives of all African Geological Surveys to represent the continent on the Steering Committee of the “*OneGeology*” project, a project under the International Year aiming at compiling a digital geological map of the world and making it internet-accessible. Continued active participation in the work of the UNESCO National Committee will hopefully lead to the identification of a second World Heritage Site for Namibia, considering the excellent exposure of the geological outcrops, and a dossier on geological and mining sites in the newly proclaimed Sperrgebiet National Park is currently in operation.

The potential for geo-tourism has been further promoted with work to establish the first “*Geo-Park*” in Africa under the UNESCO programme for geo-parks. We at the Ministry are proud to be commended for such initiatives in the international forums. These activities are supporting the tourism sector, which is important for the Namibian economy, thereby creating employment opportunities. Information on geological matters is continuously provided through the Ministry’s museum and library, which attract scientists, tourists,

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scholars and all other Namibians alike. We, therefore, fulfil our other role in earth science education.

Honourable Chairperson, in conclusion, I would like to assure Members of this House that the funds I request for appropriation to our Ministry will be utilised prudently and assure that these funds will be used to improve the quality of life in our Nation.

I would further like to express my gratitude to the Minister of Finance, her Deputy Minister, Permanent Secretary and staff for a well-constructed Budget. Furthermore, I would like to thank the mining fraternity who are struggling with this global financial crisis but are firm to continue with their operations in Namibia despite this crisis. I thank you.

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

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

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: **Vote 25 – “LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT”, N\$174,294,000 put for Introduction.**

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is my honour to introduce to this august House, Vote 25 for the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement for the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

I wish to reiterate my support for the Budget presented by the Honourable Minister of Finance earlier in the House.

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I would further like to extend my gratitude to Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Honourable Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and the entire team of the dedicated staff for the hard work and meticulous care that went into the preparation of this Budget. I would equally like to thank her for her positive response to our request for additional resources amidst the very trying economic climate.

Comrade Chairperson, before I present the Budget for Vote 25, I would beg your indulgence, Honourable Members, that this portfolio is one that presents both challenges and opportunities and ultimately affects the livelihoods and prosperity of all Namibians, because access to land remains fundamental the world over to combat poverty and Namibia is no exemption.

As we are only too aware, Honourable Members, the realities on the ground with regard to land reform in our Land of the Brave is extremely evident, it is therefore not my desire to dwell on the same, other than to state that the Ministry is tasked to manage Namibia's land resources in a sustainable manner and to facilitate equitable and affordable access to Namibian citizens to land in order to address disparities in income.

The National Development Plan 3 (NDP 3) requires that the Ministry distribute land equitably and improve income through sustainable land use.

In pursuit of the above goals, and especially as much as they relate to poverty eradication, it is the Ministry's mission to prudently pursue reforms that facilitate affordable access of all citizens to land services for the responsible exploitation, efficient and sustainable use of our land resources.

As custodians of our land resources, the Ministry places emphasis on dialogue and full participation in the development of integrated land use plans that guide land usage and allocation. The Ministry also ensures that the integrated land use plans are fully understood by all and adhered to.

We shall further continue to facilitate equitable and affordable access of Namibian citizens to land through the National Resettlement Programme and the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, this now brings me to the budgetary allocation for the current Financial Year. The Ministry has been

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allocated a total of N\$174,294,000 for the 2009/2010 Financial Year. This amount represents: N\$84,045,000 for Operational Budget and N\$90,249,000.

The Budget of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, as expressed in its Medium Term Plan, currently consist of four programmes: Land Acquisition, Distribution and Resettlement; Security of Tenure; Land Usage and the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

For the 2009/2010 Financial Year, we intend to carry out the following programmes, in line with the NDP 3 objectives, as per the amounts indicated below:

Programme 1: Land Acquisition, Distribution and Resettlement:

Redistributive land reform is a major component of the Land Reform Programme. We have set ourselves the target of redistributing 15 million

hectares of freehold land through the Resettlement Programme and the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme by the year 2020. We have so far redistributed 4,3 million hectares through the two programmes leaving 10,7 million hectares still to be redistributed.

The year 2008/2009 was a particularly challenging year for the Land Acquisition Programme. With only three farms purchased during the entire year, it became evident that we need to explore a variety of land acquisition methods in order to reach our target.

I would, however, like to reassure this House that I am also considering new initiatives that will hasten the implementation of this programme.

In tandem with the acquisition of land, the Land Reform Programme has initiatives targeted at improving economic production levels of the land acquired.

Comrade Chairperson, I am pleased to inform you that the Infrastructural Audit and Demographic and Socio- Economic Survey of all Government farms that we embarked on last year, will be completed this Financial Year. This survey we believe will provide information necessary for the efficient management of all resettlement farms.

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The Land Acquisition, Distribution and Resettlement Programme will require an amount of N\$104,633,000

Programme 2: Security of Tenure and Real Property Programme:

This programme contributes to the maintenance of the registry of land that affords security of tenure and property rights. In addition to the maintenance and improvement of the Deeds Registry, the funds requested will build up the registry of land in communal areas.

The Communal Land Reform Act, (Act 5 of 2002) requires the registration of land holdings in communal areas. We have now developed an ambitious plan to register customary land rights in communal areas over the next three years. I am pleased to inform you that the Budget presented to this House contains an amount earmarked to start up an accelerated land registration process in communal areas. We need to sustain this effort until the exercise is completed.

To maintain and develop our land registry system and to carry out an accelerated communal land registration process, we require an amount of N\$28,117,000.

Programme 3: Land Usage:

The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement is tasked to ensure that Namibia's land resources are equitably allocated, efficiently managed and responsibly used for the benefit of all Namibians.

Land-related interventions need careful internal and intra-institutional coordination. Lack of inter-sectoral coordination has the potential to result in contradictory and competing demands for land uses.

In the last Financial Year, the Ministry developed a systematic and participatory approach for the development of Regional Land Use Plans. This approach will culminate in the formal approval and publication of the plans that should guide any land-based development plans. In the last Financial Year, we started with the development of one regional land use plan for Karas Region and with the funds requested, we shall extend this effort to two more Regions.

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In an effort to promote the sustainable utilisation of communal land, we have developed small-scale farming in the Ohangwena and Kavango Regions.

12 Boreholes in the Sambuyi area in the Kavango Region have been equipped. Due to continuous expansion of settlements in our communal areas, we have decided to carry out a demographic and socio-economic survey in the areas earmarked for small-scale farms to minimise land use conflicts. This survey will guide us and further improve the implementation of this programme.

A total of N\$10,516,000 is required to implement the above programme.

Programme 4: National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Fundamental Datasets:

No development can take place without properly delineating the natural and man-made features in addition to graphically documenting the boundaries and registering land rights.

In pursuance of this objective, the Ministry revised the draft document on the extension of the Continental Shelf and trained Namibian personnel on the technical and scientific aspects of the Namibian submission to the United Nations (UN) for the extension of the Continental Shelf. If successful, this effort will result in the extension of Namibia's territorial jurisdiction by up to 1.07 million square kilometres. We further completed the revision of the Topographic Maps of the Khomas Region and continued the development of a Digital Cadastral System for Namibia. This system includes, computers, software, a database to house all farm and erven data in Namibia and modules for digital lodgement of survey records. When fully operational, the system will enable electronic approval and access to diagrams and general plans without any visit to the Surveyor-General's office by clients.

The Ministry also finalised the design of the extension of the geodetic network of Namibia. The geodetic network was limited to the commercial farming areas, thereby making the cost of surveys more expensive in the areas with limited geodetic network coverage.

Comrade Chairperson, in this Financial Year, we shall make our submission for the extension of the continental shelf to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. We also plan to continue with the revision of the 1:50 000 topographic maps of the Caprivi Region and implement the

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digital cadastral system. The intention is that in the very near future, information will be available to the public via Internet and authorised users will be able to download whatever data they need as far as Topographic Maps are concerned.

This programme requires N\$31,028,000. We shall utilise N\$90,249,000 on expenditures of a capital nature. N\$50,000,000 of this Capital Budget will go towards the purchase of commercial farming land as well as the development of infrastructure on those farms.

I will fail in my duty, if I omit to acknowledge the contribution by the European Union, the German Government and the Spanish Cooperation in the Ministry's endeavours. Their contributions continue to provide vital stimuli to our programmes.

In conclusion, I am of the opinion that the process of Land Reform remains an enormous challenge but not insurmountable if all the stakeholders pull together!

With the above motivation, I wish to request approval and support of this august House, for an amount of N\$174,294,000 only to carry out the programmes of the Ministry in the 2009/2010 Financial Year, as elaborated above.

I thank you for your attention and anticipated support.

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

Vote 24 – “TRANSPORT”, N\$1,398,157,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, allow me to introduce Vote 24, for the Department of Transport.

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I will focus my motivation by primarily highlighting some important achievements during the last Financial Year.

The mandate of the Ministry of Works and Transport as far as the Department of Transport is concerned is to ensure sectoral policy and develop transport infrastructure in the country. The Department achieves this noble objective by providing the Nation with infrastructure related to all four modes of Transport. These are Maritime, Road, Rail and Air transport. In addition to providing seamless inter modal transport, the Department also has responsibilities to ensure that meteorological infrastructure is developed and maintained. In so doing, The Ministry contributes towards the realisation of Vision 2030 and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. The following are some of the achievements in the areas of the 4 modes of transport during the previous year:

Honourable Chairperson, let me first keep the august house abreast with the achievements at our Ports and Harbour Infrastructure developments. In particular, I will refer to the Ports of Walvis Bay and that of Luderitz.

Namport has succeeded in growing the volume of business to and from our neighboring countries such as Angola, Zambia, Botswana and South Africa. This growth was realized through the efforts of all members of the Walvis Bay Corridor Group and the Trans Kalahari Corridor Secretariat in establishing Walvis Bay as a Regional Port by delivering top quality services at competitive prices.

Namport through its subsidiary company Elgin Brown and Hamer Namibia continued to implement a cabinet directive to grow and enhance the ship repair industry in Namibia. This venture succeeded in the creation of almost one thousand new job opportunities in a space of two years.

Furthermore, Namport during the year under review met the constant demand for increased container business by continually investing in more infrastructure and equipment. In particular, a new mobile harbour crane was

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added to the arsenal of ship handling equipment, and additional stacking space was created, including the addition of 256 new plug-points for reefer containers.

The Port is at a juncture now where it needs to take the next quantum leap in terms of expansion. The expansion project was successfully launched during the year, and even though it will take at least three years to complete. The expansion will put Walvis Bay firmly on the map as a truly first-class Regional Port.

In conclusion, no review of Namport achievements would be complete without mentioning the fact that the Port Authority had its best Financial Year ever. Record profits were the catalyst for the biggest dividend ever paid to its shareholder, the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

Cape Fria/Angra Fria

A pre-feasibility study of the proposed Cape Fria/Angra Fria Port is completed. The report is distributed to stakeholders. The Ministry has proposed to conduct an integrated feasibility study that will include harbour, railway network, roads network, markets goods destiny for Namibia and for neighbouring countries (Import and Export), etc.

A stakeholder committee consisting of Government Ministries, private sector, especially business communities will be established to oversee the implementation of this feasibility study.

Honourable Chairperson, last year I reported to this august House that the usage of the Trans Kalahari High Way by international Travellers was standing at 58% in traffic volumes. I can now report that this has increased slightly to over 60%. Thanks to the work of the Walvis Bay Corridor and the Trans Kalahari Corridor Secretariat in their efforts to promote the use of the Trans Kalahari Highway. It has also been reported that usage of the same road by domestic travellers now stands at 50%.

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Honourable Chairperson, the Ministry in partnership with cooperating partners, notably Germany and the European Commission is shifting towards a **Sector-Wide Approach (SWAp)** in the financing and management of the road sub-sector. This policy shift aims at strengthening Government-owned strategies and contributing to the development of a sustainable sub-sector with efficient institutions and a coherent policy framework and donor coordination system particularly in view of shortcomings in financing development and maintenance of road infrastructure.

On-going reforms within the road sub-sector include: developing a long-term integrated (all-modes) transport Master Plan, and undertaking a study on sub-sector financing instruments and a review of policies.

Performance Indicators for the Roads Authority (RA) and the Road Fund Administration (RFA) have been developed and a performance monitoring system is also underway.

In the Road sub-sector the following road construction projects were carried out during the year under review and beyond:

1. **Kamanjab-Omakange (204 km):** This road was co-funded by **ADB** and Government and was being upgraded to bitumen standard. I can now report that the whole 204 km of this road has been completed and was commissioned by His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba on the 18th of October 2008.
2. Drainage Structures at Sesfontein, Okangwati, Okombahe and Khowarib. The construction of these four drainage structures was also completed.
3. **Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru-Elundu road (370 km):** This project is co-financed by Japanese **Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)** and the Government of the Republic of Namibia. The project is divided into

two phases. Phase 1 Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru covers 134 km. The first 23km of the first phase is completed and is open to traffic. Phase I will be completed in November 2010. Phase II runs from Nkurenkuru-Kongo-Elundu and covers 236 km. Phase II is expected to be completed by Financial Year 2011/2012.

4. **DR 3611 Oshikuku – Okalongo** road (23 km): This road will be upgraded to bitumen standard. The estimated costs are N\$ 50 million. An on-site investigation was conducted in December 2007. The detailed design has commenced and tender documentation is in progress. The project will be completed by 31 March 2010.

5. **Eiseb- Gam -Epukiro:** This road is being gravelled and the construction work started during previous Financial Year. The project is divided into 3 Sections. The first section is 73 km, out of these 26 km is completed and opens to traffic. It runs from Gam Junction – Benjamin Post – Eiseb 10 Post. The construction progress for this section has been slow and therefore the contractor has employed a subcontractor to speed up the construction. The second section is from Epukiro (Okatumba Gate) – Benjamin post. The total length is 75 km. This section is completed and opened to traffic. The third section is from Gam Junction – Gam Settlement, Gam Junction – Eiseb 10 Post. The total length is 87 km and is completed and open to traffic.

6. **Rehabilitation of Okahandja-Karibib:** The project will rehabilitate the most damaged section of 77 km of the road and restore its service life with improved standards. The project is co-financed with the Road Fund Administration and German Cooperation through the new Sector Wide Approach Mechanism. This road is the economic lifeline of our economy and forms part of the Trans Kalahari Corridor. The construction works is progressing well and it is anticipated to be completed by the end of April 2010.

7. **TR 15/1 Tsumeb-Tsintsabis-Katwitwi** road project has commenced this FY 2009/10. The road will be upgraded to bitumen standard and will relieve the current traffic congestion at Oshikango boarder with Angola. It will connect Namibia with the province of Kwando Kubango in southern Angola to create a second Windhoek-Luanda Corridor. It is envisaged that this project will create similar economic activities at Katwitwi like we have now at Oshikango. The total length of the project is approximately 200 km. The construction of the first 70 km has commenced in April 2009.
8. **TR 14/2: Gobabis-Otjinene:** This upgrade represents the first phase of the Gobabis to Grootfontein road. This is part of Trans-Kalahari Highway extension to the northern part of the country and to southern Angola. It is envisaged that N\$ 79.6 million for the initial works of design documentation and tender processes will be needed.
9. **Okahao - Omakange:** The design and tender preparation for this project is completed. The offers received from contractors were very high and the advertisement has been cancelled for re-advertisement.
10. **The construction of the following labour based road projects also commenced during the FY 2008/09:** The projects are co-funded by a grant by EU under the Rural Poverty Reduction Programme. They are expected to be completed by September 2009.
 - DR3502: Kongola/Zambian Border (22 km),
 - DR3507: Ngoma-Muyako (Namibia/Botswana border, 43 km),
 - TR 8/6: Katima Mulilo-Kopano Quarantine Camp (5 km),

Meanwhile, the tender documents for the following labour based road projects are ready for advertisements:

- Tondoro-Kamupupu (15 km)
- Rupara/Muveve-Gcangcu (12 km)

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- Mangetti West-Quarantine Camp (50 km)
- MR 92 Omagongati (15 km).

11. Maintenance of the Aerodrome: Maintenance works were carried out at Aroab and is completed. At Kamanjab and Sesfontein maintenance works is continuing, while Mariental the consultant is busy with technical inspections and thereafter will prepare the bill of quantity for the maintenance work to be done.

Honorable Chairperson, having narrated the achievements recorded by the Ministry in the road sector, I now wish to share with you our achievements in the Railway sub- sector.

Just like the road sub-sector, the rail sub-sector is equally very expensive. This mode of transport has become very important because of the Port of Walvis which has a competitive advantage over many others in Africa. The use of railway to and from the harbour has proven of the years as the most economic and sustainable transport mode. It is against this background that the Ministry of Works and Transport has continued with programme of extending the Northern Railway Extension Project and the rehabilitation of the Aus-Luderitz railway line during the previous Financial Year.

The construction of Northern Railway Line Construction Phase II (Ondangwa to Oshikango) that commenced in September 2006 is still ongoing. An amount of N\$100,040,000 was allocated to the project. Most of the earthworks embankment have been completed except for the station area. This particular project component was delayed as consultations with relevant Government institutions and local communities were required. This included compensation issues to affected land owners in and around the station area.

Further delays were experienced because it became necessary to re-plan and re-stake the station yard area as was required. Similar problems were experienced as a result of rain floods that occurred in the areas to the extent that no work could be done for considerable amount of time during the past

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Financial Year. As a result of all these problems to which the Ministry had no control over, only about N\$39.2 million of the allocated funds could be used. About N\$26 million was therefore verimented to the Upgrading and Rehabilitation of the Aus-Luderitz railway line. In the same vein, 24 million was verimented to Civil Aviation projects where a dire need of funds existed.

Progress on the Upgrading and Rehabilitation of the Aus-Luderitz railway line had been gradual but ongoing. An amount of N\$28 million was allocated to the project, and later supplemented with N\$26 million which was verimented from another project.

On general railway maintenance, a railway line ultrasonic testing as part of the railway line condition appraisal was done for rail distance totalling 1,021 kilometres. Results revealed 672 defects of critical severity. This means that these defects can cause train derailment at any moment. It is against this background that I would like to request this august House to consider allocating substantive amounts of money to rehabilitation work on our national railway line.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to continue with the progress in respect to Transport Policies, Legislation and Regulation.

Significant progress has been recorded in our ongoing undertaking to have the Road Traffic and Transport Act and the Road Traffic and Transport Regulations fully rolled out. Consultations are being made with stake holders to allow for the introduction of the colour code for our Taxis across the country. The introduction of special colours for Taxi across the country will not only bring discipline to Taxi drivers but will also reduce the number of the current mushrooming uncontrolled and unregistered Taxis. Similar consultations have been held with relevant stakeholders regarding the bus seats. Honourable Members will recall that last year during the Budget Debate, I announced that the Ministry had granted an amnesty to bus operators who had installed additional seats in their vehicles contrary to the legal provisions. These bus owners have had until 31 December 2008 to comply

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with the current provisions of the law or risk having their vehicles taken off the road in January 2009. However, further consultations with the industry necessitated the extension of the amnesty period to 30 June 2009. In addition, the Ministry is busy developing a long term road safety strategy and action plan. Consultation with relevant stakeholders is currently on the way.

Honourable Members, allow me to continue with the achievements in the Aviation and Meteorological sub-sector. I will start with the achievements in Civil Aviation.

However, before I do that, I would like to share with the Honourable Members one of the fundamental issues at Civil Aviation that needed urgent attention during the year under review. The Honourable Members will recall that the first Comprehensive Systematic Audit under the auspices of the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) revealed that the State's capability to effectively implement Standard and Recommended Practices (SARPs) is significantly affected. As a result Namibia's Safety Oversight System responded poorly to the Eight Critical Elements considered key to effectively carry out the State's oversight responsibility.

One of the critical audit findings by ICAO was the non-existence of qualified and Professional staff members at the Directorate of Civil Aviation to effectively perform the State's regulatory and overseeing function as contained in the Chicago Convention of 1944. As a result of this, the Ministry approached Cabinet for permission to secure Experts from ICAO. At the moment the Experts are in the country and are assisting the Ministry in effectively implementing ICAO's Standard and Recommended Practices (SARPs). Although this project was not as a result of Budget provisions from this house, it is important to inform the Honourable Members that issues of aircraft incidents and accidents are being dealt with accordingly.

The lengthening and widening of the runway at Walvis Bay Airport to ICAO Category 4 "F" to accommodate bigger aircraft such as the Airbus A380 (i.e.

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the new generation of wide body aircraft) has been completed. The contractor is at the moment busy installing the runway lights as well as the Instruments Landing System.

Although the design of the headquarters for the Namibian Civil Aviation Authority has been completed in 2007, work on actual construction could not start in the 2008/2009 Financial Year since no funds were allocated during the year under review. However, the tender for the Namibian Radar project which was ongoing for a long time was allocated and it is expected that the project will be completed by May 2010.

The Ministry is responsible for the maintenance, upgrading and construction of the state owned aerodromes that are not the responsibility of Namibia Airport Company Ltd (NAC) and are not owned by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism or the Ministry of Defence. During the previous Financial Year, the Ministry budgeted N\$600,000 for this specific item. The utilisation of the indicated figure is explained under the achievements in the road sector.

With regard to meteorological services, I must say that challenges arising from climate change and the need to develop capacity to support national, regional and international early warning systems aimed at mitigating weather and climate problems continue to exist. In this regard there is a requirement for Namibia's meteorological infrastructure to conform to regional and international expectations as contained in the various conventions, regulations and standards.

In this regard some meteorological facilities have been upgraded during the previous Financial Year. Automatic Weather Stations and Upper Air Observations have been installed in some towns. Additional offices have been establishment in Regions in Katima Mulilo, Ondangwa, Swakopmund and Keetmanshoop to give the much needed information to the wider public. The work of the Meteorological Service and its significance to the public/Nation cannot be over-emphasised as it has been witnessed during our rainy reason.

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Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to share with you developments in the Maritime sub-sector.

Developments in the Maritime sub-sector for the time under review were mostly related to the development of National Maritime Legislation. The Merchant Shipping Act of 1951 was amended and is currently with the relevant authority for perusal and further advice. Similarly, the Admiralty Jurisdiction Bill is also drafted and is currently receiving attention of the legal advisers. Furthermore, the Merchant Shipping Fees Regulations of 1998 have been amended and repealed by the new one of 2009, as promulgated by the Minister of Works and Transport.

An improved safety awareness among seafaring communities in the country continue to increase, thanks to the Ministry's sound effort to enforce relevant maritime safety rules through safety surveys and inspections, not only of ships but also the competency of seamen to handle emergencies at sea.

Furthermore, the new shore based navigational aids (racons) to guide ships/boats plying along our coast have been acquired and installed at various crucial positions such as the Kunene river mouth, Cape Frio, the Sylvia Hill between Walvis Bay and Luderitz, as well as at Oranjemund.

This will significantly enhance ships safety operations in our coastal waters along the shores of Namibia.

Honourable Chairperson, allow me to share with you developments pertaining to Government Garage.

During the Financial Year 2008/2009 Government Garage was allocated N\$28 millions for personnel expenditure. At the beginning of the Financial Year under review, Government Garage had an opening balance of N\$32 millions in its Trade Account. No funds were allocated in the Vote for the purchasing of vehicles. The Ministry managed to buy 289 vehicles to the amount of N\$58 millions from its Trade Account as well as from the Vehicle Replacement

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Account bringing the fleet to 2,499 vehicles. From the auctioning of old vehicles, My Ministry has generated N\$5 millions.

Honourable Members, let me brief you on the activities of Government Air Transport Services (GATS). The Department of Government Air Transport Services' functions are to provide safe, secure and efficient air transport service to the Government's VIPs, officials, visiting dignitaries and commercial sector to local and international destinations.

It also renders transport services to conduct geological surveys for the Ministry of Mines and Energy, game rescue, as well as wildfire control for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and private enterprises. During the previous Financial Year, the Department collected N\$7millions as a result of its activities.

Honourable Chairperson, the Department is responsible to ensure public access to safer and reliable transport and meteorology infrastructure. The provision of this infrastructure contributes to economic development and employment creation and poverty reduction. I therefore, would like to share with you the eight programmes of the Ministry:

Programme 1, 2 & 3: Roads construction and upgrading, Roads rehabilitation, maintenance and management of the national roads network & Non-motorized transportation infrastructure development:.

The purpose of this programme is to construct rural gravel roads, to improve rural roads to bitumen-paved roads and to upgrade trunk and main roads to bitumen standard.

The allocation for this Financial Year will cover the construction and upgrading of the following roads: Okahao-Omakange (83 km), Gobabis – Otjinene (157 km), Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru-Elundu Road, Oshikuku – Okalongo (23 km), MR 125 Liselo-TR8/6 Linyati-Singalamwe-Kongola (205km), Onalulago – Epembe (46 km), Mangetti West – Quarantine Camp (50 km) and Tsintsabis – Katwitwi (180 km) as well as the labour based gravel roads I referred to earlier.

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Another purpose of this programme is to rehabilitation, most of the valuable assets of the national road network. The allocation for this Financial Year will cover the condition of rehabilitation for Okahandja – Karibib, phase 1 (77 km) and the repair of the 2008/2009 flood damages on the National Road Network.

I, therefore request an amount of N\$ 685,417,000 for this programme.

Programme 4: Railways network development, maintenance and rehabilitation:

The programme focuses on the construction of new railway line, maintenance, rehabilitation and upgrading of old ones to ensure goods and passenger services within and across the border.

Honourable Chairperson, the amount of N\$190,488,000 is allocated to railway network development, maintenance and rehabilitation programme during 2009/2010.

Programme 5: Air Transport infrastructure:

The purpose of this program is to ensure a safe, secure and efficient Civil Aviation infrastructure. Another purpose of this programme is to regulate transportation infrastructure and to investigate aircraft incidents and accidents as well as to contribute to the safety and well-being of the citizens.

The allocation for this Financial Year will cover the completion of the Walvis Bay Airport and Civil Aviation Infrastructure project, the payment scheduled for factory acceptance to be made on the radar and surveillance system, the construction of the headquarter for the Directorate of Civil Aviation, the Katima Mulilo Control Tower and the construction of the Government aircraft hangars. The acquisition of the New Falcon is considered important taking into account the lifespan of the current one which is coming to an end.

The allocation of fewer resources than requested has also resulted in the slow provision of motor testing stations and centres. The other issue of grave concern is the surfacing of fraud and corruption in the issuance of the vehicle and driver licensing documents.

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In our effort to bring culprits to book, the Roads Authority has teamed up with Namibian Police to carry out undercover operations at various stations which have already produced a number of apprehensions with about five (5) examiners suspended pending disciplinary actions.

I, therefore request an amount of Four Hundred and Twenty Nine Million Three Hundred and Eighty Two Thousand Namibia dollars (N\$ 429,382,000) for this Programme.

Programme 6: Meteorological infrastructure development:

The purpose of this program is to upgrade meteorological infrastructure to ensure compliance with the World Meteorological Organizations Conventions as well as with the SADC protocol on Transport and Meteorology.

The allocation for this Financial Year will cover the upgrading of the Meteorological facilities.

I, therefore request an amount of Twenty Eight Million One Hundred and Fifty Four Thousand Namibia dollars (N\$28,154,000) for this Programme.

Programme 7: Maritime and inland water transport infrastructure development and safety:.

The Purpose of the program is to assure safety of life and property at sea, protection of marine environment from pollution by ships through regular inspections and patrols, as well as promotion of national, regional and international maritime interests.

Because of these activities, I therefore request and amount of N\$26,068,000

Programme 8: Government Garage Services:

The purpose of this program is to provide Government with reliable and safe road transport services. The allocated amount will be used for personnel expenditure as well as for goods and other services.

I therefore request an amount of N\$38,648,000 for this programmes.

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In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, in light of the above outlined programmes, I humbly submit Vote 24 for the total amount of N\$1,398,157,000 for your endorsement and approval.

I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

**Vote 27 – “YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE”,
N\$308, 308,000 put for Introduction.**

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is once again my distinct honour to present to this august House, the Budget request for Vote 27: Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture for the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

First of all allow me to congratulate Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Minister of Finance, and her entire team, for having managed to allocate resources to programmes that stimulate economic growth as well as to those that benefit the poor segments of our society.

The proposed Budget allocation for the 2009/2010 Financial Year amounts to N\$380,308,000. This amount represents: N\$322,194,000 for the Operational Budget; and N\$58,114,000 for the Development Budget.

An additional amount of N\$90,151,000 was allocated to this Vote for 2009/2010 Financial Year.

Let me dwell on the objectives and targets:

Our objectives are summarised on page 743 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2009/2010 to 2011/2012.

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In order to achieve our objectives we set 5 targets for ourselves and 3 were met during the 2007/2008 Financial Year. A detailed summary thereof is on pages 133 to 136 of the Accountability Report for the 2007/2008 Financial Year.

PROGRAMMES

The Budget of our Ministry, as expressed in the Medium Term Plan, comprises of four programmes and I will elaborate on them one by one focusing on activities, achievements and proposed allocations as follows:

PROGRAMME 1 - YOUTH DEVELOPMENT:

The main purpose of this programme is to empower, encourage and support the full and effective constructive participation of the youth in the process of national development and decision-making and to ensure that youth concerns, needs and aspirations are integrated into the mainstream of all Government policies and actions.

Main Activities and achievements under this programme are as follows:

Youth Volunteerism:

This activity offers temporary employment to both urban and rural area youth. Due to limited employment opportunities in the rural areas, the programme has made great strides in alleviating rural youth poverty, idleness and frustration. During the 2008/2009 Financial Year, a total of 48 youth volunteers were employed at all Ministries' institutions in the 13 Regions of Namibia. Half of these volunteers are offering computer literacy programmes and tailoring/fashion design to mainly rural youth, and is meant for capacity-building and in so doing, enabling them to be marketable.

Youth Health:

The programme provided in-service training in youth-friendly service in terms of sexual and reproductive health information sessions, HIV/AIDS information, screening and referring of sexually transmitted infections and general health information and counseling services. The programme, which so far was operational at four multi-purpose youth resource centres during the past couple of years, has reached other centres and regional

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youth offices after more staff members were recruited during the Financial Year under discussion.

Juvenile/Child Justice:

The main component of this programme is crime prevention and life skills training for young people in conflict with the law. During the 2008/09 Financial Year, approximately two hundred and fifteen young offenders were referred by the Courts to the Directorate for Life Skills training. A Committee which was established comprising of the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture; Ministry of Justice; Legal Assistance Centre, Ministry of Health and Social Services and Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare are responsible for counseling and ensuring that these young offenders are not treated as adults and also are not detained with adult offenders.

Capacity Building:

The aim of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) is to build capacity within newly recruited youth officers without any appropriate experience of working with young people. During the 2008/2009 Financial Year, 17 Youth Officers enrolled for the 2 year training programme and are due to graduate sometime this year. Approximately fourteen Youth Officers responsible for training and employment were offered training on "*How to Start and Improve Your Own Business*" by an ILO consultant for a period of two consecutive weeks.

Environmental Education:

The Programme held workshops and training seminars geared towards awareness creation, knowledge and skills in environmental education and conservation, and sustainable utilisation of natural resources. 47 Field guides were trained, while between 350 young people participated in the conservation corps.

Namibia Youth Credit Scheme (NYCS):

The Scheme which was launched in March 2005 featured operations through group lending methodology, that is, training in basic business management skills, development of business plans, which precedes the granting of

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credit/loan to the applicants, follow-up training, counseling and mentoring. Below are some of the achievements:

- The number of trained youth in entrepreneurship has increased from 732 in 2007/2008 to 2,235 in 2008/2009;
- Loans granted increased from 669 in 2007/2008 to 1,219 in 2008/2009;
- 2,376 jobs have been created through 921 youth enterprises in 2008/2009 compared to 998 jobs during 2007/2008;
- The Scheme is now operational in 7 Regions in 2008/2009 compared to four Regions in 2007/2008. We anticipate to replicate the Scheme in the remaining six Regions by the year 2012, depending on the availability of funds.

Youth Exchange Programme:

This programme is designed to provide young people with the opportunity to be exposed to other cultures; to give them a broader view of the world and a deeper understanding of themselves; to develop leadership and communication skills in the youth and to advance international understanding and world peace.

Youth Gender:

The programme focused on gender poverty and rural development, gender and reproductive health, violence against young women, gender and economic empowerment of the girl-child. Joint workshops and seminars were held with other programmes such as Rural Development and Youth Programmes and the youth has been sensitised on the linkages and synergies between these programmes.

Gender Poverty and Rural Development Programmes are geared towards youth economic empowerment through income generating projects and other self-sustaining programmes.

Rural Youth Development:

The Programme is meant to empower young people in the rural areas to acquire basic skills and knowledge in crop cultivation, horticulture and other agricultural produce as a means of income and also for poverty reduction and sustainable development. The Directorate of Youth Development initiated a production demonstration plot for agricultural activities at the Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre in Katutura. During the 2008/2009 Financial Year, the programme trained sixty rural youth, thirty from Groot-Aub and thirty from Dordabis. After advertising as part of the overall promotion of the programme, the Ministry of Regional, Local Government and Housing donated N\$250,000 towards the building and expansion of the Dordabis Rural Youth Gardening Project.

Youth Opportunities - National Youth Service:

The main purpose of this activity is to inculcate and promote the spirit of volunteerism, internship, and entrepreneurship among the youth, so as to enable them to acquire the necessary and marketable skills, exposure, and experience that will enable them to access job opportunities and self-employment.

The first group of 500 trainees, for the 2008/2009 Financial Year intake, has successfully completed the first phase of training, namely civic training, as well as the second phase of training, which is voluntary service. They are currently busy with the skills training phase in order to acquire practical know-how on various trades. The second group of 395 trainees, still for the 2008/2009 intake, reported on 3 February 2009 at Rietfontein NYS Centre for the 18-months training programme.

Due to lack of accommodation facilities at Rietfontein, only 395 youth of the envisaged 500 were recruited for the second intake. The NYS currently has a total of 895 trainees at its Rietfontein Centre. Training

tools and equipment for the 6 trades have been procured, transported and installed at Rietfontein Centre, in accordance with vocational training prescription by Namibia Training Authority (NTA).

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Financial Assistance to National Bodies:

The Ministry is giving Grant-in-Aid to the National Youth Council and subscribing the Namibia Youth Credit Scheme under the umbrella of the Commonwealth Youth Programme with subsidy annually.

Provision of Facilities:

During the 2008/2009 Financial Year, a total Budget of N\$20,858,000 was allocated for eleven capital projects for the Directorate Youth Development of this Ministry. Some of these projects were ongoing while others were at Phase I or at a level of feasibility studies. Furthermore, these capital projects mainly deal with the construction of multi-purpose youth resource centres countrywide.

Youth Training:

Vocational Education and Training remains a major concern for the Ministry because of the limited number of training facilities under its jurisdiction. The Ministry currently owns and manages one fully fledged skills training centre in Mariental with an annual intake of 120 students, and a small community skills development centre in Okahao with an annual intake of 30 students. During the year 2008/2009, both centres had a combined intake of 150 students.

The total Budget requested for this programme is N\$232,898,000.

PROGRAMME 2: SPORT

The main purpose of this programme is to encourage and enable all Namibians in all the Regions to participate in the sport codes of their choice, to expand participation in sporting events and to raise the international profile of Namibia in all sporting areas, to ensure that all Namibians have the opportunity to participate in sporting events and enhance national sporting image and pride in the country.

The programme is responsible for; provision and maintenance of basic sports facilities in all 13 Regions in order to facilitate attendance by Namibians.

I must add here, that providing modern sport infrastructures and facilities of quality is an extremely expensive business. The same applies to the provision

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of quality training. Budget allocations from Government sources alone cannot and will thus never be sufficient. I, therefore, urge the private sector, donor agencies and other stakeholders to assist in this regard.

Main activities and achievements under this programme are as follows:

Provision and Maintenance of Basic Sports Facilities:

Construction of the Eenhana Sport Complex has already started and phase two will be completed in the current Financial Year. This stadium will be the first in the country that is user-friendly for People with Disabilities. The project is progressing well with limited constraints.

The purchasing of the plot for the Windhoek Centre of Excellence is in the process. The project was delayed due to difficulties in acquiring the plot. Construction is to start during the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

The first four phases of the Swakopmund Sport Complex which includes the main pavilion, caretaker house and synthetic track has been successfully completed.

Phase 5, which includes ablution block, safety fence and a second pavilion, is still to be completed. The contractor was disqualified by the Tender Board and the tender will be re-advertised during this current Financial Year.

Feasibility studies for Ondangwa and Okakarara are still to be completed.

Major maintenance and renovations were done at the Windhoek Independence Stadium and Mariental Sport Complex. However, in view of the FIFA 2010 World Cup in neighbouring South Africa, and the African Nation Cup in Angola, more has to be done to our stadiums in order to attract teams to choose Namibia as their training base before the competition start in South Africa and Angola.

Hopefully, the Ministry of Finance will avail additional funds in the near future upon recommendations from Cabinet to position our country to benefit from the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa and African Nations Cup in Angola.

Provision of Equipment:

Sport equipment is an integral part in the development of sport. In spite of the vastness of the country, for the Financial Year 2008/2009 my Ministry has managed to provide basic sport equipment to all 13 Regions for sport codes practiced by the majority of Namibians. However, my Ministry intends to make provision for sport equipments for other sport codes as well.

Mobility Facilitation:

This is one aspect that leads to early depletion of the transport Budget due to the magnitude and the frequency of the events both nationally and internationally. Geographically, Namibia is a very vast country and it requires a great deal of resources to access all communities and schools. To involve all Namibians in sport activities and to provide all communities with sport equipment, transport is greatly needed. Therefore, my Ministry relies heavily on rental of buses from the private sector and Government Garage, which make transport a very costly exercise.

Sport is an activity which necessitates a great deal of travelling, both locally and internationally. This travelling puts a great deal of demand on the resources allocated for transport and travelling and subsistence allowances for both official and drivers.

Despite the above-mentioned challenges, my Ministry managed to provide transport to its athletes, starting from grassroots activities to international events.

Provision of Conducive Sport Environment in the Regions:

The conducive environment created for sport in Namibia has enhanced many sports men and women to become professional athletes. This has led to many International Sport Clubs - both men and women - choosing Namibia as an ideal training place as well as suitable for hosting major championships, such as the World Archery and Fistball Championships. This has also led to more investment in Namibian Sport, for example many Namibian soccer teams turning semi-professional, and more Corporate Companies investing in Namibian Sport.

Women and marginalised groups have received special attention with the creation of a dedicated division within the Directorate of Sport, headed by a

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woman. During the 2008/2009 Financial Year, **Namibian Women in Sport** (NAWISA) conducted regional and national tournaments which promoted the empowerment of women in sport. There were different competitions nationally and internationally for Differently Able People. The review of the Sport Policy will accommodate the relevant policies with regard to women and marginalised people.

Encouragement of Excellence in Sport:

Significant progress with regard to the above-mentioned programme has been achieved. Seven students have already graduated through the sport exchange programme between Namibia and the Republic of Cuba. Currently four are still busy with their studies. Through the Bilateral Agreement between Namibia and Cuba, there are currently 8 Cuban Sport Experts in our country, assisting with the development of sport.

Approximately 271 sport officials were trained in coaching and administration for the different sport codes and umbrella bodies. Sport integration has been taking place, leading to more sport men and women from the formally disadvantage areas participating in formally white-dominated sport codes. Currently my Ministry is planning to review the Sport Policy of 1992 to accommodate relevant policies.

This programme will be further enhanced by the Windhoek Centre of Excellence once completed in the near future.

Financial Contribution to National and International Sport Bodies:

The performance of our athletes on both the regional and international levels has increased substantially. This improvement is not only due to the performance of my Ministry alone, but also because of the contributions from other stakeholders. These stakeholders *inter alia* include, the Namibia School Sport Union, the Tertiary Institute Sport Association of Namibia, the Disability Sport Namibia, the Namibia Women in Sport Association and the Namibia Sport Commission with its 52 affiliates.

Namibia has been able to participate regionally, continentally and internationally. During the 2008/2009 Financial Year we participated in the Zone VI Games in South Africa. We did extremely well and finished second overall out of 10 countries, while in some sport disciplines, notably boxing, we

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finished first. We also participated in the Olympic Games in China. The competition was tough and Namibia won only one bronze medal with our Para-Olympian, Reginald Benade.

Despite the limited financial resources allocated to Sport, Namibia had one of its most successful years by winning World Championships in Boxing (Paulus “Hitman” Moses) and Endurance Horse-riding (Maria Alvarez Pounpon) respectively, as well as winning the U/19 African Championships, to mention but a few.

The total Budget requested for this programme is N\$67,337,000.

PROGRAMME 3: ARTS:

The Arts Directorate is responsible for the identification and development of the creative skills of Namibians and for the promotion of Namibian arts and artists on a regional, national and international level. This contributes to the development of the creative arts industry as a means to create employment and alleviate poverty.

Main activities and achievements under this programme are as follows:

Arts Education and Training:

The demand for arts education and training in Namibia continued to grow throughout the 2008/2009 Financial Year. One thousand and fifty three individuals received training in conducting, and vocal training through the Namibia Choral Network.

Staff development programmes were also conducted to improve the standard of teaching through in-service training, and scholarships were awarded to a number of arts students in order to improve access to the arts job market. Nine scholarships were awarded to arts students for studies during the 2009 academic year.

The College of the Arts also created ample opportunities for its students to showcase their work through the hosting of music- and dance festivals, student arts exhibitions, and the annual Carnival and Rakutuka festivities. In total, these events have a guaranteed audience of well over 10,000 members of the public.

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Workshops for teachers were presented at 15 schools in the Hardap, Karas, Erongo and Kunene Regions, and was attended by over 700 students.

Development of the Creative Arts Industry:

The main avenue of support for the development of the creative arts industry is through the National Arts Fund, administered by the National Arts Council of Namibia, which receives an annual grant-in-aid.

During the 2008/2009 Financial Year, the first National Arts Council grants of N\$800,000 in total were paid out to deserving arts individuals and groups. The Council also sponsored awards in the /Ae//Gams and Sanlam/NBC competitions. The fund was also used to sponsor Namibian participation in the World Choral Olympics, and the Sauti Busara Music Festival in Zanzibar. The Council has also established a website to make relevant information accessible by the public.

Our Ministry has strengthened ties with the local authorities and the private sector in terms of the developing of certain aspects of the arts industry, such as careers awareness and marketing opportunities.

A very successful theatre play addressing communication for hearing impaired people was performed to an audience of over 7,000 school children at the National Theatre of Namibia.

Namibia also strengthened its participation in programmes resulting from cultural agreements with other countries, and have benefited from support in training (for example through Spanish and French cooperation), capacity building (through the Goethe Centre and Franco Namibian Cultural Centre), marketing of products (Sweden and Finland), and artistic exchanges (such as with Algeria, Egypt and Botswana).

Research, Documentation and Arts Marketing:

A research study was conducted to establish the enterprising tendencies of students in the arts, and it was found that there was a high need for achievement amongst Namibian arts students.

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There was a real need to develop their capacity to identify and act on entrepreneurial opportunities. A concerted effort is therefore being made to address the need for entrepreneurship training amongst arts students and artists. In this regard, attempts are already on the way to introduce entrepreneurship training in the arts as a central component of the course-work offered, and also to offer training in small- and medium enterprise development to young artists. The development of an incubation centre for arts entrepreneurship and the provision of studio spaces for young artists will be receiving much attention in the course of this year.

Promotion: Visual Arts:

The National Art Gallery of Namibia has a dual function i.e. to serve as a museum for the protection and exhibition of Namibia's national art heritage, and to promote Namibian contemporary arts and artists.

About 75 Namibian artists benefited from financial sponsorships from Bank Windhoek and the Bank Windhoek Triennale 2008, which included awards, money prizes and medals and the selling of a single artwork for over N\$37,000 to an international art collector from France.

One of the main projections for 2009/2010 is the Mobile Exhibition System aimed to "*Take Art to the People*". This is in line with the decentralization policy of our Government and also with the objectives of the National Arts Gallery. Sponsorships for these programmes come from the French Mission for Cooperation and the Royal Netherlands Embassy.

The National Arts Gallery of Namibia faces challenges of soliciting of additional funding for operations, seeing that most of the Government grant is absorbed by staff salaries and benefits. The maintenance of a national heritage collection and the restoration of damaged works remains an ongoing challenge for the National Arts Gallery, because the required training is not offered in any higher or tertiary institution in the country.

Promotion: Performing Arts:

The National Theatre of Namibia, an Article 21 company, received an Annual grant-in-aid. The programme for 2008/2009 included 50 shows which was attended by an audience of 20,820 ticket paying and several thousand school

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children and senior citizens who attended free of charge. Income raised from production was N\$147,000.

The National Theatre of Namibia administered three new bursaries for performing arts students, while it provides eleven current bursary. An estimated number of 400 local artists participated in NTN related shows.

Training was offered to the youth from the rural areas through the Youth Theatre Development Programme.

The National Theatre of Namibia hosted the senior citizens from the old-age home, Katutura on two occasions and offered them an opportunity to see shows and socialise with each other. It is planned to expand this to three shows this year.

Through the Artbeat Children's Theatre initiative more than 7,000 learners from Windhoek high schools came to experience the theatre as part of the month-long programme aimed at creating awareness and developing a new theatre audience base.

The National Theatre of Namibia produced the prescribed literature work for schools (Grade 11 & 12), "Master Harold & the Boys", and performed it in the Erongo Region. It was also performed in Windhoek to more than 2,000 learners.

A national workshop on acting and directing was held for 20 rural youth. There were also 13 training workshops held in script and theatre development. The National Youth Theatre Festival (in September 2008) was a great success and also had regional representation.

Funding for this programme was received from the French Mission for Corporation, Bank Windhoek, the Embassy of Finland and other theatre development partners, such as the Franco Namibian Culture Centre, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, the Bank Windhoek Arts Festival and the Spanish Mission for Corporation.

The National Theatre of Namibia experienced critical financial and technical problems, mostly due to faulty and old technical equipment and the lack of renovations to the main theatre venue.

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Development of the Infrastructure:

The National Theatre of Namibia and the National Art Gallery of Namibia master plan was designed for the improvement of the utilisation of common space, and interaction between the visual and performing arts centre. This building project continued, but was hampered by the slow awarding of tenders.

The planning for the upgrading of the Boiler House Theatre in Katutura was successfully executed and documentation was finalised according to plan, with the construction phased to take place over three consecutive years. It is imperative that funding must be made available for the construction to proceed as soon as possible in order to address the serious shortage of teaching- and studio space experienced and escalating costs.

Repair work to the floor of the dance studios:

Repair work on the dance hall used for both Ballet and Dance will commence during this Financial Year, which will result in better performance and productivity of the institution.

Purchase of operational equipment for the College of the Arts (COTA):

Since the College of Arts introduced Applied Arts Diploma courses, first Media Arts Technology Studies and Visual Arts and Design in 2000 and then recently in African Performing Arts, there has been an unprecedented increase in demand for vocational arts training, which the College struggles to offer especially with regard to the provision of adequate operational equipment. The technological advancement of some of such equipment also demands that there is continuous upgrading and or replacement of the old equipment.

It is for this reasons that the College of Arts needs to urgently purchase new operational equipment to ensure the provision of quality training in the arts.

The total Budget request for this programme is N\$42,407,000.

PROGRAMME 4 - HERITAGE AND CULTURE:

The main purpose of this programme is to identify, develop and promote the traditions and identity of Namibians for the purpose of income generation,

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employment, innovation, design and the nurturing of national pride and identity.

Main activities and achievements under this programme are as follows:

Exchange Programmes on Culture:

Namibia is part of an increasingly globalised world and this is also applicable to the area of culture. We share our culture products and our knowledge at bilateral and multilateral levels. During the course of 2008/2009 we participated in quite a number of joint discussions leading to culture agreements between us and friendly sovereign States. The countries we entered joint cultural agreements into are: Angola, Algeria, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe.

The nature of these culture agreements normally reiterates our mutual respect and lead to actual exchanges on a culture level. During the past Financial Year we had actual exchanges with, Botswana, China, Egypt, Germany, Rwanda, South Africa, and Zambia with the emphasis on sharing traditional performing arts and delivering papers on an intellectual level.

We also attended international gatherings on culture and heritage in Angola, France, South-Africa, Switzerland, and Tanzania.

Establishment of Cultured Centres and Cultured Villages countrywide:

We are now in the second stage of developing centres and villages in all 13 Regions. We identified at least three sites in each Region and will now select one. This was necessary to consult local communities and leaders widely in order to ensure ownership by them. The major features of the cultured villages which emerged after thorough consultation are *inter alia*: job creation projects, artistic creativity and excellence, product development for trade, preservation, marketing, entrepreneurship, festivals, displays and exhibitions, training and edutainment. In short: the culture villages and centres are spaces of excellence in each Region.

The Maria Mwendere Multipurpose Culture Centre in Rundu, in the Kavango Region, is fully operational. The Omuthiya Multipurpose Culture Centre in the Oshikoto Region is in progress, but not yet completed. During this Financial Year we plan to finish all pre-feasibility studies and do

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documentation on all thirteen cultured villages. A White Paper on cultured villages will be launched during the second trimester this year.

Increase the number of cultural groups:

The main aim of the cultured festivals is to bring the diverse cultures of Namibia together in order to promote, respect, tolerance and understanding of each other's cultures.

Thirteen Regional Festivals took place nationwide on the level of Constituencies, Districts, Zonals, and School Clusters ending in Regional ones. The number of performing traditional artists in the 13 Regions who participated was 18,642 and 1,316 cultured groups participated during the 2008/2009 Financial Year. The number of spectators attending those events were approximately 264,000.

This represents an increase of 57 cultured groups compared to 1,259 during the 2007/2008 Financial Year.

The statistics for the National Culture Festival:

Number of groups:	112
Number of participants:	Approximately 1,680
Number of spectators:	Approximately 20,000 over a period of six days

The 14th National Cultured Festival took place in Rundu in the Kavango Region from 05 to 13 December 2008

School Culture Clubs for Development:

During the 2007/2008 Financial Year we had 789 School Culture Clubs. The number dropped due to various reasons to 492 during 2008/2009, this represents a decrease of 297 clubs.

Organising events for State Visits, State Occasions and National days

These are annual activities and therefore successful traditional performances were developed around them.

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During the 2008/2009 Financial Year, we had State Visits from, Australia, Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, South Africa and Tanzania.

We organised all entertainment and culture programmes for these events. The best of Namibian culture is displayed at these occasions, serving two major purposes. We actively build a positive atmosphere around events, emphasising nationhood. We also share our cultures with the world, celebrating our beauty and forging friendships, easing our developmental progress in a globalised world.

Optimise Availability and Conditions of Cultural Heritage, National Museum Collections and Exhibitions:

The National Museum is the custodian of national heritage objects of Namibia. The Museum systematically collect, document and preserve objects and information about Namibia's national heritage, but also promote this heritage through displays, various activities, and by undertaking and encouraging research to disseminate knowledge for the benefit of all Namibians. The National Museum of Namibia also has a central role in the Pan-African and the world network to conserve and promote our common heritage, for example, the discovery of the shipwreck in Oranjemund and its associated heritage material.

The National Heritage Council of Namibia was established in March 2006 in terms of the National Heritage Act. The Institution is responsible for in-situ conservation of our national heritage.

The heritage sector faces considerable challenges of lack of trained professional heritage workers in Namibia. This is due to the fact that Namibians are not trained at higher education institutions in the country in heritage conservation, thus there is no pool of trained people from which Namibian heritage institutions can draw their manpower.

Our heritage institutions are trying to address these needs by promoting and carrying out training at Namibia's tertiary training institutions.

The Museum has various programmes in place to try and address the need for cultural sensitisation, including displays, activity programmes and other initiatives. This will hopefully lead to an increased interest in our youth to pursue careers in the heritage sector.

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Honourable Members, the conservation of the recovered heritage material from the Oranjemund Shipwreck is very costly and it is very difficult to estimate at this moment, because it involves a lot of work, therefore Honourable Members, our Ministry cannot give the cost estimate as yet, but we need funds for the work that lies ahead.

There is a common misunderstanding that once objects have been incorporated into museum collections or when heritage sites have been declared, conservation is ensured, yet there is considerable cost of long-term maintenance. The poor condition of most of the buildings and storage facilities in which museum collections are housed, or of our national heritage sites of the tourist routes; as well as the increased recurrent costs for maintaining objects in a good condition, is putting an increased strain on how the understaffed heritage sector operates.

I hope the Honourable Members have seen the image in an article on the dilapidation of the National Museum building which appeared in the Windhoek Observer of November 8, 2008.

Heritage conservation without public appreciation of their heritage would be a losing battle, thus the National Museum and National Heritage Council have initiated a programme of rejuvenating and improving information dissemination and public information mechanisms such as displays. Namibian heritage institutions, such as the National Museum and National Heritage Council, are held in high regard within the African and international context, but this also translates into responsibilities as Namibia is expected to play a leading role in promoting heritage conservation in Africa.

Develop culture industry training and facilities:

Training in culture industries will commence this year in tandem with the UNDP – Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund. This programme is linked to cultural tourism. It is therefore multi-sectoral and an amount of about US\$6 million has been availed to Namibia via the National Planning Commission. The programme title is Sustainable Cultural Tourism in Namibia. The objective of the project is to develop policy and legal instruments within a two-year period that will contribute to increased industry/tourism development culture sector in Namibia. 10 Pilot projects will be completed.

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The total Budget requested for this programme is N\$37,665,000.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in conclusion I would like to thank my Honourable Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary, management and the entire staff component for the hard work in implementing the programmes.

I now request this august House to approve the expenditure request of my Ministry amounting to N\$380,308,000 for the 2008/2009 Financial Year. I thank you.

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

Vote 13 – “HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES” put for Discussion.

HON KAIYAMO: Before I put my question I would like to make one or two comments. I would like to put on record the good understanding and relationship between my Committee and the Ministry of Health and I would also like to comment on the good things done by the Ministry, namely a polio-free Namibia, the ambulances and the good policies – although the good policies has to be put into practice by the staff.

In the speech of the Minister he mentioned about the staff going to South Africa for training, but nothing is mentioned about Kenya. For the past 3 years we have heard about Kenya assisting us and I would like to know what is the status of Kenya and Namibia on these issues. I thank you.

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

HON KAVETUNA: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to wholeheartedly support Vote 13 that contains the foundation of every life

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and the development of any Nation. In the same vein, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister and his entire team for a job well done with special emphasis on the *ladies-of-the-lamp*, – the nurses. I have three issues that I would like to raise.

On page 308 in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, **Tertiary Health Care:** Honourable Minister, on the issue of the referral of patients from the Regions to the main hospital, I would like to ask whether there is a possibility for these people to be booked in advance, because the bus arrives on Mondays and leaves on Wednesdays, so that at least they can be tested and diagnosed on Tuesdays. Otherwise these people have to stay in hospital and they become an extra burden to the nurses. If they could be booked in advance and tested the next day, then they can return on Wednesday.

On page 309 on **the staff training, development and capacity-building:** I believe a registered nurse executes duties independently within the set-up. Why are we not putting emphasis on training registered nurses rather than the enrolled nurses, because a registered nurse can act independently in order to save lives while enrolled nurses are not mandated to do the same as registered nurses are doing? What is the possibility of the Ministry transferring all the Health Training Centres which are currently training the enrolled nurses to the University of Namibia so that the Ministry could start training registered nurses so that we have a big number of registered nurses instead of enrolled nurses.

Finally, I have always believed that in the professional ethos of nursing the appearance of a nurse is most critical, but when talking to our people, they say they do not have uniforms and I think the white and navy uniform is a bit outdated. Is there a possibility for us to change the uniform and provide multiple uniforms, because if you are wearing a sandal in an emergency, it might be a hazard to the patient and yourself. Please, Honourable Minister, if there is a possibility, make sure that the nurses have uniforms and please change the colour of the uniform because we are in an Independent Namibia. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: May I put a question to the Honourable Member? Not being an expert on uniforms and health, do you not think that a white uniform in a

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hospital particularly shows cleanliness and tidiness, because the darker uniforms may be dirty, but you will not be able to see it?

HON CHRISTIAN: Honourable Chairperson, I think Honourable Reverend Konjore has left out one word, the holiness of that white uniform.

HON KAVETUNA: The unfortunate part is that the cleaners are also wearing white uniforms these days, therefore you cannot distinguish between a cleaner and a nurse. Whatever the colour will be, I really propose that they have enough uniforms because sometimes there are some who have only one uniform. With these remarks, I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I wholeheartedly support Vote 13 of the Ministry of Health and Social Services, but I have only one question to the Honourable Minister relating to item 044 on page 175 of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the years 2009 to 31 March 2012. I am terribly sorry to mention institutions but this relates to private hospitals, in particular the Roman Catholic Mission Hospital.

Maybe it is only my experience, but when you go to this hospital, you get the impression that payment is the first consideration. I may be wrong, but that has really been my experience on several occasions and it comes to the point that you become frustrated, because you never had the intention of getting involved in arguments with the people who are probably just doing their job, because they have directives to carry out certain activities. However, you end up getting so frustrated that you behave unbecomingly and I see that we are giving substantial amounts to institutions such as the Roman Catholic Hospital.

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If they know that this is a citizen of the country with all the relevant documents and will not run away overnight just because you have brought a next-of-kin to the hospital, they can treat the person peacefully without the patient hearing the argument developing between the one who brought him or her to the hospital and the personnel. They can deal with whatever has to be paid thereafter, but when you go there, you get subjected to all kinds of treatment. What can you do about this, Comrade Minister? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: Thank you very much. Honourable Kaapanda.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to thank the Minister and his entire team for the good job they are doing in that Ministry.

It is really remarkable to hear that Namibia has been declared malaria/polio free and this is indeed a great achievement that came about because of hard work by the Ministry. I am referring to pages 4 and 5, Comrade Chairperson, where it is mentioned that polio has been eradicated from the face of Namibia and this is indeed a great feat. Such news is not only good for us in Namibia, but also for our investors as well as our visitors.

Furthermore, I wish to thank the Minister and his staff for having successfully rolled out the project which is called Mother-to-Child Prevention which prevents the transmission of HIV/AIDS from an infected mother to a child. This is really an awesome achievement that we have scored and consequently, we are seeing babies who are HIV/AIDS negative being born by infected mothers.

Another achievement is the number of people receiving treatment which exceeds the target and I would like to congratulate the Minister for this. Once again, I would like to register my support for Vote 13. I rest my case.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 13, as without health there will be no human being because we will all perish. I want to refer to training on page 2.

It may sound boring because I always refer to the training of our enrolled and registered nurses. Currently we have shortage of nurses which forces Namibia to borrow nurses from elsewhere, which is a result of the training of nurses at the University. One good programme under the colonial regime, which was supposed to be kept was where the nurses were trained through the Ministry while receiving a salary. However, now we say the teachers are not treated in the same manner, but we forget that nurses are dealing with life and, therefore, many of the nurses who were trained at the University and come to a hospital will start vomiting when dealing with accident victims and then change their courses. Nurses should deal with injured people rather than just attending University. I feel that contributes to the shortage of nurses and in future we need to revise that programme in the interest of the country.

Then I come to page 4 which deals with doctors. Is there any law or regulation which prevents black Namibian doctors from working in the State clinics, even if they have their own private practices or is it themselves who do not want to do that? We are supposed to have enough doctors, but we have only a few doctors of my colour with their own private practices who are still helping the State. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister just a small question? Honourable Deputy Minister, I think you are doing fine in trying to find out whether it is not possible for private doctors to be advised to help in hospitals, but you as a Party have qualified doctors sitting in this House. Why do not just start from here, instead of asking those who are outside?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
Comrade Chairperson, my question was not directed to Honourable Tjihuiko. I asked whether there is any law or regulation which prevents these people

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from doing the same, because the majority of their fellow doctors who are helping in the State hospitals are white and you find them doing a lot to help in the State hospitals. I want us to look into this issue and to encourage them not only to depend on their practices where they earn a lot of money. They must also make time to help the State.

Last but not least is the issue of Medical Aid. Who advised the Government that the medical aid must only be earmarked to enrich the private hospitals? Why can we not have the same medical facilities at the Central Hospital? Why can a person with medical aid not be treated at the State Hospital and then we have a revolving fund which is supposed to buy the facilities which we say we do not have in the State Hospital. 19 Years ago we did not have many private hospitals here, there was only the *kaffer* hospital and the Catholic Hospital and those doctors used to operate in the State Hospital. However, suddenly there are no facilities. Why can we not utilise the resources which we Budget here and buy proper equipment? You would find that there is a scanner at the Central Hospital, but the doctor sends the person to MediCity because they want money. The same results will come from the State Hospital scanner as the MediCity scanner. We really need to change this practice. I support Vote 13.

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

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. Our Ministries are like a hand in a glove, we support each other and we act together. However, Honourable Minister I would like to comment on page 3, the training of professionals as a priority area for mitigating the shortage of available skills and human resources.

Comrade Minister, professionals should be dedicated to serve the Namibian people. As we approve this Budget, I regard those professionals in the Health sector as soldiers. Never mind, how tired the nurse or the soldier, he or she will never become a mercenary, they will always stick to their professionalism.

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There are so many complaints among the population regarding the behaviour of our professionals, mostly at the hospitals and other places. I think we are indebted with the society. We can build as many good hospitals and clinics, cardio centres, etcetera, but if those who operate these institutions do not have good manners and ethics, it will be meaningless to have clinics and hospitals. What matters is manners. Manners is like a zero in mathematics. You may think zero in mathematics is valueless, but once you add anything to that zero, it becomes a value. When you add to it, it becomes a hundred. In a good hospital the essence of these behaviours is zero, but once you add good manners and ethics, it becomes a good hospital. It is the mission of those who are working there. It is not only the salaries, it is how to save lives and I think when we approve this Vote for the Health Sector, they must also know that we also demand services from them. Honourable Minister, it is during training that this must be emphasised, because this is mentioned everywhere in our constituencies and this goes for both the nurses and the doctors, everyone in that profession.

Honourable Minister, the issue of nurses resigning is bad, because they resign to get their pensions, which means there is no discipline, no commitment, no dedication, it is only for the salary and we do not want this. We want dedication, conviction and commitment. With these few words, I support Vote 13.

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

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I would like to congratulate the Minister for the renewal of the agreement with the Roman Catholic Hospitals and since they have now been promoted to be district hospitals, they must be properly equipped. I appeal to the Minister to ensure that these become decent hospitals with the necessary equipment.

On page 5 they talk about an increase in TB with the floods. When I was in the hospital a long time ago, the spraying of mosquitoes was done throughout the year and thereafter they changed it to three to 6 months. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Moongo, are you talking about that time when you were driving an ambulance?

HON MOONGO: That time I was working for SWAPO and I used the Ambulances to visit Opuwo, Kaokoveld. At that time I worked, I went to Kavango and I organised transportation.

This TB programme was done throughout the year, then they started doing it every 6 months, now it is 3 months. Therefore, malaria and TB will become more prevalent and kill people. That time we had a mobile TB unit, but now TB is increasing. What is the Ministry doing? How can you talk about comprehensive health services if you did away with the mobile TB services and the spraying for malaria is only done every three months? (Intervention)

HON CHRISTIAN: Honourable Chairperson, on a Point of Order. I think we as Members of Parliament are very fortunate that we are able to visit most of the health centres in the Regions and Members who were part of those delegations know what is happening on the ground in the hospitals. I will ask Honourable Moongo to acquaint himself with the situation on the ground as the Members of Parliament did.

HON MOONGO: As the next Minister I will probably. It is a pity that SWAPO will not win the next round.

The hospital wards in Onandjokwe and Oshikuku are very old and we need better equipment and new facilities. I am sure when you got near those hospitals you could already smell it. We want that situation to change. With this, I support the Vote. Thank you.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, thank you very much. Let me start by congratulating the Minister of Health not only for his good

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presentation, but the good things contained in the presentation compared to the other one by the Ministry of Trade. However, we will talk about that later. The good thing about your presentation is that you have reported back on the funds that we have approved in this House last year and through that everybody knows exactly how the money has been spent and the achievements that we as a Nation have made through what we have approved here. You need to be congratulated for that.

I feel it is very important for the other Ministries to get copies of this presentation, so that all the presentations of all the Ministers could be based on this one which was very good, no question about it, including the Ministry of Finance.

There are one or two things I want to request from the Honourable Minister. The first is for the Minister to look at the provision of ambulances. I know that this is not something that can be done overnight, Windhoek has not been built at one day, but looking at what has already been done, I think it can be done. We have Ambulances that cover long distances, covering two or three villages and that needs to be addressed.

Another issue is on the Medical Aid. The Government's Medical Aid is no longer serving the purpose for which was meant. If one wants to have proper medical treatment, you need to have an additional health policy and that has created a very serious situation with the low-income people who cannot afford to pay for the additional cover. Maybe we need to look at that.

Somebody was talking about the State Hospitals and we also need to understand that the number of people visiting State Hospitals has increased. Some of us are not going to State Hospitals, I do not know when last the Honourable Member has been to a State Hospital and I doubt if she even knows where the entrance of the State Hospital is. I am coming from there now. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: May I ask my Colleague a question? Honourable Member, you mentioned that the number of people visiting hospitals has increased. Do you imply that we are a sick Nation or what do you mean by that?

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HON TJIHUIKO: If you look at the many townships in Windhoek that have come up, people are flocking to Windhoek and not only Windhoek, even Walvis Bay, it gives you the impression that it is not business as usual. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Order. Honourable Chairperson, I have really seriously thought about the need for me to make this point of order and I concluded that I need to, because the misinformation given by the Honourable Member to the public is very serious. The Medical Aid scheme for Government employees resorts under the Ministry of Finance and thus the Honourable Member, as usual, is Out of Order. However, we have become accustomed to that and we do not pay attention to whether he is in Order, we just listen to what he says.

The point I want to make is that the tariffs under the medical aid scheme of Government are based on the costs that are charged at State Hospitals because we know that some private doctors overcharge. We are saying that if you prefer to be admitted to a private hospital while you could have been admitted to a State Hospital, you would have to cover that cost yourself and get a refund to the extent of the costs that are charged at State Hospitals. This means that if you cannot afford the admission costs at private hospitals, you have to go to the State Hospital and get the service there. If you cannot be treated by the State Hospital, the Ministry of Health recommends to the Medical Aid that you be admitted at a private hospital and the Medical Aid of the Government will pay at the normal rate of 95% of the cost. Therefore, the Honourable Member should not distort facts here. Every Namibian is covered, if you are not covered or unemployed, you go to the State Hospital; if you are employed and have Medical Aid and your Medical Aid enables you to pay for private services, you go to the Central Hospital. If you cannot be treated at the Central Hospital, the State will pay for you be treated by private doctors at a private hospital. I needed to say that and I know Honourable Tjiuiko knows it, because he was a Public Servant, he is just engaging in politicking.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: Honourable Tjiuiko, do not discuss issues which fall under another Ministry. That is why I directed the Honourable Members to mention the page they are talking on. Do not come in like a *tsotsi*, give me the page you are talking on.

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, are you saying that I am an honourable *tsotsi*? (Laughter).

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: No.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I think the Honourable Minister wanted to see herself on television, so I will not comment on that.

Minister, I am happy to note that...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: On a Point of Order, Chairperson. (Interjection)

HON TJIHUIKO: You want to be on television as well.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Honourable Chairperson, we have to learn. Who is the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee? I thought the sitting Presiding Officer is the Chairperson, but we keep on saying Deputy Chairperson.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, I also want to commend you on two issues. It is good to criticise, but it is also good to recognise your contribution. You are really trying your level best with regard to the cleanliness of the hospitals. I have noticed the cleanliness and friendliness of your staff and even the security personnel and you need to be commended for that. Keep on taking the advice we are always giving in this Parliament. I thank you very much.

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

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HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Honourable Chairperson, the CoD supports the Vote because the Honourable Minister views criticism as a way of improving. Every time we ask questions in this House you do not see it as an insult, but as a way to improve your work. Thank you.

My first question is on page 179 of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure – Old Age Homes and Welfare Organisations, N\$3,900,000. Honourable Minister, what is it that we are budgeting for? Is it for salaries and renovations of these old-aged homes, because when I visit the old-aged home in Katutura, where I come from, I am always asking myself the question: What is it that they are getting from the Government?

My second question is on page 186 of the Development Programmes. Yesterday somebody approached me with a letter from your Ministry, begging for money and food because he is HIV-positive. Is this a policy of your Ministry to give people who are HIV positive to beg in the streets or is it just generosity from the side of your staff to help them?

Two weeks ago the Company doing the catering at the hospitals boycotted and the people at the Katutura Hospital did not get food. They only received milk and bread and the Catering Company was saying they did not receive their money on time from your Ministry to pay their employees. Can the Minister please explain to us what is the situation and how do you envisage to improve on this so that the patients are not affected.

My fourth question is on the telephone facilities at the hospitals. I do not know whether this is a new Government policy that people are receiving a certain amount of credit for the month at the Ministries and anything above that means that the Ministerial staff cannot make any phone calls from the hospitals and people have to use their own phones to make calls. Is there no other way we can deal with this matter in order not to punish our patients?

On page 3 of your speech you mentioned 16 medical students from Namibia. Honourable Minister, I was very impressed with the service which I received from those brilliant young women and men. My appreciation to them.

On page 6 of your speech you mentioned 100% subsidy for operation costs, including salaries and benefits as well as 95% for capital projects with regard to private hospitals. Which ones of these private hospitals are being

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subsidised and which ones are not being subsidised? I know that the Catholic one is not being subsidised by Government and I am a bit confused by the word "*private*". If I have a private company, how can I be subsidised by the Government? I am not clear how Government can subsidise private entities. Honourable Minister, which are these ones that are being subsidised and which ones not, or are all of them being subsidised, because I know there are ones where you are paying Government rates and I think those are ones being subsidised, but the ones which are not being subsidised, is the one the Honourable Minister was complaining about. Can you please give us a clear explanation about that one?

Honourable Minister, with these few remarks, I support your Vote. Thank you.

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

HON DR AMUTENYA: Thank you very much, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to make a contribution to the discussion of Vote 13.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: No, you do not make a contribution, you have to make comments or ask questions where you do not understand.

HON DR AMUTENYA: I rise to make a comment. First, I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Honourable Richard Kamwi, for a job well done. I also want to thank the Minister of Finance and her staff as well as the National Planning Commission for having allocated N\$2,5 billion to this Vote. This is a clear indication that the SWAPO Party Government is seriously concerned and continues to be concerned with the health and well-being of the Namibian population and their social needs.

On pages 3 and 4 of the Minister's motivation speech the Minister has outlined the achievements during the period under review, which include training of staff, community involvement and collaboration with community-based organisation, Non-Governmental Organisations and faith-based organisations.

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We also find a partnership agreement in health with the Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic Churches. Well done.

It is often said that hospital management in most less developed countries, including our own country, is relatively neglected and awkwardly a casualty of international focus on primary health care. One would wish to see under hospital management training the training of hospital managers. Our hospitals are being run by doctors who may have become hospital managers because they are good doctors, but to be a hospital manager, one needs to have certain competencies in management. This includes human resource management. Some of our hospitals employ more than 1,000 people and you need to know how to deal with those people you are working with.

Physical facility management: The hospitals that we are accommodating our patients in need to be cared for. Financial management: One needs to know what to get for what and how to distribute these resources that you are getting in the different departments and the list goes on and on.

It is a fact that very few and perhaps not all doctors have been exposed to hospital management during their training as doctors. They are trained to diagnose and treat diseases and not to run hospitals, but because they are good doctors, they end up being hospital managers.

I, therefore, propose that with the envisaged establishment of the Medical Faculty and the University of Namibia, hospital management should be considered if we do not wish to open up for trained managers to run our hospitals, because the law that we have passed in this House stipulates that only doctors can become hospital managers. It only refers to medical superintendents and only medical personnel will be able to be in charge of a hospital. If we do not open up, then we should take that route.

I now want to ask the Honourable Minister whether a possibility exists for a change on this score, so that training managers, even if they are not doctors, be able to take over the running of hospitals. That is the first question.

Secondly, I am happy that a referral hospital has been added to serve the large northern population. However, some may argue that having two referral hospitals 35 kilometres from each other may not satisfy the criterion of equity. Possibly other considerations, some historical, could have been used, but some may argue that the criterion of equity in this case may not have been satisfied.

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My question is: Could a hospital, intermediate in distance to existing District Hospitals, not have been the best option? I know, for example, that patients from Tsumeb District Hospital has to cover a distance 285 kilometres to come to the referral hospital of Oshakati. Now that they have to come to Onandjokwe Hospital, this distance has only been cut by 35 kilometres. The envisaged hospital in Omuthiya could perhaps have been the best option, so that the distance from Tsumeb could have been cut, of course taking into consideration that other roads could have been developed. This is part of what I want to contribute.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, Minister Konjore.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to register my wholehearted support for this very important Vote and also express my appreciation towards the Ministry and the Minister for providing ambulances in particularly our rural areas. I know that sometimes that was really a battle and this problem has at least been solved to a certain extent, if not in total, and we applaud the Minister for the efforts made.

I would also like to register my concern to the Colleagues on the provision of health facilities in particularly the Rural Areas. I believe that some areas are still in need of some facilities such as Clinics. I think the Honourable Minister will recall that I once mentioned it to him and I am following his advice, but I felt that I must just register it here as well and I am thinking in particular of the area of the two communities in Blouwes and Vaalgras which are really in need of at least one clinic. However, as I said, I will follow the advice of the Minister in addressing that one.

I also join the others who congratulated and thanked the Government for entering into an agreement with the Church Hospitals. It is a fact, and I do not think anybody can dispute the fact that during that era there were almost no Government hospitals for the majority of our people and it was the churches that came up and put up good hospitals in very difficult times. Now that the country is independent, the churches are no more getting assistance from overseas as they used to do – if I can speak for the Roman Catholic Church of

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which I am a member to do this type of work for our people. Therefore, it is only proper that the churches and the Government should enter into a partnership to render these services and it is true that the churches are providing this service in the places it is most needed and in many cases where our Government still does not have those facilities. Therefore, it was a wise decision by the Government to enter into a partnership with the churches.

Having said that, I would also like to agree with Honourable Dienda that we need to get clarity, although I do not dispute my brother's concern about the treatment by the Roman Catholic Hospital. There might be a difference, not only in personalities, but also in circumstances as to how the hospitals are operating. Mention was made of those being subsidised and others not being subsidised. That may also influence the situations at the hospitals.

Having said that, I would like to once again register my appreciation for the agreement and also the services being rendered by our churches and in particular the Roman Catholic Church when it comes to school and hospital services. I support the Vote.

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

HON NAMBAHU: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I also rise to support this very important Vote and to really commend Dr Kamwi for the good work done. Sometimes we complain, but sometimes when improvements are brought about, human nature is such that we do not appreciate what was done and I am in particular referring to the case of the Onandjokwe State Hospital whereby it almost brought about a "*commotion*" now that it has been taken care of and I salute you for that.

My point is on page 7, tertiary health care and it concerns the bulk provision of pharmaceuticals and other commodities. In my opinion, this is an area which touches not only the Ministry of Health but also the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Finance. I, therefore, wish to contribute to an issue of national importance, to present the Members with a picture of the state of affairs which is tantamount to economic discrimination in this day and age, just 19 years after Independence.

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Honourable Chairperson, I wish to call the attention of the Honourable Minister to the issue of the pharmaceutical market which 19 years down the line is still hundred percent owned by the previous advantaged compatriots of this country.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, which page are you referring to? It seems that it is a speech that you have written which brings a message from somewhere to advise the Minister in general.

HON NAMBAHU: Not necessarily.

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Order. I think you are right, the Honourable Member seems to be discussing something different from what we are supposed to discuss. I think he must escape again from the House.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Out of order. Please do not indulge in General Debate.

HON NAMBAHU: I was referring to the provision of pharmaceuticals and the core is actually the market which is still dominated by one section of our population. When you go to Independence Avenue, you will not find a pharmacy owned by the indigenous people of this country and, therefore, I feel it is something that we need to look at. One also needs to have a look at the Board which licenses these Companies to operate. Are we going to continue to be spectators or will we one day participate in this sector? This is one issue that I wanted to bring to the attention of the Honourable Minister to advise whoever is involved in licensing these operations to also see to it that there is a BEE component in that. I am not saying people should just be brought in, I am asking that they encourage our white compatriots to actually extend a hand of economic friendship and reconciliation in order for the previously disadvantaged to participate in this business. That is all I am asking for. The white compatriots must be encouraged to take on board those who were

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previously excluded because we know how much it is costing Government to provide retrovirals.

I cannot over-emphasise that I would wish to see local participation and I am not inviting people to come in, because we must also criticise ourselves. When you join a company and after two months you want dividends, that is not what I am advocating. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Comrade Nambahu, you are speaking in general. You were supposed to state that when we were in General Debate. What you are talking about does not appear anywhere in these papers.

HON NAMBAHU: That was the point I wanted to make, that I would wish the market to be opened up for the previously disadvantaged to participate. That is all I wanted to say.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Christiaan.

HON CHRISTIAAN: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to congratulate Honourable Dr Richard Kamwi for all the successes in the Ministry. The SWAPO Party Government will overcome all the challenges, because we are conquerors and we overcome all the challenges.

Let me also thank you that we as the SWAPO Party Government have taken the hands of the churches which were playing a very important role in the communal towns where there was no medical assistance for us as people of this colour. Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. I also thank you for the health care services that have improved.

My point is that most of the Members of this House are very much negative. (Intervention)

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HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. She is probably a new Member, she did not have a day in SWAPO, but if you consult Shikongo, maybe he will inform you how to feel the pain.

HON CHRISTIAAN: All of us need to experience pain, it is always good, you learn something from that pain. (Intervention)

HON DIENDA: May I ask a question? Did you put on your boxing gloves?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Out of Order. Proceed, Honourable Member.

HON CHRISTIAAN: I rest my case and I support the Vote.

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

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have a request to Comrade Dr Kamwi and it is based on page 5. I am happy with regard to the initiatives to organise the first National HIV/AIDS Main Leaders Conference held on Wednesday, 20 February 2008. That was very good and innovative. My request is that you extend this programme to all 13 Regions because if you bring all men together and discuss and equip them with information, because men are the foundation of families and if they understand, the others will follow. Therefore, I would like to request you to extend this to the other 13 Regions.

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

HON DR AMUTENYA: Thank you very much, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would also like to request the Minister to look at page 307 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework where targets of the Ministry have been set, and I am particularly referring to bullet 3 concerning the reduction of the HIV rates. I think a typographic error could have happened there and what is reflected there at the moment may be mind irritating. If one could perhaps look at that bullet.

Having said that, I wish the Founding President of our Republic and the Father of the Namibian Nation well for the graduation tomorrow.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you,
Honourable Kamwi.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I wish to start off by thanking the Honourable Members who made valuable contributions and who showed interest in the Health sector. Indeed, I am saying valuable contributions, there was nothing offensive other than commending and suggestions, which we appreciate.

I must add here that I will do my best to respond to those who asked questions, but unfortunately I want to give information because some of them just need that and I will just do that.

Comrade Kaiyamo, this time around we did not send any trainees for theatre technique. I said it in this Chamber and I said it elsewhere that we are highly grateful for what the Government and the people of Kenya has done for the Ministry of Health and Social Services in training the forerunners. On that score, I wish to thank the Deputy Prime Minister and Dr Shangula up there who kick-started this project. However, for now we thought they should go to Groote Schuur because it is closer and more cost effective. The specialists who are coming to the Windhoek Cardiac Unit are in that hospital.

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Comrade Kavetuna, we decided to ask the nurses themselves to suggest a colour of their own choice for uniforms. It is not the Minister, the Deputy Minister or the Permanent Secretary, but the nurses themselves who decided. We will take up your suggestions on training but for now it will take time.

Honourable !Naruseb, I think there is a misunderstanding about the payment to mission or Church hospitals. We have, for instance, the big Roman Catholic Hospital in Windhoek which is not receiving a cent as it is a private institution, but there are hospitals in Oshikuku, Andara Nyangana and Rehoboth which are receiving a hundred percent subsidy and they cannot determine the rates without consulting the Health sector.

Comrade Ilonga has persistently been asking that we reintroduce assistant nurses. Unfortunately that cannot be done for now. You asked a very valid question whether there is any law preventing black doctors from serving in public institutions. Not at all, we do not have such a law. By contrast, last year when I addressed the medical congress, I appealed to all medical doctors in the private sector to consider giving part of their hours to serve the public institutions and I wish to state that already there are some blacks who are assisting us and they are most welcome.

I am grateful that the Honourable Minister of Finance responded to the question on the Medical Aid Scheme. I share her sentiments in general. We are talking to the nurses to improve and especially addressing the issues of ethics, the attitude, name it. You know how the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister talks. Frankly speaking, I saw her on many occasions putting emphasis on nursing, but you know that they are simply human beings. We will keep on talking to them. The majority of them are up to their profession.

Honourable Moongo, to the contrary, I think you did not read well. For your information, Namibia is one of the four countries in SADC earmarked to move from malaria control to malaria elimination, getting to zero. That is where we are. Similarly, we are already seeing some improvements with TB.

Honourable Tjihuiko, again the Honourable Minister of Finance responded to your question.

Honourable Dienda, we do not issue notes to HIV/AIDS clients to go out there begging, but on the other hand, I think it is important for you to note that the primary objective of the Ministry of Health and Social Services is the

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promotion of health. Food supply is another area. We contracted some Catering Companies and I regret that some are not up to what is expected of them. They are paid on a monthly basis, the Director of Finance is up there, and yesterday I checked whether we owe these people. I was reliably informed that apart from this month of April, some of them requested that they be paid fortnightly and they are being paid, but before the second week they are already asking for more money.

Honourable Dienda, in any institution there must be control of telephones. We cannot allow abuse, absolutely not.

On the subsidies to missions, I would like you to read my statement.

Honourable Dr Amutenya, I thank you for your contribution and indeed that we now have a medical doctor who worked out there in the field. You questioned why we decided to go for Onandjokwe as a Referral Hospital instead of going for Tsumeb. You heard your neighbour, Honourable Nambahu, commending us and this is quite unfortunate. It was not the making of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. The SWAPO Party will always listen to the demands of the people. In this case it was an outcry by the community out there and as the Minister I listened. We looked at the criteria and went ahead.

With regard to the hospital management training, I wish to state that Honourable Dr Amutenya is one of those who were sent to the UK to go and study hospital management and today he is in the Chamber. Similarly, I do know that we have up to about 5 persons who were trained in hospital management, but as we speak, I do not know whether there is a single one of them available. The majority of them left and went to the private sector. Unfortunately, Government may not compete with the private sector and that is how we are losing our own medical doctors that we are training, including the pharmacists and managers.

The curriculum for hospital management is already in place and there will always be consideration that there is a need to train more managers, because it is only when you train that you can expect quality delivery of services.

Honourable Konjore, thank you. *Honourable Nambahu*, thank you for your comments on the pharmaceutical plant. The Ministry of Health and Social Services is only a consumer, we deal with the promotion of health. We go

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where there are cheaper drugs and we will get them, but if all wishes were horses, I would so wish to see in the capital here a pharmaceutical plant, but it does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. I wish to appeal to those businesses to jump for this, they will get our support.

Comrade Christiaan thank you. *Comrade Amweelo*, we will extend the programme to the Regions. We decided that every ninth week we will be doing that.

Honourable Amutenya, I agree with you on the targets, this was an error which needs to be attended to.

Having said that, I wish to thank you all on behalf of the Ministry.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection to Vote 13? Agreed to.

Vote 18 – “ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM” put for Discussion

HON NASHANDI: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me be the first to congratulate Honourable Netumbo Ndaitwah for motivating her Ministry’s Vote, but I have one comment to make.

We have to do something in order to promote domestic tourism. For instance, personally I am not ashamed to say that I do not know where Sossusvlei is because I cannot afford it. Perhaps Government facilities could be made affordable for our population.

I would like to commend you on the community conservancies. I have in mind the Nehale Iya Mpingana Conservancy which covers the whole of Omuthiya Conservancy where I hail from, but there are some minor problems to be overcome. People have to patrol that large area on foot and they also do not have rifles to shoot the animals made available to them. The other problem is the campsites. Apart from the quotas of springbok they were

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given, they are also demanding large stock wildlife, but it can only be done if campsites were made available to them. With those few words, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: I would like to thank the Minister and my question is based on page 1 with regard to environmental protection.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, when we cultivate new mahangu and agricultural fields, we cut down and burn trees and not only that, we are also using machines which use fossil fuel, which again causes environmental problems. Namibia is part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and also the Kyoto Protocol and my humble request is for the Honourable Minister to consider introducing a national policy on climate change. Otherwise I support your Vote. Thank you.

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

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, thank you. I have only three questions to the Honourable Minister.

On page 2 of your speech, Honourable Minister, and also on page 320 of the Development Fund there is mention of the 2010 FIFA World Cup and the African Cup of Nations. Honourable Minister, can you elaborate more on your plans on how to put Namibia on the map for these activities?

Secondly, how can the rest of the Namibian people benefit through these activities? Do you plan to send out invitations...(Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask a question?

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Comrade Chair, the whole week she was the only Member of her Party present here. In South Africa the new Party up to now has only 10% and the ANC is leading with 77%. If all the SWAPO Members are present and the Opposition are absent, do you really think at the end of the year the people will vote for the Opposition?

HON DIENDA: Honourable Jerry, yesterday you had the opportunity to answer me and you did not do so, therefore I will not listen to you today.

Honourable Minister, how will you promote these activities so that those interested could benefit?

My third question is on page 2 of your speech about gambling and lotteries. You are responsible to manage and regulate gambling and lotteries. What are the social implications of these gambling houses? When it becomes an addiction people are suffering. How do you regulate that gambling houses do not mushroom in our country? I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Ankama.

HON DR ANKAMA: Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have one or two remarks on this Vote. One is on page 5 which talks about game in communal land. People probably need education, because when I see a springbok, I see meat. (Interjections). That is what we used to do. If you see a springbok in the communal area, you see meat. Is there any kind of civic education on how we could introduce these in communal areas? (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask a question? Honourable Chief, I have noticed that when you said "*when you see a springbok, then you see meat*", then you were looking at Honourable Ui/o/oo. What does that mean?

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HON DR ANKAMA: That is Out of Order, that is not much of a question. I am simply asking whether there is civic education in that regard.

Coupled to that is a point on page 6 on indigenous plants. I am a great fan of plants, I plant almost everything. Within the area I originate from we have a marula and when you have a cough, you chew a branch and you can also use it as a toothbrush and when you have a wound, you cut the aloe and apply to it. In my area there are close to 1,800 species of plants and shrubs, the local potatoes and many others (*Embundu*). These things are becoming extinct, there are not many left and I do not know whether there are specific plans to preserve and to protect them. I thank you, I support the Vote

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

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I am on page 5. First of all, I thank the Honourable Minister for the N\$24 million budgeted to improve the communal land and conservancy system, but I would like to know how the Traditional Authorities benefit from this. Will the Minister provide some information? Those forests are under the jurisdiction of the Headmen and Chiefs and how do they benefit? Is it fair that you just accumulate money from the jurisdictions of somebody else?

Then I would like to know how you could allow lions to live with ordinary zebras in the protected areas? Now the lions are no more there, they are now with the people in Oshivelo and the cattle are killed. They are roaming around Oshivelo as we saw on television. Why do you not give this function to the private sector if the Government cannot do it? How many cattle were killed by lions in that area? (Intervention)

HON DR ANKAMA: May I ask my Colleague a question? Honourable Headman, if you were a lion, (Laughter) for instance, and you are hungry and there are cows, oxen and people, what would you do?

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HON MOONGO: My concern is that the Government allows the lions to live together with zebras. Are you really protecting the environment? (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask the Junior Headman a question? Honourable Headman, every December you collect your fat goats and you invite your subjects. What is the purpose of keeping the goats for the December holiday and then kill them?

HON MOONGO: The few ones which were not killed by lions are the ones we sell. These lions should be given to the private companies to keep them safe.

With this, I support the Vote.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 18. My contribution starts with page 8 and then I want to join Comrade Nashandi on the issue of affordability. Namibia Wildlife Resorts is a State-Owned Company, using our resources for the benefit of the State and public, but they have to look at the way they are pricing.

I travel all over the world, but I feel the way Namibia Wildlife Resorts prices their accommodation is for a certain clique. If they realise it, they need to change it. I deliberately visited those lodges around Etosha and they do not charge the way Namibia Wildlife Resorts is charging and that is why they have many customers. If your accommodation is affordable, you have many customers and thus, more income. If you make it expensive, only people like

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Honourable Kawana or Tjihuike will be able to pay N\$1,000 for himself, N\$2,000 if his wife is with him and they sleep on one bed. I travelled in America and I never found them counting heads. The Namibia Wildlife Resorts is counting heads and the only way is that they must have another look at their way of pricing. Comrade Minister, you must ask them to go and do what is called business espionage to see what the fellow lodge-owners are charging. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask a question, please? Honourable Deputy Minister, I understand that Cabinet at the time has approved the turnaround strategy of the environment sector. Do you not think, based on the turnaround strategy approved by Cabinet, if at all Cabinet has approved, it is where the charges are based?

Would you also agree with me that if there is a turnaround strategy that would make the parastatal independent and profitable and you come up with these socialist ideas of everything for everybody, that this would destroy the very good objective that was put forward and approved?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Tjihuike, I know you went to the restaurant and I found you there with something which is not allowed to be used when you come to this House. (Laughter). (Intervention)

HON KAVETUNA: I just want to know whether the Honourable Member is aware that the wildlife resorts are giving a 35% discount to Namibians something that the other lodges are not doing?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I know that, that is not the issue, but it does not make any difference. I will take you this coming weekend... (Interjections). No separately, you will go with my wife and I. I withdraw that one.

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Comrade Minister, I want you to have a look at the pricing. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Comrade Ilonga, are you aware that these Government Resorts close at 17:00 and if you have made a booking and you are supposed to attend Parliament here, you will not be in time to check in at Waterberg? While they close at 17:00 to keep tourists away, they are still begging for additional financial assistance.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I only know that at Etosha you cannot enter after certain hours, but at the rest you can enter any time. You will find a key at the gate.

Comrade Minister, the closing hours also need to be checked if that is the case so that we can find a solution, but my concern was only the pricing, that we have to look into and that you have many people who will come to support you. You need many clients. If you sell your commodity to many clients, you will be surprised. I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: Thank you, Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I am very happy to see that the Ministry has made provision for the subsidies for Namibia Tourism Board on page 8 of the speech. My first question is: In the speech of the Honourable Minister she mentions N\$33 million in subsidy and N\$2 million for international marketing to support the NTB operations, which gives one N\$35 million, but in the Budget book on page 242 there is only N\$32 million for this year, N\$32 million for next year and then 2011/2012 there is N\$35 million. I am not quite sure whether these figures are correct and maybe the Honourable Minister could just help us there.

Honourable Chairperson, I am very concerned about our Tourism Industry for this year. I do not think people realise the seriousness of the international credit crunch. I think we have not seen the worst of this, it is still coming. I read an article earlier this week of the hunters who came back from Europe and the Americas, trying to sell their lodges and hunting opportunities in

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Namibia and the message that they brought back was fairly negative. People do not want to come anymore because of the credit crunch. That is why I say I support the N\$32 million to the NTB one hundred percent so that they can promote our country. Even the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry has referred to advertisement on the CNN channel, but Honourable Minister my question to you would be the following:

This year, next year and the following year we will have to compete with many other tourist destinations and if you look at the Internet and the press, you will see that many of these places all over the world are seriously doing marketing at the moment and they are putting emphasis on what you call here "*value for money.*" I am just a bit concerned that maybe our Industry did not get the message yet, that they are in for very serious trouble and that they will have to put emphasis on the words "*value for money*". In other words, where they used to make N\$1,000 profit out of a visit of a tourist, they will now have to be satisfied with N\$500, because it is better to get the tourist and make N\$500 profit than to get nobody. My request to you, Honourable Minister, is that you must get the industry together and really talk to them to see whether we cannot emphasise the value for money aspect, because for the rest of the world, Namibia has a fantastic history and a fantastic name. Honourable Minister, that is the one point.

The only other question I want to ask is, you said here that the NWR opened a new camp, the Onkoshi camp in Etosha National Park, but I have heard that they have for the last two years been building a lodge at Ai-Ais which is still not completed, but the funds have run out. I do not know how true this information is and maybe the Honourable Minister could shed some light on this lodge that the Namibia Wildlife Resorts is building at Ai-Ais and what the financial situation around that lodge is. Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

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

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I will be very brief. First I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister. Yesterday she was showing off her knowledge of all the antelopes and the things she knows and the other time she

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was telling me that a lion first attacks you 5 times. It comes and goes and the fifth time it kills you. Therefore, she is not a specialist on animals and she is doing very well.

Since Chief //Garoëb is not here I am going to talk about elephants. In the Kunene the elephants are multiplying at a rate we do not know. Sometimes you see a herd of 80 elephants. I just want to know whether the culling of elephants is allowed every year and how many can we cull, because these animals are really producing at a very fast rate and they are very dangerous to us in Kunene. You know that when they come there, they destroy your farm. They eat everything there and I think they are very dangerous. Please just explain that to us. Otherwise I really support your Vote and thank you very much for the assistance you are rendering to our little projects at Uitkoms. Honourable Ui/o/oo has also decided to look after the animals, those days of hunting is over now, they are preserving the animals. Thank you very much and I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Ndaitwah.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also want to thank the Members for their support.

The first concern was raised by *Honourable Nashandi* on the promotion of domestic tourism. Yes, we have a programme at Ministry level which is headed by the Namibia Tourism Board. Last week we had a consultative meeting between the Ministry and the two parastatals, which was aimed at agreeing on the way forward for us to carry out our mandate. It was at that forum that the Namibia Tourism Board has presented their programme of promoting domestic tourism. Therefore, we are very much aware and concerned that our people do not know the country and some sensitisation programmes will be conducted.

I think I can respond to your question together with the concern raised by *Honourable Ilonga* about the rates. It has always been argued that since Namibia Wildlife Resorts implemented the turnaround strategy, the rates have become so high, to the extent that Namibians are no longer visiting the resorts.

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I tried to make a comparison of Namibians visiting the resorts before the turnaround strategy and it was very, very low. I can tell you that with the prices we have now, the number is increasing. In 2006 when the turnaround strategy started, the Namibians who visited the Namibia Wildlife Resorts facilities increased by 14%. In 2007 the number increased by 18% and in 2008, it increased by 21%. These are the facts. The figure in 2006 was 59,577, in 2007 it was 70,903 and the figure for 2009 is only based on the reservations which were made and it stands at 32,863. Those are reservations, because people do their reservations at these resorts even a year in advance, because if you fail to do that, you may not get a place in the high season.

I may also inform you that there is a period in the low season whereby Namibia Wildlife Resorts gives 50% discount to Namibians, but you still do not use it. In the high season your discount is 25% and for the senior citizens it is 35%. However, you do not make use of the 50% discount. I do not want to keep on repeating myself, but we have to understand that NWR is led by people with expertise in this industry and they have done a thorough assessment of the industry before they did their pricing. Dr Aupindi has been in other International Industries before and he really knows what he is doing. He just got his doctorate and I congratulate him for that.

Then on the issue of the Conservancies. Thank you for recognising the important role Conservancies are playing in our community. About the people who are patrolling the Conservancies and the need for certain species, first of all, the conservancy is a commitment that the community has undertaken to participate in conservation. It is also expected that when you have a Conservancy, you are supposed to have your own income in the long run and then take care of the needs of the Conservancies.

I hope the campsites you mentioned are part of the tourist facilities. We are trying to move from the concept of campsites standing alone, because experience tells us that when you only have a campsite in the conservancy, the community is not getting anything, because a tourist cannot travel all the way from Germany to come and cook for him or herself. We are saying there should be a proper lodge at a campsite so that the community can benefit and that is why we are encouraging community-private partnership in developing the conservancies.

It was mentioned that people do not have guns. You know, guns are another thing, you cannot hand out guns just like that. We are also careful

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when it comes to the species we give to the people. The species which are trans-located are not the cats. The lions can move especially from Etosha National Park and that is why we are now budgeting that in the next three years, the same fence at the southern border of the Etosha National Park will also be erected at the northern border. In that way we will prevent game moving freely from Etosha National Park. Although it is difficult to control the elephants, we are trying.

Honourable Amweelo, thank you very much. I am happy to inform you that the National Policy on Climate Change is being worked on and soon it will become a public document for discussion. In fact, there are already ongoing consultations with the public in order to finalise the Climate Change Policy and maybe before the end of the year, we might be able to have the Cabinet adopting it and maybe the Cabinet might decide to share it with Parliament.

Honourable Dienda, our plans for the 2010 FIFA World Cup and the African Cup of Nations: I have to inform you that the Cabinet has set up a Ministerial Committee to draw up a strategy that would position Namibia for the 2010 FIFA World Cup and the Africa Cup of Nations. That Committee is chaired by the Minister of Youth and deputised by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The private sector is fully involved and we have some strategies. Of course, much of it is influenced by the rules and regulations of FIFA while organising such events.

I have to tell you that we have some hotels in the country which have already signed up with FIFA in order to accommodate people attending the 2010 FIFA World Cup. At the same time the Industry is positioning itself to accommodate extra people who might come to the country. I am sure you have seen the erection of the Namundjebo Plaza in Independence Avenue and they have informed us that that hotel will be ready before the 2010 World Cup.

We are also planning to sell our country during that time and because conversation is our main market, we are putting much emphasis on the Kavango-Zambezi Trans-frontier Conservation National Park in addition to the other national parks and putting up facilities which are eco-friendly can be done within seven months. Therefore, we are positioning ourselves for that.

The Namibians in the Industry will benefit when people visit Namibia and we should perhaps get resources for big screens for big soccer stadiums in the country, such as at Windhoek, Walvis Bay, Swakopmund and Oshakati where

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Namibians who are not able to go to South Africa or have their own television sets could also watch the soccer.

The social impact of gambling and lotteries is common knowledge to all of us. Even when we were passing the two laws on which these activities are based, we discussed this issue intensively. Nevertheless, we have weighed all the balances and we decided that such activities should be conducted in Namibia. The Ministry is only controlling the issuance of licences for gambling machines. The moratorium is still in force, because we have to amend the law. We realised that there are loopholes in the law which makes it difficult for us to control and once that is done, we will resume issuing licences, but we will be more strict. Currently we are only educating our people to conduct responsible gambling.

Honourable Ankama mentioned civic education. It is true that when people see game, they want to feast on that. It is not the Ministry which decides on the translocation of game, but it is the communities themselves who have to apply and there are procedures. They have to ensure that they have mobilised their communities properly and the Traditional Authorities are also involved. I can tell you that we will not approve any Conservancy without the signature of the head, the chief or the *Hompa*. Therefore, the first issue is education and because people know that if they have this game, it means revenue for them, they have the responsibility to safeguard that.

I am sure you have heard on the media of one Conservancy of 2000 members which generated over N\$500,000 for that community and they did it so wisely, because they decided to pay off the school development fund for all the school-going children in that community.

That shows that there is civic education.

I agree with you that indigenous plants are becoming extinct because the people are not protecting them and we are looking into this area very seriously. We are supporting projects to add value to the plants that people have. Under the project of integrated land management there is some small grants given specifically to people who are involved in indigenous plants and the communities are responding very well and I have to thank you that you have planted them in your place. I feel many of us are encouraged to do that.

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Honourable Moongo, I thank you for your appreciation for the community-based resources management and you asked how the Traditional Authorities are benefiting from tourism. For example, if you have a tourist facility in a particular conservancy, which could be a private-community partnership, shares will be allocated to the private partner, the conservancy and to the Traditional Authority as an institution and it is up to the Traditional Authority to manage their share. That is how they are benefiting.

Then you posed a question which I do not understand. How do we allow lions to be with other animals? It is natural for them to live with other animals. What is wrong with it? You said lions have to be given to the private sector. It is one of the species that we have to take care of and we will keep them in Etosha Park. We also do not want our animals to be kept in captivity. If you are thinking of giving this cats to be given to private owners to be put in cages, that we do not allow. That is why want to keep them in Etosha and just find ways of confining them there. It is easy to confine the lions, but the problem is the elephants which destroy the fence and then all the other game escape.

Honourable Ilonga mentioned the Resorts which close at 17:00. Some of these places are in National Parks and the Ministry stipulated the opening and closing hours of its National Parks in its policy. This is necessary for the safety of our tourists and the tourists have no problem with this arrangement, because they know it is for their own safety.

If you allow people to enter Etosha National Park after sunset, the risks are very high. If you allow them to run around the National Parks on their own during night, the risk will be very high and it will have a negative impact on the tourism industry in Namibia because you may not be able to rescue them.

I must tell you that we were highly commended at the ATB in Germany when we rescued these tourists who were stranded in Etosha, but they were telling themselves that they must comply with the rules and regulations. Colleagues, we cannot compromise on the safety of our people, those times will remain, otherwise it will be a disaster.

Honourable De Waal, wanted to know what is in the Budget for international marketing. We have a special programme focusing on the 2010 FIFA World Cup and that is where the marketing part comes in. At the same time, Namibia Tourism Board will continue to do its normal activities. I further agree with you that we need to bring the Industry together and we are doing so through

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FENATA. I can also inform you that the Industry is part of the Committee I mentioned which is chaired by the Minister of Youth. Therefore, they are fully involved and we are working with them.

When we went to Namibia Tourism Board, we had 25 Namibian exhibitors and the Namibia Tourism Board just bought one Namibian booth and everybody was accommodated there. That was a way of us working together as a team and to market Namibia as a team and it was working very well.

We are very much aware of the credit crunch and what you said about the hunters and that the Industry will be affected, but not in the same way as the other Industries. When I accompanied our Cheetahs to the convention of hunters, I had a meeting with them on the last day, but they were telling me that they were satisfied. There was a fear of people cancelling, but there were those who have dates even for 2010 to come and hunt. We are watching the situation and the same applied when we were with our exhibitors in Germany. I also had a meeting with them after the exhibition and they were positive.

The next question by Mr De Waal was about Ai-Ais and the Etosha Onkoshi. It is true, the Etosha Onkoshi was built, it is very wonderful and I invite you to visit it. Especially now that there is water, you will even spend that N\$4,500 because it is value for money.

It is true that when NWR started to renovate Ai-Ais, the idea was just to do renovations, but when the contractor went to the site, it emerged that there was a lot of environmental damage to especially the old section. Therefore, the funds budgeted for renovations was not enough to bring the resort up to standard and that is why there was an increment on the expenditure. This is the information I got and I think that is what is happening.

Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, CITES allocates a quota to each country for the culling of elephants. Our conservation has become so successful that the population has grown and currently we are only allowed to cull a hundred a year, which includes problem animals.

Once again, Honourable Members, thank you for your support.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I put Vote 18. Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 19 – “TRADE AND INDUSTRY” put for Discussion.

HON KAVETUNA: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I have a tiny question to the Honourable Minister regarding the SMEs on page 9.

I first have to congratulate the Minister for allocating such a big amount of money for this very vital initiative. However, I wish to know whether the money is going to be handled by the bank as was done previously. If that is the case, then I feel we have to revise the mechanisms of assisting these SMEs, because the people have to comply with many conditions and then at the end of the day they do not get the funds.

Another issue is the diversification of our products and ideas in the SMEs. Our people need to be mobilised to start thinking beyond kapanas and shebeens, because our people only think business consists of selling something. We have to mobilise our people to come up with constructive ideas which will add value to the development of this country.

It is mentioned on page 11 that there is a Cabinet directive to dissolve the Credit Guarantee Trust, which I think is a good move because it has not done much. The Financial Institution to be established will be able to assist specifically the young people who have good ideas, but who cannot access finance.

With this, I would like to support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: I have only question to the Honourable Minister on the situation surrounding the Namibia Development Corporation. We are in favour of the re-establishment of the NDC because 5 or 6 years ago it was said that the NDC must be scrapped and closed down. Therefore, I am very happy

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to see that the Honourable Minister says on page 15: *“My Ministry, in consultation with Cabinet, plans to vigorously pursue the transformation of the NDC.”*

Honourable Minister, when I look at the Estimates of Income and Expenditure on page 252, I see NDC and then for the next 3 years it is zero. Then on page 14 of your speech you say: *“I am greatly concerned that the Corporation does not have the required financial and human resources to fully exploit the huge employment creating potential.”*

Honourable Minister, I do not know how you are going to do that without a Budget. Maybe we can talk to the Honourable Minister of Finance to help us there, because if we want to revive the NDC, as we should, then we should make sure that they have either enough own income from the sale of cattle and whatever else they can sell, Coca Cola profits in the North, but if that money is not enough to cover their costs, then maybe we should assist them.

The reason I am saying all these things is the following: Those years when the Cabinet took the decision to close NDC down, their personnel resigned because it was a sinking ship. The good people resigned, found other jobs and only a few people remained in NDC. However, you must remember that at that stage NDC had a big amount of assets, from furniture to computers to cattle to grocery shops and all that belonged to the NDC. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask Honourable De Waal a question? Honourable De Waal, you said that some of the workers of the NDC resigned. Are you talking of Honourable Dienda?

HON DE WAAL: Is she one of the culprits? Seriously, Honourable Chairperson, we are very much concerned about the assets of the NDC, because I am not so sure that we have not already lost a lot of money because of things such as furniture, computers, vehicles, spare parts and other things. That is one issue.

The second issue is the loan book. The NDC used to give loans to people and those loans had a long term of repayment. When the announcement was made that the NDC was going to close down, you can imagine that some of the

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people who owed money to the NDC stopped paying, because they said, “*well, this is luck, I owe them money, but now Cabinet is closing them down, so maybe I am getting away.*” The second problem is that that happened maybe 5, 6 years ago and we do still have the information on the computers of who owes us money?

I want to say to the Honourable Minister that maybe it would be a good thing for him to look at these issues that I have mentioned, because I want to use only one example. NDC used to have sawmill in Katima Mulilo which was sold but not paid for. The person who bought it got a loan from the NDC and the last time I had the figures in front of me, the loan has not been repaid, but the sawmill was closed, the machinery were transported to Brakwater here in Windhoek and they were offered for sale to one of the Members of Parliament. That is what I am talking about. Therefore, the machinery is gone, the sawmill has been closed and NDC sits with a loan which has not been repaid. Honourable Minister, I know you are new in the job, but maybe it would be worthwhile to take a serious look at this.

The Namibia Development Corporation is necessary, if it is managed properly it has a very good function to fulfil, because they can start new projects. They have the expertise, they have done a fantastic job in some of these projects, but we must look at whether the own income is enough and if it is not enough, Honourable Minister of Finance, we should maybe help them from the Contingency Fund. If we do not put in new personnel, if we do not look at the loan book and their assets, then you are going to lose a lot of money and it might be good to invest some money in the Namibia Development Corporation. Thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister for the excellent work in advertising Namibia on CNN and I would like to see that extended to other major broadcasting television stations.

Looking at the table on page 514, I see the Honourable Minister has budgeted N\$100,155,000 for trade promotion, but when I check on page 520, the

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Honourable Minister has got a very nice phrase there. It says “*the impact of this would be penetration of foreign markets by Namibian Companies, thus creating employment at home and expansion of the economy.*” One assumes that that promotion of Namibian companies to export goods and services would have received a big chunk of this N\$100 million during the Financial Year 2009/2010, but what one finds in the Development Budget is the Namibian Trade Centre in Luanda, N\$15 million, the Namibian Trade Centre in DRC, N\$3 million, the Namibian Trade Centre in Congo Brazzaville, N\$3 million, Luanda residence, N\$15 million in terms of the Trade Attaché, I suppose. You budget N\$15 million for someone’s house and N\$3 million for the trade centre. N\$3 million equals about US\$250,000. What do you do with US\$250,000 in the Congo? You will do nothing.

Comrade Minister, look at this seriously. These people give themselves a residence of N\$15 million. To do what, if there is no trade centre?

Just returning from the DRC, there is a great disappointment in the community in the Namibians, because they say they gave us so many facilities and we are not forthcoming. Apparently some of our citizens were given farmland in the DRC, they have never returned since then. There are certain business people who were taken there after crying over the back of the Government, they were introduced to the commercial authority, they were allocated land and since then they never returned. Then some Company was given business opportunities, including internal flights, he never showed up.

In Congo Brazzaville we were invited to set up a trade centre and now we are allocating only N\$3 million, but the statement is good, to promote Namibian products so that we will be able to export. We have no way to solve our problem of internal market, the only way is to aggressively go out there and give service and have returns.

Comrade Minister, if you look at the Katwitwi Industrial Park, we must seriously plan and get involved. Do not approve plans on the papers, go and see for yourself, because we should never repeat the mistake of Oshikango where everything is just haphazard. Now it will cost us a fortune to rectify that situation. Of course, the industrial park at Katwitwi has already been built, I suppose this is just retention money, but the planning around it needs to be seriously addressed.

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Comrade Minister, you only allocated N\$5 million for the feasibility study. This is peanuts if we have to promote private sector development in terms of this world crisis. You need money to motivate people to come up with factories. We have seen how these plans work very well. I hope this Luanda Trade Centre will not come to life. The previous Ministers who preceded you thought it was too much competition. Now that they are no longer here and have their own things there, we should not delay this any longer. N\$12 million was given at one time, N\$6 million from the Ministry of Agriculture and N\$6 million from the Ministry of Trade to set up the centre and I do not know what the previous people did, up to now we do not have the centre. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Where is the money?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I suppose the money was returned. Maybe the money was returned, we can ask them. Was the money returned to Treasury? He was still there, he will be able to tell us what happened to the N\$12 million. Thank you, Comrade Chairperson.

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

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, thank you very much. I am on page 330 of the Development Programme, Honourable Minister. It is about this project which aims to assist entrepreneurs. Honourable Minister, now can potential entrepreneurs get information regarding this project, especially our people from the Rural Areas?

Page 334: Honourable Minister, I am in favour of this project on business parks in the Kavango Region and we must ensure that the rent is affordable and that it is close to the people. I would also like to see this project in all the Regions because we as Namibians have adopted a western culture and we are no longer interested in our own culture. When Members of Parliament are travelling, we are first asking for open markets before we ask for those fancy

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shops and we need to encourage our people to make use of these business parks.

My last question is on page 14 of your speech, on NDC. The Honourable Minister was asking where is the money and I also want to know how far is the case of the missing N\$100 million which involved the NDC and Offshore Development Company. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: You were there.

HON DIENDA: By that time I had already left. I was asking too many questions in the Finance Department and the Deputy Minister knows, and just within 24 hours I was transferred to the Training Department because I could not be silenced. I thank you.

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

HON MOONGO: Mine is a question on Namibia Development Corporation. I would like to ask whether the Minister knows that when he is going to establish the new NDC he would need skilful managers? The old managers of ENOK were taken by the private sector and they were well-trained managers. I do not want you to revive the NDC only to collapse. Will you reinstate those skilled managers? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member is very economic with the truth. The previous NDC members were not appointed on the basis of qualifications. The only qualification they had was Grade 12 and rugby.

HON MOONGO: That point I understand but my dear, I know them and they were well-trained by the private sector.

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HON DIENDA: On a Point of Information, Honourable Minister. I do not think all the people working at NDC only had Grade 12, because I myself did not enter NDC with a Grade 12 certificate.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You came with what?

HON DIENDA: I came with my qualifications.

HON MOONGO: We now have the experience of resettlement farms which collapsed and if we reintroduce NDC in the same way, it will also collapse. Let us make use of the previous workers of NDC who were well-trained. Thank you.

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

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to thank the Comrade Minister and my comment is on page 15 with regard to the Ramatex factory premises.

I am happy that the Ministry is right now busy consulting in order to find solutions, it is very good, because once a solution has been found, Namibian people are going to be employed. At the same time I have a small concern with regard to the Otjimui Industrial Site, because this industrial site is within a residential area. According to the law the factories should be removed from residential areas.

We had the cement factory in Otjiwarongo where the location caused a problem, because when the wind was blowing the community of Otjiwarongo was exposed to the cement dust and the factory was closed. When industries are located in residential areas, the communities are exposed to hazards.

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Maybe when the Ministry is consulting, it must also consider safety right from the beginning. Otherwise I support the Vote.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote of the Vice-President of SWAPO Party and I have only one observation and request.

At times these *kapanas* choose the best spot where there are the most customers, but then it becomes a nuisance to some people and they are relocated to a place where the customers find it difficult to reach. Sometimes there are factories nearby and these people are selling to the workers of the factories. The SME centres are being built at places where the workers will find it very difficult to go during lunchtime. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, I must admit that today you are making sense for the first time. The pushing around of the SMEs at these places you are referring to now, do you agree with me that the guilty party doing these things is the very same institution that you are representing? The Municipalities in those areas are being run by the Ruling Party, SWAPO and they are chasing these people away from strategic places into the bush.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Chairperson, I think the Honourable Member must withdraw. He cannot say that since I came here I have been talking nonsense. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, I never said that.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Today is the only day he spoke sense, meaning all along he was talking nonsense.

HON TJIHUIKO: Not nonsense, but sense. There is a difference.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Let us be serious. He never talked sense since he started, only today. It means he was talking nonsense? Just withdraw that and proceed.

HON TJIHUIKO: The one that I said or the one that I did not say? I did not say “*nonsense*”.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: If I say, “*father, you are not clever*”, then you are what? It means you are stupid. Withdraw the word and let us proceed.

HON TJIHUIKO: I withdraw.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Chairperson, he just wasted my time and I hope the Vice-President of SWAPO understood... (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. Since the Colleague is now being positive towards the street vendors, are you aware that last year, because of this pushing around, one street vendor was chopped with a knife and ended up in the State Hospital in Oshakati. Today they are pushed here.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Vice-President, for the sake of time, I hope you understand what I am trying to say and I only want to request that we are establishing these centres, we must really look into the needs of the people whom we are constructing the centres for.

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

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Let me congratulate my Neighbour here, the Honourable Minister. I have two small points.

When I was in Angola last year, I found that our builders from Namibia lost money because after they have finished a certain building, the Angolans did not pay them and people were being chased away without being paid. I am just trying to mention this so that somehow we can protect our people who are going to these places, so that the Government has knowledge of these people going there and that they do not lose money. Our builders from Rehoboth have lost a lot of money.

The second point is on SMEs. We used to experience problems because the forms to be filled in were so complicated. Many women had small businesses and they applied, but the forms were so complicated. Please look at these forms and simplify them a little bit so that people can understand them. Otherwise I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Considering the age, I was told you were going to approve my Vote, but thank you very much, Honourable Colleagues, for enlightening us and advising us of what we can do in the Ministry.

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We thank the youth for asking questions concerning the youth about SMEs. SMEs are the biggest providers of jobs. In a country like Canada, 60% of the employment is provided by SMEs. Therefore, it is something we look at very seriously when we are trying to approach job creation and poverty reduction. We have to look at SMEs, the youth and women. I agree with you that in the past they were not benefiting properly but it is because of how our systems are structured. We are trying to find the best way to help them and the idea of an SME Bank came up which will be giving collateral. However, the Minister of Finance raised one issue, that if you are going to take deposits, you have to protect the depositors, therefore you must give collateral. Because of that, we are now pondering on the idea of enlarging participation in that bank and we have approached some of our friends in the Middle East and so on to have equity shares in that bank. Therefore, there will be the Government part and some kind of equity holding could be set aside as collateral free loans given to young people and women, but for some part there must be collateral to protect the Banks.

With this crisis our banks are said to be safer, because they were over-regulated and therefore, they were protecting themselves and withstood this crisis. We are looking at that bank idea and I really think what we will do is first to have Antennae's in all 13 Regions, composed of youth and women, to come out with their projects that could be funded and then they will get funding through that bank.

On the question of *kapanas*, if you are a job-seeker you will go and ask somebody to employ you. An entrepreneur will put up a little stall and sell something or advise somebody. That is an entrepreneur. However, we still have the mentality of looking for a job with somebody. Until that mindset is going to be corrected – which we are doing through courses – I think that is going to be the way of *kapanas* and so on. *Kapanas* are also serving a purpose. If you look at new buildings being built, lunchtime you will see them providing a valuable service. They are not being kicked around, the SWAPO Government allows them to be there. They are not being kicked around, they are there at lunchtime and provide a service.

However, we must grow with experience and not remain at the same level. From *kapana* you must grow into something else. Most rich people started like that. I am told Frans Indongo used to deliver things with a bicycle. They have to grow from *kapana* to big Industries.

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Honourable De Waal, the Cabinet decided to reactivate NDC, but NDC is seriously flawed. I went to visit the agricultural farms and honestly, when I looked at that farm, financed by Government, and I look at my farm, I was saying, “*what is the difference?*” I should not see it that way because I am not a farmer. This is a farm managed by experienced people, but seriously speaking, they can do much better. We who were there were a bit disappointed, but the potential is definitely there. They are now understocked, they only have about 7,000 head of cattle whereas they used to have 15,000.

There is a crop farm where these young people got one of the NDC farms and turned it into a major maize producing farm. The only mistake is that they were given a five-year lease, which must of course be changed as you cannot plan and look at what they have planted there. The potential is there and we are going to study it and use it.

The one thing you can do with NDC is to inject public private sector equity. You have to bring in some equity from the private sector and we are looking into that. That way money and skills can be injected and that way it can be turned around.

You said it needs financing and management and yes, those are the requirements, we have to see to it that there is good management.

I overheard Honourable Tjihuiko whispering when he was praising the Honourable Minister of Health. When he finished I praised him, his speech was very good and to the point and the same with Honourable Minister !Naruseb. We were provided with what has been achieved and one of them is CNN advertisement and there are many others mentioned in the speech, but you see, there is a simple sentence, complex sentence and compound-complex sentence in English and the same with submission. You can say, “*I go to town*” – full-stop. “*I come back from town*”, full-stop. “*I got sweets*” – full-stop. The complex sentence could be, “*I went to town and I got sweets and I came back.*” Small kids must be treated with simple sentences only, that is why you could not see there is a provision for what has been done in that speech, in the complex-compound speech.

Comrade Helmut Angula, you are right on the promotion of trade. Our aim is to vigorously promote trade in a very well-structured and organised way. We will come up with ideas in the Cabinet on how we are going to do that

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especially with our neighbouring countries, countries where we see potential, like Angola. You see Angolans coming here daily. At my dentist we sit and wait together and my dentist was saying that the whole family turns up and they want everything to be done that same day rather than going and coming back again.

I said, *“why do you people not join me on a trade mission, I can take three or five dentists under the protection of Government.”* I have heard about what you have related about people losing money. We are now talking about agreements between the Governments, that you take people with you, expose them to businesses and help them under the Government’s protection. I said, *“why do I not take 5 of you, go with you and take you to an established dentistry there so that you can have a lucrative business there?”* Maybe I will one day take them there. This could apply to other business people under the protection of the Government, because alone they will be cheated and many of them have already been cheated.

We are not only going CNN, I do not know why, if you were being sarcastic, you are saying why CNN, why not the other stations. However, the money will not be there because these things are very expensive and strategically we have to choose the ones we will benefit from. I must tell you that we got feedback on CNN, it is not bad. We will do that not only on television but other things too.

Comrade Angula, the money for Congo and Angola trade centres is there because of the position of the Cabinet or the Finance Ministry, that if you want to build a Trade House, you must apparently just put a small amount for studies only and then in the second year you put up a building. I refused to accept that, I quarrelled with my Colleagues that it is wrong. I am not saying we must not have studies, but why can we not do it within one or 2 months and build the rest of the year? Why should you take two years to build a building? However, that is apparently the way of doing it, that must you have a small amount for the feasibility study and the drawings, only that. I did not accept that, I refused it and I quarrelled with my Colleagues about that. Cabinet must change that principle because I think it is a Cabinet decision.

We have attended several trade fairs and we are taking trade missions to Washington, one we had to step in and it was an infrastructure conference and they have featured in Mauritania to showcase, but after the coup they withdrew. We went in there and we had a prospectus of our business people

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**APPROPRIATION BILL : DISCUSSION VOTE 19
HON DR GEINGOB**

and they were meeting there and making deals and some already came twice after that visit.

Yes, the Oshikango situation is a unique one and we should avoid other Oshikango's because we have learned from that and I take your advice very seriously.

Honourable Dienda, our purpose with the development projects is to replicate all those examples and all 13 Regions will benefit equally. Some are bigger, some are smaller, but our principle should be that we go to all 13 Regions.

The ODC matter is complicated and it is with the Courts and it is *sub judice*. I think the Acting Attorney General or Minister of Justice would be the better people to answer that question. It is receiving serious attention and close to N\$7 million have been recovered. However, it is a matter for two Governments, the South African Government and our Government and it is enjoying serious attention.

Honourable Moongo, you said we should hire skilful people. Some people who are even black think every black person is not skilful. When you have that kind of mentality, it is a serious brainwashing. Yes, we are going to get people who are skilful. If we have equity shareholders there, they are not going to allow their money to be handled by people who are not skilful, whether they are black or white.

Honourable Amweelo, Ramatex is another problem, it is a tragic situation, seriously speaking. We have already bought the machines there and we have about one thousand people who can start immediately, the ladies who lost their jobs, but now we have a problem with accommodation. Those buildings may be tied up for many years to come in the Court case of the liquidators versus the City of Windhoek. In the Court cases the City of Windhoek is Respondent No. 1, the Ministry of Trade is Respondent No. 2 and the Ministry of Regional Local Government is Respondent No. 3. It is a case that is going to the Courts and the issue is a dispute about the property there and the 99 years lease. The City is saying they can revoke that and that dispute is going on, it is a very complicated and unfortunate situation.

Our Ministry want to approach the City of Windhoek and get land to build our own facilities and we will go ahead to implement it.

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The comments by *Honourable Katali* is well received and I thank the Deputy Prime Minister for her question. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. I now put Vote 19. Any objection? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned until tomorrow morning, 09:00.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 21:42 UNTIL 2009.04.24 AT 09:00

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
24 APRIL 2009
WINDHOEK**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, in terms of Article 17(b) of our Constitution, the House stands adjourned until Monday, 27th April 2009. The names of Members present will be recorded in the Minutes. The House stands adjourned.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 09:40 UNTIL 2009.04.27 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
27 APRIL 2009
WINDHOEK**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I wish to inform you that the Budget Programme has been changed due to a lack of quorum last Friday to allow the House to deal with the remaining Budget Votes and the Third Reading by Thursday, the 30th of April 2009 before the recess. All business has been shifted forward with one day, whereafter the Minister of Finance will reply on the Third Reading after the discussion of the last Vote on Thursday. I kindly request Members to be brief and to the point during the rest of the discussion and to stick to details of the votes in order to dispose of the Budget as per schedule on Thursday, the 30th of April 2009, during the morning session.

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

TABLING: REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Town Council of Rehoboth for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2005.

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**NOTICE OF MOTION
HON BOOYS**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Table the Report, Honourable Member. Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Hans Booys.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 09, 15, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 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 DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Any further Notices of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: COMMITTEE STAGE**

SECRETARY: Committee Stage – *Namibia Constitution Second Amendment Bill.*

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Prime Minister Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee? It is moved that I leave the Chair. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call on the Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair. Honourable Peya Mushelenga.

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**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: COMMITTEE STAGE
RT HON N ANGULA**

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: The Committee has to consider the *Namibian Constitution Second Amendment Bill. {B5-2009}*

Clauses 1 to 4 put and agreed to.

Clause 5 put.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Chair, in Clause 5 –Substituted the following Sub-clause for Sub-clause (3):

“The Anti-Corruption Commission shall be an independent and impartial body.”

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: Any discussion on the Amendment?

Clause 5, as amended, put and agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 10 put and agreed to.

Clause 11 put.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: In the Bill, insert the following Clause after Clause 11 and renumber the rest of the Clauses:

“The Anti-Corruption Act, 2003 (Act No. 8 of 2003) is deemed to have been enacted pursuant to Article 94(a) and -

- (a) The Anti-Corruption Commission established by that Act and which existed at the commencement of this Act is deemed to have been established as contemplated in that article and continues to exist;

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**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: COMMITTEE STAGE
HON DR N IYAMBO**

- (b) The Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Deputy Director holding office at the commencement of this Act by virtue of their appointment under that Act, continue to hold office and are deemed to have been appointed in terms of that article;
- (c) Anything made for that in terms of or under that Act continues and is not affected by this Act.

I so Move.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: Any discussion on the Amendment? Honourable Minister Nicky Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Comrade Chair, I am not really disputing the Amendment tabled by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, but I am referring to Clause 10, that there was also an Amendment submitted.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: Honourable Minister, I should have been advised. It is unprocedural for us to go back to a Clause which we have already passed. Inasmuch as I sympathise with you, Honourable Minister, I am guided by the procedures of the House. When we come to the Third Reading, the Honourable Minister will still have an opportunity. Any discussion on the amendment by the Right Honourable Prime Minister?

Clause 12, as amended, put and agreed to.

Remaining Clause and Title put and agreed to.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

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**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: THIRD READING
RT HON N ANGULA**

Bill reported with Amendments.

**NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: THIRD READING**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Prime Minister Move that the Bill be read a Third Time? Any objection?

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, an Amendment was proposed to Clause 10, that the Commissioner of Correctional Service be known as the Commissioner General and I explained the reason why, that we have so many commissioners in the Police Force which is the third rank, yet you have the Commissioner of Prisons who is referred to as a commissioner and it normally causes confusion in meetings. The idea was to make a distinction, that the Commissioner of Prison Services be known as Commissioner General in order to put him at the same *par* with the Inspector General. It does not connote anything else but to distinguish him from others, just as we have the Director-General of the NBC, the Director-General of the National Planning Commission, etcetera.

I was advised by the Right Honourable Prime Minister to consult the Acting Attorney-General, which I did and he has subsequently provided the amendment which he has ratified, but I did not see it here although he said it was here. That is the only submission that I have.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I would like to thank the Honourable Members for supporting the technical Amendments to the Constitution and wish to advise Members who wish to bring Amendments to please submit them to the Cabinet, for Cabinet to agree in principle whether it is necessary to amend or not. There is also a proposal on the Floor that perhaps there is a need for a constitutional review committee and I do not know who is supposed to take that up. I know that there are Members who have all sorts of

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**NAMIBIA CONSTITUTION SECOND
AMENDMENT BILL: THIRD READING
RT HON N ANGULA**

Amendments to the Constitution, but unfortunately, I cannot really do anything without the mandate of the Cabinet. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. Does the Honourable Minister wish to say something in conclusion?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I thank everybody for their support and wish to say that we were forced to make these Amendments for the sake of good governance. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now put the Question, that the Bill be read a Third Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill a Third Time.

SECRETARY: *Namibian Constitution Second Amendment Bill.*

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION OF
COMMITTEE STAGE**

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee? It is Moved that I leave the Chair. Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. I call on the Assistant

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 26
HON DR KAWANA**

Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair. Honourable
Peya Mushelenga.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported Thursday, 23rd April 2009, Votes 01, 07, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 28, 29 and 30 had been agreed to. Votes 15, 24, 25 and 27 had been introduced.

Vote 26 – “NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION”, N\$98,528,000 for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to motivate Vote 26, National Planning Commission (NPC). In terms of Article 129 of the Namibian Constitution, the main constitutional function of the Commission is to plan the priorities and direction of national development. Against this background, the NPC coordinates all Government capital projects and is entrusted with the responsibility of official national statistics. In this regard, the NPC is one of those institutions which play an important function in the economic planning of our country.

Honourable Chairperson, it was only on Tuesday, 15 April this year, when His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia emphasised the importance of planning during his State of the Nation Address in this Chamber. We can only effectively implement our programmes and projects once we have correct information regarding, for example, the level of poverty in our country, the most affected social groups, the most affected poverty stricken Regions, the level of education of our Nation, the level of provision of social services such as health, water, schools, etcetera. Official statistics on all these issues are provided by NPC. It is clear, therefore, that the NPC is a technical institution.

The NPC has embarked on the Strategic Planning process. In accordance with NDP3, it will implement nine major programmes during the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

Programme 1: Consolidation of an integrated result based planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. For a long time now, the development programme implementation has been hampered by poor coordination and integration within and amongst institutions. In addition, there has been lack of effective monitoring, reporting and evaluation system.

An integrated result-based planning approach was introduced to help link planning and implementation to the desired results. This approach needs further consolidation. The programme involves a revision of the Development Planning Manual, training the staff of Offices, Ministries and Agencies. It also involves training the staff of Regional Councils and other stakeholders in planning and monitoring. The development of the National Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation commenced in 2008/2009 and will continue until 2010/2011. This includes the design of the overall system and the introduction of the Directorate of Implementation, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation. The mid-term review of NDP3 will take place in the current Financial Year.

An amount of N\$14,893,000 is requested for this programme.

Programme 2: Research Policy Analysis. This programme facilitates building of relevant policy research and analytical skills of staff members and other stakeholders who constitute the Macroeconomic Working Group to better enable them to fulfil their mandates and responsibilities.

The enhanced training will enable staff members to undertake policy research and provide recommendations to policy-makers. It supports training of officials in the areas of macroeconomic policy research and analysis. It also covers research in quantitative analysis of the impact of macroeconomic policy on important economic variables, including Government Budget.

The main activities under this programme include updating of the macroeconomic model and building of new models and other forecasting tools; training of the officials in the operation of the macro models and using the results from the model to provide inputs into the compilation of the Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks and periodic economic reports. The beneficiaries of this programme include NPC officials, Ministry of Finance, Bank of Namibia, other Offices, Ministries and Agencies, research institutions and the public at large.

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An amount of N\$3,783,000 is requested for this programme.

Programme 3: Human Resources Planning. The NPC's responsibility also covers human resources planning. This include ensuring that education and training institutions turn out graduates with appropriate skills, as demanded by the labour market. It is, therefore, necessary to formulate and maintain a stock-and-flow human resources model for all sub-sectors of the economy.

This programme involves the formulation of the National Human Resources Plan and the construction of a Human Resources Model to track the supply, demand and utilisation of human resources, and provide guidance on appropriate strategies to address the human resources gaps.

An amount of N\$3,000,000 is requested for this programme.

Programme 4: Research on Poverty. In order to develop realistic policies for poverty alleviation, it is essential to understand the nature of poverty in the specific setting of the country. The modest number of indicators from among those in the Poverty Monitoring Strategy on which annual data are available will be monitored and reported. The NPC will use this information to develop the Poverty Status report.

An amount of N\$1,000,000 is requested for this programme.

Programme 5: Poverty Reduction. This programme aims at reducing poverty, developing rural areas through broad-based sustainable growth, and foster overall economic development. A Feasibility Study on the strategic industrial projects that have the potential to enhance economic growth and development, employment creation and poverty reduction will be undertaken during the reporting period.

The NPC is also responsible for coordinating the implementation of rural poverty reduction initiatives, such as the Namibia-German Special Initiative and the Rural Poverty Reduction programmes under which decentralised demand driven projects are funded by development partners. Therefore, NPC coordination in these areas will be required.

An amount of N\$3,000,000 is requested for this programme.

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Programme 6: Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in Development Plans and Programmes. This programme will ensure consistent mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS in the development programmes and continuous monitoring and assessment of the socio-economic impacts of HIV/AIDS.

The key activities will include strengthening capacity for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in development processes, and conducting a study on the socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS.

An amount of N\$2,000,000 is requested for this programme.

Programme 7: Population and Development. In recognition of the crucial role population issues play in development planning, the National Population Policy for Sustainable Human Development was formulated in 1997. Research on issues such as decline in life expectancy and increase in maternal and infant mortality rates will continue.

An amount of N\$300,000 is requested for this programme.

Programme 8: Development Cooperation. The main activities under this programme are to mobilise, coordinate, and manage development resources, including monitoring of aid disbursements through the Development Cooperation Database.

In this regard, the NPC will coordinate the preparation and drafting of Official Development Assistance Mobilisation Strategy. It is expected that the strategy will be finalised during 2010/2011 Financial Year. The official Development Assistance Mobilisation Strategy is critical to mobilising both internal and external resources for development programmes guided by the needs of NDP3 that was adopted recently.

Namibia is signatory to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness since April 2007. The implementation of this Declaration requires a high degree of governmental coordination of donor resources, prioritisation of projects and division of labour amongst donors and between Government and donors to fund programmes. This undertaking requires a proper Official Development Assistance Coordination Mechanism to be in place.

Another principle approach advanced by Government and donors is to increasingly channel external resources through the State Revenue Fund and to

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use Government systems in order to direct resources to NDP Programmes and to lower transaction costs.

In order to access resources in this way, donors expect that Sector Wide Approaches are prepared whereby resources are pooled and integrated to invest in a specific programme with targets and indicators.

This requires the setting up of Sector Forums between the NPC, Ministry of Finance, Line Ministries and Development partners. There is also need to have an integrated database in place on Official Development Assistance flows, disbursements and projections, which require training, expertise and equipment.

This Programme will, therefore, facilitate training of a number of staff in donor coordination, negotiating skills, paralegal, database and information management, financial management and policy analysis. Specific capacities in dealing with civic organisations will also be provided.

An amount of N\$13,190,000 is requested for this programme.

The last programme involves **statistics production and integrated information management**. Major projects under this programme include the development of the Geographical Information System, the execution of the Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey and conducting Population and Housing Census 2010/2011.

In the current Financial Year, activities will include: the production of official statistics such as national accounts, consumer price index, agricultural statistics, trade statistics, demography and social statistics. In addition, cross cutting activities such as general statistics coordination and rendering of technical services to line ministries will be provided.

An amount of N\$56,362,000 is requested for this programme.

Honourable Assitant Chairperson, the budgetary provision of the NPC is divided as follows: N\$53,528,000 for Operational Budget, and N\$45,000,000 for Development Budget.

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HON H ANGULA**

In conclusion, I request this august House to consider and approve the Budget of N\$98,528,000 to finance programmes of the National Planning Commission under Vote 26. I so move.

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEES:**

Vote 23 – “WORKS”, N\$481 401 000 put for Introduction.

MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Deputy Chair, Honourable Members, please allow me to take this opportunity to introduce to this august House Vote 23 for the Department of Works for the Financial Year 2009/2010.

Vote 23 caters for the provision of institutional facilities, office accommodation, housing, as well as the management and maintenance of Government properties. Under this Vote, the Department of Works renders essential services like implementation of Capital Projects on the Development Budget, and the maintenance of garden infrastructure and equipment, just to mention a few.

Let me highlight some of the activities, which the ministry has undertaken to bring about improvement in the service delivery.

The Ministry continues to struggle in the provision of services due to vacancies in both technical and professional positions. However, some of the vacant positions have now been filled with foreign professionals recruited from the SADC Region and beyond. Additionally, within the year under review, more professional posts have been filled in the Engineering division through the technical assistance agreement with our sister countries, Egypt and Cuba. Furthermore, the Ministry has managed to employ three young Namibian Assistant Engineers on the establishment of Capital Project Management. Although the Ministry has recruited professionals, there is still a high loss of technical personnel from the Department of Works due to better conditions offered by the private sector. The Ministry has put measures in place to facilitate the necessary practical training of the Namibian engineers to enable them to register as professional engineers.

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During the 2008/2009 Financial Year, the Department of Works successfully managed a variety of ongoing capital construction projects on behalf of line Ministries worth in excess of N\$670,000,000.

Some of the completed projects are listed in the technical paper distributed in advance to the Honourable Members of this House.

The 2008/2009 Financial Year reflected an improvement in the implementation of capital projects compared to 2007/2008 Financial Year.

In order to improve the relationship and properly respond to queries by line Ministries, the Ministry has continued to conduct project review meetings to discuss progress, educate line Ministries' Planners on the implementation, and strategise on future projects.

To help in identifying the causes of delays on projects and improve on project implementation, the Ministry has to date developed a typical construction project cycle. This project cycle was recently presented to line Ministries for their input. Further consultations have been held with the National Planning Commission and Tender Board of Namibia. The Ministry is currently finalising the document and it will be presented to Cabinet for consideration and adoption.

In order to enhance service delivery, Cabinet approved the appointment of the Steering Committee to oversee and manage the implementation of Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) concepts in the delivery of office accommodation. The committee is composed of the following Ministries: Works and Transport (Chairperson;), Office of the Prime Minister, Education, Health and Social Services, Office of the Auditor General, Safety and Security, Finance, Trade and Industry, National Planning Commission and Justice.

The provision of Government office accommodation using the B.O.T system and a P.P.P. method of procurement has now taken a another route. Consultations are currently underway between the Ministries of Works and Transport, Trade and Industry and Finance to finalise the establishment of a PPP unit. This Unit will be the lead entity to come up with all the necessary PPP requirements and procurement tools.

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Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, the Department of Works has compiled a database for SMEs throughout the country. This is part of the effort of the implementation plan for SME involvement in the construction industry. Consultations are now underway with the Ministry of Trade and Industry to harmonise the data on SMEs per Region for training purposes.

The draft bill to establish the National Planning and Construction Council was approved by Cabinet Committee on Legislation. It will be presented to Parliament during this Financial Year for approval and enactment. The aim of establishing this Council is to regulate and control the activities of all the players in the Namibian construction industry.

Honourable Members, the sale of some non-assigned Government houses is currently picking up momentum with an average of ten Deeds of Sale being finalised on a monthly basis. During the 2008/2009 Financial Year 102 houses were sold for an amount of N\$13.64 million. To date, 857 houses have been sold countrywide since the implementation of the scheme in the Financial Year 1998/1999 with an amount of N\$160.95 million being generated since the implementation of the Scheme. From the proceeds of this exercise an amount of N\$117.9 million was deposited into the State Revenue Fund during the Financial Years 2004/2005 and 2005/2006. N\$21.4 million have been committed towards the construction of much needed accommodation for police staff members and N\$11 million towards the renovation of Government flat complexes in Windhoek. Tenders for three complexes have already been awarded namely, Florence Court Flat in Eros, Sesman Huis Flats in Windhoek central and Vredehoff Flats in Eros, Windhoek. Renovation work is scheduled to start in April 2009.

Outstanding rentals and municipal accounts in arrears by sitting tenants causing delays in the sale of Government houses, first needs to be cleared before the transactions can be finalised.

The Ministry is also facing a situation where sitting tenants are accumulating huge outstanding electricity/ water bills with the Local Authorities. When they vacate the official Government quarters, it cannot be allocated to new tenants due to the outstanding amounts reflected against the property. This poses a potential risk to Government, as these accounts then need to be settled by the owner of the property as per municipal laws and regulations. To this effect, a

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document has been prepared to the Secretary of Cabinet for discussion at a meeting of Accounting Officers.

I must admit that maintenance of Government properties is becoming more challenging every year due to the ever-increasing cost of building material because of annual price escalation and inflation, while budgetary resources available remain limited to the growth rate in the gross domestic product of the country.

A number of Government buildings and infrastructure are added each year to the existing asset portfolio, thus increasing the required expenditure for maintenance with an amount of N\$15 million per annum.

To properly maintain Government assets valued at N\$20 billion requires an annual maintenance provision of at least N\$400 million. This calculation is based on generally accepted international norms that the expenditure for maintenance on an average property should be 2% of the replacement value for such a property. This varies from property to property and can be as low as 1.5% on low cost housing and as high as 6% when it comes to complex buildings, like hospitals. The actual amount available for maintenance activities for the past couple of years was as low as 0,70% of the total asset value, which is grossly inadequate.

Funds appropriated on the Operational Budget for the Sub-Vote 05 Maintenance over the past 5 years amounted to N\$130 million per annum on average. This amount includes remuneration of staff (50%), transport cost (7.5%), utility cost which includes fuel to generator sets (12.5%) and only the remainder of 30%, approximately N\$35 – N\$40 million can be utilized annually towards physical maintenance activities.

Cabinet has directed Offices/ Ministries/ Agencies to ensure that they create units in their respective institutions responsible for coordinating the maintenance of Government buildings. In this regard therefore, significant progress has been made during the 2008/2009 Financial Year towards this exercise pending submission and approval of the proposed structures by the Office of the Prime Minister.

As user of a facility, Ministries/ Offices/ Agencies will now have to be accountable and take responsibility for all routine and preventative maintenance activities as a result of their occupation of the property. This

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includes activities like cleaning gutters and storm water channels regularly to avoid unnecessary blockages during rainy periods, replacing blown out bulbs and fluorescents tubes, attend to leaking taps, blocked sewer and wastewater outlets due to misuse of the equipment, etcetera.

Already certain responsibilities for non-maintenance services such as utility consumption, which also includes all other related local authority charges, have been transferred to the user Ministries as part of their operational cost. Despite the fact that Ministries are for some time now responsible for paying their own utilities, the Department of Works is still responsible for providing fuel, servicing and maintaining approximately 420 generator sets at Government facilities in remote areas where no other service provider exists. The Department is generating 27 Megawatt of electricity at peak times. The Department is solely responsible for the funding of this expenditure. Some of these generating plants consume up to 840 litres of fuel per day (70 litres per hour for 12 hours). In total, the Department nearly spent N\$15 million during the previous Financial Year in generating and maintaining the constant provision of electricity to these facilities.

The Ministry has also made tremendous progress in expediting the process of decentralisation of the Maintenance and Technical Services function. All requirements as per the Ministry's Decentralisation Action Plan have been finalised and Cabinet has approved the delegation of the function to the 13 Regional Councils with effect from 1 April 2009.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, during my Budget motivation speech last year, I informed this august House that measures have been taken to establish a reliable Asset Register. A countrywide survey was conducted to obtain and compile records on Government Properties. The verification and confirmation of this data is being conducted by a second follow-up survey on regional level. Furthermore, Cabinet has authorised the Ministry to enlist the service of an IT expert to set up the Asset Register System. A contractor has been appointed and implementation is due in the first quarter of this Financial Year. This project, once completed, will be linked to the similar system of the Ministry of Finance. This will enable the Ministry of Works and Transport to monitor the deduction of rental fees by civil servants occupying official Government Quarters.

The division Information Technology is rendering IT services to the Ministry of Works and Transport's head office as well as the regional offices. These

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services include: Network services, Database development Services, Technical support services as well as end user support services. An amount of N\$80,000 has been allocated on an annual basis to support these services.

The Chief Computer Technician and Computer Technician positions have been filled. In order to increase the network traffic, the bandwidth from the Office of the Prime Minister to the Ministry of Works and Transport has been upgraded from 128 Kilobytes per second to 2 megabytes. The increase in the bandwidth has also necessitated the smooth running of the Human Resources Integrated Management System that has been limited in connectivity for some years.

All computer equipment purchased in the last Financial Year were installed and distributed to users. Two servers (database and testing servers) were purchased for the Fixed Asset Management Systems respectively and their installation is progressing well. The division has also purchased three additional servers (Exchange Server, Backup Server and an ISA Server) that will facilitate the sharing of information, ensure information security and maintain business continuity in the Ministry.

The Ministry has embarked upon two projects - the Fixed Asset Management System (FAMS) and the Ministerial Website. The development of three FAMS modules is completed and during the review of the system requirements, it was realised that there are some internal processes that were not covered by the purchase of off-the-shelf software, therefore the development team is now busy with the development of the additional requirements. The Ministerial Website is now operational and will be formally launched first week of June 2009.

The division has also been doing continuous monitoring and management of servers, monitoring and management of the network, personal computers and printers as well as maintaining hardware and software while ensuring connectivity between various ministry's persistent networks.

The Ministry was not able to expand its network to regional offices due to financial constraints but in the meantime the Ministry has negotiated with GTZ to assist in this regard. The feasibility study and the connectivity of these offices to the Head Office is planned to commence in the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

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System improvement is a continuous process; therefore the Division of Information Technology in the Ministry of Works and Transport will continue to upgrade computer networks and equipment. This process will ensure that the latest technologies are in place, enhance productivity, and that business continuity is maintained under all circumstances.

Honourable Members, it should be noted that the trade account of the Government Stores has made growth in turnover of more than 30% from N\$83 million during 2007/2008 to N\$107.9 million during 2008/2009. This translates that sales and internal control output of stores has improved.

The Katima Mulilo store is envisaged to be commissioned during this Financial Year 2009/2010. This store will remedy the procurement logistic problems of Government with regard to stock provisioning in this part of the country. Generally, it will also boost the local economy, where local companies will be given the opportunity to tender and supply stock to this Katima Mulilo store. It will commence with the staff compliment of 15.

At this juncture allow me to introduce the total budgetary requirements for the Department of Works for the 2009/2010 Financial Year, which amounts to N\$481,401,000. Out of this amount, N\$388,716,000, which represents 80.75% of the total Budget, will go into operational activities; while the remaining N\$92,683,000, which represents 19.25% of the total Budget, will be spent on capital related investments.

Honourable Members, allow me now to come to the individual programmes for which the allocation of N\$481,401,000 will be utilised.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMED AT 16:12 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

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HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:

PROGRAMME 1: CULTURAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

There is a name change to this program that used to be National Monument Museum Establishment. The purpose of this program is to construct an Independence Memorial Museum. The feasibility study and documentation have been completed during the previous year and construction work is to commence during this Financial Year.

For this activity, I request an amount of N\$60,000,000 under this program.

PROGRAMME 2: CONSTRUCTION OF MINISTERIAL FACILITIES

There is a name change to this programme that used to be Ministerial Infrastructure Development

The purpose of this programme is to ensure proper facilities for the Department of Works to operate from both central and regional levels, especially in the light of the Decentralisation exercise that is to be implemented as from 1 April 2009.

For these activities, I request an amount of N\$14,550,000 under this programme.

PROGRAMME 3: PUBLIC WORKS AND PUBLIC PROPERTY ASSET MANAGEMENT

There is a significant change in this programme that used to be Government Building Infrastructure. The project for the rehabilitation of oxidation ponds and related sewer systems has moved to a new programme 4, namely Waste, Pollution and Urban Environment. All other projects remain under this programme.

The purpose of this programme is to ensure sustainable and reliable property management, maintenance and rehabilitation of existing Government properties and related infrastructure to the best possible standards depending on the availability of funds and priorities set by the Government. Amongst the amount required for this programme, an amount of N\$120 million will be used for financing the rental of office accommodation for

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

For these activities, I request an amount of N\$368,722,000 under this programme.

PROGRAMME 4: WASTE, POLLUTION AND URBAN ENVIRONMENT

This is a new programme that is aimed to improve the living conditions in both rural and urban areas in all thirteen Regions by providing sound environment management to Government facilities at far-off places where municipal services are not provided by any local authority.

The main activities of this programme is to address shortcomings at existing oxidation ponds and sewer systems and allow raw water to be treated to a safe standard, compliant with the Water Act of 1956 (Act 54 of 1956)

For these activities, I request an amount of N\$5,700,000 under this programme.

PROGRAMME 5: CAPITAL PROJECT COMPLETION

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

The construction of the Presidential Residence, which is being financed by the Chinese Government, has started and completion is expected by September 2009.

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HON TWEYA**

To improve service delivery to customers the Ministry has constructed and officially launched a Customer Care Centre at the Ministry of Works and Transport building in Windhoek. Tenders received for the replacement of our existing PABX telephone system to introduce a proper credit limit manager are currently being evaluated.

For these activities, I request an amount of N\$13,938,000 under this programme.

PROGRAMME: PROVISION OF SERVICES TO THE GOVERNMENT

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

For this activity, I request an amount of N\$18,491,000 under this programme.

In conclusion, Honourable Chair, Honourable Members, in the light of the programmes outlined above, I now would like to humbly request this august House to approve the total expenditure of N\$ 481,401,000 for the Department of Works, Vote 23. I thank you.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Vote 09 – “FINANCE”, N\$2,417,665,000 put for Introduction.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: *“You can’t change the direction of the wind but you can adjust your sails”* – Unknown.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Cde. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, for the job well done in tabling the National Budget for 2009/2010, which

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according to me is a promising Budget under the current financial melt-down.

The financial storm that we all anticipated last year is starting to show the damages that we all hoped to avoid. The world economy is argued to be in a recession, commodity prices have collapsed, further this means lower demand for natural resources which is the key contributors to Sub-Saharan Africa economies, including Namibia. Some would argue recessions are perfectly normal and a part of the economic cycle.

What makes this year's Budget very different from previous years' is not that we are headed for elections towards the end of year, but rather that we cannot ignore the impact of the global economic slowdown on our own economy. While the harsh reality of this crisis finds its way to our shores, the Namibian fiscal has a key role to play in being an enabler in the economy to ensure that we not only survive the difficult times but also position ourselves to thrive as the tide begins to turn.

The quote above is very relevant in the sense that as always, hope springs eternal.

If I reflect back to the Budget Statement of the Honourable Minister of Finance, I could not but agree that the main focus of this year's Budget is still found in the further re-enactment and development of our economy.

Even though income collection is a challenge in this financial turmoil, the principles set still strengthen the SWAPO Party Government's philosophy of a pro-poor and pro-growth Budget. It is not surprisingly to note that our main focus areas, to mention but a few, have remained Agriculture, Education, Health and Infrastructure Development; an indication that the SWAPO Party-led Government is still committed to the development of the Namibian Nation.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the Government is committed to render quality service to the community and the tabling of this Budget is a testimony of the Government's continued support to the Namibian Peoples. This is in line with the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto of 2004 which emphasises the Ruling Party's commitment to remain a pro-poor, pro-growth and people-centred Party. The SWAPO Party Government will remain a people's Government, now and in the future.

The 2009/2010 National Budget concentrated mostly on improved outcomes in the education sector, accelerated economic growth, which is to be translated

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into improved and equitable wealth distribution, affordable and reliable health services, enhanced food security, just to mention but the few.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Deputy Minister, I should really refer you to the Rules of the Committee Stage of the Budget. You are dealing with the Budget in General. Could you focus on the Budget of the Ministry of Finance?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: I am not contributing, I am giving the introduction and I am not confined. However, I do not want to argue with the Chair.

Without any doubt, this is the “*people’s Budget*” and not “pre-election Budget” as viewed by some Honourable members from the Opposition Parties that would like to score political points.

I will not dwell on the concepts and principles used to draft the National Budget of 2009/2010, as this was well addressed by the Honourable Minister. My focus is to illustrate the past achievement of Vote 09 of the Ministry of Finance, as well as set the scene for the forthcoming attractions for 2009/2010.

ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST FINANCIAL TERM:

The Government has an enviable record for the comprehensiveness of the Budget information it supplies. Honourable Members have all received a full set of the Budget documentation, but let me draw your attention particularly to two of the documents: The Medium Term Expenditure Framework, which sets out our targets and plans for the coming three years, including those for our ongoing Public Finance Management Reform Programme; and, the Accountability Report, which shows how far we have succeeded in meeting our targets in 2007/2008, as a result of the resources voted by this august House.

I will not go through the Accountability Report in detail, but let me give you a few highlights. The Ministry of Finance oversees the country’s Public Finance Management Systems, which it successfully achieved as per the targets set per Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

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HON TWEYA**

The first achievement is that the scanners have been purchased and will be installed at the border posts including Hosea Kutako International Airport.

I will now move to the introduction of Vote 09:

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

- Before I introduce Vote 9 and the set targets, I would like to highlight and remind the Honourable Members of the Ministry's objectives which are to be found in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document, page 153, which I believe the Honourable Members have read and I want to refer you to those to refresh your minds so that your questions are focused on the objectives of the Ministry.

MINISTERIAL TARGETS:

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, there are matters of more detailed policy implementation and service delivery within the Ministry of Finance that I would like to highlight for the benefit of Honourable Members. To this end, the Ministry of Finance has identified these targets to be attained by the end of the MTEF period. The first one is public expenditure.

The Ministry has once again set itself an ambitious target of total expenditure being within 2% of the plan by 2009/2010. That will mean a much more focussed approach to analysing financial information and controlling expenditure.

Public expenditure is about control and prudent financial management. As a result of prudent financial management, the Ministry managed to be within the expenditure framework approved by this august House without any additional Budget. We intend to remain within the ceiling we have set ourselves despite the high cost of living and the negative economic conditions.

Other successes during the period were three cases where the Ministry was challenged in court, but successfully defended the cases.

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HON TWEYA**

- Case One –The Ministry of Finance, on behalf of PSEMAS, took to task a medical service provider for handling sub-standards and over priced services. This action by the Ministry was challenged but the Ministry did win the case on appeal.
- Case Two – The Ministry was challenged to a customs clearing agent for enforcing provisions of Customs Act under which illegal movement of bonded goods is prevented on provisions. The urgent application brought against the Ministry was dismissed with cost.
- Case Three – The Ministry was challenged on an urgent basis as a chair of the Tender Board for an award made to acquire a radar surveillance system. The High Court upheld the Tender Board decision and the applicant lost with cost, only but to mention a few.

REVENUE

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, if Namibia is to meet its fiscal targets, its Budget should be based on reliable estimates of revenue. To this end, the Ministry of Finance has set itself the ambitious target of being able to forecast revenue within an accuracy of 95 percent by the end of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period.

The next few years are going to be tougher, with Budget revenue on the conservative side, against the background of slower growth, depressed trade and declining company profits and personal income.

Our collective thanks are due also to the patriotic taxpayers who comply with tax legislation by paying their taxes and rendering returns when due.

DEBT AS A RATIO TO GDP:

The other target that the Ministry of Finance has set for itself is that of managing the public debt to such an extent that its ratio to GDP is reduced to 30% in 2009/2010. The realisation of this target will require adherence to fiscal discipline and proper implementation of the Debt Management Strategy.

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BUDGET AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP:

Another relevant target that the Ministry of Finance has set for itself is for the 2009/2010 Budget to be within 5% of the GDP.

CONTINGENT LIABILITY AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP:

Additional the Ministry of Finance has set for itself is for the 2009/2010 Contingent Liability to be below 10% of the GDP.

What is it that I am asking this august House to consider? Honourable Chairperson, I am asking a total of N\$2,417,664,000 as proposed under Vote 09 for the Financial Year 2009/2010. I wish to remind this august House that the loan repayments are not voted for in terms of Appropriation Bill as these are deemed to have been appropriated in accordance with Section 10 (1) (2) of the State Finance Act.

This amount is divided into the following seven programmes:

Programme 1: Economic Policy Advice:

An amount of N\$11.2 million is being proposed for this programme for the development of an acceptable pragmatic macro-economic policy framework. In addition, the undertaking of this programme will improve accuracy of forecasting fiscal targets and this ties very well with the Ministerial target of 95% revenue forecast by end of 2009/2010.

Programme 2: Revenue Management:

An amount of N\$356.5 million is being proposed for this programme.

Programme 3: Public Expenditure Management:

A total amount of N\$559 million is being proposed for this programme. This programme will ensure that Government resources are used to maximum effect in order to bring about national development and promotion of economic growth. Promoting cost-efficiency and rooting out waste, as we spend more, we also have to spend better. Under this programme I need to highlight that a Contingency Provision amounting to N\$ 255 million was budgeted for any unforeseen circumstances which are of national interest.

Programme 4: Debt Management:

An amount of N\$3.2 million is proposed. The purpose of this programme is to minimise costs and risks associated with short and long-term Government borrowing and to reduce Government's contingent liabilities in line with targets set in the Sovereign Debt Management Policy Strategy.

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

The programme also ensures timely honouring of financial obligations of the Government and manages sovereign guarantees or contingent liabilities through proper implementation of the borrowing plan and Sovereign Debt Management Strategy. The impact is to improve accuracy of debt forecasting and prudent borrowing within debt target limits.

An amount of N\$37.5 million is proposed for this programme. The purpose of this programme is to oversee the financial performance of the state-owned enterprises with specific focus on those resorting under the Ministry of Finance. The programme further ensures proper management of Government assets.

Programme 6: Medical Aid Scheme:

An amount of N\$909 million is proposed for the medical aid scheme programme.

The purpose of this programme is to assist members of the Public Service Employees Medical Aid Scheme in meeting certain medical aid expenses in respect of themselves and their dependants.

Currently, the programme caters for 71,485 main members, 85,732 dependants, 4,873 pensioners and 2,689 Regional Council members and staff. The total number administered and catered for by this scheme is 164,770.

Concerns were raised by Honourable Members here in terms of the abuse of the medical aid scheme and I wish to mention that we will consider measures to curb these abuses of the scheme. We would table proposals for Cabinet's consideration.

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HON TWEYA**

Programme 7: Equity Participation and Subsidy Programme :

An amount of N\$476.3 million is proposed for this programme.

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

Financial support to these entities is either in the form of targeted subsidies or equity participation.

Development Bank of Namibia will receive N\$150 million to boost the promotion of the SME sector of the economy. NamWater will receive an amount of N\$50 million for the development of rural infrastructure. NamPower will receive an amount of N\$120 million and this is to prevent any power failures and to serve as a backup.

The Luderitz Waterfront Phase II will receive a proposed amount of N\$10 million. For Air Namibia an amount of N\$100 million is proposed and last year it was N\$150 million. AgriBank will receive a total of N\$31 million, consisting of N\$18 million for aquaculture, N\$5 million to strengthen the Government's call for food security and N\$8 million for AgriBank to strengthen their balance sheet. That gives a total of N\$30 million.

As a response to the plight of the Namibian people seeking special medical assistance of uncommon diseases, for the first time an amount of N\$10 million is proposed to supplement the respective patients.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, briefly on the progress on capital projects:

I am obliged to inform the Honourable Members that the Ministry of Finance has up to date managed to incur a significant amount of the capital implementation projects, which is 83% execution rate, and it is my firm belief that the spending will even grow during the period under discussion.

An amount of N\$65,977,000 is proposed for the new capital projects. These range from Customs Excise Border Posts, staff accommodation and nationwide renovations.

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HON MUHARUKUA / HON SCHIMMING -CHASE**

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

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

With these few remarks, I wish to entreat this august House with the request to consider and approve the proposed appropriation of N\$2,417,664,000 for Vote 09 for 2009/2010.

I thank you.

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

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

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD
WELFARE:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. On page 17 the Honourable Minister talks about negotiations through the Permanent Joint Technical Commission on the Baynes Scheme. I want to inform the Honourable House that the Baynes resorts under the Traditional Authority of the Tjambiru House and not Kapika. Therefore, please approach Okakuru Kouje on Baynes so that it does not become problematic. I support the Vote.

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Schimming-Chase.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I would like to ask the Minister a few questions. On page 6 of the motivation the Minister states that after passing

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HON DR N IYAMBO**

the Minerals Amendment Act, all licence holders are now paying royalties with the exception of Weatherly, who are willing but not able to. May I ask the Honourable Minister what this means in terms of the Act?

Does the Act make provision for companies that are willing but not able to or are there any punitive measures if they fail to do this?

Furthermore, Honourable Minister, I see on page 16 that the revolving fund for solar energy saw the expenditure to an amount of N\$1,152,000 that led to the installation of 149 solar systems around the country. I beg the indulgence of the Minister, I do not see it in the streets, so I speak under correction, in view of the worldwide need for renewable energy resources and the fact that Namibia not only has so much sunshine but a lot of wind as well, is there any provision made in order to spend money on the introduction on wind power? Thank you.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Dr Nicky Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you, Chairperson, Honourable Members. I rise to support Vote 15. The Honourable Minister mentioned in the last paragraph of page 15 that he has noticed slow development of the Kudu Gas Project and that he is concerned about it. This is a project that needs investment and we have been told time and again that moneys generated in this country cannot find viable investment projects. Taking into account that the foreign exchange equation has become a problem in the development of this project, is it not possible, Honourable Minister, that GIPF could invest in the development of the Kudu Gas Project, so that the issue of the foreign currency which is being demanded by the owners of this project becomes irrelevant?

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

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HON KAIYAMO / HON KATALI / HON MBAI / HON NAMOLOH**

HON KAIYAMO: Comrade Minister, I support the Vote wholeheartedly, but I have a question of the electrification process, especially in the light that we need to bring electricity to the schools in the rural areas. What is the status of rural electrification? Thank you.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Chairperson, I also rise to support the Vote and I have only one question to the Honourable Minister on the longstanding question on the ownership of transformers. How far has the Ministry gone into solving this problem? Thank you.

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

HON MBAI: Honourable Minister, on page 16 of your motivation you referred to the provision of village reticulation and connecting villages. It is now almost five years that there are villages in the Epukiro Constituencies, particular Post 7 (*Ovinjuru*), which have been wired but up to now there is no transformer and they are not even connected to the main grid. Is there any provision for that in this Budget? I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. The Minister mentioned the solar revolving fund on page 16. Since electricity

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HON RIRUAKO / HON NGHIMTINA**

in Namibia and throughout the world has become so expensive, I think solar will be the energy for the future, but solar panels and its installation are so expensive. The solar panels manufactured by Germany are very expensive, but there are other countries which manufacture cheaper solar panels. Why can we not import from those countries? I would like the Minister to shed light on that.

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

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chairperson, may I ask the Minister why exploration is not permitted of the oil which is there? Who is behind it and who stopped it? Could you shed some light on that?

Kudu Gas has taken place a long time ago, but yet it is not being put into use. What is the reason for that? For that matter, we cannot have a solar energy system alone, we have energy under our feet but we are not allowed to use it. Who is the big power behind this? Can we hear who is it? I thank you.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Will the Honourable Minister please respond?

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I thank the Honourable Members who have posed questions.

Honourable Muharukua, thank you very much for your support. You said Kapika should not be consulted on the issue of Baynes and I take note of your proposal, but I want to say that we already have the concurrence to develop Baynes in the Kunene. I was informed that in the past when Epupa was not accepted by the communities, it seemed that there was not proper consultation with the chiefs in the area, but now they have agreed to the development of Baynes.

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HON NGHIMTINA**

Honourable Schimming-Chase, it is true that all the licence holders are now paying royalties with the exception of Weatherly. Weatherly has financial problems and they want to pay, but they have a lot of debts which they have to pay to NamPower and other creditors. It is probably too early for punitive measures, but what I want to say is that nobody is happy with the way Weatherly has treated our country. They did not follow the laws of the country, they have taken everything for themselves. We saw in the newspaper that people have been retrenched despite the procedure stipulated in the law that you have to give six months notice to the Ministry before closing the mine.

When we approached them and advised them that they did not follow the correct procedures, they denied any wrongdoing. Afterwards they apologised but the damage was already done. What we need to do in future is that every company coming into Namibia knows exactly what is expected of them. We need money, we need investors, but we also need to know what types of companies are coming into the country. The workers are not happy, the Minister is not happy, the Government is not happy, the Parliament is not happy. If somebody here is happy, raise your hand so that we see you are happy about what Weatherly did. Honestly speaking, we are not happy but we are watching the situation closely and I think the Mining Commissioner will soon come up with something.

You mentioned the revolving fund for renewable energy. Yes, we are busy considering all types of renewable energy applicable to Namibia. Wind energy is one, bio-mass is another one, solar system is another one and we will see which one we can develop. However, the one I like the most is the solar energy because although solar energy is expensive, once installed you do not have monthly payments. It is the energy for the rural people. Nowadays solar energy has improved tremendously, whereby you can use it to cook, have a fridge, television, lights and everything. The only problem is that the panels are expensive.

Nowadays everybody is saying that they can establish themselves in Namibia to produce solar panels, but when you follow up, they are no more coming and I do not know why. We want a plant to be established in Namibia so that the panels will probably be cheaper.

Honourable Dr Iyambo, thank you very much for your support. Your concern is my concern and our concern is the concern of the whole country. Kudu Gas

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HON NGHIMTINA**

could have been developed now because I have issued a production licence on the 25th of August 2005 and I do remember that they asked for the royalties to be reduced and we thought something was moving. Then later on they came up with Escom, NamPower, the price of the gas, foreign currency issues, etcetera. Honestly speaking, I want to say that when you produce gas from the ground, there will automatically be somebody buying it and it will change everything. Now they have conditions, that they could only start drilling if everything is in place. Other projects will come up and Kudu Gas will be killed. You find other people have established a coal plant in the Region and probably now going to the international markets. They say, “*no, you and your neighbours have sufficient electricity, why do you need to develop this one again?*”

The gentleman is coming up with all sorts of stories, but their licence is going to expire on the 26th of August this year and I need to be advised by the Parliament whether to extend the licence or not. What you tell me is what I am going to do.

You asked whether it is possible for GIPF funds to be used to develop Kudu Gas. It is a very good idea, we approached them once and they said they could do it, but the only problem is their interest rate of 17%, which is very high. However, if the gas could be developed, they can make money out of that. We will again approach them as we did in the past.

Honourable Kaiyamo, thank you very much for your support. You mentioned the rural electricity supply and that is why we want solar energy. If we do not develop the solar system in this country, some of the rural areas could go another twenty years without electricity, but if we embark on the solar energy system, it will take us only five years for every village to have electricity. There are children in the rural areas who do not even know the difference between a television and a computer and you expect those kids to compete with the urban children at university. Automatically that is a disaster, they have no knowledge of new technology except maybe for cellular phones, but where do they charge those cellular phones? Those in the rural areas have to find transport fees to bring their cellular phones to be charged somewhere in the urban areas and I think solar energy will solve our problems in the rural areas. Let us push for the solar system in our country.

Honourable Katali, thank you very much for your support. You wanted to know who owns the transformers. We are waiting for the connective policy

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HON BOHITILE**

which will soon come, whereby transformers will be owned by the utility and you only have to pay for the usage of the current itself. We hope this will happen very soon.

Honourable Mbai, thank you for your support. You mentioned that the villages in Epukiro area are wired but not electrified. We have a Budget to electrify all those areas which were wired before we continue with the programme and will follow up on this issue so that we see where the problem is. In Omaheke Region there are a lot of areas which were wired but not electrified. The delay came about when the question was asked as to who would sign for the service. We from the Ministry are a service provider, we cannot sign for it, but Honourable Jerry Ekandjo is supposed to sign it. The fear he has is that if he signs and the consumers default, he automatically has to pay for that. We only need a mechanism that the Regions will have the capacity to collect the money for the use of electricity.

Honourable Namoloh, I think I have answered your question. Honourable Chief Riruako, I have answered everything on Kudu Gas and solar energy.

I think I will need your support when I am going to decide on the licence for Kudu Gas. Please advise me. Thank you very much.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. Any objection to Vote 15? Agreed to.

Vote 25 – “LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT” put for Discussion.

HON BOHITILE: Honourable Chairperson, I would like to congratulate the Minister on the agreement signed with AgriBank to the tune of N\$20 million for post-resettlement support, enabling resettled farmers to access affordable financing in order to improve and maximise agricultural productivity. I am also very impressed by the 4% interest rate which is affordable, because this will actually enhance the living standards of the resettled farmers and promote economic development.

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In some of the SADC countries, such as Mozambique, Botswana and South Africa, resettlement programmes are based on productivity and performance. Those who receive this scarce, fragile resource called land are expected to use it productively, to produce food, to farm, to cultivate, etcetera, and if they do not do that after a few years, these countries replace these people who have received the land with those who will work and be productive. What is the Ministry's intention with those resettled farmers in our country who are not performing and who are not doing anything and who are just squatting on very, very productive land.

Honourable Chairperson, I would like to appeal to those resettled farmers in our country who will be able to access these loans from AgriBank, those who will afford it, those who have animals, to grab this opportunity with both hands and to make their farms productive and to generate an income from it.

Honourable Minister, I have seen in Main Division 05 on page 33, that there used to be a Budget of N\$100,000 for renovation, construction and improvement. There are those resettled farmers who are much poorer, who have less animals and who will not be able to take these AgriBank loans and pay them back. They will still need water pipes, fencing and wind pumps on these farms and I think you used this N\$100,000 for renovations on those resettlement farms. What will happen now that you have a zero Budget under Main Division 05? How will these people be assisted?

On page 33 of your speech you said you have completed rehabilitation of 88 resettlement units. The reason why these resettlement units need to be rehabilitated is because they have fallen apart, there was destruction, and the reason is that after these farms were bought for the purpose of resettlement, people were not resettled immediately. These farms lay idle for long periods and people went and stole the roofs off the houses. What is the possibility that after the farms have been purchased, the people can be resettled immediately? After all, the Ministry has a long waiting list of applicants who have been applying for so many years and who have not yet been resettled. Why not just go to this long list and resettle people immediately and not wait until people have vandalised these very expensive farms? I thank you and I support Vote 25, Honourable Minister.

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HON BASSON

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

HON BASSON: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. I am on page 8 of the Minister's motivation speech. I want to underline the third line in the second paragraph: "*We shall complete the rehabilitation of 88 resettlement units this Financial Year.*" I have a concern, Comrade Chairperson. During the 2007/2008 Budget discussion I cried in this House for the resettlement of the Nawaseb people in the Rehoboth Constituency of Hardap Region. Honourable Members, the reason why I am always mentioning this Constituency is because this Constituency for 14 years after Independence has been under a DTA Councillor and he has not developed this Constituency. Nothing happened there and that is why I am always mentioning it here. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Order. This hypocrisy must come to an end. The finance, the "*kitty*" of Government belongs to the rural party. It is the duty of a councillor to make proposals to Government, but if Government deliberately does not implement those programmes because it is controlled by the opposition, it cannot be said it is the fault of the opposition. The opposition councillors have no power to develop, because SWAPO is technically synchronising development for you to come and take over.

HON BASSON: That is the reason why I am always...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information, Honourable Chairperson. I think the DTA must not come here with political propaganda. The procedure of the SWAPO Party Government is that everything must be planned. That is why we know where we come from, where we are and where we are going. The recommendations and proposals of constituencies must come through the Regions to the National Planning Commission and they must be incorporated in the National Development Plan. If that is not done, just forget it.

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HON BASSON: It is true, Honourable Minister. What I said is that the particular DTA councillor who was there did nothing for the people of this constituency. That is why I am always mentioning that because nothing is happening. The current Regional Councillor is from the SWAPO Party and he is working hard and I am working with him.

Comrade Minister, I know a delegation of this committee approached your office. Thank you very much that you listened to them and then you went to Nawaseb and acquainted yourself with the situation on the ground to find out if everything is true that we are crying about. Therefore, I am confident that under the leadership of Honourable Minister !Naruseb the Nawaseb people will be resettled under the current Budget. I thank you.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Schimming-Chase.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: On page 7 of the motivation the Honourable Minister says that the year 2008/2009 was a particularly challenging year for the land acquisition programme with only three farms purchased during the entire year.

I speak under correction, but if my memory serves me right, N\$100 million were set aside in the Budget of 2007/2008 for the purpose of land acquisition in order to resettle Namibians. If only three farms were purchased, would the Minister kindly inform us what it cost to purchase the three farms, what happened to the balance of the money that was appropriated last year and whether any of that money could have been used to train resettled farmers in order for them to be better able to utilise the land on which they were resettled?

On page 8 the Honourable Minister goes ahead to say that the Agricultural Bank of Namibia will receive N\$20 million in each of the next three years. What I want to know is, why is it not possible for previously disadvantaged Namibians who cannot afford to farm productively on the land that they were given, to form close corporations with other families surrounding them in order to make them better able to farm, but when they go to the Land Bank

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they are told that no money will be given to close corporations? Could that please be explained, because it does benefit the previously disadvantaged.

Finally, on page 15 the Minister says we shall utilise N\$90,294,000 for projects of a capital nature. N\$50 million of the Capital Budget will go towards the purchase of commercial farming land. For whom is this commercial farming land going to be purchased? Is it for the purpose of resettlement? If we could not spend the N\$100 million last year, why are we asking for N\$50 million this year? What guarantee do we have that the N\$50 million will be spent and we do not stand here next year, saying of the N\$50 million one farm was bought? I thank you.

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Kasingo.

HON KASINGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I support Vote 25 and I have a question on Programme 1 – land acquisition, distribution and resettlement. Honourable Minister, whilst I do agree with you when you said on page 7 that the land acquisition programme is really a programme and you stated that there is a need to explore other methods in order to reach our target, I want the Minister to expand on this and link it to the communal land.

It is a general knowledge, Honourable Minister, that for two years now some people have encroached upon and settled on communal land which belongs to other Traditional Authorities. Here I have in mind some citizens who belong to the Kwanyama Traditional Authority and Ondongo Traditional Authority who encroached upon the communal land belonging to the Kavango-speaking people. I have been asking this question 2003/04 and I would like to know whether within this strategy you have in mind acquiring commercial farms adjacent to the communal land to be given to the respective Traditional Authorities, because the population are becoming more and land is becoming scarce. I want to know whether you have in mind doing that and if not, I would like you to think about Government buying some commercial land and giving it to the Traditional Authorities to be given to their subjects. That is my only question and comment I have. Thank you.

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ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Could the Honourable Minister expand a bit on the policy on private game farms, the size, the conditions and everything. I was reading in the newspaper today that there is a private game farm in the South, consisting of 100,000 hectares which is called "*Small Etosha*". I want to know what is the policy on this. Thank you.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Booy's.

HON BOOYS: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. My query is on page 7 of the Minister's motivation speech on the purchase of three farms. Comrade Chairperson, this statement is very much worrisome that under the willing seller, willing buyer scheme there were only three willing sellers last year. Maybe this is an indication that that policy is not working. Next year there will be only two willing sellers and the year thereafter only one willing seller and then the policy will collapse.

The Ministry of Lands and the AgriBank are the only bodies which are benefiting from the policy of willing seller, willing buyer. I do not know how close the cooperation is between the AgriBank and the Ministry of Lands, but could the Honourable Minister shed light on how many farms the AgriBank bought under that scheme in order for us to see whether this policy is still going to work or whether it is going to collapse. In the absence of the collapse of that policy of willing seller, willing buyer, something must be done on the land. If that policy collapses, Comrade Prime Minister, Government should do something. I support the Vote.

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

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HON MOONGO: Honourable Chairperson, first of all, I will support the Vote. Whenever a Ministry is taking over communal land for the purpose of a conservancy or for the purpose of building a hospital, they do not pay anything to the Traditional Fund. The Traditional Authority can generate money in this way. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Order. I am afraid there might be a misunderstanding if it is said that the Government is taking land in the communal areas for conservancies, because as far as I know, conservancies remain in the communal areas, it is for the people and they are running their own conservancies. Who is taking the land? Who should pay for that land to the Traditional Authorities? I think there is a misunderstanding.

HON MOONGO: Many Ministries want to benefit, they want to generate money, the municipalities want to generate money from the sale of plots. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I ask a question to Honourable Moongo? Honourable Moongo, do you understand what it is all about?

HON MOONGO: Yes.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Do you understand what you are talking about or are you just talking for the sake of it?

HON MOONGO: Of course I know.

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Because what we are discussing is not what you are talking about. You are talking about something else.

HON MOONGO: When we talk about land, we talk about commercial and communal and, all the land. I know communal land belong to the State, but when a municipality proclaims land to be a town, they are going to sell the plots to generate a lot of money.

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** Honourable Moongo, the Vote under discussion is the Vote of the Ministry of Lands, not Regional and Local Government and Housing. Can you please stick to communal land?

HON MOONGO: Yes, I am talking about land and communal land is also part of it. I appeal to the Ministry that whenever they take communal land from Traditional Authorities, they must pay and not get it free of charge and then end up generating a lot of money. That is why I appeal to the Ministries that whenever they take land from Traditional Authorities, they must pay for the land so that the money can be paid into the Traditional Fund. Thank you.

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Chairperson, I rise to support Vote 25. I support what was said by the SWAPO Chief Whip, Comrade Booyis, that the willing sellers are no longer willing and I end there.

I want to support Honourable Bohitile and add to what she has said, that measures should be taken against the resettled farmers who are not productive. Honourable Chairperson, this country is under sabotage. Honestly speaking,

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we have land which has now become “*wag-‘n-bietjie boom*” for kudus and whatever.

The mothers and fathers of the Constitution are here, we have put the right to property under fundamental rights which is a holy cow. We know farms which we used to live on when we fought to liberate this country, but if the youngsters of today should go there, they would not know that there used to be a farm that produced enough food. Honestly speaking, we must pass a law here that farms not be turned into “*wag-‘n-bietjie-boom*” farms, but that they should be productive.

We have a policy not to sell land to foreigners and Weatherly came here, using our money and now he owns the mine and those farms. (Interjection)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Under the SWAPO-led Government.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
Yes, you are the one who got the support of the West to fight against us, saying we will take their land. Do not say what we can do, we have the power to do it.

Those are some of the issues that we have to look into. We budgeted N\$50 million to buy farms, but the willing sellers do not want to sell to the willing buyer, the State. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: I want to ask a question. Does the Deputy Minister understand the words “*willing seller, willing buyer*” when he says “*we can force.*” Does he really understand the words?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
The Honourable Headman did not formulate his question correctly. When I talked of “force” it was not the same as I said the last time.

The under-utilisation of our land is really questionable. Tsumeb, Otavi and Grootfontein which were that time known as the Triangle of Death, was the bread basket of this country. There was no shortage of fodder

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here, they said, “*n boer maak ‘n plan.*” My dear, there is a limit to making a plan. You were making a plan to divide us and we refused that.

I just want to echo the question already put to the Minister, that we should not only look at the resettlement of farmers, but also at the productivity. It must be inclusive. With that contribution, I support Vote 25.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: Honourable Chairperson, I also rise to support the Vote. On page 8 of the Minister’s motivation he said: “*In the last Financial Year we started the process of devoting support packages for beneficiaries of resettlement farms.*” This is a very good initiative, although it is not broken down here for us to know exactly what is contained in this beneficiary package, but it will definitely go a long way, taking into account the complaints that have been levelled around here and I feel in developing this package, the beneficiaries should be consulted, because when you come across a resettled farmer, he starts complaining right there. We should probably try to set up communication channels to reach out to these colleagues wherever they are, because maybe one is resettled in the midst of previously advantaged farmers and he does not have a network of colleagues around him and his problems might be unique. Maybe we should consider things such as extensive officers and organise an annual summit to hear out these colleagues, because their complaints are quite many. Some of them are very powerful, but you hear them complaining as if they have no power whatsoever.

I also saw in here a good initiative, which is the infrastructure audit. I do not know whether that should only be limited to Government farms or whether we should have an audit of infrastructure on all the farms so that when they are sold, we at least know what is contained in those farms and we will not be cheated.

These colleagues are facing a serious challenge, which is stock theft. Many people are resigned to stock theft as if we cannot do anything about it on the communal and resettlement farms. Maybe we should deliberate on this and

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see whether something can be done. There are also some that are resettled on municipal farmland, which does not belong to Government *per se*, but still they have the same problems. What can the Ministry do to take care of some of these colleagues as well or pass on the experience by the Government to the municipalities in order for them to come up with a strategy.

I support the Vote and look forward to seeing some of these issues taken care of. Thank you.

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

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I want to air my frustration on land acquisition. The issue is not that Government could only succeed to buy three farms, but it is a deeper issue. The reality in this country is that even during the last Financial Year, over seventy farms have changed ownership and these farms have changed ownership under a law of this country, a very old statute, where one can acquire a farm through a 99 year leasehold and the banks are financing these loans. I am talking about even four farms in my area.

Do you know what the South African farmers are doing today? They farm in South Africa, a normal 4,000 hectare farm costs between R500 and R700 per hectare and if somebody goes bankrupt in South Africa, he will sell his farm for R5 million or R7 million and comes to Namibia and buy a farm under leasehold, because a leasehold does not require you to have a waiver. Therefore, a lot of farms are sold without the knowledge of Government and we can only buy more land if we change this statute. It is not that there are no willing sellers, but Standard Bank, Bank Windhoek and NedBank are every year financing more farms or equal to the number that AgriBank is financing and bypassing the waiver system of Government and we have to address that problem. The problem does not lie with willing sellers, the problem is that people are selling farms willing to people that they want and we have to address that issue.

Secondly is the lack of equity in resettlement. I am asking myself the question: How can one person who happens to be a senior...(Intervention)

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HON BOOYS: May I ask Honourable Venaani a small question? I have no quarrel with what you are stating, but just a small question. You are comparing the leasehold system with willing seller, willing buyer, but this leasehold system only works on the farms bought under a scheme from AgriBank. Or is it an issue that the one who wants to sell is selling to South Africans? I understood what you are saying, that these South Africans are coming, but going behind AgriBank and buy those farms which were bought by AgriBank for that individual on the leasehold system.

HON VENAANI: What is happening is this: The law says if you want to sell your land, the Government must have first option. The reason why we have done that is for us to have control and to know which farms are for sale. However, what is happening is that there is another Act in this country where you buy a farm under a 99 year leasehold. A Namibian who has a farm does not want to go to AgriBank because he knows AgriBank gives him fair agricultural value. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Information. There is no law in this country under which a person can buy a farm on 99-year leasehold. I think Honourable Venaani has revealed one important issue, but this is not done through any law, it is just a transaction between two people, certain individuals. At the Deeds Office that farm remains in the name of the current owner, but the person who buys the farm will be on the farm while the other one maybe has only one nominal share in that farm. It is misleading to say to there is a statute that allows that.

HON VENAANI: You are correct in saying that the deed is not transferred, but I will give you an example: I buy Honourable Geingob's farm under a leasehold, he goes into retirement, he has received his money. He agrees that he is not going to come back to this farm because the banks are financing a 99-year leasehold in this country. I have spoken to you a couple of times and you are not checking on these things.

Let me come to lack of equity. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information, just a footnote to what the Honourable Member has said. In addition to the 99-year lease, what is happening now is that the two parties agree that in the event of death, the farm will pass on to the person. Are you aware of that?

HON VENAANI: Yes, I am, that is the reality and that is why you are only getting three farms, because people are using this leasehold system to continue. (Intervention)

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

HON RIRUAKO: We have farms which are put in close corporations and these farms have nothing to do with the Government. One can buy a farm without Government's consent under a close corporation. He can sell on his own and not be touched by any Government rules. A close corporation is something I regard as untouchable and I advise Government to go back to square one on the land issue, nothing is too late. You have to come back and revisit what you have wrong and adjust it to your own desire. That is way how to do it and not to waste time for nothing.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker Chief. Honourable Minister Ngatjizeko.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. First and foremost, I want to thank Honourable !Naruseb and I fully support Vote 25. I am coming in on page 7 where it is indicated that we could only purchase three farms. Maybe for one to understand better what has happened, we might need to know how many potential sellers have applied for waivers. That might give us a better picture. Maybe some farms might have been bought by formerly disadvantaged

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through the waiver, because three farms are just too few for a very important programme as this one and the SWAPO Government has accepted this policy as a reconciliatory gesture. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask the Minister a question? We suffered because of our reconciliatory tone, we did not do better to our citizens, but those who want to reconcile with us, who are they and who are the people whom we are supposed to be taking care of?

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I was basically saying that these policies were taken in order to ensure that there is a peaceful transition and peaceful transfer of land that might have been taken illegally, for that matter, from the majority of our people here.

However, now to realise that after having accepted a policy such as that one, we are only able to buy three farms and having information that the farms being offered for sale to the formerly disadvantaged are usually the farms that are on the periphery out there, not the most productive land, it also disturbing.

This issue is also about demand and supply. The more farms you supply, the lower the price. Therefore, restrain the supply of farms so that the prices can go up. I think that has been proven, because land prices have risen quite high. Nowadays you can easily be charge N\$800 per hectare. (Interjection) N\$1,500? That is exactly what I am saying, because those who have the land would know how to make their calculations. I am sure people are looking at these figures provided for in this Budget to see what is for the take and the make their calculations accordingly. I hope they are not using their own organisations in order to determine how many farms would be on the market, because that is actually manipulation.

This is a very important issue for continued peace in our country and it should be addressed, because I know the other day Honourable Tjiriange was talking about the loopholes and the tactics being used in order to bypass the law and I want to urge the Minister to explore a variety of land acquisition methods in order to meet our target, because those who are embarking on these things might be hoping that if the willing buyer, willing seller has failed, that would be the end of the process. However, we do not realise how serious the

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situation would be if this process fails. It would be serious and maybe the Minister could share some ideas with us about the methods being envisaged.

We are now hearing about land being transferred despite the provisions of the Act. Why can we not make the necessary changes in order to instruct those authorities to obey the law, so that things are not done through the backdoor. Thank you very much.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine are a few concerns and questions on page 716 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework on land acquisition, distribution and resettlement and also linking it to page 717, land usage.

Before I pose my question on land acquisition, distribution and resettlement, let me register my wholehearted support to Vote 25. I would like to hear from the Minister what mechanisms are currently in place...(Intervention)

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Rule 108 stipulates that Members may not converse aloud. I hear a lot of conversations in the House. You must please not converse aloud, you are disturbing the Member who has the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Yes, members of CoD should not seek reconciliation in this House, they can do it outside.

I would like to ask the Honourable Minister what mechanisms are being employed in terms of policy and otherwise to try to engage our foreign partners, especially countries that may have a vested interest with regard to the

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issue of land, especially countries such as Germany and other Western countries, in trying to contribute to land reform in Namibia in one way or the other. What mechanisms are there to coordinate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Ministries on land reform, because I believe land reform has no borders because we have absentee landlords who are in other countries who are not feeling the heat. What efforts are being made to coordinate our activities and also to engage Embassies? I am asking this question with keen interest, because when you listen to international news channels, the concern is that if a certain Party comes to power it may tamper with the Constitution. That word has to do with a vested economic interest, it is a strategic word, that maybe if a certain Party in Ghana comes into power, it may be in a position to change the Constitution and that may damage a vested interest of a certain country.

One also hears certain nations saying that land is being expropriated and given to cronies of a certain Party and it will be the Western media and their politicians talking about it. A case in point is Zimbabwe. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask a question? When the Vote of Home Affairs was discussed, I asked the Honourable Minister whether she is aware that there are juvenile Germans in Namibia who committed crimes and they were brought here and they are staying on the farms, doing whatever they want to because they are the owners of the land and no one controls them. We have juveniles here who committed crimes, but they do not take them to their farms to rehabilitate them. Are you aware of that?

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

That is good information that augments my contribution and I may not deny it. It is good that you are bringing that up, because "*absentee landlord*" means that the land belongs to somebody and that owner may have access to that land and, therefore, even the lunatics. Even the neo-Nazis may be here, the skinheads, but that is not my point, I would like to know about the coordination between the two Ministries *vis-à-vis* our foreign development partners, especially the Western countries which are quick to point fingers that land reform endangers their vested interests. I would really like to hear what is their contribution and even the contribution of those currently owning land.

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I would also like to hear, through the Chairperson, from the Minister what is the contribution of organisations such as NAU, which I assume is a Namibian company? Does it see a threat on sustainability of the currently land reform?

Thirdly, I would like to register a concern, Comrade Minister, and I have mentioned this several times. Let us bring fairness and equity to distribution of land, because this matter is equal to the one that I was talking about, of foreign countries. Be sensitive when you are distributing land. This land was acquired and lost through blood and then you cannot ignore the historical and geographical trends, these are facts, and if we are ruling this country, we must rule it on the basis of sensitivity. I am underlining the word "*sensitivity*" because for me it is not sensitive. Despite the fact that I lost Okapuka on the road to Okahandja, I was privileged in this country since Independence, I was a Special Advisor to the former Prime Minister, I was a General Manager of Namibia Wildlife Resorts, paid a N\$100,000, I am currently a Member of Parliament, a Deputy Minister and it would be unfair for me to queue in the line of resettlement, but you find Directors and Generals who are given land. It defies logic! The resettlement programme should be for the have-nots.

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

HON VENAANI: Honourable Kazenambo just read my mind. I was talking about inequity. You have one person owning 12,000 hectare, one family, and you are talking about resettlement and that person is not a poor person, he is a CEO of a company. We really have to address this issue of equity. Coupled to that issue, one of the greatest fears many of us have in our minds, is that when the time comes when all these people have bought farms, those farms will be repossessed as a result of loans not being repaid. That time will come.

The problem that we have with land management is capitalisation, because a farming interest is just a business, you cannot run a poultry farm without enough resources and now you are giving land to people and you are not giving them anything else. I want to applaud what the Honourable Minister has been doing through the AgriBank with this N\$20 million, but it is just a drop in a very big bucket.

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Lastly, Honourable Chair, if you finance and assist someone, there comes a time in that person's life that this person will be able to sustain himself economically. Our policies are so rigid and I want to give an example. If you give Honourable Kawana a resettlement farm and capitalise his farming interests and give him a hundred cattle and he pays off his loan, then that farm belongs to Government for 99 years. There must come a time when these resettlement farms must be used as an incubation centre. If I assist a certain person, he must move to the next level and become a commercial farmer.

There are rich farmers, people who are richer than the people owning AgriBank, who are sitting on resettlement farms and we have to tell these people that they can now buy these farms so that Government has money to buy a new farm. However, the policy is too rigid, if you get a farm, it is yours forever. That should end and we have to address it.

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

HON KAVARI: Thank you. Honourable Chair. I only want to ask a few questions regarding resettlement and Affirmative Action farmers. I want to know what is the difference between an Affirmative Action farmer and a resettled farmer, that the one should subsidise the acquisition of land by the Government in order to resettle the other one. The Affirmative Action farmers, though the tax is being subsidised by Government, are paying some money in order to subsidise the resettlement of another black farmer. I do not see the difference between the two.

To my understanding, when you buy a farm through Affirmative Action, you cannot sell this farm until after ten years, but recently an Affirmative Action farmer lost a farm due to a debt of N\$200 000 he owed a commercial bank. His farm was sold on auction for a mere N\$3,8 million. A month later that same farm was sold for N\$7,8 million. Is that in line with the Affirmative Action policy, Honourable Minister?

Honourable Minister, when does it become the responsibility of the Ministry of Lands to equip or develop boreholes in communal land and how does one

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go about to apply for development of boreholes in communal land? It is mentioned on page 12 that twelve boreholes were developed in the Kavango area and I just want to find out how one can benefit from the Ministry of Land, because we are struggling to get boreholes being developed by the Ministry of Agriculture because of an overload or a lack of funds. How can one access the funds that are available at the Ministry of Lands? I thank you.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Kazenambo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I was talking about fairness and I will not change at this age. When I joined the SWAPO Party it was because of the principles of equity, freedom and justice. This is what I was told and that is when I believe and I will go to my grave and my father went to his grave committed to freedom, justice and equality.

I do not think it is fair for Government to resettle Kazenambo on land in Hardap and then I do not occupy that land, I sub-let that land.

This is happening and we can go and show one another and that is happening because you give the land to Kazenambo, a General Manager in Namibia Wildlife Resorts. You give the land to a director and he does not have any use for the land. He has a cattle post and a mahangu field in the rural area, but it is greed that is driving him and these cases are there and it is unfair. What steps are the Ministry taking to avoid this situation which is serious, because it generates anger amongst the local land hungry people surrounding that farm and this is a fact. We cannot bury our heads and talk about things that sound politically correct while we are undermining the core principle of solidarity, fairness and justice. An injustice committed by a white Government, a black Government, a yellow Government is just the same and remains an injustice. We should build a culture amongst ourselves of sharing, of being fair to the weak across tribes and Regions.

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To conclude on land usage, I want to believe that there is also a need for auditing and assessment on the land, because you find acres of communal land which are under-utilised. In some Regions it may not be the case, but in the Otjozondjupa Region, between Otjinene, Gam and Eiseb Blok, there are huge acres of land. The Government needs to come up with a mechanism to link these to land acquisition in order to develop those areas. Instead of buying commercial land for millions, we can pump that money into developing under-utilised land in Kavango, Caprivi and in the Otjozondjupa Region.

The reason why the people are encroaching on the Kavango Region is that there is under-utilised land and there is also the problem of greed, that the land is fenced off by the barons from CDM, which is unfair. The powerful in this country have become colonialists and it is unfair, those in political positions or in a position of economic power. It is a reality, let us start scrutinising black colonialists and there are many amongst us as tribalists and they must be dealt with. I rest my case and I support the Vote.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Minister. Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Chairperson. I have two questions on page 10 of the Minister's statement.

Honourable Minister, at this stage we are talking about the Communal Land Reform Act (Act 5 of 2000), where you are telling us that you are trying to accelerate the land registration process in the communal areas and you are saying that we need to sustain this effort until the exercise is completed.

You are saying you want this exercise to be completed within three years, but what will happen to the people who are living in communal areas right now who will be eighteen years old within three years? Would they also be kindly requested to set up a shebeen in Katutura or where will they go?

There are people who are living in communal areas and the communal area is the bridging place for all the commercial farmers, it is our place, that is the area that belongs to the poor and if you are saying that you are now going to put aside this piece of land for individuals, what will happen to us who will not

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be able to have a piece of land and those who are going to be born and living in communal areas, what do you do with those people? (Intervention)

HON NAMBAHU: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? You are talking about people being born, but when you go to the estate agents who sell farms, they will tell you that a farm between Windhoek and Rehoboth has this carrying capacity for small stock per hectare and for large stock it is this much per hectare. What is the carrying capacity for human beings in those areas?

HON TJIHUIKO: I think that is actually a good question and I hope that the Honourable Minister will also be able to answer that one.

I remember that when the Honourable Minister was discussing this issue with traditional leaders, there was a point where the traditional leaders in Kavango made it very clear to the Honourable Minister and gave good reasons why they were not happy with this registration of land. Has the Minister taken note of that or has the Minister decided that they are traditional leaders, they are not powerful, they are poor and therefore, you have ignored it? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. As usual the Honourable Member is now abusing the facts and portrays that this Government is disrespectful to the Traditional Leaders, which is not true.

HON TJIHUIKO: The Traditional Leaders in that area have requested the Honourable Minister to pause and think, but the Honourable Minister is now saying that he going ahead and will accelerate the registration of land. That is a total disrespect and totally ignoring the existence of that very important structure in our community. That is a fact and I am not saying it is the Party, SWAPO, but if you are trying to bring that element through the backdoor, I think it is you who said it.

My third and last point that I want to make here is that a good leader is the one who listens to people. You will be able to understand what they are saying. There is an outcry in the communal areas, the traditional leaders are not happy

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with the 20 hectares that you are trying to force onto people. Honourable Minister, I advise you to go back to the communities and the traditional leaders and hear why they do not want 20 hectares. What happens in the North will not necessarily happen in the South, it is not the same situation, so think about that. Stop ignoring the people. At the end of the day they are going to speak and they are going to speak very, very loud. Thank you.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Minister !Naruseb.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I want to thank *Comrade Bohitile* for her sentiments with regard to the agreement that the Ministry has signed with AgriBank on behalf of the Government. It is but a modest effort that we have embarked upon after having taken on board so many concerns regarding the plight of the resettled farmers.

You were further saying that in SADC, notably in South Africa and elsewhere, people who were put on farms and ended up not using such farms productively, have been taken off the farms and someone else brought in. The legal framework under which we are functioning gives the power to the Minister to assess the situation from time to time and I have told you, Honourable Members, on several occasions when I was privileged to address you regarding land matters in our country, that we are busy with an audit of resettled farmers. It is only when we have received the findings of the said audit that we will have a clear picture of what is happening on the farms.

Right now the general situation is that people on farms find it extremely difficult because of the infrastructural demise on the farms as a result of the time that passed between the purchasing and allocation of the farm. It is unfortunate but that is the reality. Why is it a reality? The legal framework dictates that after a farm has been bought, we must advertise it in the newspapers for a certain period and then we must also make that time allocation for the farm to be demarcated into economic viable units, so that the process of putting people on the farm could become a reality. We agree and we are not going to engage in any arguments that the time lapse is too long,

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hence the reason that we have embarked on the process of revisiting our different Acts which we are administering within the Ministry.

We are in the process of harmonising both the Communal and the Commercial Land Acts and all the other legal issues that we deal with. That process is in a fairly advanced stage and that process will enable the Ministry to close the loopholes that we have generally referred to. We are aware of a multitude of approaches that the land owners have embarked upon, through making use of the existing legal framework, to maximally gain from the framework within which they have to function. I will not be the judge, let the Namibian Nation be the ones to tell us whether these people, the land owners, are acting in good faith or not. However, the general perception is that there is something terribly amiss with the process of national reconciliation and the concomitant approach that we have taken with regard to land reform in our country. That is the reality.

Some citizens of our country totally, holistically embrace that approach and they have kept quiet. Sporadically you will hear voices of people referring to !Ao/aixas where they are hailing from, their ancestral land, today's Daan Viljoen Game Park, but those voices are being suppressed internally, because of the approach of national reconciliation and the decisions we have taken at the 1991 Land Conference. That is the framework under which the majority of the citizens of this country are functioning. However, then we should not recruit some citizens of the country – and they know who they are – to embark on methods within the framework of the law to defeat the objectives of the Government. That is the reality and I want us to look at it in that context when we talk about only three farms purchased. Those are the challenges that the Ministry is confronted with.

As much as the three farms sound alarmingly few, I am glad that the *Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare* alluded to the fact that there is another arm, maybe not very conspicuous, and that is when an Affirmative Action buyer approaches the Ministry to acquire a farm, the Ministry normally does not oppose such an applicant. It is unfortunate that I do not have the statistics, but for the current year under review so many buyers bought farms under the Affirmative Action scheme and I would want us to look at it as part and parcel of the land reform process. The hectares so acquired should be counted together with what we probably could have bought if we would not have acceded to the request for a waiver by our Affirmative Action applicants.

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Very interesting issues came out, the land that we as Government acquire on behalf of the people of this country, land being sensitive and all the adjectives that we would probably want to add to it. It is a reality that if you look at the demographic composition of our country and the practical realities that we are all too familiar with, someone in Mariental and Maltahöhe area will be restricted in terms of access to land as opposed to someone in, for example, Kavango, notwithstanding the effects of floods and natural disasters we are subjected to nowadays. It demands from us as the Government at large that when we deal with access to land by people finding themselves in different geographic zones of our country, that we must be prudent and open-minded and that we approach the allocation of land on merit. That is really the context under which we would want to function under normal and ideal circumstances.

If we as lawmakers are aware that there has been some lopsided allocation of land, let us engage one another. If we have examples, let us not leave it at that and probably repeat the same shortcomings that would inadvertently be blamed on the Government. Maybe it was an oversight by individuals and officials or those responsible as per the dictates of the legal framework under which we are expected to function. Nowadays people have work, lobbying, people get together and talk and because of that talk that started somewhere and networking, it ends up that certain allocations are being made. It should not be viewed that the Government condones things that are not regular by its nature, not by a long shot. The policies of the Government are explicitly clear and it is your task as lawmakers to pinpoint the shortcomings in the Acts so that we address them.

Coming to the issue of the Traditional Authority, I would probably be the last one to ridicule the importance of the Traditional Authorities. The audience that I was so kindly granted by the Traditional Authorities in the area that you have mentioned went very well. We conducted our discussions very respectfully and I dare tell you, I met some of the traditional leaders of that area recently when I was invited by the Minister of Transport to attend the groundbreaking ceremony at Tsumeb-Katitwi road. Traditional Leaders called me and told me they were impressed with my open approach in terms of dealing with the issues that we have raised. We might have differed in terms of the legal framework, because I cannot go there and just agree because I am with them. No, that is not my way of doing things. The laws of this country are applicable throughout the country, but it does not preclude the Government from listening to the concerns of those who shall be affected by the laws that we are making and listening to them I did and very respectfully for that matter.

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Therefore, this story that I have ignored them is something that the Member of Parliament representing NUDO Party probably thought he needs to bring up for the purpose of electioneering. However, I am not asking him to withdraw, because I know that the relationship between the Government and the people that he is trying to drive a wedge between is very sound.

Fellow Members, I do not really want to dwell too much on the issues that you have raised as we are working on most of those issues day and night. It is also in our best interest as a Ministry that we make a success of this very crucial assignment. Believe you me, I do not take it lightly.

I have already sent out feelers to so many senior Colleagues and some advised me to keep it in abeyance, but the more I think about it, I think it is time that we revisit the findings of the 1991 Land Conference.

Having said that, Honourable Chairperson, I think I have dealt with the issues raised.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister, thank you very much for the manner in which you handled the questions. You proved to be an accomplished statesman and a seasoned Cabinet Minister. Any objection to Vote 25? Agreed to.

Vote 24 – “TRANSPORT” put for Discussion.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. I rise to support, not wholeheartedly but with mixed feelings, Vote 24, because as a Party cadre I am obliged to support the Vote in principle, but honestly speaking, we need to scrutinise this document that we are submitting to people.

In this statement here there are two points which are underlined. The one is the objective which is to ensure availability of efficient and effective transport infrastructure which promotes economic development and social upliftment. Secondly, ensure that the mobility needs of the people and the industry are met. These are crucial key words.

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Why I am saying that I am supporting this Vote with mixed feelings is, because this document will not pass the test of justification for merit, equity and justice if there are not other augmenting documents, because some Regions do not appear here at all, unless there is a page somewhere which tells me that those people do not have needs for bitumen roads, they do not have needs for labour-based roads. This document is not fair and it does not qualify with the principles of the SWAPO Party. It undermines the principles of the Party for which I was ready to die at any time. This document is not fair. There are Regions which do not appear here, be it on the construction of gravel or bitumen roads.

I am the most happy person when I see Namibians developing irrespective of the Regions and areas where they hail from, but this trend is a worrisome one on the basis that from here to Gaborone you have the Trans-Kalahari Road, from here to the border of Zambia we have the Trans-Caprivi Highway and today I am happy that we have linked Windhoek with Oshakati, linked Windhoek with Opuwo and linked Windhoek with the Orange River. However, if you take the geographical set-up of this country and then look at this document, the only conclusion will be shame for this document, although it is my Government's document. It is pathetic, it is not fair. You may say that I am playing on the hands of the Opposition but it is not true, this document is not fair.

If you drive from Omitara to Otjinene, the road is gone, there is nothing, no road. Let us employ sensitivity and not present this type of thing. We would like all the Regions to be treated equally and we cannot say that we are comrades if your child is happy and mine is crying. This document must be revisited. You have also failed in your own way, you are the most tribalist and there is no "ja ja" here here. (Interjections). This document is not fair to the entire Otjozondjupa Region and this is not a joke, things like this one will generate anger and hatred, because the reason why we are sitting in this House is because we resisted discrimination. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? First I want to request the Honourable Deputy Minister to calm down, your blood pressure is very high. I thought you made reference to Honourable Tjiuiko on tribalism and I want to understand it clearly. Are you saying that the reason why Government is ignoring certain areas in the development of roads, as you rightly said, is because of tribalism, is because

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Tjihuiiko is tribalist or is it because the Government and your Party are practising tribalism in a way? I just want to understand what you are saying.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I was putting my point in context. You may preach tribalism, you may adhere to it, you may practise regionalism, you may preach nationalism. I was saying that let us not do things that will amount either falsely or correctly to those perceptions. This is what I am saying we should guard against in the distribution of the roads. As much as I know the needs of the people where the majority of these roads are, let us be sensitive not to omit certain areas as a matter of policy and principle and that is what we fought for. It is not fair for NUDO to preach that it is a national Party and appear with only a group of Hereros from Okakarara. It is not fair to preach nationalism and equitable distribution and you build roads in certain areas and you omit certain areas without an explanation. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Order. The Honourable Deputy Minister is making reference to the Hereros. I just want to find out from the Honourable Deputy Minister, there was a story in the paper that a certain Political Party has received new members and I understand that these new members were Hereros. Is the Deputy Minister saying that people are lost, they are not welcome or what is he trying to say about these Hereros? I am not sure whether they have really joined or not, but it was reported that they have joined. Are they not welcome in your Party because they are Hereros?

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, I direct you from the Chair to stick to the details of the Transport Vote.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I say that I congratulate Government and I am happy what the Government is providing to the recipients of this, but I am saying we need to be more so that there should not be certain areas of this country that would be left behind while we

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are only catering for some. According to this document there is only one road in the Otjozondjupa Region, namely the one between Otjinene and Gobabis, and the Otjozondjupa Region is making a contribution to the economy of this country. The Erongo Region does not feature anywhere in this document. Hardap and Karas do not feature anywhere in this document and in the Caprivi and Kavango there are only a few.

What I am saying that because we have such broad needs, we must ensure that when we are developing certain bitumen roads in Ohangwena, that the next time we cater for Omusati, Omaheke and Hardap, because this country has needs. This is basically what I am saying. However, as it appears from this document, I have difficulties.

We hear that companies such as the Roads Authority have social responsibility funds and one would like to know, why can areas such as Tsumkwe not qualify to get funds from the social responsibility fund from Roads Authority to develop even a certain number of kilometres, because that is the area where we are saying they are the poorest of the poor. That area is near the Kavango Delta and if we could come up with a programme and develop the road, it will bring equity and justice which remain the principles of why I came to this Party and we can only sustain that principle if we are sensitive to one another. I support the Vote.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister. Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. My question is on page 9 of the Minister's speech, on general railway maintenance. Honourable Minister, my concern is that we are looking at railway maintenance, but what about the condition of our trains? I think we must encourage people to make use of the trains, but I do not know whether you have travelled with any of these trains lately, the condition of our trains, the toilet facilities and everything in that train is such a stage that that I do not think any Namibian would want to travel by train. Then the trains are always late. There is always something wrong with our trains. Can the Minister just tell us why there is nothing budgeted for the conditions of our trains.

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My second question is on page 10 of your speech. “In addition the Ministry is busy developing a long-term road safety strategy and action plan.” This is now for the taxis. Honourable Minister, our taxis are not roadworthy, it is a risk to use any of these taxis these days. I heard rumours that you also want to adopt the policy of South Africa, to buy taxis so that the taxi owners can become owners of these taxis through your Ministry. Is it true and if it is true, I will say thank you very much, it will make our lives easier when using these taxis. I thank you and I support your Vote.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chair. The issue of roads in some areas have been discussed at length, but I want to raise one important issue and I want the Cabinet to hear me out before they start attacking me and it is on Government vehicles, the Volvos.

For the last three years we have done the most prudent thing by giving allocations to Ministers to have Government cars, but what looks very bad in my opinion, ethically very bad, although I am aware that the Ministers are paying for these cars, is the societal reflection on these cars. The Minister is entitled to pick up his children at school with this car, because he is paying and he is being charged for this car, but yet when that car of Honourable Namoloh is picking up his children at school, the immediate reaction of society is that they are wasting our resources. There is a need for us as a country and the Cabinet to reflect on this.

I would love a situation, and it is my honest view, where the Minister is given a car even with a particular number, indicating that it is a ministerial car and not a Government car. I know there are some Ministers who are using their own personal cars. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, you are making a very good point, but I just want to find out, if the idea you are advancing of having a Minister’s car is taken on board, who is going to

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drive that car? Will the Government drivers drive the Minister's private car?

HON VENAANI: The Ministers are entitled to two cars, a 4X4 and a ministerial Volvo and the Deputy Ministers drive Camris. A Minister remains a Minister even in his private time with the privilege of security and drivers and those privileges are not taken away, but when Honourable Ndaitwah goes to the village over the weekend and Venaani comes to AGRA with his bakkie and load salt and you come with a Government double cab and you are loading salt, the people feel they are misusing our resources.

You should try to drive the Volvo between Monday and Friday, but when you are going to a funeral, drive with your car. I think we need to reflect on it in the future for us to be able to address some of these things, but I intend to become a Minister one day and when I become a Minister I want these things to be sorted out already.

Air transport infrastructure is a very important area and South Africa is hosting the 2010 World Cup. Somehow we became known that we have problems with air safety and it is important for us to zero in on these tourists that are going to flock to southern Africa and our air safety should be geared towards that. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? Honourable Venaani, very soon the Government will buy cars for traditional leaders. How do you envisage these cars to be used by the traditional leaders? They are not working for the Government, they are elected by their own people. Can you maybe also advise the Ministry on the usage of these cars by Traditional Authorities and whether they should only use it for official business and whether the cars should have GRN numbers or whether it should be their private cars? Should the Government provide petrol and drivers and maintain the vehicles or how should that be taken care of or must there also be restrictions?

HON VENAANI: Honourable Minister, do you want me to bill you for advice? Send me an e-mail and I will write you an answer tomorrow. It is a very relevant question that we need to answer.

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You are a farmer like myself and when I see you at AGRA with your bakkie, you look bad although you are paying and it is important for us to address that issue. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask Honourable Venaani a question? Honourable Venaani, you get a car allowance here to buy a car. Although you are a businessman, you still get that car allowance. When you go to AGRA, you are going there with the petrol paid by the car allowance. What is the difference? Honourable Tjihuike used to be a Deputy Director and he had a Government car. When he travelled more than 500 kilometres, he claimed. As Deputy Minister I have to buy that car at my own cost, but when Tjihuike left the Ministry of Trade and Industry, he took that car along.

HON VENAANI: The Honourable senior Colleague fails to understand.

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** Time up. Honourable Dr Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 24, Transport. Honourable Minister, I want to draw your attention to one aspect on page 5 of your speech, the condition of the culverts on some of the roads in the areas which are flooded, the four Northern Regions, the Kavango and the Caprivi. This issue has attracted my attention for so many years now, starting with Honourable Amweelo. You can check the correspondence in your office, you will find the correspondence. Then there was Honourable Joel Kaapanda and now yourself, although I have not written to you on this issue.

Honourable Minister, to me it is a wastage of Government resources to build substandard culverts which you know will be destroyed when the floods come and then only to pay again for the same work. Why do we not build culverts which are capable of withstanding the floods?

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As you are aware, Honourable Minister, His Excellency the President was very disappointed when he saw that bridge and it was even before the floods. Go there today, he was correct, although the experts will say whatever. Go to the Caprivi, go to Oshana, Omusati and Oshana, you will find the same problem there. This problem has really been a nuisance for such a long time. We should not waste public resources any longer. Let us build something which is capable of withstanding the floods. I support the Vote.

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

HON NAMBAHU: I also rise to support the Vote and I have a few questions on the roads rehabilitation, maintenance and management. I have seen a positive trend in the North concerning these uniform bridges which starts from Oshivelo throughout, bridges that have holes of this shape. At some spots you have two, at others you have three, but they are all the same throughout. I was told that the average calculation was that the floods occur every fifty years in that area, but now that we have floods occurring every year, I think that average should be changed and I have seen some square-shaped bridges being put up there and I want to ask whether it is going to be a new trend that we erect bridges according to the size of the waterway or the amount of storm water which is expected to pass there or will the bridges be uniform as if all the waterways are the same?

With regard to maintenance, one sees stagnant water alongside the tarmac roads and there is no drainage. In some other countries you see that the people who are maintaining the roads at least make pathways for the water to run away. However, I have seen some spots where there is stagnant water and when the grader comes, it even blocks the pathway for the water to run away from the road and we are told these are professional people.

Another point is on the new gravel roads we are constructing. It seems in some areas we pay these people before the work has been completed and we do not have any way to bring back the contractors and then there are a lot of shortcomings on the gravel road. Perhaps we should have proper inspectors with the know-how to inspect their work before they are paid, because to bring them back is really a problem. I have seen it especially on the Onanke road

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where there are a lot of complaints and the contractor has left without completing his work. We should look into this and not pay them before they have cleaned up.

With these few words, I support the Vote.

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable Tjihuiiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I have one or two questions to the Honourable Minister. The first question is a very simple one, but first I want to say that one of the reasons why Namibia is being regarded as a good investment location is because of its good infrastructure. Infrastructure is the basis for any economic development.

If we have a situation where you have an area which is supposed to be the economic growth point of a specific Region, for instance Gobabis, then Gobabis, as the economic growth point, should develop downstream and development should go from Gobabis to the other areas such as Aminuis, Epukiru and Otjinene. However, without proper roads from Gobabis and I am not talking about tarred roads, I am talking about proper roads from Gobabis to those areas, I do not think that one would be interested to invest in Aminuis or Otjinene. That also applies to the Otjozondjupa Region. Okakarara is the main economic growth point in that constituency and it should be linked with even tarred roads to Okandjati, Okamatapati and these places. We have not seen this place for the last eighteen years and the same with Khorixas. I want the Minister to think about that. I do not need an answer now, I think it is something that you have to take note of and think about it.

The second point that I want to mention here is the issue of the Government ministerial vehicles. Honourable Venaani has alluded to some of the things that I wanted to say, but I need to extend a bit on that. Honourable Minister, I do not have a problem with the issue of Government ministerial vehicles, it is a benefit of the Ministers, no problem. My concern as a person is that a politician lives by the sword, you do not know whether next year you are still going to be a Minister. If you have the tendency of depending on two

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Government vehicles, what will happen tomorrow? That is why the people are saying that the person was a Minister and he is now walking on foot, because you have been a Minister for fifteen years and you have never thought about that. Therefore you need to have your own private vehicles, so that when your kids and your spouse want to go and do shopping, they can take your private car.

At one stage I saw the Right Honourable Prime Minister driving his own car in Oshakati. How did he manage to get his own car? Others are complaining that, "*no, I am a Minister, I must get this.*" No, that is proper planning. (Intervention)

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

May I ask the Honourable Member a question? First of all, do not paint the picture as if Ministers do not have their own cars and houses, they have. There is no Minister who does not have his or her own car or cars. My question is: You are one of those who said traditional Chiefs must have cars and now I am asking, do you want a Chief in Caprivi, who is not a Government employee, to have medical aid, to have a house allowance, Government cars, etcetera? If that Chief has a car, must this car now only be used when he is called by the Government to come to Windhoek or will he use it freely? On the other side you do not want Ministers to have cars. You even said that maybe we must introduce a car scheme such as the Civil Servants have. You want the Ministers to have a car scheme and the chiefs who are not working for the Government must have cars. Chief Katjikururume Hosea Kutako was not a puppet of the Boers and his subjects were maintaining them and now you want the Government to provide cars to the Chiefs. What a contradiction!

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, the traditional leaders are the fourth level of Government.

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

Honourable Minister, I am the Chair of the Whole House Committee and no Member is allowed to stand up and take the Floor by themselves. Honourable Tjihuiko, please proceed.

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HON TJIHUIKO: The reason why traditional leaders are being recognised is, because they have a constitutional role to play in support of Government, advising His Excellency the President. Therefore, it is not a structure that has been taken out of the air, it is a constitutional structure.

The last point I want to make, and I am asking this question to the Minister, not anybody else. (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? I do not have a Chief, I was born here in Windhoek. I do not have a Chief and I have to maintain the cars of these Chiefs you are talking about. According to this Constitution, the chiefs are to advise the President on matters related to land, that is all. Therefore, the Chiefs are not a Government institution as you are saying, but Ministries are. I have difficulty and that is why I have asked Honourable Venaani to advise us how the Chiefs should use the cars.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chair, I will make an appointment with the Minister's secretary and I will go and sit down with him and advise him properly.

Let me make my last point, Honourable Chairperson. We have a situation, Honourable Minister, where we have a political office-bearer and also a Minister, for that matter, and now the Honourable Minister-cum-Secretary General is using this car for the purpose of ... (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? What do you mean with Honourable Minister-cum-Secretary-General? What do you mean with "*Secretary General*", what does it imply? Explain what you mean.

HON VENAANI: Sit down.

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ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I heard Honourable Venaani ordering the Minister to take his seat. It is only the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee who may ask Members to take the Floor or to take their seats.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, I kindly requested the Honourable Minister of Transport to answer this.

HON BOOYS: May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a small question? All along I have heard you saying that Chiefs are only recognised when they join SWAPO. Now that your Chief has been recognised, did he join SWAPO?

HON TJIHUIKO: The point I wanted to make here is that when you have a situation where a Minister is also a political leader...(Intervention)

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Time is up. You can come back later if you want to. Honourable General Namoloh.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 24. On page 10 of the Minister's speech he mentioned the Road Traffic and Transport Act and Regulations to be fully rolled out. I just want to bring to the attention of the Minister that if we are not careful in this country, the traffic rules will disappear, because if you see how people are today driving on the streets here, you will be amazed. People are driving through red lights and driving as recklessly as they wish. Taxis are the worst, but all over the world taxis drive like that, but I am speaking of the ordinary drivers in this country. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask a question? General, you are raising a very important issue. Would you agree with me that when some of the Cabinet

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colleagues are travelling to especially the international airport, they are doing the taxi-style thing on the road? I do not know who controls this car, whether it is the driver or the Minister, but there have been instances and I have warned one the Ministers in Grootfontein and he will remember, but he was driving beyond 160. I am really concerned and it is a genuine concern, Colleagues on that side of the aisle, that your drivers are doing the wrong things, because you are our leaders. What can we do to curb this travelling to the airport at 160 or 180 by most Volvos?

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I do not want to talk about them going in a convoy when somebody is arriving at the airport, that is something special. What I am saying is that the driving in our country is scaring. I have lived in many countries where driving is hazardous and it is soon going to be the same here, Comrade Minister, I think we need to look at that.

Another point is that the encroachment of bush and grass on the roads is very hazardous and I think something needs to be done about that.

At one point we spoke about the tombstones and crosses along the road. If, for instances, we were to erect crosses and tombstones at every place where our people died, what would our hospitals look like today? People die in hospitals and would we erect crosses there? There must be regulations, because a cross or a tombstone signifies that somebody is buried here, not that somebody died here. Otherwise the hospitals would not be seen today, there will be only crosses and tombstones. The Minister should look into this issue.

Honourable Minister Kawana spoke about the culverts on our roads and the tenders we give to our brothers under the BEE. At one time somebody was given a contract on the road between Odibo and Oshikango and when they were working there they did manual work, they had no earth-movers or any instruments and the roads are constructed at the same level as the *oshanas*. That is why the water flows over the roads. (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: On a Point of Information. Honourable Namoloh, you are correct that some of the BEE contractors are really letting us down, but the problem lies with the Tender Board. This thing of saying the lowest tender wins ... (Interjections). When international companies tender at huge amounts, they get the tender. When you say that you need to have a

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caterpillar, they will say you are too expensive and give it to somebody else. It is a serious problem that needs to be addressed.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Some culverts are built at the wrong places, they are not even in the main stream of the water-flow. It is on the side and not in the middle and that is why the water accumulates and flows over the road. (Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, are you saying that tenders are given and the work is inspected and at the end of it all the culvert is at the wrong place? Who is responsible for that? I know that if you build something, there is something called a retention clause. You retain a certain amount of money until the job has been properly completed and then you pay. How does our Government function?

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: This is why I am reminding the Honourable Minister to look at that. The road between Odibo and Oshikango was washed away. A company was called, somebody who owns earthmovers and so forth, and they built the road at a very high level so that the water could not overflow, but the other BEE brothers who were there constructed the culverts at the wrong places. Comrade Minister, you should look into this seriously and this happens all over. With this, I support the Vote and I thank you.

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

HON VENAANI: There is one issue that I want the Honourable Minister to take serious note of and this was always said by our former Speaker, who stood very high amongst us and that is the bridges on the road to Ovitoto. I do not why in all the development plans these bridges are not included. I can tell you that this year two people died in front of our eyes, trying to cross those

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rivers – young people for that matter. I do not know how expensive it can be to have three proper bridges for the people of Ovitoto.

Then on maritime water transport infrastructure development and safety. Honourable Minister, there are people who are mining marine diamonds with small boats. There is no security, they go there, come back and report whatever they found. What is the Minister going to do to ensure that this natural resource is well protected, because there are a lot of boats just coming and reporting whatever they got and this is a serious concern.

Lastly, the issue of Government Ministers has nothing to do with abuse, it has much more to do with perception. I believe that the problem could be solved if the ministerial cars have separate registration numbers. When Venaani loads salt at AGRA and you come there and load your salt in a Government car, society has a wrong a perception that the Minister is abusing Government property. Ghana is one country where they have separate numbers for Ministers and when you are picking up your children at school, it is not seen as if you are corrupt. It is a serious issue that you need to reflect on. Thank you very much.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Kavari.

HON KAVARI: Honourable Chairperson, first of all, I want to raise a serious concern about the misinformation being provided in the Budget speech of the Minister, because if one looks at point 7, for instance...(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Correction. The Honourable Member said the “misinformation”, meaning that the Minister misinformed the public out there and even this House. Can you not just ask the question that you do not understand what the Minister means, rather than saying it is misinformation?

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HON KAVARI: Honourable Minister, on page 7 it reads: *“This upgrade represents the first phase of the Gobabis to Grootfontein road. This is part of the Trans-Kalahari Highway extension to the northern part of the country and to southern Angola. It is envisaged that N\$79,6 million for the initial works of design, documentation and tender processes will be needed.”* We are not supposed to be at that stage now, because the road has already been constructed from Gobabis, 40 kilometres have already been completed, the money has already been spent and the documentation and tender processes must already have taken place and that is the road was constructed. We cannot inform the Nation today that we need the N\$79,6 million in order to start the design documentation because that was done five years ago.

Honourable Minister, gravel national roads leading to communal areas are just as good as a tarred road elsewhere in the country. It is so difficult for me, coming from Omaheke, to travel to Otjozondjupa Region, for instance. There are no road signs showing which area you are going to, there is nothing indicating how many kilometres are you from Okakarara and all of us are using these roads. Namibians have Independence, they have freedom of movement and we are supposed to freely move around in this country freely, without stopping at each and every village in order to find out where you are going.

Therefore, I am urging the Ministry to erect road signs on all gravel roads in communal areas. I thank you.

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

HON MOONGO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I would like to support the Vote, but allow me to mention a few points. One is on the benefits and salaries of Government drivers, including the Ministers’ drivers. Those people are always forgotten. If my salary as a Member of Parliament was increased with N\$1,000, how much did they get? Let us look into the salaries of the drivers of the Government and especially those of the Ministers.

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask my Headman of my village a question? Honourable Member, the ministerial drivers resort under the Police. Does it mean the Honourable Minister is the one paying the Police?

HON MOONGO: Since many Ministers do not realise that their drivers are tired of peanuts. (Intervention)

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** You must differentiate between general drivers and ministerial drivers. The ministerial drivers are members of the Namibian Police and that must be addressed under the discussion of Safety and Security. You are Out of Order.

HON MOONGO: No, Transport.

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** You are Out of Order if you want to discuss ministerial drivers under Transport. Do not argue with the Chair.

HON MOONGO: I just wanted to raise the point that we need to have a separate room where the drivers can sleep so that they can drive long distances, because they are sleeping in the cars.

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** If Honourable Moongo shows contempt of the Chairperson, I have the right to send you out of this Honourable House and I can exercise that right.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, you said that we should stick to the statements. I am seeking

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guidance, is what is being discussed now actually part of the Budget Statement?

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Minister, you are correct, that is why I told the Honourable Member not to discuss ministerial drivers under this Vote.

HON MOONGO: It is better to have accommodation here, so that they sleep and are able to drive long distances.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Moongo, unless you have some other issues to discuss, but I told you the ministerial drivers have to be discussed under Safety and Security. I will rule you Out of Order unless you proceed on another matter.

HON MOONGO: I rest my case.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable //Garoëb.

HON //GAROËB: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have only one question and it is on page 658, under road rehabilitation, maintenance and management of the national roads network where the production of personalised number plates is handled.

A few weeks ago I put a question to the Honourable Minister on whether it is true that the click signs of the Damara-Nama languages are prohibited on the personalised number plates and the answer was that it is true, the personalised numbers do not allow characters other than the alphabetical or numerical or alpha-numerical characters. This mandate is in terms of the Road Traffic and

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Transportation Regulations of 2001. The regulations derive from the provisions of the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic of 1968 of which Namibia is a signatory.

Honourable Minister, are the countries of the Eastern Bloc are not signatories to this Convention? China and Japan do not use the alphabet, they have little signs, small trees and “*goggatjies*” and if these people are also signatories to this Convention and we are also a signatory of this Convention, then you are obliged to accept our signs which are clearer than most of those of the Eastern Bloc countries. What is your position on this, Honourable Minister? I thank you.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I revert the Floor to the Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I thank the Honourable Member for the contributions they have made, some of which were very enriching, some of which the Chairperson has been more liberal on the Rules in allowing Members to discuss things outside this Vote, but that is understood.

I think I should start with the last query which also happened to come from the Royal Family. In Africa the Chiefs and Kings come first and the commoners later. *Honourable //Garoëb*, I think you got me, not me as a person but the system. It never occurred to me to ask whether the Chinese, the Japanese and Arabic countries are signatories to the Geneva Convention, but I do know that we have complied with those provisions, including the SADC provisions. However, I will do my best to find out for you and for my own interest as to whether those characters are recognised by the Geneva Convention.

Honourable Moongo, you have been ruled Out of Order, but I have a similar sentiment when it comes to the general salary structure of ordinary drivers in Government. Their salaries indeed leave much to be desired, but unfortunately this is the Government system governing us and of course, the legislators are at liberty to bring forth private members’ bills because I for one, really do not concur with the disparities in our salary structures. They are not treated humanely when you consider that the lowest paid person takes home

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N\$800 and in the same Government you have people going with half a million or even a million – the same Public Service. Therefore, morally speaking your question is legitimate.

Honourable Kavari, I think you simply did not read the sentences correctly. Maybe it is also our fault that we tried to shorten the statement and compressed so many ideas into one. Therefore, it is maybe not your fault that you misunderstood the sentence. It says: “*Trunk Road 14/2: Gobabis-Otjinene: This upgrade represents the first phase of the Gobabis to Grootfontein.*” You only took up a small part. However, I must say that even Gobabis to Drimiopsis is subject to upgrading, because it is not meeting the regional standards. It was built on the basis of local circulation, therefore it needs to be upgraded all the way to be able to cope as a regional network, part of the Trans-Kalahari Highway. The design, therefore, will be a combination of upgrading and designing that upgrading not only up to Otjinene, but further northwards.

I agree with you on the road signs, it is something that we are working on, but unfortunately we do face budgetary constraints. From a technical point of view it is not difficult to do the job, but there are financial constraints.

Honourable Venaani, the Ministry of Works and Transport is not responsible for the policing of diamonds. Even if my staff see people carrying diamonds, it would not be their duty to ask where they got the diamonds. Our task is to monitor the pollution, the standard of the vessels that are at sea and whether they comply with the rules and regulations at sea. What they are carrying is somebody else’s job.

Honourable General Namoloh, road traffic and transport issues are seriously under consideration by the Ministry. We are preparing an amendment Bill which involves all the stakeholders, including the Police, the Local and Regional Authorities and others. We want to amend those outdated provisions and provide for new provisions, including provisions for stringent regulations on speeding and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, etcetera. We hope that we shall be in a position to bring forward this amendment Bill within this Financial Year.

Your observation on bush encroachment is correct, but bear in mind that the regular Budget for road maintenance has been seriously undermined by two successive floods. Those resources that we normally allocate for maintenance

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of roads all over the country were last year diverted to rehabilitate the roads which were washed away in the Cuvelai Delta. The allocation to the Ministry for the rehabilitation came very late somewhere in October and you know that the floods ended March. Between March and October the Roads Authority was using exactly those funds which were diverted from other roads for maintenance. That is why you see potholes all over the country. Of course, the flood is a natural disaster which cannot be controlled by the Ministry of Works and Transport, but by my sister, Netumbo Ndaitwah, because she is responsible for environment. We shall do our best to keep the bush away from the road with the little money available.

Thank you very much for alerting me about the tombstones while we are formulating the amendments to the Road Traffic and Transport Act. It is true, I saw them between Oranjemund and Rosh Pinah, between Walvis Bay and Swakopmund and some of them are even in the road reserve, which is against the rules and regulations. I thank you very much for alerting me on this.

Regarding the SME contractors doing work without machines and culverts not built in the middle of the streams, I have heard about this complaint, but now that it is Honourable Namoloh talking about it, I can answer you professionally. In the other instances I was hesitant to answer publicly.

First of all, when you look at the river-stream with your naked eye, you may believe that you know where the middle of the river is, but in engineering there are specific instruments to look at the land level and those will tell you where is the lowest point of the terrain and that is where the water will pass. That is where you put the first culvert for the water to pass. You do not put it at the higher point, because the water will only reach the higher point in the event of floods.

The Regional Council of Ohangwena advised me to visit the Engela Bridge. I went there and I was told the culvert is not in the right place. I inspected it and I saw that there are bushes growing where the middle of the stream originally was, which means it is no longer the middle of the river. Where the water normally passes in the middle of the river there is a channel and fortunately, when I went there the rain has just stopped and due to these facts the water was not running in the so-called middle of the river, it was running at the corner where the bridge starts and where the culvert was put. That is the logic of having culverts, it is to allow the water to flow.

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Of course, one could have build a normal bridge, but was there enough money to build a bridge? Secondly, is it guaranteed that indeed we will have floods of that magnitude on a yearly basis or must we use the money sparingly in this case in order to use the money at other urgent needy places? That is the question to be answered and in fact, those of you who have been here long will remember when we discussed the mouths of the rivers when we talked about the demarcation of the maritime borders and the river borders. It does not automatically mean that because the middle point of the river is here, it means that the border must be in the middle. No, the middle of the river is at the deepest point of the water, otherwise you deny somebody else access to the water and the deepest point of the water may not be where you consider the middle of the river to be. (Interjection).

The Helsinki provision provides that every riparian State is assured access to water and if you put the borderline equidistant from banks of the river, you exclude the other country from access to the water when the water is only going to be at the deepest part, which might be on only one side of the river.

With regard to Odibo, it might be true that the culverts were not large enough to accommodate the water, but we must also bear in mind that many of our projects are demand-driven and this principle is applied on a daily basis. Sometimes we as politicians come under pressure to develop a road, but because there is so much pressure to provide for roads, you do not necessarily have to wait until you have enough money to develop a high standard road, you do with what you have. If the original road was very low, it does not mean that the engineers and the consultants wasted money, it only means that they provided for the minimum standard required to enable the people to cross. If they have to elevate all the roads to that high level, there will never be enough money and you hear the cries from each Region that their Region is not being provided with roads. Therefore, that aspect could be ascribed to lack of funds.

The question on the SMEs is a political one. We would like our people to participate in contracts and tenders and they are in the process of learning, they are being trained, but to say we must exclude them when it comes to our Region is not fair, because they have to learn and like anybody in the learning process they will make mistakes. We have to be patient with the SMEs if they are not delivering up-to-standard service. However, I must say that in most cases the standard is observed, we do not accept poor standard of work.

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Honourable Tjihuiko, Okakarara is well connected to other villages east of it by gravel road. It is true the tarmac road ends in Okakarara, but as I have said in my statement, we are planning to tar the Otjinene-Grootfontein road and maybe that will be the time to talk about a tar road connecting Otjinene to Okakarara to connect with the Gobabis-Grootfontein-Tsumeb-Katwitwi road. It will come in time, Honourable Tjihuiko. I was also invited by the community of Okamatapati to talk about the road and I sent my people. We are talking about the improvement of the gravel road east of Okakarara and it is not that there is deliberate political neglect of the area.

Honourable Nambahu again mentioned that the culverts are too small. Again it is a question of funds. If we have all the money there is no need for culverts, we can just build bridges.

There are four steps to bridge the rivers. If it is seasonal river which only flows for a few hours. We build a ramp, the one which is disliked by many politicians. This is a concrete slab to prevent the road from being destroyed by the water which is just passing on a temporary basis. After the strong flow, the cars can still pass.

Then we have rivers that may flow for two or three days and depending on their size you will then use round culverts which are like pipes which allow the water to go through. We know that in our dry climate it rains infrequently, therefore you do not have to neglect your schools and the youth only to be proud of your nice bridges.

The next step after the round culverts is the box culverts. The box culverts are next to the bridge and in a situation that you know this flood may cut off people for quite an extended time, you use the box culverts. However, for big rivers such as the Omaruru, Kuiseb and the Swakop Rivers, you may build a bridge but it is a costly exercise to build a bridge.

Comrade Kawana, culverts themselves are never destroyed by the floods, you cannot show me one, but what is happening is that the gravel on top of the culverts are washed away. Gravel is there to sustain minimum traffic passage with minimum weather tearing, but the culverts are made according to specific standards and they do not break because of the floods. They may break because of weight beyond what they can carry, but then there will be a warning that you may not drive on them with a vehicle weighing more than those tons.

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In recent times the floods were very strong and if the engineers knew there would be such a flood event, they would probably have asked for more money, but the likelihood is that the Government would have said that they cannot give all that money just to build one culvert. The wash away is related to the strong water that flowed in the Cuvelai and there will be a need for adjustments in terms of planning and engineering around these flood-prone areas, because all indications are that there will be more floods coming. Therefore, we have to enlarge the culverts in some places, we have to increase these culverts and provide channels for easy flow, but of course, the human element is also part of the cost of this because somehow we manage to build infrastructure in the way of the water. Then the water gets diverted to other places where water was not anticipated and this causes very serious damage to infrastructure.

We should also not forget that even with what we are calling poor bridge and poor roads, Namibia still remains number one in infrastructure in Africa. That is self-evident, you cannot deny it. In fact, the Minister of Finance has been very kind to the transport sector, it received the highest chunk of money from our Budget, but it is also the highest performer in terms of completion of jobs. Most of the time they complete jobs in time. (Interjections). We may, according to middle-income country standards, be not so good.

Honourable Venaani, you know, this is a catch 22 situation. If you want your Ministers to perform, they must also have the tools with which to perform. If you want them to hike, they will never be able to perform in the office. If they have to pick up their own children with their private cars, will they be able to perform? The drivers and security are there to serve the Ministers and they do not serve the Ministers using their own private cars, because they are employees of the Government.

With regard to the complaints by the population, this is something we have to live with. As a public figure you have to expect criticism, because you are visible and people will criticise you, but that does not mean you should not perform or feel bad because you are being criticised. No, we accept criticism with dignity, but we must execute our duties. If we say we must change the number plates, people will say we are not transparent. Now we are transparent, there is no secret that we have drivers and these drivers must also drive our families and the State must pay for that. Why are we underpaid? Is that not part of it?

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For example, people say you should not put things in the Government bakkie. Just imagine, I am travelling to Okakarara or Oshakati and I am being driven by my driver in the Government bakkie. What you are saying is that first the driver must park the bakkie at home, pick up the private car, collect salt from AGRA, reload the salt into the Government bakkie at home and then we drive off. That is so uneconomic, time wasting. I appreciate your sympathy for the Ministers, but I am just saying that we should not feel guilty for having state assets at our disposal to perform the functions that we were elected to perform and entitled to. Mind you, this is not an appointment for life, this is an appointment for five years, if you are lucky. Those who do not do much because they fear making mistakes and being fired, may serve five years, but those who are risk-takers, who dare step on the foot of big heads, do not even have the guarantee of 5 years.

Honourable Venaani, the radar for air transport should be in place on the 8th of June 2010. Everything is being done to accelerate the delivery and installation because we are preparing for the World Cup. We were a bit delayed by the Court cases, but we have been cleared and we are now proceeding, as Comrade Tweya has explained this afternoon. Therefore, we shall be in a position to provide the service.

Honourable Dienda, it is true that there might be serious shortcomings when it comes to trains. The Ministry is responsible for the infrastructure development of the railway line and the maintenance of the railway line. TransNamib is responsible for the maintenance of the wagons and we will convey the message to them that they must maintain the standard.

With regard to the availability of railway traffic, I have mentioned in my statement the serious situation that we are facing regarding the aging railroads and the rolling stock. We are trying to do everything possible to see how far we can go to mobilise funds in order to rehabilitate the railways because some of them had to be closed because it is no longer safe to carry people on those railroads as they are very old. It is a serious challenge to get resources for that. In fact, the entire rehabilitation and construction of new railways requires an amount of N\$9 billion.

The taxis will be addressed by the Road Traffic and Transport reform, restructuring and amendment. The confusion with the licensing of the taxis, the issue of loading places for taxis and buses, the fighting at bus stations will all be addressed in the restructured policy and we hope to solve this problem

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within this Financial Year in order to put our Road Traffic and Transport Regulations in proper perspective.

With that I thank you very much.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Any objection to Vote 24? Agreed to.

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

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chair. I am rising to support Vote 27 and I have a question on the Oranjemund shipwreck mentioned on page 28. I want to congratulate the Ministry for this very important document distributed to us. Comrade Minister, I see this very courageous man, Kapaandu Shaatika, is the one who discovered this shipwreck and I was asking myself why this does not happen to unlucky people like myself. This is a very important discovery and I want to know what the Ministry has planned to do with this very important person in our community, a very lucky person who has discovered this wealth. What is planned for this man in terms of recognition? That is my question and I thank you very much.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chair. I rise to support Vote 27 wholeheartedly and wish to congratulate this gentleman, Kapaandu Shaatika. As the first speaker has mentioned, he is one of the luckiest men in the world.

I want to congratulate the Ministry on all the programmes to build-up our youth who are the backbone of this country and the leaders of tomorrow. It is

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HON DIENDA**

mentioned on page 3 and 4 that the volunteers are offered computer literacy programmes, tailoring and fashion design. I would wish to see a vocational training programme for the youth so that by tomorrow they will not depend on the Government to employ them, but employ themselves by becoming plumbers, bricklayers, etcetera. I have seen at the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration that some people who are making thatched roofs are imported from other countries. They say we do not have people with experience in Namibia. We need to teach them to do this because there is money to be made.

My last point is on page 29 where I learned that money was allocated from the UNDP-Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund to develop policy and legal instruments. I thought that it would be good if they could offer hospitality training programmes so that we could have more youth to assist in the lodges and hotels.

With these few words, I support the Vote and I thank you.

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. Honourable Minister, on page 539 of the Development Programme it is mentioned that a lot of multi-purpose youth centres will be constructed during this year. The purpose of these centres is to have dual functions. One of them is youth-friendly facilities and venues and secondly is to direct programmes for the youth.

Honourable Minister, the youth centres are open from 08:00 to 17:00, the normal working hours. My problem is that the youth, especially those who are working, need to make use of these youth services, but then it is closed. Why can the people working at the youth centres not work shifts and not claim overtime, so that they can cater for the youth also after hours. That is my first question. Secondly, does the Minister have any alignments with other Ministries to appoint these youth members after completing their courses or is the training just conducted to keep the youth out of the streets?

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Thirdly, the youth centres are currently run by the Ministry of Youth, but I want to know whether these youth centres can be run by the youth themselves as an income-generating project. The National Youth Council should run these youth centres so that they can make money out of it.

Honourable Minister, my fourth question is on page 10 of your speech regarding sport. *“The main purpose of this programme is to encourage and enable all Namibians in all the Regions to participate in sport codes.”* Honourable Minister, I have a feeling that certain sport codes are more important than others in Namibia and soccer is the most important one. My problem is that we are discriminating against the small sport codes. Why are small sport codes not funded according to their successes? There are sport codes such as cycling, wrestling and other, and we do not Budget for them in the same way we are budgeting for soccer where there is no success coming to our side. N\$7 million – no success!

On page 362 of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure – women in sport, N\$450,000. I need clarity on this one. Is this small amount for netball, rugby, soccer, all the sport that women are doing? Women participate in different types of sport and if this N\$450,000 is the only money available for women, then I think we are again discriminating against the women. Thank you, Honourable Minister, I support your Vote.

**ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I also rise to support this Vote of the youth. I see there are many programmes taking place, but I have one concern on rural youth development. I want to call upon the Ministry and the officials to guard against what I term the entistic approach and concentrating on the urban areas for our activities.

Most of our activities are centred in towns and villages and I am happy that in your speech you recognise that we have to serve all the communities. During the elections and census, people are coming from the rural areas where there are not even roads and we have to guard against concentrating on urban areas while we do not have visibility in the rural areas. We have to inculcate that

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kind of spirit in our youth. We have some doctors in Africa who do not want to go deep into the rural areas, while we have compatriots from other countries who go deep into our rural areas where we ourselves are not willing to go. Therefore, we must from an early age inculcate this spirit into our people to go where the need is and not where the comfort is. With these words I support the Vote.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Namoloh.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chair. I rise to support this Vote of the youth. I would also like to support the Minister on the youth training, but I am disturbed by the fact that there are very few young men and women who are taking up this training. Of course, they say it is as a result of lack of facilities. Only 150 students per annum are very few and we need to expand our facilities to enable us to train as many young people as possible.

Another issue is the youth opportunities. You mentioned the training of the 895 young people, but after the training of these young people at Berg Aukas they tend to look at either the Defence Force or the Namibian Police for employment. I think what we want is for these people to be trained to become professionals in whatever fields they are being trained and not only to prepare them to come to the Defence Force. The Defence Force also has a ceiling and I do not know whether it is a military phobia, but we must train people to do other jobs in the country, to develop this Nation and not only to defend it. Therefore, I think we need to have some institutions to train them in all essential skills so that they become technicians and so forth. After training we can also help them to form a small company for themselves in order to be able to get into the market.

Comrade Minister, I wanted to support you with these few words. I thank you.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Schimming-Chase.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: COMMITTEE STAGE
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Minister, on page 4 of your motivation on the juvenile/child justice, you said during the 2008/2009 Financial Year, approximately 215 young offenders were referred by the Courts to the Directorate for Life Skills training. In our visits as a Standing Committee to prisons and police cells, one of the big problems we encountered was that young offenders are not even kept separately. What percentage does these 215 make out of all the young offenders in the year 2008/2009? I am just wondering whether one should not be asking for more money, because many of these young offenders become habitual criminals because they are kept with grown-ups.

On page 10 the Honourable Minister states in the third paragraph: *“I must add here that providing modern sport infrastructures and facilities of quality is an extremely expensive business. The same applies to the provision of quality training. Budgetary allocations from Government sources alone cannot and will thus never be sufficient. I therefore urge the private sector, donor agencies and other stakeholders to assist in this regard.”* I totally support this, Honourable Minister, and I agree with you.

I am wondering, Honourable Minister, whether we cannot look at the Namibian Olympic Committee, which is an already existing structure with a lot of contacts with the international community in terms of getting funds, in terms even getting training facilities. That would make the burden on the Ministry much lighter and you would have more specialised people dealing with this. Would it not possible to rather put that under the responsibility of the Namibian Olympic Committee?

Finally, Honourable Minister, I totally agree with you when it comes to the importance of upgrading our stadiums in order to generate income from teams that might want to come and train here in preparation for the Soccer World Cup. My only reservation is that the Minister expresses the hope that the Ministry of Finance will avail additional funds in the near future. Is it not already too late just to live on hope? Could the Minister not be audacious enough and ask for money to do the upgrading, because when are we going to start? It is already past midnight, the World Cup is starting in thirteen months and you know how slowly we upgrade. Maybe we should ask for more now. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: They have already started.

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HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: You should be supporting me, Honourable Member. That is why I am asking the support of the patron of athletics, soccer and rugby. The only thing he does not understand is cricket, but I can teach him that. If the Minister would ask for money to do the renovations now, my support would be unequivocal and total. I thank you.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Angula.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I rise to support Vote 27 because this is a very important Vote which is aimed at instilling a spirit of nationalism in the minds of our young people and also equipping them with life skills to enable them to face the reality of this world, be it in education or the labour sector.

On page 8 the Honourable Minister is informing this Honourable House about the current 895 trainees at Rietfontein Centre and when we add the other small centre which has 150, it brings it to just barely one thousand.

Originally with the formation of the National Youth Service, the idea was a comprehensive National Youth Service or compulsory, for that matter. Only a part of it was adopted, because in that specific Financial Year there was not enough funds to take a greater number and the intake for the first year was just a stepping stone to the next level. If we consider how many young citizens are not finding places in Grade 12 and tertiary education, we are not really being effective with this intake. Therefore, my question is: When will we contemplate introducing compulsory or comprehensive National Youth Service? This was proposed fifteen years ago. That was specifically the idea.

If we apply comprehensive and compulsory National Youth Service, the question of white Namibian youth not participating in national programmes will not arise, because they will then be there in the National Service and instilled with nationalism and a spirit of patriotism to the extent that they will probably completely change, ideologically speaking. Currently we have that situation where so many children from the previously advantaged and now from the higher income group, even the children of the Honourable Members, do not see themselves as part of the Namibian society, they think we know

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nothing. There is this lack of *Assembly point* for children to know what was the aim and objective of liberating ourselves from the yoke of colonialism and the future of the country.

Comrade Minister, do we still have the original plan, that to enter tertiary education, preference must be given to those children who have completed their National Service. The privilege of getting scholarships must go to those children who completed their National Service and to get a position in Government, you must have served the Nation as volunteer in the National Youth Service.

For now we can complain about the cultural alienation of the young people, we will do nothing until such steps are taken. Thank you.

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

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. First of all, I would like to thank the Minister for the conference now being held in Swakopmund, where the youth from all Political Parties are getting to know each other in a national spirit. They are learning how to accept each other although from different Political Parties and this was a good idea and the money allocated should be increased so that they meet regularly and create healthy relations between the youth from all Political Parties. I thank you.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Amutenya.

HON DR AMUTENYA: I want to support Vote 27 and the point I wanted to make has been partly raised by the Honourable Minister of Transport.

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HON DR AMUTENYA**

I am sure that all of you in this House will agree that one Namibia, one Nation will only be in the minds of our generation, but our children be the ones to complete this exercise. We are talking about youth development on page 3 and I think without compulsory National Service, where we bring these youth for unity of purpose, where they learn how to respect the rank and orders, the elders, the leaders, these children will not be loyal to their own motherland. (Interjection). Only if we give them this opportunity...(Intervention)

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Moongo, I want to refer you to Rule 108(g): *“Refer to the names of persons or any statements of fact unless it be necessary to render the question intelligible and can be authenticated.”* I ask the Honourable Member to withdraw, unless he can authenticate what he said.

HON MOONGO: On condition that Ngurare should behave better...(Intervention)

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Chairperson has asked you to withdraw.

HON MOONGO: I withdraw.

HON DR AMUTENYA: I think it is only if we expose our children to this exercise of National Service that they will learn about loyalty to their own motherland, that this is our country and it will also be where they will bridge tribe and colour, because they are there for the service of their Nation and they will learn to guard their nationhood jealously. I rest my case. Thank you for the opportunity.

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

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HON REV KONJORE**

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. Let me register my appreciation for the support by all the Members who took the Floor. I know those who have not taken the Floor also support the Vote and I thank them for that.

Let me come back to the specific questions, Honourable Chairperson. The first was by the *Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs* in connection with the reward and recognition for the person who discovered this shipwreck. We as the Ministry are very much concerned about this, because we can recall history and even the first diamond in this country was discovered by a black worker. How much recognition did he get? We are of the opinion that we should not repeat that mistake and injustice against our people, but this shipwreck is the first heritage discovery, which means there is no policy or law which regulates the reward or compensation and recognition, *per se*. However, the Ministry is working towards developing a policy and ways that recognition can be given and where possible, rewards can be made to such people.

The purpose of sharing this information with the Honourable Members is to solicit their support for when the Ministry comes up with its policies and request funding for a museum for these artefacts. There is still a lot of work to be done for which there is actually no money at the moment and this is to sensitise the Members for their support and also to solicit opinions.

Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration, thank you for your support and also the congratulations. Your question was about the volunteers on vocational training programmes and we cannot agree more, but we will put on record that this is also shared with other Ministries, such as the Ministry of Gender, which also deals with youth. The trainees will be trained so that they can become self-employed and we cannot agree more on that one.

Concerning the funds to be provided, it is true that we need to look into ways and it is also true that up to now the aspect of self-employment and vocational training has not yet received the attention it deserves.

Coming to *Honourable Dienda*, it is true that the funds are not sufficient to cater for all the sport codes, but there is no intention to discriminate against women, not at all. We are also dependent on ceilings when it becomes to the Budget and we have to look at what we have in the kitty, what the ceiling

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allows us and then work accordingly, but not to discriminate against women or against any code.

You will also agree with me that one needs to look at what sector of our society is participating in soccer and netball and where cycling is practised most? Therefore it is the intention to first look at the most needy part and not to exclude any sport codes and we would like to encourage our society, particularly the previously disadvantaged, not only to participate in soccer and netball, but also to venture into other sport codes. That is why it is so important that the different sport codes must be introduced already at the school level, so that our kids have the basics already at that level.

Honourable Dienda was also concerned about the youth centres that only operate during certain hours. It is true that so many young people, even the working ones, need the services of these centres and we fully agree and it will be looked into as to how we can amend the operational hours of these centres.

Honourable Nambahu, thank you for your support. I cannot agree more that there is a need for us to go out to our rural areas and this is the message that I am trying to preach every day in the Ministry, that we have to go out to our rural areas. We cannot deny the fact that many of our sportsmen and women originate from the rural areas. The potential is there and if we neglect the rural areas, we are doing an injustice not only to those individuals, but to the development of sport in our country as a whole. We have to provide them with facilities and we will count on your support when we come with capital projects for sports in the rural areas.

Coming to the remarks by *Honourable General Namoloh*, we agree that the intake is very small, but this is only for one centre. At the moment, we are looking for more land and with time we will come with more detailed information. We are looking for land in Henties Bay, for example. We already have a youth centre in Usakos for brick-making and we hope that particularly those MPs hailing from Usakos will buy those bricks. We are also looking for land close to the Orange River and once we have all this land and these projects, we will be able to take in more. Even at Berg Aukas we need more land to take in more youth. I still owe Honourable Kaapanda a response and this is that we have to add to our programmes and training, for example in information technology.

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Coming to *Honourable Schimming-Chase*, we have not asked for the money as yet and this is based on the ceiling, but we fully agree. We also agree that we need to consult with the Ministry of Justice on the question of juveniles and we also depend on the recommendations by that Ministry and also the Ministry of Safety and Security and the Ministry of Gender which is also responsible for the children. However, I fully agree that it will never be helpful if young people are kept in the same cells and prisons with older offenders. Depending on our facilities and means we are addressing that concern.

I agree that we are late with the upgrading of the stadiums, but we are also depending on the rules and regulations of FIFA. The other problem we are also faced with is that we are not the host country and therefore, we have to lobby for teams to come. Otherwise we might be putting up some white elephants which might not be used after the games. We should however see how we could benefit from the games and that we put up something that could be used after 2010. We first have to establish what infrastructure can be put up, because nowadays they are talking about artificial grass and then it is rejected and one has to find out all these things before going to the Ministry of Finance to ask for money, of course based on the support by the Honourable Members of Parliament when we come with this request even outside the Budget, if need be.

Comrade Helmut Angula, the saying goes that Rome was not built in one day and we can only go according to the facilities we have. However, I fully subscribe to compulsory service where we can instil discipline and respect in the young people and I believe a few months are not sufficient for that. However, we must have the facilities and trained officials and we must come back to this House with a policy on compulsory service and we are working on that. It is really true that we have to find ways and means to mould our young people.

Honourable Moongo, it is our wish that we should bring together our young people and I appreciate that politicians will not interfere in those programmes despite that they are members of different Political Parties and different language groups. We are looking at Namibian children, the Namibian youth who are our future. Thank you very much for your support.

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ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection to Vote 27? Vote 27 is agreed to. I shall report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 14:30.

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
28 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? Any Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Booyes.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 08, 09, 12, 16, 20, 23 and 26 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 Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Minister of Health and Social Services.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:
OUTBREAK OF SWINE FLUE**

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to give information on the recent swine flu outbreak in Mexico in the United States of America.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAMWI**

Namibia, as a member of the World Health Organisation and as such the Director General of the World Health Organisation consulted the Emergency Committee, established in compliance with the International Health Regulations of 2005 and held its second meeting on 27 April 2009. The Committee considered available data on confirmed outbreaks of A/H1N1 Strain Influenza in the United States of America, Mexico and Canada. The Committee also considered reports of possible spread to traditional countries.

On the advice the committee, the Director-General of the World Health Organisation decided on the following: The Director-General has raised the level of influenza endemic alert from the current Phase 3 to Phase 4. It is on the basis of Phase 4 that as a member State we now have to take action to raise awareness and to put into gear our surveillance system. Thus I have the following:

The swine flu is a highly contagious acute respiratory disease of pigs, caused by one of several swine influenza A-viruses, at time as referred to as A/H1N1 influenza. Outbreaks in pigs occur year round with an increased incidence in autumn and winter in temperate zones. Swine Flu virus is primarily a disease of pigs, but sometimes cause the species barrier to cause disease in humans. What is of concern is that there have been cases of the virus spreading from human to human. The swine flu infection in humans resembles seasonal influenza or flu, therefore infected persons experience fever or temperatures of more than 37.8 degrees Celsius and they will then experience cough, lack of appetite, a sore throat and/or generalised body aches.

The case fatality in humans appear to be quite high. Preventative measures for humans to reduce the risk of infection include practising effective personal hygiene and by avoiding close contact with sick persons. The doctors prescribe the antiviral drug known as Tamiflu for the treatment of swine flu. The wearing of face masks is another non-pharmaceutical intervention for prevention.

To date the following countries have reported swine flu with human infection:

- Mexico is the highest. I do not have the number of cases, but I have the number of deaths, amounting to 103 deaths already.
- United States of America with twenty confirmed cases. California has

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAMWI**

seven, Kansas has two, New York City has eight, Ohio has one, Texas has two.

- Spain has confirmed one.
- Canada has confirmed six.

My Ministry is monitoring the situation carefully. We are in constant communication with the World Health Organisation to keep ourselves abreast with the information. Our Health Emergency Preparedness Committee is actively engaged with various stakeholders to ensure any detection of any reported cases, isolation of such cases and relevant treatment. To date no human case has been reported in SADC. There is, therefore, no reason for any alarm to the general public. However, people who travel to affected countries, as mentioned earlier, or pass through airports are advised to keep themselves updated on any health warnings regarding the countries they travel to or in transit.

I am reliably informed, Honourable Speaker, that the Veterinary Services here in Windhoek in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry are considering taking measures to stop any animal products from the affected countries. My Ministry will keep the Nation informed of other developments. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister very much. I can always count on you, Minister, when there are incidents like that in your area of responsibility. I hope other Ministers will also be responsive to areas of their responsibility when matters relating to their Ministries come up.

I was travelling to my European office in Geneva and there are rumours that there are suspicion in some parts in Europe, I do not want to mention countries, some island countries nearby the continent of Europe who seem to show some indications. These are areas where we normally travel to or through which we transit. Maybe we need to monitor that. However, what do we do back home here? When I wake up in the morning, what do I feel or what would alert me to be a suspect?

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON IIVULA-ITHANA / HON DR KAWANA**

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Speaker, as I said, the symptoms are similar to any flu virus. When you have flu and you have not paid any visit to a suspected island, as you have said, you have not been to Spain, to New York, to Mexico City in particular, there should not be any panic. However, I would advise that we would rather report to the nearest health facility, particularly the hospital, immediately. We have Committees in every district hospital and I think this is the way to go about it for now.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I just want to ask a question because this is very frightening. What are we supposed to do in the country, those of us who are breeding pigs? Is there any way that we can vaccinate them in order to keep them healthy?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Justice.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, this is very unusual that we are discussing a Ministerial Statement, but we are alarmed. If developed countries could be attacked and so many people could die in such a short period of time, what would happen if there should be an outbreak in some of our countries? I thought some serious action would be taken in such a situation, other than just to report. We probably do not even have the medication to cure this disease. I saw everybody wearing face masks and why do we not advise the Nation not to travel for a while until we see how the situation develops?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Honourable Nashandi.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NASHANDI / HON DR AMUTENYA**

HON NASHANDI: Honourable Speaker, I would like to find out from the Minister about the measures in place at especially the International Airport for people arriving from those affected countries.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you. Dr Amutenya.

HON DR AMUTENYA: Thank you very much for the opportunity. I would only advise that panic will only add to the problem. Influenza is a disease that has been with us for many years and now that it is killing people somewhere, we do not need to panic, one only has to follow epidemiological procedures of how to prevent diseases and specialists are working on that.

If we as politicians panic, it would not help much while the whole Nation is looking at how we are responding and since the Minister said that the Emergency Committees have been reactivated, they are active in all thirteen Regions and they know what to do, we should perhaps just be contend with that while learning from others what should be done further. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: If we appear to be panicking as the elected representatives of the people, we are panicking on their behalf. Thank you, Honourable Minister, you will keep on updating us on the situation. Any further Ministerial Statements?

I was supposed to announce earlier and inform all backbenchers that on your desk you will each find a copy of the membership of International Parliamentary Friendship Groups, as endorsed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rules and Orders, for your attention and to know what to do when you are called upon. The Secretary will read the first Order of the Day.

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION OF
COMMITTEE STAGE**

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

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

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee? It is Moved that I leave the Chair. Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. I call on the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported Thursday, 27th April 2009, Votes 01 to 07, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29 and 30 had been agreed to. Votes 09, 23 and 26 had been introduced.

**Vote 12 – “GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE”,
N\$298,251,000 for Introduction.**

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Chairperson of this Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, I rise to motivate Vote 12 of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. I would like to start by congratulating the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, her Deputy Minister and her entire team as well as the Director General of National Planning Commission for the National Budget presented in this august House. The Budget in all its manifestations demonstrated that it aims to unlock prosperity and well-being for the people of our beloved country.

Namibia is a proud signatory to the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. The road map for the implementation of this very important Protocol is in full swing.

Namibia has become the fourth country within the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to attain the target of at least 30 percent women representation in Parliament. The target we are aiming for is 50/50 representation by 2015.

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HON MUNGUNDA**

Honourable Chairperson, having made these introductory remarks let me now take the House through the Budget allocations of the people's Ministry.

In a nutshell, this is the Budget for the 2009/2010 Financial Year allocated to the different programmes as follows:

Programme 1: Child Welfare:

This programme in the Medium Term Plan constitutes of Social Allowances and Welfare Programmes. The total amount for Programme 1, Child Welfare, is N\$256,510,000.

Programme 2: Gender Equality and Women Empowerment:

The amount budgeted for this programme is N\$10,694,000.

Programme 3: Community Mobilisation and Integrated Early Childhood Development:

The Budget amount for this programme is N\$31,047,000

The total Operational Budget allocation requested for the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is N\$267,558,000 The Development Budget needs the allocation of N\$30,693,000 for this following Capital Projects:

- (a) Renovation and construction of Headquarters – Juvenis Building.
- (b) Rundu Recreational Centre Feasibility Study Phase II.
- (c) Aminuis Community Centre Construction.
- (d) Epako Women Centre Construction
- (e) Omaruru Community Centre Construction
- (f) Outapi Craft Centre Construction
- (g) Keetmanshoop Recreational Centre Feasibility Study

The Grand Total for Operational and Capital Budget is N\$298,251,000.

The following are allocations as per main Programme

PROGRAMME 1: CHILD WELFARE:

The Directorate of Child Welfare Services managed to appoint more staff members at both national and regional level in order to be able to deal with the

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escalating number and needs of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in the country.

OVC Permanent Task Force:

The PTF on OVC successfully met in March, July and October 2008 with a wide range of representation of Government Ministries, NGOs, civil society at national level as well as regional level social workers attending these meetings.

General Social and Community Work:

The social workers in the Regions have handled cases of foster care placements, children with behavioural problems, alleged child abuse and neglect, children in conflict with the law (child justice), inheritance and property grabbing, emergency need for food, adoption, custody and control of children, school uniforms, and school and examination fees. Information on children's rights, OVC's and their needs were provided through meetings and radio programmes.

The After-School Centre provides after-school activities to children at risk and vulnerable children on streets

Social Grants:

These are in the form of Maintenance Grants, Foster Parent Grants and Special Maintenance Grants for children with disabilities under 16 years. 102,136 OVCs are now benefiting from the grants compared to 90,130 of the same period last year (March 2008). An amount of N\$202,061,000 is required for 2009/2010.

A total number of 92,089 children have benefited from the food assistance out of which 37,000 were transferred to grants. The programme ended 30 April 2008.

Namibia Children's Home and After School Centre:

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare has a children's home in Eros, Windhoek, for children in need of love and care. It caters for 110 children.

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The After-School Centre provides after-school activities to children at risk and Vulnerable Children who find themselves on the street.

The Ministry requires N\$7,720,000 to maintain and educate these children for 2009/2010.

The total Budget amount needed for this programme is N\$225,946,000 for 2009/2010.

PROGRAMME 2: GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

The National Gender Policy and the National Gender Plan of Action 1997 Gender Policy has been reviewed:

National Gender Mainstreaming Programme:

A total of 2,000 people participated in attending the workshops in the Financial Year under review: 1,108 female and 797 male.

Strengthening Response of Leadership to Gender, HIV/AIDS, Reproductive Health and Poverty Issues:

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

Informative meeting for Editors and Journalists on Gender-based Violence:

To increase reporting on gender issues by media, the Ministry held an informative meeting for editors and journalists, including those from community and indigenous radio stations.

Gender training workshop for NGOs

The Ministry conducted a workshop for Non-Governmental Organisations during December 2008 and we also conducted training on Gender Focal Points, female condom promoters and motivational talks in schools to motivate children on knowledge of gender and sex.

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Gender-based violence cases:

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare compiles national statistics every year on cases reported to the Police countrywide from various Police Stations in all Regions, which we enter in our database.

Study on Traditional Practices that May Perpetuate or Protect Women and Children from Violence and Discrimination:

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare conducted a KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices) study on Traditional Practices.

PROGRAMME 3: Community and Integrated Early Childhood Development.

Early Childhood Development:

During the period under review 1,690 ECD centres are in operation in all 13 Regions, accommodating a number of 5,704 children of which 2,566 boys and 3,181 are girls.

The National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy was reviewed in 2007, approved by Cabinet in 2008 and 10,000 copies were printed to be disseminated to all the Regions. The Ministry launched the revised IECD Policy on 22 April, 2009.

Future actions on the policy is for the document to be translated in all local Namibian languages.

Income Generating Activities:

During the period under review, 604 applications for financial assistance (grants) were received and appraised in all thirteen Regions, out of these; 73 were recommended and approved for funding. The Ministry also sponsors women to participate in local and international trade fairs.

- Zimbabwe International Trade Fair in Bulawayo, 22 to 26 April 2008
- Global Summit of Women held in Hanoi – Vietnam 5 to 7 June 2008

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- Ongwediva Trade Fair
- Local Regional Trade Fairs (Khomas, Omusati and Oshana)
- Windhoek Agricultural Show
- National Rural Women Conference was held from 7 to 10 December 2008 in Ongwediva.

It is now my humble honour to request this august House to approve the Ministry's Budget request for 2009/2010 to the tune of only N\$ 298,251,000, of which N\$ 267,558,000 is for the Operational Budget and N\$30,693,000 will be the Development Budget.

I would like to call on your support and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

**Vote 20 – “AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY”,
N\$1,234,493,000 put for **Introduction.****

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I stand before this august House to motivate Vote 20, for the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. In doing so, I will highlight major achievements in the agriculture, water and forestry sectors over the past Financial Year as well as indicate programmes and key activities which we intend to implement and undertake respectively during the 2009/2010 Financial Year. I, therefore, would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Members to the technical paper which contains details of the Ministry's programmes, projects and activities in the Agriculture and Forestry sectors.

I am presenting this Budget, at a time, when the sub-sectors of agriculture, water and forestry are facing multi-faceted challenges as a result of global

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economic crisis and climatic change realities, which continue to significantly impact on the performance of our domestic economy. The majority of farmers and households will not realise yields from their farms and Government will be expected to step in by providing relief measures to those affected.

The agricultural sector has been confronted with the various challenges such as high cost of inputs, the competition between food production and biofuels production resulting in high food prices, as well as the detection of fruit fly which has affected our horticultural exports. Despite these threats, the Government has continued to promote irrigation with a view to increase food production and cash crops for exports.

In order to increase agricultural output, especially for the subsistence farmers, the Ministry shall enhance the provision of extension services, agricultural input and disseminate information to farmers.

Despite the abundant water available during this year, the challenge facing the country is to secure sufficient water for domestic, industrial and agricultural use, in order to cater for the growing population as well as emerging and developing industries in mining, and agro-industries.

Another challenge with regards to water is the determination of vulnerable groups requiring subsidy for water, the implementation of new water tariffs and sanitation, which shall pave the way for decentralisation of rural water services.

In the forestry sector, communities are granted more direct access to the resources, while appropriate resource management strategies are being implemented by the beneficiaries themselves. With regard to the forestry sector, great efforts are made to construct cut-lines through labour intensive and mechanical means in order to prevent wildfires that destroy both the forest and grazing.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I am motivating a total Budget of N\$1,234,493,000 for the Financial Year 2009/2010, for the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Of this total, 61,1% will be for the Operational Budget, while the remaining 38,9% represents the Development Budget.

In line with the Ministerial Medium Term Plan, the Ministry of Agriculture,

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Water and Forestry is implementing six Programmes. I shall now elaborate programme by programme as follows:

CROP PRODUCTION AND HORTICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

The purpose of this programme is to increase crop and horticultural production in order to reduce poverty, improve food security at household level as well as to earn revenue from export. For this programme an amount of N\$317,165,000 is requested to carry out the following activities.

For Namibia to meet its food requirements and to export the surplus, the Green Scheme Policy has been designed with the aim to increase the food production through irrigation where water is available. The programme is to be implemented by Government in close collaboration with stakeholders.

I am happy that with the recent review of the Green Scheme Policy and with the State resource allocation, we are beginning to see progress in terms of the production and diversification of the crops. Currently we have eight agronomic projects under production in Karas, Omusati, Kavango and Caprivi Regions. The Ministry is on track with the construction of the required infrastructures at Ndonga Linena and the development of irrigation projects at Tandjieskoppe in the Karas Region, Etunda Phases 5 to 8 in the Omusati Region and Sikondo in the Kavango Region.

One of the important strategies of the Ministry is the creation of Strategic Food Reserves. To that effect, silos were constructed in Katima Mulilo (4500t), Rundu (4000t), and phase 1 of constructing silos has been implemented at Okongo (500t), and Omuthiya (500t). Plans are underway to implement Phase 2 of this project, which entail the expansion of silos at Okongo and Omuthiya and the construction of the Tsandi silo.

The Ministry has also recognised the importance of mahangu as a means of livelihood for the majority of the Namibian people, and hence declared it as a controlled product. Through this declaration, mahangu producers will be afforded an opportunity to market their surplus production. The Ministry will upgrade and procure new equipment to facilitate grain collection, cleaning and grading at the Omafo, Eenhana, Okahao, Okalongo, Outapi and Onayena Aricultural Development Centres where farmers can deliver their grain.

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The Ministry continues the implementation of the Dry Land Crop Production Programme to assist communal farmers in the crop growing Regions to acquire subsidised tractor ploughing services, provision of improved seeds, fertilisers, and weeding services under the Youth Employment Scheme.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION, IMPROVEMENT AND ANIMAL HEALTH CONTROL PROGRAMME:

The purpose of this programme is to increase livestock production and marketing as well as to improve animal health status in communal areas, while improving the production level of commercial farmers. The Ministry requests the total amount of N\$306,033,000 to carry out the following activities:

Livestock and meat production continued to play a significant role in contributing to the GDP. The sub-sector generated more than N\$2 billion annually, most of which is attributable to foreign earnings.

The Ministry has continued to place emphasis on processing and value addition to our livestock products such as dairy and small stock. In times such as these ones, when Namibia like other countries is faced with financial crisis, where some of the industries such as mining are closing, it would be prudent for efforts to be made to ensure that available livestock products are processed locally so as to retain jobs at home and to have better earnings from value added exports. The private sector has taken up this opportunity and a number of processing facilities for both dairy and small stock currently exist in Karas, Hardap, Omaheke and Khomas Regions. These processing facilities have significantly contributed to foreign earnings, skills development, job creation and industrial development.

Concerning the marketing of livestock products from communal areas north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence, the Ministry is committed to integrate livestock farmers from these communal areas in the mainstream of the economy through deliberate programmes aimed at declaring the Northern Communal Areas free from Foot and Mouth Disease and lung-sickness.

Annual vaccination campaigns against Foot and Mouth Disease and lung-sickness will continue in areas north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence. Combined with the recently implemented measures to arrest the spread of Foot-and-Mouth Disease from the eastern Caprivi flood-plains into the rest of the Region and from east to west Kavango, the vaccination as well as other

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animal health interventions, like traceability, veterinary surveillance and veterinary public health services, would enable farmers to market their livestock locally and improve chances for accessing potential international markets such as China and the United States of America.

To further enhance the marketing opportunities for the northern communal areas livestock farmers, Government is working toward the upgrading of Government-owned abattoirs at Opuwo, Eenhana and Outapi in the north-east and central north, to the required export and processing standards, while livestock farmers north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence would be encouraged to market their animals to ensure better utilisation of slaughter capacity.

The Ministry is also implementing the Livestock Marketing Incentives Scheme. The purpose of this Scheme is to increase throughput at the abattoirs, thereby increasing incomes for the farming households. This Scheme is designed for the upgrading, renovation and building of new marketing facilities and management of these facilities in communal areas.

The Government is committed to the overall improvement of animal health in the country. Further work shall be done in the construction of veterinary clinics, offices and accommodation facilities, expansion and improvement of the central veterinary laboratory and the training of veterinarians and animal health inspectors. The Ministry is also improving its transport services to enable the conduct of regular farm inspections and services.

Of great concern to the Ministry is the status of livestock marketing in the Caprivi Region due to competing land use by agriculture and wildlife sectors is such that the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry shall not be able to effectively combat the Foot and Mouth Disease as long as there is an interaction between livestock and buffalos, which are known carriers of Foot and Mouth Disease. In the meantime, while the process of vaccination is ongoing, efforts are underway to investigate the means of processing the meat so that meat from the Caprivi could also be marketed beyond the Caprivi Region.

The Ministry is satisfied with the efforts made so far in containing the recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in Kavango Region. It is our hope that with the completion of the fence at Muhembo to limit the interaction between buffalos and livestock and the temporary electric fence between Ndiyona and

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Mukwe Constituency, we can be able to normalise the movement of livestock and livestock products and to resume exports from Oshakati Abattoir.

In recent months, there has been an increased export of livestock to neighbouring countries, in such a way that some of the abattoirs are concerned about lack of adequate throughput. The Ministry is studying the situation and is working towards regularising such trading in order to conform to the livestock trading laws and regulations.

**CO-OPERATIVES REGULATION, DEVELOPMENT AND
PROMOTION SERVICES PROGRAMME:**

The purpose of this programme is to create a conducive environment for agribusiness development. The programme entails the promotion and regulation of cooperatives, the development of agro-industrial projects for investment, the agricultural marketing development and representation of Namibia in agricultural related regional, bilateral and multilateral organisations. The programme further entails the compilation and analysis of agricultural statistics, early warning on food security, policy advisory services and development of agricultural financing and incentive schemes to enhance agricultural production. An amount of N\$114,727,000 is required to implement the programme.

Under this programme, promotion and support is provided to the cooperatives in the country and the Government support to the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme is managed through this programme. It is also through this programme that support is provided to the marketing of livestock products from communal areas.

Activities under this programme also include market research, agro-production feasibility studies, agricultural policy advisory services as well as ensuring Namibia's compliance with the agricultural trade regulations and membership contributions to the agricultural related organisations and institutions to which Namibia is a member.

**INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME:**

The purpose of this programme is the development and maintenance of water management system, capable of providing the necessary information for the

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planning and management of water resources. An amount of N\$108,949,000 is required to carry out the following activities.

In order to execute and fulfil the mandate of equitable allocation and utilisation of water, the Ministry is actively participating in four regional Commissions for the Orange, Kavango, Zambezi and Kunene River Basins. With the support of the African Development Bank, an Integrated Water Resources Management Plan for Namibia is being developed and will be completed in May 2010. The Plan will advise on a long-term monitoring and evaluation framework, institutional and human resources development.

River flow and ground water gauging structures are being installed country-wide and work has started in the Hoarusib and Lower Orange River while the installation is completed in the Cuvelai Basin. These gauging stations are essential for future floodwater management.

The Ministry has just completed an assessment of the sanitation situation after the recent floods. A number of observations were made and they include non-compliance with the sanitation regulations in the construction of sewerage systems, especially in some of the emerging towns, villages and settlements, which were negatively affected by the floods. Some of these identified shortcomings are to be addressed with the implementation of the new Sanitation Policy by the Ministry.

Ground water levels data, captured monthly, is now recorded by means of digital recorders, bringing about a saving in terms of time and cost. Groundwater abstraction control compliance monitoring inspections are planned for the Stampriet Artesian Area, Tsumeb-Grootfontein-Otavi subterranean area, Maltahöhe Water Control Area and the irrigation farms along the Swakop and Omaruru Rivers. It is important to emphasise the importance of underground water to the country, as most of our cities and towns, such as Windhoek, depend on underground water. As a matter of fact, during the year we had to recharge the Windhoek aquifer to ensure water supply.

**WATER SUPPLY TO URBAN AND RURAL COMMUNITIES
PROGRAMME:**

The purpose of this programme is the development of rural and bulk water infrastructure and the supply of water to urban industries and rural communities. This programme is also responsible for management and

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implementation of the sanitation policy and programmes. An amount of N\$285,585,000 is required to implement the programme.

The Ministry will continue with the strengthening and sustaining the process of decentralisation by capacity-building and development of water subsidy and water tariff systems to facilitate the delegation of the responsibility of rural water supply to the respective Regional Councils and preparing for devolution. Construction of rural water supply constituency offices will take effect in Karas and Hardap Regions during this Financial Year.

The construction of Tsandi South Phase 3 to supply water to the area of Otamanzi commenced in June 2008.

The construction of Onambutu Phase 3 in the Ohangwena Region was completed in September 2008 while the construction of Onambutu Phase 4 will be completed in January 2010.

In June 2008, Phase 2 of the Waterberg – Okakarara water supply scheme has been upgraded for efficient billing and debt collection and converted to a 500 private consumer network.

During the current Financial Year, plans are underway to implement the community-based water management programme and rehabilitation of boreholes countrywide.

The Ministry has started to implement the programme of constructing and rehabilitating dams, traditional wells and pans for livestock drinking in various Regions. These dams shall be constructed through a combination of both labour and capital intensive means. It is, however, unfortunate that due to heavy rains and floods, this process has not progressed well and as soon as the water subsides the programme shall be continued.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:20 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

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HON KATALI**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to recognise the presence of the members of the Public Accounts Committee of the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly who are on a familiarisation tour on the Parliament of Namibia. Welcome to Namibia and to the Parliament of Namibia. I call on Honourable Katali to continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: The design for the construction of the Neckertal-dam in the Karas Region will be done during the 2009/2010 Financial Year. Long-term water provision to Opuwo from the Kunene River will also be investigated. A feasibility study on water supply to the displaced communities between Rundu and Bagani in the Kavango Region will be compiled. Also included in this Budget Line are the remedial measures at the Hardap Dam to prevent future flooding of Mariental.

Our Ministry and NamWater are currently challenged by a situation where, due to an unprecedented growth in the uranium mining industry adjacent to Namibia's central coastal area, large volumes of potable water will be required in the medium term to provide in the growing demand of NamWater's existing and prospective new mining clients, who can no longer be supplied from the current groundwater sources in the area. To enable NamWater to do so, Namibia's Cabinet recently approved the development of a Desalination Project on Namibia's central coast near the town of Swakopmund.

The Regional Rural Water Supply Development Plan, with a 15-year planning horizon will be developed for the Oshana Region. The Plan would assist in calculating the future demand and costing of the infrastructure required to satisfy the Region's water needs.

MANAGEMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND UTILISATION OF FOREST RESOURCES PROGRAMME:

The purpose of this programme is the development and management of forestry resources to enhance socio-economic development. An amount of N\$102,034,000 is required to implement this programme.

With regard to the forestry management and community participation, about 20,000 people are currently benefiting directly from registered community

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forests. Thirteen community forests have been proclaimed, mainly in northern and north-eastern Regions.

The documentation of seven community forest areas have been completed and ready for gazetting.

A further 24 areas have been identified as potential community forest areas namely Mupapama, Shamungwa, Kahenge, Muduva Nyangana, Daniel Sientu Mpasi, etcetera.

The Tree Planting Project in northern Namibia is continuing. In addition to the maintenance of the existing woodlots, new ones were established and planted at the following places: in the Kavango, Caprivi and Oshana. In addition, one nursery was established at Siya in Kavango Region. Orchards were established in eight Regions.

With regard to the veld fire management, the Ministry introduced new control measures such as the opening up of fire cut-lines that reduce the danger and occurrence of veld fires. Fire awareness campaigns have proved to be effective in bringing down the sizes of areas burnt in the previous fire season. To this effect, a total distance of eight thousand five hundred and forty five kilometres was cleared with full participation of the rural communities.

In conclusion, I thank local and international co-operating partners, farmers, the private sector, including Non-Governmental Organisations and Government agencies, for their continued support and confidence to invest in the Agriculture, Water and Forestry sub-sectors in Namibia. We must continue to strengthen these relationships to achieve overall development goals of our sectors, for the benefit of all the citizens and residents of Namibia. It is the commitment of the Ministry to ensure that the sector contributes optimally to economic growth and that Namibia is able to feed itself and export the surplus.

With these remarks, I now call upon the House to discuss and approve the Budget for Vote 20 for the 2009/2010 Financial Year. I thank you all for your attention.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Vote 16 – “JUSTICE”, N\$290,588,000 put for Introduction.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 16
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, it is an honour for me to stand before you on behalf of the Ministry of Justice to motivate the Budget requirements of this Ministry, Vote 16, for the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

At the outset I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance and Cabinet as a whole who availed additional financial resources to Vote 16 to address pressing issues which my Ministry grappled with for quite a long time, few of which are the strengthening of the capacity of various directorates to efficiently render legal and judicial services.

I would like to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Acting Attorney General, the Deputy Minister of Justice, the Chief Justice, the Judge President, the Ombudsman, the Chairman of the Magistrate's Commission and the Prosecutor-General for having executed their various functions with dedication and professionalism despite the many challenges they face. I would also like to thank the Permanent Secretary and the entire management and staff of my Ministry who worked tirelessly to finalise and to implement the Ministry's strategic plan.

The Ministry adopted a balanced scorecard to implement strategic management which, incidentally, coincides with the current Financial Year. The implementation of the strategic plan would allow the Ministry of Justice to always measure its performance against set objectives and implement strategic initiatives to transform the Ministry into a strategy-focused organisation as opposed to a Budget-focused organisation. The strategic plan's additional spin-off is that the Ministry's staff will now have a better understanding of how their everyday work rules the Ministry's vision and mission statements and, therefore, takes a more balanced view to their work.

The strategic plan is also a proactive tool, enabling the Ministry to better identify problems, rectify them and then communicate action and progress to all its stakeholders in a simple format. Through the strategic plan the Ministry has set progressive performance targets which will be met over a number of years. The strategic plan, a document which will be distributed shortly hereafter, has enabled this Ministry to evaluate both implemented and supporting components to monitor, evaluate and implement the strategic objectives.

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

The Ministry of Justice's mission is to provide quality judicial and legal services and as you are all aware, the Ministry is responsible for a variety of services, such as the Administration of Justice through Courts, the provision of legal aid as a consequence of the Namibian Constitution, the development and reform of laws, the drafting of legislation on behalf of Government, the protection of the fundamental human rights and freedoms, the administration of deceased estates and estates of incapable persons, international cooperation with criminal matters, extradition, the prosecution of crime, the representation of Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies in civil matter and the general rendering of legal advice to the President and Government.

The Ministry of Justice includes in its organisational establishment four distinct constitutional offices, namely the Courts, which are Magistrate's Courts and the Supreme Court, the Prosecutor-General and the Ombudsman and the Attorney-General, all whom, I may say, exercise their functions independently and without fear or favour. The Courts are independent and neither I, nor my Deputy, can interfere with how and what the courts deal with.

The same applies to the work of the Attorney-General, Prosecutor-General and Ombudsman. However, as between the Prosecutor-General and the Attorney-General, a lot of consultations occur, given the constitutional relationships and even then the Prosecutor-General is independent in her prosecutorial role.

Honourable Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the total appropriation amount sought for the Ministry of Justice amounts to N\$290,588,000 for the 2009/2010 financial period. This appropriation sought for this Financial Year represents 22,9% increase from last year's allocation. Of that amount, 28,4%, that is N\$256,783,000, is intended for the recurrent Budget and the remainder 16,6% is intended for allocation towards the Development Budget.

Having highlighted the various services rendered under the structure of the Ministry of Justice, I would now wish to highlight some activities and points of note which I feel obliged to report to this august House before I summarily break down the total requested allocation figure per service.

In terms of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework which commenced during the 2008/2009 to 2010/2011 Financial Year, the ministerial targets of Vote 16 are:

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1. To create 75% legal and administrative capacity within the Ministry of Justice within the next year.
2. To ensure that 75% litigants without or with inadequate income are legally represented within the next year.
3. To ensure that 75% Court cases are concluded within the shortest possible period within the next three years.

The overall performance of the Ministry on these targets during the first three-quarters of 2008/2009 Financial Year yielded the following results:

1. 68% of legal and administrative capacity was achieved, seeing that a consistent high staff turnover continued to negate the Ministry's effort to fast-track the recruitment process.
2. 40% of legal aid applications received for legal representation were approved.
3. The High Court surpassed its target with the completion of 86% of cases.
4. The Lower Courts were on track to achieve its target with 47% cases finalised during this period.

Office of the Prosecutor General:

This Office has endeavoured, as in previous years, to bring about an improvement in efficiency of dealing with criminal matters. In the Magistrate's Courts a total number of 29,415 cases were finalised during the year under review, compared to the 2007/2008 Financial Year when only 22,830 cases were finalised.

The Regional Courts are Magisterial Courts with a higher jurisdiction than District Courts, but are also Lower Courts in comparison to the High and Supreme Courts. A total of 2,085 cases were entered on the Roll. 766 cases were finalised in the comparison to the previous Financial Year 2007/2008 when only 594 cases were finalised. In the High Court, 27 new criminal appeals were lodged, adding on to the already 296 lodged, thus totalling 323. A total of 96 cases were finalised. The High Court is a Court of first instance and has received a number of 36 new criminal cases, adding on to the existing

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78 of the previous years. From the total of 114 criminal cases, 27 were finalised. A total number of five Applications for Leave to Appeal from the State were registered, while seven were brought forward from the previous years. Eight cases remained on the roll whilst four were finalised. Seventeen cases out of 135 cases on the roll were finalised.

In the Supreme Court five petitions to the Chief Justice were recorded, whilst eight were still pending from the previous years. From this total, four cases were finalised and nine are pending.

The Office of the Prosecutor General also embarked on the implementation of prosecution-guided investigations, which concept is embedded in the National Development Plan (NDP 3). This concept brings the responsibility for the prosecution to be more involved in the rendering of more detailed guidelines to Police Officers when investigating criminal cases. The advantage of this approach is that the number of deadlocks in cases can be reduced as cases will be investigated in the shortest possible time and matters can thus be speedily dealt with, without having to be postponed for the purpose of further investigations. Prosecution-guided investigations can also reduce the cycle times of criminal cases. This means, *inter alia*, that cases should be placed on the Roll only after they have been thoroughly investigated and as such the trial can commence at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Magistracy: It is also apparent from the aforesaid statistics that crime in the country is on the increase and as a result, the workload of Magistrates is also increasing. Apart from presiding in Criminal Courts, Magistrates are also responsible for other court matters, such as Children's Courts, domestic violence enquiries, inquests, Civil Court, District Labour Court and various other quasi-judicial and administrative functions.

Twelve B.Juris and LL.B graduates were recruited for the training of aspirant Magistrates and were given practical training for a period of three months.

Ten of them have since been appointed as Magistrates at Magistrate's offices where there were no resident Magistrates in the past. Magistrate's Courts at Bethanie, Maltahöhe, Usakos and Otavi, Ohangwena and Okahao now have full-time Magistrates of their own.

Similarly, Rundu, Katima Mulilo and Outapi Magistrate's Offices now have one additional Magistrate each.

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Furthermore, the Namibian Magistrate's Court Information System a Case and Financial Transaction Management System, which automates the business in the Lower Courts, has thus far been implemented at the Lüderitz Street Magistrate's Office in Windhoek and was successfully rolled out to Swakopmund, Omaruru, Usakos, Karibib and Walvis Bay. This roll-out will continue during the Financial Year.

Superior Courts: I am also pleased to announce that the High Court of Namibia in Oshakati is now completed and the Court is operational since the 21st of February 2009 to alleviate the pressure on the High Court of Namibia in Windhoek. This, of course, means that more prosecutors, clerks and even judicial officers to run the Court house have and will still be appointed and thus necessitate growth in the Ministry's establishment.

I am also proud to announce that as soon as a date is confirmed, the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba will inaugurate this Court building during the present Financial Year.

Community Courts: The purpose of the Community Courts is to provide the recognition and the establishment of Community Courts. The Act further provides for the appointment of Justices, Clerks and Messengers of the said Court. Traditional communities may apply to the Minister of Justice for recognition of their Courts, who shall recognise a Community Court by notice in the Gazette.

Certain groundwork has to be done before the Act could be fully operational. The Ministry of Justice has been seized with facilitating the process of appointment of the Community Court Justices and setting up of Community Courts in various communities. About 34 Community Courts were ready to become operational by the 1st of April this year. It is expected that in due course, altogether 45 Community Courts will be recognised. Nominations for the Community Court Justices have been done already for providing oversight over these Courts. These communities have also been requested to open accounts with financial institutions, as required by Section 6 of the Community Courts Act.

Furthermore, a dedicated division to be responsible for these Courts will be created in the Ministry of Justice pending the recommendation of the Public Service Commission. An amount of N\$7 million has been budgeted for in 2009/2010 Financial Year.

Human Resources: The establishment of the Ministry of Justice has 1,134 posts, of which 789 or 69% are filled.

Legal Aid: The founding members of our Constitution recognised that equality before the law would not be realised amidst poverty. To ensure that poverty is not a barrier to equality before the law to the majority of the Namibians to realise their guaranteed rights, the founding fathers and mothers, by Article 95(h) obligate Government to provide legal aid to those of our citizenry who cannot afford the cost of legal representation. The ongoing Caprivi Treason Trial is the highest cost-driver of the programme of legal aid, estimated at N\$7 million per annum.

Legal Drafting: The Legal Drafters, Law Reform and Government Gazette drafted and scrutinized, research and published ten Bills, ten Acts of Parliament, 336 Government Notices, 440 General Notices, 46 Proclamations, 21 Official Gazette for Tenders, 66 Gazettes for Estate Notices, 25 Gazettes for Road Carrier Permits and Air Service Licences and 9 Gazettes for Trade Marks.

Deceased Estates, Trusts and Guardian Fund: The Directorate Master of the High Court's functions includes supervision of the administration of estates of deceased and insolvent persons; protection of the interest of minors and legally incapacitated persons; protection of and administering of funds of minors, contractually incapacitated and undetermined and absent heirs which have been paid into the Guardians Fund; supervision of the administration of the companies and close corporations in liquidation; registration of trusts in terms of the Trust Moneys Protection Act (Act 34 of 1934); safeguarding of all documentary material received by the Master in respect of estates, insolvencies, liquidations and trusts and processing of enquiries by attorneys of beneficiaries and other interested parties. The Guardians Fund administers money of approximately 26,000 minors with a total value of N\$620 million.

1,784 deceased estates and 39 insolvencies and liquidations were reported to the Master of the High Court, while 360 trusts were registered during the period under review.

Legal Advice: 543 requests for legal advice were received, adding on to 181 cases from the Financial Year 2007/2008. Only 222 requests were finalised. It is important to mention that some of the files which have been carried forward from the previous Financial Year are ongoing due to the nature of the

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advice required, such as ongoing negotiations, disciplinary proceedings and so forth.

Government-Attorney: 1,024 instructions from clients were registered and opened by the Government-Attorneys and of these 141 files were closed. For the above cases, N\$2,883,097.10 were incurred by the Government-Attorney as costs to the legal practitioners, counsel and other costs, while an amount of N\$1,337,795.50 was successfully recovered in respect of legal costs and collections.

Ombudsman: The Ombudsman is responsible for the investigating of complaints received from the public relating to the areas of corruption, mal-administration, human rights violations and abuse of the environment and natural resource of Namibia. During April 2008 to March 2009 the Office received 1,438 complaints. These include complaints from all the prison facilities across Namibia. Of the total complaints received, 75% were resolved while 25% remains unresolved.

During 2009/2010 Financial Year, the Office will again be involved in countrywide complaint intake clinics, over and above normal complaint-handling operations at its head office in Windhoek as well as the regional offices in Keetmanshoop and Oshakati. The Ombudsman will engage in public education countrywide with the specific focus on human rights and the training of regional officials in human rights matters as well as training of rural community activists to assist when violence against women occur.

Namibia participated in the establishment of international judicial institutions, such as the International Criminal Court and continues to make a contribution to the continuing development of international law and development of international human rights standards in norms in various fields, notably the field of criminal prevention and criminal justice.

As a State Party to various international human rights instruments, Namibia is required to file periodic reports to the relevant organs of the United Nations. In this regard, the Ministry has to coordinate preparation of reports and to submit them to relevant treaty bodies.

Recognising that crime poses a serious threat to socio-economic development, peace and security, Namibia has adopted legislation, regulatory and institutional measures to combat the most insidious forms of trans-national

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organised crime, including corruption, illicit drug trafficking, money-laundering, human trafficking and human smuggling and others forms of serious economic crime.

Namibia has also acceded and ratified relevant multi-lateral international instruments, such as the UN Convention Against Trans-national Organised Crime and its Protocols, the UN, AU and SADC Conventions or Protocols Against Corruption and the SADC Protocol on Extradition. Namibia has entered into bilateral extradition and mutual legal assistance treaties with Angola, China, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana and negotiations are underway with some countries to conclude bilateral agreements, notably Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Russia. The various bilateral Joint Commissions of Cooperation between Namibia and other States provide the framework for the facilitation of various forms of legal cooperation with other States.

Capital Projects: Oshakati High Court construction: During the 2008/2009 Financial Year, an amount of N\$21,1 million was utilised to finalise the construction of the High Court which was completed in August last year. The total cost of this project to date amounts to N\$77 million, excluding retention fees which will only be paid in 2009/2010 Financial Year.

Lower Courts upgrading: Khorixas Magistrate's Court construction: An amount of N\$7,8 million was expended during the Financial Year under review to conclude the construction of a new Magistrate's Court at Khorixas, which was completed in December last year. I am glad to announce that I will inaugurate this Court on the 20th of May this year.

Tsumkwe Magistrate's Court construction: During the Financial Year under review, an amount of N\$6,7 million was spent in respect of this project. It is expected that the project will be completed in May or June this year.

Otjinene Magistrate's Court construction: The Ministry has to date paid a total amount of N\$116,200 for a feasibility study to construct a magistrate's court at Otjinene.

Lower Court renovation: The Ministry has utilised a total amount of N\$405,368.50 to renovate the Magistrate's Court buildings at Otjiwarongo which were in a rather dilapidated condition. Other renovations and maintenance works were also done to Magistrate's Courts at Karibib, Usakos,

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Omaruru, Otavi, Swakopmund, Tsumeb and Katutura, which resulted in a total expenditure of N\$270,340.

Headquarters renovation: During the previous Financial Year, a total amount of N\$190,055.71 was utilised for a feasibility study for the renovation of a ministerial building and general renovation of the offices in the building.

Office of the Prosecutor-General: Renovation of houses:

A total of N\$184,879.83 was utilised to renovate the prosecutors' houses at Swakopmund, Ondangwa and Omaruru.

Construction of victim-friendly Courts: Sites were handed over to the contractors to construct victim-friendly court facilities at Walvis Bay and Otjiwarongo, respectively. It is anticipated that these projects will be completed by June 2009.

Honourable Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the purpose of the above facts and figures are to illustrate how busy the year was for the Ministry of Justice and also to demonstrate that while we may not tangibly produce a product, we add value to the democratic system of Government as a safeguard to achieve the Ministry's vision to be a model provider of accessible and timeous justice for all.

To summarise, the following amounts are required for each of the programmes of the Ministry of Justice under Vote 16:

Administration of Justice Court Services – N\$161,718,000;
Legal Aid – N\$24,517,000;
Prosecution of Crime – N\$44,457,000;
Deceased Estates and Guardian Fund and Trusts – N\$9,604,000;
Legal Advice: Legal Service and Litigation – N\$26,892,000;
Law Development and Legislative Drafting – N\$2,451,000;
Good Governance: Administration, Natural Resources and Human Rights – N\$7,303,000;
Protection of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms – N\$1,369,000.
Total: N\$290,588,000.

I now seek the indulgence of the House to approve the allocation totalling N\$290,588,000 for Vote 16 and I thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Vote 08 – “DEFENCE”, N\$2,598,412,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I have the honour and privilege to present to this august House, Vote 08 for the 2009/2010 Financial Year, as well as matters relating to national defence and security.

At the outset, I would like to thank Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, her Deputy, the Director-General of National Planning Commission and the entire staff of the Ministry of Finance for preparing and tabling this well-balanced Budget which addresses national needs amidst global economic crisis.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, without defence, security and stability there can be no peace, economic development and social progress. Therefore for our men and women in uniform, there can not be greater role worth sacrificing one's life, than the defence and protection of their Motherland and its people. It goes without saying that our sons and daughters who are the guardians of our sovereignty need to be well equipped, well trained and well cared for, in order to perform their duties to the Nation's expectation.

The security environment in our Region and beyond remains stable and relatively peaceful. There is no visible direct threat of war against our country and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) at this moment. Bilateral co-operation through Joint Commissions on Defence and Security between Namibia and all her neighbours as one of the confidence-building mechanisms, has created mutual trust and eliminated possible feelings of suspicion between Member States. The Defence Ministers and Chiefs of Defence Forces maintain regular contacts, while Commanders at all levels also meet regularly.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I can report with confidence that, SADC has reached a level where we can say the possibility of a war between Member States is negligible. The Region's multilateral forums such as the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security is catalysts that

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promote mutual trust between Member States and serve as a vehicle to coordinate regional defence and security issues.

Namibia hails the peaceful solution to the Zimbabwe political crisis and wishes the new Government well. On the DRC, the security situation in the eastern Region of Ituri and Goma has improved considerably and Namibia commends the DRC Government and its neighbours for the new approach to solve security matters affecting that Region. This year, 2009, the SADC Region will witness four general elections and we are expecting the democratic rights of our citizen to be exercised peacefully. This is a clear indication of the growth of democracy in our Region. In Madagascar, a new SADC Member State, the Head of State was forced to quit. This is a matter of serious concern. SADC has adopted a common stand that at no any given time the overthrowing of a legitimate Government, by force, will be accepted, thus Madagascar was suspended from SADC.

The security situation in the rest of the African Continent is characterized by some vicious conflicts which are causing loss of lives and properties. The assassination of the President of Guinea Bissau, the war in Somalia, the unresolved border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia, as well as the war in the Darfur Region of Sudan are some of the vivid reminders that our Continent is still at risk. The armed conflicts in Cote d' Ivoire, Chad and the Central African Republic are still far from over, although there is an ongoing attempt to pacify them.

The security situation of the modern world remains volatile and unpredictable. As it was difficult to predict the current economic crisis, it is also difficult to predict the future security situation. It is for these reasons that preparation for the defence and protection of our sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as our capacity to contribute to international peace missions cannot be compromised. Our men and women in uniform should be in constant readiness, be well trained and equipped for challenges that may come our way.

We cannot be complacent and put the fate of our country at stake. History was never kind to those who were less prepared.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the ongoing discovery of mineral resources in Africa is good for the continent, but it may become a source of instability in the future. This becomes an attraction of major powers vying for economic and political

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interests and also has the potential to turn the African continent into a zone of confrontation between these powers, which may turn countries against each other. Africa should put its interests first and avoid becoming an auxiliary to other Continents' well-being. History has taught us of wars fought on and over scarce resources, for example, Sierra Leone, Coté d'Ivoire, DRC, Jordan and Lebanon versus Israel over water sources.

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/2009:

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members, during the last Financial Year, the Ministry of Defence received funding for its three Budget programmes and implemented it as follows:

Programme	Budget Allocation	Expenditure	Variance
Operation	1,944,960	1,930,000	14,960
International Deployment	29,816	25,600	4,216
Construction, Research & Development	396,919	396,400	519
Total	2,377,695	2,352,000	19,695

This amount will be less, because the Accounting Department is still busy with correction of journals and reconciliation.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is my honour once again to brief this august House about the three programmes of the Ministry of Defence that will be funded for the 2009/2010 Financial Year as follows:

- (a) Operations
- (b) International deployment
- (c) Construction, Research and Development

During this (2008/2009) Financial Year, the MOD has recruited 1,000 youngsters between the age of 18 and 25 old who have undergone training at Osona Military Base and have since graduated on the 16th of April 2009. The aim is to inject new blood into the Force and ensure that elder soldiers transfer skills and knowledge before their retirement to the new generation. Most of

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the veteran soldiers, former PLAN and Ex-SWATF are well over 50 years and are reaching retirement age therefore the need to recruit younger soldiers cannot be over emphasized. We should remember that it takes a very long time to train and prepare soldiers for war. The Ministry of Defence is also obliged to absorb a number of “*Children of the Liberation Struggle*” and their training has already started on 20 April 2009.

As the military adage goes; “*more sweat in training less blood in the battlefield*”, which means to train is to perfect one's fighting skills in order to win and preserve lives. The Ministry of Defence has an obligation to ensure that those who the Nation entrusted to defend our sovereignty and territorial integrity are well-trained, skilled, educated and well taken care of. Modern training institutions have to be established and the existing ones need to be maintained and upgraded. During the last Financial Year, I briefed this august House that the Ministry of Defence in conjunction with the University of Namibia (UNAM) has launched a two year Master of Arts Programme in Defence and Security Strategic Studies, and that twenty students from the NDF and one from NAMPOL were enrolled. I am happy to inform this august House that most of the students are now busy with their dissertations and the enrolment of the next intake has been completed.

In addition, the MOD has produced lawyers, pilots, engineers, air controllers, navigators, computer experts and medical health practitioners in addition to other specialists. We have also trained chaplains and assistant chaplains to take care of the spiritual well being of the soldiers. The problem we are facing is to retain them. We are competing with commercial entities and other attracting avenues which need these professionals. The Ministry of Defence is now busy working out a retention policy in order to ensure that, these highly trained staff members remain with us for quite a long time before they can be allowed to leave the Force.

AID TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES AND CIVIL COMMUNITIES:

The secondary role of the NDF is to render assistance to the Government Ministries and Agencies, Police, Local Authorities and Civil Communities. These include provision of both human and material resources in order to ensure law and order and to alleviate the effect of drought, floods, bush fires and other calamities. The Defence Force has in several occasions responded to the distress call of National Emergency Management Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister and the Regional Emergency Management Units. Currently the

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force is engaged in assisting the victims of flood in Caprivi, Ohangwena, Kavango, Oshana, Oshikoto and the Omusati Regions.

The Namibian Defence Force provides transportation in the form of helicopters, trucks and speedboats to bring affected people to safety. With that equipment they did not only provide relief aid to people cut off from essential services, but also assisted in evacuating and relocating them to safer areas. So far our pilots have flown 126 hours.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I hope you will agree with me that Namibia needs an adequate local capacity to deal with these emergencies. We will need more airlifting capacity and land transport equipment in order to deal with these situations effectively. As of now, we are under resourced and will find it difficult to provide simultaneous airlifting to victims of floods in the Regions prone to flooding. Currently we are operating only two helicopters and it was not easy to fulfil the tasks with such limited capacity. To address this problem, we are planning to gradually acquire at least three additional helicopters starting in the 2009/2010 Financial Year as a capacity-driven effort.

TERMS OF CONDITION OF SERVICE:

The effort to improve the living conditions of our troops is progressing well. The appalling living conditions of our soldiers were also repeatedly mentioned by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security which regularly visited the military bases.

Furthermore, the approved salary increases for all civil servants by the Government is expected to reasonably improve their incomes. I would like to thank all Hon. Members for your understanding and support, and would like to ensure you that we are in a process to address these needs within the available limited resources and national competing priorities.

HEALTH MATTERS:

The broader definition of security includes among others human security. Human security encompasses, but not limited to, tackling the HIV/AIDS pandemic which is the major obstacle to development. In as far as Defence Force is concerned, the HIV/AIDS pandemic affects human resources and the efficiency of the Force. The Ministry of Defence's HIV/AIDS Policy has been

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finalised and will be brought to the attention of this august House mid this year. I would like to inform this august House that on the 30th of March 2009, I officially opened the Anti-Retroviral Clinic at Army Headquarters in Grootfontein. This was made possible by a funding offer from the US Department of Defence and the event was witnessed by the US Ambassador. This facility will increase our capacity to fight the impact of HIV/AIDS.

The Namibian Defence Force so far has two main health facilities; the Military Hospital at Grootfontein with modern laboratory facilities and the Peter Mweshihange Military Medical Centre in Windhoek. Two laboratory technologists were trained in Cape Town, South Africa, to operate the equipment. Another clinic will be opened in Rundu Military Base very soon. This was also made possible by the assistance from the US Defence Department. These health facilities play a major role in providing medical care to our soldiers and training them in counselling. I would also like to inform this august House that the overall health situation in the Force is steadily improving through quality health care service delivery and awareness campaigns. This is done with the assistance from the Ministry of Health and Social Services supplemented by the US Department of Defence.

TRANSPORTATION:

For a country as large, sparsely populated and geographically diverse as Namibia; bordering three countries and has a long coastline, transport remains a formidable challenge, not only for service delivery during emergencies, but also for defence. A reasonable air, sea and land lift capability is therefore required. For example, how would one deal with flood happening simultaneously in the Kavango, Hardap, Caprivi, Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Oshana and Omusati Regions? In order to achieve this, the NDF needs sufficient transport means. This requires substantial funding, which we are requesting this Honourable House to seriously consider.

NDF WEAPONRY AND EQUIPMENT:

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Defence is in the process of gradually addressing this problem as resources permit. I would like to thank the Honourable Members for their understanding and support to address this challenge. We are mindful of the effect of the global financial crisis to our economy, however, as

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a country we should be prepared to sacrifice some resources for our defence and security.

It is therefore, just befitting to request this Honourable House for reasonable funding in order to gradually equip our force well with modern equipment.

Farming:

I have the honour to inform this august House that we have just completed a professional study to allow the commercialisation of these farms and are planning to commercialise them this Financial Year. I would however caution, that the primary role of the NDF is the defence and protection of our motherland and running some commercial activities must not at any given time divert us from our primary role.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the amount allocated to the Operations Programme during the 2009/2010 Financial Year, for Ministry of Defence Administration, Army, Air Force and Navy is N\$2,137,116,000.

**INTERNATIONAL DEPLOYMENT PROGRAMME
PEACE SUPPORT MISSIONS:**

Members of the NDF, young men and women are complementing Namibia's foreign policy objectives as prescribed in Article 96(b) and (e) of the Namibian Constitution; by promoting international cooperation, peace and security and encouraging settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.

Currently there are 33 NDF members serving in UN or AU Peace missions as follows: Liberia – 3 Staff Officers, Ivory Coast – 2 Military Observers, Chad – 4 Staff Officers and Sudan (including the Darfur Region) - 24 Military Observers. I want also to inform this august House that Namibia was recently requested by the UN to contribute 800 troops to UN Peace Mission in Chad. The preparations for this mission are now at an advanced stage and we plan to deploy in Chad during December 2009. The troops must be self-contained in everything, for example food, transport, allowances, fuel until the UN reimburses the Government. We made a budgetary provision to this effect and are requesting for the support of this Honourable House.

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Regional Peace Engagements: Namibia's participation on regional defence and security forums has strengthened our voice in addressing issues affecting our Nation and the SADC Region. Namibia will continue engaging its neighbours through the Joint Commissions on Defence and Security and through the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security mechanisms, where security issues are discussed and resolved. The SADC Brigade which is a vehicle for SADC Member States to contribute to Peace Support Missions is now a reality and we are in preparation to participate in the Regional Exercise to be hosted by the Republic of South Africa this year. This exercise will culminate in the operationalisation of the SADC Brigade in the year 2010 as decided by the SADC Summit of the Heads of State and Government.

MILITARY DIPLOMACY AND ADVISORY:

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is not enough to participate in Peace Support Operations, but it is critical to have the capacity to detect and prevent conflicts before they develop into wars. This is mostly the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; however the Ministry of Defence also complements this noble effort by means of our Defence Attachés that we are accrediting to Namibia's Diplomatic Missions abroad. It is for these reasons that Defence Attachés have been so far posted to our Diplomatic Missions in Angola, Brazil, the African Union, China, DRC, Germany, South Africa and the UN. We are planning to deploy a Defence Attaché to the Russian Federation in the course of this Financial Year, hence our request for reasonable funding.

Foreign Military Experts: To assist in the development of the Army, Air Force, Navy and Medical Services, the NDF has also seconded officers from friendly countries to assist with the development of the NDF. These services are crucial; hence our request for funding. The amount allocated to the International Deployment Programme for the 2009/2010 Financial Year amounts to N\$36,296,000.

CONSTRUCTION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

Most of the accommodation and recreation facilities for NDF members need renovation and rehabilitation, due to the fact that a long time has passed without major rehabilitation due to budgetary constraints. The fact that they

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were built as temporary structures by the previous dispensation is also one of the contributing factors.

The renovation and construction of new bases is in progress and the Ministry of Defence is also purchasing land for defence infrastructures from Municipal Authorities, Local Government, business people and farmers. The aim is to improve the living conditions of our troops and the safekeeping of the equipment.

The Ministry of Defence is also carrying out research and development activities in order to allow the acquisition and development of appropriate defence equipment for the Army, Air Force, Navy and Medical Services, hence a request for the support of this Honourable House to approve the requested allocation to this programme.

DEFENCE INDUSTRY:

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, a new enterprise was added to the family of the August 26 Holding Company when, the Okahandja Shoe Factory was opened last year. This makes August 26 Holdings a well-diversified company with products ranging from armoured troop carrier vehicles, electronic equipment and leather products. The company is also in the process of establishing a textile factory in the course of this Financial Year. The aim is for us to have our own capacity in producing our own uniforms and also of other stakeholders as well as civilian garments. To improve its competitiveness, the August 26 Holding Company has embarked upon a restructuring exercise and turn-around strategy. We are therefore investing reasonable funds in the construction, research and development, hence a request for support.

The total amount allocated to Construction, Research and Development for the 2009/2010 Financial Year is N\$420,000,000 only.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, peace, stability and security are the preconditions to economic development and social progress. Our men and women in uniform are in constant readiness to protect our sovereignty and territorial integrity. In addition, they are assisting our people in time of need, such as during the current floods that affected the north-central and north-eastern Regions of our

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HON DR KAWANA**

country, as well as during drought and other natural calamities. They deserve the Nation's understanding and support.

As the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, once said and I quote, *"Peace at home and the urgency of rebuilding and strengthening our individual societies necessitate peace abroad and cooperation among nations"*. Our peace missions outside our borders pay dividends to our national security. As the old adage goes "no Nation is an island", what affects other nations near or far, has a direct effect on our country's security. Besides, our values compel us to extend the helping hands to those in need. The Minister of Health made a Ministerial Statement on swine flu and everyone here was concerned and our security should therefore also be the concern of everyone.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in order our Defence Force to be a credible deterrent to potential aggressors and for its members to be able to carry out their national and international duties successfully, they should be well equipped with knowledge, skills and equipment necessary to perform their duties as professionals.

They deserve our undivided consideration and support. I am, therefore requesting Hon. Members to support and approve the allocation of N\$2,593,412,000 to fund the three programmes of the Ministry of Defence during the 2009/2010 Financial Year and to continue to do so beyond this period. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Vote 26 – "NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION" put for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, thank you very much for your support. As I said, this is a technical office which just services all the Offices, Ministries and Agencies and, indeed, the private sector. I thank you for your support.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 23
HON SCHIMMING-CHASE / HON T GURIRAB**

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Vote 23 – “WORKS” put for Discussion.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Chairperson, I only have one or two questions to the Minister. On page 4 the Minister is referring to a situation where civil servants are accumulating huge outstanding electricity and water bills. Since these people are civil servants, how do the Chief Accounting Officers ensure that these bills do not run up? Is there no way that the Chief Accounting Officers can be kept abreast of these debts and ensure that it is paid?

Furthermore, it seems to me from the Minister's statement on page 8 and onwards that a lot of money is spent on renovations. I just wanted to ask whether, in terms of Government housing, the same rules do not apply, because if you rent a house or a flat from a private owner, you have to pay a deposit and when you leave the premises, that deposit is used for renovation if the building is not in a good condition. Is it not possible that the same rules could apply? It has two advantages, namely that people will be more careful about how they treat it and secondly, it will cost the Government to continue paying such high amounts for renovations. I thank you.

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

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, I also have only one or two questions and observations to make. The first is on the capacity of the Ministry on the technical side, where on page 2 of the statement, the Minister talks about the vacancies in the Ministry on the technical and professional side. I was looking at the statement circulated by the Minister of Agriculture and I was just wondering whether the Ministry has bursaries to augment the skills in these critical areas.

Honourable Chairperson, my second comment is on page 3 of the Minister's statement where the Minister's talks about Public-Private Partnerships and Build, Operate and Transfer concepts. You know that we support what is being proposed here, but what I want to ask is whether Government already

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has some projects under this Build, Operate and Transfer concept and also this Public-Private Partnerships to augment the capacity of the Ministry.

Honourable Chairperson, again on page 5 of the Minister's statement we support what is being proposed here and which Cabinet has recently approved, which has to do with decentralising minor maintenance services to Ministries. We have experienced that Ministries would sit back and wait for bulbs to be put in by the Ministry of Works and we support this. We hope that in the new Financial Year the necessary funds will be transferred to the Ministries to be able to carry out this function and that not only the function has been decentralised, but that the necessary funds have been transferred to carry out the function.

On page 6 of the Minister's statement we see that the Minister is reporting to this Honourable House that the Ministry is in the process of setting up a reliable asset register. I remember a couple of years ago, one of the Committees of this Parliament has reported on this very matter, after an investigation was carried out, that the Government actually does not know its stock and what assets Government owns. One or two years ago the previous Minister stood up here and told us in length what the Ministry is doing in this regard. Now I see again that the Ministry is again going to establish a reliable asset register. Will there be some point at which this will be completed so that we do not have a report every year? It says here the Ministry needs money to establish a reliable asset register and we have heard this two years ago that Honourable Kaapanda was doing the same.

With those few observations, Honourable Chairperson, we support this Vote.

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

HON BASSON: Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have a concern on page 4 of the Minister's motivation speech on the sale of some non-assigned Government houses.

Comrade Minister, this process is too slow. According to the information here it started in 1998/1999 Financial Year and up to now we have sold only 857 houses throughout the country. Honourable Minister, we know that the

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HON DE WAAL**

salaries of our civil servants are too small and the other problem we are facing with this programme is that officials of the Government are going throughout the country to value these houses, and what they do is that they go to a certain town and value two or three houses and then decide that would be the price for all the houses. When the banks value the houses, some are so expensive and the Civil Servants cannot afford to pay for these houses. I want the Minister to look into this programme, because some of these people have been staying in these houses more than twenty years and some of them are now in the process of retiring without buying the houses.

Another issue is the accommodation for the Police. Comrade Minister, we should look at the housing for the Police countrywide and the first priority should be Swakopmund where the conditions are very bad. If you look at the situation of the female Police Officers, it is painful and I want the Minister to do something for our Police Officers.

With these few remarks, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Chairperson, I have only question on page 10 of the Honourable Minister's speech where he says: "*The purpose of this programme is to plan, supervise, monitor and finally hand over completed capital projects to Line Ministries.*" My question to the Honourable Minister is the following: When his Ministry approves building projects and send it to the Tender Board and the Tender Board allocates those tenders to a certain company, do they always make sure that the people who are receiving these tenders comply to the local Acts of Namibia, including the Labour Act, the Social Security Act, the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act and the Income Tax Act? My question is very simple, do we make sure, before we give a contract to a certain company, that that company is going to adhere to all the Namibian Acts, including the four that I have just mentioned? Thank you.

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HON RIRUAKO / HON IILONGA**

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

HON RIRUAKO: On page 4 the Minister mentions Government properties. A few days ago a Government flat was sold for N\$200,000 and midnight those people were told by the Police to vacate the flat and this flat was given to one of them immediately for N\$200,000. Is that fair? If the property has to be auctioned, how on earth was that building given to a particular individual? For what purpose did that take place at midnight?

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 23, Works. The Minister mentioned the Cabinet Directive to Offices, Ministries and Agencies to take care of minor maintenance. The problem which we have is that when a bulb fuses, that bulb will remain there for many months and this also happens in this same building where we are. If this programme is put into operation we will no longer have this problem of bulbs not working.

I have a question on page 4 concerning the sale of Government properties. I know there is a policy, but we need to establish whether the Ministries need those houses. The Ministry of Labour is almost operating like the Ministry of Safety and Security, where you do not have staff based in only one town, they are rotated and then it costs Government a lot of money to provide housing. In most cases we sell the houses and the people who buy them, turn them into commercial accommodation and after that the Government will pay a lot of money to house its officials.

Lastly is that we must really have a policy on cleanliness. Why does a person renting a private house not keep that house clean? We must have a policy that when allocating a house, it should be renovated and when you leave that house, it should be as clean as you found it.

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HON KAURA / HON NUJOMA**

With those few questions and comments, I support Vote 23.

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

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Chair. My question is similar to the one of Honourable Ilonga. I want the Minister to explain the reason for the alienation of Government houses, because wherever we go as Members on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security, officials and Police Officer complain of lack of housing wherever they are transferred. Now what is the reason for the alienation of Government houses while our officials who are working for the Government, do not have adequate housing whenever they are transferred from one place to another and end up squatting up somewhere in a shack? What is the reason for the alienation of Government houses?

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 23 – Department of Works and I want to make use of this opportunity to congratulate the ANC of South Africa for their decisive victory over the opposition and their detractors. I am extremely pleased with the outcome because they have now shown you can be a rebel ...(Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: That is general, wait for another opportunity.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I just want to send a message that come the November elections, we are going to defeat the RDP decisively.

The point I wanted to raise is on the alienation...(Intervention)

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HON KAVARI**

HON RIRUAKO: I appeal to the Honourable Chair that no other business but the topic on the table be discussed.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I just wanted to support the concept that we should not alienate Government properties just for the sake alienation, because it has been proven now that it does not work to give Government properties away to the highest bidder. It has been proven in the whole world that even Governments are now buying banks, buying shares in banks and they are taking the people's property back to the people because Government represents the people. (Interjections)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Order! Honourable Member, the time when you were not in this House there were no direct loud words directed at one another, we were very much cool and now I am surprised.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: In conclusion, congratulations Comrade Jacob Zuma and the ANC.

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

HON KAVARI: Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My question is also on the houses. Who are the beneficiaries when these Government houses are sold and how do they come to know that a particular property or house is being sold? I do not know if the Chief and I are talking about the same house in Windhoek West, but that is a property with five flats at the back, consisting of a bedroom, a lounge and a kitchen and that whole complex, which is worth more than a million, was sold for N\$200,000. That is why one would want to know how are these properties being sold. Are they being sold at market value or what values are being used in order to determine the price of the particular house? (Intervention)

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HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Kavari, I want to understand exactly what you are saying. Since you are saying a house worth more than a million was sold for N\$200 000, was it sold to a Member of Parliament, was it sold on tender or how was it sold and who bought it? Mention the name please.

HON KAVARI: I do not think there was any transparency. The property is in Pasteur Street if anybody is interested. I can guarantee you that one of the flats is worth more than N\$200,000 and the five flats are worth more than a million and the house itself is worth more than N\$500,000 and all that was sold for only N\$200,000. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: To whom?

HON KAVARI: I will tell you outside Parliament. Another question is whether the Minister can give us a breakdown of the houses that were sold for this N\$13,64 million, because it give me N\$144,000 per house and I know that the market has already moved away from this price. What criteria were being used in order to determine these prices? (Intervention)

HON VENAANI: May I ask a question? Are you aware that the old Katutura houses that were built in 1964 when people moved from the Old Location have reached a value of over N\$100,000, the ordinary two-bedroom Katutura house with an outside toilet? In your opinion, do you think the Government houses are Katutura houses or are they houses of better standard?

HON KAVARI: I hope the Minister will give us an answer to that question. With these few remarks, I support the Vote.

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HON H ANGULA**

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

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. *Honourable Schimming-Chase* wanted to know why the Chief Accounting Officer allow people to accumulate those outstanding water and electricity bills and why the system of deposit payment is not applied like in the private sector.

With regard to the first question, what normally happens is that the agreement on the supply of water and electricity is between the tenant and the municipality. My response to that also goes to all those who were asking about what happens when the people vacate the houses. As it happens in the Public Service, people apply and they get transferred to other duty posts. Normally when the people leave, they just dump the keys at the office responsible for housing and the current situation is that that officer is not responsible for monitoring whether someone has settled his municipal accounts or not, because the agreement is between the individual and the municipality. Therefore, the person leaves and these accounts remain unsettled.

Unfortunately, before the next person can occupy the house, he or she must ask the municipality for the installation of water and electricity in his or her name and that is where the problem comes in, because the municipality would have cut the water and electricity at that point and time and will not reopen it until the account is paid.

There are different circumstances under which a person may leave the Government house or flat in question. Sometimes this person has been transferred, he is still working for Government and it is possible to follow up that person, but in our system there is unfortunately no way you can get access to the salary of the person and even if you demand that the person settles his bills, he might not do it.

We are now trying to formulate a new kind of approach whereby Accounting Officers in their respective Ministries should be mandated to deduct from the salary of a person still in Government service any arrears on a Government house. However, then one has the situation where people have died and there

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are arrears. Access to the estate of that person again presents a very complex situation and we have to think about solving that problem.

We also have the situation where the person resigned from Government and is now working for the private sector or is a pensioner, but he left this arrears behind. Again it will require legal action to compel that person to settle his bills in order that the house could be supplied with water and electricity.

Up to now the Ministry has been requesting Treasury to settle these bills and Treasury are saying they are not responsible for arrears and we have that kind of stalemate. We simply have to formulate new regulations to attend to this problem. It is a very complex problem indeed. The arrears run into millions.

It was suggested that these people should be obliged to pay a deposit. I would think that from a logical point of view this should be the case, but the benefits of the public servants in Namibia are negotiated between Government and the Union. Maybe we should try to pursue this and make it a condition that a person makes a deposit. For now no deposit is required because the house is detached from utility bills and in the past the individual tenant had no obligation to repair and maintain the house as this was done by Government. Now you are asking why Government could not oblige the tenant to pay for the maintenance of the house, but at this point in time I can surely not pronounce myself, maybe it is something that we have to discuss in Parliament as to whether the Government should make it a policy that its own assets can be maintained and then run risk of Government assets being altered if we give the obligation to tenants to repair the house. It is much more complex, but we are addressing all those questions.

We will however, have to look into the question of a deposit, but as you would realise, many of the beneficiaries of housing are people entering Government for the first time. They have been unemployed previously and they are given accommodation precisely, because they cannot find their own and when you ask them to make a deposit, it would raise the question as to how this person would source that income in order to pay for the deposit. (Interjection)

HON KAURA: You subtract it from their salaries.

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HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Yes, we will look at all those possibilities.

Honourable Gurirab asked whether the Ministry is not training people to fill the vacancies in the Ministry. We are training but unfortunately there is a lack of skills in this country. We are talking about people who are employed in the Ministry, being engineers, civil engineers, architects and quantity surveyors. We are training them but they are being trained for someone else, because the private sector offers lucrative salaries and it is very difficult to retain staff. We have tried to motivate to the Public Service Commission and the Office of the Prime Minister that they need to upgrade the salaries for certain categories of the people and also to scale up the entry level, so that you have more experienced people coming into the Ministry. These ones who enter the Ministry with Grade 12 are trained and as soon as they have the required qualifications, they are off to greener pastures.

We are at the moment discussing the Public-Private Partnerships and we hope to set up a unit to take care of this. We have been speculating whether it should be within the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Works and Transport or within the Ministry of Finance. We are still discussing this and we have not yet implemented any project in this regard.

A decision has already been made on decentralisation in 2005 that the minimal maintenance work for each Office, Ministry and Agency has to be performed by the respect Office, Ministry and Agency, to the extent that each of these offices have been authorised to create posts for people to maintain the properties at the disposal of a given Ministry. This has already been implemented.

You are partially correct that it has not been easy to register the assets. My predecessors have carried out this task and these were assembled in the form of reports and data. This data now has to be entered into a system, but you would realise that assets change hands from day-to-day and it takes a while. We are now talking about employing a system of registry, so that they become accessible to any official and other beneficiaries who need to know the assets of the State. You would realise that we are not talking about a small number of assets, we are talking about assets to the value of N\$20 billion. It is not a few houses here and there, there are a lot of properties out there belonging to the State.

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Honourable Basson said that the sale of non-assigned houses has taken too long. I hope you realise that it has been a very complex situation where Government has built houses in certain towns on the basis that these are Government assets and properties and now there are people housed in those as Government employees and they want to buy those houses. It so happened that some of those properties were never registered because they belonged to second-tier authorities. They were not registered in the name of the Central Government and now the Central Government has to apply to register those properties with the Deeds Office and only then can Government alienate the property to the current occupant. There cannot be a quick solution because of the legal complexities involved.

With regard to the question on who might be beneficiaries of the alienated properties, the Government has a policy that the people who occupy Government houses have the option to buy those houses on a rate which is not a fully commercial rate, but a rate which is that of 2002. The beneficiaries have been buying the houses. In the event that the occupant of the house is unable to buy this property, any other Civil Servant has an option to buy that very same house. However, if no Civil Servant is interested in buying that asset, it may then be put on auction and it will be open to the general public. This policy has been limited to the occupant, secondly to the employees of the Government and thirdly, only in the case that none of the two categories are interested is it then alienated to a stranger.

Regarding the housing for Police, Cabinet passed a decision to the effect that the proceeds from the alienation of properties are to be used to buy affordable houses for Civil Servants and that is the answer on the question why Government assets are being sold.

I remember that Honourable Kaura and others used to complain about the neglect of Government properties, that the lawns and trees were dying, the houses were not maintained, thus Cabinet took a decision that time to alienate these assets so that the people can buy these assets and maintain it properly. It then transpired that some of the occupants at that time were lowly paid public servants and they could not afford to buy these big houses. As a result of that, the policy stipulated that these houses which are not affordable to the ordinary workers in the Government should be sold and the money so acquired should then be used to build new affordable houses. That is the reason why the sale of properties came about.

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The Police were the first beneficiaries of the construction of houses and the resources have been transferred from this account of the housing alienation to the Ministry of Safety and Security for the construction of houses for the Police. I have great sympathy with the living conditions of our Police Force and not only in Swakopmund, all over the place. I had the opportunity to meet many of them in Caprivi, Omusati and Ohangwena and they are living in very seriously wanting conditions and many of them are living in tents.

Therefore, as we generate income from the sale of the houses, we will make it available for the construction of houses for not only the Police, but all low income groups within the Government.

Honourable De Waal asked whether contractors adhere to Namibian laws. Yes, I am sure Honourable De Waal is very much familiar with the Tender Board Act and Regulations of Namibia. They specifically provide that you must have a Social Security number, you must specify how many people are employed, you must prove that you have a management, an office and directors in Namibia and all those conditions are there. However, when it comes to adjudication *per se*, it is no longer the responsibility of this Ministry that I represent to adjudicate. This does not mean that I am in any way saying that the adjudication gives contracts to people who do not meet these requirements, I am only saying that when we process the technical documentation, it is up to the Tender Board to implement all those laws and regulations. However, we have other Ministries playing their roles, including the Ministry of Labour which has inspectors to inspect the working conditions and report to the appropriate authority and if the contractor is not meeting the conditions, then we expect that someone is supposed to report to us so that we either blacklist or revoke the contract of the person who is not performing. I know Honourable De Waal is more concerned about the Chinese contractors, but he should bring that separately.

Honourable Chief Riruako spoke about a certain flat. Somehow there is some grain of truth in what you are saying and what Honourable Kavari also mentioned. I realised and this issue came to my attention, that something like that has happened in the past. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Since when?

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HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I do not remember the year. (Interjections).

HON MEMBER: Last year October.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Do you want an answer or do you want a dialogue? If you want dialogue, I can dialogue much better than you, but if you want an answer, shut up! (Interjections). No, I will never insult the Chief, I am talking to the other people.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Proceed, Honourable Member, you are the only one who was given the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I think this case is *sub judice*. Somehow there is a dispute, we as a Ministry do not recognise this transaction. It has apparently happened in the Ministry, but there was a grey area, because the property happened not to be subdivided and at the time it was alienated it was one unit. However, it should not have been one unit, it should have been subdivided before the transaction. As I said, there is a dispute and there is a Court case. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: The Government lost the Court case.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: If you now inform me that they lost the case, what do you want me to say? To contradict the Court or what?

Decentralisation of maintenance, staff transferred – I have already explained that this matter did not happen yesterday. The decision was based on the fact that these large Government houses were not affordable to the tenants and, therefore, the alienation. The process has not been concluded as yet, as Government must now build houses that the staff can afford to maintain.

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HON T GURIRAB**

Honourable Kaura, you asked about the reason for alienation of Government assets and I have explained the original rationale.

Honourable Kavari, I am sorry that I cannot give you the price breakdown for houses, but as I said, these prices were Government subsidised to enable the tenants to buy the houses. That is an open policy, it is not a secret and it was not for some people, it was for everybody. Thank you very much for your support.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I put Vote 23, any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 09 – “FINANCE” put for Discussion.

HON T GURIRAB: Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole Committee. I have a few questions.

I listened to the Deputy Minister’s statement and my first question is on page 8 and it has to do with revenue management. In recent years the Government has done very well in collecting revenue, but that was because the bulk of that function was outsourced. My question is whether they are doing enough to create internal capacity. This is an annual question, I raise it every year, whether they are doing enough to create internal capacity or whether the internal revenue function is still managed only by clerks. We should bring this function back soon, but that we do not only have clerks but that there are professionals who will do this function internally. We do not have to reinvent the wheel in this capacity in this case, we can look at how people have done it successfully elsewhere, such as Uganda, South Africa.

My second question has to do with respecting the laws of our country and the Ministry’s responsibilities in this respect. I am raising questions of good governance. State-Owned Enterprises routinely break the law in terms of their PAYE returns, in terms of VAT, in terms of filing their end-of-year reports. What does the Ministry do? If private companies do this, the legal instrument exists to pursue and to ensure that all comply with the law, but in the case of State-Owned Enterprises we look the other way and we allow them to break the law with abandon. Does the Ministry have any responsibility and does the

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HON T GURIRAB**

Ministry do anything to ensure that State-Owned Enterprises comply with the laws of the country?

On page 11 again the same question of good governance. I brought along a copy of the State-owned Enterprises Act (Act 2 of 2006). As one of the programme items on page 11 it is said: *“The programme will also embark upon formulation of an investment and dividend policy framework aimed at putting in place guiding principles for SMEs, etcetera.”* Four years ago we passed this law through this Honourable House and it says we should be done those things. Four years later the Ministry is coming and asking for money to implement it. Why should it take us four years to implement an Act of Parliament? However, it is not surprising, because the Companies Act which we passed five years is still not being implemented.

The second part of that question is to ask where does the responsibility lie in this respect? Is it the Office of the Prime Minister who is the Chairperson of this Council created in terms of the State-owned Enterprises Act or is it the function of the Ministry, because I see the Ministry is asking for money to implement this 5 years later?

My last question is on page 14 of the Deputy Minister’s statement. Based on page 11, provision for Medical Aid Scheme, but on page 14 the Deputy Minister is asking for N\$10 million and I must ask for elucidation, because it says this N\$10 million is being sought for special medical assistance to uncommon diseases. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

May I ask Honourable Tsudao a question? Honourable Gurirab, are you aware of uncommon diseases such as those of a child having a deformed liver? The Honourable Deputy Minister can respond, but those are uncommon diseases.

HON T GURIRAB: I am grateful to my good friend for his contribution, but I am asking whether this amount of N\$10 million is for some medical services which cannot be paid by the regular medical aid scheme or are these diseases caused by witchcraft, because it says *“uncommon diseases?”* I support Vote 09.

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HON IILONGA**

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 09, the people's Budget. I want to thank the Ministry and especially the legal representatives, who represent the Government who won the three cases indicated on page 6 and tomorrow we are going to thank them more when we come to the Vote of Justice. In the same vein that I want to thank them for the victory by the Ministry of Finance, I also want to congratulate the ANC with the victory by Comrade Zuma. I think it is fitting to mention it here, it is not general.

I want to thank the Ministry for giving N\$150 million to the Development Bank of Namibia to assist the SMEs. When foreign companies get loans from the Development Bank of Namibia, such as Ohorongo Cement, what guarantee does the Government have? I know that Cheetah, where foreigners have more shares than the indigenous people, approached DBN for a loan but it was refused. However, a loan of almost N\$200 million was given to Ohorongo Cement. What status do we have in that company as a Government, so that we do not find ourselves in problems as happened on many instances where we give loans and lose out?

Lastly, I only want to thank the Ministry of Finance and here I want to say that Honourable Gurirab is supposed to read the statement before he puts his questions, because the Ministry made it categorically clear on page 14 and even a graduate from NAMCOL can understand, that because it is a people's Budget: "*As a response to the plight of the Namibian people, who seek special medical assistance of uncommon diseases for the first time...*" For the first time and the Honourable Member does not understand and he is just supposed to thank for the first time.

I recall that the Honourable Member was one day standing here, asking why the Government cannot help people who need donations and now that his concern has been taken care of, he is again doubting.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I support Vote 09.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 09
HON DR KAWANA**

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

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 09 and I have two remarks on Programme 7 – Equity Participation and Subsidy Programme to State-Owned Enterprises, on page 13, as alluded to by Honourable Iilonga.

You may recall, Honourable Deputy Minister, that this issue is very close to my heart, because in the first instance, one of the purposes why we established the Development Bank was to assist our small and medium enterprises because they were being discriminated against by commercial banks. My concern, which I have raised so many times, is that the same bank is outsourcing this function to the commercial banks and to me this is really worrisome. I hope the Development Bank will as soon as possible find a window together with the bank, which will be the responsibility of the Vote of the Vice-President, to help our people. In fact, I was shocked by some of the activities and the stringent conditions applicable to some of these programmes. I will give you one example:

An indigenous Namibian won a tender from Government and went with that tender to a commercial bank. They demanded a lot of things while in fact that paper is a guarantee. In the end he paid prime plus and I think this is robbing our people. He went from bank to bank, from Bank Windhoek to First National Bank and I think the time has come for the Development Bank to have a window to directly deal with small and medium enterprises. I do not mind if the industrial development is outsourced because it deals with big boys, so to speak, but a window must be created to assist our people who cannot approach the commercial banks.

Then I want to know how a foreign investor is defined. Some of these people come here, they source money locally, they are granted EPZ status with our public funds, which means they are not even paying tax and I think this issue really needs to be clarified. I know that one of the mandates of the Development Bank is industrial development and I take note of that, but at least we need clarity, that if this money is sourced internally, are these people really foreign investors? I support Vote 09 and I thank you.

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HON DE WAAL**

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. First of all, I want to talk about the Contingency Fund. Honourable Chairperson, the Deputy Minister on page 5 is very proud about the fact that they do not have an Additional Budget, but we are nowadays sort of substituting the Additional Budget with the Contingency Fund. The only difference is that with the Contingency Fund you can take the decision and with an Additional Budget we as Parliament can take the decision. At the moment we have a Contingency Fund of N\$255 million and I think we had better go back to an Additional Budget so that Parliament can approve the N\$255 million and not the Ministry of Finance. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, may I ask Honourable De Waal a question? Honourable De Waal, you are a farmer and if my memory serves me correctly, you are a Founder Member of this House. Do you now want to tell the public out there that you were not part of the Budget that was passed through this House? Why do even you yourself have investments? You put money aside for difficult times and now you are saying the Government should not put money aside and when they bring requests here, you will say Government has no plans. Why does it not have a Contingency Fund? Honourable De Waal, please let us be honest.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Chairperson, I am sure that Deputy Minister of Finance understood what I was saying, but in all seriousness, my first question to the Deputy Minister of Finance is whether he can explain to the House what they did with the Contingency Fund of last year. Just give us a breakdown how it was used. I tried to find it in the documents and if it is not there, please give it to us tonight and if it is there, just give us the reference because we would also like to know how that money was spent.

Then, Honourable Deputy Minister, just a small question on page 13 where you said: *“In addition, this programme will include Private-Public initiatives*

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to develop the Katima Mulilo-Zambezi Waterfront and the Henties Bay Waterfront.” As far as I know there was a feasibility study which was done on the Henties Bay project, which was negative. Therefore, I do not know whether we are still continuing with that project or whether it should be scrapped from the Budget.

Lastly, Honourable Deputy Minister, about concessional loans. I am looking at public debt and I do not understand how these things work, but it seems that somewhere good communication is lacking. Let me just give you an example:

Earlier in April this year, the Honourable Minister of Finance wrote a letter to the Ambassador of a foreign country, asking them for a concessional loan to build some projects here in Namibia and quite correctly the Honourable Minister said that the Ministry of Finance would like to suggest that the procurement procedures will be based on international bidding process, which is how it should be done. However Honourable Deputy Minister, after that a draft contract between a certain contractor, also coming from that foreign power, and the Government of Namibia surfaced and I want to read some of the contents of this contract and then I want to ask you a couple of questions.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Where is that contract mentioned?

HON DE WAAL: This is about foreign debt, this is the price that we are paying for our foreign debt. It is page 10, paragraph 5.4.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order, Honourable Chairperson. I want to be advised, if I got it correctly, the Honourable Member is referring to a certain communication between the Minister and a foreign entity and I want to know what is the status of that document in this House. How did the Honourable Member obtain the document? I am interested to know.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, if you obtained that document outside and that document does not appear here, I am not going to allow it, because I cannot see the connection of that document with what the Minister has said here and what is not in the documents. I have to try and avoid general Debate.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Chairperson, then I have a bit of a problem, because in this House we are allowed to talk about anything. This is the people's Parliament.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Exactly! This is the Committee Stage and the Committee Stage is for details on what is contained in the books.

HON DE WAAL: I cannot ask why are they selling houses, because it is not in the book.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: It is in the books, Honourable Member. I am not going to allow general debate because that will open a Pandora's box to everybody.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Chairperson, I will abide by what you are saying and I will not quote from these documents, but what I will do is that I will make it available to the press if that would satisfy you. I was not going to mention names.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEES: Yes, I am not going to allow it if it is not mentioned in these books.

HON DE WAAL: Let me ask the question in any case. I asked the question to the Minister of Works just now and I want to know from the Minister of

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Finance, if we sign a contract for a concessional loan, do we make sure that we know the total cost of that loan? In other words, if that loan contract says 2% payable over twenty years with a grace period of five years, that is the total cost of that loan, or do we look at what happens after we have signed the loan contract? Because in this document, which I am not referring to, what is happening in reality down the line is that additional costs are added to the cost of the loan and the way it is done, is by the contract between the contractor and the Government and that is a fact. (Intervention)

HON MEMBER: Which contractor?

HON DE WAAL: Well, I cannot tell you. I am sorry, I cannot tell you. I am asking the Honourable Minister.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: That contract was between the Minister and that foreigner, who is not here. I do not know how the Minister is going to respond on that, because they have to do research on that.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I want clarity from the Member, I think he is not getting me right. I am not asking him to say who the contract is with, I am saying, what contract is he referring to? Is it a supply contract or is it a financing contract, because a loan agreement is also a contract. So, he keeps on saying contract, contract and we do not know what contract.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Minister, what happened here is that we asked for a concessional loan from a foreign Government, which is not strange, which is normal. The money is to be used for the construction of a building in Namibia. You said in your letter that the tendering process must be according to international standards, which is correct. That is all. Now somewhere somebody stood up and started drafting a contract between the Government of

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Namibia and a company without the tender process. (Interjection). That is my problem, without a tender process and the conditions in that contract, Madam Minister, if we agree to the conditions in that contract, then we are not talking about a 2% loan, we are talking about maybe a 4 or 5% loan. That is my question and I thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Members, I think if the document has been attached all of us could have read that document and we would be in the same picture and not a person holding a secret document which we do not know. How can I allow that? I regard that to be general debate. I do not have that document, Honourable Member. It was supposed to be attached here. Honourable Nambahu.

HON NAMBAHU: My comment is on the introduction and the financial crisis we are facing, which is going to reach our shores and that we have to take all the necessary measures to minimise the impact.

I think one of the instruments that we can make use of is the tendering process. We already have people who are losing their jobs all over and Namibia is not going to be an exception. Instead of us looking at whether Nambahu, who is tendering, is going to provide service, specifications should be put in place on the way the tender has to deliver. I was wondering whether we could not be creative and use this instrument as a job-creation mechanism. We should make it a condition that the person should create employment rather than being high-tech and not creating employment. I know the tenderers and the capitalists will not like that kind of approach, but I do not think we have any other alternative, we really have to put that as one of the conditions and also monitor whether the people keep those people so employed. Otherwise I can tender, create jobs and after five months get rid of the employees and that is it.

I heard yesterday that the Russians have a reserve of about US\$20 billion that they want to make use of now. Can we not also ask our State-Owned Enterprises to put aside contingency funds while times are good? We only hear that they are losing so many millions because of a strike, but when they report in the financial statements, those millions do not come into the picture.

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Why do we not also make provision for those tough times just like Government does? With these few comments, I support the Vote.

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

HON VENAANI: Madam Chair of the Whole House Committee, I thought Honourable Kawana did not have a heart, but today he has proven to me that he really has one, talking about the people that we intend to benefit. Coupled to what he said so eloquently, I am talking about the equity participation and subsidies of the Development Bank.

We have one serious problem in this country and that is theft of project proposals. Honourable Hausiku comes with a proposal that he wants to start a chicken farm, he applies for a loan and the next morning the cousin tells the other cousin to improve on his project proposal and the loan is denied and is given to somebody else. This is a serious problem in this country.

Coupled to that is the question of debt sensitivity. When you borrow money from public institutions in this country, every person knows that Honourable Venaani has borrowed so much from this place and that ought not be the case. If people in a bank are in the know, they cannot use that information at the *kambashus* and tell people how much money you have in the bank or how indebted you are with your overdraft. It is a serious problem that needs to be addressed by these companies which are lending money to our people, because some of us are insisting that we do not want certain people to even work with our accounts, because the next morning you would know that I have deposited a hundred dollars. How does that person know a particular person has deposited a hundred dollars? This issue must be addressed at some of these institutions.

Honourable Kawana raised a very fundamental issue and it is the question of foreign direct investment versus foreign investments. People come here with nice suits, see some Ministers, the President, they want to start a project. They do not have the money, now they have to lobby. They front with a person who does not even know business and he is now the BEE partner, running around, giving the company either a SWAPO or Herero name to the sound authentic

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and they get money. What do you call these people? Are they foreign direct investors? (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Ohorongo!

HON VENAANI: No, I am not talking about Ohorongo, but I am just raising some of these fundamental issues.

Lastly is the question that we are giving finance to NamPower. One thing that I bemoan and decry in this country is the research capacity and capability of a country such as Namibia. We do not research where we want to be in ten years. NamPower was asking money because they need a backup. What is their proposal for new energy? How do they want to finance cheaper energy in the future? We want to see some of these proposals. I would also want to see the Ministry of Finance giving N\$100 million for research on solutions for better and cheaper energy in this country. These are some of the issues that we really need to interrogate as a country. We need to look at our research capacity, it is really wanting. Some people are saying nuclear power is a bad thing. If Namibia has uranium, why do we not have our own thing?

I want to conclude by saying the following and I want to be proven wrong. I want to be told where the Rules of this House say that we must only stick to these documents, just give me one Clause.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: It is a question to the Chair and I will answer that right away. Page 24, Rule 26: *“During this stage the Bill is considered in details Clause by Clause.”* If it is the Budget, there is general Debate where we can speak about everything. In the Committee Stage you question the figures and the information given. Honourable Member, I am not going to allow you to question the Rules. You are a member of the Committee on Standing Rules. We can study it there and amend it to be more clear. That is how we have been doing it all along, you cannot come and change it today. Honourable Abraham Iyambo.

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HON DR A IYAMBO**

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I support this Vote, Vote 09 of the Ministry of Finance.

Honourable Chairperson, I would like to refer to page 14 of the speech of the Honourable Deputy Minister with particular reference to paragraph 2, that a total amount of N\$31 million is proposed for AgriBank and N\$8 million of that will be for aquaculture development in the country.

Comrade Chairperson, I am thankful for that gesture, an excellent start to be commended that Namibia is starting to look at this sector. However, I have some questions for the future, appreciating the current, but asking for the future.

This year AgriBank will get N\$8 million and next year N\$8 million and again N\$8 million. Taking into account that this is a completely new sector and we are giving this money to AgriBank, I want to propose a few things to be looked at or to find out whether those things have been looked at.

Firstly, what would be the conditions attached to this amount? It is very important that a person at Onjaanja will be able to borrow this money at an affordable rate. Is there going to be some guidance on how people could access these funds? AgriBank has been set up for the agriculture sector. The experts have a very good understanding of goats and cattle, but fish becomes a difficulty. Will the colleagues at AgriBank be assisted to evaluate this amount of money? Before this amount of money of N\$8 million is given to anybody, is there going to be a team to ensure that we evaluate and make sure that this money is used for what it is intended? I want to propose that at least the Ministry of Fisheries as well as AgriBank have experts to evaluate aspects of aquaculture.

The next question is on the same point. I said that we are given N\$8 million and just to give information to the House, we have done extensive research together with our colleagues from Norway and we have found that to establish a profitable tilapia fish farm will cost N\$6,5 million and to establish an oyster farm will cost N\$3,5 million and for an avalon will cost N\$8,5 million. Therefore, I am saying it is a good beginning, but is there an intention to look at what is now happening, what has happened and to adjust with time? The beginning is good, but what does the future look like?

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Honourable Chair, I am saying this with respect to AgriBank and this amount of N\$8 million, but at the moment we have thirteen applicants with AgriBank, asking for an amount of N\$312 million to employ 1 500 Namibians as well as N\$99 million with the Development Bank to employ around 500 people. Are we in the long run going to look at this sub-sector, new as it is, for re-engineering or is it maybe too complicated and it will not be looked at?

Finally, at the moment the grace period for interest rates is meant for the agricultural sector and not meant for aquaculture. Will that be looked at in order for us to be able to use the N\$8 million? However, we are thankful for the amount allocated. Thank you very much.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I also rise to support Vote 09 of the Ministry of Finance and I want to ask a question with regard to infrastructure development, because on page 13 it is mentioned that Government is committed to rural infrastructure development.

Honourable Tweya, we are facing this economic meltdown all over the world and people were talking about the Development Bank of Namibia and also the GIPF. We have these two important institutions and we have lost almost N\$5 billion on our investments in foreign institutions while we have our own capital projects where we need investment. If we invest N\$5 billion outside, why can we not consider investing N\$5 billion inside the country to stimulate economic development? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
May I ask Honourable Nujoma a question? Honourable Member, we have Kudu Gas and the GIPF invests N\$5 billion of the workers' money to build that project. Will those foreigners not find loopholes and rip us off? I think we need to challenge them as we challenged the apartheid regime. Is that not the way we are supposed to do that?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Before you interjected I wanted to agree with Honourable Venaani that we need to do research. There are so many other projects in this country which can be run by the indigenous black people together with other partners. Let us say this project, Kudu Gas, is initiated by the black entrepreneurs and they ask the GIPF for a loan of N\$5 billion and say they can seek other investors to bring in equity participation, why can we not do that? As we are speaking now we have lost almost N\$5 billion, it has gone under water and what has Namibia benefited from that? We are allergic to Namibian companies. The other Colleague has spoken about Cheetah Cement, they are black entrepreneurs from Otjiwarongo and they tried but nobody was listening to them. Now we give money to foreigners. Comrade Kawana mentioned foreign direct investment and now investment is being sought from Namibia. These are some of the issues which make us wonder whether we know where we are going. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Deputy Minister, the Floor is yours to respond.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Chairperson, allow me to make use of the opportunity to provide adequate information, not only to the Members, but also to the general public.

Firstly, thank you very much, Colleagues, for your support, those who have taken the Floor and those who have not taken the Floor.

The first question was by *Honourable Tsudao Gurirab* on revenue. Let me first make this statement: Over the past 4 or 5 years the Honourable Members have noticed that the Ministry of Finance did not increase PAYE as a means to beef up the revenue collection and yet the revenue collection has increased. How did we do that? I want the Honourable Member also to appreciate, he referred to the outsourcing as a means to beef up the revenue collection, that we have not outsourced this function, we are still collecting it. What we have created is a task force within the Ministry by making use of private services under our supervision and under the leadership of the Minister of Finance. We may call it a forensic audit, but they are not really doing any forensic auditing. Since we have created this specific desk, we have seen an increase in

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compliance from individual to corporate taxpayers. This is why I was obliged to say it in my statement. We have not outsourced this function.

The Honourable Members on the other side have asked for the creation of an independent revenue authority, which we have not agreed to because we wanted to know why we want to create that if we ourselves as Government can do that. We have proved them wrong, that if we have staff which are committed, you do not need any other entity to do that. We have done just that. That is on the misconception or misinformation of outsourcing, we have not outsourced it. The Ministry is doing it under the leadership of the Minister of Finance.

On the issue of the State-Owned Enterprises not respecting the laws while the private companies must comply, I am not sure whether the Honourable Member has evidence or facts to this effect, but if it is true, Honourable Member, do us a favour and give us that information. (Intervention)

HON T GURIRAB: We table the reports here.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: To the contrary, the Honourable Member and the Honourable Members have not helped when the Ministry was discriminating against the State-Owned Enterprises *vis-à-vis* private companies that the Ministry has taken to Court, because they were private companies. That did not happen, now where do you get it from? Honourable Members, let us be realistic and be true leaders to the issues. Let us not speculate. Whether it was a State-Owned Enterprise, whether it was a private company, as long as it is a taxpayer, we deal with them and an arrangement has entered into with that company or individual on how to pay the arrears. That is what we are still doing, we have not taken anybody to Court, but in terms of the law, we are obliged to take them to Court and we do not do that. We do it because we understand their position.

You said you are not sure about the line between the Ministry of Finance and the Office of the Prime Minister in terms of the State-Owned Enterprises Act. I am not making a general statement on page 11, I am specifically referring to the function to be performed by the Ministry of Finance, which is the dividend

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policy, the investments and that is what I am addressing, not the overall governance *per se*, because that law gives the mandate to the Ministry of Finance on how to deal with that one. What I said is that our responsibility as Ministry of Finance is to work with those entities to get the policies on investment so that we know how they are investing those public funds and how the dividends should be paid.

Despite that, other entities and State-Owned Enterprises have submitted their investment policies and they are still paying dividends. Last year NamPort paid N\$15 million. So, despite that, they are still paying and those who can continue paying, those we do not have to bail out. I hope I have cleared the separation between the Ministry of Finance's responsibility when it deals with financial issues, the investment dividends and the overall governance which is with the Office of the Prime Minister through the Governance Council chaired by the Prime Minister.

With regard to page 14, Comrade Ilonga has given the answer. This is why I separated it. As a people's Budget and people's Government, this amount is not included in the medical aid scheme. The medical aid scheme is for the workers and their dependents, but we have seen Namibians who cannot afford the high medical expenses and as a responsible Government we had to respond to that plight. The intention is that in future this may be entrusted to the Ministry of Health, but this is the first amount.

Comrade Ilonga, thank you very much for your support. Let me, with the concurrence of the House, deal with all the others and respond to the issue of foreign direct invested related to the Ohorongo Cement Factory, so that I do not need to repeat myself. I will deal with Ohorongo later together with all the other contributions.

Honourable Kawana, it is true that the Development Bank of Namibia was created in response to the plight of our small and medium enterprises who unfortunately could not be assisted by the commercial banks and this is why we are still providing public funds so that they can support the small and medium enterprises at an affordable rate. The Bank at the moment has the micro-finance product and loans, but recently they have developed another product called "*bridging finance*" and this has been developed as a result of the need by the people. We used to have previously disadvantaged getting tenders from the Government where the Government wants to bring in more new players. They go to the commercial banks which will demand collateral

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and as a result the small and medium enterprises will not get working capital, they cannot deliver and as a result services were not rendered. With the bridging finance, the SMEs go to the Development Bank and the tender serves as collateral in itself and when the service has been rendered, the SMEs take this cheque to the Development Bank which takes their portion. It enables the SMEs to deliver and to gain experience for the future. That is the bridging finance.

I think this process as brought some kind of improvement, but in our discussions with them we saw that there is still room for improvement because there are still some practical problems with other Ministries. This has worked well with the drought relief, but with other Ministries this is still a problem. However, at the same time, when these SMEs were helped and the moment they got the cheques, they forgot the suffering of yesterday and spent everything and said they will pay with the next cheque. This is again creating a bit of a problem. As the bank we are looking at addressing this through education and not depriving them completely because of some others that may have closed the road.

However, I must say the request by Dr Kawana for the bank to create a window to deal directly with the SMEs is a possibility that we would look into. The reason why the Development Bank decided in their own wisdom to outsource to the commercial banks is because they thought the commercial banks have adequate infrastructure countrywide whereas the Development Bank is only based in Windhoek and they cannot reach the rural communities. By using the infrastructure of the commercial banks, they will be able to reach out. However, this has its own problems and we will certainly look into that to improve on this.

Honourable De Waal, unfortunately the Honourable Minister has already briefed the House on the Contingency Fund and I do not blame you. You were out on official duty, but I will ask the Secretariat to avail you a copy.

We have already made it available as it is our obligation to report back on how we used that money. We believe that is transparency and that is why we did it.

On the issue of Henties Bay, let me briefly say that in terms of the report the potential is still there. We have not taken it off our agenda, it is still important, but because of some logistics we cannot put in money where we may not account. This is why it remains on our agenda. The money allocated in the

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past was diverted to other projects and this is one of the reasons. You will notice that we are not giving more money because of some logistics that we first want to iron out before we start with the project, and that is to buy the support of the private sector. Therefore, it is still on the agenda of the Government, so that you do not write it off completely.

On the issue of an Additional Budget, we really want to live within our means. It is not easy but it is a challenge. We do not want to fail before starting. The past four years have proven that we can if we want to. It is tough but it is possible and doable and we still confine them, no Additional Budget and this should not be understood as it was put by Honourable De Waal, that the Contingency Fund is a substitute for the Additional Budget, not at all. The contingency provision remains for any unforeseeable, national project or activities that cannot wait. You cannot come to Parliament with a N\$2 million Additional Budget. It does not make sense. It is too costly and it is irresponsible.

With regard to the letter that you have referred to, I must say that it is not part of what I said here. My statement addresses the overall contingency liability. If you are referring to a specific contract, we can deal with that on its own merits outside this House, but I must emphasise that it is the responsibility of the Ministry to look at all the debts so that they are sustainable now and in future. We look at the whole package, individual issues we can deal with on its own merits. I hope that the Honourable Member understands.

Honourable Nambahu, thank you very much for your support. I agree with you that we need to do something about the tendering process and as you underlined, to use procurement as a tool to address the crisis we are facing. Indeed, we have started amending the Tender Board Act and the idea is to make it more dynamic than what it is. It will be tabled this year and we can debate and entertain all the concerns that we have. We want to use that as a tool to stimulate the socio-economic imbalances of our country. That is all I can say and yes, it is an important tool.

I hope and believe that the *Right Honourable Prime Minister* has taken note of what you have said about State-Owned Enterprises and that together we shall speak to them to create contingency funds.

Honourable Venaani, you were not very clear on the theft of project proposals. Fortunately the colleagues are around here and if that happens in

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the bank, they have heard it for themselves. If other financial institutions are stealing other people's proposals, certainly they have also heard for themselves and it is for those entities to take action. It is true that we should try to give justice where it is due.

You spoke about debt sensitivity. You spoke about general financial institutions, but I want to remind the Honourable Members of two occasions where the Minister of Finance and the Right Honourable Prime Minister were put under pressure here. You will remember the report of the GIPF where the Honourable Members demanded that the names must be publicised and it was made clear here that in terms of our laws, somebody is innocent until proven guilty. That is why we have not publicised any names, because we respect that.

Secondly, there are those tax avoiders. In terms of the law we take them to Court, but we also received requests that we must publicise the names of these people so that they pay and we said that although we can do it, we will not do it. As the Government and the Minister of Finance we are fully aware of that, we respect confidentially and customer relationship.

The banks have heard and we can only ask them to do the right thing. I do not want to say it is because the others may not be loyal to Namibia and perhaps it could be for some other reason, but the message should be very clear that it is their responsibility to keep the confidential relationship between the customers and their entities.

Let me deal with NamPower and NamWater. The reason why we are giving money to NamPower is because as a Government we do not want to be caught off-side. NamPower is the entity responsible for energy in this country and we do not want to be taken by surprise and rush to Parliament for an Additional Budget, if that is what the Honourable Members want. We plan ahead and we are saying, no blackout. Last year we started because we anticipated that there can be a problem and this year the same. No surprises for any Additional Budget because there is now an energy crisis in the country and we will continue doing that. We believe that is good planning.

Honourable Dr Iyambo, thank you very much for your support. Once again, two years ago AgriBank was given an additional mandate on aquaculture without giving it resources to meet that particular mandate. They could not execute that mandate, because they did not have the necessary resources and

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last year again. This year we started giving them something so that they could execute their mandate in collaboration with your Ministry.

Certainly it is for the Ministry of Fisheries to now start nurturing that relationship. We have to do that because we gave them the mandate without the necessary resources and you could not assist them. Now you can budget more on your part, just as they are doing in the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Lands. We cannot give a mandate without the necessary resources to execute that mandate and this is why we have started with the N\$8 million, but it is not all. During this year's Budget Hearing you are welcome to put the case to the Committee.

In terms of the conditions, you will have to work out all those conditions and the same with the interest.

Honourable Nujoma, we have realised that the increase of rates by NamWater under the guise of the mandate of cost recovery was becoming a bit too expensive and as the Government we had to subsidise them to address the whole outdated rural infrastructure. This is the amount we have given them, obviously through the Ministry of Agriculture.

The money we have lost outside the country should be enough evidence that we have better conditions at home than outside, in other words that our economy is better managed than the others. Let this be the message.

Finally on the issue of foreign direct investment and Ohorongo. It is true that Ohorongo is financially strong, they can finance everything by themselves, but this project is being carried out in Namibia. I was at the groundbreaking ceremony and I liked what I heard. Otavi which was reduced from town to village may regain its status as a town. Ohorongo Cement Company has already committed to construct two hundred houses in Otavi and Otavi will come to life again. The spin-offs from Ohorongo would certainly be to the benefit of this country. Ohorongo is registered in Namibia although it is a foreign company. Currently it has unallocated shares and no Namibian directors at the moment. The Namibians have sold and took the cash for something else, but the bank saw the opportunity to be part of this enterprise, because it has enormous opportunities and benefits for the country, not only by creating jobs for the people, but also the small and medium enterprises that would provide goods and services to Ohorongo. The Development Bank has given them a loan, not a grant, of around N\$120 million so that we as

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Namibians, through the Development Bank, could be part of Ohorongo and obviously we will benefit from the infrastructure.

Ohorongo would supply Namibia, Zambia, Angola and all the others and the benefits are tremendous. Certainly the bank saw it is a good business opportunity to be part of this venture and with all the other benefits that would be derived from that enterprise.

Having said that, I believe that I have done justice to all the concerns and I thank you very much for your kind support. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chair, I thank the Honourable Deputy Minister for his reply. Honourable Chair, our job as Parliamentarians is one of oversight, but also beyond that, to ensure that the laws which we pass in this House are implemented and that we be the champions to see that those laws are implemented.

On page 11 of the statement the Deputy Minister says: *“The programme will also embark upon formulation of an investment and dividend policy framework aimed at putting in place guiding principles on State-Owned Enterprises, SME investment, dividends/profit-share between Government and its entities.”*

The State-Owned Enterprises Act (Act 2 of 2006) establishes a Governance Council in terms of Clause 3 and 3(a) makes the Prime Minister the Chairperson of that Council. It also sets out the functions of that Council. It reads amongst others: *“To establish generally accepted common principles of corporate governance and good practice Government State-Owned Enterprises.”* That is what the Council is in terms of this Act is entitled to do. *“To develop common policy frameworks for the operations of State-Owned Enterprises, including policies on issues relating to human resources, assets and finance.”* It goes on to read: *“To lay down directives in relation to Government agreements.”* That is Section 4, but I would wish to read Section 25 which reads:

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“The Board of State-Owned Enterprises in the economic and productive category must annually at such time as the Council may determine, submit to the Council a proposal on the distribution of its profits for the past Financial Year and the declaration of dividends and (b), declare an pay such dividends as is agreed to...(Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Why are you reading all the articles, Honourable Member?

HON T GURIRAB: This is the last one, *“between the Board and the Council or, failing agreement, as the Council directs in writing.”* That is what the Council is being asked to do, the Council chaired by the Prime Minister.

Honourable Chairperson, I rose to raise questions on the governance of State-Owned Enterprises and one of the issues I am raising is that firstly, that is what the Council is asked to do as opposed to what the Deputy Minister is telling this House and why do we only ask for as many as four years after this Act was passed in this House? Does it take four years to do that?

Secondly, this Chamber must ensure that people comply with the laws. We have tabled Reports about State-Owned Enterprises not complying only a month or two ago. The Public Accounts Committee had a Hearing on one of the State-Owned Enterprises, the NBC, and for about five years they have not paid PAYE. That is money which is deducted from salaries and paid over. If you do not do that, that is criminal. He was asking for an example and if you do not return your tax, whether you are corporate or an individual, it is the Ministry’s responsibility to take you to Court.

A couple of years ago there was an amount of N\$71 million which TransNamib did not pay. If you do not pay tax, what is the Ministry responsible doing? This is criminal, it is a governance issue and that is the issue I am raising.

As regards the capacity of the internal revenue function, I am happy if the Ministry’s approach is the ostrich approach, hiding their head in the sand and showing their better parts. The point I am making is that if we strengthen our

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capacity, of course we will get better returns. However, if the better approach is the ostrich one, I cannot help you do so.

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

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to ask a question to the Deputy Minister after having been informed fully on what the Ministry is doing. I read somewhere that the IMF or the World Bank said we are not providing enough information in our budgeting system. I learned budgeting through the UN system, I have been presenting Budgets at the UN for twelve years and I have never seen such information. This is just part of the documentation in the Budget and sometimes we are our worst enemies. If something is good and working, let all of us admit that we are doing very well. Where are those who want to co-administer through the backdoor? They are supposed to be filled up here when we discuss the Budget. That is the time the Ministries try to explain every cent we get.

Comrade Deputy Minister, do you not think that we provide information? I have never seen it anywhere else and could Namibians stop shooting themselves in the foot? We are sending wrong signals. Honestly, do you not think this information is enough?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Booy's.

HON BOOYS: Honourable Chairperson, I hope I have heard the Honourable Deputy Minister correctly that those Namibians who have won tenders can go to the Development Bank and apply for a loan. If I heard you correctly, I will tomorrow take people to your office. I just want to confirm that I heard you

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correctly, that they go with the papers from the Tender Board, saying that they have won a tender of N\$8 million.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Chairperson, I do not know to whom the Honourable Dr Geingob was referring to who are shooting themselves in the foot, but I also saw that Report which was not correct and it was answered very eloquently by the Permanent Secretary of Finance. He issued a press statement where he informed the press and everybody who is interested about exactly what our documents look like and I agree with you one hundred percent, but I do not think that Report originated from here. Somehow it originated from somewhere else, because we are definitely not complaining about the number of documents and the information that we are getting. We might not always agree with the content, but at least the information is there, we cannot complain about that and the Permanent Secretary issued a very good media statement on that.

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

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: It was not my intention to take the floor now, having been in Cabinet since this morning without lunch and nothing. I only want to say to Honourable Tsudao that the State-Owned Enterprises Council is made up of the Ministers concerned with specific aspects. You may remember that the other time we brought an Amendment here because the initial law required that all investments made by the State-Owned Enterprises must be approved by the Minister and that was too onerous. The Minister should approve the policy on investment, not every investment. Therefore, the Minister is the only knowledgeable one in the Council about investment issues and she is just exercising that expertise on behalf of the Council. Thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Comrade Prime Minister and thank you Honourable Chairperson. To add to what the Right Honourable Prime Minister has said, that will be done in coordination with the Council. I just wanted to add that part.

I wanted to comment on a few other issues that were raised which, of course, were adequately handled by the Deputy Minister, but I felt that I should also make a few comments here and there.

First, the *Honourable Tsudao Gurirab* seems to insist on creating an impression out there that the function of tax collection has been outsourced from the Ministry of Finance. Unfortunately, the evidence is there to prove him wrong. We have a full staff complement to do that. The Honourable Member tried to belittle the staff by calling them *clerks*; but I think the evidence of their competencies is the growth in revenue collection that has enabled us to accumulate so much reserves on the State accounts. Previously, the Honourable Member was saying that probably that is money which was left over from projects we did not implement. I do not think you can save N\$5 billion from a Development Budget of N\$1 billion. However, I just want to assure the Honourable Member and the public out there that this function is a core function of the Ministry of Finance and it remains with the Ministry of Finance. When we needed to take special measures to strengthen compliance enforcement with tax laws during a period when the revenue of the State was dwindling, we called in our colleagues from the Private Sector and there is nothing wrong with harnessing the capacity of the private sector, to assist us to carry out special forensic investigations, because we suspected that there was not only avoidance of taxes, but there was actually fraud in some cases involving our officials. We undertook this investigation together with our colleagues from the private sector and they are not only yielding positive results in terms of increased growth in revenue collected, but it is also helping us to expose our officials to skills and therefore, reinforcing the capacity-building efforts that we are pursuing through a multiplicity of training programmes, both academic and in-service with both local and foreign institutions. I needed to emphasise that.

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Secondly, the Honourable Member tried to say that the Ministry of Finance is responsible for compliance enforcement by State-Owned Enterprises. In the end he finally realised that no, it is not in general but only taxation matters. Yes, as far as taxation is concerned, we agree that we are responsible for enforcing compliance by all Namibians and all persons who are earning an income in this country or who are liable to pay tax in terms of any of our laws.

However, as you rightly said, if you have an institution, whether private or public, which you can see does not have the means to pay and you can see that that is as a result of a governance issues, the it is wise that you address the governance issues. You groom the cow so that you can milk it tomorrow. You do not go to Court, especially when it is a public institution and have it wounded up. If it cannot even pay PAYE, it would probably not be able to afford to pay a lawyer and it will probably ask for money from the Contingency Fund in order to pay the lawyer because the lawyer will sue them if they do not settle their with it bill and the Government ends up paying for both the Attorney-General to represent Government and paying the lawyer of the Company in order to defend them. Therefore, we address corporate governance problems and we are implementing a business turnaround strategy to make sure that such companies are not only in a position to comply with the tax laws, but they are also in a position to fulfil the mandate for which they have been established.

One of the very important points that was made was with regard to the loan by the Development Bank to Ohorongo. I regard this as an issue of principle and I think this is a principle which we must thrash out in Cabinet. I will have no objection if our Cabinet would decide that it is in our national interest that our public funding institutions or our private sector financial institutions should not advance loans to projects that have participation of foreign investors. If I am told that by our Cabinet through a Cabinet resolution, I will, that same day call the Chairperson of the boards of all the public finance institutions under my office and tell the rest of the financial sector that that is the decision of our Government.

Sometimes some things may look bad, but they also have their own advantages and at the end of the day it is about policies and the Deputy Minister has said a lot about that.

There was also a point made about how the global financial crisis has affected us in terms of our investments that have been made outside the country. I

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think it is extremely important that I emphasise this, because I have said in my Ministerial Statement and the Budget Statement and the Central Bank Governor has said that inasmuch as we are not shielded from the effects of the global crisis, our financial sector is not directly exposed and we have not suffered any significant losses as a result of this direct exposure, but we will be affected, as we are already seeing through the real economy.

I am not really aware of any significant losses that have been suffered by any of our pension funds, but I know that as an attempt to learn to walk, we have fallen down and we have hurt ourselves and I should specifically indicate that as a result of an attempt to utilise part of the GIPF savings to stimulate and grow the economy, we burnt our hands and we lost about N\$700 million in this country, not outside. Sometimes you fall, but it is not the case that we are shipping the money out there and it is getting lost out there. I think it is very important for me to say this, because apart from our own local policies, we are also bound by the Common Market Agreement that we signed which stipulates that only 20% of our funds may be exported outside the Common Market Area. I needed to say that.

Honourable De Waal, as to whether the Development Bank should not have a special window for Small and Medium Enterprises, it does have and it is for that reason that we have appropriated amounts for the past three years to DBN. It is true that there was a portion which was outsourced, but again, this is an issue which has been the subject of discussions in Cabinet on numerous occasions and I will be very happy to take it back there. If we say that there should not be any outsourcing and we should invest fully into infrastructure in the Regions and overhead costs and DBN should be in every Region like the Ministry of Finance, I will be happy to do that, because I know that this is a very sensitive issue and we were only condoning it on the basis of the motivation that was provided to us that seemed convincing. However, if the rest of the people think that it is not convincing, then we are prepared to heed the will of the majority and invest in offices and invest in staff and the Development Bank should be everywhere like all other banks.

Then Honourable De Waal said that the contingency provision is tantamount to an Additional Budget and we ought to come and table an Additional Appropriation Bill instead. I disagree. First and foremost, the amount of this contingency provision in this current year, as was the case in the previous years, is less than 1% of the total appropriation and the norm is that you provide up to 5% of your expenditure as contingency in order to cater for

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emergency situations. This N\$250 million in a Budget of N\$25 billion is about 1%. There is no need therefore to have an additional appropriation, the current practice is quite in order.

I want to comment on the issue raised by Honourable De Waal with regard to concessional loans. I will venture to summarise the question of *Honourable De Waal* this way, that Honourable De Waal is trying to ask if concessional loans are not always tied and whether the tying of the concessional loans does not bring about additional costs which would make them more expensive. I will say no, they are not all tied, although there are some that are tied, but we have a debt management policy and we have a Debt Management Unit in the Ministry of Finance through which we evaluate all of these contracts. As a result of that, we have managed to maintain debt within the sustainability threshold, it is not by coincidence. Despite the difficulties we have experienced, we have managed to even bring the debt down to 34% from 35% and to 19% and it is not by coincidence. We look at these things and we assess them on a case-by-case basis and when we advise Cabinet that we will accept the tying, it is because of the net results for country.

Honourable Nambahu said that we should not only look at prices when awarding tenders. I agree and the Act specifically states that *the Tender Board is not bound to award the tender to the cheapest bidder*. No, we look at a whole lot of things and one of those things is empowerment, support to the local economy and that is why we have price preferences. It is true that many of our enterprises are still in their infancy and even with these benefits they are not really able to optimise them so that they are not participating optimally, that is why we are still looking at the law to see how we can ensure that this public procurement is optimised to support the local economy and to support empowerment, and I want to say that in this regard, there is a range of other stakeholders who must also come in, in order for us to ensure that that objective is realised.

When the Honourable Member mentioned reserves, I did not know whether he was talking about those of State-Owned Enterprises or for private companies also. Private companies are regulated by the Companies Act. State-Owned Enterprises will have investment policies, they will have dividend policies, they will have a performance contract, but at the end of the day you can only have reserves if you have profits, because otherwise, if you borrow to stockpile the money, it will not be cost effective. Therefore, we will first start by making sure that the companies are performing well before we will be able

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to get them to set aside funds as reserves. If you are referring to mineral companies, I share that sentiment that they should not be allowed to have a Christmas when the prices of commodities are hitting the roof and just squander all the resources of the company, and when there is a small crisis, they start crying that they should be helped by the cleaners through payment of State subsidies. I agree with that one, no subsidies by the cleaners to the mineral resource companies.

Honourable Dr Iyambo, this is just the beginning, we do not know much about aquaculture, but the Development Bank is also there.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister, I think the Deputy Minister has already responded to that.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: The question was asked why we cannot invest part of our own savings locally. The regulations for pension funds and insurance companies require a minimum of 35% of the income of these companies to be invested locally. It is only these institutions which are required to do so. The resources companies, for example, ship out all their profits and we are now amending the law to close the loopholes.

Lastly, apart from the commendation by the Vice-President of SWAPO Party, *Dr Geingob*, with regard to the transparency of the SWAPO Party Government, I want to say that Namibia is one of the few countries in Africa which has development plans. They cover a span of 5 years. Therefore, it is not even true what the Opposition says when they say the Budget is the top secret of the Minister of Finance. It is not true because the NDP is there, it not only has policies, it has programmes, activities, where they are located and the cost. Every year when we formulate the Budget, we just go to the NDP and in addition to that, we have the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. Therefore, it is not true that what the Minister is bringing to Parliament on Budget day is a surprise. If you really want to engage the Government, study this Medium Term Expenditure Framework and engage us during the next two years, then you would have made an input into the coming Budget.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
I call on Honourable De Waal.

HON DE WAAL: Honourable Chairperson, I think the Honourable Minister tried to formulate my question, but she did not succeed. Let me put it in a nutshell.

Certain construction companies pay taxes and obey the laws, other construction companies do not. The ones that do not pay taxes belong to countries, which give concessional loans and therefore, you are losing money because of those construction companies. That is the argument.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Let us do justice to this because the Opposition tends to mislead the people outside there. The Ministry of Finance is not using any ostrich approach. For three, four years, from deficit to surplus there is no ostrich approach, the results are there. If the Government does not perform, then the Opposition would have something to take out there and say they cannot do this, they cannot do that.

Honourable Chair, there is no ostrich approach, the results are evident. The Minister has explained that if there is a taxpayer battling to pay, the people's Government does not rush to Court, we engage the customer and that we have done successfully.

Comrade Vice-President, you are right, from here it will be you telling the IMF out there that there is no secrecy in Government. I believe that the media which is here and the so-called academics get the message that our Budget process and our Budget information are open and it has been known for three years, if not five years. Therefore, it is the most transparent document that you have and I thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
I now put Vote 09, 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 shall adjourn until tomorrow, 29 April 2009,
14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 20:30 UNTIL 2009.04.29 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
29 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 Amweelo.

**TABLING: REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**

HON DR AMWEELO: Honourable Speaker, I wish to lay upon the Table for information and note-taking, the Summary Report on the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to review the implementation of the Monitoring Concessions. The United Nations organised conference was held in Doha, Qatar from 28 November 2008 to 2 December 2008.

The report contains very informative information, especially during the current economic crisis the world is facing. I encourage Honourable Members to read the Report and use it as reference at the various economic platforms.

As the Inter-Parliamentary Union Group, we engaged the key Line Ministries, especially the Ministry of Finance, the National Planning Commission and the private sector stakeholders. I wish to record that the Honourable Speaker, as the President of the Inter Parliamentary Union, the Minister of Finance and the Director General of the National Planning Commission also attended this conference.

I now wish to table the Report, Honourable Speaker.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON TWEYA**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report?
Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

1. Office of the Prime Minister for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2008;
2. Social Security Commission Employees Compensation Fund, Maternity Leave, Sick Leave and Death Benefit Fund and Development Fund for the Financial Year ended 28 February 2007;
3. Anti-Corruption Commission for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2008;
4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2008; and
5. Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2008.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Deputy Minister table the Reports? Honourable Katali.

TABLING: REVISED GREEN SCHEME POLICY

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Revised Green

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON BAYER / HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

Scheme Policy, December 2008, as per Cabinet Decision 22 of 25 November 2008/003 for information to all Members of Parliament.

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

**TABLING: INTERIM STATEMENT ON
ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA**

HON BAYER: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Interim Statement of the SADC Parliamentary Forum Election Observer Mission to the 2009 South African National and Provincial Elections held on the 22nd of April 2009 for information.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report?
Honourable Schimming-Chase.

**TABLING: RESULTS OF 120TH IPU ASSEMBLY AND
REPORT ON IPU-UN HEARING**

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, I wish to lay upon the Table for information and note-taking, the results of the 120th Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly and related meetings held in Addis Ababa from the 5th to the 10th of April this year.

Honourable Speaker, the Report contains an Executive Summary and a broad outline of the deliberations, resolutions and decisions taken by the Inter Parliamentary Union at its 120th Assembly. It is my humble request that the Honourable Members peruse the Report as it contains valuable information.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON P MUSHELENGA**

Furthermore, the Inter Parliamentary Union Group will engage with key Line-Ministries and stakeholders on the implementation and domestication of the resolutions.

I further wish to lay upon the Table for information and note-taking the Report of the IPU-United Nations Hearing held in New York from the 20th to the 21st of November 2008. In accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly at the United Nations Resolution on Cooperation between the UN and Inter Parliamentary Union, the Hearing was a joint event of the two organisation, heralding a greater political commitment on the part of the United Nations to hear the views of National Parliaments on some of the most urgent issues of our times. I encourage Members to read to the Report as it is very informative.

The Inter Parliamentary Union Group shall further engage key Line-Ministries and key stakeholders on matters raised in this Report.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Mushelenga.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON P MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 08, 12, 16, 20, 21, 22 and 31 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 Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements?

MEMBERS NOMINATED TO STANDING COMMITTEES

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APPROPRIATION BILL: COMMITTEE STAGE

HON SPEAKER: I have been informed by the SWAPO Party that the following Members have been nominated to serve on the Parliamentary Standing Committees as follows:

Honourable Korbinian Vescaya Amutenya to serve on the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development; the Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration and the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security.

Honourable Juliet Kavetuna to serve on the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

I now, in terms of Rule 38(6), declare Honourable Amutenya and Honourable Kavetuna as duly appointed Members of the said Standing Committees.

Also by way of a reminder, the Deputy Speaker and the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee informed the Honourable Members yesterday that tomorrow, Thursday, 30 April 2009, the House shall meet at 09:00. If we are punctual, we should be able to dispose of the business on the Order Paper and undertake other engagements. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION OF
COMMITTEE STAGE**

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

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee? It is Moved that I leave the Chair. Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. I call on the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 21
HON DR N IYAMBO**

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, 28 April 2009, Votes 01 to 07, 09 10 to 15, 17, 18, 19, 23 to 30 had been agreed to. Votes 08, 12, 16 and 20 had been introduced.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Vote 21 – “PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES”,
N\$341,733,000 put for **Introduction.**

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, may I once again thank you Comrade Deputy Speaker for allowing me to introduce Vote 21 of the Ministry of Safety and Security, Namibian Prison Service for your consideration.

My Ministry is asking a total Budget of N\$341,733,000, of which N\$289,233,000 are for the Operational Budget and N\$52,500,000 are for the Development Budget.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the Namibian Prison Service is responsible for the safe and humane custody, care, rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders lawfully incarcerated under its care.

Custody: Significant improvement has been recorded in this security area since early 2008. There is a reduction in the occurrence of serious security incidents, such as smuggling of drugs and cell phones, self-injuries to inmates, suicides and escapes, thanks to the prison members and staff who spend sleepless nights to ensure law and order and public safety.

Physical Health Care: Health of offenders is a priority to the safe custody of inmates. The infectious diseases commonly found in our institutions include TB, Malaria, HIV/AIDS and Sexual Transmitted Diseases (STD). The health of offenders was generally good.

Rehabilitation: Since March 2008 the Namibian Prison Service has been implementing a three-phased Action Plan on the Risk Management

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Correctional Strategy (RMCS) under the supervision of a T3 Associates Consultant. The project started with the design and implementation of a new security classification process, which includes initial security classification and re-classification of offenders at Windhoek Central Prison in order to effectively manage these offenders within specific smaller and manageable units according to the risk level that they represent.

Phases one and two have been completed and an evaluation was conducted in March 2009, and phase three will start soon. The implementation of this strategy will be rolled out to other institutions countrywide in the future.

Reintegration: The reintegration programme requires effective mobilisation of community resources to ensure that offenders upon release are provided with appropriate support and services that will maintain their return as useful citizens.

With the implementation of the entrepreneurship training programme at Windhoek Central Prison by Bank Windhoek we saw tangible successes in these areas of reintegration. More than 15% of the released offenders who went through the entrepreneurship training programme have been able to resettle and create employment to others through their established businesses, such as motor mechanics, courier services and carpentry.

Capacity Building: We are working in partnership with the Polytechnic of Namibia where 14 officers are taking Bachelor of Arts and Honours Degree courses in Criminal Justice (Correctional Service Management). Thirty more members undertook a course on Presiding Officers at University of Namibia (UNAM).

Reduction of overcrowding: Overcrowding in our institutions is caused by uneven geographical locations of the prison facilities. The mostly overcrowded prisons are those catering for the Northern Regions, densely populated in comparison with other Regions. The overcrowding of those prisons is as follows: Oluno Prison – 75%, Omaruru Prison – 64%, Grootfontein Prison – 54% and Windhoek Central Prison – 44%.

A number of measures have been introduced to mitigate the overcrowding including, change of the Prison Law, implementation of the Transfer of Convicted Offenders Act, 2005 and Community Service Order Scheme. The Corrections and Conditional Release Bill expected to be deliberated on in this

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current session of Parliament brings in several prison reforms that will be conducive to the easing of overcrowding. Corrections/Prisons have been recently admitted in the SADC Organ and the Bilateral Permanent Joint Security Commissions, and the transfer of convicted offenders programme is high on the agenda for implementation within the SADC Countries.

However, it is important and urgent to consider putting up at least three more prison facilities in the northern parts of our country, for example, one in Omusati, Ohangwena and Kavango Regions each to ease the current overcrowding in prison institutions in these areas.

Alternative to Imprisonment: In collaboration with the Judiciary and other stakeholders, Namibian Prison Service has been successfully running a pilot project on Community Service Orders in the Northern and North Eastern Regions. The project sponsored by the Finnish Government has been progressing well in those 4 Regions (Caprivi, Kavango, Oshana and Kunene). The evaluation of the project and the National Conference on Community Service Orders, which was held in Windhoek last August, indicated that there is a need of continuing with the project countrywide by phases. I am glad to report that following my visit to Finland last August, our working partner, the Finnish Government has shown interest of continuing with this project and this May, the Finnish officials from Prisons and Police will come to work out a new agreement under the new Institutional Cooperation Instrument (ICI).

Honourable Members, there is no doubt that you will agree with me that imprisonment for minor crimes, like petty theft, criminal trespassing, common assault, *crimen injuria* and many such minor crimes, is not appropriate. They simply contribute to overcrowding in prisons and police cells, therefore alternative punishment, such as community service orders, needs to be introduced countrywide.

Production Programme: Namibian Prison Service views agricultural activities as developmental programme to offenders as well as for production to improve food security of the country.

Divundu Prison Open Farm: The farm was extended and there is currently 100 hectares maize under irrigation and 50 hectares under dry land. The yield per hectare is normally 10 and 8 tons per hectare under irrigation and dry land, respectively. The projected harvest is 13,000 tons of maize grain. This will be

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twice of our needs which surplus will be supplied to other Government institutions.

Oluno Rehabilitation Centre has a fully-fledged piggery farm with 589 pigs and construction is on to increase the piggery's housing capacity to 1,000 pigs. The Ministry has managed to provide pork and red meat from Farm Scott and Oluno Prisons as a ration to the inmates at the value of N\$787,329, whereas Oluno Prison has produced a surplus of 6,671 kilogram of pork and sold it to the public at the value of N\$50,670.

Hardap Prison: The Hardap prison piggery is still in the initial stages with 82 pigs, but expected to house 1,000 pigs when it is fully operational by 2009/2010.

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 2009/2010 FINANCIAL YEAR:

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I shall now explain the specific allocation for each Programme of Vote 21: Namibian Prison Service, as follows:

Safe Custody:

The total requested for this programme amounts to N\$288,910,000. Out of this amount, N\$157,872,000 is for personnel related expenditures, while, N\$52,500, 000 is allocated for the construction of Farm Scott Open Prison Farm, Namibian Prison Service Training College in Omaruru and Official Accommodation, upgrading of Elizabeth Nepemba Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre and Divundu Open Rehabilitation Farm Centre and minor renovation activities. The feasibility study for an Aquaculture Farm at Divundu will be conducted this Financial Year. The remaining amount is earmarked for ensuring the continued supply of the basic needs, such as water and electricity, clothing, bedding, rations, health care, cleaning materials, toiletries, telephone services, procurement of security and office equipment, training activities, purchase and maintenance of motor vehicle fleet.

Rehabilitation:

The total amount needed for this programme amounts to N\$21,967 000 for this programme, of which N\$11,878,000 is allocated for personnel related

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expenditures. The re-offending attitudes of offenders will be addressed through effective intervention programmes and will cost N\$8,089,000.

This will involve development of tools to be used in assessing and identifying those factors that are involved in most criminal behaviour for the individual offender, mostly known as Risk/needs or criminogenic factors through the provision of offence-focussed rehabilitation programmes.

Reintegration:

An amount of N\$507,000 is requested for this programme in order to embark upon public awareness campaigns and at the same time identify and assess available core services and support in the community to form an integral part of our programme delivery. Training workshops on risk assessment for conditional release decisions will also be conducted for the members of the various release boards.

Food Production

The creation of this programme requests an amount of N\$30,349,000 for the purpose to increase food production and provide meaningful work habits and experiences to offenders to develop relevant skills.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I now have the pleasure of requesting this august House to approve the sum of N\$341,733,000 for the Namibian Prisons Service Department. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Vote 22, "FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES", N\$257,694,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to present Vote 22 – Fisheries and Marine Resources and seek approval of N\$257,694,000 for prudent management of fisheries and expeditions aquaculture development. This is disaggregated into N\$157,777,000 for Operational and N\$100,917,000 for capital expenditure.

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Namibia has one of the best fisheries management systems in the world. Our monitoring and scientific research components are solid. Our fisheries products have shown positive trends in demand during 2008, achieving a provisional fund value of N\$4,6 billion and about N\$1,1 billion of this is attributed to value addition on land. This figure is expected to increase during 2009.

Considerable investments continue to take place in the fisheries industry. For example, last year participants in the hake fishery sub-sector alone invested more than N\$210 million. Those in the mid-water trawler for horse mackerel invested N\$65,5 million. Those in the monk sub-sector invested N\$30 million and those in the large pelagic sector invested N\$16 million. Thus the fisheries sector is a sector still hard at work.

Allow me now to motivate the individual programmes:

Programme 1: Survey and Stock Assessments:

The purpose of this programme is to assess the dynamics of the fish stocks and marine environment in order to provide scientific advice to Government. Surveys to be conducted during the course of 2009/2010 Financial Year include those for hake, crab, rock lobster, seals, horse mackerel, pilchards and so on. The Ministry is in the final process of acquiring a modern and larger research vessel to facilitate a multi-disciplinary service and has finalised the architectural plan of the new research vessel. The Ministry is, therefore, proposing an amount of N\$40 million for the construction of the new research vessel as an initial step.

With respect to environmental indicators, there have been no major anomalies in wind patterns, in both oxygen and nutrient concentration during 2008. However, a rapid global rise in temperature is being experienced as a consequence of global climate change. This seems to affect local water temperatures as well.

To fulfil our responsibilities under this programme, the Ministry is requesting an amount of N\$93,129,000 for 2009/2010 Financial Year.

Programme 2: Human Resources Development:

This programme caters for specialised skills for efficient service delivery. I

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lament that the Ministry has been faced with an unprecedented exodus of well-qualified and experienced technical and scientific personnel for greener pastures due to inhibitive and disadvantageous salary structure as well as narrow career path in Government service for this category of specialists. This non-retention of institutional memory is hampering the quality and throughput of activities of the Ministry. The Ministry has during the year under review funded 23 staff members to pursue full and part-time degree and diploma studies locally and abroad. The Ministry also funded 100 staff members to undergo short-term skills development courses.

During the course of last year, Cabinet directed that the graduates from the Namibia Marine Fisheries Institute should be assisted to find employment in the Fishing Industry in order to reduce the country's abject unemployment rate as well as to empower Namibians. The Ministry, together with other Line Ministries, is working on the modalities for the implementation of this Cabinet decision.

An amount of N\$1,967,000 is proposed for the training of engineers, pilots, inspectors, scientists, economists, statisticians and observers in the next Financial Year.

Programme 3: Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of Fishing Activities:

This programme exists mainly to ensure compliance with the marine and inland fisheries laws. Compliance is enforced through the patrolling of patrol vessels and planes, monitoring of loading at the harbours, inspection of fish processing factories, coastal patrol and inspection of inland water bodies. The level of illegal fishing by foreign vessels have been reduced to an absolute minimum, thanks to the men and women who are the defenders of our fish resources, namely the inspectors, observers and Namibian workers on board fishing vessels.

During the last month our law enforcement team managed to arrest and seize 6 fishing vessels. As a result, one company paid an amount of N\$2 million and the other N\$1,4 million to the State. I trust that this conveys a message that no one should contravene our fisheries laws.

For this important programme to safeguard our resources, the Ministry is

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proposing an amount of N\$92,869,000 for this Financial Year.

Programme 4: Promotion of Marine and Inland Aquaculture:

Namibia continues to produce high quality oysters which are ranked amongst the best in the world. Oyster culture takes place at Lüderitz, Swakopmund and Walvis Bay. Oyster production for 2009 is forecast to be N\$13 million. Aquaculture continues to intensify in Lüderitz.

Namibia's oyster industry was, unfortunately, severely affected by red tide in 2008 that led to the depletion of oxygen and death of millions of oysters to the value of about N\$17 million. As a consequence, about 80 employees lost their jobs.

Community aquaculture projects operating in the Kavango and Caprivi Regions were set up to fight rural poverty and the scourge of unemployment. In 2008/2009 in excess of N\$2 million was generated by community projects in the two Regions of the Kavango and the Caprivi. The N\$2 million were distributed to those who worked at the farms.

We have completed the construction of the first ever fish-feed plant in Namibia at a cost of N\$6 million at Onavivi. Local raw materials that will be used at the plant include fish-meal, maize-meal, mahangu, sorghum, beans and so on. We also plan to expand Epalela Fish Farm. For 2008/2009 an amount of N\$1 million was used for technical drawings and tender documentation. Ongwediva offices are under construction at a total cost of about N\$15 million. Features of this project will include office blocks, fish points, the hatchery and fencing of the premises.

We are at the last stage of building Okamutjonga Inland Fisheries at a total cost of N\$68 million. Phase 2 was completed in 2008. Phase 3 is underway and includes construction of an aquarium, the hatchery, a nursery, production ponds and additional staff accommodation. We are grateful to the Peoples Republic of China for the donation of laboratory equipment for the Institute at the value of N\$1,2 million and a grant of N\$15 million for aquaculture development.

The Ministry has initiated the establishment of a fish farming project in the Omaheke Region. The Karas Regional Council initiated the development of

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Keetmanshoop Community-based Fish Farming Project to breed tilapia and carp.

The Ministry is, therefore, proposing an amount of N\$350,000 to conduct a study to expand this project. In addition, we are requesting an amount of N\$350,000 to conduct another study at Noordoewer. To date the aquaculture sector employs a total of 683 people.

Honourable Chairperson, may I update this august House on the devastating floods in both the Caprivi and Kavango Regions. In 2003, Government established 6 fish farming projects in the two Regions. In 2007 we were forced to close the fish farms in the Caprivi Region due to severe damage by floods. Recently, Shipapo Fish Farm in the Kavango Region was destroyed by floods. Government has invested a total of N\$16,9 million in infrastructure development for these fish farms between 2003/2008 as follows: N\$8,7 million in the Kavango Region and N\$8,2 million in the Caprivi Region. My concern is the substantial loss of potential benefits on income to rural households and communities. The Ministry is carrying out a cost analysis to determine the possibility of rebuilding these farms at alternative sites, the rehabilitation of farms, using stronger foundations and erection of concrete tanks to withstand floods.

A total of N\$69,729,000 is proposed for aquaculture development during 2009/2010 Financial Year.

May I brief the House on our efforts to expand our programme on domestic fish consumption. Our fish consumption activities have been greatly expanded. In excess of 9,000 metric tons of fish products were distributed by the Promotion Trust during 2008 and part of 2009. During the period under review, an amount of N\$1,964 000 was made available to purchase three refrigerated trucks – a 24 ton truck, an 8 ton truck and a 3,5 ton truck. We have set up additional fish outlets, two in the Karas Region, namely in Keetmanshoop and Lüderitz, and two in the Khomas Region here in Windhoek. We have allocated 11,000 metric tons of horse mackerel and 1,000 metric tons of hake in order to maximise fish distribution in the country. The Trust now employs 20 staff at fish distribution centres in Erongo, Karas, Oshana, Khomas and Kavango Regions. To cover all the Regions, we need at least 600 people. Plans are underway to set up fish shop outlets at Eenhana and Mariental during the second quarter of this year. A fish campaign

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programme has been worked out to cover the Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, Oshikoto, Caprivi, Omusati and Kunene Regions during the course of 2009.

I am of the opinion that fish for local consumption should be zero-rated in the future and I submit for approval the total amount of N\$257,694,000 for Vote 22, Fisheries and Marine Resources. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Vote 31 – “VETERANS AFFAIRS”, N\$273,431,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Distinguished Members, I request the Honourable Members to relax and listen because this is their Vote.

It is my distinct honour and privilege to once more introduce Vote 31 of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs for the 2009/2010 Financial Year for the kind approval of this august House.

I rise to introduce and request this august House to approve the Budget of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs Vote 31. The total amount sought is N\$273,431,000.00. The manner of distribution will be explained latter at the end of this speech. I must, however, hasten to say that the amount requested is far below what is needed to address the needs of the veterans.

This is in part due to the fact that by the time the money was requested many programmes were not yet properly articulated.

As I indicated last year and the year before it, the cardinal objective of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs is to manage and administer the affairs of men and women who selflessly fought and sacrificed for the freedom and Independence of Namibia. I have also pointed out that the 2007/2008 Budget was solely for the organisational, structural and planning purposes, while the 2008/2009 is the beginning of the implementation of our programmes proper.

After the Veterans Bill was promulgated, I appointed members of the Veterans Board accordingly. The Board has already started with its function of

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registration, verification and identification of the veterans. Up to date, 38,007 applications have been received and registration continues.

Since roughly 40,000 people were repatriated in 1989, one would obviously expect the figure of veterans to be higher than 40,000 because not all veterans are necessarily former returnees. Veterans of the struggle for national liberation, as we define them, comprise those who fought from exile and those who led the resistance from within the country.

This far 3,506, veterans have been approved as genuine veterans, 108 applications have been referred back while about 8,200 veterans have been budgeted for. The registration of veterans has two main objectives:

1. Registration to determine veterans eligible for subvention
2. Registration for the general database of the Ministry, for employment and other activities the Ministry has planned for the veterans.

We have started paying the veterans in accordance with the Veterans Act. The subvention of N\$500 was increased to N\$2,000. We have significantly increased our clientele base. I think when we took over it was about 1 500 and we now have about 4,000 and it is increasing as the Board is recognising people as veterans.

Through this registration exercise we have registered and established a proper and more scientific data of veterans. Social characteristics of the veterans have been established. This include the year of entry into the struggle, specific exploits of each and every veteran, health conditions, the specific front of the struggle, be it inside or outside the country, health and physical conditions have been recorded. We also have registered all genuine former freedom fighters irrespective of political affiliation. This is historic, indeed, as it has surpassed any hitherto recording of those who fought for the Independence of Namibia. This has also proved the notion that the exercise was only targeting SWAPO Members, and in particular those who were in exile as false.

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

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Before I was unceremoniously interrupted by the break, I was saying that our registration has proven the notion that the exercise was only targeting SWAPO members and in particular those who were in exile false.

I would like to emphasise the fact that there is pressure out there. People want us to do things in a very hasty manner, but we do not want to do things in a way which we will regret later, because many people would want to take advantage of the process, even those who are not veterans and who pretend to be. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that the Board be given time to do its work, so that it only gives the status to those who deserve it and this is not an easy task, the people are many. In the first round we have registered 38,007 people, the Board is meeting regularly and up to now they have cleared only 3,506 people, because there is a process of verification to make sure that we eliminate those who may be pretending to be veterans while they are not and believe you me or not, there are those who are pretending that way.

Therefore, I do not want to stand accused of doing shabby work at the end of the day and put people on board who do not deserve to be there and I will not be persuaded to tell them to hurry so that they do a bad job.

Apart from registration and improvement of the monthly payouts, the Ministry has also started implementing some planned projects.

Towards this end, a plot was acquired in the Caprivi Region for crop cultivation, thanks to the generosity of the Honourable Chiefs in the Region. About 20 hectares of land have been cultivated, mainly to determine the suitable crops to be cultivated on a sustainable basis in that area.

We requested the Chiefs to grant the Ministry land to cultivate, to create jobs and income to the veterans. This is just the beginning, as similar projects are lined up. We are looking into fishing, fish farming, mining etcetera. We will ask the Minister of Lands to allocate some farms to our Ministry to be given to the veterans to farm and even establish cooperatives.

In my Budget speech last year I have spoken of the daunting task of putting up structures and recruiting of qualified staff. I also spoke of training and reorientation of staff to sharpen their skills to meet the needs of the new Ministry. I have mentioned about the establishment of the regional offices to bring the services of the Ministry closer to the doorsteps of the veterans.

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In the previous Financial Year, we were only allocated funds enough to open six regional offices. We expect this year will see 13 Regional offices headed by regional coordinators. Some administrative staff will also be employed to administer our Ministry at the regional level.

Comrade Chairperson, I would like to bring home the fact that the veterans we are serving are not only old but many are war victims who desperately need services closer to their homes.

The Ministry should not be Windhoek based only. We must serve the veterans where they are, where they need our services most.

I have discussed the notions, mindset and perceptions of some veterans about some of the programmes and projects we lined up for them. Some are sceptical and prefer cash only. One would understand their sentiments because of the experience with the likes of the Development Brigade Corporation (DBC's), Amcoms, etcetera.

However, our approach is fundamentally different as ours takes into consideration mistakes of the past. Ours will help the establishment of the veteran's businesses and train them in all aspects of it. The fundamental question we have taken into account is ownership of the projects by the veterans themselves. We are not talking of employment of veterans by Government *per se*. It is being implemented by veterans themselves and the products are theirs.

Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee, Esteemed Members, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, like other Offices and Agencies of the Government, has its draft Strategic Plan as per requirement of the Office of the Prime Minister in place. Its completion is a result of intensive consultation and discussion by major stakeholders and it is expected to be launched this Financial Year.

Main Division 01 Office of the Minister:

The Office of the Minister requests a mere amount of N\$3,214,000 only two be divided as follow:

- a) Personnel expenditure N\$1,624,000;

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- b) Goods and services N\$1,516,000;
- c) Capital expenditure N\$74,000 for furniture and office equipment.

MAIN DIVISION 02 GENERAL SERVICES:

The total expenditure for Main Division General Services is N\$11,800,000 to be divided as follows:

- a) Subdivision 10

Personnel expenditure N\$5,845,000. This is earmarked for salaries and other conditions of service
- b) Subdivision 30

Goods and other services is N\$4,442,000. This is for utilities (water & electricity), S&T and transport etc.

The current expenditure brings us therefore to N\$10,287,000.

- c) Subdivision 110

Acquisition of capital Expenditure is asking for N\$1,513,000.

MAIN DIVISION 03 POLICY, HERITAGE AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS:

This is the major money demanding main division of the Ministry as it is requesting the amount to the tune of N\$237,394,000 to be sub-divided as follows:

- a) Sub-division 80

Subsidies and current transfers N\$221,800,000.

As I pointed out earlier, this is the main division in which the main activities are centred. It is here where veterans are given their grants be it on monthly basis or lump sum.

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As I speak now we have started paying N\$2,000 per month elevated from N\$500. I have to admit that there has been a delay to pay those veterans who were not on the system before the 1st of April 2009, but qualified to get N\$2,000.

All of them are being paid a back-pay of N\$24,000, that is a N\$2,000 for 12 months from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

In addition a total of N\$25,000,000 has been budgeted for to be paid to veterans a once-off lump sum equal to N\$50,000. I hope this august House will give us more funds during the next Financial Year in order to serve more veterans in a relative short period of time. This lump sum is not going to be paid out at one go, but as the Budget allows and until we have paid them all out. As a gentleman's agreement I want you to understand that there must be a well-organised methods of doing these things. We have people of different ages who joined the struggle at different times. Therefore, it will not make any good sense for one to start with the younger ones and leave the old ones. We have to start with the old ones so that they get their share before they go.

b) Sub-division 110 Operational Budget:

Acquisition of Capital Assets N\$530,000.

c) Sub-division 40:

Goods and other services N\$3,070,000.

d) Sub- division 120 Development Budget.

Acquisition of capital assets N\$3,715,000.

MAIN DIVISION 04 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

This Main Division is obviously one of the money-spinner of the Ministry and is therefore requesting an amount of N\$21,023,000 to be shared as follows:

a) Sub-division 010:

Personnel expenditure requests N\$6,083,000. This is for salaries and other conditions of service.

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HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

b) Sub-division 030:

Acquisition of goods and other services. N\$8,695,000.

Comrade Chairperson, Esteemed Members, allow me in conclusion, to congratulate the Minister of Finance, her Deputy and staff of the Ministry of Finance for diligently and craftily drawing up such a balanced budget to cover the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

Humanly speaking, the budget covers and touches our basic needs even though it has not met, rightly so, all the demands. Just as no parent would meet all wishes of his children, demands of a politician whose contract totally hangs in the hands of unpredictable electorate, could not be possible.

To you, Honourable Members, I am humbly begging you to approve my request as this has one, but one, sole purpose namely, serving the well-being of the veterans of the war for national liberation, men and women whose toil and bravery brought you here. It goes to those who were forced to wage a revolution to unshackle you from the bondage of apartheid colonialism. I am mindful, however, that some countrymen and women served the hated regime faithfully. But I am, however, aware that even those who served it, are now cursing themselves for having worshiped the devil. We are living better now than during colonial time due to the sacrifices of the veterans of the National Liberation Struggle. Their blood waters our freedom.

I humbly request all of you to approve Vote 31, the Ministry of the Veterans and veterans of the National Liberation.

I rest my case and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Vote 12 – “GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE”, put for Discussion.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me say by way of introduction that this is a Ministry which

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deals with the majority of the population and as such I must admit that I found 6 pages in terms of saying what your stewardship was to be a bit thin. As a result of that, I hope the Honourable Minister will bear with me that I have quite a number of questions.

On page 3 of the motivation under Social Grants, in the second paragraph the Minister says: *“A total number of 92 089 children have benefited from the food assistance, out of which 37 000 were transferred to grants, leaving 55 089.”* Then it abruptly says the programme ended on the 30th of April. Does that mean that those 55,000 children were no longer in need of food assistance or what has happened to them since April 2008?

My next question is on the same page under Namibia’s Children’s Home and After-School Centre. It says that it has a Children’s Home in Eros for children in need of love and care and it caters for 110 children. It also says that the After-School Centre provides after-school activities to children at risk and vulnerable children who find themselves on the street. Is it possible for the Honourable Minister to tell us how many children are being taken care of in the after-school activities, because the Honourable Minister is requiring N\$7,72 million and unless we have the statistics, it can easily be misread that the N\$7,72 million is to take care of the love and education of 110 children. That would be a very high cost for education per capita. If we could have more information and a breakdown, it would be helpful.

The reason why I am doing this is because in the Auditor-General’s Report ending March 2008, we are told that there are ten subdivisions in this Ministry where unauthorised expenditure exceeded N\$1 million per subdivision. It would be good if the Minister could give us an explanation as to how the unauthorised expenditure has been taken care of.

Programme 2, Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, is something that is close to the heart of all Namibians, irrespective of sex, but I must admit that when I read the report on what has been done in the year under review, it only mentions workshops: National Gender Mainstreaming Programme, 2,000 people participated in workshops; Strengthening Reports Information Centres were held; Informative Meeting for Editors; Gender Training Workshop. It looks as if, in terms of strengthening gender equality and women empowerment, we are concentrating on workshops. Allow me to digress and

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say, *for God so loved the world that He did not send a workshop*. Maybe if we can get an Audit Report which can give us some insight... (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Schimming-Chase, having raised the issue of these workshops, do you not think that we need to change the name of the Ministry into the Ministry of Workshops?

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: I do not think that I would agree to that before giving the Minister a fair chance to explain, because I think that if we keep on having workshops and workshops, at one point or another the question arises: What is the benefit derived from these workshops? Do we, for example, have more women being prepared to stand for public office or taking management positions in the private sector? What do these workshops do?

On human trafficking under 2.9.3: Through the Chair, Honourable Minister, the question of human trafficking is a very serious problem facing the world as a whole. If we look at what we have done, we have embarked upon a National Base-line Study on Human Trafficking. Are we reinventing the wheel? There are so many studies by the United Nations and the International Parliamentary Union. Human trafficking is discussed at worldwide fora, why do we still have to make a base-line study and when is it going to be ready and when is it going to be presented here and what is it going to cost?

Honourable Minister, through the Chair, income generating activities in my understanding would be where women are empowered into embarking on activities that will enable them to take care of themselves and their families without constantly putting their hands out. We sponsor women to take part in trade fairs, the Global Summit of Women held in Hanoi, Ongwediva Trade Fair, Regional Trade Fairs, Windhoek Agricultural Show. What exactly happens there and what do we get in return for the money that we spend, the *quid pro quo*? Basically what I am asking the Honourable Minister is to put some fat to the bones that are contained in this Report, so that we can really see how women are being empowered and how women can move out of the status of poverty and non-representation at decision-making levels, so that all these millions that we are asking for would ensure that the women who go

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through all these programmes, afterwards are able to undertake new tasks. I thank you.

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. (Interjections). I do not know why I have to inform the South West Africa Peoples Organisation why I have not been here, I have my own Chief Whip.

On Page 287 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, may I ask Honourable Dienda a question? Honourable Dienda, you mentioned the South West Africa Peoples Organisation, but are you aware that if there was no South West Africa and you were in a plane, you would miss your destination?

HON DIENDA: Are you aware that you must use the whole name and not only the abbreviation, the South West Africa Peoples Organisation?

Honourable Chairperson, under Programme 1 Child Welfare, N\$256 million is budgeted for this programme. Honourable Minister, what relationship does your Ministry have with schools? Some schools do not accept the letters coming from your Ministry for exemption from school development fund and it is written here that the purpose of this programme is to protect children from all forms of abuse, that children have access to basic services, health and nutrition, education, human rights, etcetera. Your Ministry is currently doing it, but some schools do not want to accept the letters coming from your Ministry to say that this child will be exempted from paying school development fund. What are you doing regarding this issue?

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Since I have come to Parliament I have been asking when the Child Care and Protection Bill will be tabled in this House, because we are still working on the old South African Bill of 1964. When will it be tabled? We have elections in November and I will not be coming back and the Bill has not been tabled here. (Interjections). I will retire, I do not want to be an Member of Parliament for life.

On page 288 – Gender Equality and Women Empowerment: Honourable Minister, how many boy-child programmes have been conducted so far by this Ministry under this Vote?

On page 289 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, **Community Mobilisation:** Honourable Minister, I am always confronted by the public, saying that they do not get information regarding these projects, but I am also aware that you are working according to your database to invite stakeholders to be part and parcel of this community mobilisation projects. However, Honourable Minister, can you not make use of other ways of communication to reach other people such as the Catholic Women’s Desk in our church, so that we can be part and parcel of this programme?

Honourable Minister, you mentioned the Children’s Home in Eros. What role does your Ministry play regarding the SOS Children’s Villages in Tsumeb and other places? Is this Ministry involved in the well-being of our children or is it totally privately owned with no reporting to any institution? I think as lawmakers you have the right to know what is going on in these institutions. I thank you, Honourable Minister, and I support your Vote.

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

HON IIPINGE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister for presenting this motivation speech. I am speaking on Programme 1 – Child Welfare. I welcome this programme, particularly the social grants for vulnerable children, because we are now faced with global financial crisis and according to the study which was presented by a certain Eunice, hundreds

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of children are going to die during this economic crisis. I welcome this programme and I thank the Ministry for coming up with this programme.

Then I have the same question which was asked by Honourable Schimming-Chase on the food assistance, because it is said that more children are going to die because of this crisis and then our programme has come to an end. I think the Minister will shed light on that, but I would like this programme to continue. If there are problems, let us discuss it.

I want to touch on Gender Equality and Empowerment, particularly on gender-based violence. I welcome the study on traditional practices which may perpetuate or protect women and children from violence and discrimination. This is a very important study that is taking place during this period of economic crisis and according to the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights, violence increases during times of hardship and women and children are more affected. I would therefore like to suggest that this study also includes questions that would reveal whether this economic crisis will influence violence, because the men who lose their jobs on the mines will return to their households and there will be a power struggle there and the relations will not be normal because of inferiority complexes. Men will be unable to provide as they are supposed to provide and I believe that these frustrations will mostly affect the women and children. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask a question? Honourable Member, is it not true that in most cases women are very happy to receive their husbands back from the mines, because that will be an opportunity to share the little they have and to socialise more, because the men are always away. Now you are saying when the men go back home there will be an increase in violence. That is a contradiction in terms. We are always happy to go back to our homes and to be with the families. It is not a question of hardship, it is a question of sharing. Please, let us be objective.

HON IIPINGE: It is true that they are going to join the families, but what is going to be shared there is going to be very little and the men have no incomes to provide for the families, which will frustrate them. It might be good that

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you are together, but you will not be able to provide for the family and that might cause some unhealthy relationships. This is what I am trying to say.

On the income-generating projects it was stated that 604 applications for financial assistance were received and only 73 were considered for funding. I would like to find out how many of these 73 are specifically for women, because I believe that this global financial crisis is going to impact more on women. Women are more likely to lose their jobs than men and we know that in many families, the income of women always goes for perishable items, such as food, school fees, etcetera. As the women will not be able to assist their families as they used to do, I would like to find how many women-specific income generating projects are considered for funding. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question for clarity? Comrade Iiping, through the Chairperson, you mentioned that the income of women goes for perishable commodities. Let us be honest, that statement by itself can be interpreted to say that the salaries of the men do not reach home and the men are living on the salaries of the women. That is exactly what you are saying. I have however read somewhere that in many societies, 70 to 80% of women are living on the income of men. Would you agree with me that some of these people being beaten up here, are being beaten because after having spent a lot of money on somebody, then that somebody wants to run away and it becomes a problem?

HON IIPINGE: Thank you very much for your input, but this is a reality we are talking about. Research has been conducted and the results indicate that most of the women's income goes into perishable goods and the men will buy the house, but that house does not belong to her. We are saying the men are also living on the women's money and they have free services which are provided in the household.

I want to find out from the Honourable Minister whether this financial crisis will have an impact on the status of women in Namibia or not. I want the Honourable Minister to give us some hints on that, whether our status will be affected by this financial crisis. I thank you, I support the Vote.

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

HON KAVARI: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have only one question on the contribution by the Honourable Minister. Honourable Minister, there is an outcry out there that women are not being appointed as members of the boards of directors of the parastatals. One of the reasons being advanced is that women are not trained and they do not have experience. In some countries courses are being offered at Universities in consultation with the Government to train women to become directors. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information. The statement by the Honourable Member is not quite correct. Obviously we cannot sit in Cabinet and appoint Boards comprising only of men. That has not been and that will never be as long as we are there.

HON KAVARI: Honourable Minister, the reality on the ground is that women are not members of the Boards of Directors. (Interjection)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Unless you are talking about Private Companies.

HON KAVARI: You will find one or two women who are members of a Board of Directors who has five members. In a Board consisting of 5 members, you will find one or two women, you will not find 3 or 4 women and one man. Mention one Board of Directors with 4 women. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
May I ask Honourable Kavari a question? Honourable Kavari, as you are

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speaking you are a woman and a Parliamentarian, a lawmaker for that matter. If what you are saying was correct, you would not be here.

HON KAVARI: Honourable Member, I am just one of the thousands of women who are capable and able but who are being discriminated against by men. Therefore, in order for us to empower the women and to counter the reason that women are not trained... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask Honourable Kavari a question? Honourable Kavari, you are advancing that one of the reasons that women are not appointed on boards of directors is because they are not trained and now you are saying that some countries are training them. Do you now agree with the reason that they are not trained, therefore there is a need for them to be trained or is it because there are other reasons?

HON KAVARI: Honourable Deputy Minister, what I am saying is that in order for us to empower the women and to counter that reason, for it not to be advanced any longer, let us train the women and empower them. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise on a Point of Information. In Namibia we no longer have a Ministry of Women's Affairs, we have a Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. We do not have women projects, we have community development for women and men. When we are talking we have to involve our men.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, that is why I am telling you that you have to mention the paragraph so that you cannot be misquoted.

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HON KAVARI: Women empowerment is under Programme 2. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information. We in the SWAPO Party believe in equality of opportunities and that is why at the moment we have more women in Tertiary Institutions than men. For every 100 men at Tertiary Institutions there are 103 women. Are you aware that? That is the empowerment the SWAPO Party Government is talking about.

HON KAVARI: Now I understand why there are so few women from the SWAPO Party in the Parliament, because the SWAPO Party does not have programmes for women empowerment at all. (Intervention)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Kavari, are you aware of the fact that even during the apartheid regime there were more black women at tertiary education institutions than there were men?

HON KAVARI: Honourable Minister, for your information, the private sector has already started with such training. For instance, on Monday PriceWaterhouseCoopers is already starting with training of women in the Private Sector so that they will be eligible to become Directors. It is regrettable that our Government has women empowerment on paper, but not in action. I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank you very much. Honourable Gurirab.

HON GURIRAB: Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote and I have two short questions for your elucidation. Both are from the Minister's statement.

The first one has to do with the Namibia Children's Home in Eros, Windhoek and After-School Care. In the Budget documents it is on Page 164. My brief

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question is whether we have other similar centres elsewhere and if not, why not, because if this is the only one, why should these 110 children receive this care from the taxpayer to the exclusion of the majority of children who are in similar need? I do not know whether we are spending this N\$7 million on these 110 children. Who are they anyway? They cannot be the only ones. My question is whether this is the only place and why?

My second question, Honourable Chairperson, has to do with social grants on the same page of the Minister's statement. The Minister is informing this Honourable House that the number of OVC's have increased, last year from 90,000 to over a 100,000. Now, assuming our population is two million, 100,000 would represent about 5% of the population and that is an alarming figure. I do not know whether this is the right place to ask, but I am raising it because it appears on this Vote, but it is an alarming figure if 5% of the population are on these grants and the figure increases annually. The difference, on the Minister's figures, between last Financial Year and this year is 12,000, so if we add 12,000 every year, it is an alarming figure and soon we will have 10% of the population on these grants. We need to do something elsewhere to cater for this category of Namibians. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Propose something.

HON T GURIRAB: Next year after elections. My last question, Honourable Chairperson, is on page 2 of the Minister's statement. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask a question? Honourable Tsudao, would you agree with the statement of the Pope when he came to Angola? Do you remember what he said? He was vehemently opposed to the use of condoms, something which he never says in Europe, but he tells the people in Africa not to use condoms. Is that what you are trying to tell us here in the House?

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HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, my cousin must know something which I do not. I hope the Minister can help both of us when she answers. The point I am making is that at this rate, most of our people will soon be living on handouts and I do not know whether the Treasury will be able to carry that if 5% of Namibians are being carried by the taxpayers through these social grants and these are not the only social grants which the State pays. That is my concern and I do not know how it relates to condoms.

Honourable Chairperson, my last question-cum-observation is on page 2 of the Minister's statement and it has to do with tenders. (Intervention)

HON DIENDA: On a Point of Information. Honourable Chairperson, allow me to read the speech of our Pope when he was in Africa. (Interjections).

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: No, Honourable Member, you cannot take us back to that.

HON DIENDA: It was a question and I just want to correct what the Pope said.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The question was not put to you.

HON DIENDA: But he said it and I have to correct it.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You are Out of Order, the question was put to Honourable Gurirab.

HON T GURIRAB: Honourable Chairperson, my question is on Page 2 of the Minister's statement, it refers to these places which are referred to as

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centres. Some are recreational, some are craft centres, some are community centres. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Since the question by Honourable Nujoma was not ruled Out of Order, I believe that if somebody has information he should give it.

CHAIRPERSON OF THW HOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Right Honourable Prime Minister, I would prefer that we proceed with what we are doing instead of going back to that question. Let me rule it Out of Order. Honourable Nujoma was Out of Order. Proceed.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Order. Honourable Chairperson, with all due respect, I fully agree with the Right Honourable Prime Minister. If a statement or a question has to be ruled Out of Order, it has to be done immediately, not later in order to stop others to react to that, because it is already recorded. It was not ruled Out of Order and therefore, it is only proper, if there is a reaction to that, that it should be allowed. The question is indeed referring to a statement that was made by a world leader of the Church and therefore, if there is any correction to be made, it should be allowed. That will not take more time than we are using right now.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister, you are right, but the question was put to Honourable Gurirab and not Honourable Dienda. Why should somebody else respond if the question was put to Honourable Gurirab?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: But the point is, people are rising on Points of Order, that was a Point of Order and the one to provide an answer is also a Point of Order and that is allowed.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: If we take that specific issue to be very important, do you know how many minutes have we taken to discuss this issue? I think Honourable Dienda could have given the answer to Honourable Gurirab. Proceed, Honourable Gurirab.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: On a Point of Information. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Speaker of the National Assembly, at the Penultimate Meeting of the Committee on Standing Rules and Orders, raised exactly what we are discussing here, that a Point of Order is nothing more, nothing less than when a person is Out of Order and provides the wrong information and on a Point of Information you are then entitled to get up and correct that information. It is minuted in the Minutes of the Standing Rules and Orders and this information which was given was wrong.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Gurirab, proceed.

HON T GURIRAB: I was about to conclude, I was asking about these centres and what exactly are we doing at these facilities.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. I call on Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON KAIYAMO: Honourable Chairperson, I would also like to register my appreciation to the Honourable Minister and I support the Vote. Your Ministry has been dishing out forms to parents of Orphans and Vulnerable Children not to pay the school development fund and I find it very disturbing that those people who are given money by Government are not using this money to support the school development funds while the other parents are paying. What is the status of these forms the Ministry is dishing out to the parents?

My second concern is on page 6, the Early Childhood Development

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Programme. I appreciate that the centres have been established, but in my opinion we still need to do more. Maybe you need to ask for more funds for this programme to ensure that all our children are at school.

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

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I was going to ask the Honourable Minister a question in view of the statement made by Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase about seminars, that they only have workshops and seminars and they apparently do not produce anything. I was fortunate that I was also on that side as a backbencher and I can tell you that the travelling the backbenchers are doing to go to workshops and meetings is unending. Especially Honourable Nora Schimming-Chase travels like hell. Now, to question what we are doing in the country of the people, that seminars do not have any meaning, do you agree with that?

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

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support Vote 12 and I am specifically looking at page 4 of the motivation – Gender Equality and Women Empowerment.

When we talk about gender equality and women empowerment we have to realise that we need a lot of sensitisation, because the whole issue is to change the attitudes and behaviours of society. If that is the right understanding, could that be the reason why the Ministry has the Gender Mainstreaming Programme in which the participants are both men and women?

Similarly, we talk about women empowerment and Honourable Kavari was talking about training, which she said is done by the private sector. Is it the

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understanding Honourable Minister that gender training programmes, which are mentioned in 2.5 on page 4, are in line with capacity-building so that the gender mainstreaming and women empowerment is being realised? I just want to find out, Comrade Minister.

Similarly, on the same page you talk about the review of the Gender Policy and the Gender Plan of Action. Is this a policy which is aimed at directing the Nation on how to mainstream gender and empower women and is it the right understanding that what the private sector is doing is in fact implementation of the National Gender Policy, which is not meant for the Government alone but for the Nation, including the private sector? If that is the understanding, can we say that within the programmes mentioned here, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is fully implementing its mandate, especially when it comes to empower in changing the minds and behaviours of the people, that would then complement your programmes of supporting income-generating projects? I support the Vote, Honourable Minister.

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

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson, of the Whole House Committee. Let me, first of all, register my wholehearted support for this very important Vote dealing with our children, women and also with our men. I support the Vote wholeheartedly, Honourable Minister, please continue with the good work.

I am obliged in this instance to intervene to try and bring more light on what happened here. This paper which I have just received from Honourable Dienda deals with the Point of Order that was made and the question that was put concerning the expression of the Holy Father, Pope Benedict the XVI when he was in Angola. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: The Holy Father?

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HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: He is the Holy Father, yes, whether we like it or not. It is his title. This is what he said: *“I would say that this problem of AIDS cannot be overcome only with publicity slogans if there is not the soul. If the Africans are not helped, the scourge cannot be resolved with the distribution of condoms. On the contrary, there is a risk of increasing the problem.”* He did not say here that condoms should be used, but what he stated here is that this may not be the lasting solution. That is all he said. Therefore, whether he said it to Africans or Italians or Germans, the point is what he stated about the use of condoms. He further said: *“The solution can only be found in a doubled commitment: 1. A humanisation of sexuality that is a spiritual and human renewal that brings with it a new way of behaving with one another. 2. A true friendship also and above all for those who suffer the willingness, even with sacrifice and self-denial to be with the suffering and these are the factors that help and that lead to visible progress.”*

I think in these two paragraphs I cannot read the Holy Father saying condoms should not be distributed or condoms should not be used. I just wanted to make that clear and once again, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. That is why I tried to avoid that issue, because it is a religious issue and it has to do with a respected leader. I know that religion has caused wars in some countries and that is why I was trying to avoid it.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chairperson, I may say this, condoms is something.... (Interjections). It was mentioned and you are not going to put your words in my mouth, sorry about that. Some of the men are maniacs, I am not talking about them. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Page?

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HON RIRUAKO: I do not have to talk about the page. Some of the people are maniacs, I am sorry to say this, and I will not talk about them. Lady Chair, for the Catholics to accept condoms, abortion is not allowed, but condoms must be used in order to avoid abortion. Those who suffer for the principles are the priests. Those who are losing their principles are the ordinary people whom you cannot discipline. That is where we are and this will continue for now. They will continue as usual, you cannot stop them.

HON DIENDA: Comrade Chairperson, may I ask the Chief a question, please? Honourable Chief, you are saying that those who want to suffer because of principles can do so. Are you saying that it is only Catholics who are dying of HIV/AIDS? (Interjection)

HON RIRUAKO: I did not say that.

HON DIENDA: No, I am asking you, you are saying those who... (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I will answer you, you asked the question. Those who suffer because they have that principle, they adhere to certain principles not to have sex. Can you do so? (Interjection)

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Is that suffering?

HON RIRUAKO: It is a desire, a thing that is not supposed to be done, but it is not done. That is the principle requirement from their religion and you all, can you stand for your own principles and suffer because you avoid certain things? That is a fact. Will you ever abstain from it? I said some people are maniacs but I did not mention names. We have to abstain from it but we cannot, we have to use condoms instead of that. I thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I now call on the Minister to respond.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me first thank all the Honourable Members who supported the Vote in silence, which is the support I appreciate the more, and the ones who asked clarity and made recommendations.

There was a question by *Honourable Schimming-Chase* on the World Food Programme. The World Food Programme was a joint programme by the Ministry and the WFPA to assist those children who could not be put on the children's grants and the programme had a certain timeframe and it stopped on the 30th of April. However, those 37,000 vulnerable children who were receiving the food parcels are now benefiting from the grants and the ones who are still not benefiting have been registered, because our target was 146,000 children. The rest will fall under the Emergency Management Unit Programme which is a national programme under the Office of the Prime Minister. This was just a measure that we used while they were waiting to be registered for the grants to benefit from the food parcels in the meantime.

The Children's Home and the After-School Centre are separate institutions. The After-School Centre is a place for children who are in conflict with the law and children who dropped out of school and do not have a place to stay or coming from conflict homes. Also under-aged children who were in prison are taken care of. That centre was sponsored by the Chinese Government and it is between Katutura and Khomasdal. It is a centre to take care of the children and we integrate them into schools.

The children in the Eros Children's Home have been placed there by an Order of the Court and the Government subsidises the SOS centres and our social workers are part of the stakeholder task force meetings. We also work with churches through the Catholic Church Alliance for Orphans and Vulnerable Children. The communities and churches started such centres and the Government subsidises those centres just as private schools are subsidised by the Ministry of Education and we also offer our services through our social workers and our child welfare allowance.

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Honourable Dienda, no child is excluded, all children in need are taken care of by the Namibian Government, the SWAPO Party Government, through the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

There was a question on the 1961 *Kinderwet*. The Children's Status Act is in place and we are now in a very advanced stage with the Child Protection and Care Bill, which will be the new name, and it will be tabled before the end of the year. It was started in the time of the Ministry of Health, but the Children's Status Bill was passed and the Child Protection and Care Bill will be tabled before the next elections.

Honourable Geingob and Honourable Ndaitwah, thank you for highlighting the Government's policies on workshops. I did not expect such a question from Honourable Schimming-Chase, because she is an educationalist, she is an intellectual and she knows how it came about that our people were never exposed to the frameworks of different policies and the workshops are part of the capacity-building programme. That is why even Honourable Dienda mentioned under the Parliament's Budget that there should be more workshops and capacity-building programmes for new Honourable Members. An Honourable Member is somebody whom the people voted for to come to Parliament and if they also have that need for workshops and capacity-building, how much more would our formerly disadvantaged people who were totally excluded from proper quality education? These are the forums which we are using to empower our people and it has an impact. We bring annual Reports here, we make Ministerial Statements, you asked questions and we answer properly with statistics and data because we are transparent.

We have completed the Baseline Study on Human Trafficking because there were no statistics and we were sponsored by USAID of the United Nations and the study has been completed and the Report will be available in May. I will submit it to Cabinet and also bring it to Parliament. You cannot have an Act on something if you do not have proper records and statistics. How can you plan and strategise? This is why we have completed the Baseline Study in a joint venture with Agriculture and the report will be ready in May.

80% of women are managing the income-generating projects. As was said, we are Gender Equality and Child Welfare, but it is still mostly the women who are unemployed and heads of households and they have applied and are supported. With the bigger projects we usually refer them to Trade and Industry and to the National Planning Commission. We only support the small

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start-up projects because it is just an incentive to assist our women. We also train each one who applies in the workshops. First the person is trained in how to establish a business, how to market and how to be a manager in a business. We have to train and empower our people in all these things in order to strengthen them, so that they are not moving ahead in darkness, but know what they have to do.

When the women attend trade fairs, they build up networks and markets and then expand their businesses. We open up doors for them and who will do that for them if we do not?

In connection with the school development funds, the N\$200 the children are getting are only to assist the foster parents and that is why we are writing letters, requesting that those children be exempted from school and hostel fees, but we have come to the conclusion that we have to strengthen these households with income-generating capacities, so that they can pay, because the majority of the schools these vulnerable children and orphans are attending are the formerly disadvantaged schools. Even the parents who are alive cannot afford paying the school fees for the children. We will contact the schools and give a subsidy according to the percentage of orphans and vulnerable enrolled in that school, so that the school can also grow. Otherwise it is not possible, because the other schools never take up these children. However, we have managed to put those children in conflict with the law at the After-School Centre and the Children's Home in the best schools and for them we pay. We pay the staff, we pay for the maintenance and house mothers who take care of the children. We have transport for the children, they are dropped off and picked up at the schools and the N\$7 million are used for all these activities.

The gender-based violence is a very big issue and that is why we held a cross-cutting National Gender-based Violence Conference in June 2007 for traditional leadership, churches, civil society, NGOs, CBOs, the youth, women groups and the survivors of gender-based violence. We opened up the floor and there were so many recommendations from the different sectors, such as the Ministry of Safety and Security, and we made recommendations which were implemented. The statistics on gender-based violence have come down in some Regions, in others it has gone up and it is sad that the global economic crisis will have a global impact and Namibia cannot be excluded.

We have programmes for unemployed men and they will get the little pension and that is why women are in the meantime coming up with income-

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generating projects especially in the rural areas to contribute towards the livelihood of the household. I feel they can join their strengths and move together and adjust according to the circumstances. Therefore, I do not think it will increase gender-based violence, because we promote peace and unity and understanding in the households and in the communities.

Honourable Kavari, Namibia is a signatory to the SADC Gender Policy of 1997 and to the SADC Gender Protocol on Development which was signed last year in August. We have statistics on women in decision-making positions in the private, public and parastatal sectors and all these have reached 30 and more. Whenever a list of the names of Directors are brought to the Cabinet by the Line Minister, the first thing the President and everybody in Cabinet looks at is whether there are 30% of women and if not, the list is sent back. Therefore, no Board is approved in Cabinet which does not have 30% women on the list.

Women are not appointed on the basis of high qualifications. We know that there are 35% of women in decision-making positions in the local authorities and they are women from the villages. There is no need to be able to read and write, because that is why we have these workshops through the Elected Women Forum to empower the women and when they are elected to Boards, it is based on their credibility in the community. The names are not hand-picked, the names come from the communities.

One of my Comrades here mentioned that women are graduating in big numbers from tertiary institutions and the others are helped through workshops.

We build recreational centres and some communities prefer to call them recreational centres, some communities prefer to call them women centres. We build these centres and we hand it over to be run by the communities. We have already completed more than seven and others will be completed this year. The Karas one is under feasibility study, but the ones in Omaheke and Oshana will be completed. These are community centres which we build for the people so that they have infrastructure to implement what the Government plans for them, so that these people are well-equipped.

Vice-President of the SWAPO Party, thank you very much for rescuing me on the workshops, because we who are already so much educated go for workshops abroad and travel and come back, but then complain if poor people

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are empowered through these programmes. Honourable Ndaitwah, thank you very much and viva gender equality!

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Schimming-Chase.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Minister, the HANSARD is there, I did not ask *why workshops?* If that is what the Honourable Minister understood, I can put it in other languages. I did not say “*why.*” I asked whether you could put meat on the bones to say what has been the outcome of the workshops in terms of empowering women. To answer Nora Chase on the “*why*” is because possibly you forgot the “*Nora Schimming*”.

As far as the Vice-President of SWAPO Party goes, it is not a secret, we have records here of who is travelling where, when and why. When the Honourable Vice-President was a backbencher, he was not sitting here to start off with, and I am sure that I am not begrudged representing the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade of the Inter Parliamentary Union to which I was elected or when the United Nations invites me to moderate meetings. I am sure that I am not begrudged, but I would like us to have a record here of some people who land at the airport and take the next plane and they are not Nora Chase nor Nora Schimming-Chase. Thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I will not enter into a dialogue, but the workshops are there for capacity-building, gender mainstreaming and to empower our people and the impact and the reports are there, the statistics are there to prove that.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I now put Vote 12, any objection? Vote 12 is agreed to.

Vote 20 – “AGRICULTURE, WATER AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT”
put for **Discussion.**

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you, I will be very brief. First, I support the Vote. It is a very important Vote, because a Nation which does not feed itself is a slave of those who are feeding it. I have only one suggestion to make.

The Minister in his motivation speech was talking about production and horticultural development programmes and the livestock production programmes, etcetera. We are encouraged to produce more and either produce more by planting a lot of things through the Green Scheme and also through livestock production, but there are certain things that go with this.

Some newcomers in the trade sometimes find themselves in difficulties to keep up with the proper production of what we are engaging in. I am not a crop farmer, but at least I can talk for animals. We are supposed to produce, domesticate our products in terms of adding value here in the country, increase production and have healthy animals, but it takes a lot of things in order to reach there. First let me start with lick.

Honourable Minister, is it not possible for the Ministry to produce some of the things which will be beneficial to the farmers? We have Ohorongo Cement for the Building Industry because we know that cement is very expensive. There are areas where you cannot farm without lick, such as Omaheke. A bag of P12, which cost about N\$100, is now about N\$500 or more and if you do not give your cattle phosphate and this lick, forget about healthy animals. How many bags of P12 are you going to buy for 100 animals? There must be corresponding industries that would give us the material with which we are going to produce healthy animals.

We also get the vaccines from South Africa that are very expensive. If, for example, you sell 10 cattle, the income of 5 are already used for vaccines. Is there anything the Ministry can do about these prices? Even the fertilisers come from South Africa and elsewhere and it is very expensive. Will we really move forward if these things are not being promoted by the Ministry so

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that farming can be successful as per the desires of the Ministry, because without these things we cannot conduct successful farming. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 20. Honourable Deputy Minister, I am going to raise one aspect.

As you are aware, our SWAPO Party Government and, indeed, the SWAPO Party itself has declared the second phase of the struggle, meaning the economic struggle. Honourable Deputy Minister, I was really shocked last month when I went to the North and saw the number of trucks from south of the cordon fence, loaded with live cattle going to Angola, depriving the communal farms to the north of that cordon fence. I think this discrimination must really be stopped. It is now time to call MeatCo to order. Those who are farming south of the cordon fence have the advantage of markets right up to Europe and those poor communal farmers, who incidentally have even more cattle than the commercial farmers, are deprived of these markets. Could I appeal to the Ministry to make sure that those communal farmers are assisted with marketing, particularly to Angola. My heart is bleeding for those people. Otherwise I support Vote 20.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 20. No one can live without agriculture.

I want to join Honourable Dr Tjiriange on the issue of vaccine. The late Hubschle attempted to produce vaccine in Namibia and I do not know whether that programme is still alive. It is true that the vaccines are too expensive.

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When we had the outbreak of lump-skin disease, you had to cough up N\$700 for only a 100 cattle and we need to improve on our own creativity and manufacture some of our own vaccines.

Comrade Chairperson, it is good to hear about the Green Scheme, however we are not really making progress. When the new programme starts, some of the children of the struggle could be productive and produce food for the country. I also mentioned last year that although I know the buying of land is under the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, but when a farm is bought, the Ministry of Agriculture is supposed to have a tract of land owned by the State, rather than only for private owners. They are for profit and most of those people already have farms and they do not want to develop Namibia productively so that it can be self-reliant. Those are some of the issues that we need to look into. I am putting this to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Lands, that they must enact a law to force people with farmland to produce, especially those south of the red line.

Finally, on the red line. This red line is really a problem. The people south of the red line are exposed to the European markets. I read a book which was given to me by MAG. They want those people south of the red line to maintain that economic supremacy but when we go to AGRA or SWAFET we buy the same medication. Even when lump-skin was here within the red line, no one cried. We definitely have to improve on our food self-reliance. I support Vote 20.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Kavari.

HON KAVARI: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Deputy Minister, on page 5 of your motivation speech you made reference to the significant role being played by the livestock and meat production sector, contributing more than N\$2 million to the GDP.

Our beautiful Land of the Brave is a land of contrasts with a diverse geographical set-up, consisting of three deserts in the east, west and southern parts of our country. The areas with the highest rainfall are north of the red line, leaving a small part of the country that is suitable for marketable

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livestock production. Unfortunately these areas are facing three main problems, being bush encroachment, soil degradation and foreign poisonous plants.

Since Independence, the situation in most of these parts have worsened beyond affordable levels and have decreased the size of grazing areas. If the situation is allowed to continue unabated, Honourable Deputy Minister, it would lead to the undesirable decrease in the number of marketable livestock, which in turn will affect the sector's contribution to the GDP. However, is regrettable and amazing that nearly twenty years after Independence, our Government has not yet seen this situation as a priority. Therefore, I humbly request and urge the Government to solve this problem. I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 20. As a farmer I would like to associate myself with concerns raised by the previous speakers.

Comrade Chairperson, before I pose my question, let me thank the Ministry for the decision to erect silos in certain grain-producing areas. This is really overdue, silos should have been built a long time ago, but they say it is better late than never.

The Honourable Deputy Minister on page 4 talks about the areas where these silos are built, Omuthiya being one of them. Then at paragraph 1.3.1.6 on page 5, he talks about the intention of the Ministry to upgrade and procure new equipment to facilitate grain collection, cleaning and grading and then he mentions the centres where this is going to be done. In Oshikoto Region the centre will be at Onaena. The silos are at Omuthiya and the distance between these places are almost a 100 kilometres. Who will transport the grain from Onaena to the silos? Will it be the producer or the buyer, who I suppose is the Government? This also applies to all other centres. Why is it that these centres are not close to where the silos are, so that it makes it easier for whoever is going to transport the grain?

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My second concern is just amplifying what Dr Kawana has mentioned. I found this very desegregating on the part of the formerly disadvantaged and the Government.... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask a question to the Honourable Minister? Are you aware that in countries such as Zimbabwe there is a Grain Marketing Board which actually goes all over the country to the farmers and buy the grain from the farmers and transport it to the silos? Would it not be a good idea for us to do the same?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Indeed, Honourable Minister, that would be even better. I just posed the question because I was wondering how these two centres could be a 100 kilometres apart. If in other systems the boards are the ones that go and collect from the producers, that would be even much better and I think that would be too good to be true.

Oshivelo Gate and all other similar gates are meant to prohibit any transportation of animals from beyond the cordon fence. Transportation of live animals south of the cordon fence started some time towards the end of last year and now they are doing it massively. I think we are also being seen as being unable to see what is good or bad for ourselves. Now that there is a lucrative market in Angola, these lorries pass at Oshivelo without any restrictions and we seem not to be concerned.

I have just realised that there is an Auction pen in Oshakati which was created recently which is meant for cattle from Grootfontein and our cattle that side will soon have no market and the Ministry of Agriculture is just sitting with folded hands. What are you doing? If you can prohibit the transportation of animals from the North through that gate, why can you not also prohibit the transportation of animals from here to spoil our market there? We must do something about this. Honestly speaking, it is not fair and soon our people are going to revolt. Minister of Agriculture, do something before those people revolt. We have a lot of cattle that side and since they have found a niche for their market, protect them. They cannot take the law into their own hands, they need the protection of their Government and if you bring a proposal to Cabinet, we will support you because that means we are empowering our people who have for a long time been deprived. I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me also join the others who have supported this very important Vote, the Vote of the farmers, the Vote that is providing food for our country. I only have only one brief concern to share with the Honourable Deputy Minister and this is on the issue of rural water supply in our communal areas.

My concern is twofold: Firstly, I am not so sure, am I to understand the policy of Government is to rehabilitate water points and then to hand them over to the local communities to maintain and run them? My concern is on how these people are prepared technically and financially to take care of that responsibility. In many of the areas people are depending on windmills, for example, and if today a windmill has to be replaced, we are talking about even more than N\$30,000 for one windmill. How will our poor communities be able to afford that and how are they prepared for that?

I am not so sure whether our people on the Water Point Committees are really trained and prepared to cater for the needs of all the people. The other day an elderly couple complained to me about problems in their own village and what they experience with stronger members of this village. I am just worried about this programme and I am appealing to the Ministry that these people should be prepared and assisted properly for their own survival. I support the Vote.

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

HON RIRUAKO: Talking about the market in the North, we had a market for our ostrich in the United States, but then we sold the eggs and ostrich and today we do not have a market. Angola presently is a huge market, but eventually it is going to be over. All the heifers were sold there, they are going to produce their own animals. That is going to be a short-term market.

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Coming to the farmers, I support my Colleague, Honourable Tjiriange. The farmers in the past used to receive a subsidy from the Government in order to be given the opportunity to farm, but nobody helps our poor farmers to survive. We have to train them to do what without money? They need to be given money in order to survive and stand on their own and even after they can stand on their own, that subsidy can remain forever until this Government has gone away from here. You are so selfish not to support your own farmers who own farms, to put them in a position to produce. We have talked about production, but how can they produce?

The former system was that you could buy the farms and get a subsidy from the Government and then start to produce. That Government did this for their own people. There was discrimination and we were crying about it, but we have discrimination here. Let us talk about the people of this country and not be selective and talk about individual farmers. If you want to promote the farming system, do not differentiate between your own black people. The farming system is alright but we do not give them a hand to survive.

You can talk about politics until tomorrow morning, you will not solve the problem. Find an answer to the problem rather than wasting your time by talking about one issue one after another for nothing. I thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 20. I also commend the Ministry for the revised policy on the Green Scheme, which will increase job creation and promote food production in the country. However, I also want to see some other Regions to be included, such as Omaheke, because when I visited Aminuis, Otjimbingwe and Okakarara, I learnt that those areas have fertile land where they can produce mahangu or maize. Therefore, I would like the Minister of Agriculture to identify big projects there for youth, women and men so that they can also contribute to food production and not only meat, because they are also consuming maize. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, are you aware that in many countries there are zones of production. Some areas produce certain things such as cotton, others produce grapes, others produce other products. The one which does not produce grapes maybe produces meat, the one which does not produce meat, may produce mahangu depending on the zone. The mere fact that I am raising cattle does not mean that I should not eat maize and vice versa. It however needs specialisation. When you specialise in one commodity and somebody else in another commodity, then you exchange products. Do you not think it makes economic sense?

Secondly, are you aware that in many countries, particularly developed countries, agriculture is being subsidised. If you buy a farm here, as poor as you are, you are indebted to the bank and there is no subsidy. How are you going to produce?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Through you, Honourable Chairperson, I welcome the advice by the Honourable Minister and there is really a need to do so, even to have a garden so that the children can at least learn how to produce maize. I am supporting the idea that the farmers be subsidised as is done in other countries so that we can promote our food production.

I want to support the point made by Honourable Kawana, because I learned that some of the commercial farms now have kraals where they are gathering the cattle before taking it to Angola. They are buying cattle at cheap prices along the cordon fence and then they sell it to Angola. Those people are prevented to sell their cattle on this side and then they are discriminated against in that they themselves cannot sell to the Angolan people. I think this issue must be investigated so that all the people could benefit from what they are producing. With those few words, I support the Vote.

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

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I only have a short comment on the Green Scheme and I really support the efforts of the Ministry and that for the year 2008/2009 N\$55 million have been allocated. My only problem with the Green Scheme is that it is moving too slow. With the economic meltdown and all these problems we are facing, it is important that we start producing our own food.

I particularly appreciate the efforts at the Hardap Research Centre, Tandjeskoppies and Aussenkehr, but more should be done, because it pains a person when you see a lot of water running into the sea and the people in the South are unemployed and face a lot of problems there. I feel we need to utilise that water. I know it is very expensive to prepare the land in the South, because some of the areas are mountainous, but if we could start similar projects, such as the ones in Kavango, Mashare, Vungu-Vungu, Ndonga-Linene, Musese and Etunda, we would really start to produce some food.

Honourable Dr Tjiriange was talking about P12, phosphate and all these things. We must really try to assist our farmers, and I agree with the previous speakers, but we must try to look at the land in the South. There is an enormous piece of land and enough water to start allocating land to maybe three hundred families who will be supported so that they can also produce. (Intervention)

HON BASSON: On a Point of Information. My brother, do you know that most of the land in the southern part of Namibia is more for small stock farming and not for mahangu and maize? Kavango and other areas are good for that, but not for the South. Just give us more small stock and we will farm.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I am referring to the area along the Orange River where there is abundant opportunities. The people have started with Aussenkehr which was a massive success and we can have similar projects on a small scale. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Would you allow a small question? Do you know that the wealth of Aussenkehr belongs to one person? Thousands and thousands of hectares belong to one person. Are you aware of that?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I am aware of that, but that is not the only piece of land. There is land running from Aussenkehr to Rosh Pinah, going to the sea and there is nobody there. There is only an occasional kudu and springbuck, but we can grow lucerne. We are saying we are farmers, we need lucerne, we need animal fodder. That is where we can get these things from and improve our herds. That area can employ a lot of people, we only need to see which land belongs to the State and resettle 300 families. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: I am terribly sorry to interrupt, but would the Honourable Deputy Minister accept a question from me, please? Comrade Utoni, would you agree that particularly in the South previous Governments prohibited gardening purposefully, saying that the water provided by the Government is only for human consumption and animal use, no gardening. That was prohibited. Do you know that?

Would you also agree with me that there is a need for us to start diversifying in all the areas and not only stick to one type of farming?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: This is exactly what I am saying. The Honourable Member said they are farming with small stock and if you have lucerne available, I can tell you that those *boerbokke* will multiply like nothing. You can get cheap lucerne from Aussenkehr, you can supply the fodder. Those who want to farm in the South should get the necessary assistance. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask a question? Comrade Utoni, you are doing very well, but if possible, I want you to speak about subsidies. Do you not think that even the productivity that you are talking about could be hampered by the fact that there are no subsidies and as if that is not bad enough, there is the land tax? Instead of getting subsidies we are actually paying tax and then you are also expected to pay the AgriBank. Whatever you are going to produce will be divided between the AgriBank and the tax and you will remain with nothing.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I agree with you, Honourable Minister, and I know that we are farming under difficult circumstances and it is true that the land tax is a killer and the Affirmative Action loans are at an exorbitant 14%, while in Europe every loan is about 2 to 3%, which is affordable. Then on top of that they have subsidies and because the land belongs to them, they do not pay land tax. I was just raising that issue, I know the time is not on our side and I want to plead with the Honourable Members to pass the Vote as speedily as possible. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I have a small question to Honourable Katali. When I was in my village two weeks ago, my attention was drawn to the fact that because of the poverty pressure on the local people there, many people are selling their cattle to the Angolan farmers. You have one or two and you sell them just to make sure that you have food in your house and people are worried that this is going to lead even more poverty at the end of the day because people will have no animals. However, because they are under pressure of circumstances, that their mahangu fields have been washed away and they have no reserves, they have now resorted to selling their animals. Does the Ministry have any programme to assist these people so that somehow they keep some of their animals? Thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have two or three questions to the Deputy Minister.

When I look at the boreholes north of the Red line, I see that all of them use only generators and when I look around some of the farms here, they have

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windmills. Is it that there is no wind in the rural areas or is it very difficult to operate windmills?

Namibia is a semi-arid country and I want to know what we are doing to plant trees especially in towns and at schools. Maybe what we can do is to in every contract being given there is a condition that they do landscaping and that they plant trees around those facilities. I think it is very important that we plant indigenous trees to keep Namibia green.

The Honourable Minister of Justice mentioned the silos which have been constructed. Are we now storing our products in these silos or are they empty? With these few words, I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. My support to Vote 20 is undivided. Honourable Deputy Minister, on page 3 of your motivation you mentioned crop production. This year we received plenty of rain, indeed floods in the north and north-eastern parts of the country. It is a welcome situation that we got a lot of water, but at the same time one also notices that the harvests are going to be very poor in many of those areas, because the crops could not really take off when they were planted. My question is whether the Ministry has already started with evaluating the harvest we may have in order to have plans in place to make food available, because one suspects, that being in the communal area where people normally depend on subsistence farming, that there will be a problem in that part of the Region. The question is whether there are already plans on what to do in that kind of situation.

On page 4 you are informing us that the Ministry is on track with the construction of the required infrastructure, particularly at Ndonga-Linena and then the development at Tandjeskoppies. My concern is with Tandjeskoppies, just to find out how far is the development in that particular project, because many people have alluded that agriculture will be one of the areas where a lot of people could be taken up for employment. One can only make reference to

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Aussenkehr where there was nothing, but as we speak now, there are more than seven thousand people in that area and one wants to think that if Tandjeskoppies were to be developed, obviously the same number of people could be employed there.

When I was there three weeks ago, I hardly found any sign of development. How far is that project actually in terms of development?

On page 9 the Honourable Minister mentioned water supply to urban and rural communities. I would want you to shed more light, because this is one area where the Ministry of Agriculture has made impressive strides in making water available to the general population of Namibia. For example, is it possible for you to indicate the coverage in terms of percentage in urban areas and also in the rural areas? One would want to think that in that area Namibia is number one in the whole of Africa, if I am not mistaken, and I only want to find out if you have some percentage figures.

With those few questions I support Vote 20 wholeheartedly.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have a few questions. My first question is on page 10 of the motivation. You said that in June 2008, Phase 2 of the Waterberg-Okakarara Water Supply Scheme has been upgraded for efficient billing and debt collection. We all know that land and water are the critical aspects in human life. Have you ever considered the fact that you have people who cannot afford to pay for water or people who have debts to the point where they cannot afford to pay their debts and to continue making a living? What is the position of the Minister of Agriculture when it comes to the issue of water debts?

Secondly, how do you foresee, in the event that your Ministry decides not to write off the debts, these people developing into becoming effective in the agricultural sector, so much so that they contribute to the economic well-being of this country?

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On page 16 of your technical paper there is mention of Small Stock research. Honourable Deputy Minister, you and I are fully aware of the fact that the small stock producers in the South have for the last three, four years been complaining about the new Government scheme that has been implemented in the South. They have been saying that that scheme is not good for him and it is in fact not supporting the industry, but discouraging the producers. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Tjihuiko, you were talking about water debts. Are you aware that a certain Political Party represented in this House was telling people not pay for the water, because if they come to power, they will not have to pay for water whatsoever and as a result, even those who were able to do so did not pay.

HON TJIHUIKO: Yes, I was responsible for Otjozondjupa Region. Why are you asking if you know that we have done it? Honourable Minister, I am fully aware of that. I was a civil servant for fifteen years and I am from that area and I know what you are talking about, but the point is, the Government has realised that the people were misled, as usual. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. I do not believe anybody can be misled in order for his cattle to die because of no water. He cannot be misled by a certain Political Party. That is not true (Interjection). Honourable Kaura is not here and you are starting to tarnish his name.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, let me clear this. Nobody has mentioned the name of Honourable Kaura, it came from the Honourable Vice-President of DTA. That name came from your mouth, not from anybody here.

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister Tjiriange, my appeal to the Government is that yes, indeed, we know what has happened, our people are suffering and we should not continue saying that because it is known this Party has been doing these things, therefore the people should be punished forever. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Order. It is only because of the two Parties trying to sabotage our DTA Party. This is not true. Stop this nonsense! If the DTA was not here, you would not have food or water, you would have nothing!

HON TJIHUIKO: I appeal to Government to seriously consider. I think the people have learned a lesson, they have grown up now to understand that sometimes you cannot take things for granted. Honourable Deputy Minister, my appeal is that Government should seriously look at that issue. It is in the interest of our agricultural sector, it is in the interest of the people and therefore, it is a case that needs to be looked at.

My last point is on the question of agricultural farmland. Honourable Chairperson, I was reading this book which was given to us. A very interesting thing I have seen in this book is that they are saying that when the Boers came to this country, they were in fact helped by the Government. Our commercial farmers, the people who have bought land through the Agricultural Bank, need to be assisted. If you want to see this country getting somewhere, I think it is high time to change the attitude that those who have commercial land are the rich ones and we should only look at the resettled farmers. We as blacks, those who were previously disadvantaged, should come to terms with the reality that the success of the white commercial farmers came about because of the fact that they got concessional loans and that Government was also supporting them.

I believe it is very important for us to look at this issue and to say that previously disadvantaged commercial farmers are not really supported at the moment. If we want to increase their contribution to the total economic development, we need to do something about it and not at the pace we are going now. We should look at the issue of the agricultural support schemes in a holistic manner and not only looking at the black resettled farmers and the Affirmative Action farmers. We should look at it from an economic point of

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view and say this is the level of production that we need to see in five years' time. Therefore this is the kind of support we will give to the agricultural sector, irrespective whether it is a commercial farm bought by a previously disadvantaged or a resettled farmer. We need to look at this and combine them and say that we are going to support this sector in this manner in order for us to get either 5 % or 10 % agricultural production in the long run.

With these few comments, I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I support Vote 20 and also support the construction of silos in the areas. What I want to add here could probably be of vital importance for our communities in the rural areas and that is an information, that the Ministry of Agriculture has an information bureau where everybody who has something to sell could pass that information to that centre and the one who wants to buy something, could notify the centre that he needs a cow. Automatically I will then be told where to find the cow. I am saying this because nowadays we have a lot of communication in our rural areas, but our poor communities are now struggling even to sell their cows and a neighbour somewhere needs a cow, but there is no information sharing. I think if we do that it would assist our communities.

The other very beautiful song here is on the earth dams. Honourable Tshirumbu was always talking about earth dams and I now the formula on which it can be done in these oshanas. We dig a very big area, maybe five kilometres by two, we fence off and we take all that sand to Oshakati so that the ground in Oshakati could be elevated and then they will no longer experience problems with the floods. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister, will you dig those holes around the whole town?

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HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: No problem, because once we do that and the floods come, the water will proceed to Etosha and I can tell you that once we have a lot of those dams, we would change the eco-system of Namibia – a lot of fish, a lot of water and no problem any longer. However, we want to assist Oshakati to be on high ground. This is my advice I can give you and I support the Vote.

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

HON IIPINGE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote and I am referring to page 8 – Integrated Water Resource Management Programme.

Last year I asked a question to the Honourable Minister on the harvesting of rainwater. I asked whether the Ministry has a plan to harvest rainwater and the response was that a study is being conducted. I want to find out whether the study has now been completed and what the results are.

The second question I have is on 1.3.4.3 which deals with the Water Management Committee which is responsible for managing water resources. I want the Minister to clarify as my Geography may not be quite correct. I know where Kuiseb is and I know where Stampriet is, but I do not know where this Ishana area is. Could the Minister clarify that? Having said that, I support the Vote.

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

HON MOONGO: Honourable Chairperson, I would like to support Vote 20. Many of my points have already mentioned by the other Colleagues, however, I want to express my concern on the price of mahangu. We are trying our

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level best to cultivate mahangu at the local level, but the price is very low and the people struggle to survive.

I appreciate what is being done under the Green Scheme, such as that one at Etunda. If we could have three similar projects in every Region we will be able to produce enough food. After nineteen years we do not want to see people importing food from South Africa. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? When you say that the cultivation of mahangu is no profitable, are you aware that we cultivate mahangu in order to sell to the communities? Are you saying that we should sell it at exorbitant prices to the communities?

HON MOONGO: I want the Minister to initiate some methods so that schools and hospitals could also use mahangu, so that the local communities could sell mahangu to the State in order that there is an improvement in the price. We do not only want to import maize from South Africa, we want our local food to be promoted. I support the Vote.

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

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I have only two questions on page 271 of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure. It is about MeatCo receiving N\$5 million from the Government. Honourable Minister, who is in control of MeatCo? Is it the Government, the farmers or the Board of Directors?

Secondly, how are the Government and the farmers involved in the activities of MeatCo? I thank you and I support the Vote.

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

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HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson, only a simple question on page 5 of the speech of the Honourable Deputy Minister on the export of small live stock from the Karas Region.

Comrade Deputy Minister, there has been this controversy of whether we should export too many of the sheep live to South Africa and many of the processors and farmers have been complaining to some of us. What is the position of the Ministry with respect to the export of live sheep, in particular, to South Africa during this time of global crisis? Many of them are asking whether it is not time that we completely stop the export of live sheep. What is the position of the Ministry in that respect, Honourable Deputy Minister? Can we stop the export of live sheep during this difficult time? Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members. First I must thank all the people who have shown interest in the Ministry of Agriculture and food production by asking questions. However, I think the Colleagues do not have sympathy, they forgot that I am a Deputy Minister and not the Minister. However, I will try to address the questions with assistance from outside and also from what I know. I may not necessarily answer every Member, I will group them together and then there are those which we call "*camera questions*". We have produced a detailed statement and a technical paper where all the answers can be found. However, I will try to answer.

Comrade Tjiriange started off with a suggestion, but it culminated into a question and the answer is that yes, we are not manufacturing vaccines and licks, but the Ministry is encouraging investors in this field and the Government will assist whoever wants to venture into this field.

With regard to the feedlots, we will soon be opening Etunda 5, 6, 7 and 8, as was mentioned in the speech, which will be developed for feedlots.

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Comrade Kawana, thank you for your support. To the *Right Honourable Prime Minister* and the *Secretary-General of SWAPO* have also expressed their concern on this issue of the Angolan market, but there are some contradictions. The Right Honourable Prime Minister is trying to say we should assist people so that they do not sell all their animals to the Angolan market, while others are saying we must prevent commercial farmers from the South to do so. That means it also includes me, Comrade Tjiriange and others who have farms, that we should not sell to the Angolan market.

Looking at these two scenarios, the one where people are depleting their animals, meaning that the demand is higher than the supply, then there must be some suppliers from somewhere else. I feel that in a free market system we cannot say that certain people must be prevented from marketing their animals. If there are enough animals north of the cordon fence, why are they not selling? Nobody is preventing from selling. The Angolan market started from the communal areas until such time that they could not find animals and then they came here. Let me also inform you that the people who are coming to buy livestock south of the cordon fence are the same black people that you are saying should be prevented from buying livestock here to sell to the niche market in Angola. It is not really the commercial farmers who are selling there. People are coming from the North to buy here and if we are saying they should not buy, then I do not know what we are really saying, because they are the same people whom you want to protect.

Comrade Ilonga, vaccines are very expensive, it is not produced here and I am not sure whether it would be cheaper should we start producing it. It is something we need, but the capacity and all other related issues may dictate. However, we want somebody to manufacture vaccines here and if it could be cheaper, it would be good.

You said the Green Scheme should be intensified and this is what we are saying in our statement. We are trying our best and with the new revised policy, many of those who could not participate previously can do so now. You said we should force the farmers to produce food and we will try to do that and once we have succeeded, we will come and report here in the House.

With regard to the red line, we are taking measures. I have mentioned in my speech the tagging and that blood will be drawn so that the area could be declared foot-and-mouth disease free and then the red line will be immaterial and people can market their animals everywhere.

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Honourable Kavari, bush encroachment is addressed in the technical document, although I must really agree that we are still at the infant stage. Recently the farmers have produced a document which is with the Ministry of Finance to see how we are going to finance and help people who are de-bushing.

Honourable Ithana, thank you for your support and your suggestions with regard to the silos. We have Agricultural Development Centres in almost every constituency and people bring their products there to be sorted. Those who are not good enough for the market have to be taken back home and it is good that these centres are close to where the people are so that the ones which are not needed could be taken back, rather than taking them very far to the silos and then having to take them back. The Ministry is helping in this regard and NNFU is also helping as well as the Agronomic Board which is assisting the Ministry with the marketing of mahangu and the managing of the silos.

The Honourable Member asked whether the silos are full. The ones in Caprivi and Kavango were full of maize last year, but with the drought the Office of the Prime Minister bought everything and we have already requested the Agronomic Board and NNFU to start getting maize and we want to fill the one in Okongo with mahangu, simply because there are people who eat mahangu as a staple food. When drought relief food is being distributed, we encourage them to get mahangu.

Honourable Konjore, the financial services to repair are still with the Ministry, the Ministry will repair all the pipes and water points. However, we have a programme for capacity-building and that is why some Regions want us to decentralise the water points, but sometimes we feel the people are not ready, we first want to train them in order that they know what they are supposed to do.

Honourable Riruako said the Angolan market is the same as the ostrich market. Apparently America bought ostriches and now they are no longer doing that and therefore, the Angolans are buying heifers and in future will not buy from us. I do not know how we can prevent people from marketing their animals.

Honourable Nghidinwa, thank you for your support for the Green Scheme. Yes, we are trying to increase the production. I mentioned in my speech that there is a subsidy to the farmers.

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Comrade Nujoma, I agree that the Green Scheme has been too slow, but I think we are making strides and I agree with everything you said.

Comrade Konjore, if the water table is depleted there must be some form of control, that irrigation should not take place at certain places because of the water table. That is justifiable, that is rationing.

Honourable Namoloh, there are too many trees in the North and the boreholes are too deep for windmills, but here in the Tsumeb area the water is so shallow that even a little wind would yield water.

We already have programmes for the planting of trees and when I was with the Ministry of Education, the contractors had to plant a tree for everyone they have cut down. There is also a law that the cutting down of big trees should be avoided.

Comrade Iyambo, an evaluation has been done in March and we are expecting one in June together with the Office of the Prime Minister. I think the water coverage is 95% for urban and 90% for rural. The tender for Tandjekoppe has gone out and there are indications that this project is not viable according to the design which is in place. The problem is that the project took so long, that the prices have probably tripled and therefore, the viability is in question.

Honourable Tjihuiko, the water debts were of your own making and you are still fighting for it to be written off. However, the Ministry has a programme of looking at the people who are not able to pay and that is why I am saying you do not read the documents.

The small stock is not a small stock research but small stock marketing. This issue is between the producers and the processors. We gave them ample time to discuss, they are not coming together and the Honourable Minister in front of me and I will soon call a meeting where the Government will decide to say, *“if you cannot come together and agree, this is what we are going to do.”*

The AgriBank is helping, I do not know why we are saying the Government is doing nothing. Government is financing through the AgriBank.

Honourable Nghimtina, your suggestion was very good and we will consider it. I am not sure whether there is really a need for a centre for marketing. People go to auctions and people also use the radio services for marketing.

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I am not sure how we will be able to get the sand under the houses in Oshakati. The construction of earth dams have been affected by the good rains that we had last year. Most of the places had rain and the rain came before we did anything, but this year we are hoping to start construction sooner. We are also being challenged by the manual work. People will dig today, get their money and tomorrow there are only five people.

Honourable Ipinge, the study is still ongoing and they are trying to see whether they can divert the water from Oshakati and also the programme on the harvesting of water is ongoing. The Ishana Basin is from Engela down to Ogongo area in the Oshana, Oshikoto and Ohangwena Regions. The people upstream know what the downstream people need and they work together in that regard.

Honourable Moongo, you want people to sell their mahangu at high prices, but the buyers are the same people and I think the balance there is good.

MeatCo is currently owned by the producers, the farmers, but there is a study being done for Cabinet to look into this. The N\$5 million allocated to MeatCo is an incentive for the people from the communal areas to sell their livestock to MeatCo, because they claim that the Angolan market is better and the Government is now adding N\$1 per kilogram to the price offered by MeatCo.

Honourable Abraham Iyambo, our abattoirs may not be able to absorb all the animals to be slaughtered. I thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection to Vote 20? Agreed to.

Vote 16 – “JUSTICE” put for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee for granting me the opportunity. I rise to support Vote 16 and I have one question or comment which I regard as very important for the information of the House as well as for the information of the public.

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I need a clearer understanding about the interaction between the three branches in a democratic Government, which is the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. For instance, when the High Court has already ruled that a statute passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the President is constitutional, is the High Court also entitled to grant an Urgent Application to interdict the Executive from putting that statute into effect, especially when it does so without providing reasons for its action? I am referring to this and possibly you might know that this relates to the labour hire issue where an order was given and for the past 2 months no reasons have been given.

Especially in the area of labour relations, which are very volatile, it is important to resolve disputes as quickly as possible and we know there is provision in the new Labour Act that an arbitrator, to whom a dispute has been given, must issue an award within 30 days and also give reasons and sign.

When a High Court or a Labour Court issues an Order and announces that Judgment is reserved, as is customary, or even worse, that the reasons for the Order will follow, is there any similar law or rule that sets a deadline for the Judge to give a Judgment or the reasons for the Order. Some of us who are not very educated in these issues would want clarity on this.

I also want to find out whether it is true that there are cases in which the High Court has taken as long as nine years to decide the case or give an Order. If that is the case, I want to find out, as the other side of the coin, if a Court issues an Order, is the Executive entitled to wait for a period of years before complying with that Order? I thank you.

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

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. My first question to the Minister is on the Maintenance Courts. Honourable Minister, the queues remain very long at the Maintenance Courts. Women are standing their the whole day to receive N\$100. We can argue that people can make use of banking facilities, but again, the bank charges are so high that if the man only

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pays N\$100 per month maintenance, 40% of that will go for bank charges, which is not helpful at all.

My second question is on action taken against men who do not pay maintenance, which is too slow. Men are sending doctor certificates that they cannot attend Court and make all types of excuses for 5 years and yet we have all the laws and policies in place and the ones who suffer are our children who are not maintained by their fathers.

My next question is on Legal Aid, page 203. Honourable Minister, Legal Aid is also causing delays in our Courts. Court cases are being postponed because the people have to apply for Legal Aid, meaning that at the end of the day the case has been postponed for 6 years.

Another question is on page 404 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework on the Guardian Fund. Last time it was reported in this House through the Auditor-General's Report that the Auditor-General did not receive financial reports from this Fund for the past 8 years. When will we know exactly what happened to this money?

My next question is on page 411 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. Does the Ministry react to the reports by the Office of the Ombudsman and when can we expect the outcome of the further investigations and what you have done on all those reports? I remember the one on the situation in the prisons. What have you done as a result of that report?

On page 211 of the Estimates of Expenditure and Revenue the positions which have not been filled are mentioned. We have established 76 posts for legal officers, but only 44 have been filled. 198 posts were established for legal clerks and only 152 were filled. When will this situation change? I support the Vote and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister Nickey Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 16 and I have a

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question on page 18 of the speech about Community Courts. Community Courts have started operating from the 1st of April this year and my question is whether we have physical structures where they are going to operate or will they function under the trees as they used to do traditionally?

How are you going to handle non-compliance when people refuse to obey, because tradition has now been diluted a bit and people may simply refuse to comply.

The Honourable Minister said that 44 of these Community Courts are now ready and very soon 45, meaning all the recognised Traditional Authorities, will have their Community Courts. I want the Ministry to ensure that these Courts are actually going to function and not that a Community Court is established but literally does not do anything. How will the Traditional Authorities in towns operate in conjunction with the Magistrate's Courts? Otherwise I support Vote 16.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to support the Vote and before I do that, I want to pose one or two questions, but let me start with a comment.

When I was going through the Minister's motivation it reminded me of last year when the Minister asked for money to do a, b, c. It is not mentioned in this motivation how that money was spent. When we have a motivation by the Minister responsible for Justice, then everybody would expect to have a clear picture on what has happened and how we are going to deal with the criminals.

Looking at page 7, the Minister was saying that the appropriation sought for this year represents a 22,9% increase. In other words, the Ministry was given more money. The question is, from the amount of money that you have received, 88,4% will be spent on the Recurrent Budget and 11,6% will be spent on the Development Budget. However, we know that our prisons are overcrowded because we do not have enough courts to deal with the cases and

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still we are looking at the Traditional Courts. Next year we would like to see how many new Courts will be established in order for us to be able to solve the problem. We are criticising the Ministry responsible for Prisons, but the problem is that the prisoners are not appearing in Court. The problem lies with this Ministry, that they are not doing their job – full-stop. We need to see proper leadership in this Ministry. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Could I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? I am particularly on the issue of criticising the Ministry of Justice, because the prisons are full and the people are not taken to Court. In the first instance, how do people go to prison without having gone to Court? How does it work? My understanding is that you only go to prison after you have been sentenced by a Court.

HON TJIHUIKO: I was actually referring to the Police cells. On page 10 the Minister is saying that a total of about 29 415 cases were finalised during the year under review, while in 2007/2008 Financial Year only 22,830 cases were finalised. You are talking about 29,000 from what number? From one million or from 30,000? This is the problem, that you do not give us that information.

In the Regional Courts a total 2,085 cases were entered on the Roll and only 466 were dealt with. Where are the others? Does it mean that the justice system has come to a point where the problem is not going to be solved? As long as we are at that point, Colleagues, we should expect to see an upsurge in criminal cases. The criminals are now enjoying themselves in the cells. The situation in the cells has become such that they can do what they want. Whether you are in jail or you are there, it is the same thing and that is because of our justice system.

Honourable Chairperson, what we will all agree with is the fact that when you have a problem with leadership, that the Minister or Deputy Minister does not provide leadership, the system will be blocked and this is where the problem lies and as long as they have regional offices, the Minister will not see the performance of the entire Ministry. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Tjihuiiko, are you talking about the SWAPO leadership or are you talking about the leaders of NUDO because tomorrow you are going to Okozongohe?

HON TJIHUIKO: The point I want to raise here is the problem of the Right Honourable Prime Minister making sure that Ministries implement their programmes, making sure that when they come to this House and expect us to approve the Budgets, that we need to see how the money has been spent. I am really not happy with the way this motivation was presented and I am not happy with the way the Ministry is being run at the moment. If you want to see a situation where justice will be done in this country, we need to do something. With this contribution, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Hans Booys.

HON BOOYS: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have only one question to ask about the repossession of houses, farmland and other properties of individuals.

The Ministry of Education allege that their teachers do not give corporal punishment as it is prohibited by the Constitution, but when it comes to Court Orders issued by the High Courts, the people do not get a fair chance to defend their cases as to why they feel their houses should not be sold. In most cases it is a just a piece of paper and the houses or farmland are grabbed by the Messenger of the Court and sold on auction. Why do we not change the law so that these people get a chance to defend themselves and say why they feel their properties should not be repossessed? I thank you and I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Kaapanda.

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HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

TECHNOLOGY: I rise to support Vote 16. During her motivation speech the Honourable Minister enumerated on a number of places where Magistrate's Courts were build and this is commendable work, because the construction of Magistrate's Courts at various places will definitely contribute to the reduction of backlogs in our courts and the Minister also spoke about the capacity-building of Magistrates. However, I want to pose one question.

As a result of the backlogs in our Courts and also the congestion of inmates in our prisons, I am wondering whether the Minister of Safety and Security and the Minister of Justice could work out a system of introducing amnesty to those who committed petty crimes, such as shoplifting, and particularly for the first-time offenders, so that recommendations could be made to the Head of State to declare an amnesty for petty crime offenders on certain national days on our calendar in order to reduce the congestion in our prisons and also in our Courts.

Having said that, I want to thank the Honourable Minister for the magnificent High Court building in Oshakati which is indeed a landmark for the Ministry. I rest my case.

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

HON MOONGO: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My question is on page 18 where it is mentioned that the Judges of the communities have to be appointed by the Minister. Why are they not appointed by the Traditional Authorities and then be approved by the Ministry? That power is not a good one.

I do not know whether all of us understand how the Community Courts operate. There are Village Courts and District Courts. A village consisting of about a hundred houses and five thousand people will have a Village Court. If the case is too complicated, it has to be referred to the District Court. That District Court has jurisdiction over 181 villages. (Intervention)

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HON MOONGO**

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member is correct, but the Traditional Authorities are not similar and maybe he is speaking about his area. Others have different structures. Do not create the impression that all the Community Courts have the same structures. Maybe that applies to where you are coming from.

HON MOONGO: We are in the Parliament to appropriate funds to uplift the neglected Community Courts. There are three levels in the Traditional Court system. The highest one is the Court of the King.

It is said that community courts have to be recognised by the Minister. Is it this one of the King or the District Community Court or the Village Court? Which one is to be recognised?

Since Article 10 of the Constitution stipulates that there should be equality before the law... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? What is the penalty for Ongondolela?

HON MOONGO: It means if a man took somebody's wife, I do not know whether it is adultery, you have to pay 3 cattle and the wife has to pay that woman who went with that husband, also has to pay the wife of the one with whom she committed adultery, because she committed a crime against that woman and the man has to pay the husband. That is what they call Ongondolela.

As the Colleague said that the different areas do not have the same structures and I understand that, but we do not want to back to the trees. That is why our Kings and Chiefs participated in politics in order to pave the way for true structures.

Since Article 10 stipulates that there should be equality before the law, why do we only pay the Justices? What about the Justices of the Village Courts and District Courts and what about the Court of the King?

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HON DR TJIRIANGE / HON RIRUAKO**

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

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you very much. I support the Vote and I just want to share an experience with the Minister.

I do not know how the Courts dispose of certain cases without the Complainant even having a clue of what has happened. I will give you an example. Someone stole 15 of my cattle and he was caught red-handed and arrested. The case was being dealt with in the Magistrate's Court. The Magistrates used to come to Otjinene from time to time, but now the cases are being heard in Gobabis. I waited for 3 years, I heard nothing about it. One day when I was in Gobabis I tried to find out what happened to the guy who stole my cattle. Nobody knew whether the case has been withdrawn, whether the Magistrate died, nobody knew what happened to the case until I gave up. We traced him until we got the cattle back, but the case was before the Courts and now follow-up. The first few months it was on and then from there it was completely off.

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

HON RIRUAKO: We have similar traditions and we cannot say that applies to a certain tradition. Adultery belongs to everybody. (Interjections). Yes, I am not here to beat about the bush. When you are caught doing something to somebody else's wife, you will go on trial and while you are still alive ... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Chairperson, may I ask a small question to the Honourable Chief? Honourable Paramount Chief, did I hear well that "*adultery belongs to everybody?*" May the Honourable Chief elaborate on that for us to understand better?

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: On what page is that?

HON RIRUAKO: We are talking about Community Courts which is mentioned on page 4. In that Court you are going to be punished according to the traditional way, but after the death of you and your wife, the cattle will go to your wife's side. Why? It is your property because he was misused, it is not yours. It is the last time you are going to enjoy having those cattle in your possession as a man. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I ask the Chief a question? Is the Chief aware that many of the Ministers are young, so you must not tell them about adultery because you will cause problems.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, I am not going to entertain this. Chief, can you come to the Vote?

HON RIRUAKO: I am talking about the Vote because this is what is discussed in the Vote, the Community Courts and its similarities. The Honourable Minister of Veteran Affairs said we do not have similar ways of handling matters, but in this we will coincide.

I now come to the nitty-gritty of the Justice Ministry. The Ministry of Safety and Security does its job properly, but when the cases come to Court, the Courts delay action or punishment and the people are given bail. If they go out, they steal again in order to pay for whatever punishment they got in Court. That kind of leniency is not applicable, the Ministry of Justice has to review whether this is right.

As the Minister of Veteran Affairs said, somebody stole his cattle and although he got the cattle back, the docket disappeared within the Ministry of Justice. That is a shortcoming in the Ministry and this is not the first case, it has now become a habit.

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH

Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice is supposed to take action, either to give bail or to refuse. If you steal a tiny diamond, you will not be granted bail, but if you kill a person, it is just like you were playing hockey and injured somebody else. Death is not something in law, it is outside the law of the Justice Department. You respect the diamond more than the human being. That is not fair at all. Our Ministry of Justice is not well-designed to take care of the people and for that matter, you must change the laws which are not adjusted to the conditions or desires of this Nation. I thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote under discussion and in particular I would like to thank and congratulate the Minister on the introduction of Community Courts. I feel that the introduction of the Community Courts is an important element because one sees fairness in a way coming directly to a person.

An example was given here by the Minister of Veterans Affairs of a case where his cattle were stolen, the case taken to the Courts and nothing happened. I was in a similar situation when my goats were stolen and slaughtered. The Police got hold of the culprit and asked me to choose whether I want them to take him or whether I want the case to be dealt with by the Traditional Courts. I told them that the case should go to the Traditional Court. Within three weeks the case has been dealt with and his punishment was that he should give me oxen. Of course, I was not interested, I said let it be part of the Traditional Authority. One can therefore see justice done, not cases getting lost.

I now what to ask the Comrade Minister whether we will have mechanisms that would assist the Traditional Courts, that whenever they pass a judgment, that judgment must be carried, because there are those who are going to run away from the Community Courts. I support the Vote.

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HON NAMOLOH**

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Namoloh.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to ask a question to the Honourable Minister of Justice. We hear of very stiff sentences meted out to stock thieves of 20 to 24 years for one goat or one ox. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. What the Honourable Minister is saying has never taken place. Those 20 years are stipulated in the law, but there is no action whatsoever.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I was still continuing, Honourable Chief. There are other cases where people have committed serious crimes, they have killed people and the sentences are very light and one wonders what is the comparison between stock theft and the life of a person. Is there not anything that could be done to correct this situation, Honourable Minister? (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. We have passed the Stock Theft Act in this House which stipulates that if you steal a goat, you will get twenty years imprisonment. We passed it here, but the traditional law says that if you stole an ox, it is N\$800 and if you stole a goat, it is N\$150 and we are now busy amending it to be N\$200. If you stole a donkey, it is N\$150. However, in the Stock Theft Act a goat is worth more than an elephant and one can already see a conflict in this crime.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, for the information Honourable Moongo, but I wanted to say that we should give stiff sentences to those who kill and rape.

My other point is also on the delay in the system. I was insulted on the road between Otavi and Otjiwarongo and I made a case in Otjiwarongo that

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HON KAIYAMO / HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

somebody insulted me, because I took the registration number of the car and handed it over to the Police. The Police opened a case and it was handed over to the Prosecutor-General and up to now nothing has happened. It was a racial case. I rest my case.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON KAIYAMO: I support the Vote, Honourable Minister. I see on page 34 that you Budget over N\$24 million for Legal Aid and I see that the unpatriotic elements from Caprivi are being defended. Is it not high time that we start reducing this amount and maybe buy library books instead of defending the rebels? Thank you very much.

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

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and thank you, Honourable Colleagues, for your commendations and questions. They are many and they are important, sincerely speaking. I want to do justice to your questions, but I am worried about time. I would therefore like to propose that we put these answers in a document which will be distributed in the House.

However, in conclusion, I would like to answer Honourable Tjihuike for the record. *Honourable Tjihuike*, thank you for your interest in the Justice matters and I want to react to your political statements, where you are attributing blame for what is not happening in the Ministry to the Minister. You are probably right, but I want to tell you that the Minister of Justice has never sat in the Court, will never sit in Court. The responsibility of the Minister of Justice is to set policies and to make sure that the structure of the Ministry is working, the structure of the Ministry is filled, the structure of the Ministry gets the resources that it requires from the Minister of Finance, just like any other Ministry of Government.

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HON DR KAMWI

Therefore, your statement attributing the congestion in the cells or in the prisons to the Ministry of Justice is misplaced and ill-intended and probably meant to gain some political mileage. I thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Any objection to Vote 16? It is agreed to.

Vote 08 – “DEFENCE” put for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 08 and to make a few observations.

I wish to congratulate the Honourable Minister, his Deputy, the Permanent Secretary and the commanders for the excellent work that they are doing for the Nation.

In the last sentence on page 9 you are saying: *“The Ministry of Defence is now busy working out a retention policy in order to ensure that these highly trained lawyers, pilots etc.”* I share your sentiments, but wish to say that this retention policy should go with attractive incentives so that these young men and women should be kept intact.

On page 10 there is one thing which I want to add to what you are doing related to relief on drought and floods, etcetera. This year we had a cholera epidemic in the district of Opuwo and we were faced with a situation which we could not handle in terms of logistics. Major General Peter Nambundunga came with his uniformed men and women with a huge truck full of tents, beds and bedding, ten folding tables, twenty-five mattresses and these uniformed men and women assembled a cholera treatment centre. As we speak, we have managed to bring down the

cholera cases. I am reliably informed by my team that from 16 March to date there has not been a single case of cholera. That is as a result of the support by Defence and we commend you for a job well done.

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HON DR KAWANA**

On page 11, the last paragraph, you are talking about three additional helicopters in this Financial Year. Honourable Chairperson, the Health Sector is conducting an expanded immunisation programme every year. We have two Regions, Kunene and Caprivi, where every year we carry out this exercise, but these two Regions have some areas where you can only reach with helicopters and Defence is assisting us to reach those areas.

We fully support you that these three helicopters must be purchased in the current budget and even more.

My last comment is on page 14, on the training of health personnel for the Ministry of Defence. We will continue training your health personnel without asking a cent. In that you have our full support. Comrade Chair, I support Vote 08 without reservation.

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

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 08. Honourable Chairperson, I am really happy to see that at long last this Vote is receiving attention in terms of budgetary allocation and I wish the colleagues from Defence good luck. I am one of those who have been campaigning for an increase in the Vote and I wish to see that next time it will be increased even further.

Comrade Minister, I want to address the promotion policy and you may recall that I raised this last year. I think it is really urgent, Comrade Minister, to come up with a transparent and fair promotion policy. I know in other armies a person already knows that from this stage, I will be at that stage after so many year. However, I do not think that is really the policy here in our Army and the sooner that promotion policy is put in place, the better so that we can be uniform in SADC. Otherwise you might be perceived that you are biased in terms of promoting this one as opposed to that one. I plead with you, Comrade Minister, to address this issue so that we can be proud of our Army and eliminate unnecessary complaints within our Army. Otherwise I support Vote 08.

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HON IIPINGE / HON KAAPANDA**

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

HON IIPINGE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to contribute to the Vote and I support the Vote. I have a question on page 15 of the Minister's motivation speech under the heading, Farming. I tried to get more information on this activity but did not succeed. I want the Minister to shed more light on these farms, because the statement here is just saying that the Ministry has to inform the House that they have completed a professional study to allow the commercialisation of these farms. Maybe other Members have information on the farms, but I do not.

On the same item the Minister seems to be crossing out the roles and I think this is very important. We all know that the primary role of the NDF is the defence and protection of the country, but it is good if these farms are meant for the soldiers to engage in agriculture. It is not to replace their combat readiness, but I think it is important for our soldiers to also participate in agriculture. However, I only want to know more about the farming, I have no problem with the soldiers taking part in agriculture during peacetime and at the same time maintaining their combat readiness. I support the Vote. Thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you once again, Comrade Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 08 and I want to thank our men and women in uniform for making us as the Nation proud with the good work they are doing and have done in the past.

Honourable Chairperson, we should remember that our country in the north and north-east was under attack and threatened by bandit activities. It was the Namibian Defence Force who went there and cleared those villages of bandits and also cleared the mines. As a result they restored peace and stability and Namibia is stable and peaceful today because of the role the Namibian

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HON KAURA**

Defence Force has been playing.

Equally, in the time of peace we have been experiencing droughts and floods and again our men and women in uniform rescued the situation by distributing food relief to the affected victims of floods and droughts, while on the international front they have been participating in the UN Peacekeeping Force. They also made us proud and put Namibia on the international map by serving our country with flying colours with determination and discipline and for that they have received accolades as a disciplined Force. Therefore, I want to once again reiterate my position of supporting Vote 08 and I wish our men and women in uniform many successes in their endeavours. I rest my case.

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

HON KAURA: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Chairperson, I have been fortunate that I am a member of the Committee on Defence, Security and Foreign Affairs and for the last couple of years I have been engaged with the Army and the Police and I would like to support Vote 08 unreservedly.

A casual observer may look at the Defence Budget as being bloated, but those of us who are familiar with what is happening on the ground feel that it is maybe too small. For example, I did not know that our young men and women could look so beautiful...(Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Order. I would just like to congratulate Comrade Muharukua because she has also recruited him. I am sure he is joining us next week.

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HON NUJOMA**

HON KAURA: Honourable Chairperson, one feels quite thrilled to see our young people looking so beautiful in their Navy uniforms. Old-timers like us used to think that these Navy uniforms were only made for white people, but to see our young people looking so beautiful in these new Navy uniforms is quite an experience.

I had the opportunity to travel and visit places with Honourable Basson during the rainy season in an army aeroplane, flown by four young competent Namibians and it was quite an experience. We found two combat helicopters grounded at the military base in Grootfontein because of a lack of spare parts. Given this allocation, would they get airborne this year?

There was also a complaint by our military people that the AK-47 rifles have become obsolete and need to be replaced. Is there a possibility that it could be replaced with this allocation? There was also a complaint about the lack of sufficient housing especially for married couples. Is there a provision to provide housing for married couples?

In general I congratulate you that especially our men in uniform did well on international excursions and we are all proud of their performance in international missions. Thank you very much.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 08 unreservedly, as usual. I have a question on pages 16 and 17 on peace-building and peace-keeping.

I remember during the Iraq War, Bush came with a policy that you are either with us or against us and as a result of that, many nations were drawn into this disastrous war and then many of them, because of suicide bombers, ran away from Iraq. Now there are only a few nations trying to cope with the situation in Iraq. What guarantee do we have that we will not be embroiled in these unnecessary disastrous wars? Sometimes these are religious wars. It can be

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because of supremacy, that some people think they are better than the others, what I would call imperialist engineered wars and I do not want our people to be exposed to suicide bombers.

Just recently there was a war in Ethiopia. When I was a young man we flew and we landed in Mogadishu during the reign of Siad Barre and Somalia was accused of being dictatorial and now Somalia is a lawless State. Ships are hijacked and other nations have been drawn into that conflict and I do not want us to be unnecessarily drawn into disastrous conflicts. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Do you know that the wars we are busy fighting are also engineered for the purpose of creating markets for the war material industries in the West? Do you know that?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Secretary-General, there are the military establishments such as the Pentagon and others which want to test their weapons on other small nations and take their resources away. This is also part of the question, General, that what safeguard is there that a small Nation such as Namibia will not be abused by these Western powers, coming through the UN and other institutions? That is my question.

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

HON T GURIRAB: Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. This is our Vote and I rise to make a brief contribution.

Honourable Chairperson, I was unfortunately not here during the presentation of the Vote on the Police and what I am going to say about Defence is also what I would want to say about the Police. It has to do with their conditions of service.

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HON DR N IYAMBO**

The money that is being appropriated under the current Budget largely goes to purchase of equipment and to create accommodation. Accommodation is fine, but we also have to look at the human factor. Both the Police and Defence need to be looked after properly and we need to revisit their conditions of service. I understand the conditions of service of the City Police are much better than those of the Police and Defence personnel and when twenty posts are advertised, there are two thousand applicants mainly from Defence and NAMPOL and we need to look at that.

Secondly, I would like to commend the Minister and their staff for what they are doing to create a professional Army. I am referring to the courses which the officers are taking at UNAM and other places to make our Force professional. I would also like to commend the Minister for rejuvenating the Force by bringing in more and more young people who have gone through some level of education.

Honourable Chairperson, I have come across, through our travels on behalf of the Parliament, with our Defence personnel serving on United Nations missions and they are highly regarded. I think it is tradition that needs to continue. I thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to support the Vote of Defence, the sister Ministry. I want to commend the Minister and staff for what they are doing. Probably all of us were pleased when we heard the comments by foreigners in those countries where they have served and are serving and I want to wish you, Honourable Minister, and your commanders all the best in doing more than what you are doing now. You are on the right course and you definitely do us proud. We look forward to all the best that you will continue to do. Thank you very much.

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

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

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson, I rise to support our Vote and in doing so, I would like to congratulate the Minister, the Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and all the staff members for what they have done for this country.

Comrade Minister, I want to specifically make reference to the issue of training and skills development which you have introduced and which is really commendable. If one could link it to your recruitment policy, you are now telling us that achievements have been made under a situation where you were just starting a Force and you are now moving towards a professional Force. I think we are expecting more wonders to be done by the Namibian professional Force.

A specific question is on the Master's Degree that you, together with UNAM, have introduced. You mentioned that those who are participating now are members of the Namibian Defence Force and NAMPOL and I want to find out whether this degree is open to any other person who wants to undertake such a degree on Defence and Security Strategic Studies.

The other issue is on page 15, about farming. I agree with you when you say farming is not the main function of the Ministry of Defence, but I think it is very important that you have taken that initiative. I am one of those people who happened to live in a country such as Tanzania and in Tanzania the Defence Force had a very big component in farming and other activities and they even used to participate in trade fairs and most of the time they were marketing the products that they were producing at their different industries. Therefore, I think that is something that is not unique in the Defence Forces, but it is just something that complements their work. I saw that you also participated in a trade fair with "August 26" when you were showing your trucks that you are producing.

The next point is on the improvement of living conditions of the members of the Defence Force. I am happy that the renovation and construction of bases have started and I think here we are on the same line with Honourable Kaura on the staff quarters. Maybe some of us are no more going to benefit from

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HON BAYER**

living comfortably in a military base, feeling so proud, being associated with NDF because there are no staff quarters, but I think as the Force is becoming professional, that is one component that you will look into for officials. I think it would be very good.

Then on page 17, the participation in UN Peacekeeping. I join those who commend our Forces. They have done us proud, but as a mother I will continue to say that we have to praise ourselves on what we have done. We must continue to remind our members to maintain that standard, especially when it comes to sexual violence which we know does happen among UN peacekeepers. Fortunately to date there has been no case as far as the Namibian Defence Force is concerned and we really congratulate them. We are very proud of them and we ask them to maintain that standard in any operation they are going to undertake, because that is the biggest challenge in UN peacekeeping. We in Namibia know it, some children are here because of UNTAG and that is a reality. Therefore, please keep on reminding them.

Finally, I want to join Minister Kamwi in thanking you for your civil support, including when our wildlife are sometimes not within the confines where they are supposed to be. Thank you for your support.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Bayer.

HON BAYER: Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I wish to congratulate the Minister and our brave men and women for what they have done during the emergencies and the floods in the North. I have only one small question to the Minister.

I would like to know what is the highest rank that a woman holds in the Defence Force? I thank you.

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

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HON NASHANDI / HON RIRUAKO**

HON NASHANDI: Honourable Chairperson, I rise to support Vote 08. The General and I did our training together in Moscow during the height of the Cold War. At that time our preoccupation was to train and come back to liberate our country. Who was footing the bill was not really our problem, we thought it was the issue of the Sam Nujoma SWAPO leadership and the Breschnev Communist Party. Now that you are the head of the Ministry of Defence, I have no alternative but to support your Vote. I thank you.

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

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chairperson, as a Member of the Committee on the Defence Force I accept what Honourable Minister Kamwi has said. The Defence Force happens to be mixed, but there are no violations such as rape and the standard is up to date and we cannot separate them. We need them to fight together and to respect one another while on the battlefield, but not to have sex if they are not married people. Therefore, you must be trained to keep that principle and discipline must be attached and therefore we cannot separate them. If you cannot keep yourself to certain principles, you are not supposed to be there. I appreciate that we respect one another while we are on the battlefield. When you are on duty, you are on duty and our troops should be disciplined as such.

Some members have spoken about their conditions and they must have everything at their disposal. I thank Honourable Minister Ndaitwah, the staff cannot roam around with their own cattle. Sometimes there must be a difference that are supposed to be respected and honoured. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Minister
Tjiriange.

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HON DR TJIRIANGE / HON IILONGA**

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Chairperson, surely I support the Vote and I only have one technical question.

There may be people who are in the Defence Force at the lower levels right now who may be qualifying for subvention from the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. I know that the Ministry of Defence has programmes for burials of their members and we have something similar. If somebody is retired and gets a subvention from us, who is going to be responsible for that? Is it us or the Ministry of Defence? He is a staff member of Defence and you have that programme and we also give the subvention. I am asking so that we know who will be responsible. This is not a theoretical question, because the Defence Force may think that since he has a subvention, he will get this benefit from us and we say since he is from Defence, he will get the service from Defence and then people are in trouble.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support our Vote and all the salutations and good wishes have already been expressed and I only want to put a request.

The Honourable Minister mentioned retention on page 9, which is very important. We have to put in place mechanisms which would make our people remain in the Force until the others join. Comrade Minister, we have old people in the Force which have reached the age of retirement. The life of a soldier is an active one. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Can you mention the names of some of them? You cannot talk about people who are still alive and you do not mention their names here.

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HON NAMOLOH**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Honourable Minister, with retention I do not mean that we have to retain them in a military base, but I link the retention on page 9 with the Army on page 15. A soldier's life is an active one and therefore, the majority of them are demoralised when they are retired. If we have farming programmes, they could be used for that work or since they are already receiving subventions from the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, they do not have to be paid and we can keep them in the bases to check the stock or do other things. I feel that is one policy we need to look into so that we can retain our people.

Comrade Minister, you are a General, unfortunately we are not in the Defence Force today. When will you have a reserve Force, because we can still defend this country.

In future when the economy permits we need to have a well-equipped military hospital to treat our Very Important Persons. I feel that should be part of your long-term planning. I support the Vote for Defence and thank the sons and daughters of the Land of the Brave for putting Namibia on the map. Especially when they were in Liberia they were so good and even the President came and thanked them here. Keep it up, we are behind you. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister, reply.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to thank all the Honourable Members who have contributed to the discussion on this Vote and, I know that those who have not contributed have the same feelings and I want to ensure you that peace, security and harmony is guaranteed and it is in good hands. I will answer only a few questions which are very prominent.

Honourable Kawana mentioned the promotion policy. As you know, the Namibian Defence Force was created from the erstwhile fighting forces, the ex-PLAN and the ex-SWATF. We tried to arrange the promotion policy, we prepared the papers, but because of circumstances which were beyond our control, we had former combatants demonstrating and we had to recruit, which was not according to the programme. As a result, some of the promotion

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HON NAMOLOH**

policies were disturbed. I can assure you that we are now very seriously working on that. As I said, we are recruiting young people and we have created a unit which is composed of only the young ones with structures where the ladder will be climbed, because we had the situation in a unit which was commanded by one Colonel where there were about 12 Colonels because of the circumstances and we had to promote the former combatants in order that they get decent salaries. It was very difficult for us but we are working on it and we are tackling it.

Honourable Ipinge and Honourable Ndaitwah mentioned the farming. We have about twenty farms in the Mangetti area which belonged to NDC and there are about 2 000 cattle which we sell to MeatCo and that is why I mentioned here that we now want to commercialise these farms and have experts run them for us.

Honourable Kaura, I want to thank you very much for your support and specifically what you have said. Of course, our Defence Force does not belong to any Party, it belongs to this country and those men and women in uniform are there to guarantee the peace, stability and development of the Nation regardless which Party you belong to.

With regard to married couples quarters, there is a very serious programme in the Development Programme. We will start with Oluno Base where we will build married quarters and then we will do the same at other places. It is very expensive to build such structures and we will do this as funds are made available.

Comrade Nujoma, you asked what we are doing for our Defence Force not to be involved in some of the other wars. There are structures within the Defence Force and once a request comes it is evaluated. We then advise the Government accordingly and the Cabinet will be able to take a decision whether it is possible for us to go into a particular area or not. This is what we have done and we have done it effectively. We were supposed to go to many areas and on the advice of Defence we have declined some of the offers. Now we have agreed that we will only go to Chad in December and not to Sudan or Somalia. We have evaluated the situation in Chad and we feel our Defence Force can cope. It is quite a substantial force which can maintain and defend itself.

We are improving the conditions of service in terms of salaries. Of course, the

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resources are not enough but we are doing it and we will continue to do it. Many of our personnel are not as disadvantaged as before and you do not see many of them joining the Police. Previously they were joining the Police or the City Police. That means they are happy and we are improving gradually and we are working on many policies to improve their conditions of service.

Honourable Ndaitwah, my Deputy is also a candidate of that Master's Degree. Currently it is a proto type, we are only concentrating on the security institutions, such as the Police, Defence and other security institutions. After that it will be opened to all who are interested.

We are very aware of some incidents which have happened in Somalia and we have rectified them and I think our contingent in Liberia passed with flying colours. They are taken through special courses for them to able to serve. There are rules of the United Nations and they are taken through that. The contingent is now being prepared and it is only going to leave in December. They are going through all these intensives structures and rules and regulations to understand their role in the area.

Honourable Tjiriange, the Ministry of Defence buries its soldiers who are in service, from Private to General, but once they retire, they pass to Veteran Affairs and they become veterans. The Ministry of Veterans Affairs will take over.

Honourable Bayer asked what is the highest rank a female member has. We have two one-star generals. Military promotions are not black empowerment or gender-based, they have to undergo certain courses in order to reach a certain point and that is the name of the game in the military. It is not empowerment. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. Any objection to Vote 08? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

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Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: The House adjourns until tomorrow at 09:00.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 21:30 UNTIL 2009.04.30 AT 09:00

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
30 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?

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE 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:

1. Unemployment amongst the Namibian Youth in the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture for the Financial Years ended 2006 and 2007;
2. Motor Vehicle Accident Fund for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2008.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Deputy Minister table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? Notices of Questions? Notices of Motions? Honourable Booy.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON BOOYS / HON TWEYA**

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON BOOYS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 21, 22, 31 and the Third Reading of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration at 12:30.

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Any further Notice of Motions? Honourable Tweya.

**NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO
PENSION TRUST FUND**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, Sir, I give Notice that today, 30 April 2009, I shall Move as an unopposed Motion:

That according to Section 5 of the Members of Parliament and Other Office-Bearers Pension Fund Act, (Act 20 of 1999), Parliament must elect three Members of Parliament to the Pension Trust Fund as Board of Trustees. The term of office of two current Members has expired and Parliament has re-nominated these persons: Honourable Hannock Ya Kasita, who is a Member of the National Council, and Honourable Hartmut Ruppel who was a former Member of Parliament. I, therefore, move that the House approves the reappointment of Honourable Hannock Ya Kasita and Hartmut Ruppel so that the Fund can be functional because they have been experiencing problems to form a quorum as a result of the two Members' terms that have expired. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**TABLING OF REPORT
HON BOOYS / HON SCHIMMING-CHASE**

HON SPEAKER: Any discussion? Any objection? Agreed to.
Honourable Booyes.

**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE
PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT**

HON BOOYS: I lay upon the Table for the information of Honourable Members the following two reports:

1. Report of the Tenth Ordinary Session of the Pan African Parliament;
and
 2. Report on the Working Group of the Review of the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan African Parliament.
-

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Reports?
Honourable Schimming-Chase.

HON SCHIMMING-CHASE: Honourable Speaker, based on the Motion of the Chief Whip of SWAPO, I would like to refer you to Article 26 of the Rules. Article 26(a) reads as follows:

“Subject to Rule 67 and except with the unanimous concurrence of the Assembly not more than stage of a Bill shall be taken on the same sitting day.”

I am not aware that the concurrence of the House was sought to deal with Committee Stage and Third Reading in one sitting.

HON SPEAKER: We agreed to do the Third Reading today, that is what I was told and this is being confirmed now. Was there no concurrence? Was

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT RT
HON N ANGULA**

Honourable Schimming-Chase not here?

HON BOOYS: Honourable Speaker, while the Honourable Deputy Speaker was on the Chair after we failed to form a quorum on Friday, it was announced in this House.

HON SPEAKER: That is what I have been informed. Any further Notices of Motions? Ministerial Statements?

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:
WORKERS' DAY**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members are aware that tomorrow is the 1st of May, it is the day of the workers. This day is going to be commemorated at Helao Nafidi, Ohangwena Region and the President will address the workers there. All the workers in the world, including those in this Parliament, are invited to go there.

Monday is the 4th of May, the Day of Atonement, and this particular day is going to be commemorated at Okahandja. In 1896 the first resistance fighters were hanged in Okahandja.

HON KAURA: Not hanged, firing squad.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Whatever, but they murdered there and their blood waters our freedom. In their honour and in the honour of all the other heroes the Honourable Members of Parliament are invited to be in Okahandja on Monday. Thank you.

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**NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL
HON REV KONJORE**

HON SPEAKER: I take it we shall so oblige. Thank you. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RECONSIDERATION: NATIONAL YOUTH
COUNCIL BILL**

SECRETARY: Reconsideration – *National Youth Council Bill*.

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

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND
CULTURE:** I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: It is moved that the Assembly now goes into Committee and that I leave the Chair. Who seconds? Any objection? None.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to reconsider the *National Youth Council Bill* [B.6-‘08].

Clause 6 put.

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND
CULTURE:** Comrade Chairperson, I move –

That in Clause 6 –

Substitute the following Paragraph for Paragraph (b):

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HON REV KONJORE**

“(b) to review the activities of the Board and the Representative Council.”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendment, Minister. Any discussion on the Amendment?

Clause 6, as amended, put and agreed to.

Clause 9 put.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: I move in Clause 9 –

Substitute the following Paragraph for Paragraph (b):

“(b) to review and direct the activities of the Executive Chairperson and the Board.”

HON CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Table the Amendment, Honourable Minister. Any discussion on the Amendment?

Clause 9, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 11 put.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: In Clause 11 –

Substitute the following Sub-clause for Sub-clause (2):

(a) “Members of the Representative Council must at their first meeting elect one of their members to serve on part-time basis as Chairperson of the Council and such member must have an understanding of the development, politics and aspirations of the youth in general, may not be a member of the Board, is elected for a term of four years and is eligible for re-election at the expiry of that term, subject to a maximum of two terms of office and

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**NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL
HON REV KONJORE**

convenes and presides over meetings of the Council with the necessary changes, subject to the application of Sections 28 and 29; and

(b) Delete the word “Executive” in Sub-clause (4) and add the following Sub-clause:

“Subject to this Act, if a Chairperson of the Representative Council becomes older than 35 years, the Chairperson continues until his or her term of office expires.”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any discussion on the amendment of the Minister?
Clause 11, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 14 put.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Chairperson, in Clause 14 –

Substitute the following Paragraphs for Paragraphs (b) and (c):

- “(b) five persons nominated by the General Assembly and of whom at least two must be females; and*
- (c) two persons nominated by the Ministry and of whom one must be from a marginalised group.”*

HON CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES: Any discussion on the Amendments?

Clause 14, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 17 put.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: In Clause 17 –

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**NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL
HON REV KONJORE**

Add the following Sub-clause:

“(4) Subject to this Act, if a member becomes older than 35 years, such member continues until his or her term of office expires.”

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendment, Honourable Minister. Any discussions on the Amendment?
Clause 17, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 19 put.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Chairperson, in Clause 1 –

Delete the word “Executive” in Sub-clause (2).

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendment. Any discussion on the Amendment?

Clause 19, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 27 put.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Chairperson, in Clause 27:

Substitute the following sub-clause for Sub-clause (3):

“Apart from being the Chairperson of the Board, the Executive Chairperson presides over meetings of the General Assembly.”

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**NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL BILL
HON REV KONJORE**

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Table the Amendment, Minister. Any discussions on the Amendment?

Clause 27, as amended, agreed to.

Bill reported with Amendments.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

HON SPEAKER: Having considered the amendments, the Assembly has now finally passed the Bill and, therefore, concluded the business on this item. I shall now, in terms of Article 75(3), refer this Bill to the President to deal with it under Articles 56 and 64 of our Constitution. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**APPROPRIATION BILL: RESUMPTION
OF COMMITTEE STAGE**

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

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

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

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Secondment? Agreed to.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

30 April 2009 **APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 21 / 22**
HON DR N IYAMBO / HON DR KAWANA / HON DR A IYAMBO

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill*. When progress was reported yesterday, 29 April 2009, Votes 1 to 20, 23 to 30 had been agreed to and Votes 21, 22 and 31 had been introduced.

Vote 21 – “PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES” put for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Comrade Chairperson, I thank the Members for their overwhelming support for this Vote.

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

Vote 22 – “FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES” put for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Honourable Chairperson, I rise to support Vote 22 and thank my Colleague for the job well done. He is doing a good job together with his team and I would just like to encourage him to keep up the good work, otherwise I support the Vote and I thank you.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Honourable Chairperson, I thank the House for their unanimous support.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection to Vote 22? Agreed to.

Vote 31 – “VETERANS AFFAIRS” put for Discussion.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 31
HON MBUMBA/ HON KAAPANDA / HON TJIHUIKO**

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Chairperson, this is the Vote of all of us, the senior veterans and younger veterans and I just want to thank the SWAPO cadre, Dr Tjiriange, for the job well done. I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would like to thank the Ministry for looking after our war veterans and I have a small question on the houses being built for the war veterans. I think we should look at the criteria because I know that earlier when the first houses were built for the war veterans by the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, there were some war veterans who were left out, although in the second phase at least some of them benefited. However, we should still look at the criteria as there are still some of our senior war veterans out there who have not yet benefited from this project. Those who have the task to identify our war veterans should definitely look into this so that they benefit. I support the Vote and I thank you very much.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. Before I support Vote 31, I want to find out two things. On page 821 where we have the State Revenue Fund, we have in the column for 2008/2009 the Operational Budget for N\$262,066,000 and Development Budget of N\$11,365,000 and it gives us the total of N\$273,431,000. On the next page, 822, we have programmes on Veteran Development and Liberation Struggle Heritage Development Plan Project Management.

I do not know whether this Veteran Welfare Development is the same thing as the Operational Budget, because if you look at the final figure, it is the same, N\$273,431,000. Is that the same thing or how do these two columns relate to one another, because I am getting confused when I look at the figure and the wording. I want to know whether there is any relation between the two.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 31
HON SHIFETA / HON RIRUAKO**

Before I conclude I want to say to the Honourable Minister, the former Secretary-General of SWAPO, former Minister of Justice, Honourable Tjiriange, that I support his Vote. Thank you.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I would like to support Vote 31 and I have two issues I want to raise. One is that there are still some potential veterans who are not registered, especially those who live in rural areas and I think it would be appropriate if Regional Councillors could call upon those who are not registered in their respective constituencies so that they give notification at their Regional Offices. I am aware of the ongoing registration process, but it is imperative that they be registered so that they become eligible to benefit.

If the Regional Councillors could gather the names of those veterans who are far from the Regional Offices and not yet registered, they would know exactly who those in their respective Constituencies are, who are not yet registered so that they are not left out when the process starts again. Those who are doing the registration have already left their areas. Sometimes the Regional Councillors do not have the information or perhaps it is just ignorance of some of the Regional Councillors that there are veterans who have not been registered. It would be better if these people could be registered in time so that they can benefit, because some of them are really in need and very old. With these few words, I support Vote 31.

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

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chair, I will visit the Minister of Veterans Affairs and inform him who are real war veterans and who are not. With these few words I have to say I support the Vote.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 31
HON NUJOMA / HON MOONGO / HON NAMOLOH**

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to support Vote 31 and to thank the Minister and his staff for a job well done. The Ministry represents the interest of all of us and our future generations and we are proud of what you have achieved, Honourable Minister. I only have a small question to Honourable Tjihuiko.

Judging from what you said yesterday, I just want to find out, why do you take pride in looking for trouble, finding it everywhere and applying the wrong remedies? Is that the mission of NUDO? Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson.

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

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. First of all, I would like the Minister to provide us with information on why hundreds of war veterans are still demonstrating their unhappiness and roaming around in Oshakati and Ondangwa. It seems this law is being applied selectively and it favours those who are employed. I would like to know how it happened that those who are employed are the ones benefiting and not those who are unemployed. I thought it would accommodate all those who participated in the liberation struggle both inside and outside the country. I thank you very much.

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

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 31 and I hope I am also a beneficiary. I

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 31
HON DR GEINGOB / RT HON N ANGULA**

have a question to the Minister on page 6 where he mentioned an additional amount of N\$25 million for a lump sum of N\$50,000 to be paid out to veterans. According to my calculations only 500 veterans will benefit from this amount. Who are these 500 lucky veterans and what are the criteria being used? I thank you and I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Dr Geingob.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. It is not my habit to stand up and say I support the Vote because all these Votes are ours and therefore, I support them. However, when this Ministry was established, I had my doubts and thought this was going to be the most difficult Ministry, but I must stand up to support this Vote, because the Minister and his Permanent Secretary have done a wonderful job. I was listening to radio programmes where the Permanent Secretary and the Minister were explaining in detail what they are doing. Therefore, since I am a veteran and I know that the Minister was given the task as a tested cadre of the Party, I have to say that he has acquainted himself very well. I support the Vote.

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

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I want to thank Comrade Tjiriange for a job well done. This was not an easy task and I only have a small question. When the orphans of the war of liberation reached the age of 23, they were taken off the Orphan Fund, but now many of them do not have social support. Most of them know that I have been in Nyango Camp a long time and they came and queue at my office. I am just trying to find out from the Minister whether there is something for the orphans who have passed the age of 23 so that I can direct them correctly. Thank you.

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HON IIPINGE / HON DR TJIRIANGE**

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

HON IIPINGE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to wholeheartedly support Vote 31. I only need clarity on one aspect.

Yesterday the Honourable Minister of Defence responded to a question posed by the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs and I do not know whether I was the only one who was confused by the response. The impression was created as if all the NDF members are going to be veterans, because he said his Ministry do not pay for the funerals of retired soldiers as soon as they retire, this will be taken care of by the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. I believe not all soldiers are veterans, but the impression was created yesterday as if all these soldiers will be veterans and I would like clarity on that. Otherwise I support Vote 31.

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

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson. I really thank all those who have spoken, including those who have supported the Vote in silence. It is so pleasing to hear that we are given such massive support. I will try to shortly address some of the issues that have been raised here.

The function to provide housing to veterans is still with the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development as we are talking now, but it is being transferred to us. Previously the considerations under which those houses were built were completely different and it does not necessarily mean that we are going to use the same considerations. It was limited to only a number of people and excluded many people. Our criteria will be expanded to include more beneficiaries, such as those who are really in need of such support by the State. Therefore, ours will be extended criteria, it will achieve exactly what we are talking about. That is why we want the Ministry of Local Government to complete what they have started with

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HON DR TJIRIANGE**

because ours is different and as I told you earlier, even our methods will be different.

We have four different types of houses of the same size but different designs so that the beneficiaries can choose from these four types, so that we do not have only one type of house which can be identified as a veteran's house. In a nutshell, the criteria will cover many people.

With regard to those who have not yet registered, the registration will continue as long as this Ministry is in existence. I gave you an example of when I went to Mozambique about two years ago and found people lining up to register as veterans and Mozambique got Independence in 1975 and the Ministry was created that time. However, people are still registering until today. I was asking the Minister why and he said that some people did not know, they were there in the mountains and they only got wind now. Therefore, this process will never come to an end and we are already making use of the Regional Councillors and we advise them well in advance when the registration will take place and when we are sure that the people are ready, we go.

I must also tell you that we have six Regional Offices and we were hoping to have thirteen. This year we were given all thirteen and each Region will have its own coordinator who will be responsible for the veterans in that Region and we will have to gather these people in concert with the councillors and Traditional Authorities and Parties, headed by our coordinators in the Regions so that everything is done smoothly. We do not want to leave anybody out.

Honourable Riruako said he is coming to my office and as you know, my office is always open to come and discuss whatever you would like to.

Honourable Moongo's contribution was a mixture of politics and confusion. I do not know who are these veterans he was referring to. As I am standing here and you are sitting there, there are no veterans who are demonstrating. You were talking about veterans demonstrating in the North and I am not aware of that. I am aware of children of the veterans, but you yourself have enacted a law here and according to the definition of a "veteran", those children do not qualify to be veterans. Therefore, I do not think there is any veteran who qualifies per the definition who is demonstrating. (Interjection). I do not know whether she is a veteran, I do not even know whether I am a veteran, because I have not yet had that pleasure of being accepted by the board. I may think that I am, but they might have another idea about it. Until such time that

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HON DR TJIRIANGE**

you are cleared by the board, you are not a veteran, you are an aspiring veteran. Those people are children of veterans, but they are not veterans because you must have participated in the liberation struggle yourself.

The other day I gave an example here, that if you are a child of a doctor, you were not born a doctor, you cannot stand there and say that you are a doctor. You must go to university yourself. Therefore, the status of veteran is not something that is inherited.

On the question of the N\$25 million, *Comrade Namoloh*, your concern is correct but let me explain it this way. We may have between plus minus 60,000 and 80,000 veterans. If we have to pay this money to each veteran, it will not be sustainable at one go. Therefore, we are dividing this into different Financial Years and paying them out slowly but surely until we have covered all of them. Now we have N\$25 million and maybe in the next Budget we may have N\$50 million or N\$100 million. The more we get, the more will be covered, but yesterday I told you that because of the realisation that it will be a long process, some people will wait longer. We thought it is just prudent to start with those who are old, who are about to leave us, because as we are sitting here, we are on our way out, it is not a joke and will make no sense to start addressing the plight of those who are still young and leave the old ones. We start there and go down. However, I do not think it will take such a long time because this will maybe the lowest amount and come the next Budget, the amount will be higher, but we must start from somewhere.

Comrade Nahas Angula, there are Ministries dealing with these things. There is a Ministry of Child Welfare and other programmes. Even these children who do not qualify and who are demonstrating are in the same category. There are other programmes from which these people can benefit, but if for one reason or another the Government decides that the mandate of the Ministry is extended to cover these people, I will accept it. We have grown up together, you know that I do not refuse instructions, but in the meantime I have my constituency.

Honourable Ipinge, although I do not want to speak on behalf of the Minister of Defence, I think what he meant that those soldiers who are veterans and who may be benefiting from us, will become our responsibility when they leave the service. I raised it with him somewhere else as I also have some doubts about that, because who looks after those who are not veterans when they leave the service? However, we will not shy away if it is necessary for us

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 31
HON DR TJIRIANGE**

to do so, but I understood he meant only those soldiers who are veterans. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection to Vote 31? Agreed to. The Committee further has to consider the Bill.

Clauses, Schedule and Title put and agreed to.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Bill reported without Amendment.

APPROPRIATION BILL: THIRD READING

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance move that the Bill be now read a Third Time?

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

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? Secondment? Agreed to. Any further discussion?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: At this point in time, let me wholeheartedly thank the Honourable Members for passing Bill, it is now time for hard work. Thank you very much.

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ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: I now put the Question that the Bill be read a Third Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill a Third Time.

SECRETARY: *Appropriation Bill.*

HON SPEAKER: I have been informed that some consultations have taken place and that it is the wish of the Honourable Members that we keep the other issues on the Order Paper, nothing will lapse and that I now exercise my responsibility as the Presiding Officer to adjourn the House until the 2nd of June 2009. On that note I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Speaker, in adjourning the House, I would have wished the House to sing the workers' song, but since some of you are petty bourgeois, you perhaps do not know. I move that we adjourn until the 2nd of June.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 10:25 UNTIL 2009.06.02 AT 14:30