

**LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

SPEAKER

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

**DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE
WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE**

Ms Loide Kasingo

THE CABINET

MINISTERS

(21 March 2010 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)

Mr N Angula	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Dr G H Geingob (Mr)	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Presidential Affairs & Attorney- General)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila	<i>(Finance)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Dr A Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Education)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Information & Communication Technology)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Veterans Affairs)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Labour & Social Welfare)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Lands & Resettlement)</i>
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Defence)</i>
B Esau	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>

Mr Isak Katali
Mr K Kazenambo

(Mines and Energy)
(Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture)

DEPUTY MINISTERS

(21 March 2010 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)

Ms P Haingura	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms Muharukua	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>
Mr A Muheua	<i>(Labour and Social Welfare)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Defence)</i>
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>
Mr Erastus Uutoni	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Mr T Nambahu	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Dr S C Ankama Mr	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport & Culture)</i>
Mr W Isaacks	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr S Simataa	<i>(Information and Communication Technology)</i>
Mr E Kaiyamo	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Ms P Beukes	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr U Herunga	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Mr C Schlettwein	<i>(Finance)</i>
Dr. D Namwaandi (Mr)	<i>(Education)</i>

SECRETARY

Mr. J Jacobs

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

ALL PEOPLE'S PARTY (APP)

Mr I Shixwameni *(Chief Whip and Party Leader)*

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

Mr B Ulenga *(Chief Whip and Party Leader)*

DTA OF NAMIBIA

Mr K Kaura *(Party Leader)*

Mr P Moongo *(Chief Whip)*

NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA (NUDO)

Mr K Riruako *(Party Leader)*

Mr A Tjihuike *(Chief Whip)*

RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (RDP)

Mr S Bezuidenhoudt

Mr Hidipo Hamutenya *(Party Leader)*

Ms A Limbo

Mr H Luckas

Mr P Naholo

Mr K Nehova

Mr J Nyamu

Mr A von Wietersheim

REPUBLICAN PARTY

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

SWANU

Mr U Maamberua *(Chief Whip and Party Leader)*

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

Mr B Amathila	
Dr M Amweelo (Mr)	<i>(Assistant Whip)</i>
Mr N Angula	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Dr S C Ankama (Mr)	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms P Beukes	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr E Dingara	
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr H Geingob (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)	<i>(Speaker)</i>
Ms P Haingura	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Mr U Herunga	
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr W Isaacks	
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr A Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Kaiyamo	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P I Kapia	
Ms L Kasingo	<i>(Deputy Speaker)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms J Kavetuna	
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa – Amadhila	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Lucas	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms S Makgone	
Ms A Manombe-Ncube	
Mr N Mbumba	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms A Muharukua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr A Muheaua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr B Mwaningange	
Mr T Nambahu	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr D Namwaandi (Mr)	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>

Mr A !Naruseb *(Minister)*
Ms E !Nawases-Taeyele
Mr I Ngatjizeko *(Minister)*
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah *(Minister)*
Ms R Nghidinwa *(Minister)*
Mr E Nghimtina *(Minister)*
Mr U Nujoma *(Minister)*
Mr P Shifeta *(Deputy Minister)*
Ms D Sioka *(Minister)*
Mr T Tweya *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr Festus Ueitele
Mr Erastus Uutoni *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr Piet van der Walt
Ms L Witbooi

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)

Mr J //Garöeb *(Party Leader)*
Mr S Tjongarero *(Chief Whip)*

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

Ms M Jankowski
Prof. P Katjavivi (Mr) *(Chief Whip and Deputy Chairperson of
the Whole House Committee)*
Mr C Schleittwein *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr S Simataa *(Deputy Minister)*
Ms S Swartz
Ms A Tjongarero

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
27 APRIL 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a few announcements. The Honourable Members should take note that the visit of the Burundian President to Namibia will be delayed. The Burundian President will arrive this evening at 18:00 and the State Banquet will continue as planned at 19:00. All invited guests will be expected to attend the function. Furthermore, the arrival ceremony will take place tomorrow at 14:30 at State House and the Ministers, Diplomats and invited guests are expected to arrive at 13:00.

As required by convention and practice, I now suspend the business of the House and invite His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia into the Chamber to deliver his State of the Nation Address.

WELCOMING SPEECH

HON SPEAKER: His Excellency, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, Honourable Comrade Asser Kapere, Chairman of the National Council, Your Lordship Peter Shivute, Chief Justice, Honourable Members of Parliament, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Ladies and Gentlemen, I welcome you all to the National Assembly and thank everybody for honouring our invitation for this occasion.

In particular, let me express a special word or two to President Pohamba before I proceed with other matters. I start by congratulating you, Comrade President, on your brilliant re-election last year for the second term of office. May I also

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extend the same sentiments of best wishes to the SWAPO Party for its decisive election victory which has assured its continued leadership in the National Assembly and last but not least, I join many here and abroad who continue congratulating the SWAPO Party as it celebrates the 50th anniversary of its creation. So much for now.

Once again this is the time of the year when the public attention is more directly focused on the goings-on at Parliament, especially the National Assembly. It is so because the Budget would be under the loudest of debating by the Honourable Members, but in addition and more importantly, during this particular period the Head of State is obliged by the Constitution to deliver the State of the Nation Address and also to be available for interaction with the Members of the august House. In other words, President Pohamba will be spending a good part of the day working from the floor of the House.

The Second Reading of the Budget has been disposed of at the end of last week. The Minister of Finance provided her reply and now, hard work. Of course, everybody knows our President is a veteran Member of Parliament, former I should say, with full knowledge of this annual ritual.

With that I now have the honour and, indeed, the privilege in inviting His Excellency to the rostrum for the State of the Nation Address. His Excellency.

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HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA: Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Chairperson of the National Council, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Chief Justice, Honourable Members of Parliament, Esteemed Members of the Judiciary, Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Distinguished Uniformed Officers, Members of the Media, Fellow Namibians.

I have come to this august House today to address this joint Session of our Parliament on this occasion of the State of the Nation Address. In their wisdom, the framers of our Constitution saw it fit to make provision for the Executive branch of Government, represented by the President, to account to

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the Nation through the State of the Nation Address on the implementation of Government policies and programmes. This is a constitutional requirement in terms of Article 32(2) of the Supreme Law of the Land of the Brave, the Namibian Constitution.

On this same occasion, I will also perform another important function, namely, to officially open the 5th Parliament of the Republic of Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, the year 2010 will go down in our Nation's history as one of the most memorable, because of the epoch-making events that happened in the first half of this year. Following the peaceful and democratic Presidential and National Assembly Elections in November last year, Namibia witnessed the inauguration of the new members of the National Assembly and also the President. A new Government was formed to govern our country for the next five years. These events demonstrated clearly the entrenchment of the culture of democracy and good governance.

We should all be proud, as Namibians, that we successfully conducted the Presidential and National Assembly Elections in November last year. This speaks volumes about the political maturity of our voters and the unquestionable consensus in our society about our chosen system of governance.

I, therefore, wish to take this opportunity to commend the Namibian people for the peaceful manner in which they conducted themselves during the elections in November last year.

In the same vein, I wish to congratulate you, our Honourable Members of Parliament who were elected to this august House last year. We are proud that you have hit the ground running and are already carrying out your Parliamentary duties of Debating the issues that affect the lives of our people, including the present debate on the 2010/2011 Appropriation Bill. I wish you all the success during your tenure as our lawmakers.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, this State of the Nation Address takes place against the backdrop of one of the worst world economic crises in recent memory. The global economic crisis, which started in 2009, affected most, if not all countries around the world, including

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Namibia. Inevitably, this has had a negative impact on the performance of our National economy, the implementation of Government policies at different levels, as well as the mobilisation of resources to implement public programmes and projects.

One of the negative outcomes of the global economic crisis for our country has been the worsened unemployment and poverty. During the period under review, we witnessed economic downturn, with the mining sector being the hardest hit. Decline in commodity prices resulted in a scale-down of copper and diamond mining activities. This had the effect of reduced household income, particularly for families affected by retrenchments.

The issue of unemployment requires focused and multi-sectoral attention of all stakeholders. I will, therefore, outline an array of interventions and measures that our Government has, and will continue to pursue in order to address this challenge.

I will also outline the performance of our Government in the vital sectors of our economy and public life, including health, education, housing and agriculture during the period under review.

Other issues I will address are those aimed at improving the living conditions of our people through the provision of safe drinking water, electricity, access to land, sanitation and the expansion of our physical and communication infrastructure.

In order to counter the impact of the economic crisis on the economy and households, Government increased public expenditure by an average of 27,9% over the previous Medium Term Expenditure Framework. During the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework, public expenditure is projected to grow by a further 29,9% on average. These increases in expenditure are targeted towards priority sectors, in order to optimise the impacts of fiscal expansion on the economy, poverty reduction, combating unemployment and vulnerability.

The fiscal expansion contemplated in 2010/2011 Budget comes on top of the generous tax concessions made during 2009/2010 Budget, which aim at cushioning the impact of the global economic meltdown on the domestic economy and households.

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Some of the measures employed by Government to mitigate the impact of the crisis on the economy and households include the improvement in the remuneration of Public Servants, reduction in personal and corporate tax rates, and increase in the tax threshold exemption brackets for individuals and VAT zero-rating for some basic food commodities.

In addition, the newly introduced Budget reforms will enhance efficiency of expenditure and, thus, optimise the outcomes of public investments. The programme Budgeting approach allows the Government to better target scarce resources to the most urgent priorities.

Government programmes are funded through the fiscus, hence, the importance of state revenue. Government will counter the resultant Budget deficit by optimising revenue collection, introduction of new innovative sources of revenue and optimising non-tax revenue. Our Government is also committed to maintaining a manageable public debt.

The performance of our State-Owned-Enterprises has always been topical, with different points of view being expressed. For us, the starting point is that State-Owned-Enterprises were created to support Government's strategic objectives of providing efficient and effective service. The financial performance of State-Owned-Enterprises, however, varies. Government has embarked upon reforms to strengthen the performance and accountability of the State-Owned-Enterprises so as to ensure value for money and service delivery.

State-owned enterprise performance agreements with line ministries will be phased in during the course of 2010/2011 Fiscal Year, based on approved state-owned enterprise business plans. This will enable Government to hold the management of State-Owned-Enterprises accountable to their performance.

For a long time, the Namibian people have been asking for a transformation in the financial sector so as to ensure, among others, increased local ownership, consumer information and increased access to affordable financial products and services. As a response, the Financial Sector Charter was launched and came into operation in 2009. The objective is to ensure that ultimately, an Act of Parliament will be passed to address these concerns.

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The law will strengthen the supervision of banking and non-banking financial institutions and also provide better protection for consumers.

Our Government is fully aware of public concerns about the difficulties experienced by Small and Medium Enterprises. Government has thus agreed to allow contractors who are awarded public tenders to cede their contract income as a security for the loans advanced by the Development Bank of Namibia and other financial institutions. A special bridging facility, at concessional rates, targeted for this category, has been set up and an additional N\$100 million is allocated. This funding will further be augmented in the future Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks in order to build up a strong balance to enable the Development Bank of Namibia to assist in a meaningful way.

Our membership in the International Monetary Fund and compliance to fiscal standards and codes secures Namibia a continued positive rating and credit worthiness among global lenders. Namibia is rated on par with other middle-income countries such as Morocco, Croatia and India.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, I would now like to address in some detail, issues related to the implementation of policies in specific sectors during the period under review.

There is no doubt that ensuring the provision of high quality health care is vital to the socio-economic development of our Nation. It is for this reason that our commitment to the improvement and strengthening of our health care system has remained unflinching over the years. During the period under review we continued with this same commitment to provide for and address the health needs of all our people.

One of the major concerns of public health in Namibia during the period under review was the emergence of the H1N1 influenza. In Namibia, 72 cases were confirmed, with one fatality. In order to limit the spread of infections, Government implemented a response plan, based on the recommendations of World Health Organisation. I wish to thank our partners and the technical support received from the World Health Organisation in the containment of the infections.

Our SWAPO Party Government is on course in achieving targets for the containment of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. We have intensified

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measures to deal with resistant forms of Tuberculosis, scale up the provision of ARVs, and fight stigma and discrimination against those infected and affected.

The Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Namibia was launched. This is an initiative for creating awareness in the communities on maternal and child health and also forms part of the African Union and is supported by the United Nations and other partners. We will apply a strong public health approach that is anchored on values of equity and social justice.

Furthermore, with the assistance of the Government of the People's Republic of China, a state-of-the-art hospital is being constructed at Omuthiya, completion is envisaged for February next year. Our Government will continue with its focus on improving the health care system and completing infrastructural renovations and overhaul many of our aging health centres and hospitals.

Accessibility to specialised care has been enhanced with the operationalisation of the Cardiac Unit at the Windhoek Central Hospital. I wish to also report that a Medical School has been established at the University of Namibia. The first intake of 57 students was enrolled in February this year. We now have our own medical school to train medical doctors locally. However, our co-operation with friendly countries in this field will continue.

The Regulations on hospital fees, as provided for by the Hospitals and Health Facilities Act of 1994, have been revised. As of 1 April this year, vulnerable groups such as senior citizens, persons with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable children and war veterans are exempted from paying user fees at public health facilities.

I am happy to note that the proposal by Country Coordinating Mechanism has been approved by Global Fund. This makes significant resources available to fund our health programmes. The disaggregated allocation for the next 6 years are as follows: HIV/AIDS and strengthening of health systems – N\$1.6 billion; tuberculosis –N\$14.2 million and malaria – N\$138.9 million. We will also continue to focus on strengthening our health system in order to ensure sustainability of our achievements.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, the education sector will continue to be at the centre of our development strategies

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as a Nation. It is the foundation upon which the future prosperity of our Nation can be built. It is for this reason that we continued to allocate the largest portion of the National Budget towards the education of our children.

Of utmost importance is the fact that the implementation of the Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme has started in earnest. Its aim is to address the aspects of access, equity and quality in our education system.

It seeks to ensure that the resources allocated to this important sector translate into quantifiable outcomes in terms of improved performance, availability of textbooks and other teaching aids, the construction of school libraries and laboratories as well as improved physical conditions of school buildings and teacher's accommodation. Funds have been made available to purchase textbooks for primary and secondary schools. Our target is to ensure a 1:1 ratio of the availability of textbooks in the critical subjects of Mathematics, Science, English and Geography.

Programmes are also underway to provide in-service training for teachers in order to improve their competencies in the teaching of subjects such as English, Mathematics and Science. This initiative is vital to ensure better pass rates especially in Grades 10 and 12.

In addition, our SWAPO Party Government will continue to provide study loans to our youth so that we can mould an educated Nation that is capable of addressing challenges of the 21st century. We will continue to support our institutions of higher learning, such as the University of Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia. I wish to emphasise the need to promote academic excellence at all levels of our education system, starting from the pre-primary phase to tertiary institutions. This goal must be the pre-occupation of all stakeholders, especially our teachers and school administrators, without exception.

Let us hold hands and work together to turn around the performance of our education system and make it one of the best in Africa. This goal, fellow Namibians, is achievable!

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, the provision of clean drinking water is an essential element of ensuring a better quality of life for our people. During the period under review, the development

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Budget allocation for rural water supply amounted to more than N\$40 million. We aim to provide sustainable, accessible and safe water supply to all rural communities.

Several water pipelines were constructed, covering hundreds of kilometres. This included Onambutu project, with a pipeline network of 197 kilometres and 94 water points. Phase 5 of this project has commenced and is expected to be completed in the coming Financial Year. Four million Namibia Dollars were used for Phase 3 of the Tsandi South Project. It comprises a 6 kilometre power line, pump station, a 172 cubic metres reservoir and 102 kilometre rural pipelines. This too, was completed.

The feasibility study to supply water to displaced communities in Kavango was completed at a cost of N\$2.1 million. A similar study for water supply from Katima Mulilo to Kongola and from Katima Mulilo to Ngoma was also completed. An amount of more than N\$31 million was allocated for research and feasibility studies to facilitate formulation of policies for the sustainable utilisation and management thereof.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, agricultural production is critical to economic growth, job creation, income generation and to ensuring food security at both household and National level. It can also contribute significantly to our National efforts to combat poverty. Hence, this sector continues to enjoy priority of our Government. Specific attention is directed at the Green Scheme for which an amount of N\$92.5 million was allocated.

The project aims at improving food security and nutrition at household level, to develop all potential irrigation land by 2030 and to increase employment. Out of the amount allocated, N\$49 million was used for Ndonga-Linena irrigation infrastructure.

An amount of N\$9 million was allocated to the construction of silos around the country, with the aim of developing National strategic grain reserve facilities to ensure food security, promote increased grain production and avail marketing opportunities to subsistence farmers. Silos with a capacity of 500 tons each were constructed at Omuthiya and Okongo in Oshikoto and Ohangwena Regions, respectively.

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In the livestock sector, I am happy to report that during 2009, two outbreaks of Foot-and-mouth disease, which occurred in the Regions of Kavango and Caprivi, were successfully overcome. This made it possible for the export of beef from the northern and north-eastern communal areas to South Africa and Angola under new agreements negotiated with veterinary officials of the respective countries. However, it is most unfortunate that there is a reported outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease to the far most eastern tip of the Caprivi Region. We will do everything possible to contain the spread of the disease and ultimately overcome the outbreak.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, one of the major challenges Namibia faced in 2009 was the floods, which I declared as an emergency. In response, the estimated funding mobilised from both Government and Development Partners amounted to about N\$360 million. Our Government has taken steps to adopt long-term and sustainable solutions in dealing with the seasonal floods that affect some parts of our country. The aim is to put in place proper monitoring infrastructure and to find a long-lasting solution to the problem.

Another important strategy for dealing with floodwaters is the excavation of earth dams to harvest floodwaters and use it productively in rural communities. Thus far, fourteen earth dams have been excavated, while work is underway at 23 other sites.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, the implementation of our medium and long-term development strategy is in full steam. The Third National Development Plan, which was launched two years ago, is a demonstration of our commitment to better planning with a view to improving the livelihoods of our citizens through the provision of health, education, potable water, electricity, roads and other communication infrastructure as well as a safe and secure environment.

We are committed to addressing the challenges caused by poverty, especially among marginalised communities. Specific projects have been undertaken under the San Development Programme. These include income-generating projects, scholarships for San learners at our tertiary institutions of learning and the resettlement of San communities on farms.

The provision of social grants to senior citizens, people with disabilities,

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orphans and vulnerable children, as well as war veterans is continuing as part of the National anti-poverty strategy. Efforts are also being made to ensure that all those who qualify are registered.

Close to 8,000 old-age grant applications were approved and more than 3,000 disability grant applications were approved. The old-age pension grant was increased from N\$450 to N\$500 as of April this year. Poverty is also being tackled through the implementation of Rural Poverty Reduction Programme and other initiatives.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, the challenge of unemployment is being addressed in a coordinated manner from various fronts.

In this regard, a strategy has been adopted to support historically disadvantaged citizens, especially rural inhabitants and Small and Medium Enterprises to establish viable and self-sustaining businesses in order to create employment and improve livelihoods.

It also seeks to change the structure, content and character of the domestic economy, away from high dependency on the primary sector and exports of commodities, towards more value addition, as well as securing of new export markets.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is tasked to implement this strategy by assisting Small and Medium Enterprises to access finance and to acquire production equipment under the Group Purchasing Scheme; training and mentorship services for Small and Medium Enterprise managers, and the provision of consultancy services to Small and Medium Enterprises in the compilation of feasibility studies and business plans.

During the period under review, more than 60 qualifying Small and Medium Enterprise building contractors received training on tender procedures and project management. Another group of 150 is currently receiving similar capacity building training.

A system was also designed to issue Small and Medium Enterprises with certificates that enable them to receive preferential tender rating by Public Tender Boards. Over 700 small and medium enterprise certificates have been

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issued to date. During the 2009/2010 Financial Year, a total of 59 emerging entrepreneurs benefited from the Equipment Aid Scheme. Budgetary provision has been made to expand the programme in the coming years.

Through the Common Facility Centres initiative, Government has provided fully equipped business premises at places such as Ondangwa, Ongwediva, Rundu, Outapi, Opuwo, Eenhana, Okakarara, Oshikuku, Onandjaba and Ovitoto.

Two gemstone-processing facilities, fully equipped with machinery for cutting and polishing, have also been constructed at Karibib and Keetmanshoop. These facilities are being used for training small miners and traders in the gemstone trade. Dozens of people have been trained at the Karibib Centre alone, most of whom have secured employment with jewellery-making companies.

We trust that these interventions will have the required impact of improving the success of Small and Medium Enterprises, as well as their capacity to create employment and generate income, thereby combating poverty and unemployment. Our SWAPO Party Government is also addressing the shortage and the high cost of acquiring land and business premises by Small and Medium Enterprises.

The initiative involves the identification and acquisition or leasing of industrial land from local authorities for the construction of trading and market outlets and manufacturing space for lease by Small and Medium Enterprises. The industrial infrastructure has been developed across the country at places such as Onandjaba, Oshikuku, Okongo, Oshakati, Walvis Bay, Otjiwarongo and Mariental.

In addition, our Government has built a number of Industrial Parks across the country. Over 57% of the entrepreneurs operating from these industrial premises are women. Other forms of support to Small and Medium Enterprises include the expansion of existing support programmes, the envisaged establishment of an SME Bank, and the acquisition and servicing of more land for the construction of industrial infrastructure.

In addition, Cabinet has approved restrictions on the involvement of foreign Nationals in the sub-sectors of retailing, hairdressing and intra-Namibia

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transport in order to open up more opportunities for our people.

A Concept Paper on the National Export Strategy was developed and plans are underway to establish an Export Promotion Agency. Plans are also at an advanced stage for the establishment of the Namibia Board of Trade in keeping with a standing SACU obligation. The Board will be responsible for tariff setting and investigating cases of dumping of goods into the Namibian market.

The NDC will be recapitalised and restructured so that it can serve as an effective industrial and agricultural development agency, supporting the implementation of development initiatives by Small and Medium Enterprises.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, Namibia has adopted an investment friendly legal framework. As a result, the country has consecutively been ranked among the top five most competitive economies on the African Continent.

We have also recorded notable successes with investments from both local and foreign investors during the period under review. These include the N\$2.5 billion Ohorongo Cement, the N\$2 billion Namundjebo Plaza Hotel developments and the establishment of the Super Dairy Farm at Mariental. There has also been a noteworthy investment in uranium mining, such as Langer Heinrich Mine and Trekkopje.

These investments have created hundreds of direct and indirect jobs for Namibians and brought about new business opportunities through the procurement of goods and services from local suppliers.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, in order to ensure that the laws on investment are effective and responsive to the needs of both the country as well as to foreign investors, Government has initiated the review of the Foreign Investment Act, with a view to enacting a new law on investment that is expected to adequately cater for the needs of both domestic and foreign investors.

Given the limited domestic market, the Government has proactively negotiated market access for Namibian products at bilateral, regional, continental and multilateral trading levels.

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These trade arrangements provide preferential market access for Namibian products as well as alternative sources of imports for the Namibian market. They also provide a wider economic and trading space for Namibian industries. Our entrepreneurs must, therefore, take advantage of these arrangements to trade more and earn vital foreign exchange for our country.

Namibia and other SADC countries are currently engaged in negotiations for an Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union. There have been some disagreements along the way. However, we hope for a positive outcome.

We have identified lack of warehousing and distribution facilities in neighbouring export markets as an impediment for Namibian traders. Thus, Government plans to facilitate the construction of such facilities in Angola, DRC and the Republic of Congo. Once completed, they will be leased to Namibian exporters. This is in keeping with Namibia's commitment towards deeper regional economic integration and enhanced intra-Africa trade.

Namibia's uranium mining industry has grown in leaps and bounds in recent years, as new mines have been opened and others will soon come on stream.

In order to cope with the complexities of this growing sector, cooperation was initiated with strategic development partners to draft a Uranium Policy, Legislation and Regulations in order to ensure the safety and security of this very strategic resource and the compliance with the requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency. This is particularly important in view of the fact that Namibia could become the third largest producer of uranium in the world within the next two years.

Options for the development of nuclear energy as a source of electricity are also being considered. I am pleased to report that Government has granted mining licenses to three investors for cement production. These are Ohorongo Cement at Otavi; Cheetah Cement at Otjiwarongo and Karibib Portland Cement in the Karibib/Usakos area. Construction work at the Ohorongo Cement Factory has started and the plant is expected to be completed by December 2010. The project will have an annual production capacity of about 700,000 metric tonnes of cement and will create about three hundred direct jobs with two thousand indirect jobs. It has an estimated resource to last three hundred years.

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Epangelo Mining Company was registered to enable State participation in the mining sector. It offers direct opportunity to the State to acquire mineral rights and participate in the exploration, mining and beneficiation of minerals of strategic importance.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, Namibia has been recognised internationally for the sustainable management of our fisheries. During the period under review, tremendous recovery was observed in most fish stocks and this gives us great confidence that our fish stocks will continue to improve.

An amount of N\$350 million has been approved for the acquisition of a new modern and larger research vessel to facilitate multi-disciplinary surveys.

The fisheries sector is also contributing to poverty alleviation through community aquaculture projects, which boost employment creation efforts, poverty reduction and food security. During the year under review, some 1.7 million fingerlings were produced, while 241 fish farmers received training.

The Ongwediva Aquaculture Project is being built at a total cost of N\$15 million. It will produce fingerlings for fish farmers throughout the country. A Fish Farming project will also be built in phases at Leonardville at a total cost of N\$32 million.

Phase III of the Kamutjonga Inland Fisheries Institute is underway and includes construction of an aquarium, a hatchery, a nursery, production ponds and additional staff accommodation. The total project is estimated to cost N\$68 million.

The Namibianisation of the fishing sector has been a success. All the current 155 fishing right holders in Namibia, except one, are controlled by Namibians. This has provided tangible benefits for many previously disadvantaged Namibians, who have been economically empowered through this strategy.

The Namibian Fish Consumption Promotion Trust has been expanded. Refrigerated trucks were purchased during the period under review. They will be used to distribute fish to different parts of the country.

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provision of reliable and affordable electricity remains a challenge for our country. We must, therefore, consider all options available in order to ensure a reliable supply in the long term. In this context, the Permanent Joint Technical Commission, comprising Namibia and Angola, has appointed the Cunene Consortium to conduct an updated Techno-Economic Study of the Baynes Hydropower Option.

The Government has also tasked NamPower to investigate the possibility of developing a small-scale hydropower plant along the Orange River. These investigations are at an advanced stage. The expansion of our National power grid is also progressing well with major projects being completed. The construction of the Katima Mulilo-Otjiwarongo inter-connector is 95 percent complete. It will connect the Caprivi Region to the National grid and interconnect Namibia to our northern neighbours, such as Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Government remains committed to the development of the Kudu Gas Field. Gazprom InterNational has been added as a new partner to the Production Licence, joining other investors such as Namcor, Tullow Oil and Itochu to exploit the gas resource. The construction of an 800 megawatt power station near Oranjemund is envisaged.

Our Government also supports the acquisition of solar systems for domestic use through the Solar Revolving Fund as part of rural electrification and the promotion of renewable energy. So far, 892 solar systems were financed at a value of N\$21 million. Under the Off-Grid Energisation Master Plan, the Government will also electrify public institutions with solar energy in off-grid areas.

Oil and gas exploration is continuing at a steady pace. Several exploration wells have been drilled in many concession blocks.

The reliability of downstream supply of petroleum products is important for our economy. As part of improving security of supply, NAMCOR will construct a commercial bulk storage facility in Walvis Bay. NAMCOR has also acquired a depot in Otjiwarongo as part of its strategy to expand into the fuel downstream industry.

The tourism industry is vital to our economy. In order to achieve effective

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regulation of the industry, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism launched the Tourism Policy and has commenced with drafting the Tourism Bill. Once enacted, the law will, among other things, facilitate the entry of previously disadvantaged Namibians into the tourism sector, in addition to the conservancies where they are currently benefiting.

The Government will continue to support NWR with a view to increase employment opportunities of our citizens. We will also continue with our strategy of entering into smart partnerships with our neighbouring countries in order to maximise the potential and the economic benefits from the tourism sector.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, our workers are the force behind economic performance. It has, therefore, been one of our standing principles to protect the rights of Namibian workers against exploitation. During the period under review, a computerised and integrated inspection system was introduced. It enables Labour Inspectors to target workplaces for inspections and provide accurate data on all inspections conducted as well as labour relations profiles of each inspected workplace.

Our Government is serious about improving the performance of our Public Service at all levels. This is being done through focused Public Service Reforms. These include the launching of the Performance Management System, encompassing the development of Strategic Plans by all Offices, Ministries and Agencies. The Strategic Plans will guide these institutions towards attaining higher levels of service delivery standards. Moreover, in the near future, Public Servants will be required to sign Performance Agreements with their respective institutions.

Another Public Service reform tool is the Namibia Institute of Public Management (NIPAM). Progress has been made in the construction of NIPAM premises as well as the development of its curriculum. This institution will transform our Public Service through training, strengthening management capacities, competencies and providing organizational development support.

Other aspects of Public Service reforms are also being addressed. This includes an efficient issuance of National identification documents, issuance of passports and visas, as well as border control systems. We want to ensure that the registration of births of all babies born in Namibia are done as soon as

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possible within the spirit of the law.

Registration of births can now be conducted at most of our main hospitals as well as the Regional Offices of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. New offices will be opened at Omungwelume, Okahao, Kamanjab, Khorixas, Omaruru, Aminuis and Okakarara in the near future.

I can also report that the new border control management system, which was installed by the Ministry during the period under review, is operating well at all the main points of entry. The rest of the entry points will be connected once the communication infrastructure is in place.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, the availability of reliable infrastructure for information and communication technology is the way of the future. It will not only improve current economic performance, learning in our schools and efficiency in the Public Service, it will also take us towards the attainment of Vision 2030. It is for this reason that Namibia, through MTC and Telecom Namibia, has invested more than N\$115 million in the West African Cable System. It will have a landing point at Swakopmund. It will also provide Namibia with direct international connectivity to the rest of the world.

Very soon, the country will experience faster mobile broadband Internet access speeds, thanks to work currently being done by MTC to switch over from 3G to 4G Cellular Technology. This will make Namibia the first country to introduce 4G technology in Africa.

Namibia is also living up to her obligations in terms of the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communication and Meteorology that calls for the enhancement of interconnectivity in the Region and globally. Already, fibre optic connections have been established with Botswana, South Africa and Zambia, thereby enhancing internet connectivity with these countries.

In the same vein, our Government is committed to improving the safety of the National airspace system. In this regard, the Directorate of Civil Aviation, with the assistance of Telecom Namibia, is deploying new radar and surveillance equipment to increase the safety of the National airspace.

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maintenance, modernisation and expansion of our physical and communication infrastructure remains at the centre of our development strategies. Hence, there are ongoing activities to improve our roads, harbours, airports, railways and other infrastructures that form the backbone of our National economy.

In addition to the construction of new roads, maintenance activities were also carried out. An amount of about N\$1.2 billion was spent on the maintenance of roads during the review period. Some of the major road construction projects that are currently underway include the Tsumeb-Katwitwi Road, the Rundu to Elundu Road, Iitananga to Omakange Road, Okahandja to Karibib Road and the Gobabis to Otjinene Road, via Drimiopsis, Katima Mulilo to Kongola via Linyanti and Oshikuku to Onandjaba Road. The road between Rosh Pinah and the Sendelingsdrift junction was completed in September last year.

In total, the bitumen road network has grown by 17.5% since 2004. Much of this growth occurred from 2008 to date. According to NDP3, the target for upgrading roads to bitumen standards is 1 875 kilometres.

Several feasibility studies are currently underway to facilitate the planning for the construction of more roads around the country in the coming years. In the same vein, Regional Road Master Plans were revised for Regions such as Kavango, Ohangwena, Oshana, Omusati and Oshikoto. The revision of Road Master Plans for Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Erongo, Kunene and Caprivi Regions are nearing completion.

The growth of our ports to serve our Region and our country are encouraging. The period under review has been the best year on record for NamPort, both in terms of revenue and in terms of the cargo volumes that moved through the Ports of Walvis Bay and Lüderitz. NamPort handled over 250,000 containers and more than 5.4 million tonnes of cargo.

Namibia's excellent road infrastructure, efficiencies in the handling of cargo, and an accessible port, which is free of congestion, has enabled NamPort to provide a more efficient channel for importers and exporters from neighbouring countries. For example, it now takes as little as four days for copper mined in Zambia to reach Walvis Bay.

During the year under review, NamPort signed long-term agreements with

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Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe, to establish dry dock facilities. Plans are at an advanced stage for the extension of the new container terminal at Walvis Bay at a cost of N\$2 billion. The Port of Walvis Bay is also rapidly gaining a good reputation for repairs of ships and oilrigs.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, our system of Government is based on the doctrine of the separation of powers, which is at the centre of our democracy. It is based on an independent and impartial Judiciary, the Legislature and the Executive arm of Government. We are proud of the good work that our legal system is doing in protecting the rights of our people through constitutionally based administration of justice.

The strides that our Courts are making in dealing with backlogs on the Court Rolls are commendable. This good work must continue to ensure speedy justice in all matters that come before our Courts. After all, justice delayed, is justice denied.

You will recall that a High Court Building was recently opened at Oshakati, while Magistrates' Courts were opened at Khorixas and Tsumkwe, respectively. This is part of our drive to expand access to justice.

I would like to underscore our commitment to the strengthening of our criminal justice system in order to ensure the maintenance of law and order in our country. The Namibian Police Force, the Anti-Corruption Commission and other institutions in our criminal justice system have been instrumental in making Namibia a better and safer place.

In order to improve the efficiency and operational effectiveness of the Police Force, resources were made available to procure new equipment. Training was also provided to both junior and senior officers on different aspects of policing. A number of police stations were renovated while new ones were opened.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, I am indeed honoured and proud to stand here and share with the Nation, the progress that our SWAPO Party Government has made in improving the living conditions of our people, as well as the challenges that we faced during the review period. I am proud because our Nation continues to be on the right course, despite the turbulences caused by the global economic crisis.

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Over the last 20 years, Namibia has become one of the shining examples of democracy, peace, stability and good governance on the African continent.

Our institutions of governance are growing stronger with each passing year, our capacity to deliver is improving and we are learning from our experiences and past shortcomings to do things better.

With each passing Fiscal Year, we are sharpening our capacity to plan better, to analyse and frame the challenges facing us so that we can provide appropriate solutions. This has enabled us to address the needs of our people in a more effective manner.

On this special occasion, which also coincides with the official opening of the First Session of the Fifth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia, I wish to make a clarion call to our Nation. I wish to call upon all our people to maintain unity, peace, stability, and to exercise tolerance, mutual respect and National reconciliation.

I wish to make a clarion call to our Nation to choose the ethic of hard work, honesty, transparency and patriotic zeal to contribute to the ongoing Nation-building efforts. Our country will not be developed and built by anyone else, but ourselves.

I call upon you, fellow Namibians, to join us in taking our country forward on the road towards prosperity and greater peace, social justice and greater freedom and liberty, towards the achievement of Vision 2030.

Fellow compatriots, as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of our Nation's freedom and Independence, let us harness this youthful energy and make Namibia the best that she can be. Let us embrace each other, irrespective of our status in society, race and ethnic origin, religious persuasion or gender. Let us live up to the noble ideals for which so many of our brave compatriots sacrificed their lives.

Let us honour their memory by rededicating ourselves to the achievement of a shared dream and a common vision to make Namibia a prosperous Nation with ample opportunities for all our children and our young people to reach their fullest potential.

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HON RIRUAKO**

We will do our utmost best to realise the aspirations of all our people. We will utilise public resources to improve the living conditions of all our people. I call upon all Namibians to join our Government and me in this noble quest. Let us reject tribalism, regionalism, nepotism and corruption.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, it is now my honour to declare the First Session of the Fifth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia officially open. This is also the conclusion of the State of the Nation Address for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

Long Live the Republic of Namibia! I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the President for his inspiring *tour-de-force* on the State of the Nation and the work at hand for us. I also thank His Excellency for honouring us with his presence and affording us an opportunity once again for dialogue and feedback. With that I look to the opposition benches and I give the Floor to Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, we were so happy to listen to this long speech and we hope that all the objectives could be reached. If you have a company, the people who do the company's work must be respected and adjusted according to the rules. Whether these rules are going to give the achievements is another query.

Secondly, if we want to say everything is good, I have to thank the Almighty God and not the almighty SWAPO. We need to harmonise our people equally to enjoy the fruits of the country and not to watch, as if they are watching a movie on the television, without tasting the cream that belongs to them. The question is, how are they going to be harmonised to appreciate what has been said?

Thirdly, it is well and good that a day has been declared the Day of Reconciliation, not in words but in the heart. Maybe the President could tell me when are we going to say *thank God we are truly reconciled*, not to say we

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HON ULENGA**

play reconciliation, there must be action that accompany the words. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Riruako. I now give the Floor to Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to start by thanking His Excellency President Pohamba for an excellent and well worked out State of the Nation Address. As this is also the opportunity for us to interact and pose some questions to His Excellency, I am thankful that I can pose a few questions to him this afternoon.

My first question is as follows: Mr President, thank you for addressing us at the National Assembly on the State of the Nation. Mr President, on another occasion a few years ago, I think the beginning of 2005 to be exact, when you had the opportunity to address the National Assembly on the same issue of the State of the Nation, you undertook, Your Excellency, to make available to the National Assembly and the Namibian public in the National interest Reports of Presidential Commissions of inquiry which dealt with some very important National issues and with some aspects concerning good accountable governance of our Republic. However, Your Excellency, these reports are still to see the light of day. Your Excellency, what happened and when will you, Your Excellency, be able to make good this undertaking?

The second question, Honourable Speaker: In a few days' time it will be 1st of May and the country and especially our working people will be observing Workers Day on that date. Your Excellency, as you pointed out in your speech, this will take place at a time when the unemployment situation has deteriorated and, indeed, the economic situation both locally and globally, to the extent that it is now projected that more than half of all working people in our country, more than half of all industrial able-bodied people are unemployed.

Your Excellency, your administration and many before it have talked of their determination to haul in the unemployment situation and to create more jobs, but unfortunately I must say, have not achieved any success despite the talk.

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

Your Excellency, what measures do you intend taking to cause the economy to create more jobs for the many unemployed Namibians?

Your Excellency, at the beginning of your first term of office, you put a lot of emphasis on the need to fight corruption and to bring to book culprits in this regard. I listened to your speech this afternoon and you mentioned the word “corruption” at least once. However, I must say nowadays you hardly in your public addresses mention the word.

Your Excellency, are you still as determined as ever or must we take it that you have given up on this important fight?

The fourth and last question, Honourable Speaker, and I am glad that His Excellency the President also touched on the wider topic of the Judiciary. Your Excellency, the ongoing treason trial of more than one hundred Namibians has entered its eleventh year in 2010. Your Excellency, the State that you preside over does not seem to make any headway one way or the other and there is still no end in sight to this case. Your Excellency, is this a typical case of “*justice delayed is justice denied*” and I am glad indeed that now it looks like I am quoting from Your Excellency’s very speech.

HON SPEAKER: Before I give the Floor to other Parties, I can assure you the President is more than capable to deal with the questions and I do not think that he needs side assistance. If he does, then he has able assistants here in the House to assist him. Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Your Excellency, I would like to start off by putting to you, since you ended on a clarion call to all Namibians to work together, that we on this side, as the All Peoples Party, are ready to answer the call, that we are ready to work in the spirit of positive contribution to make Namibia work and we expect that the Executive would be forthcoming to work with all the Parties represented in this House to be able to make a positive contribution, both privately with you, Your Excellency, at your office and also at the Offices of the Ministers.

Some of my questions have been taken and I have only two questions to ask Your Excellency. I must, of course, point out that you provided a very

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comprehensive statement, which is appreciated, but the first question I want to ask is on wealth redistribution in this country.

20 Years after Independence we still have the wealth of our Nation concentrated in the hands of handful few. What active measures, apart from creating Epingelo and the BEE policy that has never seen the light of day, what concrete measures do you, Your Excellency, and the Executive wish to take in the next five years to make sure that at least the wealth of this country is distributed, is put in the hands of the Namibian people. That is now apart from using the Fiscus as a redistribution measure, but what other concrete measures in terms of ownership of resources does Government intend taking?

I appreciate the efforts being made in terms of old-aged pensions and the grants to vulnerable children, but we feel that these anti-poverty measures are not sufficient. There have been proposals on the Table, the basic poor household income grant and the Basic Income Grant, led by Bishop Kameeta. What is the official stand of Government in this regard, because we believe that these are concrete measures that we put money into households and into the hands of people to address poverty? Therefore, we would like to know from the Head of State himself as to what are the other concrete measures that are being thought of to basically eliminate poverty from the face of Namibia? Thank you, Your Excellency.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. The stance of the President of SWANU is that SWANU is not an Opposition Party, it is instead a Government-in-waiting. With that understanding, I give the Floor to Honourable Tjongarero.

HON S TJONGARERO: Honourable Speaker, first allow me congratulate His Excellency the President for a very encouraging State of the Nation Address. I have only two small questions, firstly about hydro-electricity on the Kunene River. In the past one of the two places were being considered for this purpose, namely Epupa and Baynes, but today His Excellency only mentioned Baynes. My question is whether Epupa is out for the time-being and that Government is looking at Baynes for the next phase?

His Excellency the President mentioned that progress has been made at Walvis

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Bay Port. Is construction of a third harbour at Cape Fria still a Government priority? I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. That is about it for now. Your Excellency.

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBWA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I have to apologise to the leader of NUDO. I have not understood his questions. Therefore, I am unable to answer something that I did not understand.

Honourable Ben Ulenga, are you sure that you have not seen a Commission Report in this House? Maybe you were absent. I know you were absent at one point, but I know that Reports were brought here at the time when you were still a Member of Parliament. If perhaps you were not around at the time, your Colleagues should have reported it to you as the leader of CoD. I have mentioned unemployment in my statement, but your question was on the measures we are going to take. We have taken some measures to reduce unemployment in the country. I spoke about agriculture in my Statement, I spoke about tourism in my Statement and I have also spoken about the increasing number of mines. All these activities need to be done by the people, therefore these are some of the measures we are taking to reduce unemployment.

May I also take this opportunity to say that unemployment is something all of us can tackle, not just the Government. The private sector and even individuals should join hands so that together we work for the reduction of unemployment. Once we do that, we are automatically also reducing poverty. It should not be made the responsibility of Government alone. I have been to several countries, including the Western developed countries, where the Governments of those countries are always assisted by the private sector to employ people. Therefore, I have been appealing that we can reduce the problem of unemployment in our country.

You mentioned the Treason Trial which has been ongoing for eleven years. In my speech I spoke about the division of responsibilities when it comes to the

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organs of the State. The Government arrested these people and they were brought to the Judiciary and the Executive should not interfere in the work of the Judiciary. Perhaps you would do better if you consult those leading the Judiciary. We in the Government want to see a quick solution to those people. Being in jail is not good, I have been there for six months and I left the jail not liking it and they have been there for some years. It is not good. However, you seem to be asking why the Government is not taking action. Action to interfere in the Judiciary or what? These people are not in jail because of the Government refusing them to be either sentenced or released if at all they are found not guilty. This is my answer to your question.

You also spoke about corruption. In my address this afternoon I also spoke about corruption. Honourable Ulenga, you seem not to be in touch with what is happening in the country. Do you really follow where I go, do you follow the statements that I make? My Colleagues and I have time and again spoken about corruption as an evil. We have an Anti-Corruption Commission and I think Noah and his colleagues are doing the best they can, but in order for us as citizens of this country to really attend to corruption, we should assist Noah. I do not know how many cases you have taken to the Anti-Corruption Commission. If you did not do it, then perhaps you should not speak about corruption because it appears it does not exist in the country. If it does exist, you should have reported cases to the Anti-Corruption Commission. May I advise you to take cases to the Anti-Corruption Commission, which has specifically been set up to deal with these cases.

Some of my colleagues and I have referred cases to the Anti-Corruption Commission. Some have been dealt with, others are still being dealt with. We should therefore not expect only those in the Government to deal with corruption. Sometimes corruption even takes place in houses. Let us assist the Police and the Anti-Corruption Commission by reporting those cases. It is not good that you wait for twelve months until I come here and then ask me. Take time, trying to see those who are assigned with the responsibility to apprehend those who are corrupt.

I thank the leader of APP for the statement that you are ready to work together with us as a Government. You talked about wealth distribution and in my statement in addressing the Nation I have spoken about the small enterprises which I said should be assisted in order for them to assist the people at the grassroots by providing employment, etcetera. If we do that, we are starting to

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distribute the wealth of the country to the citizens.

Then you spoke about the Basic Income Grant and you mentioned Bishop Kameeta. We in the Government feel that N\$100 to each and everyone, including the President, is not a good idea. You will be encouraging people not to do anything. The Colleagues dealing with this programme should suggest that projects are started where people can go and work instead of us just dishing out money to the people without them doing anything. After all, who is going to make money that should be distributed to the people free of charge? Is this not going to turn into exploitation of people by others? If some people are working in the Fishing Industry and others in the fields in Kavango to produce food and now you sell the food in order to give a grant to those who are not doing anything, that can be interpreted as exploitation of the workers by those who are not working. If the Government was encouraged to set up projects where people can work and then they are given money, I would definitely agree. The people working on this issue have come to see me twice and this is exactly what I told them, that is not good to dish out to the people who are not doing anything, but it would be good if those who initiated this would propose projects so that people work and receive money, not to work free of charge, but for them to be given something. This is what we in the Government believe, with respect.

SWANU, you have not said anything, congratulations that you are now in Parliament, the oldest Political Party in the country. We hope that you will be able to make a meaningful contribution as an Opposition Party – although you said you are not an Opposition Party. Let us work together. I think in this House it is you and us who are the oldest Political Parties. Let us work together, I think we will be able to understand one another.

UDF – small questions need small answers. You mentioned Epupa and I think you know what happened. The Opposition Parties fought against Epupa and I do not know if UDF was one of them. Former Governor of Kunene, you asked me a question that I was supposed to ask you. You were there, you know what had happened. We were not thinking of building two hydro dams, we wanted only one and we still only want one. We shifted if from Epupa to Baynes because you, Colleagues, instigated the people in the area to reject that. Baynes is on, as I have mentioned, arrangements are being made, but no more Epupa.

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With regard to a third port, we are trying to commission a study to have a port in the north and when the feasibility study has been completed, the Government will be advised accordingly and then we will start working on that. We know it is essential to have a port there and they can tell us which is the best place to have a third port. We are in the process of doing that, but not tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, perhaps after five years. We are actively working on that.

Honourable Speaker, these are the questions that I have responded to and again, I do not know what you would advise, because the questions by Honourable Riruako remain unanswered. I was thinking that the Honourable Member behind Honourable Riruako would be able to assist me in translation. This is what I have been able to do, Comrade Speaker. He used to come and see me at the new State House, the doors of the State House remain open for you. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Your Excellency. As a matter of fact, I was going to say that I take it for granted that the old habit of the first five years of the President is still in place, that the doors of the State House are open and that the Opposition Parties are invited to visit the State House and speak to the President on all matters that are reasonable to engage the President on. That does it for today.

Once again I want to thank the President on behalf of all the Members of Parliament present here and say that we too as Members of Parliament would from time to time come knock at the door of the State House. The reason why I am personally expediting the process is that all are invited to a reception being hosted by the Speaker and the National Council. We have short days during wintertime and it is already getting dark and that is the reason. Once again, thank you very much, Your Excellency, and particularly for your very important State of the Nation Address.

On that score, I invite the Deputy Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I now move that the House adjourns until tomorrow, 28 April 2010 at 16:00

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:00 UNTIL 2010.04.28 AT 16:00

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
28 APRIL 2010**

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? Any Notice of Motions?

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON DR AMWEELO: I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 01, 02, 07 and 30 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45.

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

COMMITTEE STAGE : APPROPRIATION BILL

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

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

HON SPEAKER: The Deputy Speaker and the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

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HON DR KAWANA**

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill.

Vote 1 – “PRESIDENT”, N\$360,399,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to motivate Vote 01, Office of the President.

Yesterday, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia delivered in this Chamber the State of the Nation Address. This is an important duty enshrined in the Namibian Constitution.

On 21st March this year our Nation celebrated twenty years of tranquillity, peace and progress as well as the inauguration of His Excellency the President as the President of our Republic for the next five years. Honourable Members will recall the address statements by His Excellency the President yesterday as well as his inaugural speech a few weeks ago. Unity, peace, stability, tolerance, hard work, promotion of National reconciliation, cherish the motto of One Namibia One Nation, civic duty, honouring our heroes and heroines, rejection of tribalism, regionalism, nepotism, ethnicity, racism, sexism and corruption, fighting poverty, hunger and unemployment, addressing the welfare of our people such as the peasants, workers, youth, women, orphans and vulnerable children, senior citizens and war veterans were the key words in those statements.

We must, therefore, not relent as lawmakers and Politicians to heed the call to promote the well-being of all our people.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, since the tabling of the National Budget by our Minister of Finance, Members of this august House have been exercising their democratic rights, as representatives of the Namibian people, to debate, and discuss the Appropriation Bill.

The Debate during the past weeks has centred on a wide range of issues in keeping with the spirit of the Second Reading stage of the Appropriation Bill.

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A number of issues raised during the Debate, especially criticisms emanating from Opposition Parties, were effectively dealt with by the Honourable Minister of Finance during her reply.

We have now reached the Committee Stage where we are required to discuss specific projects of different votes to establish how public resources have been allocated to different Offices, Ministries and Agencies. Today, I am standing before you to present to this august House my Motivation for the funds allocated to the Vote of the Office of the President for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

The Ministry of Finance tabled a number of volumes in this august Chamber detailing the Budget. A few weeks ago, I laid on the table the 2008/2009 Annual Report of the Office of the President. What more can I say about the activities of the Office?

However, for the record, allow me to say something. In order to carry out the responsibilities of the Office of the President, it is necessary to provide both financial and human resources. Allow me, therefore, to once again express my appreciation and gratitude to my senior Colleague the Honourable Minister of Finance and, indeed, the entire staff of that Ministry for their understanding. They have been forthcoming at critical times to provide financial resources in order to enable the President to carry out constitutional functions. I can only say thank you, my dear sister.

I have pointed out time and again that the most critical functions of the President are contained in Article 32 of the Namibian Constitution. The President is also entrusted with numerous functions under a number of Acts of Parliament. Against this background, Parliament, from time to time, through legislation assigns functions to the President. In addition, the Common Law as well as Customary Law imposes certain functions on the President. These responsibilities place additional demands and their implementation requires both human and financial resources.

At the international level, the President has continued to promote a positive image and esteem of our country.

Namibia continues to enjoy respect and prestige globally and our citizens are

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able to walk tall among the free Nations of the world. We continue to maintain friendship both at bilateral and multilateral levels. This is attested by the large presence of Heads of State and Government, former Heads of State and Government and other dignitaries who graced us with their presence during our 20th Independence Anniversary and the inauguration of our President.

As was the case in the past, the President made time available to interact with various stakeholders around the country as well as foreign visitors. He invited important economic actors and policy-makers from the Government, private sector, organised labour and the youth to State House in order to engage them and solicit their views regarding the performance of our economy and other challenges that we face as a Nation.

The President also engaged our citizens, from the business community to political leaders, from church leaders to traditional leaders, and from Regional and Local Authority Councillors to individual citizens on many issues of National interest.

During the missions undertaken outside the country at the bilateral level, the President's main objective was to promote the economic interests of our country. He used such opportunities to attract investments to our country.

With that background, I am happy to outline some of the specific activities that the President will be involved in as part of his day-to-day functions and duties during the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

The current Financial Year will be a busy year for our President, both domestically and internationally. This involves constant engagements with communities from all backgrounds to interact with our citizens in different Regions to familiarize himself with the prevailing socio-economic conditions in our country. During these visits, a number of capital projects will be visited to assess their progress. A number of these projects will be inaugurated by the President.

In addition, the President has standing invitations to a number of foreign countries around the world. These visits will enable Namibia to, once again, cement good diplomatic relations with such countries and provide an opportunity to promote trade relations between our business community and

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their counterparts. Honourable Members are aware that as I am presenting this Vote today, we have a Head of State from Burundi who is visiting our country.

It is, therefore, granted that the President will host a number of Official and State Visits to Namibia by Heads of State and Government of other countries. In addition, our Head of State has already received a number of invitations from counterparts. This will provide an opportunity to our Head of State to promote economic relations between such countries and Namibia.

As a Member of the United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement, Commonwealth, African Union, SADC and many other interNational organisations, the President is expected to attend Summits of these bodies. In August this year, Namibia will assume the Chair of SADC. We are also active members of the AU Defence and Security Commission.

Honourable Chairperson, I now turn to discussing specific programmes. There are five main programmes covered under Vote 01.

The first programme involves the Protection and Defence of the Namibian Constitution. This includes measures to:

- uphold, protect and defend the Namibian Constitution;
- ensure that the Organs of State deliver on Government's overall objectives; and
- ensure that threats to Namibia's National security, territorial integrity, political stability, military threats and economic sabotage are checked.

Therefore, the aim of this programme is to comply with Chapter 5 of the Namibian Constitution, which deals with the duties and functions of the President. The main objective of Chapter 5 is to ensure the maintenance of peace, stability and good governance in our country.

The activities involved under this programme include hosting of ceremonial functions, official opening of statutory bodies, receiving and commissioning of Ambassadors and High Commissioners, undertaking of State and Official Visits to other countries in order to promote bilateral relations, commercial

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trade and investment, as well as to sign treaties, agreements and conventions with other countries or international organisations.

The programme will also enable the President to carry out functions vested in him and the Cabinet under Chapter 6 of the Namibian Constitution. It is aimed at strengthening and consolidating diplomatic relations with the international community, improve governance, enhance democracy and attract foreign investors to Namibia.

Honourable Chairperson, a total amount of N\$116,146,000 is requested under this programme.

The second programme involves Delivery of Services.

As Honourable Members are aware, the President is the Chairperson of the Cabinet as well as the Cabinet Committee on Overall Policy and Priorities. In his capacity as Chairperson, the President ensures that the Executive Branch of Government acts in the National interest.

Therefore, the President directs, monitors and evaluates the activities of Offices, Ministries and Agencies in the implementation of Government policies, promotion and maintenance of a conducive environment for commercial trade, and contribution to the promotion of international peace and security.

The activities of the programme will include assisting the President with executive policy matters through research, policy analysis, speech writing and technical briefs in collaboration with various Offices, Ministries and Agencies.

The overall objective of this programme is to improve Public Service delivery, regular review of policies and promotion of National unity and harmony in our country. The expected programme changes during the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period include the implementation of information technology initiatives and the strengthening of Economic Advisory Services functions.

Honourable Chairperson, a total amount of N\$18,006,000 is requested under this programme.

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The third programme is Intelligence. As the Honourable Members are aware, our Intelligence Agency carries out its functions in terms of the Namibia Central Intelligence Service Act, 1997 (Act 10 of 1997). The main function of the Service is to contribute to the defence of the territorial integrity and Independence of Namibia. To this end, effective gathering of intelligence is vital in order to thwart threats to Namibia's constitutional and democratic order.

It is important to point out that the Service shares the accumulated intelligence with law enforcement agencies in order to prevent and combat criminal activities.

In broader terms, the Service contributes to the enjoyment of life by the Namibian people in a safe and secure environment, where they can pursue their activities without the threat of violence and crime. Namibia is part of the globalised world. Therefore, events which affect peace and stability in one corner of the globe can easily have a spill-over effect in our country. I have the threat of terrorism in mind.

It is for this reason that we need to render financial and material support to our Intelligence. Allow me, therefore, to thank my senior Colleague, the Honourable Minister of Finance, for her understanding in this regard.

Honourable Chairperson, I would like to add here that in this era of terrorism, a country does not need a formal declaration of war in order to prepare for a threat. Indeed, the world has witnessed a situation where terrorist strikes are directed towards what is termed soft targets. In the process, innocent civilians become victims. We must prepare ourselves to ensure that the World Cup to be hosted by our neighbour, South Africa, does not attract unwelcome visitors through our borders.

It is a duty of every patriotic Namibian to ensure that such a scenario does not happen where our borders are used by unwelcome visitors, including those who transit through our territory.

Honourable Members will agree with me that the nature of the work of this institution does not allow me to elaborate further. To do so will not be consistent with customary practice in any democratic State. I have always

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maintained that the security of our Nation is not negotiable. I still stand by this principle.

Under this Programme, an amount of N\$199,084,000 is requested.

The fourth programme involves the Office of the Founding President. The main purpose of this programme is to ensure that the Office of the Founding President is properly maintained and that efficient services are provided to our Founding President.

As Honourable Members are aware, the Founding President performs ceremonial functions as per invitations from the public and the private sector.

He also attends official functions inside and outside Namibia. The Founding President carries out functions provided for under the Former Presidents' Pension and other Benefits Act, 2004 (Act 18 of 2004).

Honourable Chairperson, allow me to state that this programme mirrors our democratic culture. I have stated time and again that we must continue to nourish our democratic institutions so that our democracy can be durable. Namibia should **NEVER** be like many developing countries where a former Head of State has nightmares. Such treatment of former Heads of State does not promote a culture of voluntary surrender of power through democratic means for fear of victimisation. It is a recipe for instability in a country.

It is against this background that I appreciate a new culture in some SADC countries, including Namibia, where a former Head of State is well protected, well treated and respected. We should never forget that these generations of our leaders gave much for their countries and the welfare of their people. In most cases, those who fought for the Independence of their countries not only put their lives and those of their families in danger, but also the lives of their communities.

Therefore, the new culture promotes peace, stability and security not only of a country but also of the Region. Those who think that promoting peace, stability and security is expensive by according due recognition to our Founding President can try chaos and anarchy elsewhere if they are tired of our peace and stability. Our Founding President will remain a hero of our

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revolution and of our Nation. On our part, we will remain unshaken and uncompromising. Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma deserves respect for the sake of peace, stability and security in Namibia.

On our part, we will continue to live within the letter and spirit of Former Presidents' Pension and Other Benefits Act of 2004, which requires the State to provide support to former Presidents.

Under this Programme, an amount of N\$18,524,000 has been requested. Out of this total, an amount of N\$11,883,000 has been earmarked for development purposes, including the ongoing construction of the Office of the Founding President.

The fifth and last programme is the Cabinet Secretariat.

This programme carries out activities provided for under Chapter 6 of the Namibian Constitution, namely, the Cabinet. It is common knowledge that the Cabinet Secretariat performs constitutional functions assigned to it by the President and the Cabinet. Against this background, the Cabinet Secretariat serves as the repository of the records, minutes and related documents of the Cabinet. Under this programme, an amount of N\$8,638,000 is requested.

In summary, an amount of N\$150,812,000 is requested for the Operational Budget, while N\$209,586,000 is requested for the Development Budget.

Honourable Chairperson, with these remarks, I respectfully urge all the Honourable Members of this august House to support and approve the total allocation of N\$360,398,000 in respect of the Office of the President.

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

I put **Vote 02 – “PRIME MINISTER”, N\$164,509,000 for Introduction.**

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, our

Constitution proclaims our democratic values, respect for the Rule of Law and justice for all. It is on this basis that we are required to execute our activities. With this in mind, the Office of the Prime Minister continued to interact with all stakeholders in all sectors and various communities across the country.

Resources availed to the Office the previous Financial Year, enabled the Office of the Prime Minister to provide guidance and advice on the implementation of policies of the Government and ensured that all spheres of our public domain remain healthy. The themes of “*inclusive development*” and the “*equalisation of opportunities*” were always emphasised by the Office of the Prime Minister. This has and will continue to be the case, when carrying out projects for good governance, efficiency and effectiveness of public institutions, or with regard to the development projects for disadvantaged communities and vulnerable persons.

Major Policy Initiatives:

Let me highlight some of the major policy initiatives and statements of the Prime Minister’s Office for the last Financial Year, which at the same time, are reflective of its executive actions.

Recently, the Right Honourable Prime Minister tabled and motivated the Bill for the establishment of the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) to provide for its administration, control of affairs and regulation of its activities. NIPAM’s draft policy framework has also been published and launched. The Institute will soon be inaugurated.

Another major activity has been the setting up of a new and revised National policy to deal with National disasters and emergencies. The office has adopted a new approach, to provide for improved capacity for early warning and for tracking, monitoring and disseminating information on phenomena and activities that trigger disaster events. This is the forerunner to the tabling of a draft Bill that is meant to provide the Nation with a legal tool to manage disaster risks and to facilitate the traditional disaster response.

National and International Activities:

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the launch of the Ohorongo Cement plant in Otjozondjupa provided proof of the integrated approaches and genuine partnerships identified in Vision 2030 as critical

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components of a strategic plan for the industrialization of Namibia.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister also motivated Namibia's need for support to deal with the effects of climate change at the UN Summit in Copenhagen. Here Namibia expressed its desire for concrete outcomes of the Fifteenth Conference of Parties, including for the provision of support to Namibia, to establish early warning systems on regional and local levels and most of all, for resources that must contribute towards poverty reduction efforts and mitigation of disasters as a consequence of climate change.

With the launch of a revised Public Service Workplace Policy on HIV and AIDS, the Office of the Prime Minister reaffirmed its commitment to deal with this pandemic as "*one of the most challenging developmental obstacles for Namibia*".

Other priority areas for the Office related to the support given to the identification of strategic priorities in the revitalisation of high education in the context of relevancy and for ongoing National efforts to improve Namibia's ranking on the Global Competitiveness Index. Another aspect highlighted was the Government's grave concern about gender-based violence.

At the Non-aligned Summit, Namibia highlighted how it was affected by the international economic crisis. The Right Honourable Prime Minister emphasised the importance of the solidarity and mutual support among Non-alignment Movement countries, in order to mitigate the effects of the crisis on our people. He emphasised that, indeed, South-South Cooperation and triangular cooperation are now more than ever before vital in order to effectively deal with this world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development.

These activities are but some of the highlights at the broader National and international arena, which occupied the Office of the Prime Minister over the last Financial Year.

It would be remiss of me, Comrade Chair of the Whole House Committee, not to mention that despite a year of full activities and programmes, the Office expenditures level remained within Budget and is expected to be about 93%.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I will now deal with the programmes for the execution of various activities provided for under Vote 02 for 2010/2011.

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The strategic plan of the Office for the period 2009 to 2013, approved last year after several rounds of consultations, drives the execution of our projects to ensure that we will achieve the milestones of NDP3. Our Medium Term Plan, thus, indicates the extent to which we have aligned our resource allocations to achieve the outcomes of the National Development Plan and the targets as provided for.

The Office of the Prime Minister is required to execute its Budget according to three main programmes. These are:

- Programme 1: Constitutional obligations of the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister;
- Programme 2: Public Service Management and Improvement; and
- Programme 3: Disaster recovery and emergency services.

For 2010/2011, the allocation requested amounts to N\$164.5 million, which is N\$129 million lower than the N\$293.4 million allocation for the previous Financial Year. The difference of 22% is due to the fact that no special allocation has been made for emergency relief on the Office of the Prime Minister's Budget. (Apart from the yearly N\$20 million reserve allocation on the National Emergency and Disaster Fund). Similarly, the Development Budget has received a lower allocation, because the first phase of the NIPAM building project is nearly complete.

The Operational Budget for 2010/2011 amounts to N\$156,509,000, increase of 2,2% over last year's N\$153 million allocation. If one takes into account the salary adjustments, which have already been announced, as well as the effect of inflation on required services, the Office of the Prime Minister is expected to execute its programmes with only a marginal increase in real terms.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, allow me to highlight some of the projects we have Budgeted for in line with the aforementioned programmes.

Programme 1 – Constitutional obligations of the Right Honourable Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister:

The allocation on this programme will enable the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister to continue with activities to properly assist and provide support to His Excellency, the President, coordinate Cabinet-related business and to enable the Office to execute tasks related to its role as Leader of Government Business in Parliament.

An amount of N\$32,4 million is being requested for the programme, a decrease of about N\$1,2 million compared to last year's allocation. The main reason for the decrease is the special allocation for the 20th Independence celebrations, which was finalised the previous Financial Year.

Included in the overall allocation is a continuation amount, albeit with slight increases compared to last year, of N\$5,2 million for the work of the Secretariat of the State-Owned-Enterprises Governance Council, which will be given greater impetus in this Financial Year, to ensure compliance with the provisions of the State-Owned-Enterprises Governance Act. An amount of N\$1.5 million has been set aside for the Secretariat work of the Political Office-Bearers Remuneration Commission.

An amount of N\$3,3 million is requested for the ongoing work of the San social inclusion programme. With respect to the latter, more resettlement projects for the San and other vulnerable groups' development programmes will continue to be identified and announcement made at an appropriate date.

An amount of N\$1,5 million has been allocated for the execution of additional administrative tasks required for the Transformation Empowerment Socio-Economic Framework (TESEF) project. We remain hopeful that this ambitious undertaking and the policy framework will be finalised soon. High level consultation is ongoing, and funding provision has been made to take the policy to its execution level during the course of the next twelve months.

Programme 2: Public Service Management and Improvement: This programme will require N\$102,4 million.

I wish to highlight several projects aimed at enhancing Public Service performance and improving public confidence in the delivery of services by

the Public Sector of Namibia.

The funds allocated for the programme comprise 63% of the Budget for 2010/2011. The allocated amount will enable the Office to continue to provide support to the work of the Public Service Commission. It will also mainly be utilised to carry out a number of ongoing interventions already authorised by Cabinet, to ensure that efficiency, effectiveness and accountability in the Public Service is achieved.

The Office of the Prime Minister will continue with the roll out of the Performance Management System to more Ministries and the establishment of a permanent high-level monitoring unit will ensure that the system continues to expand and that agreed targets are met. This project is also supported by the European Union and the Africa Capacity Building Foundation.

The implementation of the job evaluation and grading system will ensure that, in future, Public Service posts and structures are created and graded according to scientific norms.

The training programmes for Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM), are being developed with the assistance of various agencies of the Governments of France, India and Finland. As part of Government's commitment to ensure that NIPAM provides the necessary impact, an amount of N\$7,9 million has been allocated on the development Budget to begin with phase two, to expand the facilities of the Institute.

The E-Government initiative is also expected to take-off after the award of the tender to a group of local and international experts, and its main focus will be public participation. Furthermore, to ensure that Public Servants can adapt to this new environment, the computer literacy training to Civil Servants by UNAM and the Polytechnic of Namibia, in addition to those offered through the Office of the Prime Minister's Virtual Learning Centre, will continue to be provided free of charge.

The ultimate goal of Public Service management projects is to provide support and increase access to government services, enhance the professionalism of the Public Service, and improve service delivery.

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HON NUJOMA**

Programme 3: Disaster and Emergency Management:

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, an amount of N\$29.6 million, has been allocated to this programme, for the support and operations of the Disaster Risk Management Directorate. In addition, a reserve amount of about N\$145 million has been set aside in a separate bank account, and together with the new allocation for this purpose of N\$20 million which I referred to earlier, will bring the total reserve to N\$165 million. The amount is meant to provide for eventualities and ongoing support to alleviate the effects on the flooded areas and set a proper support system and facility for proper National disaster risk management.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I now request this august House, to approve the expenditure of N\$164,509,000 as set out in the Schedule of the Appropriation Bill for 2010 for the Office of the Prime Minister. I thank you.

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

I put **Vote 07 – “FOREIGN AFFAIRS”, N\$505,480,000 for Introduction.**

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House. Allow me to motivate Vote 7 for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

Before I proceed, may I take this opportunity, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, to sincerely thank our predecessors, the Honourable Marco Hausiku and his former Deputy, the Honourable Lempy Lukas for having been instrumental in promoting Namibia’s Foreign Policy with distinction for the past six years. I would also like to warmly congratulate Honourable Hausiku on his well-deserved appointment as Deputy Prime Minister. I am confident that he will discharge his new responsibilities with diligence, and characteristic aplomb.

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I am honoured and privileged to present to this august House the Budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this House, allow me once again to emphasise that, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to engage its international partners at both bilateral and multilateral levels with the view of advancing our National interests and promoting international cooperation in keeping with our mandate.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, let me take you through the Ministry's Budget request for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

A total amount of N\$505,480,000 has been allocated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the 2010/2011 Financial Year. The amount of N\$180,557,000 will be used for the Development Budget and N\$324,923,000 are earmarked for the operational of the Ministry and its Diplomatic Missions.

The amount allocated to the Development Budget will be utilised as follows:

N\$134,248,000 will be used for the purchasing and maintenance of our diplomatic premises abroad, as well as the rehabilitation and construction of the Cassinga Mass grave in Angola and the graves at Shatotwa in Zambia.

N\$3,500,000 will be used for the maintenance of the Headquarters building and the replacement of the lifts.

N\$42, 809,000 will be used for the construction of the VIP Lounge at Hosea Kutako International Airport.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, let me take you through the breakdown of the amount requested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for each program under the Operational Budget.

Programme 1: Bilateral Affairs

The funds to the amount of N\$50,546,000 allocated to this programme will be utilised in carrying out its priority functions, among others:

- Advance Namibia's National interests through the conduct of our bilateral relations and working with other governments, organisations and other development partners;
- Reinforce international recognition of Namibia as a reliable partner in securing peace and security at home and abroad and strengthen cooperation aimed at advancing economic and social development; and
- Provide prompt and effective consular services for Namibians travelling or living abroad; Hence, economic diplomacy through investment and trade promotion between Namibia and other countries on a bilateral level will be advanced.

Programme 2: Multilateral Affairs:

Through Multilateral Affairs, the Ministry continues to pursue its National mandate of informing, coordinating and advising Government on regional, continental and worldwide faceted issues. In that connection, the Ministry continues to constantly monitor new developments as they evolve from organisations such as Southern African Development Community, the Southern African Customs Union, the African Union, the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the G-77 and China, the European Union and many others.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is important to inform this august House about the envisaged forthcoming regional, continental and international events that the Ministry will be participating during the Financial Year under consideration.

At regional level, Namibia is currently the Vice-Chairman of SADC, and as such, a member of the SADC Troika. We shall assume the Chairmanship during the 30th SADC Summit which will be held in Windhoek in August this year. Due to its cross-cutting character, the event will need cross-sectoral Budgeting and preparations. In addition, the 31st Session of the SADC Inter-State Politics and Diplomacy Committee as well as the 12th Meeting of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation will take place in Maputo, Mozambique.

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A SACU Heads of State and Government Summit took place in Windhoek, Namibia, on 22 April this year. It coincided with hundred years celebration of the existence of SACU.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, at continental level, Namibia became a member of the AU Peace and Security Council as from 1 April 2010. As such, Namibia will actively participate in continental conflict resolution and peacekeeping operations. This requires additional resources in terms of finance and human resources. Namibia will also participate at the 15th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, scheduled for Kampala, Uganda in July 2010.

As a Member of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee, the Ministry is expected to participate in the activities of the Committee at both the officials and Heads of State and Government levels.

The Africa- France Summit, the Africa- EU Summit as well as the Afro-Arab Summit is scheduled to take place this year of which the Ministry is expected to participate.

Namibia is also a Member of the AU Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the reform of the UN. The Ministry has to participate actively in order to fulfil its mandate as per the Ezulwini Agreement.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, at the United Nations, Namibia is a member of the Economic and Social Council. This year's Substantive Session of The Economic and Social Council is scheduled to take place in New York from June to July 2010.

The General Debate of the 65th Session of the General Assembly is scheduled to take place in September 2010. Meetings of the Main Committees of the General Assembly and other subsidiary bodies will also be held soon thereafter. Prior to the General Debate the UN Secretary General will convene a high level meeting to assess the progress made in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The Ministry will participate in all these meetings.

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A big chunk of our funds under this programme goes towards our membership contribution to regional and international organisations.

An amount of N\$64,226,000 is earmarked for the Multilateral program.

Programme 3: Protocol and Consular Services

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, an amount of N\$29,925,000 has been earmarked for this programme. Among the functions of the Ministry is to render efficient and effective protocol services to the Office of the President, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Office of the Founding President and Father of the Nation, the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Chairman of the National Council, Ministers, Members of this august House and other dignitaries.

Protocol Officers accompany the President on all official local and international missions. Furthermore, the Department is responsible for the organisation of all official visits to Namibia by Heads of State and Government, which includes the printing of posters, flags, programmes and invitation cards.

Programme 4: Missions

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the next programme, my last but not least improvement programme, is Missions Abroad. This programme is allocated an amount of N\$360,783,000, which represents 71 percent of the total Budget of the Ministry. This money will be spent in major foreign currencies which are subjected to the appreciation and depreciation of the Namibian Dollar.

The Missions serve to implement our strategic plans and promote economic diplomacy, as per The White Paper on Foreign Policy and Diplomacy Management and the Strategic Plan. The opening of the two Missions I mentioned earlier on, namely Geneva (a Multilateral and Bilateral Mission) and Tokyo (a Bilateral Mission) are taken into consideration.

I now move the Budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the amount of N\$505,480,000 for the 2010/2011 Financial Year for the Honourable House's

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HON HAUSIKU**

consideration and approval. I count on your support, especially since this is my first Budget presentation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I thank you.

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

I put **Vote 30 – “ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION”, N\$36,786,000 for Introduction.**

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. The Honourable Members would recall, that the Anti-Corruption Commission has a separate Vote, which is in line with statutory requirements that its operations should be independent.

By virtue of it being a statutory institution, the Anti-Corruption Commission’s functions are set out in its empowering statute, the Anti-Corruption Act, 2003 (Act 8 of 2003). I will not read all of them, because the Chair of the Whole House Committee would like us to adjourn as early as possible, but I would like the Members to read the statement which I have distributed to understand the functions.

The functions are then also encapsulated in the two main objectives listed in the Medium Term Plan of Vote 30, which read as follows:

- Ensure that allegations of corrupt practices are properly investigated;
and
- Prevention of corruption

The Anti-Corruption Commission should thus, in the first instance, be placed in a position to effectively and efficiently investigate allegations of corruption. Some of the investigations are very complex in nature and requires the expertise of a team of forensic auditors or other experts. As a result, some investigations become very costly. The Commission therefore, has to be adequately funded, to appoint special investigators such as auditors, if a particular investigation so requires.

Similarly, continuous public education and awareness programmes, and the holding of seminars countrywide, is proving to be very costly. Some institutions have to be addressed separately due to their special needs, and places additional stress on the human and financial resources of the Commission. Despite the high cost associated with public education and awareness raising campaigns on corruption, the Commission is convinced, that this is the most effective method to enlist public confidence and support to combat corruption in Namibia.

In respect of the previous Financial Year. The Medium Term Plan of Vote 30 reflected two programmes, namely –

- Investigation of Allegations of Corruption
- Establish and Implement Measures to prevent corruption

With regard to the two programmes the Budget allocations were N\$16,190,000 and N\$10,793,000, respectively. A total Budget allocation of N\$26,983,000 was approved for the previous Financial Year.

Activities for 2009/2010 Financial Year:

During the 2009/2010 Financial Year, the Commission managed to effectively investigate a number of 445 reports of alleged corrupt practices. During the same Financial Year, the Commission referred 67 cases to the Prosecutor-General with recommendation for prosecution under Chapter 4 of the Anti-Corruption Act, 2003. In addition, numerous matters were referred to other relevant authorities for appropriate action. In all instances, the matters are only referred to relevant institutions after preliminary inquiries had been conducted to establish whether the allegations of corruption could be substantiated or not.

It is pleasing to note that there has been a considerable reduction in the number of complaints lodged with the Commission, comparing to 928 received during 2008/2009 Financial Year and 445 during the 2009/2010 Financial Year. This is attributed to actions taken by the Commission against the culprits and educational campaigns the Commission conducted in the Regions.

In compliance with the requirement in its empowering legislation to educate the public on corruption and on its functions and provide for measures to

prevent or curb corruption, the Commission during the 2009/2010 Financial Year:

- Increased its sensitization and advertising and media campaigns in an effort to effectively curb corruption. As part of this campaign was the Commission's very successful joint project called the "*The Great Walk against Corruption*". The aim of the project was to engage people from different sectors of society in the fight against corruption. Approximately two thousand people took part in this march against corruption on 28 May 2009 in the capital.
- Another successful public awareness raising event was "*The March against Corruption in Commemoration of the International Day against Corruption*". This March took place in Swakopmund on the 9th of December 2009. The aim with this project was to engage especially the people of the coastal Region in the fight against corruption. These well-attended events serve as a clear demonstration of the public support to the Anti Corruption Commission in its fight against corruption.
- The year 2009 also marked the erection of the first Anti-Corruption Billboards. Such billboards were provided for in the Khomas Region at the Hosea Kutako International Airport and in Oshakati, Oshana Region. The programme is still going on to erect Anti-Corruption Billboards at all strategic places, such as border posts.
- In addition, the Commission provided for a mobile trailer in the Erongo Region for the duration of the festive season to sensitize the inhabitants and holiday-makers in the region. Feedback received, indicates, that the billboards are an effective way, to raise awareness on corruption.
- During 2009, the Anti-Corruption Commission was also represented at the Ongwediva Trade Fair and the Windhoek Show. The Anti-Corruption Commission managed to have questionnaires completed at both events, to determine the effectiveness of its sensitization and educational campaigns. Regions such as Kavango, Karas, Erongo, Hardap, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa and Caprivi were visited by the officials from the Directorate of Public Education and Corruption Prevention. The target groups were mostly the youth, regional and

Local Authorities and Civil Servants from various Ministries.

With regard to capacity building, the Commission managed to recruit ten additional staff members during 2009. These additional staff members will assist to provide for a better service delivery to the public.

With regard to the National and international support received during the 2009/2010 Financial Year, it is worth mentioning that – the Anti-Corruption Commission launched its own website during 2009 through the financial support of the Hans Seidel Foundation. Upon invitation the Commission also became a partner of “*The Commonwealth of Nations*” website.

Furthermore on the international front, the Commission on invitation attended and participated in:

- The International Conference “*Creating Conditions for Sustainable Economic and Social Development in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Fighting Corruption and Promoting Good Governance*” held in Astana, Kazakhstan.;
- The Third Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption held in Doha, Qatar;
- The National Forum against Corruption in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

These international fora provided a platform to exchange experiences and best practices, with regard to, amongst others, the investigation and prevention of corruption and the role of good governance in private sector development and investment promotion. The financial support received from organizations such as GTZ and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development to ensure the Commission’s representation at these international conferences, is a clear testimony that the international community recognises Namibia’s efforts in the fight against corruption.

The proposed allocation for the 2010/2011 Financial Year is N\$36,786,000.

The allocation is to be divided between the two programmes in the Medium Term Plan of Vote 30, namely –

- Investigation of Allegations of Corrupt Practices; and
- Establish and Implement Measures to Prevent Corruption

In respect of the first programme an amount of N\$23,786,000 is to be allocated for the 2010/2011 Financial Year and N\$13 million for the second programme.

The total allocation proposed will be used to carry out the activities as per the following programmes:

With regard to Programme 1, to enable the Commission to:

- Provide for specialised training for its new recruits so as to enable them to better discharge their statutory investigative and other functions;
- Create capacity and skills to deal with more complex investigations.
- Enhance commission's capacity in finalising more cases for possible prosecution by Prosecutor-General.
- Provide for its own headquarters that will ensure improved service delivery to the public. To be more specific, such headquarters will provide for proper interview and exhibit rooms and adequate and proper storage facilities that will ensure secured storage of Anti-Corruption Commission Case Dockets;

With regard to Programme 2 the Commission intends to:

- Be more proactive with its corruption prevention and educational activities. In particular the Commission will increase its print and electronic media campaigns on the detrimental effects of corruption in an effort to effectively prevent the occurrence or re-occurrence of corruption;
- Provide for anti-corruption surveys and the revision of systems, policies and practices prone or conducive to corruption;

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- Provide for adequate conference facilities, where the public can be educated on corruption. This will ensure an informed and educated public that knows what conduct constitutes corruption, how and where to report corruption and is supportive of the Commission's efforts to curb corruption;
- Have a library with adequate research facilities and materials that will enable the Commission to fulfil its mandate of advising public and private bodies on ways to prevent corruption.

The funds earmarked for the Commission's activities over the next Medium Term Plan period, will go a long way towards achieving the aforementioned outcomes. The approval of this Financial Year's proposed allocation will also clearly underline the Government's political will to fight corruption.

Having said the above, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee; Honourable Members of the National Assembly, allow me to conclude by requesting this august House to approve the expenditure of N\$36,786,000 as set out in the Schedule of the Appropriation Bill for 2010 in respect of the Anti-Corruption Commission. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Presidential Affairs and the Minister of Foreign Affairs for their very brief interventions and I hope it shall also be the trend tomorrow. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave granted to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: That brings us to the end of the business scheduled for today. The House stands adjourned under automatic adjournment until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 18:00 UNTIL 2010.04.29 AT 14:30

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
29 APRIL 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HON SPEAKER: The business of the House commences. I have two announcements to make, Honourable Speaker. One is sad news and the other is more for your information.

Honourable Dr Moses Amweelo has lost his dear father. The news just reached him and we express heartfelt condolences and sympathy to him and to his entire family and friends. I ask the Honourable Members of the House to observe a minute of silence.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE.

HON SPEAKER: The second announcement is that we will follow the convention, namely that the Chief Whip of the Governing Party in the House will serve as the Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Is that agreed? It is so decided.

There is an understandable, but temporary, hiatus for the time-being. That is the reason why I have not announced in the Chamber neither the composition of Standing Committees, nor their respective Chairpersons. We should be able to see the end of this hiatus very soon.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers?

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR GENERAL

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

- Ministry of Defence;
- Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare;
- Ministry of Finance. And
- Anti-Corruption Commission

for the Financial Year ending 31st March 2009.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Deputy Minister table the Reports? Minister Sioka.

**TABLING: NAMIBIA COUNTRY REPORT, 2009
BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION**

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Namibia Country Report, 2009, on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action plus Fifteen.

HON SPEAKER: Any Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Dr Amweelo.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

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HON DR AMWEELO: Honourable Speaker, I move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 01, 02, 03, 07, 11, 18, 28 and 30 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45.

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

**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE :
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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

HON SPEAKER: Any objections? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will now take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, 28 April 2010, Votes 01, 02, 07 and 30 have been introduced.

I put **Vote 03 – “NATIONAL ASSEMBLY”, N\$117,536,000** for **Introduction.**

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APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 03
HON DR T-B GURIRAB

HON SPEAKER: I thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Much has been said about the 2010/2011 Appropriation Bill by so many people, including Members of this Honourable House. On 20 March we were all sworn in as Members of the Fifth Parliament. Although not all are here today, we hope that those still to come will join us soon. The Namibian Nation celebrated its 20th anniversary, so also did we celebrate 20 years of Parliamentary democracy. As representatives of the people, we have the responsibility to work towards achieving the vision of building a united, democratic Namibia and improving the quality of life of all citizens.

As I said last year, stating the obvious, the Namibian Constitution enjoins the legislative power to the National Assembly for passing laws and arranging for the review of such laws by the National Council. The Budget process and Debate on appropriation in a democracy is one of the most important activities in our National life. Through this process, the Government of the day informs the electorate through the elected representatives on the programmes and activities and also explain utilisation of resources. That is the purpose in the main of the State of the Nation Address by the Head of State of our country.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I am happy to report on the following as some of the achievements in the last year of the Fourth Parliament:

- Increasing outreach activities - allowing public participation through the programme **Taking Parliament to the People** and other outreach activities, the Standing Committees' public hearings as well as Regional visits to some important Regional institutions;
- Participation in various regional and international forums, including the Pan-African Parliament, SADC Parliamentary Forum, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Inter-Parliamentary Union;
- Graduation of Members of Parliament of the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs who participated in a Legal and Constitutional training course at the University of Namibia.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 03
HON DR T-B GURIRAB**

Despite these initiatives, we are still faced with the following major challenges:

- The compilation and implementation of a strategic plan by the National Assembly Secretariat and the revision of its 20 year old structure;
- Consolidation of democracy through a people-oriented approach;
- To move from periodical outreach activities to outcomes-based oversight, for example, Committees need to ensure that they get feedback from their Public Hearings to ensure that problems raised have been dealt with satisfactorily, and to do follow-ups;
- Non-availability of adequate office accommodation for Members and staff;
- Non-availability of support staff to individual Members of Parliament.

During the past Financial Year the National Assembly completed its work in October, a month ahead of the scheduled time due to elections. Six out of the eighty seven sitting days were lost due to lack of quorum. We talked a lot in this regard and hope that we will not repeat this very embarrassing situation now and as we proceed. Nobody else but we have the responsibility and constitutional obligation to arrive at this Chamber on time and do the business for which we have been placed in this House by elections the people participated in. That notwithstanding, during the same period, the National Assembly has considered and passed the following eighteen Bills:

- Magistrates Amendment Bill
- Magistrates' Courts Amendment Bill
- Local Authorities Amendment Bill
- Appropriation Bill
- Namibia Constitution Second Amendment Bill
- Sectional Titles Bill
- National Youth Council Bill
- Communications Bill
- Electoral Amendment Bill
- Tobacco Products Control Bill

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- Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management Bill
- Banking Institutions Amendment Bill
- Payments Systems Management Amendment Bill
- Income Tax Amendment Bill
- Value-Added Tax Amendment Bill
- Prisons Amendment Bill
- Transfer Duty Amendment Bill

No Bills were referred to Parliamentary Standing Committees for scrutiny. In the same vein, no Bills stood over or lapsed.

The National Assembly has ratified thirteen Agreements and Conventions with other countries in continuance of international relations, economic diplomacy and cooperation. Debates on the fifteen Motions tabled also took place. One was adopted, six were referred to the relevant Portfolio Standing Committees, two were rejected, five lapsed and one was noted. One hundred and two Questions were tabled, of which twenty-seven lapsed. A further six oral Questions were put and replied to by the responsible Ministries.

Parliamentary Committees play a large role in the day-to-day work of Parliaments. They allow legislators to pay closer attention to such matters as the details of Bills, Motions and Reports, or policy perspectives of the Executive than would otherwise be possible. Committees also enable Parliament to be taken to the people, and enable useful insights to be gathered from work by expert groups or individuals in various professional fields. They enable direct contact between the public and representative groups of Members of Parliament and easy flow of information to Members. This also facilitates an increased level of collegiality between Members from different Political Parties who may not otherwise have the opportunity to work together on National challenges.

In short, Parliamentary Committees mainly conduct inquiries into specified matters, which include taking submissions, hearing witnesses, sifting through evidence, discussing matters in detail and formulating practical conclusions. In this context, for the past Financial Year, the House considered thirty Reports of the Standing Committees of which six lapsed. 156 Reports of the Auditor General were also considered of which 74 were referred to the National Council. Other reports and papers tabled and considered, amounted to 26 and

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HON DR T-B GURIRAB**

were taken note off.

Against this background, I want to deal with the Estimates for the 2010/2011 Financial Year. The National Assembly is requesting and strongly appeals for approval of an amount of N\$117,536,000.

N\$104,536,000 have been earmarked for the Operational Budget and N\$13,000,000 will be utilised for the continuing upgrading of the Parliament Building under the Development Budget. As can be noticed, the work is ongoing.

The National Assembly consists of three main divisions. These are:

- Office of the Speaker,
- Administration and Legislation, and
- Library and Computer Services.

The National Assembly's Budget, as expressed in its Medium Term Plan, consists of two programmes:

Programme 1: Enhancement of Parliamentary Process: N\$42,144,000.

One of the activities under this programme is capacity building for Members of the National Assembly through workshops and seminars regarding best Parliamentary practices. During the 2009/2010 Financial Year, Members of the National Assembly enrolled for training on Parliamentary practice and constitutionalism in cooperation with UNAM. Seven out of the nine Members who enrolled, graduated at the end of the year. I witnessed that graduation ceremony, thanks to the former Chairperson of that Committee, now our Deputy Speaker. Furthermore, during the 2010/2011 Financial Year, with the support of the European Commission, the National Assembly will offer targeted training for Members and staff of the various Parliamentary Standing Committees.

Furthermore, fifty-nine Members attended training ranging from the following topics:

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HON DR T-B GURIRAB**

- Improving public sector governance, ensuring successful oversight through follow-up of committee reports;
- Understanding international standards of auditing and understanding performance auditing;
- Improving service delivery through focus on value for money;
- Climate change mitigation;
- Governing security in Namibia;
- Budgeting for HIV/AIDS and gender mainstreaming;
- Gender based violence and HIV/AIDS;
- Accountability issues;
- Lobby and advocacy skills for elected women;
- How to accelerate progress towards the targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

The National Assembly continues with the strengthening and promotion of cooperation between National and regional Parliaments and Parliamentary bodies. Regional cooperation equips Parliaments with adequate knowledge in order to influence their respective country policies on matters dealt with in the regional and other international platforms. Cooperation at this level also promotes exchange of information about outcomes of such international negotiations.

One of the biggest challenges we had in terms of procurement of goods and services was the production of the current and up-to-date Parliamentary proceedings in the form of the HANSARDS. I am happy to inform the House that we have since made a substantial progress and that the backlog will be completed during this Financial Year.

The National Assembly Secretariat in its current form is experiencing a

shortage of professional staff. We hope that with the launching of the Strategic Plan in 2010, the issue of the organisational structure will be addressed. This will address the issue that was raised during the past Financial Year's Budget Debate on the need of professional staff. Further, the enactment of the Parliamentary Service Bill will curtail this problem and the high staff turnover. Regarding the recruitment of professional staff in the Legal, Internal Auditing and ICT professions, the National Assembly is incapacitated by the stringent Public Service requirements. We call on the Public Service Commission through the Prime Minister to review the requirements and benefits of these positions in particular, at Parliament.

Programme 2: Consolidation of Democracy: N\$75,736,000

The overall goal of this programme is to facilitate the work of Members when they consider questions of National interest and stability throughout the country. This is primarily done by organising and coordinating all activities relating to the sittings of the National Assembly and its Standing Committees, and other special events. It involves making sure that Members are well-informed of the work calendar of the National Assembly and facilitating their participation in the specific events, ensuring implementation and follow-up on resolutions, assisting in the preparation of topical reports, and keeping alive the institutional memory of the National Assembly. The main activities are as follows:

1. Consolidation of Parliamentary democracy by undertaking familiarisation visits to the Regions to interact with the traditional leaders, business people and civil society on the democratic and legislative structures to facilitate interaction and feedback between the National Assembly and the public.
2. Provision of professional services, such as legal and research, by scrutinising Bills submitted to the National Assembly for tabling and summarising complex and lengthy Bills referred to Parliamentary Committees.
3. Facilitating, deliberations and decision-making on financial issues and ensuring effective financial management including planning, reporting and internal control.

4. Ensuring effective human resource management policies to secure the highest standards of efficiency, competency and integrity in the Secretariat, increasing employee productivity and contributing to the long-term career development of the National Assembly staff.
5. Operating and maintaining the Parliament Building and grounds and managing the use of the conference facilities. Provision has also been made for the provision of office accommodation with appropriate furniture, office equipment and supplies

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, renovations around the Parliament Building continue. It is a mess and we regret that work started late as this caused the National Assembly to lose N\$8 million in the previous Financial Year due to the intricacies of the Tender Board and other impediments. We will, however, consult with the National Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance in order to increase the National Assembly Budget in the 2011/2012 Financial Year. We hope that the request will be considered favourably. For the time being, let us be patient with the renovations that are ongoing around the building. We trust that all of us will be satisfied with the outcome once completed.

However, I also would like to inform the House that the project of building a new Parliament is on the Table, as reflected in the Third National Development Plan (NDP3). In this regard, the House will be kept informed of the developments as they progress.

Provision of funding for Political Parties to improve the Democratic process.

During the past Financial Year, the question of accountability by the Political Parties with regard to this funding was raised. Since there is no regulation in place, perhaps the Standing Committee on Rules and Orders could take up the matter and propose the way forward in consultation with the Office of the Prime Minister.

Organising a Parliamentary event for school-going children and youth to promote awareness of the role of Parliament, to familiarise themselves with issues pertaining to all Regions and to attend Parliamentary Debates, Committee

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HON DR T-B GURIRAB**

hearings and to interact with individual Members of Parliament and key officials of the three Branches of State.

The provision and maintenance of an effective ICT infrastructure and knowledge management. We have agreed to create an ICT Standing Committee as one of our portfolio committees of the National Assembly. During the 2009/2010 Budget debate the slow speed of the computer network was raised as hampering the work of Members of Parliament. In response to this, the National Assembly spent an amount of N\$1,143,000 million on improving the speed of the computer network at Parliament. You are the beneficiaries, Honourable Members. More than N\$900,000 of these funds were spent on upgrading the cabling throughout the National Assembly, which has greatly improve the speed of accessing the network and subsequently documents and files stored by Honourables Members. N\$243,000 were spent on upgrading the internet connectivity, allowing Members to access the internet and websites and download relevant information much faster.

Regarding the question on the need to upgrade the Parliament library, the work is in progress. As you can see, some advances have been made, but there is still a lot to be done. The demand for information, documentation, etcetera continues to be an urgent preoccupation. That process will be completed during this Financial Year.

The Vote of the National Assembly represents our continued efforts to further the goals of Vision 2030 and the Third National Development Plan, that is, to *“create and consolidate a legitimate effective and democratic political system”*.

I wish to thank all the officials who are doing their level best to ensure that National Assembly runs smoothly and that Public Representatives are able to perform their duties satisfactorily. I, therefore, ask this Honourable House to kindly approve the N\$117,536,000 for Vote 03 and I thank you.

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

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 11
HON DR T-B GURIRAB**

I put **Vote 11 – “NATIONAL COUNCIL”, N\$51,016,000** for **Introduction**.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to motivate the expenditure requested for appropriation under Vote 11, National Council.

The National Council derives its powers and functions from Article 74 of the Namibian Constitution which, among others, mandates the House of Review to recommend legislation on matters of regional concern or consideration by the National Assembly. This is in addition to considering all Bills passed and referred to it by this Honourable House.

The operations of the National Council are guided by two main programmes, namely:

- **Programme 1: Enhancing public participation in the lawmaking process; and**
- **Programme 2: Strengthening the review and oversight function of the National Council.**

For all these activities the National Council requests a total amount of N\$51,016,000 to cover expenses for its operational and developmental needs for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

One recognises the fact that future successes of the National Council will depend on regular review of its organisational and structural systems to enhance its operations. The past Financial Year witnessed the historic launch of the National Council Strategic Plan on 13 October 2009, which sets out the five objectives with measurable goals and targets. The Plan contains five strategic themes, namely good governance, stakeholder relations, operation and service excellence, capacity and competency-building and resource mobilisation and management. The launch of the Strategic Plan heralded in new objectives and initiatives which necessitate improved funding in order for the National Council to meet the targets set in the Plan.

Programme 1: Enhancing Public Participation in the Lawmaking Process.

Under the programme, Enhancing Public Participation in the Lawmaking Process, the National Council engages members of the public, through civic education and dissemination of oral and written information. The objective is to promote the work of the House of Review and to enhance public participation in the lawmaking process. For example, the Communications Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security for Public Hearings. Likewise, the House referred two Motions, one on the constitutionality of Section 61(1)(a) of the Magistrates' Act (Act 32 of 1944) to the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs. The Motion was referred to a Select Committee to investigate the legality of certain charges on home loans.

Similarly, the Standing Committee on Gender, Youth and Information undertook a visit to the regions to follow up on gender violence and connected matters. In August 2009, the National Council Women Caucus undertook a successful outreach programme to regions to share and discuss ideas with communities on child labour, human capital, baby dumping, prostitution and sustainable development, among others. Other standing committees also undertook similar hearings to different regions on varying topics.

Individual organisation and members of the public had an opportunity to express their views in writing or orally on the topics presented. Similar awakening and exposure missions will be undertaken this Financial Year. To succeed in carrying out these activities, an amount of N\$250,000 is requested.

As part of its oversight function, the two presiding officers will continue to conduct outreach programmes with a view to educating the Namibian population on the importance of public participation in the lawmaking process. For these activities the National Council requests an amount of N\$318,000.

Under the same programme, the National Council is currently improving access to the Chamber in line with its Strategic Plan to address access for people living with disabilities. As a result, a lift will be installed to provide access to the Chamber and other offices in the old administration building to allow Namibians living with disabilities to access the building. An amount of

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HON DR T-B GURIRAB**

N\$2,678,000 is required to complete this exercise.

The National Council shall strive to further enhance broader public participation in the lawmaking process by ensuring that Parliamentary Debates and Committee activities are translated and interpreted in sign language. It has already commenced with printing the HANSARD in Braille and intends printing other Parliamentary publications in indigenous languages and Braille. An amount of N\$85,000 is requested in order to succeed in this challenging endeavour.

The National Council plans to buy commercial timeslots from the NBC-TV and Radio in order to broadcast live Chamber sessions and Public Hearings. This initiative will maximise public awareness of the National Council activities in and outside the Chamber. This, in the long run, enhances citizens' understanding of the lawmaking process. An amount of N\$260,000 is required to fund these activities. Additionally, an amount of N\$50,832 is required to cover administrative costs under this Programme. Funding the implementation of the entire programme amounts to N\$19,427,000 for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

Programme 2: Strengthening the Review and Oversight Function of the National Council.

This programme aims at strengthening the National Council's review function and enhancing legislative capacity-building. This is done through training of both Members and the Secretariat in Parliamentary Procedures. Over the Financial Year under discussion, the National Council reviewed fourteen Bills. Two Bills, that is the Communications Bill and the Banking Institutions Amendment Bill were referred to the appropriate Standing Committees. In total, thirteen Bills were passed without amendments and one was rejected. The Debate on the Namibian Institute for Public Administration and Management Bill has been adjourned to the next Session. The Banking Institutions Amendment Bill will be taken up for Public Hearings during the next Session.

In a nutshell, this programme involves drawing members of the public in direct participation in the lawmaking process through Public Hearings and other interactions with them. For these participatory activities we request an amount

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of N\$3,248,000.

In our quest to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in our system, the National Council has installed new microphones and monitors in the Chamber. The HANSARD Office has also been equipped with better recording systems and some conference and boardrooms have equally been equipped with microphones to ensure effective recording of Debates and thus strengthening the work of the Committees. This is a continuous initiative that will be extended to other meeting and boardrooms and an amount of N\$454,000 is being requested.

We have acquired selected books, journals and CD Roms to serve as references in the provision of quality advice to the House and its various Committees. These activities are continuous and an amount of N\$238,000 is requested to cater for this activity.

The search for competence and capacity-building is another challenge to which the National Council attaches great importance. The Standing Committee on Gender, Youth and Information visited the German Parliament to exchange views with their counterparts on human trafficking and prostitution. Similarly, the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs and the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security visited the United Kingdom Parliament where they attended a tailor-made training on Parliamentary Committees which was conducted by the Centre for Parliamentary Staff. They gained better and deeper understanding of the different functions of Committees, such as legislation and investigation procedures and administrations. The Steering Committee visited the Parliaments of Ghana and South Africa to exchange views on the Standing Rules and Orders and with the intention of improving the current House Rules. The aim was to expose both the Members and the Secretariat to best practices in Parliamentary process in the Region and beyond.

As we undertake exchange programmes to sister Parliaments to enhance our review and oversight capacity, the National Council reciprocally host local and foreign delegations for the same reason. Thus, during the Financial Year under review we received delegations from Ohangwena and Omusati Regional Councils for information sharing. Similarly, we hosted the Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese Peoples Political Consultative Conference

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(CPPC), during which we had discussed strengthening ties between our two institutions. We are expected to undertake similar programmes this Financial Year.

Programmes on exchanging experiences and skills have benefited our Members and the Secretariat substantially and we request an amount of N\$2,825,000 with a view to enhancing such relations. As you are aware, come November this year, Namibia will witness the holding of Regional Council elections to elect new Regional Councillors. In this regard, the National Council expects to induct and subsequently during this Financial Year. For this and other undertakings we request an amount of N\$1,836,000 to sharpen the skills of our new Parliamentarians.

The National Council has a Workplace Committee on HIV/AIDS in order to increase awareness on HIV/AIDS among Members and the Secretariat alike. An awareness programme has been put in place. As a result, information leaflets will continue to be designed and printed to further create awareness of this epidemic. We, therefore, request an amount of N\$172,000 to forge ahead with this Nationwide campaign.

The National Council's affiliation to a number of regional and international Parliamentary bodies has been the source of our exposure. The affiliated organisations, to name but a few, include the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, (CPA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the Association of Senates Shoora and equivalent Councils in Africa and Arab world (ASSECCAA). Affiliation has enriched the National Council in terms of experience sharing and learning new ideas in the best Parliamentary practices. The presence of the National Council MPs on the executive platforms of these bodies is testimony to the valuable contribution the House of Review is making and, thus, fitting recognition. An amount of N\$4,160,000 is requested to cater for this commitment.

It is plausible to reveal that the National Council has completed three important draft policy documents. These are, the revised Standing Rules and Orders, the Witness Guide and the Tools on Oversight. The Witness Guide will do a great deal in assisting individuals and institutions to understand the applicable procedures when appearing before and making submissions to a National Council Standing or Select Committee. Under this exercise an amount of N\$75,000 is requested.

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In accordance with our strategic plan, the National Council plans to acquire and maintain information communication technology facilities to efficiently serve the needs of Members and the Secretariat. For this endeavour an amount of N\$418,000 is being requested. This is in addition to the N\$18,165,000 which the National Council is requesting for administrative costs under this programme. In total, the successful implementation of Programme 2 will cost the National Council an amount of N\$31,589,000 over this Financial Year.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, I humbly request this august House to approve the National Council's total Budget estimate of N\$51,016,000 to fund the operational and developmental expenses of the House of Review during the 2010/2011 Financial Year and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee will now break for tea until 16:15.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:65
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:28 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order.

I put **Vote 28 – “ELECTORAL COMMISSION”, N\$181,997,000** for **Introduction.**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Budget for Vote 28, Electoral Commission of Namibia, for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

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I am pleased to note that the Electoral Commission had in the past year successfully conducted a Nationwide supplementary registration of voters as well as the actual Presidential and National Assembly elections.

The Electoral Commission of Namibia is continuously making efforts to enhance cost-effectiveness and operational efficiency through the training of staff members with specific emphasis on competency, professionalism, accountability and transparency. Due to the financial constraints and the austerity measures being implemented by Government, the Electoral Commission has submitted a rather conservative Budget to take it through its planned activities for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

A total amount of N\$181,997,000 is being requested for consideration and approval by Parliament.

The two programmes under the Electoral Commission's Budget: (1) Holding of Elections, (2) Voter Education; include a portion for administration, since this item is no longer regarded as a separate programme.

The breakdown of the two programmes of the Electoral Commission is as follows:

Holding of elections:

The purpose of this programme is for holding of regular elections as per the Electoral Act, (Act 24 of 1992) as amended, to ensure good governance and the consolidation of democracy. Capacity building in electoral activities is regarded an important part of the Electoral Commission's activities and would receive attention during off-peak periods.

By-elections:

An amount of N\$1,320,000 is earmarked for by-election in the event of the resignation or death of a member of a Regional Council. Such vacancy should be filled within 90 days of occurrence. A supplementary registration of voters is held prior to the election process in which a new candidate in that particular Constituency is elected for the remainder of the five years period.

Continuous Registration of Voters

In terms of the Electoral Act 1992, continuous registration of voters should be carried out to include persons who have turned 18, changed their names and/or addresses due to relocation from one Constituency/Region to another on the National voter's register. This is done by engaging persons in every constituency of a Region to issue any voter with a new or revised voter's registration card on the presentation of the required documentation and after verification (in case of change of address/name) of such documentation. An amount of N\$4,382,000 has been allocated for this activity.

The Electoral Commission was able to conduct the Continuous Voter's Registration exercise in the Ohangwena and Oshana regions between the 5th of May 2009 and the 5th of June 2009. Continuous voter's registration was conducted in the other 11 Regions during the previous Financial Year.

Supplementary Registration:

An amount of N\$19,382,000 is being requested for the supplementary registration of voters as provided for under Section 28 of Electoral Act, (Act 24 of 1992) as amended. The supplementary registration of voters is carried out to include persons who turned 18 years of age and also target at giving opportunities to persons who have changed addresses to register as voters in their new constituencies of residence. It is evident from the supplementary voters registration conducted prior to the last elections that many eligible Namibians still remained unregistered as voters for several reasons, for example, lack of relevant documentation and access.

Update of Voters Register

The cleaning and verification of the Voter's Register is a priority for the Electoral Commission as the voters' register is at the heart of each and every election. An amount of N\$984,000 has been allocated in order to, amongst other things:

- Ensure that both National and Local Authorities Voters registers are clean of "*ghost voters*" by removing the names of those who died, those has taken up citizenship of other countries;

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- Continuously improve the Voters Register, including but not limited to the use of electronic voters register at polling stations; and
- Continuously improve the functionality of the electronic Voters Register to provide all necessary electoral data.

All necessary efforts will be put in place to ensure that a credible Voter's Register is used during the forthcoming elections.

Computerization of ECN Logistics

An amount of N\$440,000 has been earmarked for the computerisation of the ECN logistics. The implementation of a computerised system for the ECN Logistic stores would not only put the Electoral Commission in a position where it can keep track of all election material, but would also give an indication as to when and which items need replacement. Ongoing training of staff members is a priority and maintenance and update of the system ensures optimum performance and utilisation of such system to the benefit of the institution.

Regional Council and Local Authority Elections

An amount of N\$81,185,000 has been allocated for the conducting of Regional Council and Local Authority Elections. It is the mandate of the Electoral Commission to ensure that the said National elections are held within the legal timeframe.

ICT Result Centre :

A modest amount of N\$2,880,000 is being requested for the establishment of a Central Elections Result Centre that will serve not only as the focal point for results verification and announcement, but also a meeting point for media outlets, Political Parties, local and international observers.

Construction of the ECN Headquarters :

The Electoral Commission is currently housed in the NDC building following its ejection from the Old Bank of Namibia building during mid-2007, which

was transferred to the Development Bank of Namibia. The Electoral Commission is facing a problem of severe office and storage space, which makes it difficult to achieve operational efficiency and maximum utilisation of human capital. An amount of N\$38,592,000 has been allocated for the construction of the ECN Headquarters.

Research, Human Resources and Infrastructure Development

Since the formation of the Electoral Commission in 1992, foreign institutions having interest in elections, the general public, the academic sector, local and foreign researchers, etcetera, have visited the Electoral Commission of Namibia seeking for different kinds of information on electoral matters. The process requires a better organised and equipped Resource Centre with trained staff.

Hence, data compilation, verification and production are obtained from various electoral sources. Apart from general and global electoral information, these include votes cast per polling station, gender participation on polling day, analysis and review of the electoral data before and after elections in relation to planning and organisation and personnel, public opinion. In order to keep pace with current developments, the Electoral Commission shall continue to review and improve the Electoral law and practice by engaging legal and socio-cultural experts. In order to achieve this objective, an amount of N\$4,487,000 has been allocated to Research, Human Resources and Infrastructure Development.

Legal Challenges :

Legal actions in respect of electoral disputes or against electoral management bodies are commonplace and a fresh election or recount of votes may be the result of such legal actions. The Electoral Commission has faced post-election legal challenges arising from electoral disputes observed during past elections. A case in point is the RDP alliances in 2009, when the RDP, RP, CoD, DPN, NAMIBIA-MDC, DTA, NUDO, APP and NDP launched a court application with the High Court and later an appeal in the Supreme Court after losing the case in the High Court.

There is absolutely no guarantee that the Electoral Commission would not

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encounter such challenges in the future. In the light of the above, and in order to cater for such unforeseen eventualities, an amount of N\$220,000 have been allocated for legal challenges.

Mock Elections:

An amount of N\$150,000 has been allocated for a mock election. However, let me also inform you that the Electronic Voting Machines will not be used during this year's Regional Council and Local Authority elections.

Electronic Voting Machine and Registration Kit

An amount of N\$10,100,000. The newly enacted Electoral Amendment Act provides for the use of Electronic Voting Machines by the Electoral Commission. In light of this, the Electoral Commission is to purchase the Electronic Voting Machines into two phases. The Electronic Voting Machines will not be used this year during the Regional Council and Local Authority elections.

Management and Maintenance of ECN Logistics :

After any electoral event, be it registration or an election, the ECN Logistic stores need intensive reorganisation. Prior and after an event materials are being dispatched and received in bulk from various Regions and Constituencies in a very short space of time. After the activity is over, proper reconciliation and stocktaking of items take place in order to ensure that all materials sent out have been received back. This is a time-consuming and tedious process and invariably involves considerable human resources therefore, an amount of N\$1,733,000 is required.

SADC-ECF Annual General Conference :

The Electoral Commission of SADC is an independent entity which facilitates cooperation between the electoral authorities of countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Its main aim is the promotion of democratic values and free, fair and transparent elections in SADC countries. Article 6 of the ECF-SADC Constitution establishes the Conference, which shall be the supreme policy-making body. The Conference shall at least meet

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once a year at a place to be determined by the Conference. During the last AGC held in DRC, Kinshasa July 2009 it was confirmed that it would be held in May – July 2010 in Namibia and therefore, an amount of N\$1,000,000 is required.

Voter Education

An amount of N\$16,142,000 has been allocated for voter education. The purpose of conducting voter education and sharing of voter information is to increase citizens' level of understanding of electoral processes and ensure participation in these processes. The Voter Education Function is thus geared towards increasing voters' understanding of electoral processes and eradicates voter apathy. Voter education is further imperative in order to increase participation of eligible voters in the election processes. The conducting of countrywide voter education is in line with the SADC election requirements to which Namibia also subscribes.

Conclusion

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, this presentation makes a case for the activities and programmes that the Electoral Commission wishes to undertake this year. I now wish to entreat this august House to approve the Budget for the Electoral Commission of Namibia for the 2010/2011 Financial Year. I thank you.

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

I put **Vote 18 – “ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM”, N\$347,907,000** for **Introduction.**

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members.

At the onset, on behalf of the Deputy Minister, Comrade Uahekua Herunga, and on my own behalf, I would like to thank His Excellency President

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Hifikepunye Pohamba for the trust and confidence he has placed on us to lead this important social and economic Ministry. We pledge our commitment to hard work and do what is humanly possible for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to play its strategic role in the Namibian economy.

Honourable Members, in motivating, the Budget for Vote 18, for the 2010/2011 Financial Year, in summary, let me share with this august House the performance of the past period and prospects for this sector for the period ahead.

The Ministry managed to record numerous achievements, both in the Environment and Tourism Sectors, *albeit* many challenges facing those sectors.

In the environmental sector, as we know, climate change has dominated the world agenda and Namibia is no exception. The Namibian Government has, therefore, placed climate change as one of its National priorities. Subsequently, based on the directive of Cabinet, a National Advisory Body on Climate Change is being set up and several projects to address climate change issues are being implemented. The Second National Communication to the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change, which addresses the potential impacts of climate change on our most vulnerable sectors, has been completed. The Report revealed a need for Climate Change Adaptation measures to be put in place, to mitigate the effects of climate change on our people, especially the rural-based which face these challenges on a day-to-day basis. In this regard, the Ministry has commissioned climate change related studies that will enable us to better understand the effects and the extent of climate change on various sectors. The National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will soon be tabled in Cabinet for finalisation.

Similarly the Green Paper for Coastal Biodiversity Management has been completed, to direct the management of our coastal areas which are vulnerable to climate change.

Climate change adaptation projects to enhance the adaptive capacity of agricultural and pastoral systems in drought-prone constituencies in the North-Central Regions of Namibia are initiated and rural communities are being equipped to adapt to climate change impacts in those Regions.

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For example, an on-site research project in Omusati and Oshana Regions to identify appropriate crop and farming types which could be adopted by communities to cope with the changing climate has begun last year.

Honourable Members, climate change is a global challenge that needs a global solution. Namibia continues to participate actively in international climate change negotiations. In December 2009, we participated in the 15th Conference of Parties of the Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Copenhagen at which the Copenhagen Accord was crafted to which Namibia is a Party. In the same vein, Namibia continues to actively participate in the implementation of international instruments relating to Environment and Biodiversity. These include: Convention for Biological Diversity; Convention to Combat Desertification; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the Basel Convention; Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), to list a few.

To better coordinate climate change issues, we are now busy strengthening our planning mechanisms and encourage collaboration between different stakeholders. Hence, an increased Budget provision to allow an effective management of this global problem.

Honourable Members, the impact of the global financial crisis on the tourism sector was predicted by the Bank of Namibia to show a 20% decrease in terms of the sector's contribution of revenue generated to the National economy for 2009. At this stage the real impact on revenue contribution to the National economy is not fully determined. However, it is estimated that there will be a 5% reduction on international tourist arrivals for 2009, translating into 884,450, in comparison to 931,111 in 2008.

It is important to point out that the recession had different impacts on various tourism sub-sectors, with hunting and small and medium tourism establishment being among the most affected. As the recession comes to an end, we are hoping that there will be improvement in 2010 for the whole industry, including smaller tourism facilities.

As mentioned by His Excellency the President in the State of the Nation Address, the Tourism Policy is in place and we are busy drafting the Tourism Law to transform the sector and to create a favourable enabling environment

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for National tourism development and to ensure a balanced sharing of natural resources.

In line with the Tourism Policy, cultural tourism is encouraged. I am happy to inform this Honourable House that, through the National Planning Commission, the Spanish Government is supporting cultural tourism through the establishment of cultural centres in different parts of the country.

The Special Tourism initiative, aimed at spreading the benefits of tourism to previously disadvantaged Namibians, is being implemented. Under this initiative, new emerging and existing tourism establishments in rural areas are supported with funding to stimulate investment for tourism facilities. This bold step will see competitive lodges, guesthouses, bed and breakfasts, established and owned by formerly disadvantaged Namibians.

Honourable Members, the development of the Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCA) in southern Africa is part of tourism development in the Region. Currently, there are seven Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas in the Region, shared by nine countries and Namibia is party to three. To market the Region, Member States have adopted a marketing brand, known as Boundless Southern Africa. To this end, a Boundless Southern Africa expedition was commissioned and started on the 11th May 2009 in Durban, South Africa and ended on 19th August 2009 in Oranjemund, Namibia. Thus culminated on the Presidential Day that brought together Heads of State of participating countries. Namibia is honoured to host the Boundless Southern Africa Expedition Monument, which will be erected at the Orange River mouth.

With regard to the Gambling and Casino sub-sector, the Moratorium on issuing licences is still in place. Work has commenced to revise and amend the Casino and Gambling Houses Act of 1994. This is to ensure that Gambling and Casinos in Namibia are conducted in accordance with internationally accepted norms and practices and to save the society from its negative impacts. The review is also necessary to address the challenges posed by technology. The Gambling and Casinos sub-sector activities have generated an income of N\$15 million for the State during the period under review.

To underline the growth of the Tourism Industry, the Namibia Tourism Board was able to register up to 3,817 tourism businesses in 2009, as compared to

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544 tourism businesses registered back in 2004. Of this total, 2,025 are accommodation establishments and 1,792 are regulated businesses, like trophy hunting, tour operators, travel agents, air charter, among others. We believe these new businesses have created further job opportunities. I am also glad to note that more women are entering the industry as business owners and not only as workers.

With regard to the World Cup 2010, from the onset Namibia's marketing strategy was clear that the focus would be on displaced tourists from South-Africa and sustaining the traditional leisure and holiday travel market segment, and to use World Cup 2010 as a spring-board platform to network with media to generate long-term awareness of Namibia as a tourist destination. To this end, there have been Namibian campaigns in South-Africa, organised by the Namibian Tourism Board, to lure displaced South Africans to Namibia. The Namibian Tourism Board, together with the role-players in the industry, has participated in international tourism fairs to promote Namibia. A dedicated World Cup 2010 micro website to enable Namibian operators to sell special packages is also in place. Namibia was further show-cased and media contacts established during the final draw event in Cape Town.

To empower the upcoming entrepreneurs in the tourism industry, last year, the Namibian Tourism Board had a dedicated Small and Medium Enterprises road show, with Air Namibia support, to Germany and Switzerland with six BEEs, from whom three attended the ITB in Berlin this year and 95% of their cost was subsidised by Namibian Tourism Board. It was aimed at marketing themselves, because you can only succeed in this industry if you have market and customers are in Europe and other countries.

The Windhoek Tourism Expo, initiated by the Democratic Media Holdings, has become a National tourism event where both international and domestic tourism are encouraged. As from last year, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and FENATA as well as Namibian Tourism Board, have become an integral part of this Expo.

Honourable Members, as the commercial arm of the Ministry, Namibia Wildlife Resorts is a crucial component of our park management plans, in particular the business development sector. We will continue to work closely with NWR to maximise both the conservation and economic value of our protected area network in the National interest.

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The Namibia Wildlife Resorts has shown a dramatic recovery over the past four years and is rapidly gaining market share and credibility both Nationally, regionally and interNationally. For example, the overall average occupancy rate for the three Etosha camps is 70% - with the highest in August when the occupancy is close to 100%, and the lowest in January with 44%. Seasonal tourism arrivals in Namibia remain an issue that affects the entire industry. The overall percentage of Namibians making use of Namibia Wildlife Resorts facilities has been on the rise from 13.7% in 2006 to 20.6% in 2009, and Nationals we must continue to support our facilities being managed by Namibia Wildlife Resorts.

Challenges which faced the Windhoek Country Club and Resort are resolved. The resort remains a public asset under the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and a board is appointed to oversee the running of the business. A management agreement has been signed last year between the board and Legacy Hotels and Resorts for a period of 15 years. The operation of the resort is going on well and already it has made a payment of N\$5 million to the State. A further N\$5 million are expected to be paid before the end of this calendar year.

Being a public asset, it is appreciated that the Government and other State agencies do support the resort by using its facilities.

Honourable Members, Namibia has established an impressive system of Protected Areas, managed by the State. The National protected areas network covers 140 394 square kilometres or 17% of the country's land surface. While the century-old Etosha National Park and the Namib-Naukluft Park continue to be the flagships of Namibia's conservation success, all the country's protected areas have something unique to offer and the Honourable Members are encouraged to visit them to appreciate the National biodiversity.

The Government continues to maintain and manage protected areas that even species such as black rhino, that seemed destined for extinction, are now on the increase. Wildlife migration corridors are being re-opened. The maintenance and management of protected areas is conducted in accordance with specific management plans and through activities, such as water provision to game, wildlife crime prevention, inspections and law enforcement, human wildlife conflict management, infrastructure development, rural community involvement and participation in wildlife management, among others.

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The Wildlife Breeding Loan Scheme, which aims to expand the range of the animals and also to create wildlife based economic opportunities for the previously disadvantaged farmers, continue to reach greater heights, with over 200 heads of game translocated to 23 farms during the period under review.

The Ministry is constantly refining and expanding the protected area network, placing great emphasis on local community involvement and ensuring that benefits are shared and that they encourage both local development and conservation success.

During the 2009/2010 Financial Year, progress has been made in the establishment of the Coastal National Park, which stretches from the Orange River to the Kunene River. This will see Namibia having the largest conservation area in Africa. The management plan for the North Eastern, Namib Naukluft and Mangetti National Park are finalised. Similarly, the establishment of the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, shared by five countries, including Namibia, is adding value to our protected areas. Namibia, as a coordinating country for the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area during the period under review, can inform this House that this regional conservation programme is progressing well and a treaty to be signed by Heads of State of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe will be finalised soon.

The Policy on Human Wildlife Conflict Management has also been finalised and approved. The Policy will enable the Government to manage human-wildlife conflict in a way that recognises the rights and development needs of local communities, recognises the need to promote biodiversity conservation, self-reliance and ensures that decision-making is quick, efficient and based on the best available information.

In terms of the Community-Based Natural Resource Management, six Conservancies were registered and gazetted during the period under review, thus bringing the total number of registered conservancies to 59. Approximately 250,500 people or almost 13% of the country's population reside in Conservancies. Direct benefits through conservation and tourism activities, such as trophy hunting, tourism concessions, craft sales and many others, make a significant benefit contribution to rural communities in these Conservancies.

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It gives me great pleasure to inform this Honourable House that this year, Namibia has been nominated as a finalist in the *'Tourism for Tomorrow Award,'* which is organised under the auspices of the World Travel and Tourism Council. Our Communal Conservancy Tourism Initiative is one of the three finalists in the Community Benefits category selected from 160 entries from all over the world. We will be competing with India and New Zealand for the first prize. We believe we need to congratulate ourselves as a country for this achievement. This nomination is in recognition of Namibia's efforts and successes in terms of sustainable use of natural resources by communities as an incentive for conservation. The award ceremony is scheduled for 25 May 2010 in Beijing, China during the 10th Global Travel and Tourism Summit.

Honourable Members, the Development Budget allocation of N\$85,8 million during 2009/2010 has enabled the Ministry to implement the following infrastructure development:

- Six new offices were constructed at Aus, Eenhana, Omaruru, Kulala, Sossusvlei, Khorixas and Uis. Fifteen;
- 15 Staff houses were constructed at: Aus, Ncaute, Sesriem, Namutoni, Halali, Hobas, Von Bach, Kulala and Waterberg;
- Two main tourists' roads in Etosha National Park and fences around Etosha and Waterberg have undergone extensive rehabilitation. Fencing of Etosha will be ongoing until the whole northern boundary is completed.
- The construction of MET headquarters is underway, and the first phase is scheduled to be completed at the end of September 2010.

Honourable Chairperson, I now turn to the Budget allocations.

The Ministry has been allocated a total amount of **N\$347,927,000** for the 2010-2011 Financial Year. This amount represents:

- N\$248,197,000 for the Operational Budget; and
- N\$99,730,000 for the development Budget.

This year, overall allocation represents an increase of 14% on the allocations of the previous Financial Year and we would like to express our appreciation for the positive consideration to this sector despite the difficult financial situation the Honourable Minister of Finance had to deal with.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism is one of the four pilot Ministries for the new Activity-Based Medium Term Plan being introduced as from this Financial Year. The Budget expressed in our Medium Term Plan consists of seven programmes and the following major activities are to be undertaken.

- **Programme 1:** Wildlife and protected area management: An amount of N\$136,558,000 is allocated. The funds under this programme will be used for implementation of biodiversity management and operations of conservation areas and National parks, human wildlife conflict management, management of the Transfrontier Conservation Area and management of concessions. Funds will also be used to develop Tourism Scoping Plans for our parks as well as park biodiversity brochures.
- **Programme 2:** Protection and management of key species and natural resources: An amount of N\$18,431,000 is allocated. This will be used to conduct research and monitoring of key species, develop Wildlife Management Plans, conduct wildlife auctions, implement wildlife breeding stock loan scheme and undertake game capture and translocation activities.
- **Programme 3:** Community-Based Natural Resource Management and tourism: An amount of N\$18,091,000 has been allocated. These funds will be required for support to Community-Based Natural Resource Management and direct tangible support to the current 59 Conservancies and the Community-Based Tourism Enterprise Development.
- **Programme 4:** Regulation of environmental protection and sustainable resource management: An amount of N\$19,788,000 is allocated. These funds will be used to improve the institutional capacity in environmental assessment and monitoring compliance and to develop the Environmental Impact Mitigation Strategy.

- **Programme 5:** Tourism development: An amount of N\$59,673,000 is allocated. This is required to provide support to tourism enterprise development, and conduct tourism research and statistics. Under this programme, a subsidy of N\$32 million and N\$10 million is being given to the Namibian Tourism Board and Namibia Wildlife Resorts, respectively, for support towards programmes such as the development of innovative tourism marketing strategy by the Namibian Tourism Board and development of the Elephant Camp in the West of Etosha, and Dune 45 Camp in Namib Naukluft Park by the Namibia Wildlife Resorts.
- **Programme 6:** Gaming: An amount of N\$1,700,000 is allocated. These funds will be used for the operation and management of Gambling and Casino and Lotteries activities.
- **Programme 7:** Administration, coordination and investments: An amount of N\$93,486,000 is allocated. Under this programme, funds are requested for the implementation of an integrated revenue system, development and maintenance of infrastructure in the conservation areas and National parks, in particular, rehabilitation of tourist roads in the Namib Naukluft and Mahango National Parks due to serious damages caused by rains during the 2008/2009 rainy season.

Honourable Members, tourism continues to be one of the pillars of our economy as it offers unlimited opportunities for development in many parts of the country, particularly where few other economic opportunities exist. It is the right vehicle with a high potential to alleviate poverty. The programmes mentioned above will lead to continued growth in the tourism sector, increased revenues to the State and employment creation. It further ensures, community economic empowerment through increased ownership of tourism enterprises on communal lands.

Before I conclude, allow me to thank individuals, bodies and institutions both locally and internationally for their good wishes and congratulatory messages to me, upon my appointment as Minister of Environment and Tourism in the Cabinet of the fifth Government of the Republic of Namibia. Rest assured that your well wishes will be a source of inspiration to me and your support continue to be needed for me to perform to the best of my ability. In the same vein, I thank the staff of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for their

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

commitment to hard work that has enabled the Ministry to carry out its mandate.

May I also thank all stakeholders in the domain of Environment and Tourism Industry for the efforts they are making in the area of conservation and tourism development.

Finally, I thank the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Honourable Director General of the National Planning Commission and their staff for allocating funds to Vote 18.

I now, Honourable Chairperson, ask this Honourable House to approve an amount of N\$347,927,000 for the operations of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for the 2010/2011 Financial Year. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism. Honourable Members, we are now going to proceed to discussion of the votes, but I would like to remind the Honourable Members to take into consideration Rule 26, read with Rule 7 of the Standing Rules and Orders, that during the Committee Stage no principle of the Bill should be discussed, confine yourselves to details. Any preamble to the discussion must be very brief.

I put **Vote 01 – “PRESIDENT”** for **Discussion**.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I only want to ask a few questions regarding Vote 01 regarding the discrepancy on page 29, but maybe there is an explanation around this matter.

If you look at the actual expenses for Other Conditions of Service, you find that it was N\$5 million in 2008/09 and then it fell down to about N\$887,000 in 2009/2010 and then it again goes down to N\$255,000 in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework that we are dealing with. Maybe the Honourable Minister would be able to explain why it was so high, then it came down and then it picks up again in 2012/13.

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HON DR KAWANA**

The same goes on the same page for the expenses for Other Services, Subsection 037. Basically the same trend is observed, that the expenses rise in one Financial Year, then it drops and then again rises after four years and I would like to know the reason why.

The Honourable Minister did not discuss the principle in his speech and I want to correct it, because I do not want to keep it hanging. You talked about the Office of the Founding President and I think there is a perception out there that Members of the Opposition hate the Founding President and this needs to be corrected. As Namibian patriots we are all in agreement that the Head of State, whether former or current, needs to be respected and that his security needs to be guaranteed. When a person is criticised it should not be confused with hatred. I am sure he can walk around freely in this country, no Namibian would take a gun or knife and point it to Sam Nujoma. Just as the benches on the other side respect him, so do we respect him. We acknowledge the contribution that Sam Nujoma has made and it is a question of distinguishing, that there is criticism that is sometimes due and there is also criticism that is taken negatively. I only wanted to make that correction. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussion? I give the Floor to the Minister to respond.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. Let me welcome the Honourable Member back to this Honourable House after parting ways with his former comrades.

Regarding the Conditions of Service, the response is that there was a time when certain services of the Ministries of Defence and Safety and Security were catered for by State House, but since then some of those services are catered for by the respective institutions and that is why there was that drastic reduction.

Regarding the Founding President, I am sure the Honourable Members will remember that there was no reference in my speech to Opposition Parties and I want to correct that impression, I never said that in my motivation and you will

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HON DR AMWEELO**

never find that reference in my Motivation. However, what I stated is public knowledge. The Honourable Member is free to scrutinise some of the newspaper articles which have been written over the years. Some of those

SMS messages are downright insulting, some of them bordering on treason. You may remember at one time citizens of this country even dared to say that we should do a, b, c, so that there will be hatred, so that there will be an uprising against Sam Nujoma. Those are the things we will never allow in this country as long as we live. In a democracy we respect our leaders, in a democracy we have every right to criticise where criticism is due.

In other countries there are certain established procedures as, for example, with the current President. There is a programme where he engages stakeholders, which include Political Parties. You are allowed to criticise an establishment in public and this is part of our democracy, but there are certain criticisms which, in my view, and even in those mature democracies, could be done through certain other channels. Therefore, on that aspect we are on the same wavelength. There is a difference between criticism, wrongly or rightly, and downright disrespect, downright insults and those are the ones we will never tolerate as Government and as the SWAPO Party. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection to Vote 01? Agreed to.

I put **Vote 02 – “PRIME MINISTER”** for **Discussion**.

HON DR AMWEELO: I thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine is not a question, it is just a comment on page 8 of the Deputy Prime Minister’s speech.

The Deputy Prime Minister yesterday mentioned the N\$165 million put aside for support to alleviate the effects on the flood areas and facilitate a proper support system and facility for proper National disaster risk management. We are all experiencing floods, droughts and other threats in our country, but I am here focusing on the floods.

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HON UUTONI**

We are all aware that even the scientists believe that this problem of climate change will continue. As long as the anthropogenic activities continue, as long as the natural phenomena continue, the floods and other threats will continue.

Therefore, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, we need to think in the long-term in order to relocate our people from the low-lying areas to higher ground permanently, because this trend will be continuing for many years. I know it involves many things, such as finance, technology transfer and training, however we need to do long-term planning.

Awareness and preparedness for emergencies at the local level are very important. We need to coordinate the plans involved at all levels. I am talking about industry, Government and the local communities. Not only that, maybe the Emergency Management Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister and the Early Warning and Information System under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry need to coordinate in order to relocate the people, especially in the Caprivi and other areas affected by the floods. Otherwise I fully support Vote 02. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Uutoni.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. My comments on Vote 02 will focus on Programme 3 on page 8, which is disaster and emergency management.

Honourable Chairperson, an amount of N\$29,6 million has been allocated to this programme for the support and operations of the Disaster Risk Management Directorate. The amount is meant to provide for eventualities and ongoing support to alleviate the effects on the flood areas and set a proper support system and facilities for proper National disaster risk management.

I hope that a portion of this amount could target flood-stricken areas, such as Oshakati Town, and come up with a master plan as a planning tool to enable proper planning when it comes to a flood situation in that town. As a person coming from that area I believe that water can easily be diverted from the

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HON IILONGA**

residential areas into a river. Once we have flood management or control, it will encourage investors to invest in that town without any worries.

Honourable Chairperson, I hope this amount would be increased in the future to alleviate the flood situation not only in Oshakati, but elsewhere countrywide. I support the appropriation to Vote 02, as motivated. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 02, as motivated by the Deputy Prime Minister.

With regard to the Operational Budget, I wish to thank the Government of the Republic of Namibia, the SWAPO Party Government, for adjusting the salaries of our Civil Servants and as stated on page 5, it has already been announced.

The remuneration of the Secretariat of the Political Office-Bearers Remuneration Commission is also taken care of and that is a very good move.

I want to thank the SWAPO Party Government for still being committed to looking after its people, the San community and other vulnerable citizens of this country. We are happy that you as the Deputy Prime Minister will take over this responsibility from Honourable Dr Libertine Amathila.

With regard to Programme 2, we do not want to criticise the Public Service Commission, we only want to encourage them. We want our Public Service Commission to look into the issue of recruitment of people who passed through your higher learning institutions. They have degrees, but they find it hard to enter the market because they are required to have five years experience.

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HON NAMOLOH**

When I entered the Ministry of Agriculture, I found that it is not a theoretical Ministry, it is a practical one and we want to see that those agriculturalists and scientists are retrained, so that we can make headway.

My last comment Comrade Chairperson, is on page 7. The SWAPO Party Government has its people at heart. When the President addressed this country on the 21st of March, he thanked all of us, including the workers of this country, therefore you find that adjustments have already been made to the salaries and on page 7 there is mention of job evaluation and a grading system. Only in that way we can prevent people circulating in the same Government. When he is in Parliament, the salary is less and when he goes to the Ministry of Agriculture, the salary is better, but they are all in the same category. I hope this programme will put even our Customs and Immigration workers at ease. They must be principled as they are very important Civil Servants and they must not regard themselves as nothing.

With that I support Vote 02 and I thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Minister of Defence, Honourable Namoloh.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I also want to touch on Programme 3, the Disaster and Emergency Management.

We have several times discussed in this House, either during the Budget or during other discussions, the disaster management. Disaster is here to stay. It is not only floods, we have been experiencing tremors for several years now and sometimes they say these small tremors are a prelude to a bigger one. Are we prepared for a bigger one? Disaster should be covered in our curriculum at school, otherwise we will only talk of remedies, but how do we mitigate and equip our people to understand disasters? We may also face storms if we look at the way the rain is behaving and it is high time that this issue becomes a subject.

We also need to seriously look at our structures we have in place. Do we have

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HON KAZENAMBO**

structure which can withstand earthquakes, storms, etcetera? We have to come up with a law that stipulates what should be done in future. Otherwise it will be like Haiti. They had an earthquake two hundred years ago and they have forgotten that they are in an earthquake prone area. Therefore, they did not take this into consideration when constructing buildings and when the earthquake struck, everything was flattened. In our area the ground features is like clay and when an earthquake strikes, it will be liquefied and we must be prepared.

We should not only talk about what we can do when people are struck by disaster, but how do we prepare ourselves as a Nation and equip ourselves with the knowledge to be able to withstand such events. We should also build permanent structure, because every year the Defence erect tents. Why can we not select areas and put up permanent structures? Why do we not divert the water from Oshakati? How long will it take us to realise that these are recurring events? Some Comrades are saying next year there will be no floods, this was just an exception. It is not an exception, we had flooding in three consecutive years and yet we are not doing anything.

As I am supporting this Vote, I honestly want this disaster management to become a subject in Namibia and with these few words, I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The last one I recognise is Honourable Kazenambo.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also want to speak on the same page that others have spoken, namely that one on disaster management.

I want to repeat what I have said previously in this House, namely that the floods are seasonal and we know where the water is coming from. These devastating floods originate from a friendly neighbouring country. Do we liaise on river management with these neighbours in a friendly manner? We have bilateral Defence and Security Committees and I should think that natural disaster management is a security thing. It affects the lives of the people, it threatens their livelihood and I would like to know what diplomatic measures

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are we employing with our neighbours when the water is coming from there in order to jointly try to address this issue of big volumes of water coming into Namibia. Is there no way in which we can build big dams to control the volume of water? I want to know what is being done, because I know the United Nations have recommendations in place on disaster management. Countries which share borders and rivers sometimes negotiate on measures to mitigate disasters.

Lastly I want to comment on the Namibia Institute for Public Administration and Management. The purpose of this Institute is welcomed and we appreciate Government's initiative to train all of us, but I have to be honest as a former Deputy Minister for five years and now a Minister, about the behaviour of our Civil Servants. This Institute is going to cater for all of us and I know that if I misbehave here or when I do not attend to certain duties... (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister, your preamble must be brief. Come to the point. Make a comment or ask a question.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: My question is, how do we control some of those Civil Servants who are part of Committees, such as the Tender Committees and others that have serious implications on the implementation of capital projects in our Operational Budget? Sometimes they do not turn up at meetings and when one asks why these projects are not implemented, you are told that some Permanent Secretaries or Directors do not turn up for meetings. This results into funds being returned to Treasury. Could this be part and parcel of the training at the Institute, because we have funds being returned to Treasury as those who are not elected and who cannot be fired easily are sitting in their comfortable seats and they are not fulfilling their responsibilities. How do we address this, as this is affecting all of us?

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Shixwameni.

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

HON SHIXWAMENI: Just a small comment on the TESEF. The Accountability Report basically indicates that not much work has been done on this particular target, because it is reporting 10% in 2007/2008 and 10% in 2008/2009. This is a very important policy document, I guess, because it will broaden the base of this whole question of BEE that we are talking about, so that we move away from empowering only 10% of the population and that it would really lead to Namibians owning shares in companies that are exploiting the wealth of our country. I hope this will be sped up, because I do not know at what level it is stuck. Last year I read in the newspaper that it is stuck at the SWAPO Headquarters. It is even stated in the Accountability Report that that is where it ended.

I hope the Prime Minister will be able to speed up the process of getting the policy framework that really works on a broad-based economic empowerment for our people.

The other issue that I want to talk about is the Performance Management Contracts for senior Government Officials. When will these people sign these contracts? Are we looking at this year or next year? With the emphasis that the President is putting on efficiency and the efficient implementation of projects, I feel we need to get people to do the jobs that they are being paid for. We cannot be paying for people who are basically doing their own business during Government's time to enrich themselves. We need to speed up this process and make sure that the people have performance contracts and that everybody has to account in terms of the contract.

The third and last point is on the Namibia Institute for Public Administration and Management. In the Accountability Report it is indicated that the Public Service Commission has approved temporary staffing of the Institute. My question is, why temporary staffing as opposed to permanent staffing? Maybe an explanation can be offered, because I just do not understand the logic of temporary staffing as opposed to permanent staffing. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Dr Katjavivi.

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HON PROF KATJAVIVI / RT HON ANGULA**

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House. I am really rising having been slightly provoked by some very informative comments by the Minister of Defence, the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, and my neighbour here Dr Amweelo. I simply want to mention one particular aspect and that is on the issue of what should be done in terms of our overall preparedness in relation to climate change in the Southern African Region.

I want to say without hesitation that there is a basis for coordinating a common regional approach in addressing climate change. I think the Office of the Prime Minister is very much in touch with other stakeholders in this regard, and this will, of course, relate to an exchange of information relating to weather conditions. There are also other institutions both in Africa and outside Africa, that are particularly interested in assisting us to network beyond National boundaries. Therefore, this is a matter that is actually enjoying particular attention and interest by our development partners. We can certainly count on continuous support of our development partners to make sure that Namibia is fully prepared in dealing with risk reduction and management. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I give the Floor to the Deputy Prime Minister or the Prime Minister to respond.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Shixwameni has left, but for the public interest, when you are making a public social policy it is not an easy matter, because a social policy touches on the issues of bread and butter and you need consensus.

The TESEF document is there, if you are interested to read it, you may stop at my office and request a copy. There are six pillars of empowerment identified in the document, such as ownership, employment equity, social responsibility of the corporate sector, training, etcetera.

When we talk about ownership, we have to agree on the time scale, whether you want the indigenous Namibians to own 50% of the mining companies within five years or do you want them to earn 30% or what would be realistic.

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HON HAUSIKU

Therefore, you go on arguing about that, because that is a social policy and we are still working on political consensus, but I am quite sure that we will reach that political consensus very soon and bring the document here so that we can also start doing something about it. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to speak on a few comments and queries, specifically those concerning the Disaster Management System and problems of floods and droughts in our country.

Comrade Amweelo, Deputy Minister Uutoni, Comrade Ilonga, the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Youth have referred to what I would term “*a permanent solution*” on the *ad hoc* solution that we are providing in addressing specifically the issue of floods.

As the Right honourable Prime Minister has said, again here you are dealing with a social problem that is connected to longstanding habits and practices and, therefore, those who have been serving in the Government for the last few years, will know that this has been a recurring problem almost every year and we did the same thing every year.

This morning I had a briefing by the Directorate on Disaster Management and we discussed their recommendations. Their first recommendation is to work on a permanent solution.

Now let me tell you, when you talk about people in Oshakati staying in the *Oshanas*, it is a place where they believe they could stay forever and whatever disaster comes is temporary and it will pass.

If you go to Kavango and Caprivi, the rivers are traditionally a source of income, a source of food security and we have indeed thought about a permanent solution, however it will take long to educate the people to accept that permanent solution.

Only a week ago I tried to talk to the people in Kavango. They were blaming the lack of water on the high ground. They are saying there is a lack of water along the high ground and that is why we stay here, but when you tell them we

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will bring water, they start telling you a different story. Therefore, education and sensitisation is so important and the most difficult area to address the issue of moving to the high ground is in the eastern part of Caprivi. It is going to be very, very difficult.

The other day I was asking the High Commissioner of Zambia to Namibia to educate us in this *Kuuomboka*. To them it is a tradition to automatically move from lower ground to higher ground when the floods start and this is like a festival. They move freely and maybe if we could educate our people in the eastern areas of Caprivi, it may help.

It will not help to build permanent structures on the high ground which are just going to be occupied for three or four months, but we all agree that we need a permanent solution and that permanent solution will have to be negotiated.

This morning I was telling the officials not to be in a hurry to go to Oshakati to tell them to get out of the low-lying grounds, maybe the best is for you to talk to them and go and get land that will not be flooded. Identify and develop the land and then talk about their moving from the present areas to the areas we think will not easily be flooded.

Therefore, we all agree that there is a need for us to ensure that we find a permanent solution, but the reality is that we must be patient and talk to these people and make sure that, indeed, when they are moving, they are moving to a place that they have accepted, because if you do it haphazardly and without their consent, they will return tomorrow and we will be back to square one.

Comrade Kazenambo has also added the element of coordination between neighbouring countries. There was a system in place when I was the Minister of Works, Transport and Communication, which is still in existence, where we were working on an early warning system in SADC and that system has been strengthened to cover many areas. Today's newspaper reported of a meeting by the riparian states of the Kavango River. We have Committees which are meeting continuously and in the case of Angola we have a reporting system, where we try to get information specifically during the rainy season as to how the waters are behaving in the Cuvelai area. I can tell you that last year I spoke to some people working in Ohangwena during November and December and they were already communicating even on the basis of individuals, asking as to

what is happening in Angola so that they could do the necessary preparations here.

Of course, we will have to strengthen not only our monitoring system, but also managing the facilities provided for by Government and donors to affected people. Namibia is one country where we want more responsibility, but when it comes to accountability, we are very slow, we do not want to be accountable for things that are happening. I asked the officials this morning what exactly is happening, because we are hearing of a lack of tents, while over the years we have bought a lot of tents. We are also hearing of Councillors who are waiting for foodstuff. When they explained, I realised it is a question of not taking responsibility. Yes, the funds are there, but we have to create the capacity within Regions for them to manage the facilities and specifically the funds. However, if you cannot manage tents and you do not know how many you were given as a Council, how do you administer money?

Comrade Chairperson, the issue really is that we are working on capacity-building, both in terms of monitoring the situation, but also keeping record of all the facilities being provided in resettlement camps and in the end we want to make sure that if there were ten tents, there should be ten tents so that we do not buy the same facilities every year. I have a Report here of some of the things which were donated, very beautiful ones, but we also feel that when you have a fancy toilet for a few months, you may not even manage it. We are trying to advise the officials to make sure when we are receiving donations, we have to advise what type of donations will fit the situation and capacity-building is being worked on.

Comrade Ilonga, with specific reference to the vulnerable communities, I have been instructed in the presence of the Prime Minister to make sure that the projects started by Comrade Dr Libertine Amathila does not fall apart. We must make sure that they are maintained and also improved on. Instructions have also been given that we have to identify more vulnerable groups that may be assisted. Since you are assigned to Kaoko, we will be happy for your assistance to travel in those very difficult mountainous areas.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to conclude, The Minister of Defence mentioned an important aspect of disasters, however whatever preparations we make, a disaster is just like death. In many cases it

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RT HON ANGULA**

is beyond our control. It is not that the Haitians do not have strong buildings, I am sure they have, but when these things happen, you have to accept that there are stronger powers beyond ourselves. We can be rendered helpless with all the facilities we have. Of course, it is important that, if possible, the Minister of Education introduces a programme in our schools to make our students aware of the possibilities of disasters that may happen in our country.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I thank you and I request the House to approve the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection to Vote 02? Agreed to.

Vote 07 – “FOREIGN AFFAIRS” is put for Discussion.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Firstly, I want to congratulate the two young brothers who have been given this mammoth task of being the face of Namibia in the international fora. I have no doubt that they will acquit themselves and will bring new innovations in our interaction with our international partners. I also believe that they will rejuvenate and revitalise the foreign affairs arena.

However, I have two issues I want to raise. The first is the activities of the Group of 20 in relation to those of us who are not members of that group. This Group of 20 has been meeting in London and elsewhere during the financial crisis and they came up with bail-out programmes which they have nicely baptised as “*stimulus*”, because normally it is us, the Third World, especially Honourable Saara who always bails out Air Namibia and she should give a stimulus to Air Namibia, not a bail-out.

Therefore, they are giving stimulus to their own economies, but they forget that the actions of their own citizens precipitated world disaster. Here in Namibia the Diamond Industry collapsed, people were retrenched. Copper collapsed, people were retrenched. Tourism was affected, people were retrenched. Name it, we were affected. However, when these people meet, they only talk about themselves while they have done the harm to us as

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developing countries and I am imploring my two Comrades to raise this issue with the Foreign Ministers in SADC and the African Union, to say that these people owe us something, they caused us harm.

If in my village you are told to go and look after cattle and the cattle go into somebody's field and destroy the mahangu, you must pay because you destroyed somebody's property. Similarly, if you cause financial collapse and it affects the international trading system and other people get affected, do not just give yourself a stimulus or a bail-out, but think of them too. Comrade Nujoma, you must talk to your Colleagues and say that these people owe us something because they have caused us harm and it is just fair to demand that we get redress from the international community.

Secondly is the issue of being a so-called middle-income country. We started by being a lower-middle income. Somebody calculated the per capita and said now we are middle income. After one month I heard we are upper-middle income. It is somebody manipulating the per capita somewhere and in the process we are locked out when it comes to concessional loans or grants and really, this situation needs to be addressed.

A couple of years ago there was a conference here of the people who are in the same boat as us and Botswana is one of them. At this conference we had to actively follow up to devise some other ways of benefiting from concessional loans without borrowing at the highest cost at the World Bank. You borrow at the highest cost while there is the risk of foreign exchange and with the social deficit we have, we have to struggle hard to have money we can afford. Comrade Nujoma, look into this issue so that you have an issue to talk about in your statement every time. We are being discriminated against as Namibia and it is very painful.

We have become a net exporter of capital because of repatriation of our own funds. Meanwhile, before they are repatriated, they are part of our GDP. When they now divide 2,2 million people in that amount, which amount does not belong to you, they decide you are middle-income country and when you borrow, you borrow at the highest level and this is really unfair and I hope that the new blood in Foreign Affairs will take up some of these issues. I thank you.

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HON IILONGA**

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Ilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 07. On Page 3 mention is made of purchasing and maintaining diplomatic premises abroad, which is a good move although Rome was not built in one day. When we travel abroad, we spend a lot of money and it would be good if in future, accommodation could be provided to Namibians at the Embassies. Some of the hotels are so bad and we pay a lot of money. In this way we could help them to maintain the infrastructure, unless there is a law which says you cannot be accommodated at your own Embassy.

Comrade Chairperson, I do not want to mention the name of the country, but there is a tiny place called an Embassy from where our people are operating and we are paying US\$25, 000 per month, which is a lot of money. However, it is good that we buy and gradually move towards having our own properties in foreign countries.

Comrade Minister, NEPAD is found in many Commissions, especially UN Commissions. Recently I represented Namibia in New York on a Commission on Social Development and Integration and NEPAD was also part of our discussions. There were many important resolutions taken for NEPAD to benefit Africa. I do not know whether there is the necessary coordination, so that the Heads of States and Governments consolidate those resolutions in order that some of them do not hang in the air.

Another important issue is the one of rehabilitating and construction of the Cassinga mass grave as well as Shatotwa. This is really a good move, because when we sing our National Anthem, we say "*their blood waters our freedom.*" We are not joking, it is because of that innocent blood shed that we still honour them. This is a good move, so that we will have a chance to go and pay respect to our fallen heroes and heroines. Let their blood continue to sustain us in the second phase of our struggle. Thank you, Comrade Chair.

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HON MBUMBA

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Mbumba, the Minister of Safety and Security.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. We are always saying Honourable Uutoni Nujoma is a young man and Honourable Peya Mushelenga is definitely young, but I am sure that when the responsibility for Foreign Affairs was given to Theo-Ben Gurirab, he was much younger than Uutoni is now and we should just believe that he can deliver and that he can do the job. Therefore, no age excuses here.

I am on page 3, starting where my namesake Honourable Petrus Nangolo Iilonga ended, namely the purchasing of diplomatic premises, which is very important. There are countries where there are a lot of properties on the market now and this is the time to buy.

With regard to Cassinga, the 4th of May is Cassinga Day and let us remember it wherever we may be, because truly, these Comrades deserved to have been part of this House, deserved to have lived in an independent country, but they sacrificed their precious lives for us to live in peace.

On page 4 there is mention of “*advance Namibia’s National interest.....*” and the point I would like to make is that some of our Diplomats do not take their political responsibilities very seriously. They do not consider that they were appointed by the President, a President elected by the people. While they are the representatives of the President, the representatives of the Government, entrusted with the communication between that Head of State and their Head of State, they are campaigning and working for their chosen future President. I do not think they have that right. If they want to campaign, let them resign and come and compete. This is an open market, it is open politics, but they cannot do that while they are being called Your Excellencies and flying the flag on behalf of the elected President. I thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Dr Katjavivi.

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HON PROF KATJAVIVI / HON N IYAMBO**

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. As a former Ambassador, Foreign Affairs is an area of particular interest to me personally I am simply rising to express thanks and appreciation for the honour extended to our two Colleagues, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. In exercising your responsibilities as the Minister and Deputy Minister, responsible for Foreign Affairs of this country, you are the eyes and the ears of our country, as you go about in promoting the interest of Namibia. I would simply like to let you know that you will not only have the support of this House, but more actively the support of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security in this connection. I am very much looking forward to being a member of that Committee so that I can give you a helping hand. I support Vote 07 and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Dr Iyambo, the Minister of Veterans Affairs.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I hope I will be the last speaker on this Vote as a veteran, nobody should speak after me and I will be very brief.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 07 and in the same vein, to congratulate the two Comrades for the honour bestowed on them to head this important portfolio.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister mentioned those who have the cunning way of fooling the world in order to promote subsidies which they hate when done by others but feel obliged to call it stimulus packages. Let me in the same line comment on page 5 of the speech of the Minister, but in particular reference of page 6, the Group of 77.

Namibia is a member of the Group of 77, but in this world of diplomacy and everything else, people seem to try to regroup themselves in their own narrow positions of interest. Recently there was created a group of rich countries, which are actually members of Group of 77. These countries are now meeting to speak about their position in world affairs and their influence and what they

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want to recognise us to be. Honourable Minister, my question is more or less along the line of what the Right Honourable Prime Minister has said. Are these people advancing the interest of the members of Group of 77 or are they, when they are in their small group, simply concentrating on the influence of the rich countries and where are some of us left? Perhaps they also need to be sensitised that they should not forget about the big picture of the interest of the Group of 77.

With those remarks, I support Vote 07 and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would also like to congratulate my two Colleagues whom everybody says are young. I believe they are tested Cadres of the Party and they are where they are today because they stood firm in the beliefs of our Party. It is a good example for the young ones, that if you stand firm in the Party that leads the country, the sky is the limit.

I want to speak on bilateral affairs. During my term of office in this Parliament over the past twenty years, I have been campaigning for the spouses of Diplomats and Heads of Missions to be remunerated and I was advised that it is now being done. Congratulations, Comrade Minister of Foreign Affairs, keep up the good work.

I would also like the public to know that when we as parliamentarians are travelling abroad, the officials Ministry of Foreign Affairs are taking care of us. As a former Diplomat I would like to advise that whenever the politicians decide to open a Mission, it should first be costed. Missions are opened while not costed and this puts stress on the Diplomat and this must stop. I am speaking of experience. I hope my young brothers will help them to cost those Missions. I support the Vote.

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HON KAZENAMBO / HON HAUSIKU**

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

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am going to speak on page 5, multilateral affairs.

First I want to join others in congratulating the two Honourable Members for their appointment to the portfolio that represents us abroad and also here in one form or the other.

My comment goes to multilateral affairs, especially when they are dealing with international bodies, such as the UN, the Non-Aligned Movement, the AU and many others. I would really applaud Namibia's position at the United Nations when it comes to resolutions that affect the plight of the suffering but struggling people of Palestine, the plight of the suffering but struggling people of Western Sahara under the Polisario Front. I applaud and commend Namibia for taking a progressive stand at international platforms by supporting the plight of the people who are under occupation, people who are struggling for their freedom and liberty. This is really consistent, because as a country we have a background of displacement, of occupation and we are products of international solidarity and we shall continue with that. Our hearts are with the Palestinian people in the West Bank and our hearts are with the people in Gaza, in Western Sahara and all over the world where displaced people find themselves under trees without food because their human and economic rights are violated. I support the Vote and I thank you.

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

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to congratulate Comrade Uutoni and Comrade Mushelenga for the trust placed in them by the Head of State to run the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Secondly, Comrade Chair, I just wanted to comment on the contribution by Comrade Kaiyamo and, indeed, the question put by the Prime Minister.

The Debate in Parliament is supposed to reflect the reality of what is happening outside there. We have the privilege that we have access to lots of information, whereas the people outside there are starving for information and, therefore, they will accept every statement made in the House as the correct information.

Let me start by saying that the responsibility and prerogative of appointing Ambassadors is that of the Head of State and, indeed, he only appoints after he has considered the situation, both politically, economically and otherwise, in the specific area of deployment. He does not do so without looking at the cost of the area where we are deploying an Ambassador. I must tell you that the Embassy which is going to be opened now in Tokyo, Japan, was approved by Cabinet in the time of Comrade Gurirab. He made the submission, it was approved and all these years, due to the high costs in that area, we have been figuring out as to when funds would allow us to open that Mission.

The public should understand that Embassies are not just opened willy-nilly, they are considered by people who understand the situation in that specific area and they advise not only on opening the Mission, but also the effectiveness, both politically, economically and financially. I just wanted to mention that so that people understand that that has been the case, it is going to be the case and my two brothers will definitely exercise the same practice. I thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I hope this is not going to be a dialogue, but maybe Honourable Kaiyamo would like to explain something.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: My intervention was not in bad faith, I was just saying that the two Colleagues must ensure that the Missions are funded. I was in the Public Accounts Committee last year when we had problems with the Mission in Brazil and that is what I was talking about. Maybe my vocabulary was not good.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I give the Floor to the Honourable Minister to reply.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. May I express my sincere thanks to the Honourable Members who have participated in this Debate and who have expressed their support. I thank you sincere for your comments and your questions.

With regard to the first question by the *Right Honourable Prime Minister*, I cannot agree more because as you are aware, we are currently the victims of globalisation and also victims of carbon emissions. We have talked at length here about the disasters we face in this country, which is as a result of the United States of America and China which are responsible for about 90% of carbon emissions. What we experience here are the effects of those emissions and the same applies to global economic crisis.

The greedy capitalists were dishing out money, starting with this lending institution in the United States and then it came to all these big financial institutions and also the greed of the system of capitalism. That exacerbated the problems we are facing in the developing world and I agree with the Honourable Prime Minister that we have the right to demand a fair share, because this crisis has affected us seriously. The price of our diamonds and copper went down and as a result we could not export, we had to retrench our people and this was caused by the highly developed countries.

Therefore, the Group of 77 and all the other blocks are only being formed to promote their own interests. The Group of 77 is comprised of many countries, I should say almost all the non-aligned countries, including China and in the BRICS countries you find Brazil, South Africa, Russia, China and India. This is a combination of the Non-Aligned Movement and the fast developing countries, those who have reached a certain degree of development, and the so-called Group of 10, so that they can advance their own interests.

I agree that we need to influence these countries not to forget us, because we are part of the whole system of the Group of 77 and they should also look after our interest, even if we do not have the capacity to participate in their

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deliberations because all these countries are selected individually on the basis of their economic, social and cultural development and also their GDPs. We are left out because our GDPs are insignificant. Maybe there will be a stage when we have everything in place, such as good governance, regular elections and all these requirements and then we will also be able to put our demands forward for considerations.

London is the financial centre for trading where prices are determined. The price of coffee is determined there, but these are non-producing countries. The prices of diamonds and oil are determined there and these are some of the things we have to address within the framework of the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the AU and many other institutions.

I agree with the Right Honourable Prime Minister that we now have to borrow at high cost and it is not of our own making, we are the victims and, therefore, we need to align our policies so that we work closely with countries such as China and Brazil. We have been told that it is important to promote South-South cooperation and that is what it is. That is the only way we as a group can advance our interests against the interests of the developed countries.

Comrade Ilonga, I agree that the cost for diplomatic premises is astronomical and that is why the Ministry of Foreign Affairs prefers to purchase these premises. We have managed to purchase some, but in other countries it is difficult. *Honourable Ilonga*, you know that we have a core mandate, namely to protect the interests of our people abroad, to promote economic diplomacy, but the core function of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not to run accommodation establishments. That will entail more personnel to look after these premises. I have seen some countries have built some significant buildings here in Namibia, but these are super powers, they can afford to do so.

Should the Minister of Finance later make funds available, we may be able to buy premises, so that when Honourable Ilonga goes to the USA, he does not need to go to a hotel, he can go to the Namibian country, because diplomatic premises are considered as your own territory. However, for the moment we cannot afford to do that.

With regard to NEPAD, this is an institution which was created by the AU at the insistence of these super powers that we need to look at good governance,

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democracy and the Rule of Law. NEPAD was supposed to be a kind of institution which monitors our performances, so that we also monitor ourselves. A group of eminent persons were elected to this body, some of them were even advocating two terms, but when things became very interesting, all of them wanted to continue with a third term. Honourable Gurirab knows them and one is a neighbour here. I know when we advocated for a third term for President Nujoma, some of them were criticising us and this is politics.

Honourable Mbumba, I wholeheartedly agree that we need to purchase our diplomatic premises. The 4th of May is an important historic day. Let us honour those who have fallen during the liberation struggle and make sure that we improve the mass graves in Shatotwa and Cassinga so that our people can rest in peace in those countries and when we go there, we pay respect. Our heroes and heroines deserve that.

Professor Katjavivi, I thank you very much for extending this invitation to cooperate with you as a Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security. We are looking forward to tap from your wisdom. You are a seasoned diplomat and certainly we will knock on your door whenever it is necessary to seek advice.

Comrade Iyambo, I agree with you on the selfishness of the industrialised countries. We need to focus so that we convince the Group of 77 and BRICS to look after our interests. We already have excellent bilateral relations with India, Brazil and South Africa and they are the emerging powers. We can only benefit from working closely with them.

Honourable Kaiyamo, thank you very much for the recommendations you have made and I agree with you, we have improved on the situation of the spouses of the Diplomats. We are also working on the situation so that we can cooperate with some countries. Some of the spouses are highly qualified, they are nurses and doctors, but at the moment they are sitting out there, they have nothing to do and some of them have become experts in soccer and when Barcelona or Madrid is playing, they know everybody. We need to speak to our partners in those countries where we have bilateral relations, so that at least the expertise of these people is fully utilised.

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Honourable Kaiyamo, I agree with you, before we open a Diplomatic Mission we cost that Mission and also determine our interest, what is it that we want to achieve in a particular country. If we want a Mission in Geneva, what do we want to achieve? We know what we want in Japan and that is why we think it is necessary to have a Mission. However, all these are the prerogative of the President who decides and we can only advise. The posting of diplomatic personnel and the Ambassadors is also the prerogative of the President.

Honourable Kazenambo, thank you very much, we will continue to express our solidarity and support to the people of Palestine and to the people of Western Sahara. When I was at the Pan-African Movement, I visited Western Sahara. There are a very few of us who have gone there, but the conditions there are very tough and difficult. In the Western Sahara temperature reaches 49 to 52 Centigrade during the day. Their only means of survival is to have a little cup of tea. We must continue to express our solidarity and support them.

Recently we had some people from Western Sahara who came to be trained here and I must thank Honourable Mbumba for facilitating that as the previous Minister of Education. This is what we call comrade solidarity.

I think I have done justice to the questions and I thank you for your support.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection to Vote 07? Agreed to.

Vote 30 – “ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION” is put for Discussion.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My comment is on page 8 under Programme 1. This programme is to enhance the Commission’s capacity in finalising more cases for possible prosecution by the Prosecutor General. I am going to talk about the speeding up of the cases when they are investigated. I am also from an institution that does investigations, but today I will focus on anti-corruption.

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HON DR KAWANA**

Honourable Chairperson, I am concerned about the overcrowded police cells. This is so because cases are not investigated. People are taken to Court, the cases are being postponed continuously and then that person is sent back to the police holding cell. I think it would be good if the capacity could be increased. I do not know whether it is a question of capacity or lack of commitment and interest and maybe it is important that a fact-finding mission should be carried out by the investigators at the police holding cells. This situation is a burden to the police. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I know you are the Deputy Minister of Safety and Security, but are you now referring to investigators within your Ministry or investigators of the Anti-Corruption Commission of both?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I am referring to the Anti-Corruption Commission because they have many investigators. What I am trying to say is that the Anti-Corruption Commission should do their work very quickly so that they could lessen the burden on the police holding cells. I support the Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Honourable Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Chairperson, I rise to support Vote 30, Anti-Corruption Commission. However, let me address one function of the Commission, namely investigation of allegations of corruption, as per the statement of the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister. Mine is not a question but maybe a comment.

We as National leaders have on many occasions received complaints from members of the public that when the Anti-Corruption Commission investigates alleged corrupt practices and decide to arrest, they mobilise public opinion through the newspapers which were alerted in advance. While the people are

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being arrested, the cameras are taking pictures and the complaint is that, in terms of our Constitution, a person is innocent until proven guilty and it is most unfortunate that this procedure is being followed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

I am appealing to the Anti-Corruption Commission, through the Office of the Prime Minister, to reconsider this aspect.

Secondly, it appears, at least in the eyes of the public, that corruption is only committed by one section of the community, because we have not seen photos of people from other communities being arrested and I do not know whether this is really correct. I appeal to the Commission to operate within the letter and spirit of the Constitution and the laws of our Republic. We as the Government and the SWAPO Party are vehemently against corruption, because corruption is a cancer that can eat away even the heart of our democracy, but let us carry out this function within the letter and spirit of the Constitution and the laws of the Republic. I rest my case.

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

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my input is not a question, *per se*, it is a comment. My comment is going to be based on page 3 of the motivation speech by the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and it is exactly the question which has been addressed by Dr Kawana.

The functions of the Anti-Corruption Commission are also encapsulated in two main objectives within the Medium Term Plan of Vote 30, which are as follows: *“To ensure that allegations of corrupt practices are properly investigated and prevention of corruption.”* I have exactly the same concern as the Honourable Minister.

The question many people have asked is, who investigates the police, who investigates the investigator and how open and transparent are internal investigations? What recourse does the person being investigated have to the

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investigator? Here in mentions allegations and if allegations turn into reality and the truth and absolute truth, something is wrong.

The State has created the Anti-Corruption Commission within the framework of the law and it is a very important institution, but if we are not careful, the actions of the people involved are going to tarnish the reputation of this very important institution. When communities and people start being suspicious of those involved, then credibility of the institution is thrown out the window. We have to be careful not to throw out the baby with the bath water, based on our attitude toward one another, based on our vested prejudices that certain people from certain communities are the ones who are corrupt. Really, this institution must live up to the letter and spirit of its functions and we know the politics of this country.

We must ensure that the recruitment of the staff of this institution is also equally balanced in terms of social background and colour, so that a balance can be maintained and it must be subjected to monitoring and evaluation, because some of the cases being investigated are pure allegations and the Constitutional, fundamental human rights of people, their right to privacy, their right to recourse to lawyers are being violated.

When in exile, PLAN had a way of monitoring the conduct of their soldiers, therefore to us this is nothing new, but the way the Anti-Corruption Commission is conducting itself, leaves much to be desired.

I want to propose that a mechanism should be enforced, either by the Office of the Prime Minister of the relevant statutory bodies to determine who investigates the investigator. Maybe it could be the Ombudsman, but let us find a mechanism.

Before I sit down, if we are not careful, the Government is going to be sued for millions if we violate people's fundamental rights. If we want to settle a political score or family score through the Anti-Corruption Commission, then we are defeating the aim of this noble organisation. I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism.

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH / HON DR A IYAMBO**

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support the Vote of the Anti-Corruption Commission and I will be very brief.

I have listened to what Dr Kawana and Honourable Kazenambo have said and I fully agree. Corruption is a cancer and must be fought by all of us. We have established an institution which is governed by a law and we have our Constitution. However, every time I try to reflect on what is happening, the question that comes to mind is always whether we as a country, which has established that institution, have a common understanding of what constitutes corruption? Have we defined it so that it would be clear in the minds of as many people as possible? It seems that is the challenge we have. I do not know whether it is for the holding of a forum, whether at National level or by certain institutions, to deliberate on the matter and try to see if we can find a definition for corruption for ourselves. As time goes on we may avoid the situation of some saying the work of the Anti-Corruption Commission is witch-hunting thus making the work of those entrusted with this responsibility easier. I believe if the matter hangs in the air like this, it remains a challenge for us as a Nation.

I support the Vote, but I think we need to reflect on ways and means for our people to have a better understanding of corruption. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister of Education.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I was quiet because I was listening to the rain. Honourable Chairperson, I have three questions on page 5 and the first one is with respect to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

There is a serious molestation. The drivers of particularly the Ministers and the Deputy Ministers are being molested. I want to find out who gave that order. I doubt whether that order is in the Law, for the drivers of the Ministers or even the Prime Minister to be molested. Could this come to an end so that we can do our work? If there is something we are doing wrong, can we be told

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what we are doing wrong, because the drivers are now being molested, they cannot function.

My second point is on what Comrade Kazenambo just mentioned, that possibly the State is losing some cases. Can we be told how much the State had to pay in terms of cases we have lost because of some problems? Can we be told, if there is already a figure, and if not, can that be obtained?

Finally, we are all implementing and administering specific laws. You find that the members of the Anti-Corruption Commission go to specific offices in the Ministries without the courtesy of saying they have removed some documents from the Ministry. As Ministers we are administering specific laws and if these documents are taken away, we cannot administer our own laws. Could we not discuss with the Anti-Corruption Commission to inform us, as a matter of courtesy, that certain documents have been confiscated until further notice? Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussion? Honourable Dingara.

HON DINGARA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have a slight problem with the discussions, because when you hear that someone has done something wrong and you rush to arrest the person without investigations, it is against the law. I want to hear also good things from the side of the Anti-Corruption Commission. For example, what has been happening across the country with Government cars, where staff members used to drive from the Ministries, to quickly go to places such as Waltons etc, but instead going to the shops to buy their private goods and take to their homes and return to the office. When the Anti-Corruption Commission detected that this is what is happening in the country, they decided to deploy teams to all the shops in the country and they started arresting people involved. For example, three persons go to a shop, buy and then they load. Then the officer of the Anti-Corruption Commission says, “*give us the trip authority which authorised you to be at this shop to buy those goods.*” If the trip authority is only for going to Government Stores and they are arrested. I want to find out from the House whether the Anti-Corruption Commission must

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must first investigate that such case before they arrest these people? I feel we must look at both sides, the illegalities must also be eliminated but corruption must also be eliminated.

Since this House has many concerns, could we not send a team to investigate these concerns? The Namibian people are good at finding loopholes in any system and when we discover a loophole, we then cancel the whole system instead of just closing the loophole. A good example is when WASCOM was implemented. There were loopholes and we cancelled WASCOM. Instead we were supposed to work on those loopholes and fine-tune and close all the loopholes, so that one day we can have a system without loopholes.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am suggesting to this House that a team be set up to look for all the loopholes that exist in the system of the Anti-Corruption Commission and to bring it to this House to be discussed against the background of good information received. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I only want to say that wisdom is not something which can be attributed to one particular person, wisdom is a collective responsibility and when we look at the problems we are encountering now, it is important that we also look at other models. Other people also have Anti-Corruption Commissions which are governed by selected people, who can be called commissioners or a board of governors. Somebody must be accountable and these people are collective, they have more wisdom, they advise these people to do it this or that way. Other countries have those instruments.

We talk about accountability and responsibility, everybody has to be accountable. Now we are giving sweeping powers to one or two persons who are not accountable to anybody, not even to the Prime Minister. It is not a good practice of democracy, accountability and good governance.

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We need to re-look at this situation and see what model we can adopt, so that we do not accused our institution of being used by politicians to score political points. That is my advice. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I give the Floor to the Deputy Prime Minister to respond.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, on page 1 of my introductory statement it is deliberately stated that: *“By virtue of its being a statutory institution, the Anti-Corruption Commission’s functions are set out in an empowering statute, the Anti-Corruption Act, 2003.”* This Act did not come into existence by itself and it is good that we are discussing what is happening. The Act was discussed and formulated through legal procedures, it came here, it was approved, the National Council approved and then the President signed and we have all the rights to amend, not the Anti-Corruption Commission, it is us. We have the right to amend so that the functions and powers be granted to a commission of two people or so.

Honourable Members, when I was the Minister of Foreign Affairs, I was exposed to situations where a Minister could take his Budget in a briefcase and dish out and where a Minister could sit in his office and look at the Capital Budget and when people come there, he could dish out contracts. When you look at the systems in those countries, you cannot believe that is a Government system and when you ask whether it is not corruption, they simply do not understand that. This is a very serious issue and, indeed, Namibia, with its Government procedures and laws, should consider ourselves to be lucky.

As Comrade Dingara has said, when this issue creates its own loopholes, it is going to be very difficult to address. I agree fully with the contribution specifically by Comrade Kawana, that in terms of our laws and the Constitution a person is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty and of course, we must make sure that the Anti-Corruption Commission is told that they should not mobilise public opinion when they are arresting people. That is totally wrong, we should not allow that. If we do that, that will against the credibility of the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Government and the Nation.

Comrade Dingara said that we like seeking loopholes, it is not that we like seeking loopholes. I have learned that Namibians do not respect the properties of others, the way we are going around, taking things. How do you become rich overnight and you do not even feel guilty. This Commission should be advised to do the correct thing, but at the same time we should ensure that it is improved on and that its functions are always promoted and, if possible, they have to be encouraged to do whatever they can.

What was said about the drivers is true. The Prime Minister told us in this House about his driver who was arrested and slept in prison. I think that is also wrong. When you arrest somebody and find that the case is not very strong, why do you keep that person in prison, specifically if that individual is serving the Prime Minister's Office. At least he could call the Prime Minister and tell him that they have his driver, they are releasing him, but please make sure that he comes tomorrow. That is something that should happen.

Comrade Minister of Education, you wanted to know who gives the orders. Comrade Dingara mentioned specifically the drivers. Maybe we should devise a different system for our drivers, but honestly speaking, if you generalise the situation and you look at how many Government cars are on the road during the night in the town and at the Shebeens, you cannot do otherwise than saying that every small loophole is being exploited and I am sure that the officials who have the right to drive Government cars are listening and they are happy to hear that even the Ministers are not happy with the Anti-Corruption Commission.

What we need is a transparent procedure that the Anti-Corruption Commission should follow and we should not allow the situation to continue and promote the culture of taking what is not yours. We should not allow that and we can only avoid that when we encourage our people to make sure that the Anti-Corruption Commission is trying to do its utmost best.

Comrade Minister of Education, we will get the figures of how much money we are losing in terms of these cases, but we should not forget that this is not the only institution being sued by the public. There are many, especially our security institutions. Many of them are being sued and as a Government we must do the right thing and defend those cases.

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HON HAUSIKU**

I agree with you that they should be informed that they should not just go into an office and remove documents. Somebody has to sign for the documents and they should also say why the documents are being removed.

Honourable Ndaitwah, we do not need a conference to coin a definition, we really do not need that. I do not want to see us spending a cent on finding a definition that we have provided for in 2003 approved in the Act. In my statement I indicated that there are campaigns being carried out by the Anti-Corruption Commission, including billboards that are put at strategic areas and in this case we specifically mentioned all border posts and in big cities such as Windhoek. They are also running campaigns in terms of educating the public on how to report, when to report and where to report. Maybe we should strengthen this process in order to make our people aware of the importance of eradicating corruption.

I have mentioned capacity-building in my statement and the biggest slice of the Budget is going to be used for capacity-building. The Anti-Corruption Commission has indicated in the information they have provided, that in some cases you need expertise within the group which is investigating, such as auditors, etcetera, and we are going to build capacity in order to address that issue.

Comrade Chair of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much. The truth always hurts.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection to Vote 30? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

29 April 2010

ADJOURNMENT

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

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 19:46 UNTIL 2010.04.30 AT 09:00

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
30 APRIL 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, just a friendly reminder: After the Budget has been tabled and the Minister of Finance has motivated it and Second Reading commences, that is the period for philosophising and sharing of life experiences, but after the Minister has replied to all that, it becomes serious business of this House. The Committee Stage we are busy with now is not for general Debate, once again. This stage is for details, either arising from the Minister's motivation speech and the documentation distributed to us and the Minister's reply at the end of that exercise, should there be some questions. Let us concentrate on details and not rekindle the Second Reading Debate.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions?

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Mr Speaker, I Move without Notice, that leave of absence, due to official business, be granted to the Minister of Justice until the 20th of May 2010.

I so Move Honourable Speaker

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NGHIDINWA**

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 03, 04, 05, 08, 11, 18, 28 and 31 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration at 12:30. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any further Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the first Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE :
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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

HON SPEAKER: Any objections? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will now take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, 29 April 2010, Votes 01, 02, 07 and 30 have been agreed to and Votes 03, 11, 18 and 28 have been introduced.

Vote 05 – “HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION”, N\$174,284,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, at the outset I would like to join other Colleagues who presented their Budget statements before me in congratulating the Honourable Minister of Finance, her Deputy and the entire staff component for improving and diversifying revenue sources which is enabling our Government to tackle the diverse needs of our society.

During this Medium Term Expenditure Framework, the Ministry intends to take further bold steps to move towards the realisation of its sub-sector sub-division of Vision 2030 which is: *“All Namibians to have National documents, and there is a smooth and efficient regulative and controlling mechanism for refugees and immigrants into Namibia as well as their residence in the country”*.

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

1. Civil Registration (Maintenance of Population Register),
2. Immigration Control (Smooth and Efficient Facilitation Mechanism for Migration) ,
3. Refugee Administration (Protection and Caring of Refugees/Asylum seekers)

We have done critical evaluation of our work, reviewed our strategy and redefined our vision. We are aware that we cannot achieve this vision alone. We have therefore increased our efforts to work closely with all the stakeholders in order to ensure systems integration and optimisation.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is one of the piloting Ministries for the Performance Management System for which significant progress has been made. Equally, the Ministry has been selected to pilot the Electronic Documents and Records Management System. Equipment to

pursue this programme has been acquired. The conversion of manual records to digital has started and training for personnel is ongoing. Expected outcome of the programmes will be enhanced staff performance, good record-keeping and improved service delivery through e-governance.

The Ministry has realised vulnerability of our personnel at our entry points and has therefore also volunteered to pilot the roll-out of HIV/AIDS workplace awareness programme. In this regard we have established HIV/AIDS Workplace Committees at our Regional Offices throughout the country.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, it is further my distinct honour and privilege to share with you the summary of achievements of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and introduce the requested allocations for each of the programmes under the Ministry's Vote.

Civil Registration

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

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

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

I have informed this august House that during the last Financial Year, the Ministry opened eleven Sub-Regional Offices. This was aimed at reducing the long distances travelled by the people to reach the Regional Offices to acquire National documents. I can now confirm that the following Sub-Regional Offices have been opened: Aminuis and Otjombinde in Omaheke Region,

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HON NGHIDINWA**

Omaruru in Erongo Region, Kamanjab and Khorixas in Kunene Region, Chetto, Linyanti and Impalila Island in Caprivi Region, Omungwelume in Ohangwena Region, Okakarara in Otjozondjupa Region and Okahao in Omusati Region. We are planning to open Okonguati, Karibib, Omuthiya, Outjo, Okahandja and Ndiyona Sub-Regional Offices as the third phase on the programme.

Namibia is a vast country and is sparsely populated. Our future long plan is possibly to open sub-regional offices in all 107 Constituencies, depending on the availability of resources. This will also contribute to job creation of the youth and bringing the services closer to the people. Furthermore, we will continue to serve communities in the remote areas with mobile offices. With regard to the collection of identity documents, we are happy to see that there is an improvement in the distribution of identity documents after the arrangement and cooperation with Regional Councillors in this regard. During the period under review 186,597 identity documents and 81,309 Birth Certificates were produced in the country. It is important to note that 38,546 Identity Documents and 26,153 Birth Certificates from the above total were captured through the mobile registration programme, mainly targeting the old, the poor, school learners and the most vulnerable people. This effort is aimed at bringing the services to the doorsteps of Namibians. Therefore, the Ministry is appealing to the public to apply for Namibian identity documents and for those who already did so, to collect them from our respective offices. In this regard we will be announcing a date from which the old SWA/Namibia IDs will no longer be regarded as an acceptable National document.

Birth registration is very critical for Namibia for the following reasons:

- It is every child's right,
- To fulfil the Government obligation to implement Article 7 of the Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC),
- It establishes a child's legal personality,
- It safeguards access to critical social services,
- It provides legal protection of the State, and

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- It is a key to access other National documents (e.g. identity card and passports), obtaining credit, voting as well as finding employment.

Due to these reasons, as I have reported to this House last year, the Ministries of Home Affairs and Immigration and Health and Social Services, together with our development partner, UNICEF, have launched a pilot project on the registration of newborn babies with birth certificates at Katutura State Hospital and the Memorandum of Understanding to that effect has been entered into.

I am glad to inform you today that this programme is progressing well and has been expanded to six more hospitals. These hospitals are Oshakati and Onandjokwe in Oshana Region, Oshikuku and Outapi in Omusati Region and Engela and Eenhana in Ohangwena Region. This project will be extended to all regional and district hospitals as well as other health centres throughout the country based on the birth rate priority. Once again I would like to express my sincere gratitude to UNICEF Office in Namibia for their continued support and assistance. 12 105 babies were registered with birth certificates since the inception of the project at the above mentioned hospitals.

We are also in the process to decentralise the registration of death at hospitals and health centres and up to the level of traditional authorities. It has been observed that some deaths, especially those that occur in some settlements and villages, are not registered with the Ministry due to the fact that those settlements and villages are very far from our offices. Due to the long distances some corpses/bodies are buried without any death certificates and later orphans and family members that are left behind find it extremely difficult to register themselves for schools, orphanage grants or for National documents without their parents' particulars. Consultations in this regard with the Ministry of Regional and Local, Housing and Rural Development and Health and Social Services are underway.

For the abovementioned programme to function well, I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of N\$84,680,000.

Programme Immigration Control (Entry/Exit) and Citizenship

This Immigration Control (entry/Exit) and Citizenship programme is responsible for efficient, smooth and regulated movement of persons entering and exiting the country. In this regard, the programme facilitates and operates

the ports of entry and exit as well as the granting of citizenships to foreign Nationals. On the other hand, it is responsible for the issuance of permits to facilitate investment flow for economic growth, employment creation and to fill skills gap whilst ensuring skills transfer to Namibians.

Border Control

The Division of Immigration and Border Control is responsible for among others, the facilitation of entry and exit at all ports of entry, deportations of illegal and prohibited immigrants and the provision of Secretarial Services to the Immigration Tribunal, including transporting and escorting these illegal immigrants to their countries of origin. The Division has increased its surveillance activities significantly in the past Financial Year and as a result 1 418 illegal and prohibited immigrants were arrested, deported or issued with 48 hours to leave the country.

As I informed this august House last year, entry points to the country are the first reflection of the country's image to any person visiting Namibia. It is on this basis that the Ministry has already started and is at an advanced stage with the programme to fully computerise all our entry and exit points and build capacity of our staff members to cope with the new technology and work environment.

The Border Control Management System is critical for the management of movement of persons, especially during the upcoming 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup to be held in South Africa. In order to maximise the benefits derived from the system, the Ministry has adopted a collaborative approach with all the role players in the sector. Resulting from this collaboration the Namibia Tourism Board has donated N\$1,000,000 towards the maintenance of the Border Control Management System. In this regard I want to thank the Mother-ministry of the Namibian Tourism Board, Honourable Nandi-Ndaitwah, for her support.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has become a member of the International Organisation for Migration. Thereafter, this organisation is assisting in the development of competence-based training curriculum and manual of operation for the immigration officers as per recommendations of the Border Control and Migration Management assessment conducted in 2008. In the same breath, the First National Bank. in collaboration with Conference

Link, and other partners are in discussion with us to introduce specialised training programmes for our staff members on customer care.

During this Financial Year, the Ministry will post Immigration Attachés to Menogue in Angola, Cape Town in South Africa and Beijing in China. This is in addition to the already opened Consulate in Ondjiva, Angola in August 2009.

Aliens Control

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is committed to improve the function of processing work permits, visas and other important permits necessary for the entry of tourists and acquisition of the scarce skills required in our job market. The automation process of permits and visas is underway.

For the period under review, the Ministry has issued the following permits and Visas:

Employment Permits	-	6,138
Student Permits	-	9,458
Temporary Residence Permits	-	3,205
Permanent Residence Permits	-	45
Visas (work/business, study and holiday)	-	59,368
TOTAL	-	78, 214

Passports

As reported last year, the new passport system has been installed and is functioning well and the waiting period of ten days for the processing of a passport is maintained. The system has the capability to issue electronic passport books in the future. The Ministry is currently in the selection process for the service provider for the implementation of the electronic virgin passport booklets. In this regard I would like to alert the Namibians that crooks are continuously trying to forge our travel documents in order to facilitate their criminal activities abroad. We must closely work together in immediately alerting the Ministry in case of loss of your travel documents or whenever noticing any suspicious activity and jealously safeguard the birth certificates, identity cards, passports and other National documents issued to you as Namibians.

The Namibia Immigration Management System continues to enjoy trust from our neighbours within the continent and worldwide. As a result of this trust, for example, Namibia is one of the few countries on the continent that continues to enjoy visa exemption from the UK and many other countries. During the last Financial Year, the Ministry has issued the following travelling documents:

Diplomatic passports	-	108
Official passports	-	309
Ordinary passports	-	42,612
Brown passports	-	16
Emergency Travelling Certificates	-	62,593
Grand total	-	105,638

Citizenship

The Ministry has granted Namibian citizenship to the following categories of citizenship to foreign Nationals who met the requirements:

Descent	-	1,175 (mostly children from exile)
Registration	-	104 (mostly Motswanas)
Naturalization	-	109
Marriage	-	146
Grand total	-	1,534

The Ministry is aware of a number of stateless persons who came from our neighbouring countries who do not have any National documents till now. Some came from as far as Angola, Zambia and other countries. As a Ministry responsible for the issuance of National documents to all citizens, we have a concern towards these stateless individuals. To that effect, we are having a programme to register all those stateless persons. We have started with this programme in the southern Regions and 112 individuals have been registered in order to issue them with Namibian citizenship by naturalisation, which will subsequently allow elderly to benefit from the old-age pension grants. The programme will continue with the remaining regions.

I am requesting those who became Namibians to go and apply for the Namibian identity documents at the respective offices of the Ministry. It has been observed that some individuals, who were granted their Namibian

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citizenship, did not apply for identity documents. They only apply for passports and other travel documents, such as Emergency Travel Certificates, to facilitate their movement in and outside the country. The Ministry will process the application for passports only when a certified copy of an Identity Document is attached.

I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of N\$86,598,000 for this programme.

Programme Refugee Administration

The Refugee Administration programme is tasked with the responsibility to provide protection and support to refugees and asylum seekers. This is done in terms of the Refugee (Recognition and Control) Act 1999 (Act 2 of 1999) and the obligation placed upon Namibia by international conventions relating to the treatment of refugees and displaced persons. It further coordinates and facilitates the repatriations of refugees to their countries of origin when the reason for which they fled to Namibia have seized to exit.

This programme is responsible for creating infrastructure services for refugees, proposing relevant legislation that is devised to improve the living conditions of refugees and asylum seekers, coordinating and implementing relevant programmes that are aimed at benefiting persons of concern to both the Government and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It is also responsible for initiating responsive policies on how best and within the framework of international conventions and the domestic refugee laws and ensuring that all asylum seekers are registered, issued with asylum-seekers certificates and those recognised are issued with refugee identity cards.

Currently, there are 7,200 refugees and 1,450 asylum seekers that are hosted in this country. They are mostly from Angola and the Great Lakes Region (Democratic Republic of Congo; Burundi; Rwanda).

I would like to use the same opportunity to inform the Nation that 41 refugees and asylum seekers from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) left Osire Refugee Settlement and crossed the border of Namibia at Trans-Kalahari Border Post on 07 July 2009 without legal documents. Their departure from the Namibian soil without relevant travelling documents violated Section 21(b) of the Refugee (Recognition and Control Act), (Act 2 of 1999) which stipulates

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that all refugees and asylum seekers residing in Namibia are obliged to first seek for a permission which is normally granted for them to visit any part of the country for a prescribed period.

One of the important functions of this programme is also to facilitate refugees to obtain study and work permits. Ninety-four study permits and sixty-nine work permits were issued to refugees during the period under review.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I found it more relevant to keep this august House informed on the number of Namibian returnees from Dukwi in the Republic of Botswana during the period under review. 46 Returnees were received during the period under review and were integrated with their families. However, I must inform you that there are still 900 Namibians in Dukwi Refugee Camp in the Republic of Botswana. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is committed to the principle of voluntary repatriation as a core durable solution, hence we are working together with the Government of the Republic of Botswana and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to ensure the return of our brothers and sisters, who are currently residing at Dukwi, to their motherland in a dignified manner.

The Ministry, jointly with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, is currently working on a policy framework on finding a durable solution for all refugees in Namibia, which includes voluntary repatriation, local integration and possible resettlement of small numbers.

I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of N\$3,006,000 for this programme.

Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to inform this august House that as up to the end of February 2010, the Ministry has generated an amount of N\$44,844,996 from administration fees of permits, visas, passports and miscellaneous, excluding revenues from Foreign Missions.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my team, the Honourable Deputy Minister – the outgoing and the incoming one - the Permanent Secretary, Management and all the staff members for their hard work in implementing the programmes.

I now move that an amount of N\$174,284,000 be allocated for Vote 05 of the

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HON NAMOLOH**

Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. May your usual support prevail and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put
Vote 08 – “DEFENCE”, N\$3, 014,774,000 for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, let me take this opportunity to thank His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, and our SWAPO Party for the trust they have in me for re-appointing me for the second time as the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Namibia. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thank the former and current Deputy Minister of Defence, Comrade Victor Simunja, and Honourable Lempy Lucas, Member of Parliament, respectively, as well as the entire staff of the Ministry of Defence for their support to put the Ministry of Defence on a good footing to realise its vision of becoming a small, well-trained, well-equipped and disciplined professional Force that excels in service delivery.

It is my honour and privilege to present Vote 08 to this august House, for the 2010/2011 Financial Year as well as to highlight matters related to National defence and security. Before I proceed, I would like to thank the Minister of Finance, Hon Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, and her team for a well-elaborated Budget that addresses pertinent challenges facing our Nation.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, there are indications that the interNational security situation is changing towards evident multi-polarity and relaxation of tension between major powers. Significant readjustment, which has a calming effect on the rest of the world, is being observed. The political security situation in the continent and the SADC Region in particular is relatively stable. Various forms of multilateral and bilateral cooperation are used as mechanisms to foster unity, trust and understanding. The bilateral engagement between Namibia and all her neighbours as well as multilateral meetings of

SADC, the African Union and the United Nations are some of the mechanisms used to strengthen international peace and cooperation.

Despite this commendable progress so observed during the year, there are retrogressive events affecting our continent. The continuing instability in Cote d' Ivoire, the *coup d'état* in Niger and the uncertainty in Sudan as well as the threats posed by the Somali pirates are some of the current events that should worry us. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the peace effort between that country and her neighbours seems to have paved the way for peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region. However, there are still armed groups which pose a danger to the country and people, as demonstrated by the brief occupation by armed groups in the town of Mbandaka in Equatorial Province, as well as the continuous killings of innocent civilians by armed groups in that country.

We live in a rapidly changing and unpredictable world where future events cannot be predicted with a degree of certainty. We can, however, influence future outcomes with correct decisions we take at present. Natural calamities, such as earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis and many others come without warnings. There are many recent examples. Likewise, man-made calamities, such as war come without warning, leaving less time for preparation. History taught us that those who are less prepared are heavily penalised. We would not like to pay that price.

Defence acts like an insurance. It is prepared for both the present and for the unforeseen future events. Our founding fathers who wrote our Constitution may have thought about this by assigning the mission of the NDF, as stipulated in Chapter 15, Article 118 of the Namibian Constitution, to be, "*defend the territory and National interests of Namibia*". At the time the Constitution was written, the future looked bright as it is today, but the founding fathers knew that the future is unpredictable and the Nation needs a capability to deal with the unexpected. Thus the main task of the Defence Force remains to defend the Republic and its interests, other tasks remain secondary.

Many of our citizens understand and appreciate the role of our Defence Force. They know that defence capability takes time to build and that our soldiers need to train and rehearse regularly for their roles. They are also aware that this costs money, but that it is the prize we have to pay for a secure future,

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which means to have appropriate equipment, to maintain them and to train and care for our troops.

There are also a few people in our society who hold opposing views. I respect their democratic right to express their views. When our citizens, including police officers were killed in Kavango Region, they remained silent. When NDF members undertook a hot pursuit operation into Angola as a means to protect our sovereignty and citizens, they criticised the NDF.

One of these compatriots wrote that the NDF members are “*large in number, employed just to have nothing to do*”. They forget that the main role of the NDF is to defend the territory and interests of Namibia. This means they have to fight wars if need be and sacrifice their precious lives. They should know that defence capabilities are build during peacetime. This is true, whether in Europe or America. We complain that our soccer team, Brave Warriors did not win because they did not have time to prepare or that we do not have professional players. In the military too, you need professional soldiers who train and rehearse regularly with their equipment, but not seasonal or part-time who get employed for other tasks and come to a military task when the need arises.

The NDF has a constitutional mission to defend the territory and interests of Namibia. Those of us who are entrusted with these noble tasks will make all efforts to create a credible capability.

The secondary role of the Force is to assist civil communities and civil powers in case of emergency and to bring peace to parts of the world where there is none. The records are there to see that from 1993 up to now NDF members actively took part in UN and AU missions. The assistance rendered to communities during flood, drought and many others are well documented. The Honourable Members of this august House stated that the decaying infrastructure need repairs. All these need money and that is what we have Budgeted for.

To streamline the functions of the Ministry of Defence and enhance its efficiency and effectiveness, the Ministry of Defence has produced policy and administrative documents. Among these documents is the Defence Policy, which was tabled to this august House early this year and the launch of the Ministry of Defence Strategic Plan, last year. The Ministry of Defence

Strategic Plan is based on four pillars, which are aimed among others to enhance operational excellence through efficient business process and capability building by improving the quality of human resources, infrastructures and facilities. To achieve these objectives, the Ministry of Defence carries out the following programmes: Operations, InterNational Deployment, Construction and Research and Development.

During the past Financial Year, the Ministry of Defence received funding for its Budgeted programmes and was spent as follows:

Programme	Allocated Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Operations	2,137,116,000	2,127,300,895	9,185,105
International Deployment	36,296,000	25,610,955	10,685,045
Construction Research & Development	420,000,000	417,033,220	2,966,780
Total	2,593,412,000	2,569,45 070	23,466,930

OPERATION PROGRAMME

“*Operation*” is defined by some authors as the creation of goods and services and includes a set of activities that create value by transforming inputs into outputs. The services provided by the Namibia Defence Force consist of mainly defending the country by fighting a war if need be, assist the citizens in case of emergencies and to keep peace within and outside our borders. The inputs of the Ministry of Defence into operation include policy guidelines, provision of resources, such as human and material, training, health, acquisition of equipment and recruitment of personnel. These inputs are transformed into outputs which, amongst others, include the production of a well-trained and equipped force that will excel in its service delivery.

Operation Programme for this Financial Year will mainly include the following activities:

- a. Recruitment and Training
- b. Aid to Civil Authorities and Communities

- c. Terms and Conditions of Service
- d. Health Matters
- e. Transportation
- f. Acquisition of Weaponry and Equipment
- g. Renovation of infrastructure and other services

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

During 2009/2010, the Ministry of Defence has recruited about 1,600 recruits into the NDF, including 600 Children of the Liberation Struggle who have undergone military training at Oluno Military Base. During this Financial Year, the Ministry of Defence is expected once again to recruit 1,000 young Namibians between the ages of 18 and 25 years old and 600 children of the Liberation Struggle. As the generations of the pre-Independence era troops are phasing out, young blood will be needed to replace them. Within the next five years, about 600 NDF members will retire.

This year the NDF is going to conduct a field exercise, code-named Desert Rumble II, to which I have already invited the Honourable Members. This is part of our capacity-building of men and equipment.

The number of members leaving the Force during this period is expected to be high due to retirement, natural attrition, resignation and other causes. More recruits will therefore be needed to replace them in order to maintain a reasonable capacity. Funds will also be needed for training and maintenance of the Force. As we train, we equip them with new weapons, provide accommodation, feed, dress and pay them. Training is a necessity to impart new skills and knowledge needed to operate new weaponry and equipment in a modern war setting. We should also modernise our training institutions and build specialised ones. The amount spent on training since 2005 up to now is about 8.3% of the total Budget on average, while that spent on salaries on average is 57% of total Budget for the same period.

AID TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES AND CIVIL COMMUNITIES

In fulfilling their secondary roles, that of giving assistance to our citizens in case of natural or man-made calamities, members of the NDF are ever ready to assist the citizens of the Land of the Brave. NDF members have recently, in conjunction with the Directorate of Emergency Management in the Office

of the Prime Minister, participated in the mitigation in the provision of necessary assistance to communities affected by floods, drought and other natural calamities, such as vaccination campaign against outbreak of measles in Kunene Region. They have also assisted with the transportation of medicines to inaccessible areas in order for our health workers from the Ministry of Health and Social Services to provide needed medicines to communities in those areas. We have received commends for a job well-done from the communities and Local Governments. I want to assure this august House that Members of the NDF remain ready to render assistance to our citizens anytime as equipment at our disposal could allow.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, first, I would like to thank you for understanding the plight of our men and women in uniform regarding the need to improve their living conditions, as was recently reported by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security. I would also like to inform you that renovations were done on several infrastructures while some, such as the building of the new base at Oluno, were delayed due to, among others, flooding, which necessitated the elevation of the area before construction can start. It is only after that, that the infrastructure will be built, starting in June 2010, pending the approval of the Budget by this august House.

Chapter 15, Article 118 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia made a provision for the establishment of the Namibian Defence Force by Act of Parliament with the mission to defend the territory and National interests of Namibia. This is the basis of the establishment of the Namibian Defence Force. In order for members of the NDF to perform this noble and patriotic task successfully, they should be taken care of by providing them with suitable living conditions, which include accommodation, dressing and remunerations. The renovation of bases and the construction of training institutions are aimed at addressing this.

HEALTH CARE

The Ministry of Defence will not be able to fulfill its roles and functions without fit and healthy personnel. The Ministry of Defence, through the Directorate of Defence Health Services, ensures that military personnel receive

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comprehensive, efficient and quality medical services by providing them preventative, curative and rehabilitative patient care in accordance with the principles of Primary Health Care and develop new military health strategies for the future. Collaboration and coordination are done with the Ministry of Health and Social Services and other stakeholders in health care delivery to our personnel.

To address the health needs of NDF members a Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centre was opened at Rundu in July 2009 and one Anti-Retroviral Clinic was opened at Army Headquarters in Grootfontein in March 2009. All these centres are run and managed by our own members and they were renovated with help of United States of America's Department of Defence through our implementing partners Society for Family Health.

The Ministry of Defence successfully and timely handles pre/post-deployment medical examinations, including HIV/AIDS testing on a voluntarily basis for NDF contingents to UN Peace Support Operations and immunisation against communicable diseases for members bound for missions or courses abroad. The Ministry conducts pre-recruitment comprehensive medical examinations including HIV testing on voluntary basis, on potential candidates earmarked to be recruited in the Force. Recruits receive immunisation against Tetanus and Hepatitis A+B during training. Surveys on health issues, such as HIV zero prevalence, knowledge, practice and attitude about TB and Malaria amongst service members are some of the areas the Ministry intends to embark upon.

TRANSPORTATION

Our country is large and sparsely populated. This means that to perform its functions adequately, the Ministry of Defence ranks transport among the top priorities. In case of war or disaster relief operations, both road and air transport will be a major requirement. The country needs air transport for fast troop mobility throughout our country. Air transport will also be needed for quick reaction and search and rescue. Transportation at sea is also a military necessity. Besides the protection of marine resources, the country will need to procure and maintain dedicated naval vessels and equipment.

NDF WEAPONRY AND EQUIPMENT

Material and resources must be acquired to complement human resources because no matter the bravery and skillfulness of the troops, if they are ill-equipped they cannot fulfill their roles properly. Similarly, the determining factor in battle is the men and women behind the equipment. It can, therefore, be said that weaponry and personnel are complementary, while training is the catalyst that enables the ultimate success of service and their instruments in battle.

I have many members of the society and Members of the Opposition saying that the Budget is to buy weaponry, which is not the case. I said earlier that we have to recruit 1,600 young men and women in the Defence Force and they will be required to be armed with new weapons. It is the same as giving new textbooks to students in a class.

FARMING

Last year, I informed this august House that the Ministry of Defence has completed a professional study to allow the commercialisation of MOD farms. I am pleased to state here that the Business Plan for Commercialisation of the MOD farms into Agro Tour Development (Pty) Ltd was submitted to the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned-Enterprises and later to the Cabinet for its consideration and approval. Now the approval by Cabinet was obtained and Agro Tour Development (Pty) Ltd will be formed and will become one of the subsidiaries of August 26 Holding Company (Pty) Ltd, which is a 100 percent Government-owned company. With this we are expecting to provide employment to about forty people. This business undertaking will require a capital injection of N\$5 million. The company is expected to generate revenues and food supplement for the soldiers.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I have now the honour to request for Operation Programmes for this Financial Year, the amount of N\$2,427,400,000.

INTERNATIONAL DEPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

Our participants in UN peace support missions under the auspices of the United Nations started way back in 1993 when Namibia sent a company of

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peacekeepers to the United Nations peace mission in Cambodia. Later on Namibia peacekeepers participated in UN peace mission in Angola and Liberia where contingents of battalion strength were sent. In order to ensure constant participation in peace support operations, the Government has earmarked some contingents for both UN/AU and SADC missions in the form of UN Standby Arrangement and the SADC Standby Force.

UNITED NATIONS PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS

The participants in peace support operations require capacity-building, which will be achieved through individual and collective training. In this regard, the NDF participated in regional training exercises since 1997. Last year, the SADC Regional Exercise, GOLFINHO, was hosted by the Republics of South Africa and Namibia, respectively. The aim of these exercises is to enhance regional peacekeeping capacity.

Namibia still has Military Observers and UN Staff Officers serving in the following countries on a rotational basis:

- Liberia
- Ivory Coast
- Chad
- Sudan

These peacemakers, who include both male and female officers, are doing our country proud by bringing smiles on the faces of those who are affected by war and armed conflicts. We should, therefore, give them the support they deserve.

As I have informed this august House already, Namibia has been engaged in the preparation of a battalion strength contingent to be deployed to the UN mission in the Central Africa Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). As of now, the contingent-owned equipment has already been shipped to the port of Douala in Cameroon in February 2010. Our troops have completed all the required procedures and are on standby, ready for deployment to Chad. The deployment of MINURCAT is however currently on hold, the next move depends on the UN and the Government of Chad.

REGIONAL PEACE ENGAGEMENTS

The SADC Standby Force last year held Exercise Golfinho which was hosted by the Republic of South Africa while the Maritime of this exercise was hosted by Namibia at Walvis Bay. The objective of the exercise was to prepare full operationalisation of the SADC Standby Force in 2010, as decided by the Heads of State and Government at the SADC Summit.

Namibia is part of the international community. As such, the Ministry of Defence participated actively in regional defense and security fora through the SADC Inter-State Defence and Security Committee. There are also bilateral defence and security arrangements with Angola, Botswana, South Africa and Zambia through Joint Commissions on Defence and Security. These Joint Commissions, in which Government Ministries and Offices entrusted with the defence and security of our republic are participants, ensure trust, build confidence and mutual understanding with our neighbours. We will host Angola, Zambia and South Africa this year. The Ministry of Defence has seconded an officer with a rank of Colonel to the Peace and Security Council of the AU for two years, as we are members of the Peace and Security Council.

MILITARY DIPLOMACY AND ADVISORY

Honourable Chairperson, to ensure international peace and security, the Ministry of Defence promotes good relations with foreign Governments by deploying Military Advisors or Attachés to Namibia's diplomatic missions abroad. Currently, Namibia has Military Advisors or Attachés in the following countries and international bodies: Angola, Brazil, People's Republic of China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of South Africa, the United Nations and African Union. This year we are to deploy two more Attachés to additional countries.

Foreign Military Experts: The Namibian Defence Force is relatively young and needs foreign experts to assist with the development of the Army, Air Force, Navy and Medical Services.

The amount allocated to international deployment for Financial Year 2010/2011 amounts to N\$42,849,000.

CONSTRUCTION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry of Defence will undertake, as part of conditions of service of the NDF Members, to equip them with modern equipment and is involved in construction of accommodation and storage facilities of equipment as well as researching on armament and equipment. The amount allocated for construction from 2005 up to date is on average 13.8% of total Budget.

DEFENCE INDUSTRY

Let me take this opportunity to inform the Hon Members, that despite limited capabilities and the negative event of the global economic downturn, the Namibian Defence Industry is making great improvement in quantity and quality of its products. The anti-mine troop carriers produced here in Namibia had proved their quality and capability, as proved during deployment with our troops in UN Missions.

In recognition of its quality products, the August 26 Holdings (Pty) Ltd, received the following awards: Golden European Award for Quality (New Millennium Award) in recognition for its trajectory and business excellence,. This award was given in Paris, France on 1st March 2010 by Trade Leaders Club at Editorial Office in Madrid. On 29th March 2010, August 26 Holdings (Pty) Ltd received the Global Award for Perfection, Quality and Ideal Performance as well as Top Quality Customer Satisfaction Aptitude Seal for High Quality Performance and Best Customer Satisfaction in Berlin, Germany by Association OtherWise Management and Consulting based in Paris, France. On 12th July 2010, August Holdings Company is again to receive a New Era Award for Technology Innovation and Quality by Association Other Wise Management Consulting. This is a clear indication of the high quality products which make the company able to compete at global level despite limited capacity.

The August 26 Holding (Pty) Ltd and its group of companies are in a process of being restructured as part of the Turnaround Strategy Exercise. This Strategy aims to improve on cooperate governance, administration and management in order to bring efficiency and effectiveness in the group.

The amount allocated to Construction, Research and Development is N\$544,525,000.

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To conclude, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, peace and security is a prerequisite for social harmony, stability and development. In this unpredictable and volatile world a country needs to have a reliable assurance to rely on in time of turbulences. Namibia can only have this assurance if our Defence Force is well-taken care of, well-trained and well-equipped. Peace and Security can only be maintained if we regionally engage with our neighbours, strengthen our regional and continental mechanism to maintain peace and stability.

Our men and women in uniform are security insurances that help to ensure global, regional and National security. Therefore, in order for them to effectively protect our sovereignty and contribute to regional and international peace and security, they deserve our undivided support.

I am, therefore, requesting, Hon Members to support and approve the allocation of N\$3,014,774,000 to fund the afore-mentioned programmes of the Ministry of Defence during the 2010/2011 Financial Year and continue to render your all-round support during this period and beyond. I thank you.

**CHAIPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Vote 04 –
“AUDITOR-GENERAL”, N\$52,867,000 put for **Introduction.****

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise once again to motivate Vote 04, Auditor-General.

It is common knowledge that the Auditor-General performs important constitutional functions as provided for under Article 127(2) of the Namibian Constitution and the State Finance Act, 1991 (Act 31 of 1991).

In any democratic system the law entitles the Nation to know how the tax payers' money is used by the Government of the day. The best vehicle for this function is the Office of the Auditor-General. In this regard, the Office promotes transparency and accountability. Namibia is not an exception to this principle. Against this background, it is, therefore, imperative that the Office

of the Auditor-General is adequately resourced by both financial and human resources in order to carry out its constitutional mandate.

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, the Office of the Auditor-General has set itself a number of Ministerial targets during the 2010 to 2013 Financial Years. The provided resources will be used to compile three performance audit reports and two follow-up reports annually.

In addition, the Office will carry out one hundred-and-twenty asset inspections throughout the country each year in order to safeguard state assets. The Office will also carry out 132 financial audits during 2010/2011 Financial Year.

Honourable Chairperson, in order to achieve these objectives, the Office will also make use of private consultants, as it has been the case in the past, to assist with the auditing of municipalities, boards, corporations and parastatal bodies.

Three main programmes have been set in the current Financial Year. The **first programme** involves performance auditing. The following goals are intended to be achieved:

- Finalize three performance audits and two follow-up audits;
- retain good quality recommendations which are acceptable to clients;
- assist the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament to oversee the implementation of the recommendations made in performance audit reports;
- continue in-house training for newly recruited performance audit staff as well as workshops and seminars; and
- improve the quality of reports.

An amount of N\$3,888,000 is required for this programme.

The second Programme involves financial auditing. To this end, the Office of the Auditor-General will:

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- strive to obtain outstanding financial statements from clients which stood at one hundred and ninety-one as at 31 March 2009 and to decrease this envisaged backlog by sixty reports during this year;
- continue to ensure acceptance of audit recommendations and implementation by Offices, Ministries and Agencies;
- arrange continuous and relevant training events to improve audit quality;
- improve the controls implemented through audit recommendations;
- ensure full acceptance of recommendations made on audit reports by the Public Accounts Committee; and
- to carry out one hundred-and-twenty asset inspections throughout the country per year in order to safeguard public assets. In addition, one hundred and ninety-two financial audit reports will be finalised.

This programme will require an amount of N\$19,449,000.

The third Programme involves agency co-operation, investment and support services. To this end, the Office will strive to:

- improve communication with relevant stakeholders with a view to developing a sound policy;
- train staff according to the approved annual training programme;
- complete the building structure of the new office block; and
- render logistical and technical support to the Office of the Auditor-General.

This programme will require an amount of N\$29,530,000.

Honourable Chairperson, the total allocation requested for Vote 04, amounts to N\$52,867,000.

Honourable Chairperson, I am pleased to inform this august House that the Office of the Auditor-General has won the Swedish National Audit Office's

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prize for the best performance audit report of the English-speaking Supreme Audit Institutions of Africa for the year 2009. The objective of the prize is to promote the sharing of experiences and benchmarking best practice in performance audit in the Region.

The competition was open to twenty-three countries of the African Organisation of English-speaking Supreme Audit Institutions. The panel of Judges came from the United Kingdom, Norway, Netherlands and chaired by Sweden, the sponsor of the programme. The prize consists of four trophies, three certificates and one week sponsored trip to Swedish National Audit Office. The audit report is titled “*Service delivery to orphans and vulnerable children in the country.*” May I take this opportunity to congratulate the Auditor-General, Comrade Junias Etuna Kandjeke and his staff for a job well done.

With these few remarks, I humbly request this august House to approve the requested amount without any pain of debate. I so Move and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put
Vote 31 – “VETERAN AFFAIRS”, N\$273,538,000 for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Honourable Chairperson, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs being new, I think I will be allowed to speak a little bit more in order to explain to the Honourable Members and they must bear with me.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is my distinct honour and privilege to introduce Vote 31 of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs for the 2010/2011 Financial Year for debate and subsequent approval by this august House. The total amount sought is N\$274,538,000. This amount includes all the activities of the Ministry for development and operational activities for this Financial Year.

The Ministry of Veterans Affairs was established on the 4th of October 2006 with the mandate as per the order of the President, issued in terms of Article

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32, Sub-article (3)(g) of the Namibian Constitution, to initiate, promote, coordinate and implement projects and programmes which address the social-economic needs of the veterans, including keeping the history of the National liberation struggle alive.

The above would be achieved through a number of objectives aimed towards re-integrating veterans of the National liberation struggle into the overall economic mainstream of the country, the incorporation of a wellness programme (HIV/AIDS), into the activities of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, ensuring the availability of appropriate and relevant initiatives for veterans and promoting the participation of veterans in the main economic life of the country.

Since Namibia's Independence, the Government initiated various interventions to address the needs of veterans of the National liberation struggle. Therefore, all what is recorded in the Vote 31, are some ongoing activities, while others are to come on board soon. Some of the assistance to the veterans are such as gratuity, which is a token of appreciation, monthly subvention, veterans projects, assistance towards water and electricity, assistance to school dependants, hospital and free medical treatment, transport, funeral benefit, land resettlement and housing. Before the benefits of the veterans can be paid out, all the applications received are first scrutinised, and then approved by the Veterans Board. Those aggrieved can go to the Appeal Board to seek remedy.

Registration of veterans is a continuous process. Until today, as we speak, men and women of the liberation struggle are still flocking to the Ministry and Regional Offices for registration. It is the intention of the Ministry not to leave any member of the liberation struggle unregistered.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, veterans have been living with all sorts of problems, such as unemployment, low income, ill-health, housing problems, landlessness, poor or no schooling for their children, transport needs, among others. It is their expectations that now that the Ministry of Veterans Affairs has been created, their problems would be solved within a reasonable period of time.

It is on this basis that the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, in an effort to address the plight of the veterans, would undertake to carry out some housing projects for the veterans. The majority of veterans, even those who are working in

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Government, could not afford to participate in the Government housing scheme due to the fact that when they started to work, they were already approaching their retirement age, while salaries of others are too low. Therefore, financial institutions could not assist them to acquire individual loans to build houses for themselves.

To address these problems the Ministry in future requires sufficient funds for the implementation of these initiatives to cater for a large number of veterans within a reasonable period of time, as we all know that the majority of veterans are old and are passing on. Veterans are desperate and have run out of patience nowadays. Whenever they make enquiries to the Ministry, their last remarks are usually and I quote “*Vakwetu onaini hano hatu kuafua, omakuafo otaye tuhange ngoo?*” “*Colleagues, are we going to be assisted, will the assistance ever reach us during our lives?*”

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I will now inform the Honourable House about the programmes and projects of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs:

Programme 1:

Veterans Welfare Development Programme – An amount of N\$258,066,000 has been allocated.

This programme was developed to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the activities that are aimed at improving the welfare of veterans of the National liberation struggle. Once implemented, the programme will lead to the improvement of service delivery to veterans and hence, improving their quality of life as an outcome. The activities under this programme are:

- **Identification and Registration of veterans** which includes the maintenance of the Veterans Database ;
- **Support packages** in the form of the monthly subvention, prosthetics and mobility aids for the disabled veterans, cover of medical/hospital treatment, psychological counselling for traumatised veterans, capacity building for veterans and veterans’ children in the form of assistance with education, funeral benefit and housing;

- **Veterans Association.** When the Ministry will acknowledge the Association, it has to receive an annual grant to maintain the Association. The Association will be the transmission belt between the Ministry and the Veterans;
- **Evaluation of Veterans Assistance.** The Ministry is to make an assessment on how much effect the assistance has made on the veterans in order to bring the perspective of the poor and vulnerable veterans into the decision process and as a result contributing to the reduction of poverty.
- **Development Planning/Projects Management Programme** was put in place to initiate, administer and manage the income generating programmes and initiatives of veterans and their dependants and identified by them or by the Ministry. The main aim of this programme is to initiate income-generating projects to improve their income and livelihood. Therefore, the Ministry has taken the lead in initiating and developing the following projects that will be initiated and monitored by the Ministry such as:
 - Carry out feasibility studies for projects for and by the veterans;
 - Carry out agricultural projects both crop and livestock farming;
 - Aquaculture farming projects both inland and in coastal areas;
 - Acquisition and construction of offices in all Regions;
 - Veterans projects through the Veterans Board;
 - Construction of Veterans Houses; and
 - Veterans Tourism Projects.

Programme 2: Liberation Struggle Heritage Programme – An amount of N\$16,472,000 has been allocated.

This programme will be done through undertaking projects on research, documenting, storing, protecting and preserving the information and/or materials of the liberation struggle. Repatriation of this material from other countries is also included. The project will also include the identification of specific areas where monuments, buildings or any marks in connection with the liberation struggle can be erected, as stipulated in Section 3 of the Veterans Act of 2008.

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Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me once again to reiterate that veterans of the liberation struggle are an integral part of our glorious history, and an embodiment of the brave culture of resistance of our forefathers against colonialism. These veterans I have been alluding to throughout my speech are the people who fought tirelessly to break the yoke of colonialism and who brought about the peace and stability we are enjoying today in this country. Some of them died with arms in their hands, fighting the war of National liberation. These were volunteers who put their lives on the line for the National liberation of our motherland, Namibia. It was a cause worth fighting for. I, therefore, kindly request you Honourable Members to approve our request for the amount of N\$274,538,000 for the Ministry of Veterans Affairs for the 2010/2011 Financial Year. I thank you.

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

Vote 03 – “NATIONAL ASSEMBLY” is put for Discussion.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I would like to thank the Speaker for the introduction of the Vote. This is our Vote, however I have a few queries which I hope the Honourable Speaker will help me to understand.

Firstly, on Programme 1 – Enhancement of Parliamentary Process. In that programme, paragraph 4, the Speaker is informing the public that the National Assembly’s administration is not functioning well. I am not quite sure whether the structure as it is currently operating is not serving the purpose or is it that the structure was given to the Public Service Commission to approve but it has not been approved? I would like the Speaker to shed some light on that one.

Programme 2 – In the preamble of Consolidation of Democracy: We are talking here about Standing Committees. Standing committees are very important organs of this body. They actually operate as oversight agencies of the Executive. I understand that these Committees are not working now, are not structured, apparently because some Parties who decided to betray the trust

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of the voters are not here and apparently because of this, the Committees are not functional and that is not acceptable.

When does one become a Member of Parliament? You are a Member of Parliament because people have given you a mandate. At the point that people have given you a mandate, you are a Member of Parliament. The swearing-in is just a formality that you have allegiance to the institution. These people who have absented themselves have betrayed the trust of their voters and I hope that the voters are taking note of this, so that next time they should not invest their trust in the wrong hands. I also hope that the Office of the Attorney-General is going to look into this, that those who refuse to participate in the work of the Assembly should actually be punished in one form or another, because they have wasted the time of the voters.

On page 10, paragraph 6 of the speech of the Speaker I see that there are no procedures for accounting for the funds Political Parties receive here. This is definitely not acceptable and Political Parties should account in full to the public how they have used the funds given to them by Parliament. Therefore, if there are no enforcement procedures, we should ask the Office of the Auditor-General to provide procedures how Political Parties should report. Thank you.

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

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to thank the Parliament for allowing us to serve on these various bodies, be it interNationally, continentally or regionally. That is a very good move by the Parliament to allow us to interact with our counterparts from different parts of the world, the continent and the region. It also gives us opportunity to share experiences with our counterparts all over the world.

Secondly, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, is on the course that we attended last year. I want to request the Speaker's Office to ensure that this initiative continues to be conducted for the Honourable Members of Parliament. It was a very noble initiative from the side of our

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former Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs, now our Deputy Speaker. It is a job well done and we salute you for that, Comrade Deputy Speaker.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Speaker, as you were part of this initiative, this workshop really assisted us as Honourable Members to gain more knowledge around our role as lawmakers and I would suggest that this initiative be repeated for the new Members which have joined the Parliament to understand more about their role as lawmakers, the drafting of statutes and interpretation thereof and the constitutionality around our role as Members of Parliament. It was really educative and informative and I want to see this process being repeated in future if funds are available.

The third and the last is with regard to the support staff for the Honourable Members. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we are greatly disadvantaged when it comes to support staff. One has to do everything on your own as a Member of Parliament, be it research, be it preparing to come to this House to raise very important issues on the Floor of Parliament. Therefore, we need support staff to assist us in order to make this institution function effectively.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we need to understand the drafting of the Bills. We do not have officials or legal drafters to assist the Honourable Members and explain to them the intention or objectives of Bills introduced in this House.

These are the few remarks I wanted to make and bring to the attention of the House. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Member. Dr Abraham Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I support the Vote of the National Assembly and I only

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have one question to the Honourable Speaker. My question is under Programme 2 which refers to the consolidation of democracy and this programme has been allocated N\$75 million, as we believe in democracy.

I have a question under point 6 of this part of the programme. Point 6, in line with the words by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, is the provision of funding of Political Parties to improve the democratic process. I do believe that the provision for funding of Political Parties is meant exclusively for those in Parliament and not for those who are on AWOL or absent.

We have a situation where there are a few things in abeyance, there are some people who are either coming back or not coming back or going forward or not going forward. Parliament started on the 19th of March and some people have been absent until now. They are possibly supposed to be paid their salaries, including the payment to those Political Parties. The Minister of Finance is always worried about under-spending and the money allocated to Political Parties has to be used to avoid under-spending. The money was supposed to be used by these Parties while they have been absent from the 19th until today and maybe for next few months. Can we take a decision, as we are discussing the Budget, that that amount should be distributed to the Parties which have worked from the day we started Parliament until today, namely the salaries and the Political Parties' money?

Comrade Speaker, you were asking for a proposal and we are proposing that this amount be distributed amongst those present, excluding anybody who is not present here. That is the recommendation, as requested, Honourable Speaker. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Ulenga, you have the Floor.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support this Vote, but I have a few comments to make.

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Firstly, the Speaker in his introductory speech, referred to a Strategic Plan being put in place and I think that was on page 4. I just want to ask whether this is similar to another plan we had many years ago, namely Agenda for Change, or whether at least some of the useful elements of that particular plan have been included in this Strategic Plan that I hear is being implemented now.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would like to raise an issue that has been worrying me for quite some time and that is the relationship between the National Assembly and the National Council and I hope I will be able to remain within the lawful limits.

I have experienced a few years ago that whenever an issue is taken up by Committees of the National Assembly, very soon thereafter or even before that happens, similar issues are also taken up by the National Council. I have seen on one occasion when a Committee from the National Assembly had to travel countrywide and visit certain institutions and carry out inspections, there would also be a similar committee from the National Council doing exactly the same thing. Of course, I have no problem in principle with the National Council, they are doing their work, but this particular incident really is an example of unnecessary waste of funds. What happened is that the Committee on Defence and Security of the National Assembly travelled to all the Prisons and Military Bases and Police Stations throughout the country where they met with the officials, leaders and workers and all kinds of people involved in the running of those institutions. They had Parliamentary staff to take notes and they came back here and they submitted that Report. Before that Report was submitted or made available either to the Members of Parliament of both Houses or even to the public or relevant Ministers, the other House exactly in a similar manner sent out a Committee, only a few days apart, doing the same thing. (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, you made your point understandable, could you now recommend based on what you have stated? I want the Honourable Member to be brief.

HON ULENGA: There is reference in the Constitution to this review issue and the National Council also has functions and powers and according to those, they can have Committees and all kinds of stuff, but if you look at the IPU, the Pan African Parliament and others, the Namibian delegation consists of Members of Parliament both from the National Assembly and the National Council. They travel together, they attend these events together and they share the Budget in that sense. However, this does not happen with the Committees. I just want to know whether this is actually proper and whether we cannot consider saving some funds in this regard. It does not help for me to talk to a commander of the military base in Rundu on Monday and then the commander gives the same information to another Member of Parliament who comes from just a slightly different corner of the Parliament on the next day, without anything having happened in-between.

The next issue that I want to raise, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, is the issue that was already raised by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, why the various Committees have not started to do their work and I would like to refer the people responsible to the Rules of the National Assembly. I do not have my copy here, but there is a specific section that deals with the appointment and creation of Committees. It says that immediately after the opening of Parliament, the Standing Rules and Orders Committee must be established. Honourable Members, I think we are in breach if so far, after more or less two months of Parliament, we do not yet have any Committee, especially the Standing Rules and Orders and Internal Arrangements Committee.

I do not want to politicise the issue of Members not having been sworn in, but I think I would differ from the Prime Minister, I think you become a Member when you are sworn in here. I do not think the people who are not here are on AWOL. They are not Members until they are sworn in. That means those who are here can continue with the work, because we cannot sit here and say somebody is absent. Nobody is absent, those who are not here are not Members and let us continue to do the work. Do not look over the fence at people who are still outside, we want to do our work, that is why we are here. (Interjection). No, I do not even want to talk about people being absent. We do not have to sit here, appealing to the electorate to ... (Interjection)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Can you proceed to another point?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the third issue that I want to refer to is raised on page 5 of the Speaker's speech and that is with reference to the N\$8 million loss. Could the Speaker shed more light on this? He is making reference to problems with the Tender Board Regulations and so forth and in the same breath, I see that the work that is going on now is being conducted by foreign companies. If it was really so that there was no Namibian company that tendered or being able to take up this work, why is the work done by the Chinese? It is as straightforward as that.

A few things on the question of Political Party funding, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. As you will recall, this matter has been raised here on several occasions some years ago. I think it is a serious situation that needs to be taken up, because the mere fact that there is no public accounting for these funds, encourages inefficiency and encourages all kinds of things. However, I think there is more to the matter than meets the eye.

First of all, it looks like there is no Parliamentary decision in terms of a law or act that governs this whole issue, because when we made enquiries in the past, we were told this is a mere Cabinet resolution which stands or falls with a single Cabinet meeting. It would be stronger if this Assembly takes a decision in terms of an Act of Parliament or something similar, so that the funding of Political Parties and related matters stand on a firmer, more solid ground. It is a matter of taking the matter and debating it. I know that there were also other issues which Mr Pretorius, a former Member of Parliament, used to raise, relating to the sharing of funds, etcetera. All these matters can be discussed and decisions can be taken. The majority can have their way, while others have their say.

I do not see why it is not clear who should take responsibility for this matter. I think we should say that Cabinet should look at a proper resolution that must come to Parliament and Parliament can debate on it and decide on it, then this whole matter will be behind us.

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I see that there is reference to several instances of training in the Honourable Speaker's speech. There is the particular issue of ICT training that I think should enjoy attention by Members of Parliament. I have come to realise that and me myself, I suspect, also many other Members of Parliament are not well-acquainted with some of the machines that we receive here. One day I switched on some buttons in my office and all kinds of stuff came up and I did not move on. Perhaps this is the responsibility of Political Parties, but I would suspect that the National Assembly, now that it has entered into this very commendable practice of giving training to some of the Members, could also look into this.

The last issue has to do with the security and confidentiality of what happens here at the Parliamentary quarters. How strong is our security? Dr Kawana, I am not talking about physical security. (Interjection)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY GENERAL: You were a platoon commander like me.

HON ULENGA: No, I was just a section commander, not a platoon commander, but I also had a gun in my hand and the soldier's textbook. Seriously speaking, how confidential and how secure are, for example, some of our meetings that we hold at the National Assembly, because on one occasion after a meeting that I had here with some colleagues, I got the news right on the street that this is what you were saying at your meeting. I was wondering where it came from, but I see that several Political Parties, including SWAPO, hold their meetings here.

The last issue has to do with the National Assembly web page. I was looking for the Labour Act, only to find that there is hardly any Act on the web page and the speech of the President, although I did not check this particular time. It would be very useful if the latest information on the National Assembly is also available on the web page.

I thank you for now, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and I reserve my right to take up the opportunity again. I thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Dr Katjavivi.

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise to support Vote 03 for the 2010/2011 Financial Year. In doing so, I would like to associate my remarks with those issues highlighted by the Speaker of the House yesterday.

The Speaker spoke at length about the increasing outreach activities carried out by this House through its programme entitled, "*Taking Parliament to the People.*" This and other related programmes through which the Parliament is conducting its work is very appreciated, because these programmes do help to connect the work of the Parliament with the people of Namibia as well as the wider world and this work is very much important, because it should not be allowed to take place in a vacuum.

Chairperson, Honourable Members, we would like to see strengthening of all aspects relating to the work of the National Assembly, including its personnel. I, therefore, share the concern expressed by the Honourable Speaker regarding the shortage in experience within the National Assembly Secretariat. It is vital that appropriate professional staff are recruited in order to strengthen the work of Parliament.

Chairperson, in this connection, I welcome the Strategic Plan the Speaker spoke about. I certainly see this Strategic Plan as an important tool that would help us focus our attention on essential issues confronting Parliament as well as assisting Parliament to develop appropriate means that would help us to hire and retain appropriate professional staff.

Chairperson, I would also like to urge that we take into account the urgent call made by Members for the strengthening of research capacity in Parliament, because without that we cannot do our work in an efficient and effective manner.

Finally, I would very much welcome the infrastructure development around Parliament as well as the renovations that have been carried out and continue to be done to the Parliament Building. The application of ICT infrastructure

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and possible upgrading of the Parliament library is welcomed and appreciated. Chairperson, I support Vote 03 and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
Dr Nickey Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I wholeheartedly support Vote 03 of National Assembly, our Vote.

I rise to find out under Programme 2 where it talks about the new building of Parliament, which I take to mean it is going to be the National Assembly and National Council together, which indeed is going to be as stated under NDP3 and which is going to be a very interesting and encouraging development.

My concern is the location of this Parliament, which is supposed to be a place of people, which is supposed to have a gallery full of Nationals who will come to follow the deliberation of issues. I believe because of the location of these buildings, Nationals do not normally come here. From time to time you have a few *Ayatolla's* – to borrow from the Prime Minister – coming in, but we need ordinary Namibians to come and follow the deliberations in order to have their interest, participation and interaction with their representatives. I want to find out where, if it is already known, the location of the new Parliament Building is going to be. I hope it is not going to be in one of the hills somewhere here, because then it will again be dislocated from the masses. It must be a place where the masses can easily come to follow the issues that interest them. That is my concern and interest and if the Speaker of the National Assembly can inform us, if the site is known, whether we can also suggest places. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Ncube.

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HON MANOMBE-NCUBE / HON MWANINGANGE**

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Thank you very much for the Floor, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, for the floor. I would just like to thank the House for the increased attention and reference to people with disability in terms of physical accessibility of both Houses and of information in Braille as well as sign language interpretation. It is very much commended and it shows that we are making progress.

However, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to refer to page 60 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. There is ongoing evidence that the terminology and language used is still inappropriate, to the extent that it continues to refer to people living with disabilities. Honourable Chairperson, this is contrary to the language promoted by the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities as well as the Plan of Action on the African Decade, both of which were ratified by this august House. Based on this, my humble request is whether we could reflect what our documents are saying and also the commitment that we have made?

Furthermore, I would also like to share the sentiments of Professor Katjavivi on the provision and maintenance of effective ICT, which is a very commendable and welcome gesture among us. I otherwise support this people's Vote wholeheartedly. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Mwaningange.

HON MWANINGANGE: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson. I would like to once more join the others that said Vote 03 is very important for consolidation of our democracy and, indeed, I want to put a question for clarity. However, before doing so, I wish to indicate that the SWAPO Party has been ruling this country for two decades and the Political Parties have a big role to play in the interest of the Nation and it is the time for the Political Parties to put the National interest before its own political interests. SWAPO has been doing so all the time.

My question is on the funding of the Political Parties. This contribution goes

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to the Political Parties, but are the Opposition Parties really clear on the purpose of this funding? I recall what happened in the CoD. This funding is supposed to play a big role in the political awareness campaigns by the legitimate Political Parties in this House. The Political Parties' funding needs to be utilised directly for the voters. This funding is given according to the number of seats in the Parliament and in the National Council all Parties have seats and SWAPO is in the majority. I do not know whether these funds are also available to the National Council or could it be arranged to be available in order to accelerate and allow the activities of democracy to prevail. Day and night I hear the SWAPO leaders not only talking in the interest of SWAPO, but in the interest of Namibia because we have funds, but is it not high time for the National Council to get these funds according to the seats in the National Council? This is just a simple suggestion which can be discussed under Vote 11. The National Council forms part of the Parliament, as does the National Assembly. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I want to remind Honourable Members to be brief because we still have Votes 11, 28 and 18 for discussion. I give the Floor to Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson, I shall be brief. I rise to support Vote 03 of the National Assembly.

Comrade Speaker, I think that Programme 2 is very important, especially for the Parliamentary Standing Committees, so let us start implementing. The Government is already at work, the three pillars are already at work and I do not think we need to wait. I feel the explanation by Honourable Ulenga is right, because there was no leave of absence granted in this House to these people and they have already surpassed ten days. Even if they had been sworn in, their membership would already have expired. Therefore, we do not need to consider them, they are not Members of this Parliament, they betrayed the people who wanted them to be here. Let us not give them a weapon to say we cannot even implement the Standing Committees in Parliament because they are not here. They are less important to us.

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Comrade Chairperson, we are supposed to follow the rules of Treasury, that any State money needs to be accounted for. Let us do that, so that we know the money given to Political Parties are accounted for and even audited, so that when the Parliament's accounts are audited, this information will also be reflected. With that, I support Vote 03.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Chairperson. I have only two small issues that I want to talk about. One is the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the 20 year old structure of the National Assembly. I completely agree with the Speaker that there is a need to review the structure of the National Assembly.

What we probably need to do, 20 years after Independence, is to go further than reviewing the structure alone. I would basically recommend that we put the whole Constitution into perspective. As an intellectual yourself, Honourable Speaker, I think there is always time for looking at things time and again.

The Constitution was a result of compromise that was forged before Independence and I truly think it is high time that we should call for a National Constitutional Review Conference. There have been calls from various quarters in our society that we should revisit the Constitution, that we should look at perfecting it so that we move with modern times. I hope, Honourable Speaker, that you would look at this, that this Nation needs to sit down collectively with the acquired knowledge of the past twenty years and that we look at some aspects of the Constitution.

For instance, I would say, let us sit down and free the Legislature from the domination of the Executive. Allow the President to appoint professional people to be Cabinet Ministers. Cabinet Ministers do not need to sit here, I am sure they could be doing something else. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND

CULTURE: On a Point of Information. Honourable Shixwameni of APP, you are speaking in general, which is prohibited by the very same Constitution. Could you highlight the specific needs where we need to have a review of the Constitution? You must be specific why the Opposition Parties are calling for a constitutional review. It is interesting sometimes that when people are aboard, they do not see things the same as when they are outside. You will never question the appointment of Ministers. This is not a new thing, people are globally appointed as Ministers, not on the basis of family but on intellectual considerations.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I was just illustrating by way of example that those are some aspects that could be looked at. We could also look at merging the Chambers. I would prefer one Chamber of Parliament. We could still ensure regional representation with one Chamber. That is just by way of example.

I would prefer that the President has the liberty to appoint professional people out there to head Ministries and for the legislators to concentrate on the business of lawmaking.

The Speaker also talked about the support staff. It cannot be over-emphasised that it is in fact needed. This situation of the politician being the researcher and the legal drafter is really taxing. If we are to enhance the capacity of the lawmakers, we need to give them professional support staff, people who can advise them on political issues being discussed on the Floor. The Constitution also provides that Members can table Private Members' Bills. If I take the Amendment of a Bill to a lawyer to help me, I will not be able to afford it. However, if Members have access to a pool of legislative drafters for the National Assembly, they could be assisted to table Private Members' Bills.

On page 5 there is the issue of funding of Political Parties. I associate myself with what the Prime Minister and Honourable Professor Katjavivi said, that we can no longer run around this issue. We need to put our foot down and say that the Political Parties which receive State funding have to be accountable. There are no two ways around that. We cannot justify it to the people out there, because this can be seen that we are basically concealing corruption and we need to put our foot down.

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My last point that I want to make along those lines is Members' Asset Register. If we ourselves who make the Rules violate them, the integrity of this Chamber is basically damaged. I read reports in the *Insight Magazine* where many Members for the past five years have failed to declare their interests or declared flimsy their interests. (Interjections). No, I am not saying it is the truth, but I am saying that if that is the case that the register is not updated or implemented by the law, that we need to update that register and I hope that the Honourable Speaker would be able to put his foot down and demand from Members that the register is updated and open for public scrutiny. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The last is Honourable Uutoni.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My point has already covered by Honourable Mwaningange, but there is a need for the two Houses to have those funds and we are really demanding for that.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Floor is given to the Honourable Speaker to respond.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would have been utterly surprised if anybody could have suggested that they do not support this Vote. It has nothing to do with the Speaker, it is your Vote and human beings are not known for deliberately shooting themselves in the foot.

I am also surprised by the level of such wonderful ideas that this time have been generated in the House on very fundamental issues that actually go beyond Parliament, that are National issues, management issues or public administration issues that all three branches of Government should have found a way, not so much in the exercise of the review of the Constitution, which is an issue on its own, but for the sake of good governance. Those are issues that

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go far beyond Vote 03 and that the Leader of the Government Business in the House should have kick-started, what most of the other Honourable Members have ended up amplifying and added to. Since I am responsible as Speaker, because of that occupancy, to motivate three votes, namely the one of the National Assembly, the National Council and Electoral Commission vote, which equally I read out as transmitted to me, I must therefore assume the responsibility to account.

With regard to Programme 2, relating to the question on the administration of the National Assembly, the system that I, as Member of Parliament, for a longer period as Member of the Executive than being the Speaker, have found when I shifted from the Executive to the Speaker's Office, is the Parliament, both Houses of Parliament, and I have also on occasion said including the Judiciary, are treated as stepchildren. It begins and ends with the Executive, you literally have to get down on your knees if you are representing Parliament or the Judiciary to get what is assumed to be entitlement. If we are talking about three equal branches of State, which must exercise checks and balances on each other, the Parliament and Judiciary are under-resourced. The figures, obviously, speak for themselves. That is what I was speaking about, Right Honourable Prime Minister.

The Secretariat of the National Assembly and by extension, that of the National Council, are treated as members of the Public Service. It might sound simple to say that, but the actual treatment of the staff members of Parliament does not get the same consideration that the others outside Parliament get. I do not know so much about the Judiciary. Therefore, the need to review the staff complement of the Parliament – and I know more about the National Assembly – is an urgent consideration.

As a consolidation of democracy, as it relates to the Standing Committees that are so essential for the actual oversight of Parliament, is best carried out not by the Speaker's Office but the Standing Committees and because of that they need to be properly resourced, including some of the things the Honourable Members talked about. We do not have a competent section of the administration that provides legal research and backup work for the Honourable Members, that is not there. It is not an issue that we should discuss at the time when we are considering Vote 03 and I need to remind the Right Honourable Prime Minister as Leader of the Government Business that it is perhaps our joint responsibility.

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With regard to the errant Political Parties, those that have been elected by the people, I see it as an act of irresponsibility and in this case, that they are delinquent children and we do not call them that they are irresponsible, but to be elected and not show up for swearing in, is in that political sense the height of irresponsibility of leadership. There is no excuse for it, nothing is more overriding than the power and the responsibility given you by the people who elected you. Everything else must take second place to that responsibility. I say that only to say, because so many of you have talked on this, that the non-functioning of the Standing Committees by implication means that the Speaker, who has responsibility over it, has absolutely nothing to do with it.

I confess that the day after the swearing in of our President I had to leave for Thailand to put on the other hat to preside over the Assembly session of IPU. It was in my absence that the Ruling Party caucus met and drew up a list of Members for the Standing Committees. I got some information while I was there and each information after the other was contradicting what I have received earlier. Therefore, when I came back, I started making enquiries because the list that I saw was bewildering as to the membership assigned to different Standing Committees and I am still awaiting an opportunity, since I was not here, to understand the rationale behind the decisions taken by the Party that I belong to. It is rather that than the absence of Parties and if Honourable Ulenga is the one who said that they are not Members of this House, he is correct. The act of being elected is, but one and that election assumes that after you are elected to the National Assembly, you would be sworn in. It is only after you are sworn in by the competent officer of the Court that you become a Member of this House. Therefore, let us not confuse ourselves by automatically deeming them that they are Members. They are prospective Members, Members-to-be, but they must be sworn in. If I am wrong then I need to be advised.

Thus, the reason for the non-functioning of the Standing Committees is squarely the responsibility of the Majority Party. I need to be advised properly and I have sought that advice on a number of occasions and I am awaiting through whatever form that would come to help me to play my part. After you are sworn in and you are ten days absent, then of course you are no longer deemed a Member of the House. That has not happened.

About Political Parties accounting for their funds, this is actually more the responsibility of Cabinet and less of the National Assembly, because the

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money given to them does not come from the National Assembly Vote, it comes from the State Treasury. The National Assembly does not have the power to tax people and hand out the money that we collect. Out of that we collect, we earmark some money for Political Parties. Perhaps soon the Political Parties which get this money should be good citizens and assume the responsibility on their own and account for the money. It does not work that way in real life, all must account in detail.

Honourable !Nawases, you said something about the structure of the National Assembly not providing for support staff. Yes and no, the support staff are there, but obviously, it is inadequate and they are not able to provide the level of support the Honourable Members require. This is because the salary scales of the Legal Directorate, for example is so low, that those who were here left, about three of them since I came here, because they got greener pastures somewhere else and people go where the money is. In the Strategic Plan we suggest which is being worked on now that we would indicate the level that is required, not only of the legal experts but also those that would do research, including ICT experts to provide for the needs indicated by the Honourable Members.

Dr Abraham Iyambo also mentioned consolidation of democracy and sanctioning of those Political Parties who are being referred to as those who are absent without leave. I have explained that, but you, with your very ingenious mind, have suggested that the money earmarked for them should be redistributed to the parties who are here. It is an interesting idea, but I think I am not competent to say yes or no on that.

Honourable Ulenga, you wanted to know whether the Strategic Plan we are busy working on is the same thing as the Agenda for Change, a proposal which was brought here when I used to sit on this side of the House. Some things are obviously similar, but this is an updated version of some of the things that were contained in that proposal of Agenda for Change.

You also wanted to know about the relationship between the National Assembly and the National Council. I do not know how many of us still here were Members of the Constitution Drafting Committee. I know the Right Honourable Prime Minister was there. Some of you have thrown around the idea of one Chamber, but among probably three broad areas that consumed most of the time of the Drafting Committee was whether we should have one

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or two Chambers. Originally there was only one Chamber in the SWAPO Party's Constitution, but we had to look at the SWAPO Party of Namibia delegation sitting on the Drafting Committee as the incoming Government and we looked at some of the issues differently when we were drafting our own Constitution. It was in the light of that, that when we got the key things that we were particularly concerned about, we became flexible on the two Chambers. We accepted, that we, the incoming National Assembly would govern alone for two years run the business of the country and it will be our responsibility as that National Assembly to create the National Council.

Some of the Colleagues who were Members of the Drafting Committee thought the SWAPO will control the National Assembly and they would control the National Council. The reality is that when the National Council was created, SWAPO took it over and continues up to today to run it. Therefore, it is that past that we are living with and speaking as a citizen, not as Speaker, maybe the time has come for us to go back and revisit this issue and have only one Chamber. That proposal has been made, realising that even one-chamber Parliaments have mechanisms to do review, sometimes more efficiently than two-chamber Parliaments do. There are ways to deal with this.

For now the people in the National Council, like those in the National Assembly, are politicians and one of the good things politicians do is to be seen, to shake hands, to kiss babies, to be seen around hospitals, to be seen around schools, visiting old-aged homes, go to church and so on. The people in the National Council are saying, if they do that in the National Assembly, we should also do it and that is the reality, Honourable Ulenga. For now it is the Constitution that dictates that there will be a National Council.

I have responded to the question why the Standing Committees have not started doing their work. I hope that at the end of the Budget when we have a break, this should be an issue of the past, that the Majority Party would bring us together and that we will dispose of this issue. We are not violating any rules, it is just not a good thing that, you reminded us, so much time after the National Assembly has commenced its work, the Committees have not started working.

You also wanted to know why the Chinese are the ones who are doing the reconstruction and upgrading of the Parliament Building. I see more black people than Chinese outside, so it might be a joint venture. Somebody was

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saying that these are Namibian Chinese, I do not know.

I have myself been screaming in the ears of my people, I must confess not successfully, about the National Assembly website. It is a disgrace and the staff members, some of them senior people, who accompany me when I go to conduct IPU business, see how that organisation is rated among the best in the world in terms of not only having a website, but so many things about it. When something happens, it can be found on their Website within three hours. Things we say here, albeit it belatedly, are recorded, but our website leaves much to be desired and the staff members are listening and I hope that they will respond to the challenge we are putting to them. They are the ones who are supposed to do this and if there are any problems, they should let me know and if I need to consult the Right Honourable Prime Minister, I shall do so. However, it is a disgrace and since I am responsible for this Vote, I fully take the blame. The points on ICT, efficiency and effectiveness and all that are taken.

Honourable Nickey Iyambo, on the location of this Chamber, you know very well that this was the office of the German Colonial Governor. It was not intended to be a Parliament. My predecessor, Dr Tjitendero, tried his level best to make this building look like this. This part where we are was not there, but he tried and with the help of people with presence of mind, we created this set-up to make it appear as if it is a Parliament building, but it is too small in terms of today's requirements of a functioning Parliament. I love the Parliament Garden, so wherever the new Parliament is going to be, I hope we will find a way to transfer the Parliament Garden to that new Parliament. How to do that

At the time when this building was built, Windhoek was where the train station is and this was a suburb, very far from there on a hill, but of course, it is now in the heart of Windhoek and quite not suitable for the concerns you have expressed. We say it is the House of the people and people are expected to come here every day to observe what we are doing, but it is not people-friendly because of its location. I take that point.

Honourable Ncube, you keep on reminding us that we have to do things in line with the decisions taken by the United Nations, the African Union and such other interNational and exemplary institutions. The language we use, the attitude that we have towards people living with disabilities – and you have

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said that even that one is not the right way to say it. Keep on reminding us so that we do it right.

Honourable Mwaningange and Honourable Ilonga I have dealt with the funding of Political Parties and the requirement for their accountability.

Honourable Shixwameni, you talked about the need for us to have a National constitutional review convention. Other people have also said that, more so when we were celebrating 20 years of Namibia's Constitution on the 9th of February. We were doing introspection as to whether this Constitution twenty years later still holds and keeps the vision that we had when we were drafting it?

Lastly, on the issue of Members of Parliament declaring their financial situations, this probably would be one of the greatest embarrassments to a number of us. Because we have not been challenged, we probably think we are clever. But there is evidence that people know best, so there are some things that we should urgently do and this one squarely falls within the realm of responsibility of the Speaker, being the Chairperson of the Privileges Committee.

It is a legal requirement and to the extent that we are not doing it, we are violating the law, we are embarrassing the House and we as individuals live to face the embarrassment, yes some of us.

On this score the House is divided. There are those who belong to the Executive and the Executive has its own machinery as to how the Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers account to the satisfaction of the Head of State who appoints them. Therefore, this really applies more to the category called the backbenchers and I suppose I belong to the backbenchers. Maybe I should take the initiative on this issue and talk to the Leader of the Government Business and the two of us will take it further.

I think I have answered everything. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussion? Honourable Ulenga.

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HON ULENGA: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I will indeed be very brief.

This is the only time that we really get to talk about issues which are closest to us as MPs, so I have a few more questions. Some of the stuff that the Speaker mentioned raised a few more questions.

I was not here when the Minister of Veterans Affairs spoke, I came in while he was dealing with the tail-end of his speech about the new Parliament. This morning when I woke up at 03:00 and went through all these documents, I could not find the National Development Plan 3, so I could not locate this new Parliament being referred to. Honourable Speaker, you will remember, that for a long time I have been squabbling in this House about the new State House and the new State House is now a fact, it is not even new any longer, but I really hope – and I do not see any figures reflected anywhere in the documents – that with this new

Parliament and its development, we will only come to consider that building when it is really necessary and when we can say with certainty that there are no other issues which should enjoy our consideration and which we should prioritise more than the new Parliament.

There is this tendency in several countries in Southern Africa of building so-called dormitory townships and this seems to continue even with Independence, putting the blacks in that corner and then the people at the centre. It is not necessarily the point that Parliaments should be moved to Katutura, but that tendency must end, the people must be all over. There are people who are complaining that why should we still put so-called dormitory townships where people must sleep and then they must move out and work in town? This may belong to another Vote, but the people can be brought here, not just to take pictures when it is their wedding days and so forth, but we should live all over town.

The second issue, the Speaker is talking about the grounds and they are so much ours that we would want to go with them if we have to move from here. I actually have to ask the question, to what extent are these grounds really Parliament's and to what extent do they belong to us in terms of control also? I see that other private instances come here, hold events and functions and I want to know these people pay Parliament or do they pay the State generally?

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To what extent do we as Parliament get something from the functions which are held on the grounds here?

I have always been wondering about that house in the north-eastern corner of these premises which looks like a restaurant. I am not so sure whether this is a private or public restaurant. I have heard complaints by the public that apparently this house is open only to one racial group. (Interjection). Walk in the grounds, the north-eastern corner of these premises. People say that they only see whites going in there. Is this Restaurant open to all the people in Namibia? Is it a private place or what?

Honourable Speaker, talking of Restaurants, I think the Speaker as leader of the House should be congratulated with regard to the new people who are running the Restaurant. There are visible improvements. However, it seems we as Members of Parliament are letting our people down. The Restaurant here will never pick up as long as we have our functions elsewhere. In order for them to be really good and better, they need to be supported by Members of Parliament and I would like to call upon Parliament as an institution and also individual Members of Parliament, especially Ministers, to come and eat here at this Restaurant.

Lastly, talking about enhancement of democracy and taking the Parliament to the people, a few years ago we passed a Motion in this House with regard to the establishment of Regional Parliamentary Centres to extend Parliament into the Regions. Can the Speaker just brief the House on what the status is of that resolution and how far you have gone with the preparations for the establishment of Regional Parliamentary Centres?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. The principle of erecting a new Parliament has been accepted and that is why it is reflected in the National Development Plan 3. There are some good people who are prepared to assist us with financing as well.

The Parliamentary gardens belong to the Government. The Ministry of Works and Transport is the responsible Ministry and we are the caretaker institution and people who make use of the Parliament Garden facilities are charged. We

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

collect that money and transfer it to State Treasury.

I am not good with directions and I have been in Windhoek since 1956. I stowed away in a train and when I came here, the sun rose in the wrong direction and ever since 1956 I do not know my directions in Windhoek. I go by what you tell me. I know things that are in Windhoek West and Windhoek East and I go by that. When you were talking, from where I stand, this is what you call north-east.

There are two buildings that I can think of because I can see them from my office. The one building is occupied by the SADC Parliamentary Forum.

Once upon a time it used to be a restaurant, but it is no longer. Next to it is a building, I do not think it is a restaurant, where people are bowling and it is true that most of the people you see there are white people, except for one lady who use to do some other functions elsewhere. I do not know about a restaurant in that particular building, but if the people who are working in that restaurant are the ones who whispered this information to you, I would engage you, Honourable Members, on a friendly basis to do some intelligence and let me know what the actual situation is on the ground.

I agree with you that we have a good restaurant here, but we are patronising it. There is even a nice bar there, but of course, you have to pay. Even if you rent the restaurant for other purposes, you pay.

Taking democracy to the people, Honourable Ankama brought a Motion here, proposing regional centres. The idea is still alive, but there are financial constraints. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I now put Vote 03, National Assembly. Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 11 – “NATIONAL COUNCIL” is put for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I will be very brief.

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We have to commend the National Council for the initiatives mentioned on page 2, such as the translation and interpretation in sign language, translating their Minutes in Braille and the planned live broadcasts on NBC Radio and TV.

I have a question on page 4 where the National Council is talking of having established a Workplace Committee on HIV/AIDS and an awareness programme. I just want to find out, Comrade Speaker, whether the two Houses

could not collaborate on this programme, so that we have only one awareness programme for the Namibian Parliament.

On page 5: The National Council is planning to acquire and maintain an information and communication network facility. I want to know how exactly they are planning this. I remember at one point the Honourable Speaker referred to the same programme for us at the National Assembly. As you rightly said, we have a long way to go. I want to know whether the system is going to facilitate for Members of the National Council to follow the Debates when they are outside the country, as with such facilities there is a possibility that one can follow what is happening in the Chamber every day. I want to know whether this is what the National Council is planning, because from the motivation they are very innovative. I commend them and maybe the National Assembly can learn from them. I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.
Honourable Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:
Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I only wish to put a request through the Speaker to the National Council. In paragraph 2 on page 2 mention is made of their visits to Regions and there was a Committee which dealt with gender issues. I thought maybe the Speaker could encourage the Colleagues that we share information, that they give us their report when they return from the Regions or if they do not share with the House, they could give a copy to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare so that we will be on the same level of understanding of what they discovered. That is my request to the Speaker,

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that we share the information they have gathered from the Regions, so that we have the same level of understanding. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Minister Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have a general question which I think is very fundamental.

I was looking at the cover page of this Vote, which was presented by Honourable Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, and I know that when the Budget is presented, the National Council Members also sit in here as a joint kind of sitting, what is it that prevents the Chairman of the National Council to come and present his own Vote, because he is actually a Member of Parliament?

As the Honourable Speaker read the speech which was presented to him, you could see the confusion where on page 1 they are referring to "*Honourable Deputy Chairperson.*" You are the Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and I do not know how it will appear in the HANSARD. On the last page it refers to the Honourable Deputy Speaker, but I find the "*Honourable Deputy Chairperson*" a bit confusing.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any further discussion? Honourable Speaker, you have the Floor.

HON SPEAKER: In response to *Honourable Ndaitwah*, the answer is that the two accounting officers can collaborate to organise a joint programme on HIV/AIDS.

Internet broadcasting will be looked into during the next Budget and the proposal is welcomed.

Honourable Dr Iyambo, I must admit that perhaps it is understandable in the case of the Electoral Commission, only to the extent that it is sort of hanging in

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the air and looking for a lost parent. Until such time as we create an independent Electoral Commission, for now it is a political football. It used to be in the Office of the Prime Minister initially, but the Opposition Parties regularly complained that it was being manipulated by the Government. Regardless of explanations and reassurances by the successive Prime Ministers, that did not satisfy them, so at the end it was transferred to the Speaker to present the Vote and that is what I am doing.

The question as to why the Chairman of the National Council on this occasion cannot himself come, as he does in other instances, is an open question. I do not know who decided that the Speaker should defend his Vote. I am unable to answer the questions, I am reading it as it is provided to me. I do not know the background and I cannot justify anything. I think the point is taken, we will explore. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection to Vote 11? Agreed to.

I put **Vote 28 – “ELECTORAL COMMISSION”** for **Discussion**.

HON UITELE: Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I rise to support Vote 28 of the Electoral Commission of Namibia.

On page, paragraph 3, it reads: *“The ECN is continuously making efforts to enhance cost effectiveness and operational efficiency through the training of staff members with specific emphasis on competence, professionalism, accountability and transparency.”*

Honourable Chairperson, with regard to the training of the staff members of the Electoral Commission, I thought that it is also important to include the police officers, because these colleagues are not trained, they are just there to ensure that the boxes are safe, but it is important that they also be trained to know the process during the elections.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I think that the other important issue is that the people who are recruited during the elections must

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be registered voters. We have people working during the elections, but they themselves are not registered and it must be one of the requirements for those who are taken up also to be registered voters.

The last comment is on voters' education mentioned on page 5. We have civic educators that are doing voters' education in the Regions and I feel these colleagues must be assisted with transport, because we have realised that most of them are hitchhiking to go and do voters' education and as a result, the voters' education and mobilisation is not done effectively. In future we must take this into consideration and assist them with transport.

I thank you very much and I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Mwaningange.

HON MWANINGANGE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chair, Honourable Members. I rise to discuss the legal challenges to Opposition Parties, especially the current ones. These challenges are unrealistic to a certain extent. I am not trying to go to the current case before the courts, but I am trying to mention the legal challenge not to occur in future and to harmonise these interruptions and interferences. There is a commitment by Political Parties from the stage of registering for the election ... (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Honourable Member is not talking to the Vote, but he can proceed.

HON MWANINGANGE: The legal challenges can be minimised. The Political Parties do have their representatives who are called political polling agents at the points. Then they are accountable to report and record things which occur at the elections. They are at the polling stations as the representatives of the Parties and maybe at that stage the ECN is not the one to be answerable for whatever happened there. If they endorse that everything was proper and well, then there could be need to come back and to challenge the administration, etcetera.

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In Angola they have appointed people who are the political representatives at the polling points and that they do not have problems after the election outcome. The Parties make sure that their representatives are acquainted with the process and will be responsible for any outcome, and not to come and cry to the public that the election was not fair and free. Thank you, Comrade Chair.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to say a few things with regard to this very important Vote.

I would like to start off by pointing out and perhaps the Speaker will still be able to correct himself, as this does not sound like him when he says he is made to read things. I think even if the Speaker is made to read things, eventually whatever he reads becomes his ... (Intervention)

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: On which Vote are you?

HON ULENGA: It is just that I have a funny way of introducing things. I am now specifically referring to page 4, the second paragraph. There is a reference to the so-called "*RDP alliances*". What RDP is being referred to? (Interjections).

HON MEMBER: Okahandja!

HON ULENGA: No, there is no reference to Okahandja here.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, could you repeat so that the Honourable Speaker could take note?

HON ULENGA: (Interjections) Could you ask these Members to keep quiet so that I can speak?

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, in the second paragraph, "*Legal Challenges*", the third-last line in that paragraph reads: "*A case in point is the RDP alliances of 2009.*" (Interjections).

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Please, Honourable Members, give a chance to the Speaker to understand the question.

HON ULENGA: "*A case in point is the RDP alliances of 2009*" and then it goes on to refer to the Court case. I think everybody is capable of forming alliances and when they have been formed, they can be referred to as alliances. Until that has happened, there is no necessity and no excuse to talk about these kinds of things. However, it does not sound like the Speaker's language.

It even goes on and says, "*after losing the case in the High Court.*" The case was struck from the roll, not heard. It was not lost.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me try to go back to the beginning and make the following further comments:

This is a very important National vote and I can tell you, very easily our democracy can stand or fall with this particular vote. I am getting the impression that there is a consistent tendency of under-Budgeting when it comes to this Vote. I have looked at various figures and sometimes one cannot even believe your eyes. On page 4 they are talking about legal challenges.

These legal challenges are going to be there for whatever reasons and they have put aside only N\$220,000 for legal challenges. I understand a single lawyer costs more than that per day. This is not the only example, it is all over this document. For example, they Budgeted N\$1 million for by-elections and

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in 2008 alone there were three by-elections and it could easily be that there can be even up to six by-elections in one particular here and nobody knows what will happen this year. I think there is a tendency to under-Budget and perhaps the figures, with the gracious consideration of the Honourable Minister of Finance, could be looked at again.

Many of you will remember that during the Rundu Urban-West by-elections a few years ago, the Electoral Commission was obliged to change the programme whereby they had to set up new polling points. To what extent that was the legal or not? The fact of the matter is that apparent the Electoral Commission is even obliged or forced to introduce stuff that will definitely involve extra spending of money.

When one looks through this document, it seems the money set aside for various activities of the Electoral Commission is really not sufficient. They have put aside N\$2 million for the ICT Results Centre and for computerisation of the ECN Logistics, only N\$400,000.

There is reference to continuous registration of voters on page 2. I initially understood this continuous registration of voters to refer to a registration of voters that is really continuous, that is happening at all times. According to this document, Honourable Speaker, it seems the so-called continuous registration of voters is actually an event that takes place only once and it is left. In which way is it then continuous? With the interaction from the public and voters, it looks like people feel this process should be ongoing if it is really continuous. There should be officials of the Electoral Commission in every constituency who are registering voters as they make themselves available for registration.

The of course, there is the issue of the infamous voters' register. I think, not only from the experience of last year's election, but even from previous experiences, it is high time that the Electoral Commission really pulls up its socks. Some of the people there have been on the job now for a long time and this unfortunate squabbling comes from the fact that the Electoral Commission refuses to pull up its socks. For example, why should we have three different voters' registers presented to the public and all of them different and that after 20 years of democratic experience? It is just not called for.

The Electoral Commission should establish a credible voters' register and

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should have it ready at all times, so that there cannot be any reason whatsoever, any excuse of anybody questioning something that is set up according to the most modern electronic specifications.

The Electoral Commission, in pulling up their socks, should also start thinking in terms of long-term planning. In the beginning of 2005 when the previous administration started doing its work, it was already known that at the end of that period there will be a nationwide election, involving Presidential and National Assembly elections. Why did it look like that when the event came the Electoral Commission was not properly prepared?

I am sure when this is now really called independent, and I hope we will be there very soon, we have to stop confusing Government or the ruling party with the Electoral Commission. The Electoral Commission is supposed to be separate. When we point fingers at the Electoral Commission, we are not pointing fingers at SWAPO, but the way certain people confuse these things is very unfortunate. The Electoral Commission should be responsible for the mistakes that they make.

Honourable Chairperson, I seem to have made all the points that I wanted to make so far, I will reserve the right to come back. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Floor is given to the Speaker to respond.

HON SPEAKER: Actually what I said about the need, which I gathered is the sense of the House, for the Chairman of the National Council, accompanied by his experts, to come and sit here during the consideration of the Vote of the National Council, I think should also apply to the Electoral Commission. It is a very important National, technical storehouse of institutional memory and because of the tasks assigned to it from time to time, the people that we appoint to that Commission should also have an opportunity to be present here.

I do not see any law or regulation standing in their way to answer questions put to them by the Honourable Members. On that basis, Honourable Ulenga, what I said in respect of the Chairman of the National Council, that I get the

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document from the National Council and read it out as is and pray that no questions are put to me, is true for the Electoral Commission. Therefore, I do assume – and I have enough lawyers around me to defend me – that by reading out what I have informed the House, is not my statement, I am carrying out an agency service and I am, therefore, not responsible for commas and full-stops and even the language and paragraphs in that document. Therefore, I do not assume responsibility. I do not edit, I just make sure, through my staff members, that they apply their minds and the product that they send over to me to do that function, is something that they can live with. Do not hold me accountable for what is said by the Electoral Commission.

Honourable Ueitele, we all support the Electoral Commission and some of the suggestions that you have made. We will certainly bring it to their attention.

Honourable Mwaningange, we are a country of laws, of Courts and I think I have said enough, responding to other Votes, that people who stand for elections should assume responsibility when they are elected and that we set a good example in Namibia, because we are really the country that from 1989 and particularly when it became a democratic Republic, kick-started the democratisation process on the African continent and we, therefore, have some degree of obligation that we continue to preach the gospel of democracy and that those who lose elections should accept the verdict of the people.

One of the things so central to democracy is the Rule of Law and it also applies to Courts and lawyers. However, the first responsibility, in my view, is that after elections people should respect the verdict of the electorate, set aside all the technical implications, come to be sworn in and if there are complaints to be lodged, to do it from the Floor of the House. In the meantime you fulfil the responsibility given you through elections, having been voted by a certain number of people who elected you and you should respect that. We however, do not want to talk too much about it, I will limit it to what the Honourable Member has said and what appear to be interfering with the Judiciary. So much for that.

Honourable Ulenga, I have explained the first part of it, I do not assume responsibility for what these people have said.

The Electoral Commission is continuously making efforts to enhance cost-effectiveness and operational efficiency through the training of staff members,

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with specific emphasis on competence, professionalism, accountability and transparency. Then they continue to say, due to the financial constraints and the austerity measures being implemented by Government, the Electoral Commission has submitted a rather conservative Budget to take it through the Financial Year.

Your question implies that they wanted N\$10, but they have been advised by somebody that they are only going to get N\$3. I do not have any basis for that. If they have under-Budgeted, next time they should look around and make sure that they ask the money that they need to do the kinds of things that you talked about. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection to Vote 28? Agreed to.

Vote 18 – “ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM” is put for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I support Vote 18 and I only want to make a brief comment on page 4, the last paragraph with reference to wildlife crime prevention, inspection and law enforcement and the same goes for page 7, Programme 2 – Protection and Management of Key Species and for the conduct of research, monitoring of key species and the implementation of wildlife treaties, just to culminate into page 3, third paragraph, where you were speaking of over three thousand tourism businesses that have been registered in 2009.

I do not know how effective we are actually monitoring and protecting these endangered species, because during the course of my last responsibility as a Minister it took me to various places where I have seen what the public are doing in relation to wildlife – really mass killings, so to speak. Even those species that are characterised as endangered species are being slaughtered I wonder whether in future our tourism area is going to make an impact on our economic development, because wildlife is one of those reasons that bring tourists here. I am just wondering, Honourable Minister, what can be done in that regard to root out this widespread killing of wildlife, even those that are registered as endangered species. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Ncube.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am just seeking clarity or information about the concern of the public about the elephants that are roaming around Omusati, Kunene, Omaheke, Erongo and Kavango, to mention but a few. These animals are destroying people's crops and water points and it is a matter of grave concern to the community.

Our Constitution provides for freedom of movement and people would like to move around without any infringement on their freedom of movement by these animals. I am informed that people cannot even go into the field, perhaps to do some meditation if they want to be on their own, because they are afraid of these animals. Are there any measures in place to solve this problem and rescue this horrible situation, Honourable Minister? I thank you and I support the Vote.

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, I was a referee on an occasion when a lawyer and a priest or politician were debating about creation of Namibia. The lawyer was saying that God, as a young man, started experimenting in Namibia to create the world, that is why it looks the way it does, whereas the priest or politician said no, that is not how it happened, He was a young God, yes, but He went around the world, as young people do, did all the things that we see in the world, but during His retirement God settled here, in Namibia and that is how He created Namibia and I liked that second version because it is true.

I come from the Erongo Region and particularly the part of the Erongo Region which is so close to the Skeleton Coast, the desert, the dunes. I talked about the quad bikes previously when I had a similar opportunity, the quad bikes. I have satisfied myself that the overwhelming majority of these motorbikes

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come during a certain period of the year, in other words they are not Namibian. The people who come and ruin the desert and the dunes are foreigners.

In 1992 we attended, the conference in Rio under the leadership of late Honourable Niko Bessinger, and because our Constitution was the youngest and inclusive of bio-diversity and sustainable development, the late Niko Bessinger had the presence of mind, but he had boxes of our Constitution and I remember giving copies to people like Al Gore and he repeated it publicly when we paid a visit to Washington, how much current our Constitution was. Therefore, we have that responsibility, Honourable Minister, and I do not know and I hope you are not being persuaded by any other consideration, that you put an end to these bikes. There is no justification, I do not think that it generates income for Namibia, it is a disgrace. Stop it, Minister. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Chairperson. I just have a few questions to ask. On page 5 the Honourable Minister talked about the Namibia Wildlife Resorts. What is holding up the transfer of the assets to this particular company? It seems that there is a battle as to what is going to happen with the assets.

On the first page the Minister talks about climate change and I would like to know what progress we as a Nation have made, particularly in relation to the Kyoto Protocol. Given the fact that the Kyoto Protocol expires in about three years, I do not see that Namibia has benefited in any way, particularly from trading in Carbon Credit I would like to find out what is its status.

With regard to trophy hunting, it seems that this sector is dominated – unfortunately to use this word – by a certain racial group at the exclusion of others. I was told that in order to become a professional hunter, you need to gain certain qualifications and write certain examinations and apparently it is just a monopoly of a few people that administer this examination and it is so tough that you would probably not be able to hunt. What measures are being taken to open up this particular area of professional trophy hunting?

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Those are my questions and I support this Vote because it is one area of our economy that needs to be opened up to the previously disadvantaged so that they can benefit from the fruits of the beauty of our country. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Makgone, you have the Floor.

HON MAKGONE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My comment is on page 1, paragraph 3, climate change. I am not going back to yesterday's discussion, but just for information. Yesterday there were calls for this topic to be included in the textbooks and I would say that this topic is included in the syllabus as from Grade 5 to Grade 12. In Grades 5 and 6 it deals with pollution and then it be intensified as it goes through the Grades.

What we should know is that climate change is a threat to sustainable economic development. It affects a broad spectrum. It is like HIV/AIDS, it is a cross-cutting issue and every Ministry should take up awareness because it affects every Ministry. Any implementation of the mitigation or adaptation strategies should cut across all the Ministries and then we can deal with climate change.

On page 6 it is mentioned that the Ministry is very pleased with the 14% increase and I am also pleased and I support the Vote.

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

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I think I should start by offering congratulations on behalf of everybody, because it is very nice to hear that Namibia has been listed as a finalist in the Tourism for Tomorrow Award. Let us hope that the award comes home because we deserve it. Congratulations, Minister.

Secondly, I want to raise an issue that is slightly on the outside, but I have been wondering and I think this is the time to mention it. I hear and I see that there has been a lot of excitement at the discovery of hoodia. This is the usual stuff that we have trampled on for centuries, just like we did with the diamonds. Somebody came from elsewhere to come and tell us this thing is so special. Anyhow, there is a third product of Namibia that many of you, I am sure, value very much and I have just been wondering why this is not equally made as important as it should be and this is the product called the Kalahari truffles.

When I was a small boy, at the point of entering a secondary school near the Right Honourable Prime Minister's village, I discovered a wonderful foodstuff called the *Omatumbula*. In English it is called the Kalahari truffle. This has exactly the same effect on the human body as the hoodia, but why is this product not as elevated interNationally as hoodia? I hope you would look into that one.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I see that on page 1 of the Minister's speech she refers to the establishment of an eminent National advisory body on climate change. What kind of status and functions will this body have? Is it advisory to the Ministry, is it to the Cabinet, or is it to the President? Perhaps the Minister can shed some more light on this one. Is it consisting of experts or just wise men and women?

Then the Minister continues to refer to several projects to address climate change which are being implemented, but the Minister was very vague on illuminating these particular projects. What exactly has been happening?

Then, of course, the big question about floods. Every year when I talk to elderly people about this wonderful, amazing experience, everybody is able to tell me that, no, these present floods are surpassed only by the floods of 1933. When you look at the books here at the archives, they tell you that this is not new, it has happened three, four times in the last two hundred years. To what extent are these floods really as a result of climate change? I am now talking specifically about the floods which we have been witnessing in the Kunene flood plains, the Zambezi flood plains and the Kavango flood plains. The mere fact that these flood plains exist means that for millions of years water has been coming down those slopes. That is the only reason why there should be a flood plain, because it is formed by water flooding. It is not formed by God in

preparation of floods that would come later, it is formed in the actual activity of flooding. Is this really a new phenomenon or is it just something we have not been prepared for? I am not questioning the reality of climate change, I just want to know whether, with the floods of 2008 and 2009, we must now prepare ourselves for the worst.

The second item that I want to raise, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, is the impact of the global financial crisis on tourism and on the Namibian economy in general.

I see that the Minister in her speech refers to a 20% reduction in revenue. I do not know whether this is revenue to the State or whether is a reduction in the activities in the National economy as such. Perhaps the Minister could give us more information with regard to the effect on the tourism industry. For example, can the Minister talk about how many workers have been retrenched in the industry, if there have been any retrenchments and whether there are any measures to make tourism as a sector less vulnerable to global shocks?

Then again on page 2 there is special reference to a special tourism initiative, which apparently is supported with catalytic funding from somewhere. (Interjection). Those are the Minister's words, not mine. Where are the funds coming from and can this information be readily available to the members of the public so that we can apply.

Then there is the wonderful development of Boundless Southern Africa. I suppose this is what brought President Mugabe last year to Namibia and others. This is a wonderful project and I just want to know what kind of monument is being planned at the mouth of the Orange River, also because that is supposed to be no-go territory. Is the Orange River mouth not out of bounds for the ordinary human beings like you and me? Is it going to be a statue, is it going to be a building, is it going to be a hotel, for example, or what is it and who is going to be responsible to pay for that monument?

There is reference to the growth in the Tourism Industry and the Minister illustrates this by quoting figures which seem to show that the registered accommodation establishments have risen from 500 in 2004 to 4,000 in 2009. This is more than seven-fold increase. Does this really reflect the increase in terms of the actual people who have been visiting our accommodations?

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HON ULENGA**

Do you, for example, want to say that the figures of the visitors at accommodation establishments have increased similarly in the last five years?

My next question is on page 5 of the Minister's speech. The Legacy Hotels and Resorts are now supposed to be managing the Windhoek Country Club and Resort. Who are they? Are they from Siberia? Are they a mighty multi-National corporation from afar or are they part of our own people here in the spirit of encouraging the local upliftment and empowerment of local businesses?

The Minister has referred to the reintroduction of game to areas which previously did not have this and in this regard she talks about 23 farms which have received 200 heads of game. Are these game farms or are they ordinary cattle and small stock farms? If they are ordinary cattle and small stock farms, what guarantee do we have that the game will actually stay on the farms or have they been trans-located to these farms only to move on to other farms? As far as I understand, there is nothing to stop kudus from moving from farm to farm unless these are special farms. However, if they are game farms, why are the people involved not buying their own game, seeing that game, when it does not belong to the State, should be privately owned and should be bought?

You are referring to KAZA, which is the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area. My simple question is, why no Mozambique as well? I see here it is Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, but that great watercourse empties in the Indian Ocean in Mozambique. Is there any special reason why Mozambique does not form part of this wonderful development?

You are talking about staff houses being developed in several places. I just wanted to know whether the Hobas that you are referring to, is it the Hobas meteorite or is it another place called Hobas? If it is Hobas meteorite near Grootfontein, which is actually situated on private ground... (Interjection). Hobas in the South. Thank you very much. Your support behind you has answered this particular one. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Deputy Minister of Finance.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much for giving me the Floor. I will start off by congratulating the Honourable Minister Ndaitwah for the motivation which I do support. There are, however, two or three issues that I want to raise.

The first one has to do with the whole concept of revenue. I think in the statement the Minister made us aware that, for instance, gambling generates N\$15 million and one does not even know if that N\$15 million is a direct contribution to the State Revenue Fund. It is my contention that income from gambling should to be maximised and channelled directly into the State Revenue Fund. That is its very purpose, I do not see any other gain from gambling, other than generating maximum revenue so that we can fund other social programmes that are beneficial to our citizens. Gambling itself I do not think is beneficial, but the revenue we gain from that can be put to productive means. That is the first point on revenue.

The second point on revenue is that we are not so sure whether the tourism sector contributes through taxes to the revenue in the way it should. Comrade Chairperson, I just want to illustrate my point by an example:

For the last two years our Revenue Department conducted some special investigations in Revenue and we picked, amongst others, 126 enterprises that were involved in tourism. Unfortunately not one of them was in full compliance with the tax legislation, not one. I accept that the collection of revenue is the principal job of the Ministry of Finance and the Receiver of Revenue, but I do think that there are possibilities where the two institutions can co-operate better to improve that rather unsatisfactory situation.

There is another problem where we need to get some review and that has to do with how tourist businesses invoice for services delivered. My point underway here is that there are a host of tourist operators that are operating from outside our borders, either Germany, the UK, Italy or South Africa. Tourists come and book their vacation in Namibia at that office and they pay upfront lock, stock and barrel at that office. The profits that are made are, therefore, not profits made in Namibia and therefore, they are not taxable in Namibia. My point is that we should really look into how we allow invoicing in the tourism sector to happen with the aim to ensure that we do get maximum revenue.

The last point on revenue, I see in the Strategic Plan that was handed out, which I think is a very neat and beautiful document, that it says: “*National resource assets and that of parks, habitats and species are self-funding their maintenance and provide economic opportunities and benefits for private sector and neighbouring communities.*” That is the goal. It is my contention that that goal shoots far below the anticipated outcome. It is my contention that these natural resource assets are in principle common assets and if the goal is to employ these assets solely for being self-funding and for creating opportunities for the private sector, then that is not good enough.

These common resources within the ambit of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism surely must generate more income for the State so that we can fund our social projects and so that we can make better progress in funding education and funding health and funding social safety networks. That is what we anticipate from all our commercial sectors, whether it is fisheries, environment or agriculture. If they are all only self-funding, then we would have a very serious problem and the question is, Honourable Minister, whether I understand this goal correctly or not, but the language in the book reflects a picture that is not good enough.

The next point I want to raise is on the issues raised by the Minister in her speech on climate change. I think we are all together by saying climate change is happening. That is true, but I want to raise a point that may be a bit controversial. I think there is a real risk that we are taking and it links onto the Debate that we had under the Vote of Foreign Affairs.

My argument is as follows: Yes, climate change does exist, but the agenda how to address climate change was developed in fora and by people where we had very limited influence on. It is an agenda that is driven by the developed world. The risk I see is that by locking ourselves into that agenda, we run the risk of crowding out priority issues that talk to our own needs to development. One example is that we conduct research on how climate change impacts on development in, for example, the Otjozondjupa Region, but I do not see us having the priority of researching the impact of, for instance, bush encroachment on development of our resources, on poverty, on empowerment. Therefore, we should be careful that we are not being driven into an agenda that is not really supporting our own development agenda and that we allow our policy space to be eroded away.

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The next point talks to Programme 2 and that is the issue on the protection of species. I have today seen in the paper that one of these very valuable protected species, a male lion, was shot by a trophy hunter and the excuse is that the animal's collar was not seen. My contention is that if a hunting guide cannot see a collar on a lion, that hunting guide should never have a licence to hunt these animals. It is a highly valuable animal that attracts a lot of tourism and I question whether we have really enough tools in our toolbox to protect these very valuable species if things like that happen and if we accept an excuse that "*I could not see the collar.*" I would really request the Minister to look into this matter and see how we can more efficiently protect these prime animals that attract many tourists into the communal areas. With that I support the Vote and I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Kazenambo has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I support Vote 18 and I have a few comments and queries.

My first comment is on page 4 of the Minister's motivation speech and it deals with the challenges with the Windhoek Country Club which were resolved and also with regard to Legacy Hotels. I think this is water under the bridge, but my comment is on a contract of fifteen years to a private company, no matter how honest and genuine that private company is. That Country Club is a prime resort and I want to suggest that when you enter into management contracts with private companies on a venture like this for 15 or 20 years, the investor should accrue profits on the return on investment. However, now the Country Club is already there with its logistical infrastructure and you do not know why you should tie yourself to fifteen years should you not accrue any meaningful benefit from this venture. Sometimes you are taken for a ride, you have signed for 15 years and when you receive bad management or they do not accrue profits, you have already tied yourself. The way to go in a venture like this one is one or two years renewable. That is my concern, because the Country Club is already there.

While I am here, I also want to find out from the Honourable Minister whether this contract also applies to the hotel, Swakopmund Entertainment, which was also linked to Country Club, or is it only with regard to the Windhoek Country Club?

Honourable Minister, on page 4 you said: *“Government continues to maintain and manage protected areas, that even species, such as black rhino that seemed destined for extinction are now on the increase.”* Then on page 5 you said: *“The Wildlife Breeding Loan Scheme, which aims to expand the range of the animals and also to create wildlife based economic opportunities for the previously disadvantaged farmers, continue to reach greater heights, with over 200 heads of game translocated to 23 farms during the period under review.”* My question is in line with the question posed by Honourable Ulenga: Where are these farms situated? Who are these beneficiaries? Where can one get the information on who the beneficiaries are?

Honourable Minister, this scheme is a very important one, especially for people who own farms and even those in the communal areas. Awareness needs to be created as to what the procedures that need to be followed to benefit from this scheme are and how many animals the Government are distributing per year? This should be clear public information and if the information is available, I thank you for that and I ask you to excuse me my ignorance.

On the policy on human-wildlife conflict management which has been finalised and approved, I would like to echo what Honourable Ncube has said on the issue of elephants. My proposal is based on scientific research, Honourable Minister. Scientific research has it that animals such as elephants are very difficult to manage with human existence. For a number of reasons they start competing with cattle for the same food and water and because the area is overgrazed, the smaller elephants, because they cannot walk the same distance as their mothers, remain behind and then their stress levels become high. I would propose to the Minister to identify those animals which can live with human beings in terms of food and that the elephants be separated and be kept in conservation areas, because Namibia has a number of game reserves and National parks. Other species can live with human beings without conflict, but at the moment the elephants are causing havoc in our communities and they are threatening the livelihood of those communities. Therefore, the

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benefits to be derived from existing with elephants are minimal as compared to the advantages. I would suggest that elephants be kept in conservation areas, such as our National parks, our game reserves. Namibia is an arid country with a hostile environment, let us take the elephants away from the people and the rest of the animals can exist with the people.

Lastly is on the issue of trophy hunting and benefits from natural resources. My brothers and I may not be professional hunters, but our forefathers and ourselves have been hunters throughout our lives. I appeal to the Minister to speak to the hunting companies that they must open up to blacks. Blacks must have shares in those hunting companies, because they are hunting on areas which are occupied by local people in Caprivi, in Kavango, in Kunene and across the country. These hunting companies must give shares to traditional leaders, communities or even individuals, so that the people can benefit from this business. The blacks must not just demand and demand, but we must also try to do things professionally and learn, rather than just showing laziness and then accuse. The balance should be there.

I thank you and I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 18.

On page 3 it is stated that the moratorium on gambling licences is still in place, but I want to find out about this SMS gambling which people are exposed to. Everywhere you go, everything is just gambling, gambling. Under which law or regulation is this controlled and do these people also pay tax on the gambling or they are not paying because they registered a certain name of a company and from there they have many subsidiaries which are involved in gambling? It is the same method as with Country Club or Kalahari, these people are just taking other people's money. If there is a moratorium on gambling licences, I do not think we can say SMS gambling is better than going to a casino.

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My second concern is on Namibia Wildlife Resorts. I have seen that there is an increase from 13% to 20%. The whole of last year I did not visit their resorts because of the price of their accommodation. We travel throughout the world, but the prices of Namibia Wildlife Resorts are terrible. If I go with my wife, we share a bed, but we are charged as if we are in two beds. Usually when you share a room, it is cheaper. I know that Namibians get 25% discount, but it does not change anything.

What is most important in a business establishment is the turnover and if they have another look at their pricing, we will fill up those establishments.

I want to conclude by asking when the Wildlife Management Bill will be tabled. This Bill is overdue and it needs to be finalised. I thank you and I support the Vote.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: There was a very prominent question asked about the agreement for the Legacy Hotels company to continue to run the Windhoek Country Club and Resort. I am just giving information as the Chairman of the State-Owned Enterprise Council.

Honourable Members know that this hotel was built under the supervision of the very famous company, Stocks & Stocks, with money from GIPF, borrowed and guaranteed at that time by Government for a good reason, because we had high ambitions, we wanted to host Miss Universe and hosting these international events require you to put up facilities which are of such quality that they have to cost you money.

Our friends in South Africa are hosting the World Cup, they have put billions and billions into soccer stadiums and on our part we had to put some money into the construction of the Windhoek Country Club and Resort through Stocks & Stocks. The history is known to you all that eventually Stocks & Stocks could not pay back the money to GIPF and Government as the guarantor had to pay the money and took over the hotel.

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Legacy is part of the Stocks & Stocks company. The company was given the management service by Stocks & Stocks, but since these companies were in the same stable, at one point it was alleged that the hotel was not in a position to meet its business requirements and an internal loan was advanced to the Country Club Hotel by Stocks & Stocks. Because of that, we were caught in a vicious circle and we had to find a balance somewhere. Either we had to pay back the N\$14 million plus interest or we had to agree with the management company to continue to manage the hotel and recoup their money and at the same time money is profitable. We had to make those business decisions so that we save the day. Therefore, colleagues, there is a history to this agreement and I hope that you will not insist on saying that there was something wrong in offering fifteen years of management services to this company.

For now the hotel is doing well, it is making profit. The other option which was there was to auction that hotel. That was the worst thing we could do, because Government in paying back the money to GIPF has incurred a huge bill and that hotel must pay back that bill over time before we can consider to auction the hotel. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Floor is given to the Minister to respond.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have only a few questions to answer because some were really comments.

The first question was on monitoring of endangered species are concerning. *Comrade Minister, Dr Iyambo*, as I have mentioned, we have seen a recovery of our endangered species. However, as you have mentioned, that there is widespread killing of those species, we would appreciate to know exactly which species so that we could look into that. However, in the Ministry we have not detected something of that nature and that is why we are even regarded internationally as having a good monitoring system as far as the protection of the endangered species is concerned.

Honourable Ncube spoke about the elephants and I think *Comrade Kazenambo* asked the same question. You mentioned that people have freedom of movement. We are all animals in this world. We have some wild animals, we have some domesticated animals like you and me and if we have to go to that question to say that as human beings we have freedom of movement in comparison to wildlife because they cannot speak, I say that would not be fair to them. We have a constitutional obligation to speak on their behalf and to protect them. Therefore, they have the same freedom. The only thing we can do is to put into place mechanisms that will enable us, both human beings and wildlife, to co-exist and this is what we are trying to do in the Government, through the Ministry. Hence the Human-Wildlife Conflict Policy which we are now starting to implement.

We can talk about putting elephants and lions in conservation areas, but I am telling you, you can only keep the elephants there if they want to be there. We are trying all types of fences, such as the one in Etosha, but if they feel confined and they smell watermelons or water somewhere, they will definitely find a way.

We are told by our lawyers that the expression “*problem animal*” does not exist. If you go to Court and talk about a problem animal, you will not win that case, because animals can never be a problem, they are just behaving in their natural way. They can cause a problem, but they themselves can never be a problem.

However, we are looking into this matter, but we cannot promise that elephant-human conflict will go away.

Comrade Speaker, I am very happy that you talked about the quad bikes. We are preparing a Cabinet Submission to declare that whole area being treated as a protected area and immediately the Cabinet declares that as a park or protected area, these bikes will not enter because the area will be regulated like any other protected area. Therefore, we are happy that the Parliament is supporting us on this and we are going to deal with it effectively.

Honourable Shixwameni mentioned the transfer of the assets. I know this issue has been made a public issue, I do not know for what reason, but I know when I became the Minister of Environment and Tourism, this has been one of

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my priorities. Subsequently, on the 8th of December 2008, an agreement was signed between myself as Minister and the Managing Director of Namibia Wildlife Resorts to transfer these assets. When the Ministry of Works and Transport, which is the custodian of all Government properties, saw the agreement we signed on the 8th December, they started the process, because it is they who have to transfer the assets and not the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

A lot of steps have been followed. The matter has even been taken to Cabinet, for a principle decision, and after some work to be done, it was brought back to Cabinet for finalisation. The Ministry of Works is working to ensure that those assets are transferred. That is what happened in 2009 and whoever is targeting the Ministry and me on this matter, that is their own business, we have done our part

On the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change, it is true that the Kyoto Protocol is still in force until 2012. The Copenhagen Conference was held to come up with an international instrument that would be in force by the time the Kyoto Protocol comes to an end and one of the most important elements for us as developing countries that we were expecting to get, was for the developed countries to commit themselves to reduce the emissions to the level of 90-90 and to make funds available for adoption and mitigation. That had not happened but the negotiations are continuing.

As to how we will benefit as a country, you have to understand that clean development projects in Africa only constitutes 5% of the projects, so we are benefiting very little. Nevertheless, we have put in place a National Authority on Carbon Credit.

When you spoke about trophy hunting, you tried to avoid the word “*whites*”, but when you talk about it in a good context, they all understand it, it is true that the industry is white dominated. Even when I talk to the industry, the majority of which being white I tell them that we must see that we are now living in a Namibia in which all of us have to benefit from our natural resources. I used the words “*balanced sharing of our natural resources*”. We have to find a way that the blacks can also enter the industry and as Comrade Kazenambo has said, we have hunted for generations, but here we are talking about a different form of hunting. Of course, it is not difficult, but in terms of

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it being economic, it is not you going to hunt, it is you getting the hunter somewhere, to come and do hunting on your farm. When you get into this industry, you must have a link to the market and that is why in my statement I mentioned how we are trying to get the newcomers into the industry to discover a market. Of course, as Honourable Kazenambo said, we can ask the whites to give shares, but that cannot be that simple, but what we have done as Ministry last year when we gave concessions for hunting in protected areas, we have put up regulations and said for an outfitter to come and auction, you must have a certain percentage for formerly disadvantaged Namibians in terms of shares and when they came to register, we asked for share certificates, because some people just come to a person when there is an auction, offer a 25% and higher agreement, and in the end it means nothing. That is why a share certificate was a requirement. If the blacks with farms want to turn them into trophy hunting farms, we will support them through the animal loan-breeding scheme but one has to find the market.

Comrade Makgona, thank you very much for informing us that climate change is part of the school curriculum. I think what we need to do is just to constantly incorporate new elements and we need to do a lot of mobilisation work and that is exactly what we are doing in the Ministry.

Honourable Ulenga, thank you very much, we hope the award will come home. All things are done now, we are only waiting for the judges.

On the question of the Kalahari truffles, you need to know that this particular specie is solely dependent on rainfall. We know it occurs in the Omaheke Region and we do not know whether it is medicinal or not, but we can always look into that, whether it has any other value than food.

The National Advisory Body on Climate Change will advise the Government, through the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Government will be part of the body as well as other experts in the area. Therefore, it will be very inclusive of all the skills that we need to ensure that the Government gets the right advice. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism will be the link between this body and the Cabinet.

You are saying I have not given details on the project on climate change. I have given the example of the research we are doing and I do not know what

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other details you are referring to. For example, last night we were here, it was raining, and it is the month of May. Now you do not know whether you should start ploughing now as the rain normally ends in March. That is why we are doing research on the crops and looking at the different rain patterns, so that we can advise our people accordingly.

With regard to the impact of the financial crisis on the Namibian economy as far as tourism is concerned, if you have read my motivation properly, I mentioned that the Bank of Namibia predicted a 20% decrease. I went further to say that that decrease is a decrease in terms of the sector's revenue contribution into the economy. I also said that at this stage we have not yet analysed the data to see whether it is the 20% that was predicted or we went up or we went down. When that information becomes known, we will make it available. The only information we gave you is in terms of international tourism arrivals, where we have seen a decrease of 5% of tourists arriving in our country in 2008 in comparison to the 2009 arrivals. We also informed you that the sectors that are the hardest hit are hunting and the small tourist facilities.

You wanted to know what we are doing in terms of tourism for this industry to resist the vulnerability internationally. Since last year, we started a campaign of domestic tourism. We are thus encouraging Namibians to travel, and we are also encouraging people to travel within the Region, so that when the international tourists are not coming we are used to travelling, and can fill that gap. At the same time, we are working with the industry that they should have special packages for local people. That is what we are doing in order to fill the gap when international travel is low.

With regard to the question on the Wildlife Breeding Scheme, these are not necessarily game farms, but when you are looking for game, you definitely turn into a game farm. When you apply to the Ministry, we send our officials to look at your fences and other facilities and then you would be advised what type of game can be brought to you. Anyone can apply and we will assist. The only challenge we are facing now is the transportation, which can be very costly and the demand is high. However, you are welcome if you can assist with the transport when your turn comes.

As to the monument which is going to be on the Namibian side, if you watched

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the expedition on television, you will remember that when the expedition was going around the trans-frontiers, they were collecting stones from different places and those are the stones which will be built into a monument, to symbolise Boundless Southern Africa, which is the brand for marketing the Region as far as tourism is concerned.

Whether the increased registration of establishments has increased the visits, we hope that is the case, but the world financial crisis has a negative impact on the industry. However, they are building because from 2007 and 2008 there has been a great increase in the demand for more accommodation in Namibia. It was necessary to have additional tourist establishments. We hope that now that the recession is ending, these facilities will be utilised.

The question was put why Mozambique is not included in the five countries of KAZA, the Kavango-Zambezi Trans-frontier. I wish I had a map of the Region here, because the reason why these five countries belong to KAZA is that they share borders. That is what qualifies a trans-frontier. Mozambique has theirs with South Africa there are seven trans-frontiers in this Region. Mozambique does not share a border with this area, which is demarcated for KAZA, the biggest trans-frontier in the Region. That is the only reason.

Deputy Minister of Finance, it is true, we also realise the N\$50 million are too little and we need to have the monitoring capacity. Currently our Ministry is reviewing its structure, because it is still the same structure since the Ministry was established and there are so many activities to be done by this Ministry. However, I am sure by the end of the year it will be finalised and the Office of the Prime Minister is also supporting us on this matter.

It is good that you realised all is not well with the tax revenue and we are ready to work together with the Ministry of Finance so that this sector can increase its contribution to the donors. Natural resources, should definitely not only benefit the private sector and that is why that particular objective also talked about neighbouring communities. If you are putting up tourist facilities, you are also expected to increase the revenue to the Government.

Climate change is not on our agenda, we have said on many occasions. Climate change should not be used against development. Namibia is on record, through me, as having said that if we are serious about climate change, then

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developed countries must play their role. The scientific findings we are talking about came from their own scientists, but because it is not in their favour, they are now starting to question these findings. We are saying that, Namibia as a developing country cannot, be kept hostage not to develop because of climate change and meantime the developed countries are maintaining their high standards. If the development methods they have used were wrong, they should then assist us to adopt clean development mechanisms. Some people are saying the industrial revolution is over. It is over for them, for us it is just starting and that is why we are demanding that they should invest in clean development mechanisms to enable us to industrialise our countries.

Honourable Deputy Minister, we are investigating the incident of the lion that was killed, it has disturbed you, the whole staff and me.

Honourable Ilonga, at present we are not able to control the gambling through SMS. In my statement, I mentioned that we are reviewing the law and one reason of revising the law is to incorporate technology.

The Wildlife Management Bill has been completed, we are just waiting for advice on the expression "*problem animal*", how to incorporate that without it being in conflict with the Namibian Constitution. I thank you for your support.

CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection to Vote 18? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: Let me join you all, Honourable Members, to thank the Minister for the presentation of her Ministry's Vote and defending it through the answers to questions put. That for me, and I want to say this, from the post flocking experience that you and your colleagues have shared with Sean McBride and myself way back. Through more than thirty years of observing

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ADJOURNMENT

your rise through the ranks of the SWAPO Party and joining others and me in establishing for the first time in the history of Namibia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the various appointments as Cabinet Minister, you have lived through how proud I am to see your performance. For many reasons this time, more than any other time before, you were exceptional. Congratulations.

The House stands adjourned until Wednesday, 5th May 2010 at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:08 UNTIL 2010.05.05 AT 14:30

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
05 MAY 2010**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR GENERAL

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

- Office of the Auditor General for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2009;
 - Ministry of Justice for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2009; and
 - Ministry of Veterans Affairs for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2009.
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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Katjavivi.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 04, 05, 08, 10, 17 and 31 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will now read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

DEPUTY 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 last Friday, the 30th of April, Votes 01, 02, 03, 07, 11, 18, 28 and 30 had been agreed to and Votes 04.

Vote 17 – “**REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**”, N\$958,693,000 put for **Introduction**.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 17
HON EKANDJO**

august House.

The 2010/2011 Budget is being introduced at a time when the world is confronted with a challenging phenomenon of economic recession which has placed the people on our globe at a disposition of inadequate resources to meet their needs.

As I introduce Vote 17 of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development in this august House for consideration, discussion and approval, I do so mindful of the unfavourable economic factors bedevilling the Nations of the world, including our very own Republic of the Brave.

It is for this reason that my Ministry is happy to associate itself with congratulations already extended to Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and members of her team for having, once again, been able to put forward a Budget that attempts to deal with this most unfavourable set of circumstances. They are to be admired for their strides to addressing National upheavals; notable is the protection of our citizens who constitute the most vulnerable group.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, the total allocation for my Ministry in this Financial Year is N\$958,693,000. This is an increase of 20%. This Budget will be divided amongst the five programmes in the Ministry:

- **Programme 1:** Infrastructure Development and Housing Delivery: N\$483,554,000.
- **Programme 2:** Regional and Local Government: N\$416,364,000.
- **Programme 3:** Traditional Authorities Coordination: N\$22,31,000.
- **Programme 4:** Decentralisation: N\$9,251,000.
- **Programme 5:** Rural Development: N\$20,793,000.

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**PROGRAMME 1: HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE
DEVELOPMENT.**

Housing Delivery:

Housing is a basic right and crucial to the realisation of Vision 2030, NDP3 and Millennium Development Goals. Improving the living conditions of urban dwellers, especially those living in informal settlements, by improving housing, security of tenure and access to water and sanitation will automatically have a positive impact on the attainment of most goals and targets. Thus, my Ministry likes to express its commitment and determination to achieve the primary goal of creating a conducive environment for all role players in order to facilitate the process of shelter for all Namibians.

It is very important for one to understand that promoting housing is another way of combating poverty, however housing development alone could not necessarily lead to poverty alleviation since the poor could have other priorities or pressing needs. Therefore, there is a need for linkages between housing deliverables and economic growth.

National Housing Programme: Build Together Programme

To ensure effective and efficient implementation of this programme by the sub-national Governments, Central Government should make resources available in order to service land.

The process of decentralisation of housing provision has resulted in good governance, as communities are actively taking part in project planning, decision-making and even in the implementation of the projects. The process of community participation has led to the projects to be completed in time and promote the concept of ownership.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, there are eminent challenges in housing and land delivery, such as an increase in the urban population particularly in the informal settlements. This process of urban/rural migration has resulted in tremendous pressure on the delivery of basic services in urban areas. Thus, all local authorities are unable to meet the needs and demands of serviced land for potential investors. Though the Ministry has a

plan in place to financially support the development of infrastructure and overhauling the old ones, our Budget allocated cannot match the demands.

The shortage of suitable qualified staff at sub-National level hampers the process of both land and housing delivery. Lack of these skills often results in poor management and maintenance of infrastructure. Therefore, the Ministry will have to continue with capacity building of Regional and Local Governments. On the housing delivery particularly of the poor families – the Ministry will continue to facilitate subsidies for specific target groups or families at recovery rate.

Costs of land delivery in the country are unaffordable, and the building standards and appropriateness applied currently does not take into account the affordability of many poor Namibians. Therefore, the Ministry in cooperation with its partners in land and housing delivery are busy looking at ways to develop building standards in relation to Namibian conditions, hence, the need to revise the National Housing Development Act, 2000 after the National Housing Policy which was approved by Cabinet in 1991 was reviewed in July 2009.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, the relative absence of infrastructure in towns, such as roads, water supply, communication facilities and adequate housing. makes towns less competitive and not attractive when it comes to investors, resulting into the stagnation of economic development.

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

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

The Construction of the Omuthiya and Nkurenkuru Town Councils Offices has been completed. The construction of new Town Council Offices would follow immediately after the proclamation thereof.

In support of the decentralisation, by bringing the Government closer to the people, the relocation of the Oshikoto Regional Headquarters from Tsumeb to Omuthiya was recently completed. The first phase of its office complex has been completed to host some of the delegated functions to the Regions. However, more funds would be required to complete the second phase in the near future.

Tremendous progress has been realised in the construction of the constituency offices throughout the country. In this regard, I am happy to report that construction of all 107 Constituency offices in the 13 Regions has been completed at the end of the 2009/2010 Financial Year. The completion of the constituency offices has given the Ministry the breathing space to also focus on the construction of the Traditional Authorities offices in needy communities.

Housing and Sanitation

Housing and sanitation is at heart of the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

The Ministry is proud to report that it has successfully replaced the inhuman bucket system at many villages and settlements especially in the south. During the current Financial Year, more funds would be needed to connect the households to the sewer system.

Through the Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provision, the sewerage systems have been upgraded in Rundu, Ruacana and Karibib during the period under review. More funds are needed to construct the sewerage system at Karasburg Municipality and upgrade other ailing sewer systems in other towns.

Constructions of toilets in the rural areas are underway. The pilot project commenced with the Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena, Oshana and Omusati Regions in the 2009/2010 Financial Year for a combined amount of N\$100 million. The five Regions were selected in line with the National Household Survey conducted by the National Planning Commission Secretariat, which revealed that 75% of the households in these Regions used bushes for toilet. In the current Financial Year, the project is intended to be extended to Oshikoto, Kunene and Khomas Regions.

**PROGRAMME TWO: REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COORDINATION**

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, ensuring effective and efficient service delivery at the grassroots level of our society by our sub-National entities continues to be one of my Ministry's core mandates. In this regard, the Programme Regional and Local Government continues to facilitate the establishment and development of effective and sustainable Regional and Local Government that bring Government closer to the people and capable of delivering services to the satisfaction of all our communities.

The following are the main strategic goals for the programme:

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

PROCLAMATION OF NEW LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The establishment of new Local Authorities, particularly in those parts of our country where access to basic municipal services and other amenities is almost non-existent, continues to be one of our priorities. This is particularly aimed at the fulfilment of the Cabinet requirement to have a second Local Authority in Regions where there is only one Local Authority, e.g. Caprivi Region.

During the Financial Year under review, the Ministry has finalised the proclamation process of Otjinene in the Omaheke Region as a Local Authority with Village Council status. Election for the new Local Authority Council for Otjinene is expected to be held during the forthcoming Regional and Local Authorities' elections in November 2010. The proclamation of Oranjemund in the Karas Region as a Local Authority has been delayed due to technical matters on the township establishment and accessibility issues as the town is situated in a restricted mining area. It is, however, envisaged that this proclamation process will be finalised during the course of this year and elections can also take place in November 2010.

ENHANCEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

Inadequate financial resources coupled with lack of skilled and qualified personnel continues to hamper effective and efficient service delivery by a majority of our Local Authorities, particularly the smaller ones. This situation is partly aggravated by widespread poverty, high unemployment levels, and low economic growth.

In striving to mitigate the negative impact of this situation on our Local Authorities, the Ministry continues to implement the 2007 Cabinet approved Intervention Plan aimed at broadening the revenue base and generation capacity, efficient management of resources, revamping of dilapidated and aging municipal services infrastructure, and capacity building through training. Through this intervention plan, professional staff, such as accountants and artisans have been recruited and deployed at all Village Councils where they are needed. Aging vehicle fleets have been replaced with new fleets. Water and electricity supply infrastructure repaired or replaced, outstanding third party accounts settled. Payment of maximum demand charges by NamPower on a monthly basis on behalf of the Village Councils is being done, as well as continuous capacity-building through training.

The Ministry provides funds to Local Authorities, especially smaller and newly established ones, to cater for capital projects as well as their essential operational costs. This ensures reliable service delivery to communities and enhances their capacity to develop their infrastructure and create job opportunities through community engagement.

The Local and Regional Economic Development White Paper for Namibia, which was formulated under the Ministry's sector goals under the NDP2, has now been finalised and adopted by Cabinet and will soon be submitted to this august House. The establishment of the Local Economic Development Agency as a Unit in the Ministry has already been approved by the Office of the Prime Minister and the recruitment of its staff complement is currently under way. The German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) is assisting the Ministry with the implementation of the White Paper as part of the Namibia/German Bilateral Programme Partnership for Economic Growth.

The reform of the Local Authority Sector remains a priority of the Ministry. In this respect we have approached the Commonwealth Secretariat for assistance

on the best options of reform. A consultant is now in the process of being appointed by the Commonwealth Secretariat to assist in this process. The Secretary General of the Commonwealth will be visiting Namibia and on the 10th he will be having talks with the Ministry. As part of this process, the Ministry is currently formulating proposals for amendments to the Local Authorities Act of 1992 and other relevant laws in order to harmonise them with current developments in the country.

The implementation of the Fire Brigade Services Act of 2006 is starting to produce positive results for our Local Authorities. During the year under review, the Ministry has succeeded in procuring 23 pieces of fire-fighting equipment for a similar number of our Local Authorities. The remaining Local Authorities will be provided with fire-fighting equipment during the 2010/2011 Financial Year. Through this endeavour, we are contributing to the National effort to ensure that all Local Authorities have adequate capacity to deal with emergency situations.

During the year under review, the Ministry allocated an amount of N\$500,000 to the Association for Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN) in order to assist them in their capacity-building and advocacy initiatives for the benefit of Local Authorities in the country. This assistance will continue during this Financial Year.

The non-availability of land for development purposes in our urban centres is increasingly becoming a major challenge to our Local Authorities. This is particularly so for those situated in communal areas where communities are reluctant to pave the way for urban development. In order to address this issue, a new Compensation Policy was approved by Cabinet for implementation by Local Authorities, Regional Councils and other stakeholders. In this regard, funds are required to compensate families being relocated from their land to pave way for urban development.

ENHANCEMENT OF REGIONAL COUNCILS' ADMINISTRATION

The Ministry continues to play a crucial role in capacitating Regional Councils to perform their mandates through providing the necessary financial resources and the training of both the elected leaders and administrative staff. These capacity-building interventions focused on, among others, financial

management, local and regional economic development, human resources management, legal framework, and leadership.

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

Amendments to the Regional Councils Act of 1992 and other relevant laws are also under way to bring it in line with current developments in the country.

**PROGRAMME 3: TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES COORDINATION
COUNCIL OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS**

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, Traditional Authorities play an increasingly important role in ensuring observance of customary laws and in allocation and administration of communal land through communal land boards. They are also expected to administer community courts and resolve disputes amongst communities in their areas of jurisdiction.

COUNCIL OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS

The Council of Traditional Leaders Act requires the Council to convene meetings to deliberate on matters pertaining to traditional communities, communal land matters, and advise and make recommendation to the Head of State on any matter relating to communal land and tribal disputes.

The Ministry continues to render secretarial services to the Council of Traditional Leaders. The Council successfully held its 12th Annual Meeting in December 2009. With the recognition of two more Traditional Authorities during the year under review, the number of Council members has increased from 94 to 98. More funds will be required to fund the Annual Meeting of the Council of Traditional Leaders.

ALLOWANCES AND FUNDING OF TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES' OPERATIONS

The Ministry gives monthly allowances to traditional leaders from the forty-nine recognised Traditional Authorities. 15 Persons per each Traditional Authority receive monthly allowances.

In order for the Traditional Leaders to fully perform their duties and functions, there is need for them to be continuously trained on the provisions of the relevant laws and administrative procedures. In addition, the frequent and alarming tribal disputes among the traditional communities, dictate that the Council of Traditional Leaders is equipped with techniques on conflict resolution.

Over the years, lack of transport was one of the problems affecting the operation of Traditional Authorities. During the year under review, the Ministry has purchased 49 Toyota 4 x 4 double cab vehicles for all the 49 recognised Traditional Authorities. Funds will be required during the current Financial Year for running costs and maintenance of these vehicles.

During the year under review, all 49 Secretaries from the 49 recognised Traditional Authorities were trained in office administration. Funds are therefore required to continue with these training interventions.

APPLICATIONS FOR RECOGNITION, TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES' INVESTIGATIONS AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

During the 2009/2010 Financial Year, two outstanding applications for recognition for the San traditional communities in Omaheke Region were approved. The two are the #Kao//'aesi Traditional Authority and !Xoo Traditional Authority.

In terms of the Traditional Authorities Act, any application for recognition of a Traditional Authority has to be discussed and scrutinised by the Council of Traditional Leaders through consultation with the relevant communities. Therefore, funds are required to implement this activity during the course of this Financial Year.

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On dispute resolution, a Ministerial Investigating Committee was appointed to investigate the leadership dispute among the Ovambanderu traditional community. The Committee has finalised its investigation and has handed over its report to the Ministry.

TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES' REFORM

During the year under review, the Traditional Authority Sector Reform Committee was established by my Ministry to spearhead the Traditional Authorities Reform by conducting comparative studies on different Traditional Authority structures in the SADC Region. The Committee visited the Houses of Traditional Leaders of South Africa and Zambia. During 2010/2011 Financial Year, the Committee intends to visit the House of Traditional Leaders of Botswana and will undertake local visits to all recognised Traditional Authorities for internal study and consultations on the reform. Funds are required to complete this activity during the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

PROGRAMME 4: DECENTRALISATION COORDINATION

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, decentralisation is a Government reform which was adopted by the SWAPO-led Government. Some of the Honourable Members – those who were involved in the struggle - may recall that even before Independence, the 1986 SWAPO Blueprint on Governance in Namibia after Independence launched the concept of decentralisation as a means to achieve local democracy and participation at the grassroots level in Government affairs.

In this reporting period, the active functioning of the Decentralisation Policy Implementation Committee, chaired by the Secretary to Cabinet with membership of all Permanent Secretaries, has substantially contributed to increase the momentum of the reform and addressing critical policy level matters of the reform. In addition, the fact that decentralisation reform has been placed as a standing agenda item on the Permanent Secretaries meetings has helped to keep all Permanent Secretaries informed on the progress made and the challenges of the reform.

Here I wish to share with the Honourable Members some of the achievements

during the past Financial Year:

The first achievement under this programme is the continued support to line Ministries to develop and implement their Decentralisation Action Plans. The support to decentralising Line Ministries is ongoing. As this august House has been informed last year, the delegation of the functions of education and maintenance took effect as of the 1st of April 2009. This was followed by the full handing over of the education functions and staff to all thirteen Regional Councils. This was followed by the induction of the seconded education staff into the Regional Councils and training in financial management of delegated funds. The handover of functions, staff and moveable assets for the Maintenance Function was completed in all Regions except Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena and Oshikoto. The induction of all seconded staff has been completed in all Regions. The handover for the remaining Regions will be done in the first half of this Financial Year.

Substantial progress has been made with the preparation of the delegation of the functions of Lands and Resettlement, Information and Communication Technology, Labour and Social Welfare and my own ministry. The Ministries of Mines and Energy and Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture have indicated their willingness to start the decentralisation process.

The second achievement is continued capacity-building and support to Regional Councils and Local Authorities to maintain a state of readiness for decentralisation and improved performance. One of the strategic interventions undertaken was training on Regional Development Planning Practices in line with the core mandate of Regional Councils. The right for citizens to be well-informed about Council decisions and the administrative matters necessitated the need to improve the way Councils document resolutions. It is on this basis that the Ministry facilitated training in minute-taking and record management to all thirteen Regional Councils.

Furthermore, my Ministry has developed and rolled out a Procedure Manual to strengthen the procurement of goods and services through tenders at regional level. In order to strengthen the functioning of Regional Development Coordinating Committees and Constituency Development Committees, the Ministry, together with the Regional Councils, critically reviewed the Development Planning Guidelines.

As I highlighted last year, the Ministry concluded a study on office accommodation to address the challenge of office accommodation in view of functions to be delegated. Due to the economic downturn, no funds have been procured to commence with the construction of offices.

The third achievement deals with fiscal decentralisation and the development of an Inter-Governmental Fiscal Transfer System. As you may know, the ultimate policy objective of decentralisation in Namibia is decentralisation by devolution - which includes, among others, the devolution of financial resources to regions. Under devolution, it is envisaged that Regional Councils will be provided with financial resources through an equitable and transparent inter-governmental fiscal transfer mechanism, also known as the Recurrent and Development Grant System. To that effect, the issues proposed were reviewed for inclusion in the Draft Policy before submission to the Cabinet Committee on Treasury.

During the 2010/2011 Financial Year, the following programmes and activities are intended:

- Continued support to Line Ministries to develop and implement their Decentralisation Action Plans;
- Continued capacity building and support to Regional Councils and local authorities to maintain a state of readiness for decentralisation and improve their performance;
- Finalise amendments to main pieces of legislation related to decentralisation;
- Build professional competence within Line Ministries. Staff must be willing and capacitated to play new roles in the delegation and devolution process. They must also be prepared to accept reorganisation of their structures to align these with the new role they are expected to perform;
- Strengthen the development planning capacities at Regional and local levels.

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- Induction of incoming elected Regional and Local Authority Councillors.
- Finalise the draft policy on inter-governmental transfer system and formulae for all the applicable grants;

Allow me to conclude my points under this programme by stating that decentralisation, if carefully implemented, will substantially contribute to sustainable development, poverty reduction and participatory democracy.

PROGRAMME FIVE: RURAL DEVELOPMENT

THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members,

The Rural Development Milestone:

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

The instructional framework for the rural development function and staff complement has been finalised and all positions have been filled.

The Ministry, in collaboration with the National Planning Commission, is also currently busy with the formulation of the Rural Development Policy. The consulting team, which is assisting the Ministry in the formulation of the policy, has already been appointed. Therefore, it is expected that the draft will be ready before the end of this year for consideration by Cabinet. The Rural Development Sector Programme Strategic Plan is also expected to be completed by December 2010.

FOOD/CASH FOR WORK PROGRAMME:

During the period under review the Food/Cash for work project was

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implemented across the country, covering productive activities, such as feeder roads, water pipeline digging, construction of teachers houses and classrooms, earth dams, construction of VIP toilets, community halls, clinics, etc.

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

The programme components are:

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

All 13 Regions will benefit from the programme.

It is important to note that the programmes do not intend or envisage providing cash grants to the beneficiaries. Instead, the programmes pays a wage to beneficiaries for providing labour input and make building materials, means of production, training and supervision available.

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

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION: EMPLOYMENT OF THE SAN COMMUNITY FOR HOUSEHOLD

FOOD SECURITY:

The objective of the food security and nutrition programme is to mobilise the San Community members to engage in productive activities, with the aim of improving the food production potential of resettled San communities through their participation in community-based self-help projects.

The project focuses on developing an integrated farming system to improve the quality of the household food consumption, through the introduction of diversified crop production and livestock development.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

The Ministry is currently developing the capacity of the three Rural Development Centres at Ben-Hur/Tsjaka, Ongwediva and Okashana, which have been outsourced to local Non-Governmental Organisations. These centres provide the rural small farmers with appropriate technologies and skills that are relevant to their profession.

CHALLENGES IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Insufficient funding for regional community-based self-help projects constrained a mass participation in rural development;
- New upcoming black empowerment businesses were awarded tenders for the Food-for-Work Programme, but are lacking the capacity to supply materials to regional projects;
- Lack of institutional and human capacity at regional level to promote rural development;
- There is a need to engage more able-bodied people in the Food-and-Cash for Work projects, who are currently receiving food aid through the Vulnerable Group Feeding Programme.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, in conclusion, allow me to express a special word of thanks to all our local and international development partners involved in Regional and Local Government, housing delivery, decentralisation and rural development sectors.

A word of thanks also goes to the officials and staff of my Ministry for their continued dedication and commitment in the fulfilment of the Ministry's mandate.

With these few remarks, I now request this august House to support and approve the total Budget of N\$958,693,000. I thank you.

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**APPROPRIATION BILL: MOTIVATION VOTE 10
HON DR A IYAMBO**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Honourable Minister.

Vote 10 – “EDUCATION”, N\$6,476,391,000 is put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Dr Professor Katjavivi, Honourable Members, I have the greatest honour to present Vote 10: Ministry of Education.

The Honourable Deputy Minister of Education, Dr Namwaandi, and myself would like to pay tribute to the architects of our education system in an independent Namibia. We salute the Right Honourable Prime Minister Nahas Angula, Honourable John Mutorwa, Honourable Nangolo Mbumba and their respective Deputies for the sterling work they have done. They have laid a firm foundation on which our education is now being built. Our theme for this year is borrowed from the Right Honourable Prime Minister’s compelling lecture on the occasion of the celebration of Namibia’s 20 years of Independence.

The theme is “*A visionary Nation on the move towards a Knowledge Based Society.*” This theme recognizes that education is not static. The theme sends a strong and unequivocal message on the urgency of keeping our promise to ensure a knowledge-based society. This is a cherished promise to our children, youth and adults.

The theme challenges the employees at the Ministry of Education, including myself and my Deputy Minister. The theme calls us to action, to continue building on what has been done so far and to continuously find new and urgent strategies and innovative workable solutions to improve our education system.

On the other hand, the theme calls for all the actors in the education sector and citizens at large to actively become involved in Education. To succeed, we need to make strategic investments in learners and teachers and continue to streamline our policies, laws and work practices.

We all have a sacrosanct duty to ensure that, in line with the provisions of our Constitution, no Namibian child or youth is excluded from educational opportunities and access.

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At this very moment, we have a choice between losing generations to ignorance and building worthy generations equipped with knowledge, skills and aptitude.

Undoubtedly, our choice is knowledge!

We have the political will and the right policies. What is needed is that our huge investment in education delivers quality education. At the same time, we need to acknowledge that no country in the world has moved up the human development ladder without consistent investment in education.

For the 2010/2011 Financial Year, the Ministry is requesting a total and modest amount of N\$6,476,391,000. This comprises N\$5,972,734,000 for operational activities. Included in this operational portion is an amount of N\$156,800,000 from Development Partners to support ETSIP activities. This means that 92.3% of the total amount allocated to the Ministry is for operational expenditure. The balance of N\$503,657,000 is requested for developmental activities. This entails that only 7.7% of the total allocation to Vote 10 will be utilised for developmental activities. It needs to be emphasised that this amount is shared by competing demands in General Education, Higher Education Institutions, Vocational Education and Training.

The 2010/2011 allocation to the Ministry of Education represents an increase of 20.49% above the 2009/2010 allocation to Vote 10. Honourable Members, I need to emphasise, that the resources requested for the Ministry will, among others, benefit 21,607 teachers and 585,500 learners across the length and breadth of Namibia.

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENTS AND INITIATIVES IN THE
EDUCATION SECTOR DURING THE 2009/2010 FINANCIAL YEAR.**

This Education and Training Sector Improvement Program (ETSIP) programme is in its third year of implementing the first phase. ETSIP is a 15 years catalytic roadmap, deliberately designed to achieve strategic objectives in the education and training sector. The main objective is to attain quality education. I emphasise here that the ultimate measure of any education system is not how many children are enrolled in schools, but what and how well they are taught and learn. The quality of education is, therefore, the barometer. ETSIP tells us where we are making breakthroughs. It guides and warns us of

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the gravest danger areas. ETSIP covers nine sub-programmes that are expected to fast-track quality improvements in education.

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

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, When we went for a break, I was saying I want to touch on a brief summary of developments and initiatives in the Education Sector during 2009/2010 Financial Year and I want to start with the Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme. (ETSIP).

A joint review of ETSIP took place recently from 27 to 29 April 2010. The review informs us that the majority of activities in Pre-Primary education, Primary and Secondary education, Information and Life-Long learning and Vocational Education and Training are on track. However, Tertiary Education and Training, Early Childhood Development, HIV and AIDS, Knowledge, Creation and Innovation experience delays. ICT and Capacity Development are significantly falling behind.

Since 2008, the Ministry has re-introduced pre-primary education into formal education to cater for children between the age of 5 and 6 years. To date 300 schools offer the pre-primary education out of 1,460 schools with Grade 1. The remaining 1,160 qualifying for pre-primary grades will be addressed progressively.

Honourable Members, pre-primary education is the bedrock of any education system. We must not, and cannot falter on that. Good pre-primary education has the potency to act as a springboard for success at tertiary institutions.

The introduction of pre- primary education is a significant move to lay the foundation for acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills. For the success of our education system, it is our conviction that great attention must be dedicated to pre-primary education. It underpins the success of education at primary, secondary, vocational and tertiary levels. Failing to fortify the base of

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education at pre-primary level will ascertain our failure in educating our people. Failure is, therefore, not an option!

Our challenge as a country is to train a sizeable number of pre-primary teachers and equip schools with teaching materials as a first step to guarantee success.

In the same vein, learners at primary schools are obliged to master numeracy to ensure sound preparation for Mathematics, Sciences, Accounting, and Law subjects, amongst others, at tertiary levels. It will be a National disaster if our children at primary level do not know how to proficiently read, write and count. Neglect at this level would mean inadequate preparation of learners for secondary schooling and tertiary education and training. It makes sense, it is right and urgent to heavily invest in infrastructure development now, including libraries, laboratories, hostels and ablution facilities. Momentum should continue to be heightened in the construction, renovations, upgrading and continuous maintenance of educational facilities.

Our epoch of the 21st Century is dictated by Information Technology. It will be a sin if our children were to be denied this interNational medium of communication. As a Government and a Nation, we are called upon to equip our children with the capacity to appreciate, value and use information technology. There is no better level to introduce the necessary skill than at primary level. IT must then be intensified throughout the education system.

It is of cardinal importance that electrification of educational establishments, both in rural and urban areas, continue to attract premier and maximum priority. Alternative energy deserves to be included in our effort to electrifying schools and education facilities. This cannot be delayed. In this new world, teachers and principals must be computer literate. Computers are the language of today and tomorrow. In this field, the Education sector must not be left behind.

I now turn to the pass rates issue at schools.

Low pass rates continue to be a point of enormous concern. Failures cause frustration and deep pain to parents and learners. The persistent low pass rates raise profound questions by communities. Some schools are being deserted by learners, parents and communities due to their poor performance. As a Nation,

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this reality deserves our joint attention. The question on the minds of parents and the State is: Why are pass rates so frighteningly low? Low pass rates are experienced at all grades at primary and secondary schools.

The situation is, in my mind, artificially magnified at Grades 10 and 12 since these are the results which are publicised. We should, as a Nation, be concerned and with swiftness find solutions to the causes of these low pass rates. Is there a need to have a re-look at the number of subjects that a learner must study at junior and senior secondary levels? There seems to be a concern that they are overwhelmingly too many. There are also persistent questions about the preparation and attitude of specific teachers. However, we know there are exceptions to this.

Personally, I am convinced that the majority of teachers are well prepared, have positive attitude and are performing *par excellence*. I commend them.

I appeal to parents to become actively involved in their children's educational careers. I further implore that parents instil in children a value system of discipline, respect, hard work and ambition. This will facilitate and allow teachers to successfully teach and impart knowledge and skills. Parents have a moral and legal obligation and responsibility to see to it that their children attend school. The sight of children of school-going age aimlessly roaming the streets and villages during school hours is unacceptable. It is, therefore, high time that parents are made answerable.

Namibia, as a Nation, should reclaim and revive the principles where a child belongs to a community, and where the community has pride and the responsibility of bringing up that child. We should collectively be accountable for the education of our children.

I thus call upon the Namibian Nation to work together and teachers, principals, parents, civil societies, faith-based organisations and communities to find lasting solutions. Solutions are innate within us and we need to unleash them.

Some noted progress through ETSIP Implementation:

Standardised Achievement Tests for Grades 5 and 7 has been introduced to establish the baseline for skills in Mathematics, English and Science and to provide diagnostic feedback to schools for timely interventions. The first

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Grade 5 Standardised Achievement Test was written in November 2009 and the one for Grade 7 will commence in November 2010.

Vision Schools (Schools of Excellence)

As part of ETSIP, the Ministry has taken an initiative to initially establish six Vision Schools. The construction work of the first Vision School in Kavango Region is expected to start before end of June 2010. The prime intention is for these schools to be adequately equipped with the latest 21st century learning tools, good management, time on task, proper supervision, among others. It is expected that beneficiaries at these schools will have an opportunity to access quality secondary education and set the foundation for further academic success. Each of the Vision Schools is estimated to cost about N\$110 million.

Merger of the Colleges of Education and Agriculture with UNAM

Three years ago, a decision was taken to merge the Ogongo and Neudamm Agricultural Colleges with UNAM. That merger has been successfully implemented during 2007. Cabinet in 2009 further resolved to merge the four Colleges of Education with UNAM effective April 2010. The ultimate goal of this merger is to improve the quality and management of teacher education. As a result of this merger, all teachers graduating from UNAM Faculty of Education will be degree holders. An obvious challenge is the conditions of service of the employees and staff affected by the merger. This will be one of the key priorities in the current Financial Year.

Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund

This Fund was established to address the human resource need of the country. A revised loan structure was introduced as from April 1, 2009. This structure provides for 100% coverage for tuition and registration costs, 60% of the costs of accommodation and meals, 50% of the costs of books and material and 20% of the transport cost.

Honourable members, The Ministry of Education is aware that the public has unabatedly expressed concerns with respect to the transparency in the administration of this Fund. My Deputy Minister and I will assess the nature and bottlenecks being encountered with respect to the coverage, efficiency and delivery of the Fund. We must ease the pressure on parents and recipients. No

parent should be forced to withdraw his or her child from a tertiary institution, or simply not to send him or her as a result of the bureaucratic complexities of accessing the fund or due to exclusion. Not supporting learners who qualify to study at tertiary institutions means lost generations for our country. Our critical challenge is to ensure all children complete all the stages that will make them graduate from a quality education system.

Applications for student loans for 2010/2011 have been assessed and awarded. These include loans for students enrolled at Namibian tertiary institutions and abroad. In the 2010/2011 awards, a total of 6,021 loans were granted, of which the total value amounts to N\$113,571,381. The allocation will benefit 1,466 students at the Polytechnic of Namibia, 902 students at the University of Namibia, 323 student at the InterNational University of Management, 271 students studying at institutions of higher learning in SADC, 168 war veteran students or trainees and 2,891 at Vocational Institutions.

Implementation of Decentralisation of specific education functions to Regions

As from 1 April 2010, funds for pre-primary, primary, secondary, adult, special education and library services have been transferred to the Regions in line with the Ministry of Education decentralisation framework. For now, the funds will exclude payment of salaries and construction of new educational facilities. The entire process of decentralisation will be monitored to ensure that inefficiencies are not transferred in the process. The main challenges are continuous policy and programme monitoring, improvement of financial management, capacity building and procurement of goods and services.

Learners, adults and enrolment at tertiary institutions.

I lament that the enrolment and the securing of spaces for the growing number of learners in our schools is of grave concern. This has annually generated a National outcry. The Central Government, working in close cooperation with Regional Governments, principals, teachers and parents, must find a collective solution to this. There are certain pocket areas in the country where the population of learners is higher than the capacity available in schools. On the other hand, there are areas where the capacity in schools in terms of space is more than the learners available. Early registration for enrolment is being

implemented in advance of the start of the school year and the process is being continuously monitored for possible review.

It is worth noting that the net enrolment rate of children between the age 7 and 13 years has increased from 97.4% in 2008 to 98.3% in 2009. However, repetition rates especially at Grade 5, which was 23.9% in 2008 and 23.2% in 2009 remain a concern.

The average dropout at grade 8 through to grade 11 is 11.4%, which means that 19,268 of the 169,390 learners have dropped out of secondary schooling in 2009.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the funds allocated to this programme for 2009/2010 benefited 20,000 out-of-school youth and young adults to study at NAMCOL to improve their Grade 10 and Grade 12 results. In the same period about 6,000 trainees were enrolled at Vocational Training Institutions. 2 300 students were enrolled at the four Colleges of Education. Over 23,000 students are pursuing their studies at either the Polytechnic of Namibia and/or UNAM. Over 30,000 adult learners are enrolled for literacy classes at stages 1, 2 and 3 countrywide.

Integration of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in Education.

The deployment of ICT in the 2009/2010 Financial Year through the Tech/Na! ICT in Education Initiative has benefited 241 schools, and 2,000 out of 3,065 teachers were trained in International Computer Driving License – an international computer competency that certify essential computer skills and knowledge. Total deployment amounts to 5,000 computers out of 10,800 needed for schools with secondary grades. Out of the 241 schools, 130 have been connected to the internet.

Collaboration with Development Partners

We value the continued assistance from Spain and the EU to the education and training sector and the support from Lux-Development to the vocational education and training sector. The generous support from the UN family and ICEIDA is also highly valued and acknowledged.

The MCA-Namibia supports to ETSIP targets the renovation of 47 schools. This partnership started to bear fruits with the upgrading and renovation of 13 schools in Omusati and Oshana starting September 2010; the construction of Oshakati and Helao Nafidi Regional Studies and Resource Centres starting October 2010. A textbook handover ceremony took place on 24 April 2010. The 695 164 textbooks for English, Mathematics and Sciences, valued at N\$34.9 million, will be distributed to 951 schools, targeting grades 5 to 12.

During the 2009/2010 Financial Year, the financial contribution from development partners amounted to N\$287,634,000. I am assured that the total pledges for 2010/2011 will be in the region of N\$343,001,000.

Public-Private Partnerships with Namibia companies or institutions is being realised and has been working very well:

- Etameko, the brain child of *Die Republikein* newspaper has involved a variety of sponsors, including the French Embassy, First National Bank, Trustco and Cell One/Leo and Bank Windhoek in the production and distribution of more than 3.5 million exercise booklets to Namibian learners.
- The Etameko Brilliant Board – sponsored by Bank Windhoek – is a lap desk which can also be used as slates.
- 10 000 of these Brilliant Boards were distributed and much appreciated
- in schools with too few desks and especially after the flood when many schools were disrupted. 10,000 Brilliant Boards will be distributed in the coming months
- 50,000 copies of the heart line stories were distributed to schools as part of the Etameko initiative.

Programme 1: General Education

The allocation to this programme is N\$5,105,616,000, which accounts for about 78.8% of the total allocation to the sector. This represents an increase of 19.5% of the allocation of the previous Financial Year. The main activities under this programme include provision of pre-primary, primary and

secondary education. Another important component is the School Feeding Programme, which is an initiative to keep orphans and vulnerable children in schools. The General Education programme also caters for the provision of textbooks and other learning and teaching support materials, such as laboratory equipment. The aforementioned allocation includes N\$261,857,000 for the construction of additional classrooms and laboratories.

Under this programme, the following were accomplished during 2009/2010:

- 219 classrooms were built; 141 ablution seats bought; 96 accommodation units for learners; 11 teachers' houses; 6 new laboratories; 3 administration blocks and 2 cluster centres were constructed and 192 educational facilities were renovated.
- Lüderitz Primary School
- Within the pre-primary education sector, 300 pre-primary classrooms in the most disadvantaged communities were equipped with necessary tools and equipment. The learners' enrolment at those completed classrooms stood at 5 209 in the 2009 academic year. Of those, 42.8% are orphans and vulnerable children. Currently there are 8,850 learners enrolled at pre-primary schools.
- With regard to the emergency fund for Grade 10, N\$190 million were utilised for infrastructure expansion and development in the most populous regions, that is, Kavango, Erongo, Khomas, Otjozondjupa,
- Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana and Oshikoto, whereas in the lesser populated Regions renovation were carried out.

Programme 2: Tertiary Education

This programme *inter alia*, covers UNAM and the Polytechnic of Namibia.

An allocation of N\$1,006,438,000 is proposed for 2010/2011 Financial Year, making it the second largest programme in the sector. Compared to the 2009/2010 Financial Year, this allocation represents an increase of 7.4%. The increase to tertiary education and training is justified by the dire physical expansion needs of tertiary institutions, such as UNAM Northern Engineering

Campus in Ongwediva, the New Medical School being constructed in Windhoek; and the expansion of infrastructure and personnel at the Polytechnic of Namibia.

The focus of this sub-programme is to build a strong coordinated system of higher education in the country and enhance the quality of teaching, learning and research. The funding formula for tertiary education will also be finalised and ready for implementation in the next Financial Year.

The Budgetary allocations earmarked for tertiary institutions are as follows:

- The University of Namibia will receive N\$273,926,000 as operational subsidies and N\$155, 500,000 for development projects, which include N\$110 million for the School of Medicine.
- Polytechnic of Namibia will receive an amount of N\$153,523,000 as operational subsidy and N\$20 million for capital projects.
- The allocation to the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund is N\$224,420,000.

Programme 3: Vocational Education and Training

Spiralling youth unemployment has added a sense of urgency to National debates and calls for action on technical and vocational training. This programme is the third largest in terms of allocation, accounting for 2.9% or N\$188,165,000 of the total allocation for 2010/2011 Financial Year. This represents an increase of 12.4% over N\$164,746,000 of the previous allocation.

The establishment of the Namibia Training Authority in 2008 was a milestone in the transformation and improvement in the vocational education and training sector to meet the challenges of skills deficits, including the shortages of entrepreneurial skills. To complement this activity, we must creatively design ways to absorb graduates from the vocational training centres into the productive job market, complemented by job attachment to enhance experience.

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Many graduates are potential job creators. We need to further impart business and entrepreneurship training, to ensure trainees receive capital to start businesses. We cannot be training for the street. That is tantamount to a wasteland. When we invest in skills development, we should create the opportunities that will allow them to return Government's interest on that investment.

As part of the improvement of the vocational education and training programme, there are initiatives in the pipeline to strengthen the operations of the Namibia Training Authority with assistance provided by MCA-Namibia. During July this year an MCA Namibia recruited consultant will support the NTA with the creation a National Training Fund and to start putting in place procedures and regulations for the assessment and collection of the Training Levy.

At this point I must report on the progress on upgrading and renovation of the Loudima Technical School in Congo Brazzaville. The preliminary report of Phase I of the feasibility study is completed. Phase II of the feasibility study, which will detail the cost estimates of the construction, is progressing well and will be available this year.

Programme 4: Information, Adult and Lifelong Learning

This programme, which is allocated an amount of N\$166,326,000, takes up 2.6% of the total allocation to education sector. The programme is the fourth largest in the Ministry.

This Programme aims at redressing the historical inequalities of access to knowledge by making information and learning resources accessible. In 2009, about 38,544 citizens accessed the internet through these facilities.

The main activities of this programme are, among others, to provide basic literacy and numeracy skills, information and library services as well as alternative secondary education.

Programme 5: Knowledge Creation and Innovation

Vision 2030 highlights knowledge and technology as critical drivers for economic growth and social development. In order to achieve our goals, the

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Ministry is requesting N\$14,031,000. This allocation represents 0.2% of the total allocation to the sector. This programme is the fifth largest in terms of the allocation of funds to the Ministry.

In this knowledge-based era, we must prioritise investment for Research and Development.

The main focus in this programme for the 2010/2011 Financial Year is the gazetting of the Regulations to complete the necessary instruments required for the establishment of the National Commission for Research.

Other activities of strategic importance are the development of National research and innovation indicators for Namibia, the development of a new National testing and verification laboratory for biotechnology and the development of the concept for the creation of a National innovation centre.

Programme 6: HIV and AIDS

This programme deals with the prevention and mitigation of the impact of HIV and AIDS on the education sector. The allocation to this programme is N\$5,815,000, which represents an increase of 6.8% of the previous allocation.

CHALLENGES FORESEEN FOR THE 2010/2011 FINANCIAL YEAR

Before I conclude, may I reflect on the challenges the education sector foresee for 2010/2011 Financial Year.

With a noted increase in learner and student population from 577,290 in 2008 to 585,471 in 2009, so will be the increase in demand for provision of goods and services. This places additional demand on current resources. For example, additional teachers have to be appointed every year. There is a shortage to implement Relief Teachers Strategy to reduce non-availability of teachers. Another challenge is the implementation of the Teachers' Incentive Allowances and provision of teachers' housing to attract and retain qualified teachers in remote rural areas.

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Tedious tender process and delay in the implementation of Capital Projects

The current processes and procedures for the approval of projects are cumbersome and frustratingly lengthy. This has resulted in delays in the execution of the planned projects of the Ministry. These delays are attributed to limited technical expertise in civil engineering, architecture and quantity surveying and the failure of some of the contractors to deliver projects timely. It is my expectation that with on-going decentralisation the situation will improve. This however calls for our joint monitoring.

Food Supplies to Schools (Feeding Programme)

Another area of concern to the Ministry in terms of scarce resources is the ever-increasing number of orphans and vulnerable children and ever increasing prices of catering services. By 2009, the Ministry provided school-feeding programmes to 198,000 orphans and vulnerable learners. This number has grown to 208,000 during 2010.

Our aim is, however, to expand this programme to all the 413,061 learners at primary level, including pre-primary. For this Financial Year, we foresee a shortage of N\$20 million for this purpose.

Honourable Members, my Deputy Minister and I, now move that this Honourable Chamber considers and approves an amount of N\$6,476,391,000 for Vote 10: Ministry of Education. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Honourable Minister for introducing your Vote that stands at N\$6,476,391,000. I would like to thank both Ministers for motivating their Budget votes to the House. Honourable Members, we have dealt with the votes for introduction for today. We will now proceed with the votes for discussion, as indicated.

I put **Vote 05 – “HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION”** for **Discussion**.

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RT HON ANGULA / HON KAZENAMBO**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you. I just have one or two questions to the Honourable Minister and let me thank her for her comprehensive statement.

On page 3, the last paragraph, Honourable Minister, mention is made of HIV/AIDS. Namibia has agreed to lift the restriction of people who are infected by HIV. I just want to know from the Minister whether the section in immigration and visa application forms, which deal with HIV/AIDS, has been removed. If not, when are they going to be removed?

On page 5 it deals with death certificates and registration. 81,390 deaths were registered during last year and this figure more or less tallies with children registering for Grade 1 every year in our schools. I want to ascertain from the Honourable Minister what percentage does the figure represent of the children born in that year. Is it 90% or 95% or 100%?

Citizenship by registration: 104 people were registered for this and she is saying that these are mostly people who are Setswana-speaking. I want to know how does this happen that the Setswana-speaking people have to gain citizenship through registration? Is it there has been a massive movement from the Republic of Botswana into Namibia or how does it happen? I only want to understand why this is so.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. Next on the list is Honourable Kazenambo.

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

Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First let me congratulate the Minister and my comments are on the identity documents. Comrade Minister, I want to appeal to you and the Ministry that some elderly people, especially in the Tsumkwe Constituency – and maybe they are the Setswana people referred to, whom Honourable Tjihuike like to call foreigners – do not have any birth certificates. To be honest, even as I am standing here, I am one of those who were not born in a hospital. Some of the people, especially the black population of this country

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and Africa, do not have birth certificates and the people who can attest to their births are their relatives and people who know them. The Government should improvise and say that at least two people or a traditional leader who knows this elderly person could attest to where this elderly person was born. I know that we have policies, I respect them, but the reality on the ground is that these people do not have birth certificates. Please let us give them a chance so that they can register to have access to pension. That is my appeal and this also goes for orphans and vulnerable children who do not have parents or guardians to attest them and they do not have birth certificates. The policy should somehow be relaxed.

Lastly, I know your officials are trying their best, but sometimes when they come to the areas, they stay a few minutes or an hour and then they are gone. Your outreach programme must really appreciate that the grassroots people cannot speak Afrikaans or English and some of them are even afraid of coming close to officials. Please, let it be an outreach programme. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. Honourable Tjihuiiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me start by congratulating the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration for trying to paint a rosy picture at her Ministry.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the fact of the matter is that what I am seeing from the speech is not what is really happening at that Ministry. There is total chaos in that Ministry. If you go that Ministry now, half of the staff are standing in front of the Ministry, doing absolutely nothing the whole day. (Interjections). It is true.

On page 5, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister for opening the sub-regional offices at a number of places, but I just want to advise that is good to take services closer to the people, but if you look at the office in Omaruru, I believe you should in future consider opening sub-offices at places such as Okombahe

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and Omatjete when considering the distances people have to travel to Omaruru. That would help the people to obtain the necessary documents.

With regard to identity documents, I just do not understand that Namibia, after twenty years, is still struggling with the basic documents that the Namibian people need to have. Before every election you see people being registered. A person at voting age, born in Namibia, does for all those years not have documents and it is required that you must have an identity document to register at universities and other institutions. You need a birth certificate and it is strange that you find people who are being registered that they do not have these documents. I suspect that somehow this could be the people who turn the scale in voting in the direction of certain Political Parties. These things must be done in good time so that all of us know that is the number of people Namibia has registered, this is the number of people who have reached the voting age, not these figures that we were given by the Electoral Commission. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I thought Honourable Tjihuiko would improve this year, but he is just becoming worse and worse. I need you to accompany me one day to Kunene so that I can show you those people you were hiding until we discovered them and who do not have these documents.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Can I call on the Honourable Member to kindly confine himself to the subject, so that we can make progress?

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, so I do not need to answer questions. Can I answer that question? Honourable Deputy Minister, it is very interesting that a Deputy Minister is telling the public that for 20 years they did not know that there were people living at those places. If you say you have discovered them now, it is a pity.

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The last paragraph on page 8 reads: *“As I informed this august House last year, entry points to the country are the first reflection of the country’s image to the people visiting Namibia.”* Minister, I agree with you and I support you one hundred percent. We need to improve the image of our entry points as that is very important for a country. There I support you, congratulations, but you should not be comfortable.

The last point that I wanted to touch on is on page 11, citizenship. Honourable Deputy Chairperson, we have brown passports, ordinary passports, official passports and diplomatic passports. This is a bit confusing. Could the Honourable Minister explain to the Namibian public what these different passports mean to the Namibian citizens? The reason why I am asking this is because of the fact that I know that there were people in the Gam area who had brown passports and they always had problems in accessing certain benefits, even at the banks and I know what I am talking about, I am always on the ground with the people. It is very important for the Minister to explain so that the people know what it means if I have a diplomatic passport.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me perhaps conclude by saying that the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is very important and unless there is a serious improvement in service delivery in this Ministry, we will always have the problem of people not having documents, such as the people in Tsumkwe and Gam, as the Honourable Minister rightly said. I can tell you, you can go and look at the HANSARD, you will see that every year it is the same story by the SWAPO Ministers. These people are not being assisted and the Ministers sit down and wait for next year’s Budget to raise the same issues. That is not proper. These things that have been raised in this document should be improved the next day. If you look at last year’s speech of the Minister, she was complaining. If you look at the contributions of the Honourable Ministers, they were always complaining about these things and nothing is happening. It cannot go on like that. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Honourable Member. I now call upon Honourable Kamwi, the Minister of Health and Social Services.

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HON DR KAMWI**

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First I wish to join those who spoke before me in congratulating the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration.

I wish to make two comments, one on page 3, the last paragraph, Honourable Minister, where you are talking of rolling out of HIV/AIDS Workplace Awareness Programme. I welcome this and take it as a giant step, especially as it relates to rolling it out throughout the country. I can only wish that all Ministries, especially those who have not done so, to consider emulating this good example.

May I join the Right Honourable Prime Minister regarding the clause on the Immigration Control Act? I checked with you and I am grateful that you provided me with some information and I wish to state the following: Firstly, I want to congratulate you for the most positive step which you took by amending, in particular, Section 58 of the Immigration Control Act (Act 7 of 1993), primarily Annexure 1 of the Regulations by the deletion of item 10 which relates to Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome Virus, that is the AIDS virus. This, as you all know, was too discriminatory, especially to the people living with HIV/AIDS. I know for a fact that this was not your invention, Comrade Minister, it is something that you and me found in this piece of legislation, but I am glad that, together with your team, you worked around the clock to get it deleted. I just wish to encourage those who are entrusted with the gazetting of the amended clause to do it speedily, so that we should not find ourselves as if we are an island.

My other remark is on page 7, which relates to the registration of deaths at hospitals. You will always receive our full support, just as we have done with the registration of births. Clearly a challenge exists for many orphans to register for school enrolment and for them to receive grants without these documents. Thus it is a move in the right direction. With this, I support Vote 05. Thank you.

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HON KAPIA / HON IILONGA**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. Honourable Kapia.

HON KAPIA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me congratulate the Minister and Deputy Minister. Most of my points have been mentioned, but I only want to raise my concern on the reduced waiting period for National documents particularly identity documents. I feel it is really high time that we issue identity documents within a month, because people have to wait for six months and then these identity documents are sent left and right to different offices. There is a need to improve on the issuing of identity documents and the waiting period has to be reduced significantly to at least weeks, not months.

Another issue is the registration of births and deaths. The Ministry should continue conducting research to see where possibly these documents could be issued at constituency level in order for our people, particularly the children, to get these documents on time.

As I said, my other points were taken and I want to support Vote 05 and assure the Minister and the Deputy Minister that I will always support the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration in whatever efforts they are making to reduce all the problems, since I will serve in the Committee responsible for this Ministry. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Thank you Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to thank the Comrades who spoke before me as he mentioned what I wanted to say. Therefore, let me only support Vote 05.

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HON SWARTZ**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Swartz.

HON SWARTZ: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I will agree with the Minister of Youth that it is very necessary that all the people must have birth certificates and identity documents, but I will not agree with the Honourable Member next to me, because it not the Ministers' responsibility that people must be issued with Birth certificates, it is the responsibility of all stakeholders – the traditional leaders, the church leaders. All the people in the rural areas are responsible to see that the children and the elderly must have these birth certificates and Identity Documents. It is not for the SWAPO Government to see that the person has been registered as a voter, all of us must participate and see that the people have the documents to vote. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Information, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. The Honourable Member should remember that she always has to follow the Rules and Procedures laid down by the Party to which she belongs. The three wise doctors of SWAPO made it very clear that the speeches of the SWAPO Members in the House are so useless and boring that they need to be discussed at a caucus. Therefore, you need to take those things you are saying to the caucus and not the House.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thought that final remark was slightly inappropriate, because the Honourable Member was basically saying that the whole question of securing official documents is the responsibility of all of us. It should never be attributed to party-political affiliation. Could we remain focused and I appeal to Members to refrain from remarks that would basically take us away from the agenda of the House. (Intervention)

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Honourable Tjihuike is Out of Order. He is saying the Honourable Member should be directed by somebody who is not a Member of this House. That somebody is not in this House, so he is totally Out of Order.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can we come back to the agenda before us? I request the Honourable Member to continue.

HON SWARTZ: I am done, Honourable Deputy Chairperson.

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

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to raise only one issue and this is with regard to the registration for Identity Documents.

Colonialism has taught Namibians all sorts of things and then they did all sorts of things in order to survive. Currently there are people who, for the sake of employment, exchanged documents. For example, if Honourable Ngatjizeko was working at a place and left, then I would take his documents and become Immanuel Ngatjizeko. With the registration for identity documents, that person could not be Isak Katali and registered as Immanuel Ngatjizeko and they still have those documents. Some of them are now dying and it is a problem to the families to follow up on all these processes. What could the Minister inform those who are still alive what to do in order for them to rectify the situation?

With that small question, I would like to support Vote 05. Thank you very much.

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HON UEITELE / HON MAAMBERUA**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. Honourable Ueitele.

HON UEITELE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to congratulate the Minister and Deputy Minister for the initiative mentioned on page 7, namely: “*We are also in the process of decentralising the registration of deaths at hospitals, health centres and up to the level of Traditional Authorities.*” I am in support of that statement since most of our people in the rural areas, whenever there is a death in the family, struggle to reach the hospitals, but at least they can reach the Traditional Authorities. I wholeheartedly support this one and urge the Minister to speed up the process of putting this in place.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also wish to thank the Minister for the detailed statement she presented and wish to recall that some time ago customer-care charters were introduced in Government and these customer care charters were actually undertakings by the Ministries *vis-à-vis* the customers that they serve. I hope that this practice is still ongoing, because those are very important documents for service delivery in Government. Particularly for the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration it would be very important to display such customer care charters at all their offices, including the head office, so that the customers are fully informed on how long it will take before an identity document is issued or how many hours or days it will take before a passport or birth certificate is issued.

Similarly, the time that you spend queuing at the Ministry will also be spelled out in such a charter and that would guide the citizenry as to the time that they would actually queue, expecting to make your application for any of those documents. That is just a piece of advice and if those charters still exist in

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Government, I think it is important that they be revised because that will help to improve on service delivery. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. Honourable Mbumba.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 05 on two accounts: Firstly, because of the importance of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration in any country and in any Government. I remember my very first Minister I met was the Minister of Home Affairs of Zambia in 1966 and the Minister of Education, Maize Chona and John Manakatwe, respectively. I am sure the Right Honourable Prime Minister will remember their names because we were together at the Nkumbi International College in those days.

Secondly, I support the Vote because of my sister. In my culture, both on the Nangolo side and on the Mbumba side, we support our sisters. If you come and beat up my brother, I will not cry, but if you touch my sister, you are dead. I am also happy that I do not have to defend her, because she has presented her Vote so well. I only want to congratulate her and to thank her for sending me her Permanent Secretary, he reported for duty today.

On page 10 it is mentioned that only 45 people managed to get permanent residence permits, but on page 11 it says citizenship by naturalisation is 109, by marriage 146. Why is it easier to become a citizen in Namibia by naturalisation while it is so difficult to get permanent residence? Is it because we no longer have business people who are coming here to establish their businesses and do not want to become citizens? They want to retain citizenship of their home countries, but they want to do business here. Please check how correct those figures are and whether that is not something which needs to be rectified. I support the Vote and I thank you.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Honourable Members. I have taken note that all the interventions have been brief and to the point. On a lighter note, there was a reference to assumed identity and that reminded me of Caesar Mbinze, that famous play, that during the colonial period you did not really mind what identity document you had, as long as it could facilitate your movement. However, in an independent Namibia these identity documents are important, they are part of your personality, they are important in facilitating access to services. I think we have taken note of that. On that note, let me call on the Minister to take the Floor to reply to the various issues raised.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, I would like to thank the *Right Honourable Prime Minister* for his support. The first question was already answered by the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services when he congratulated the Ministry for the deletion of that section in the Immigration Control Act. It has been deleted, we are just waiting for the gazetting and we will inform the House when this has been done.

The second question was on the percentage of birth registrations in the country. We have collected data information which I want to share with the Honourable House.

In 2000, the percentage of children registered at birth was 70,5% in the whole Namibia. In 2006 it decreased to 67,1%. The lowest percentage of registered births was in the northern rural Regions. That is why we initiated this programme to open offices in the Regions, so that they could address the problem of low percentages in rural areas.

On Friday I said we are planning to open more Regional offices at constituency level so that we can address the problem and we also came up with registration of births at hospitals and health facilities. We are also thinking of discussing this matter at the traditional level, because we realised that babies are also born in the villages and people need to notify their traditional leaders of births and deaths.

The third question was on citizenship by registration for Namibians who were in Botswana. In 2009 we got these files, their applications for citizenship were approved but they did not renounce citizenship of their country of origin and that is the number we issued by registration, because they were given that opportunity when they came into the country, as we did at the beginning of the establishment of this Government. Those who were in the country were given the chance to register. However, we realised that this information did not reach the people who are in the rural areas, more especially the black people and that is why we started in the Karas Region to register those people so that they can get their citizenship.

Honourable Kazenambo appealed to the Ministry that the elderly people of Tsumkwe and Gam be issued with birth certificates. There are two issues to be taken into account when we talk about birth certificates. There are elderly citizens in Tsumkwe who were not born in Namibia, those who were brought from Angola and I was part and parcel of that programme before I became a politician, of how the *Boers* – I am sorry to use that word – brought some people from other places to Tsumkwe. It is not possible to give that group Birth Certificates, but we can issue them with citizenship and after citizenship we can issue them with identity documents. We have however exempted some of those people of those requirements. I can recall that last year during the mobile programme, I drove to Tsumkwe to address this specific problem.

The Honourable Minister also said that we can make use of Traditional Leaders and other people as witnesses and we are doing that in our daily programmes, so that the people can get their identity documents.

Outreach programmes to reach the grassroots people: Thank you very much for your advice that in most cases our staff members who are sent there do not understand the language of the local people, but we are in the process of addressing that problem and that is why we are opening sub-regional offices where we will recruit local people so that can communicate well with the people at the grassroots level.

Honourable Tjihuko, I do not want to comment because you were Out of Order. I mentioned that we are in the process of decentralising these sub-regional offices to constituency level. We started with Omaruru and this year we are going to open an office at Karibib and I think we are on the right track

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to go where you want us to go. We already have that programme and, therefore, I do not want to comment on your questions, which were all Out of Order.

I do not think you need to be told what diplomatic passports and others are, because you know why you have a diplomatic passport. I am going to prepare a Ministerial statement on all these passports if there is a need for the public to know about it. However, here I just want to talk about the brown passport.

These brown passports were issued to children at Gam who are still waiting for the processing of their citizenship, for them to be able to start with their school programmes because it might be that their parents' applications are approved but they have not yet denounced their citizenship of Botswana. Therefore, we did not want to punish the children, we gave them this brown passport because the brown passport is for stateless people.

Honourable Tjihuiko was saying that people do not have identity documents and I want to inform him that from 1990 to 2008, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration produced 1,5 million identity documents and in 2009 only, we produced 186,597. I think we are on the right track. However, you need to assist us by telling the people to come and collect their identity documents in our offices.

The same goes for birth certificates. In 2009 we issued 82,309 birth certificates to the Namibian people.

Honourable Kamwi, thank you very much for your support. I do not think I need to respond, because yours was advice and also support for our Vote.

Honourable Kapia, thank you very much for your support. I think Comrade Kapia heard when we publicly announced that the waiting period for identity documents was reduced from 360 days to 24 days and for passports, from three months to ten days and that is what is happening. However, Comrade Kapia also needs to know that there is a great need to check the applications properly, because there are some people who want to become Namibians who apply and it is impossible to reduce the period to one day. We need to have those checks and balances to make sure that the people who apply are entitled to the National documents.

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I already mentioned that there are discussions between the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development to decentralise our programme on Birth and Death certificates to the level of Traditional Leaders, for the Traditional Leaders to notify the health facilities of births up to our offices.

Honourable Swartz, thank you very much for your support

Honourable Katali, on Friday I alerted the Nation that there are people who are trying to forge our National documents and we have arrested some of them. (Interjections). Then Honourable Katali should come to the Ministry and give us that information if it is a forging or not.

Honourable Maamberua, I mentioned in my Budget speech that we are in the process of coming up with a customer care charter, so that we can give all the information on how to apply and the importance of the documents.

Honourable Mbumba, thank you very much for your support. I also thank you for your advice and I will check on those 45 people. Most of the people realise that it is easier to marry a Namibian to become a citizen, because he is protected by the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia.

In conclusion I would like to say that most of the issues raised are part of the challenges of the Ministry and we are ready to tackle it and overcome it. I thank you so much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Any further discussion? Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I had to go and do some other assignments and my sister may already have answered to this question because I heard her talk about collection.

I really want to record my support for the Vote, I think it is a very important

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Vote and there seems to have general improvement in the Ministry. Knowing now that there has been an improvement in the processing of the various documents, it seems that especially people from outlying areas still have problems collecting them. How big are the piles of the documents which lie at the Ministry, not being collected? Perhaps somebody has already raised it and if so, I apologise.

The second issue is the issue of access to the Ministry. Members of the public seems to have problems just entering the Ministry right there at the gate. As a matter of fact, I have a very accurate account of a person who came to the Ministry and the people at the gate apparently mistook him for a foreigner, so they were speaking in some of the National languages – it is not a rumour – and the stuff they were saying without knowing that the person could actually understand were horrible things, “*do not let her in, let her suffer there, not what is he looking for, what are these people*”, all those kinds of things. If the Minister and the staff could look into this matter, that the people at the gate should present a friendly human face, so that people can also take ownership of this Ministry. It is a Ministry of the people and not just a Ministry of the officials. Those are the two issues that I wanted to raise. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. I would suggest that the first question the Minister could deal with. On the second question you should find a way to communicate directly with the Minister so that she could benefit from much more detailed information that you could share with her. That would perhaps do justice to the issue you are raising. I call on the Honourable Minister to reply.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to humbly request the Honourable Member to put his first question in the Thursday questions so that I can come and answer it officially.

Secondly, as Honourable Minister Mbumba said, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration it also is a very important Ministry and this is the security Ministry. Therefore, the police we have there must exercise their duties to

determine whether this person made an appointment or not. We have strict measures in place so that people do not come to the Ministry as they wish. However, if there is any information you need to share with us, please do not hesitate to do so. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Members, any objection to Vote 05? So agreed. I put Vote **08** –
“**DEFENCE**” for **Discussion**.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to be very brief because I support the Vote of the Ministry of Defence. However, I have one or two questions.

The first one will be on page 7, recruitment and training. I have raised this point in my very useful contribution during the Second Reading. As I was looking at this statement, it reminded me of the yesteryears and I think people like Honourable Jerry Ekandjo and the Deputy Prime Minister who were inside the country, at the forefront of the SWAPO struggle will agree with me. There were these statements that were made in the newspapers by the then South African papers, that when there is an accident between Otjiwarongo and Okahandja, they would say, “*there was an accident between Okahandja and Otjiwarongo, two people died and three Ovambos*”. That always made me wonder whether blacks are not people or how could you say two people died?

Therefore, looking at page 7, paragraph 12, I have a serious problem. It says: “*During this Financial Year., the Ministry of Defence has recruited about 1 600 recruits into the NDF, including 600 Children of the Liberation Struggle.*” Then it goes on and says: “*During this Financial Year, the Ministry of Defence is expected once again to recruit 1,000 young Namibians between the ages of 18 and 25 years old and 600 children of the Liberation Struggle.*” This is wrong, let us be consistent, these young Namibians born in exile are young Namibians just like anybody else. I would like to see a situation where we say that 1,600 young Namibians have been recruited into the Ministry of Defence – period. This thing of putting labels on people is wrong and cannot be justified.

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If we continue separating people, we continue putting labels on our young people, what purpose does it serve? Why can we not say 1,600 young Namibians have been recruited and then you go on to say, three Hereros, four Damaras? You cannot do that. Why should you have to single out these young people? It is wrong! You cannot justify these things. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Tjihuiko, I think you are extending the version contained in the document, interpreting it in so many other ways. The issue of the children of the liberation has been of major concern and that is why it is being identified in the manner it was done. I do not think we should try to compare it with things that happened before Independence. Please make your contribution, make it short.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, I registered my objection and that is my democratic right, but I believe that it is wrong. We cannot build a Nation on that basis. That is my own view, I reserve the right to differ.

I wish to congratulate the Minister for the initiative mentioned on page 20, namely to turn this farm into a commercial farm. I am sure that would be a good case study for whoever wants to get into an agricultural project to go and learn from what our young men and women in uniform are doing, because I know it is going to be a success and you must be congratulated for that one.

Finally, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am on record, complaining about the Budget of the Ministry of Defence which I believe was high. Honourable Minister, I wish to congratulate you, looking at the figures in the Budget and what you are planning to do. Here you are saying that from 2005 up to now you have been spending 13,8% of the total Budget to strengthen the structure of the Ministry and looking at the Budget of next year, 2011/2012, I am seeing a reduction in the spending of the Ministry of Defence. That is the best way to go. Spend money, build the structures and then you move on. That is what I have been saying. (Interjection). I need your protection from the Minister of Finance. You need to be congratulated, Honourable Minister of Defence, that is good leadership that you build it up and then you leave it there so that others can also benefit from the proceeds of

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the State. I thank you very much and I support your Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 08. First and foremost, I congratulate the Honourable Minister of Defence, the Deputy Minister and, indeed, the entire staff component. I am very happy, Comrade Minister, that at long last we are addressing the welfare of our men and women in uniform. I am very proud of the commendable job that they are doing, both in the military and civilian terms.

Comrade Minister, on page 8 of your motivation, assistance to civil authorities, I would like to register my appreciation and gratitude for the contribution that our Defence made to the flood victims, the immunisation in Kunene which contained the measles outbreak in that Region and, indeed, also what they are doing to contain veldfires particularly in the commercial areas. I think this is a lesson to those who oppose and criticise the Budget for our Defence.

They must know it is a philosophy of our SWAPO Party Government that, most importantly, you have to maintain peace and stability and you cannot maintain peace and stability with knobkerries, you need a well-trained, well-equipped army. You may recall, Honourable Minister, you were at one point my instructor in PLAN where we used to say, "*train hard, fight easy.*" That was the slogan and I am happy that that is also the slogan of our NDF.

Peace and stability can only be maintained if those who aspire to overcome you will think twice and when there is peace and stability in a country, there will be economic development. Economic development will at least contribute to employment creation, wealth creation which will benefit the entire Nation. Therefore, in this regard we are in fact investing not only in peace and development, but also in socio-economic development of our country. No right-thinking investor will invest in a chaotic country and to those detractors who are saying we spend too much on Defence, must understand it in this context.

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I am also happy, Comrade Minister, that the health sector in this Ministry is being addressed and I am aware that in most countries the best hospitals are military hospitals. You find the best engineers in the military and in this regard I am really very happy.

In addition, I was looking at the Report of the Ministry and I am very happy with the gender, although I understand we do not have a 50-50 gender policy in the NDF. As was the case also in PLAN, our female comrades played a pivotal role in our struggle and I support Vote 08. We must continue to address the welfare of our men and women in uniform and some of us will always continue to support this Vote. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Nickey Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 08 wholeheartedly and I will limit my intervention since the previous speaker mentioned a lot of what I wanted to emphasise.

I am referring to page 14 under the paragraph, United Nations Peace Support Operations, and I am only doing this in reference to one Honourable Member who criticised the training and selection of the men and women in uniform. According to him we just take up everybody and when our people are required to undertake United Nations missions, they are rejected because of their height or overweight.

I simply want to inform the Honourable Member that the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia is non-discriminatory and it did away with the colonial pattern of taking into consideration the height and size of people to be taken up in the uniformed forces. Now we cannot discriminate here in Namibia. Of course, the United Nations has a choice to accept or not to accept. However, when it comes to recruitment, as long as those people meet the criteria set up

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by the Ministry of Defence – and the same goes for the Ministry of Safety and Security – you cannot say because you are short, you cannot be taken up in the army.

I only want to say, Honourable Member, I hope you got the message. Your remark was discriminatory and it cannot be entertained by the Constitution of Namibia. Otherwise, I support Vote 08 wholeheartedly. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. Honourable Kazenambo.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND

CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Firstly, let me congratulate the Minister of Defence for his Budget. This is my vote because he is my General. I thank you for what you are doing, for balancing the armed forces from all perspectives.

Recruitment in our Army, although there is room for improvement, is widespread and exemplary. What I appreciate is that you are open and transparent and take into account the demographic set-up of this country, which is a reality in our rainbow cultural diversity. I am happy that a highly promoted lady in the Army is here. I used to be on guard with her in Lubango, we guarded the fences together. When she sat in the top of a tree, I was here under and when I am in top of the tree, she is sitting underneath. Today she is in the top ranks and I am proud of her.

The President also did us proud by appointing a well-tested cadre as Deputy Minister of Defence.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, while I said the recruitment is balanced, we still do not have people recruited from Gam. Please consider to recruit people from Gam, because they are also experiencing this problem of Identity Documents and passports. Let us come up with a special mechanism to recruit people from Gam and Tsumkwe, especially those returnees from Botswana.

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On the issue of balance, I do not know how true it is and I know that it may carry water, I see here that 600 NDF members will retire in the next five years. As they are retiring and new ones will be moving up in the ranks, let the top ranks also reflect the demographic set-up of this country from a tribal point of view. We cannot wish away tribalism, whether we like it or not, we are Namibians from different tribes. Let our Army appreciate that and I am not practising tribalism here, I am saying it as this is a reality of our Nation and we are busy building a Nation. Let our Army and all other institutions, for that matter, reflect the tribal, racial and gender set-up of this country. This is my appeal and I hope you will take that into consideration.

When I was a young boy and chose to join SWAPO, through the good advice of my father, there were some young Namibians from Botswana whose relatives were here for one reason or another, and they were SWAPO proper, but those people were recruited in Koevoet, not of their own choice, but they are Namibians who were recruited to Koevoet and SWATF under conscription. They were forced to become Koevoet and SWATF and these people are serving in the Army. After 20 years their loyalty to Namibia has been proven without any doubt and above that, the security measures that we have at SADC level will not allow an army officer to carry out a coup, because who is going to recognise your Government? Coups have no room in Namibian politics.

Therefore, as much as we have National reconciliation in politics and where former Koevoet and SWATF members are in the ranks of SWAPO, let us for the sake of reconciliation balance the promotions. These people belong here, they are Namibians, let it give them a sense of belonging by promoting those who are young. We are building a Nation under reconciliation. (Interjection). Page 7, training and recruitment and conditions of service. Promotion is a condition of service and we have former Koevoet and SWATF members who are now part of the NDF. I am saying, under reconciliation they must be promoted, because some of them are my age, they cannot retire in the next five years and they need a sense of belonging. For the past 20 years they have proven loyalty to the Army of Namibia, they have proven loyalty to his country and they must be considered for promotion as a condition of service. That is my appeal and it is a noble appeal, a genuine and open one because some of these people are frustrated, because some of them were SWAPO members who were conscripted in the army. Let us also promote those who can be promoted and let us balance our Army.

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I appreciate the improvement of the infrastructure where these people are living, because you can deny a soldier food, but there is nothing that demoralises a soldier more than if the place where they sleep is not environmentally friendly and I am happy that the Government is paying attention to the improvement of the barracks. With this, I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I appeal to the Honourable Members to be as brief as possible to allow more people to participate. Honourable Kapiia.

HON KAPIA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. On page 7, under training, I just want to emphasise not the training of the new soldiers, but the training of the ones who are already in the service to prepare them to take up the leadership, because 600 to retire is a big number and maybe it is not only ordinary soldiers but officials who were leaders in different capacities. I really want to appeal to the Minister of Defence to prepare those who were recruited to the Army as young people and who have now served for more than ten years to take up the leadership.

I want to support what Comrade Kawana said about the hospital. The military hospital in Namibia could really be put at a high level. Most of the soldiers are admitted to the hospital when they are sick and they will feel good and respected. We need to pull up our socks in order to support the Minister of Defence in the efforts to establish its own military hospitals around the country and to have a very big one in the capital city so that even some of our respected leaders can be treated there. It is high time for us as a Nation to look at this matter and support it, rather than being negative when the Ministry is asking additional money. With this, I support Vote 08.

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

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HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 08 and to make a few positive remarks on the motivation statement by the Honourable Minister.

Firstly, I wish to congratulate you, Comrade Minister, the former and current Deputy Ministers, all the commanders and uniformed men and women for the maximum support that you are rendering to the Health sector. My remarks are based on pages 7 and 8.

We remain grateful for the maximum support that was given to mass vaccination during outbreaks and not only for outbreaks, but even the logistics and personnel, including nursing staff and doctors that you are providing during the National immunisation days. Clearly you reach where we cannot in the mountainous terrains and flood plains.

As regards the health care personnel, we wish to reciprocate the maximum support you are giving us by standing ready to train and retrain your enrolled nurses. However, may I at the same time extend to you an offer, that of inviting the young uniformed men and women, especially those with the necessary qualifications and requirements to join our Medical School for further studies in medicine, also at no cost, free of charge.

One small concern though, Minister, is that I was looking for one of the major logistics, namely helicopters. I want to urge you to Budget more for helicopters in order to assist us in the Health sector.

August 26 is producing very powerful means of transport. We saw the vehicles during the demonstration that you rendered to the Namibian people, but Comrade Minister, have you started selling to the SADC Region? What about the local market? Otherwise, I support Vote 08 without reservation.

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

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Right at the beginning I would also like to have my support for this Vote recorded, because sometimes there is some kind of misunderstanding that there is no support coming from this side, so that is done.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and through you to the Minister, just for clarity's sake, on page 6 of the Minister's speech there is a table presented, containing the following columns: Programme, Allocated Budget, Expenditure and Variance. Should I understand it that the N\$23,5 million that is in the extreme right corner is money unspent or how should I understand it?

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Minister is also dealing in his speech with renovations of infrastructure and construction of new infrastructure. The question that I have to the Minister is this, because I am getting the impression, also from visiting the various military installations in the country, that we are still stuck with the counter-guerrilla strategy syndrome of the people that we took over from. When you go all around the country, we are still in the installations exactly on the spots where our former enemies put up bases because they understood the danger and the threat they were faced with to come from certain particularly directions and we do not seem to be able to move out of that and get a completely new perspective.

Is that simply because of the inadequacy of the resources or are there other reasons?

For example, I see that on page 9 the Minister mentions the construction of a new base at Oluno. I have gone along the whole eastern boundary, from the Nossob up to Tsumkwe and except for Gobabis there is no single military base.

Why a base in Oshakati and Oluno, thirty kilometres away from there and again at Eenhana? Are they not too close to each other and are there no other places where effective installations can be put up? I am saying this because looking at some of the installations, some of the stuff that were set up by the South Africans are pre-fabricated structures which were to serve only for a certain time and then to be taken away. It seems that these structures are very difficult to renovate. At some of the bases in the border area I have seen that

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one cannot keep on renovating these structures. Why not move away and just put up completely new structures? The walls and windowpanes just look like they cannot be renovated.

The next issue that I wanted to touch on has to do with health care. Apart from the involvement of the majority of the members of the NDF in the liberation struggle, there is also the more recent involvement in operations. I do not see the Minister making any mention of something called post-traumatic syndrome. I am getting the suspicion that at least some members of this important institution will at one time or another need counselling or treatment for the problem experienced by especially fighters after having been involved in traumatic situations. Is there sufficient recognition in the Ministry and within the Government of this very serious problem or is the Minister perhaps overlooking this problem? I am saying so because I am a fighter myself. (Interjection).

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: You are not one of them because you disappeared.

HON ULENGA: Can he just withdraw?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I withdraw.

HON ULENGA: You should seriously withdraw that because it is a very silly remark. (Interjections)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Order! The Honourable Member did withdraw the remark, so go ahead.

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HON ULENGA**

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we are talking about serious issues. The next question that I want to raise is on the August 26 Company. The Honourable Minister spelled out how effective this company has been, and apparently there are several rewards that are coming our way because of the work carried out by this company, but on the other hand it seems as if the company is experiencing problems. Seeing that we are producing such effective equipment, is there no way that they can be produced on a larger scale? I see that these are not actually offensive weapons, these are mainly anti-mine and they are mostly used in peacekeeping operations. What are the problems that the company is faced with in selling even more of these very useful equipment to those who can afford them?

Another issue is the knobkerrie syndrome. My dear Comrade here is talking about the knobkerrie syndrome. The knobkerrie syndrome is really a big problem. The other time when I talked about this issue, I referred to a vicious circle. It is unintentional. As you know, the problem is simply that whenever you come up with a proper knobkerrie that you think this is now sufficient for one of your threats and somebody else comes up with something that looks even better and, of course, always it costs money, the challenge is to be smart enough so that you can put up effective stuff that can still make people think twice. You do not want to churn out money and still be ineffective. Therefore, the issue is, spend within what you can afford and be effective. I hope, even though they are referred to as being knobkerries, that we have effective knobkerries.

The Minister mentioned a few weeks ago this exercise that that is going to be at *Ulunga*. Can you give us the dates again, because I would very much like to attend this event?

Deputy Chairperson, I reserve the right to come back, but for now I rest my case and I support the Vote.

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

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APPROPRIATION BILL: DISCUSSION VOTE 08
HON MBUMBA / HON IILONGA

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chair, I have two or three points.

During the twentieth Independence celebrations the Ministry of Defence, its men and women in uniform, was and is definitely the pride of the Nation. You have shown us how much you have trained and retrained. If you consider from where we started, just learning how to handle a weapon, just learning how to march and now we have sons and daughters of the soil who walk on water – of course in boats and ships – but who also fly in the air like birds – but of course using aircraft. Congratulations.

Education and training remain the backbone of any Nation. Without training there is no improvement and, therefore, there is no skills acquisition, there is no performance, there is no efficiency and effectiveness in that performance. Only by continuous training will you change society, change from one generation to another generation and we should continue to be proud of our people.

Lastly, all of us think we support the Army, we support this. The 26 August Company produces some of the best boots, not only for the Army, but for everyday work. Many of you are farmers. I want my pair of the 26 August boots for my farm, buy yours. I thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 08.

On page 7 you deal with recruitment and training of 600 new members. 600 Members to retire within the next five years is a big number and I want to repeat my question which I put to your Colleague last year.

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HON IILONGA**

The age of 60 years is the age at which one should share experience and these are the people we are going to lose. Seeing that we are at peace, is there no way we can use them to assist with the training? Either they can do some rehearsals or give some lectures.

Many Comrades have thanked the Ministry of Defence and we are also going to thank the Ministry of Safety and Security. I am assigned to Kunene. You saved us from being affected by measles by assisting the Ministry of Health and Social Services and others. You also assist the community of Kunene because there are areas which cannot be reached by car and during the Presidential and National Assembly elections the Defence participated in taking democracy to the people for them to exercise their democratic right as citizens.

When we think about constructing army facilities, hospitals are very important. In some countries you would not find high-level people being treated in civilian hospitals, they are in the military hospitals. This is a necessity.

My last remark is on page 12, Defence Weaponry and Equipment. You will recall that when we were discussing the Defence Policy I was saying that there are men and women who do not possess any academic qualifications, but they have experience and here you answered my question by saying training and equip. However, equipment can only be used by a person and they need to be trained. Therefore, I hope that among those 600, the majority will be those who do not even have enough pension and within five years to be sergeants rather than just ordinary privates. Let us look at those things and keep records of our people, so that we can see them when we are in need.

We have the example of when America went to Iraq. He first sent the youngsters, but then later he sent those who were in Vietnam to open the front. Let us not forget our experienced people, let us keep record of them in a register, so that if they are needed, they can be called.

That is my contribution, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, and I support the Vote. I thank you.

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HON UUTONI**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Uutoni.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My contribution is based on page 18.

First I want to congratulate the Minister of Defence, his Deputy and his staff for what they are doing and what they have been doing in the past.

Honourable Minister, I think you are doing very well in terms of manufacturing. Others have touched on 26 August Company, but I want to add some more information.

Manufacturing is the most important thing in our country. One of the products that they are manufacturing are military boots and I know these products are not known by the Namibian people. Would it be difficult for the Ministry to expose these products, because the people are saying the NDF members are just sitting around, and are not doing anything, yet you are doing a lot of wonderful things. If it does not compromise security, could you not invite the electronic and print media to expose what you are doing, so that the people know exactly what the Ministry of Defence is doing.

I further propose that you sell to the Ministry of Safety and Security, since we are now buying from South Africa. We could buy from you and then the money is circulating amongst us and then we sell nurses' shoes to the Ministry of Health and Social Services. If you have the capacity, why can you not sell locally and then the money would be circulating among ourselves? Please expose your activities to the media, so that everybody will see that you are doing something. I support Vote 08.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Sioka.

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HON SIOKA / HON NAMBAHU

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me first of all congratulate the Minister and his Deputy, Honourable Lucas. Also let me congratulate the women and men in uniform. You really impressed me on the 21st of March 2010 at the Show Grounds. I was especially impressed to see the women marching. I even sent a message to the President of Botswana to say, “*Wabona Ra?*”, which means “*you see what is happening in Namibia, Daddy.*” It really impressed us. These women have never complained since they started and that is why they were demanding for equality. They have been going abroad, we never received a complaint from a woman, saying it is too much work. We can do what men can do and we are ready for that. We can climb trees, there is nothing that prohibits us. They have been in Chad, Liberia, Sudan and the Ivory Coast, they never complained and we should thank them for that, they are giving us courage. As old as we are, our daughters are going to join them and they should be ready to groom them for the day when they are going to leave their positions.

Let me thank you again for recruiting these young Namibians, both the 1,000 and the 600 children of the liberation struggle. This has reduced the burden on the Government. I know that wherever their parents are, either dead or alive, they are now happy with the Government of Namibia and that we are looking after their children. Comrade, I will do the same once I get the Budget to employ those young girls and boys in my Ministry. I, therefore, support your Vote of N\$3 billion. Please consider women when implementing your programmes. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to add my voice to those who are supporting Vote 08.

Many things have been said and I am just going to highlight a few issues. Sometimes people say this Budget Debate is a rubberstamp, but when we came

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HON NAMBAHU**

to this Parliament, some of us spoke about the military hospital which at the time was a clinic. It was almost non-existent and I frequently go to that area and it is really picking up. There are many challenges, but our speeches and requests are not falling on deaf ears and for that I congratulate you and I urge that more resources be given, so that that hospital is brought to the required capacity. I invite Honourable Members to visit that hospital, because when you were serving your country and you became vulnerable, you need the comfort and recognition of your leaders.

My second remark is on retirement. Sometimes it is fashionable for everybody to fight for the youth or the women. There is a saying that "*there is no country for old men*", no one seems to want old men, but we are all candidates. We should have a partnership programme for these Colleagues who are retiring to keep them busy with something.

The Australian Ministry of Veteran Affairs is mourning the last survivors of the Second World War. They whole generation of the First World War is gone, but there was a programme to capture history from these people before their departure. When you go to a funeral of a Comrade, you will hear that he was so fantastic, but he is gone forever.

We have tourists being told our history and I wonder whether those tour guides are equipped with the knowledge to tell them that part of history. This is something we need to reflect on and give our people some guidelines. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. Honourable Nambahu has mentioned the issue of tour guides and this is very important, because one day I experienced it firsthand. I was a journalist who arrived in Okahandja and then a tour guide there was saying that *this is the grave of Chief Kapuuu who was killed by a SWAPO terrorist* and I was sitting in that bus and I said it is not true and we started arguing there. Therefore, this is a very important point, because some of the tour guides are misleading people.

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HON NAMBAHU

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you for corroborating what I am trying to say. If we need our history to be taught and explained by others, what do we expect? That is the automatic outcome.

I also think that we need a military museum which is given more prominence so that we have all these things properly recorded and research is done. I was watching the History Channel and the Australians were saying that their soldiers were losing the battles in the First World War, however it was not the battle that was important, but the value they put on the battle. This is what PLAN was known for, the values. If you talk to Cubans, it is almost like a legendary institution of brave people and those are the things that should make us proud and be the foundation of the Nation we are proud of.

Whenever I pass near that building, I always stop my car, because I do not have permission to enter, and admire the impressive work going on there. Some of those colleagues joined the struggle together with us, we were together here and there and we have to be proud even of their philosophy, the vision and mission which they have is something that is going to keep us proud.

Lastly is the code of conduct. People always speak of the discipline of PLAN, the discipline of the Army, but this did not happen by itself, it took a lot of hard work. People have the military police, they have the code of conduct and the values. It is not like you are an organisation and you have no code and conduct and you say, "*no, if Noah hears that he is going to punish you.*" They do not wait for the Anti-Corruption Commission, they enforce their own discipline and we should emulate Defence in our own organisations. You hear Political Parties saying these people are not doing well, but who is talking about hard work to inculcate that in our Political Parties? It is not something that will come from elsewhere, it is something we should emulate and research why it is the way it is. I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Finally, Honourable Nghidinwa.

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HON NGHIDINWA / HON NAMOLOH**

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I think it is tradition that one has to support your neighbour because he is the backbone of your environment.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I want to inform the Honourable Members that the mobile trucks which the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration are using in the whole country were manufactured by August 26 and we need to congratulate them.

My second point was already mentioned by Honourable Sioka, namely how proud we are to see high-ranking female officials in the Ministry of Defence. We were even more proud to see them driving those big trucks during the 20th Independence anniversary. Honourable Tjihuiko, you must also see the good things, not only the bad things.

Lastly, the Ministry of Defence are experts in fire-fighting. Last year there were veldt fires in some Regions and then the men and women of Defence were called. After thirty minutes everything was over. They are experts in that field and we want to thank you for the hard work Comrade Minister,.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much, Honourable Members. Some of you reflected some of the discussions which we had during our Independence celebrations, Honourable Mbumba, Honourable Sioka, Honourable Nghidinwa, when you referred to the parade on that day and just in one single word, it was not the number, but the quality and strong sense of professionalism. That is what we saw on that day. On that note, I would like to call on the Minister to take the Floor and to respond to some of the questions.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would firstly like to thank all the Honourable Members who have made contributions and have congratulated the men and

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HON NAMOLOH**

women in the Defence Force for the good work they are doing. I will not thank each one, but I want to thank you in a group for all the good words you have said and the strong message to the men and women in uniform.

Many of you have spoken about recruitment and training. We have quite a number of institutions where we train, such as at Osona and Oshivelo. Currently we have a small training facility at Grootfontein where we are training our paratroopers and commandos. We have young men who are being trained and hopefully you will see them when you attend the exercise.

The recruitment of the 600 children of the liberation struggle is only to show the people that we are also considering those children. I think you have seen in the newspaper that with regard to the other thousand recruits, we have taken into consideration all the Regions of the country and we indicated the number of females recruited from each region. We are trying our level best to make our Defence Force a Namibian one.

Many of you mentioned the need to address the welfare of our troops. We have Budgeted for this and, of course, the infrastructures we inherited have become very old and they are not permanent, they are pre-fabricated structures. We have been trying to renovate them to be habitable with the resources at our disposal.

We now have the Engineering Regiment at Otavi which we are using to build barracks and shelters in many of our bases. Of course, they were not well trained, but I think their capacity is being reinforced and they can now build houses and so forth. In the near future they will be able to build bridges in times of flood.

All physically fit men and women are able to participate in UN peacekeeping operations because this is what is being demanded by the UN. We are trying our level best to promote men and women as they climb the ladder. Of course, we have not gone to Gam, but we will reach every corner of Namibia and if they have documentation, they will be able to be recruited.

Honourable Kazenambo, we also do not discriminate between ex-SWATF and ex-PLAN. The officers you see there are from the erstwhile armies, SWATF or PLAN. We do not discriminate, they are promoted if they qualify.

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HON NAMOLOH**

Of course, their number was relatively small as opposed to those from PLAN, but we do have many officers amongst them.

When you became an officer in the then South African Defence Force, you literally became a South African. When we came here, we did not find officers. Those who were here were only non-commissioned officers. The officers were taken to South Africa and those who were ready to come back, came back. However, many of our white compatriots did not want to come back. I have seen them in South Africa, they say they are Namibians, but they are in the South African Defence Force, but those who came back were promoted.

You spoke of about the 600 members who are retiring to train the incoming ones to take over the leadership. Even some of the Generals we have today in the Defence Force will be retiring. Some are now 57 or 56. The majority of them, regardless whether they are from SWATF or PLAN, they are old now. Of course, we are trying to boost the younger generation and we are promoting them and sending them on courses. We do not have academies here, but we send them to friendly countries where they are being trained to come and lead this Defence Force. *Honourable Kapia* and many others spoke on the same issue and I just wanted to answer.

Military hospitals are very essential. We have one in Grootfontein, one here in Windhoek, but we now have a programme and we already have a site where we want to build a state-of-the-art hospital where you as Members of Parliament could also be treated. This is our long-term plan that we want to build a better hospital. *Honourable Nambahu* spoke about a clinic. That building was not meant to be a hospital, it was like a mere house and we had to improve it. However, we want to build a better health facility in Windhoek.

Comrade Kamwi, we are very thankful for your offer. My people up there heard that you want to strengthen our health facilities. Of course, we have quite a number of good military clinics and hospitals. We also have testing and counselling centres, one in Grootfontein and one in Rundu. It means we are also building our capacity to be able to voluntarily test and counsel our people.

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HON NAMOLOH**

Helicopters are covered in the Budget, we will be able to acquire helicopters. We now have five pilots studying in South Africa and some in India, so that when the helicopters come, we have trained pilots.

Honourable Ulenga, the amount of N\$23 million you see there is money under-spent due to certain circumstances. You have a contract, somebody does not deliver. Some people say Black Economic Empowerment, but we always have problems with them. They do not deliver and then the money is not spent.

There was a question on why we are only deployed in the former South African bases. We are going to vacate Oshakati and only be in Oluno. We will only have Ruacana, Oluno, Oshivelo, Grootfontein, Otavi, Otjiwarongo Karibib and then the coast. Then we have Rundu, Bagani and Mpacha which are strategic places. Here we have Gobabis, Windhoek, Lüderitz, Okahandja and Keetmanshoop. We cannot be everywhere, Honourable Members, it is very costly and you want us to build infrastructure with married quarters. It is very expensive, we cannot do it. Maybe next year we should ask N\$10 billion or N\$20 billion.

Post-traumatic counselling is important. For three weeks in a month I dream about war, but when our Government came, there was no position taken on counselling most of us. Many of us dream about it, it is still with us and we need to look at what can be done. Of course, we have counselling centres and chaplains who pray and comfort our members.

You mentioned knobkerries, but we are not in any arms race with anybody and we are not looking at what our neighbours have. We are only equipping ourselves to be able to defend ourselves.

Comrade Mbumba and many others mentioned the professionalism when they were marching there. Of course, we would you want to show you also on the 2nd of June 2010 the professionalism and capabilities.

Honourable Ilonga, I know you are scared because you are old like me. We do not actually have a programme for those who are retiring, such as a reserve force. So far there is no such thing. The reserve force is only created when there is an emergency. When these ones retire, they join the Ministry of

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Veterans Affairs. That is the only option we now have, but maybe we can later on look at that.

Comrade Uutoni, manufacturing is very important and now that the Defence industry is growing, it will not only be vehicles, but we will be able to produce what we need. In July we will inaugurate the manufacture of uniforms and we are also now manufacturing our own radios and we will also be able to produce other things we need. We could have a joint venture arrangement with the Ministry of Safety and Security to produce shoes for the police and then also for the hospitals and schools.

We have a Military Museum in Okahandja. The other time I took the Minister of Education to see what we are doing there. We will invite you for the inauguration.

Honourable Members, I have tried my best to answer and to give information. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I just have one question that I forgot to put while I was speaking.

Through the Deputy Chairperson to the Minister, when the South African Defence Force was in this country, they used the Ondangwa Airport as an airbase. I want to know whether this facility is still in use for the Namibian Defence Force? Does it fall within your authority?

The reason why I am asking is that when you drive in from Oshakati past those unseemly stuff that you see next to the road, under whose jurisdiction is it? Is it with the Ministry of Defence or with others, for example the Ministry of Works? It just looks ugly. Those holes which perhaps used to be trenches are still there and sometimes you see this very ugly stuff. You need to speak to your colleagues next door so that they come and complete the job that they

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started or do you have to do it with your own money or whatever you have at your disposal? Please do something so that it looks like it has been rehabilitated. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Minister, would you like to respond?

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the answer is no, Ondangwa is no longer under the Air Force. We use other places for our Air Force. However, when we want to use any airport in Namibia, we use it. When we had the fly-past here, the aircraft were stationed at the InterNational Airport and when we do exercises, we can use Ondangwa, Mpacha or Windhoek, any airport in Namibia, but we do have our permanent stations and we do not occupy the others. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. Any objection to Vote 08? Agreed to.

Vote 04 – “AUDITOR-GENERAL” is put for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-

GENERAL: Deputy Chairperson, I wholeheartedly appreciate the support of the Honourable Members in this House. Indeed, this is our Vote. As I said, in a democracy such as ours we will always continue to make sure that the resources allocated to different Offices, Ministries and Agencies are accounted for. Otherwise, I thank the Honourable Members for their support.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Any objection to Vote 04? Agreed to. Honourable Members, before I turn to the next item on our agenda, I would like at this stage to call on

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HON WITBOOI**

the Honourable House to observe a minute of silence on Cassinga Day, to remember those who have fallen on that day.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

I put **Vote 31 – “VETERANS AFFAIRS”** for **Discussion**.

HON WITBOOI: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I will definitely support this Vote. I thank the Minister of Veterans Affairs for the hard work invested in the Vote by his Ministry not to leave any member of the liberation struggle unregistered.

However, there are a few challenges to be addressed with reference to page 3 of his motivation speech, namely the registration process. Many people only now started understanding the criteria for the registration, because the information concerning this process was not well communicated throughout the Regions. There was a mass campaign in 2008 and after the completion of this registration, the statistics revealed that not all Regions were fully covered, thus many veterans were not registered. At the time of this registration process in 2008, some Regions were served from an office in another Region. This contributed to many people missing the registration process. Therefore, I appeal for the continuation of the registration process until everyone is covered. More mobile teams and prior information distributed to all Regions to ensure that all required information reaches even the people in the remote areas, such as the villages and the farms.

Furthermore, I am requesting the Minister to ensure that all Regions are represented on the Veterans Board to ensure effective service delivery to the various Regions. There are cases where benefits are not distributed equally. For example, there are cases with two persons received approval letters. The one received assistance to school dependants and the other one nothing.

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Therefore, my appeal to the Minister is to conduct an investigation that would ensure proper service delivery and distribution of benefits to veterans.

There are special cases, such as the Hoachanas case in the Hardap Region where genocide took place. There was the Kheib case in the Karas Region. These need special and urgent attention and investigation before registration. For example, at Kheib only those who could afford came for registration in Karasburg, therefore my appeal is for a mobile registration team.

When we talk about veterans, we mostly talk about elderly people. We acknowledge that this is a process that needs thorough scrutiny and approval and my humble request to the Honourable Minister is that the process be speeded up so that those who fought for our liberation struggle enjoy the fruits of their labour and sacrifices before they pass away. With this, I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have only a few small issues to raise before I indicate my support for this vote which again, in a very personal way, is our Vote – of course not all of us but some of us here. Some of the Members participated in the struggle but they are not yet old, so they are not veterans, so they cannot be included, but those of us who are both old and who participated, we probably belong to the category.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Minister refers on page 6 of his speech to the second programme, the Liberation Struggle Heritage Programmes and N\$16,5 million are put aside for that programme.

The Minister is talking about the repatriation of materials from other countries and I want to ask specifically about the repatriation of remains. For example, in some cemeteries in Cape Town we have the remains of several Comrades and veterans of the struggle who died while they were in prison on Robben

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Island. Will this amount also be able to be utilised for purposes such as that? I know that the bones of Namibians are scattered all over the world, those who died while serving their country and I want the Minister to indicate whether that is possible and when can it happen.

Under the same programme the project will also include the identification of specific areas where monuments, buildings or any marks in connection with the liberation struggle can be erected. I cannot remember the exact Act, therefore I cannot remember what is stipulated in Section 3. However, I want the Minister to specify because you are talking about veterans of the liberation struggle. The previous speaker just referred to Hoachanas. To what extent do we separate and make them two struggles and to what further extent are we unifying the fight of Namibians against colonialism and for their liberation? I am asking this because when it comes to the 26th of August, you see Namibians parting ways, some go this way, some go that way and they are all trying to remember their heroes and veterans.

We know of specific places where historic battles were fought in the struggle against colonialism and for liberation. Does the Minister intend erecting monuments or appropriate signs in those areas, such as Ohamakari and others? There are specific places where several of us, you and everybody else, participated within the country and at least to them who were directly involved, historic skirmishes with the enemy. Is it coming to that or are we going to have a shortfall?

Lastly on page 5 and I raised this matter with the Minister of Defence and he has partly answered it, but I want to raise it again with regard to Veterans Affairs. On page 5 the Minister is talking about support packages, including hospital treatment and psychological counselling for traumatised veterans.

In our days that man still calls himself “*stukkende kop.*” It is fashionable to say *Urafu rafu*, everybody thought it was a nice thing and it continues even right now, like Kazenambo there who in his old age he still goes like *Urafu*, but he is actually in need of psychological counselling. (Intervention)

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HON ULENGA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: On a Point of Order. Honourable Ulenga needs to withdraw. He wanted to fight when a joking remark was made and now he says Honourable Kazenambo needs counselling. He must withdraw that.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: May I appeal to the House, I think we are making very good progress, that we stick to the issues. If you deviate from the real issues, we get into this kind of unnecessary comments that attract further deviation. Honourable Ulenga, can I ask you to continue and to please conclude?

HON ULENGA: Yes, I have almost but concluded before I was interrupted by the Colleague. If the Honourable Kazenambo demands that I withdraw, I will withdraw. However, all of us, not only Honourable Kazenambo, need this psychological counselling, everybody who was involved.

I just want to say thank you, Minister, for thinking about this, I know you are also a medical doctor and that is why you could think about this. Please consider all of us. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Chair does not need to get involved, but I am here to maintain peace in the interest of making progress. The Honourable Kazenambo has been challenged, that if he demands an apology, the apology would be forthcoming. Would you want to demand that?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, from a psychological point of view, I will not demand any withdrawal because I am not psychologically disturbed, but all of us may need counselling.

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HON TJIHUIKO**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

My fear is that we are just about to dilute the importance of the original question and the response given. Let us leave it at that. I call on Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, thank you very much. I have a small point which was partly covered by Honourable Ulenga who has spoken before me, but I think mine is going to be in the form of advice to the Honourable Minister Iyambo.

We are all fully aware of the fact that when we are talking about the liberation struggle, we are talking about a very important history for generations to come and obviously, we need our generations to know exactly what has happened in this country. However, I have seen from time to time that we are making a distinction between what happened since 1800 to 1966 and what happened thereafter, the two phases of the struggle. I am of the opinion that we need to look at these two events as one. Let us link them together in order for us to avoid having two distinct structures. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND

CULTURE: On a Point of Information and on a serious note, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I fear that the approach towards the vote might get out of hand, but the Ministry of Veterans Affairs was established on the basis of the Veterans Policy which was debated here and the law distinguishes who will qualify. If we try to link things which the Veterans Affairs Bill does not cover, it will go to the wars that were fought by our forefathers, the Mandume's, the Maharero's, the Witbooi's, etcetera, and the places where they fought and I do not know where it will end.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Can I ask Honourable Tjihuiko to continue and try to stick to the Vote.

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HON TJIHUIKO: I think we need that counselling. Honourable Deputy Chairperson, if you look at Programme 2, it says: *“This will be done through undertaking projects and research, implementing, storing, protecting and preserving information and all materials of the liberation struggle, repatriation of this material from other countries.”* If we have material in other countries and you are saying that we are not considering looking at that, then we may end up, as the Honourable Member is saying, that some people are going to commemorate or remember their heroes here and others at another place. This is not a good thing. I want to put it to the Minister for him to consider. I do not want to get into any controversies. Honourable Minister, that is my concern, that perhaps you look at that and that we have one good structure.

With this very comradely advice, I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I ask the Minister to take the floor and respond to questions.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. We note that the House did a noble thing before we started discussing this Vote, namely by observing a minute of silence for the Cassinga massacre and in that same vein, I want to believe, remembering all the veterans who have sacrificed and, therefore, let their blood continue to water our freedom. Clearly they have made it possible for us to be here and we must always keep that in mind.

Secondly, I would like to thank all those who took the Floor to support the Vote and all Honourable Members who supported this Vote in silence.

Thirdly, in responding to the few questions that have been put, first by *Honourable Witbooi*, I simply want to inform you that registration has not come to an end and registration will not come to an end as long as there are still people who consider themselves to be veterans. They will always be welcome to be registered. To ensure that that continues, all Regional Governors have been informed to continue gathering names of people in their

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respective regions who consider themselves to be veterans and after that the Ministry will be informed and they will be catered for.

In addition to that, I am waiting for the Budget deliberations to come to an end so that I hit the Regions personally and have meetings in the Regional Council Headquarters and I will also make sure that similar meetings are held in all 107 constituencies of our country, calling upon all people in each constituency who consider themselves to be veterans to come forward, first to discuss with them and explain in details what might not be clear to them and then to be registered.

Even after that, everybody who comes to be registered afterwards will be allowed to do so. In the Khomas Region, for example, every first week of every month, those veterans who find themselves in the Khomas Region can do so and that is also done in all other Regions.

The Veterans Act stipulates the number of members to be appointed to the Veteran Boards and if I am not mistaken, it is nine persons. That will not make it possible for all thirteen regions to be represented, but the assurance that I want to give here is that nobody who considers him or herself to be a veteran will not be registered. Everybody will be registered.

Let me then also explain that registration does not mean approved and possibly that goes to explain what you said, that some are afforded certain assistance and others not. Registration is for everybody who comes to register, but the board has a Vetting Committee that vets all the people who come to register, to find out whether it is true that they are veterans. People are sometimes very crafty and that is why it is going slow. Unfortunately it cannot be speeded up, because we discovered that many people want to take a shortcut and that will cause problems. It is better to go slow, but that it be done effectively and precisely. That is the main reason why the process cannot be speeded up and the service delivered will depend on information given whether they can be verified or not.

If this genocide took place before the liberation struggle that we are talking about, that is not covered in the present Act. We are now concerned with the present Act and those are the people we are registering, particularly from 1958 to 1989 at Independence. I must add to say it is a policy issue and should the

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others be considered, that will come later, but for now let us concentrate on what we have at hand.

Honourable Ben Ulenga, the amount for the Liberation Struggle Heritage is about N\$5 million for now, but is simply because we do not yet know the magnitude of the problem we are facing and it will have to continue. If there would still be places that need to be discovered, you would find that in subsequent years to come, Budgetary provisions will be made for that effort.

Repatriation of remains is a policy issue. The idea is to repatriate the remains of Namibians, wherever they are, the remains of veterans of National liberation. Of course, it will have to go along with the funds made available.

We cannot put a limit on liberation sites, all the Honourable Members should pass that information of sites that might exist in your respective regions. What would happen in most instances is to decide on a particular sign to be put up, for argument's sake, identical tombstones of a certain size that would be put on some sites that are known. We do not even know the people who are buried there, but it is known to the villagers that those are the graves of freedom fighters who sacrificed in the battle, whose bodies were found and buried there. It may be decided simply to put signs there.

The other thing we thought of is that all these historical sites and sites of the previous wars could then be compiled in a place in a particular Region, a place where many people passed. For example, it was mentioned that the tour guides do not seem to know much about the history. It will then be important that it is known where the historical sites are. It could be written what could be found in which village and a proper explanation will be given there.

With regard to physical and psychological assistance to veterans, the Ministry has for now Budgeted N\$5 million and we have counselled some veterans with the assistance of the Ministry of Health and Social Services and many of our colleagues are being identified that would need this psychological treatment for post-war trauma. It is, indeed, true that at Independence this particular issue was not paid attention, but it is better late than never. We will make an effort and you as a veteran will be accorded the opportunity as well as all the Honourable Members who consider themselves to be veterans.

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Honourable Tjihuiko mentioned the places of historical importance and I have already said that for now the Act is concentrating on veterans of the war of National liberation. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Any objection to Vote 31? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The House stands adjourned in terms of Rule 90 until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 20:13 UNTIL 2010.05.06 AT 14:30

**ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
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The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

- National Council for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2009;
- Town Council of Nkurenkuru Financial Years ended 30 June 2008 and 2009

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Katjavivi.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 10, 13, 17, 23 and 29 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will now read the first Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE :
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

DEPUTY 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, 5th of May, Votes 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 07, 08, 11, 18, 28, 30 and 31 had been agreed to and Votes 10 and 17 had been introduced.

**Vote 13 – “MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES”,
N\$2,593,039,000 put for Introduction.**

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I have the honour to present to you Vote 13 of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. First of all I wish to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance, the former and

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current Deputy Ministers and former Director General of the National Planning Commission and now the current Deputy Chairperson, Professor Peter Katjavivi and their teams for the consideration made in the allocation of the requested funds to address pressing needs of the health sector.

Honourable Chairperson, we have just celebrated 20 years of Independence, while commemorating the SWAPO Party's 50 years of tested leadership for the independence struggle, reconstruction and development.

Whilst acknowledging the advances made since Independence, the Health Sector continues to face numerous challenges related to emerging and re-emerging disease outbreaks. Amongst such challenges, the following deserve special highlights:

1. The measles outbreak in Kunene, Oshikoto and Kavango regions during the last Financial Year uncovered many of the systemic issues that we have been battling with for the past 20 years. At Independence, our young Nation inherited a fragmented and skewed health system. Nevertheless, the outbreak gave us a bold opportunity to revisit and build better and robust systems that will address the challenges of immunisation, nutrition, sanitation, and other health determinants and risk factors of ill-health.
2. The outbreaks of Influenza A, H1N1 in 2009, the first pandemic of this century, Cholera, Measles and Meningococcal Meningitis in some Regions and the floods affected service delivery in the northern areas of our country.
3. Maternal and child health continue to present serious challenges in our journey to address the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5.
4. HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria remains serious threats to the objective of health for all and pose an incredible burden on our National health system.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, to address these and other challenges during the 2009/2010 Financial Year, an amount of N\$2,414,587,000 was allocated to the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

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This Budget consists of the Operational Budget amounting to a sum of N\$2,080,587,000 and the Development Budget of N\$334,000,000 mainly for capital projects development.

Allow me to report some important milestones accomplished during the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

1. During 2009 the world experienced an outbreak of H1N1 Influenza A. Namibia confirmed a total of 72 cases with one fatality. I am glad to report that a comprehensive response plan was put in place and the epidemic was contained until quite recently, as reported from Swakopmund and Walvis Bay where eight cases had been reported since 9th April, 2010.
2. The Ministry developed and adopted its **five-year Strategic Plan: 2009-2013** which was cascaded to all Regional, National Directorates and to the Intermediate Hospitals. The programmes and activities in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework are aligned to this strategic agenda.
3. The operationalisation of the Cardiac Unit: Three specialists have been recruited, while Namibian doctors, nurses and radiologists were sent to Groote Schuur Hospital, South Africa for attachment as part of on-the-job training.
4. Establishment of the Medical School: Much progress was made in strengthening institutional capacity in collaboration with the University of Namibia when we recently established the Medical School for Namibia. It enrolled its first intake of 59 medical students in February 2010. The Honourable Members may wish to know that of this number, 57 medical students are Namibians of which 35 are females and 22 males. One of the male students is from the formerly disadvantage group, the San.
5. Human Resources and Capacity Development: The Ministry of Health and Social Services has a total number of 9,405 staff members. Of this number, 6,813 are females and 2,592 are males.

A total number of 278 health related students completed their training at the Ministry's Health Training Centers at the end of 2009. This number includes enrolled nurse midwives, radiography assistants and pharmacy assistants. A total number of 94 out of 148 newly qualified registered nurses who graduated at the University of Namibia were employed in the Ministry.

A total number of fifteen medical students completed their training and commenced with their internship at the Windhoek Central Hospital. Meanwhile, a total number of seventeen Namibian medical doctors are pursuing medical specialisation training programmes outside Namibia.

6. Increased number of patients on anti-retroviral treatment: As of February 2010, the number of persons receiving Anti-Retroviral Treatment in the public sector stood at 86,539. Accessibility to services has also increased as the number of sites providing anti-retroviral treatment increased from 34 hospitals to 62 health facilities inclusive of Health Centres and Clinics.
7. HIV/AIDS Implementers Meeting: The Ministry hosted the 2009 HIV/AIDS Implementer's meeting at which approximately 1,500 health practitioners from around the globe participated. The meeting is a result of Namibia being recognised internationally for the great strides made with regard to HIV/AIDS management. The meeting provided a platform to share information that will directly impact HIV/AIDS programme implementation. Hosting the event had positive spin-offs for the country as economic activities boosted the tourism and hospitality industry.
8. The Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA): The campaign was launched by the First Lady of the Republic of Namibia as the Patron. This campaign is aimed at creating awareness in the communities on maternal and child health and forms part of the African Union efforts to reverse the trends. The African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs, Advocate Bience Gawanas, graced the occasion. The campaign is supported by the UN and other partners. The slogan for CARMMA is, **“No woman should die while delivering”**.

9. Accessibility to health care services: Accessibility to health care services improved through construction of new health facilities such as Anti - Retroviral clinics, Primary Health Care Clinics and Regional Management Team offices. Furthermore, with the assistance of the Government of the Republic of China a district hospital is being constructed at Omuthiya. The practical completion is expected to be in February 2011, thus increasing the number of district hospitals to 35.
10. Collaboration with Cuba: Namibia and Cuba have excellent bilateral relations. As a result, Cuba continued to provide health professionals to the health sector. In addition, Namibia and Cuba are entering into other areas of cooperation, including the purchase of pharmaceutical items during this Financial Year.
11. Tobacco Products Control Bill: In order to comply with the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, this august House unanimously and without further delay passed the Tobacco Products Control Bill and which also sailed through the National Council.
12. Amendments to the Hospitals and Health Facilities Act: The regulations on adjustment of tariffs and revision of classification of state hospitals under the Hospitals and Health Facilities Act (34 of 1994) have been revised and amended with effect from 1st April, 2010. The regulation makes provision for among others the exemption of user fees at State facilities for vulnerable groups including older persons, persons with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable children, war veterans and prison inmates.
13. Resource Mobilisation: The Country Coordinating Mechanism submitted a proposal for the Round Continuation Channel with the Global Fund. I am pleased to report that the Global Fund approved the application with disaggregated allocation as follows: HIV/AIDS and health systems strengthening N\$1,694,424,496, TB N\$14,215,808 and malaria N\$138,911,344 for the next six years. It is important to note that these funds are outside the State Revenue Funds and thus are not included in the total Budget ceiling. However, I wish to inform the Honourable Members that we were informed that the Country Coordinating Mechanism of the Global Fund is considering cutting the

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approved Budget by 10% from each disease area.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, I now have the honour and privilege to present before you Vote 13 for 2010/2011 for your consideration and approval.

An amount of N\$2,593,039,000 has been allocated to the Ministry of Health and Social Services. This Budget consists of the Operational Budget, amounting to a sum of N\$2,304,091,000 and the Development Budget N\$288,948,000. The allocation translates to 10.82% of total estimated expenditure of Government for the 2010/2011 Financial Year. The significant increase, by contrast to the last Financial Year of 8.37%, is a step in the right direction towards achieving the Abuja Declaration target. The current allocation is from State Revenue Funds and as I said earlier is not inclusive of resources from the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria, President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief and/or any other development partners.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, let me address individual programmes.

Programme 1: Tertiary Health Care

This programme deals with the provision of specialised clinical and diagnostic services for patients referred from regional and district hospitals. The activities include outpatient, inpatient, intensive care services and specialised services, bulk provision of pharmaceuticals and other commodities, including blood products, and the patient referrals and transportation, human resource development by strengthening the skills and knowledge of health workers through clinical training. In addition, it addresses the infrastructure maintenance and capital development of referral hospitals as well as for specialised equipment.

The cost for operational activities under this programme amounts to N\$855,075,000.

The upgrading and renovation of the Katutura, Oshakati and Rundu Intermediate hospitals, Windhoek Central, and the maternity ward at Windhoek Central Hospital are allocated a sum of N\$84,622,000.

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I wish to thank the Honourable Minister for Finance for the additional sum of N\$16 million. The resources will therefore be allocated for the acquisition of computerised tomography (CT Scan Machines) to enhance diagnostic capabilities for injuries.

In addition, we remain grateful for the consideration made for additional allocation to the renovation and upgrading of Oshakati Intermediate Hospital. This hospital needs extensive upgrading and these funds will make a significant difference.

Programme 02: Regional and District Health Services

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, the regional and district health services programme objective is to promote, protect and improve the health of families, especially women and children. Activities include outpatient and inpatient services, control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, health information systems and outreach services.

Particular emphasis will, however, be placed on activities for the reduction of maternal and child mortality; the provision of Anti-Retroviral Treatment and the prevention of mother-to-child transmission services, the strengthening of outreach mobile services, the expanded programme on immunisation as well as on the prevention of other communicable diseases (TB and malaria) and non-communicable diseases.

For this programme to be realised, a sum of N\$1,396,448,000 is allocated for the operational expenditure.

For the upgrading, renovation and construction of clinics, health centres and district hospitals a sum of N\$202,326,000 is allocated.

The additional allocation for this programme amounting to N\$103 million is for the acquisition and maintenance of medical equipment for district hospitals, the allocation for the filling of key professional vacancies and for the treatment of State patients with uncommon diseases. Furthermore, in keeping with the Partnership Agreement in Health with the Anglican, Lutheran (ELCIN) and Roman Catholic Churches, an allocation for the 12% salary increase for Mission Facilities has been provided for.

Programme 03: Disease Control

The programme objective is designed to manage and direct policy development, strategic planning, resource mobilisation, co-ordination, facilitation, monitoring and evaluation of the National response across all sectors to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. The activities for the programme include, among others, the policy and guideline formulation for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria and the technical backstopping of regional and district health services in the treatment and prevention of communicable diseases.

The funds required for the operational activities under this programme is N\$27,747,000.

Programme 04: Social Development:

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, the programme has two main objectives, namely to provide benefit and services that help people meet socio-economic needs and to provide support and social relief services to families and individuals with special welfare needs, particularly the vulnerable and those living with disability. Through these endeavours, the Government expands its service delivery to the most vulnerable groups in society by ensuring appropriate, sustainable and accountable community-based responses and interventions.

The funds for the operational activities under this programme are N\$24,821,000.

The Development Budget for Programme 04 activities has been allocated an amount of N\$2 million for the upgrading of the rehabilitation centre.

The additional allocation for the programme amounting to N\$4 million is for the National Disability Council, which has been established in terms of the National Disability Council Act (Act 26 of 2004).

Development Partners' contributions

Our development partners have committed an amount of N\$313,505,000 towards programmes in the health sector which are funded outside the State

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Revenue Fund. The funds committed by the development partners are targeted towards the prevention of communicable diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria.

Furthermore, the funds are targeted towards development of physical infrastructure, human resource development, strengthening of health systems management mechanisms and family health services. These contributions will, therefore, continue to make a significant contribution to the development of the health and social welfare sector.

In this regard, I wish to acknowledge with thanks the immense financial support from the US Government, through the Presidential Emergency Programme for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Funding from PEPFAR allowed us to put thousands of Namibians on Anti-Retroviral Treatment, recruit more health personnel, renovate and build CDC clinics and other health facilities countrywide.

Similarly, we are also grateful to the substantial resources received from the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. It goes without saying that financial resources can only be successfully employed if the right strategies and people are in place. I would, therefore, like to acknowledge the immense support received from the United Nations partners, in particular from the World Health Organisation, the UN Agency in charge of health matters and acts as my technical advisor on public health related matters. I would also like to thank UNICEF and UNFPA for their ongoing support both morally and financially. Last but not least, my appreciation goes to the bilateral partners, among others the Government of the Republic of Cuba, the Governments of the Peoples Republic of China and of Spain for their ongoing financial and technical support.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, it remains a challenge to deliver quality health care given the scarcity of resources but efforts are being made to achieve our goals as stipulated in Vision 2030, NDP3, the Millennium Development Goals and the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto of 2009.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I wish to thank His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, for according me and my Deputy, Comrade Petrina Haingura a second term to continue with our

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programmes for improving the health service delivery in the country.

I also wish to thank my team, the Honourable Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary, and the staff at the Ministry of Health and Social Services for their tireless efforts towards the realisation in the provision of integrated, affordable, accessible, quality health and social welfare services that are responsive to the needs of the population.

I now have the honour and privilege to present before you a sum of N\$2,593,039,000 for Vote 13 for your consideration. I so Move. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much.

Vote 29 – “MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY”, N\$251,487,000 put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly.

Allow me to introduce Vote 29 of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology to this august House.

Allow me to thank and congratulate the Minister of Finance and the Director General of the National Planning Commission for their tireless efforts towards the drafting of the 2010/2011 Budget. Drafting the 2010/2011 Budget must have been challenging in view of the difficult economic times that Namibia and the rest of the world is facing due to turmoil in the markets and a decreased allocation from the SACU windfall.

During the previous Financial Year, Parliament endorsed a Budget of N\$234,808,000 for the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology for its operations.

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When I motivated the 2009/2010 Budget in this august House last year, I drew your attention to the fact that the mandate of the Ministry was expanded to leapfrog Namibia into the information society, guided by the principles enumerated in Vision 2030. Our long-term vision is to establish the information and communication technology sector as one of the main pillars of the Namibian economy through the necessary reforms and through increased accessibility and affordability of ICT products. We also have to ensure that our Nation is equipped with the necessary skills to embrace the latest technologies.

To this end, we have made positive strides with the enactment of the Communications Bill at the end of last year after intense deliberations which lasted more than ten years. Our aim is to put the Communications Act into operation by the fourth quarter of this year. A transformation team has therefore been appointed to address all issues that will ensure the smooth transition of the Namibian Communication Commission to the Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN).

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, following the redesigning of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology in 2008, we spent time to formulate high-level statements as guiding tools to allow us to implement our new mandate. The Ministry aspires to be a world-class institution by creating an inclusive information society and promoting knowledge for development, thereby positioning Namibia as a recognised regional ICT hub in southern Africa.

To this effect, we have launched a five-year Ministerial Strategic Plan to take us up to 2014. This plan obliges us to develop effective policies and a supportive legal framework for information and communication technology. The Plan also dictates that we should implement managed liberalisation of the ICT industry, whilst also providing adequate awareness raising and training in this sector.

Besides addressing the need for ICT infrastructure and services, the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology continues to empower the Nation with news and information to enable our population to meaningfully contribute to our democratic processes and to be the architects of their own destiny.

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The expanded mandate of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology dictated a review of our structure to ensure that all our responsibilities receive the necessary attention.

In consultation with the Office of the Prime Minister we developed a new structure, which was approved on 1 April this year. The new structure provides for 35 additional positions at a total cost of N\$3.3 million. Unfortunately we did not receive money to fill all the vacancies immediately. As a consequence, key functions will continue to be constrained by inadequate human resources.

In the past Financial Year we have made significant strides in positioning the Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies to serve the Nation. Unfortunately, however, this has not been without challenges, the biggest of which is lack of appropriate office accommodation.

The Ministry's Head Office occupies two floors in the Government Office Building just south of this Parliament Building. This space is occupied by top management and their support staff, as well as the Directorate Communications and the Division General Services. Our other Directorates and units, namely Audiovisual Media, Copyright Services and Regional Offices; Print Media Affairs and the Namibian Film Commission are scattered all over town. The current working environment is far from being conducive and is presenting its own peculiar difficulties in management, control and accountability and supervision.

Last year, the Ministry was granted N\$1.5 million for feasibility studies for office accommodation under its Capital Budget. The feasibility studies for a new Head Office and 13 Regional offices have been completed and the construction of adequate accommodation will amount to N\$350 million. N\$142 million for the new Ministerial Head Quarters and N\$208 million for the construction of 13 Regional offices.

This year, the Ministry was allocated N\$15 million for the construction of office accommodation, which will be used for documentation work prior to the start of construction work. Our serious challenge of office accommodation will, therefore, not be resolved in the near future. As a result, we have no option but to continue to rent office accommodation for the foreseeable future.

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The motivation of Budget Votes requires from us to highlight our achievements during the previous Financial Year and indicate how we intend to use the new allocations for the 2010/2011 Financial Year. It, therefore, gives me pleasure to share with you what the Ministry has done during the 2009/2010 Financial Year.

In line with the Ministry's programme **to Expand Media Accessibility**, the Ministry has finalised consultations and feasibility studies and identified sites for multipurpose community centres in the Oshikoto, Erongo and Oshana Regions. The Ministry, furthermore, plans to support two multipurpose community centres in the Khomas Region this year. This support is part of our Education, Audiovisual Network Consolidation Development Programme.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology has identified the use of affordable and accessible ICT services as an important catalyst to job creation in Namibia.

To address the high cost of communications, as well as the lack of adequate bandwidth that is seriously limiting the development, use and promotion of ICT in Namibia, the Ministry, together with Telecom Namibia and MTC, are investing in the West Africa Cable System (WACS). This cable will bring a landing point to Namibia at Swakopmund to enable the country to have direct connectivity to international networks towards the end of 2011.

Telecom Namibia and MTC have each invested N\$115 million in this project, while the Ministry contributed 15% of the cost. WACS will enable Namibia to provide international connectivity to neighboring land-locked countries.

Also under this programme, a total of eight editions of the Government mouthpiece, the *Government Information Bulletin*, were published, including a bumper 32-page edition, focusing on our Nation's 20 years of Independence.

The monthly publication of the Bulletin is being hampered by lack of contributions from other Government institutions as per Cabinet decision.

The Namibia Broadcasting Corporation completed the construction of high power and low power radio and television transmitter stations at Klein-Waterberg, Bethanien, Uis, Kamanjab, Kalkrand and Okongo.

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Ongoing NBC transmitter projects include the upgrading of Gross Herztog, and new projects at Signalberg, Andara, Omuthiya, Otjinene, Maltahohe, Ruacana, Sesfontein and Eiseb 2.

The transmitter expansion project resulted in increased radio and television coverage. A total of 68% coverage has been reached with television, while radio coverage stands at 96%.

During the period under review, the NBC introduced programmes such as *New Season*, a religious programme, *Strictly-for-Women*, a programme that addresses gender issues, and *Strictly Casual*, a women's programme focusing on personality, glamour, style and fashion. A youth programme, *Off-the-Hook*, discussing social issues pertaining to young people got off the ground, as well as *One-on-One*, a current affairs programme, *The-Week-That-Was*, a programme on Namibian issues, as well as *Business Today*, a programme focusing on business and economic affairs in Namibia.

Towards the end of July this year, the NBC plans to launch two pilot projects at Oshakati and Klein-Waterberg with its second television channel. The second channel will have a commercial bias though still guided by the principles enshrined in the NBC Act, namely to educate, inform and entertain the public and to promote Nation building. It is hoped that investment in quality programmes, together with market research-based programming on this channel, should draw higher income group viewers and thus improve the income of the NBC.

Under our second programme to **improve the understanding of Government Programmes and Policies**, the Ministry published five editions of *Namibia Review*, the magazine that is analysing Government policy, while a total of 21 media releases on Cabinet decisions were disseminated. More than 120 media releases were also prepared and distributed by the Ministry on behalf of other government institutions and the SADC Secretariat in Botswana.

Three Intellectual Property Rights information sharing and training workshops in collaboration with Namibia's Collective Management Organisations, namely the Namibia Reproduction Rights Organisation and the National Society for Composers and Authors of Music, were conducted during the year under review. In this connection, the Ministry has initiated the amendment of

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the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Protection Act to include the protection of technological advancement, resale rights and mechanical rights. This amendment will stimulate growth among the creators and producers of artistic works.

To further enhance the understanding of Government programmes and projects, the Ministry participated in shows and exhibitions in all 13 Regions of the country to bring Government closer to the people.

The Ministry's **Information, Education and Communication for All programme** addresses pertinent issues and stimulates social dialogue and debate on population and reproductive health issues.

The Ministry is participating in three main campaigns to inform the Nation on crucial issues, namely the dangers of small arms and light weapons, Nationhood and National pride and to curb the increase of the HIV/AIDS and other health related issues in Namibia.

The campaign on **Nationhood and National Pride** is aimed at promoting National pride and patriotism, countering vandalism and crime, and improving hygiene and sanitation.

The Ministry continued to coordinate the National **Take Control HIV & AIDS** media campaign as mandated by the country's strategic plans. Last year we embarked on the "**Break the Chain**" campaign to educate all sexually active Namibians about the risks of sexual networks and multiple and concurrent partnerships and how to reduce these risks.

To **Ensure that the Media Sector Benefit the Economy**, the Namibia Film Commission continued to support, encourage and promote the local film industry. During the previous Financial Year, the Namibia Film Commission launched a scriptwriting competition and the three winning scripts will be translated into short films during this year.

Unfortunately, low allocations towards the Namibia Film Development Fund prevented the Namibia Film Commission from adequately assisting in the development of the local Film Industry.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:45
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:10 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Members, I have a special announcement to make. Members, it is with sadness and deep regret that I have to announce the passing away of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Umaru Yar'Adua. In this connection, this House obviously will be expressing itself on the matter by sending our messages of condolences to the Nigerian Parliament. May I now ask Honourable Members to rise and observe a minute of silence in memory of the Nigerian leader.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE.

May I ask the Honourable Member to continue with his presentation?

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in its drive to promote a screen culture in Namibia, the Namibia Film Commission contributed N\$120,000 towards the annual Wild Cinema Windhoek Film Festival and sponsored the awards for the best director, best filmmaker and best scriptwriter.

The five students who received financial assistance from the Film Development Fund for their studies in different film disciplines in South Africa completed their studies at the end of 2009.

Through the Private Public Partnership with the German Development Service, a 16 minute promotional DVD, *Location Namibia*, was produced to lure foreign filmmakers to Namibia. This DVD was shown at two international film festivals and trade fairs in America and Europe, respectively.

NAMPA has continued to disseminate news and information about Namibia both at home and abroad. Important information on Government programmes,

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development projects, business and investment opportunities in the country was disseminated effectively and widely over the past year.

To further ensure a comprehensive news and information delivery, NAMPA started providing real time news on mobile phones from the end of 2009, thereby enabling wider access to news and information by our population.

News service operations are very costly but less profitable as they are more Public Service oriented. Thus, to reduce the Agency's dependency on State funding, the Government approved an allocation of N\$4.5 million to NAMPA for projects over a three-year period.

The final allocation of these funds was made at the end of the just ended Financial Year. Among the projects being investigated is a printing project, which the Agency intends implementing once all the necessary consultations on its implementation have been completed.

The **New Era Publications Corporation** continued to make inroads in areas not reached by other dailies. During the past Financial Year the newspaper has increased its readership by almost 25%. New Era currently has a market share of around 20%.

New Era needs to be congratulated for the introduction of articles that are profiling our liberation heroes and other historical figures who contributed to Namibia's socio-economic development. These articles are in line with the paper's mission of informing and educating the Nation.

Although New Era recorded improvements in the production, circulation and content of the newspaper as a result of several training workshops, other initiatives, including some staff appointments, had to be put on hold due to the difficult economic environment in the previous Financial Year.

Advertising and circulation remain two of the main challenges facing the **Southern Times** newspaper, the joint venture project between Namibia and Zimbabwe. Fortunately, the past year recorded a growth in advertising, while plans are in the pipeline to make the newspaper's website attractive for online advertising. To this effect, the newspaper is targeting organisations with a regional bias, as well as the Tourism Industry.

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The Southern Times is available in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe and has correspondents in those countries, as well as in Malawi, and Mozambique. In the current Financial Year, the Southern Times plans to expand into Angola and Mozambique through the introduction of a Portuguese section in the newspaper. The ultimate aim is to cover and reach all 14 SADC Member States.

Under our programme to **Improve the Use of Information and Communication Technologies**, our vision is to transform Namibia into a knowledge-based, highly competitive, industrialised and eco-friendly Nation, with sustainable economic growth and high quality of life by 2030.

During the year under review, the Ministry pursued its overall mandate and mission to lay the foundation for the accelerated use, promotion and development of ICT in Namibia. One such initiative is the West Africa Cable System alluded to earlier. Another revolutionary e-initiative that will bring e-medicine to Namibia and accelerate e-education, resulted from an agreement signed with India in 2009. This agreement provides for connectivity between institutions of higher learning and hospitals in Namibia and India.

The equipment for this project already arrived in Namibia and implementation is the next step.

The Communications Act provides for a Universal Service Fund to support the provision of rural telecommunications services. This Fund will contribute to universal access to information and communication facilities, such as telephones, Internet and multi-media services. It is envisaged that especially rural youth stand to benefit from this accelerated roll-out of services through capacity building, training and employment creation.

The Ministry had, furthermore, done a benchmarking study that resulted in a 50% reduction in mobile termination rates between telecommunications operators, thus ensuring uniform termination rates from one network to another.

The development of telecommunications infrastructure is indispensable to the growth of a modern economy. In this regard, Telecom Namibia has completed the rollout of the Internet Protocol and Multi-Protocol Label Switching

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(IP/MPLS) network countrywide. This network is operational and carrying National and international traffic.

This state-of-the-art network has allowed Telecom Namibia to connect Zambia to the rest of the world by connecting Telecom Namibia's Synchronised Digital Hierarchy (SDH) and Multi-Protocol Label Switching networks at Katima Mulilo to the Zesco and Zamnet networks for services in Lusaka. That was a first for our National operator and included a traffic transit route for PCCW, an international telecommunication service provider, from London to Lusaka.

The National fibre backbone network was enhanced and extended drastically during 2009. This included the completion of the Omaheke backbone ring in the east. The fibre backbone ring in the west - the Erongo ring, was closed by means of a fibre cable route between Henties Bay-Uis-Okombahe-Omatjete-Kamanjab with a 10 gigabit per second (Gbps) transmission capacity. That ring has been completed and is operational.

To connect to the new Erongo ring, a new and bigger fibre cable was added between Tsumeb-Oshakati and the total Kunene ring was upgraded to 10 gigabit per second (Gbps) transmission capacity.

In another unique project, Telecom Namibia is assisting the Directorate of Civil Aviation to implement a National air traffic management system to secure the Namibian air space and increase air safety to comply with international safety standards. In this project, 36 remote stations have been built at existing Telecom Namibia backbone infrastructures and connected by broadband networks to a centralised control centre in Windhoek.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, in the area of mobile telephony, Mobile Telecommunication is setting the pace in Namibia and on the African continent. During the past Financial Year, MTC became the fourth operator on the continent and Namibia the third country in Africa to roll out 3G. MTC is already hard at work to extend its leadership position to offer 4G, which is super fast mobile Internet, in Namibia towards the end of this year. This development will make MTC the first operator in Africa to roll out 4G on the continent.

In addition, MTC covers 95% of the population, making Namibia the third best-covered country in Africa, while providing network coverage to 54% of

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the country in terms of geographical area.

During the year under review, **NamPost** opened seven new postal offices at Aminuis, Epukiro, Okondjatu, Prosperita, Goreangab, Okuryangava, and Okongo, bringing postal services points closer to the public. In addition, 10 550 new post office boxes were made available to the public.

Meanwhile, the courier services have been extended to three new destinations ensuring that fast parcel delivery reaches as many community points as possible. At the same time NamPost continued expanding its financial services to the marginalised groups and increased the Smart Card account holders by 42 000.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, under our programme to **Increase the Beneficial Use of Information and Communication Technology**, we are planning to start with the implementation of the revised Information and Communication Technology policies, as well as the Broadcasting Policy, which were developed during the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

This programme may, however, be hampered by the lack of funds to fill critical positions on the new approved establishment.

In summary, the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology has been allocated an amount of N\$251,487,000 for the 2010/2011 Financial Year. This allocation will allow us to implement the following programmes:

Programme 1: Media accessibility; to enhance the Free Flow of Information.

For this programme I request an allocation of N\$29,120,000 to ensure that the Namibian people have access to electronic, printed and other media to strengthen their participation in the country's development.

Programme 2: Improving the Understanding of Government Programmes and Policies.

For this programme I request an allocation of N\$18,800,000 to continue publishing and distributing the Namibian Review, produce videos on National

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events, show videos throughout the country, prepare media statements and host media briefings.

Programme 3: Ensure access to Information, Education and Communication for all.

For this programme I request an allocation of N\$64,574,000 to allow the Ministry to continue with its campaigns on HIV and AIDS and Nationhood and National Pride.

Programme 4: Ensure the Media Sector benefits the Namibian Economy.

For this programme I request an allocation of N\$123,942,000 to subsidise the Namibia Broadcasting Corporation, the Namibia Press Agency, the New Era Publications Corporation, NAMZIM Newspapers and the Film Development Fund of the Namibian Film Commission.

Programme 5: Increasing the beneficial use of Information Communication Technology

For this programme I request an allocation of N\$14,451,000 to allow Namibia to become part of the Information Society.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in light of the above, I humbly submit Vote 29 to the tune of N\$251,487,000 for your endorsement and approval. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you.

Vote 23 – “DEPARTMENT OF WORKS”, N\$462,877,000 is put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, please allow me to take this opportunity to introduce to this august House Vote 23 for

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the Department of Works for the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

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 to the implementation of capital projects on the Development Budget, and the maintenance of garden infrastructure and equipment, just to mention a few.

Last year it was reported to this august House that the Department of Works struggles in the provision of services due to crucial vacancies in both technical and professional positions despite the fact that some vacant positions have been filled with foreign professionals recruited from the SADC Region and beyond. The situation remains unchanged, and the Ministry only managed to employ one young Namibian architect on the establishment of Capital Project Management since then.

Although the Ministry has put measures in place to facilitate the necessary practical training of Namibian engineers to enable them to register as professionals, the Department is still experiencing a high turnover of professional and technical personnel, due to better remuneration packages and working conditions offered by the private sector and parastatals. Only one of the four Quantity Surveying positions in the Department is filled despite various advertisements internally and externally. To address the issue of salaries for professionals, the Ministry is currently conducting a comprehensive study in this regard and will submit findings to the relevant authorities for consideration during this Financial Year.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, let me highlight some of the activities which the Ministry has undertaken to bring about improvement in the service delivery.

During the 2009/2010 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\$720,000,000.

Last year it was reported to this august House that the Department will implement measures to address the implementation rate of capital projects on the Development Budget. In order to improve relationships and to properly

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respond to queries by line Ministries, the Ministry has conducted various project review meetings to discuss progress, educate Line Ministries' planners on the implementation and strategise on future projects.

To assist in identifying causes of delays on projects and to improve on project implementation, the Ministry has developed a *typical construction project cycle* document. This document was presented to all Line Ministries for input and extensive consultations were held with the National Planning Commission and the Tender Board of Namibia. The Ministry has finalised the document and presented it to Cabinet for consideration and adoption.

The approved document will now be used as a guideline in terms of time frames for project delivery. The document suggests some form of service level agreements to be entered into. We are confident that the project implementation rate will be accelerated if compliance to the document will be adhered to by all parties.

The provision of Government office accommodation using the BOT system and PPP method of procurement has now taken another route. Consultations were held between the Ministries of Works and Transport, Trade and Industry and Finance to address and finalise the establishment of a PPP unit. This Unit will have to be the lead entity to come up with all the necessary PPP requirements and procurement tools. However, before this could be concluded, the steering committee on this concept advised that the Ministry of Trade and Industry first has to draft a PPP policy, as previously directed by Cabinet. Thereafter the implementation of projects, using the PPP module can be effected.

The Department of Works has finalised the database for SMEs throughout the country as part of the Ministry's implementation plan for SME involvement in the construction of suitable projects. Consultations are still ongoing with the Ministry of Trade and Industry to harmonise the data on SMEs per Region for training purposes.

A bill to establish a *National Planning and Construction Council* for

Namibia was approved by Cabinet and will be tabled in the National Assembly soon. The aim of establishing this Council is to regulate and control the activities of all the players in the Namibian construction industry. An

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Amendment Bill on Architects and Quantity Surveyors was also approved by Cabinet for tabling in the National Assembly. The aim of this Bill is to accommodate all different categories of architectural and quantity surveying professionals, allowing each one of them to establish their own controlling bodies within the parameters of the Act of the Council and its rules and regulations. The name will also change to the *Namibia Council for Architectural and Quantity Surveying Professionals*.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the sale of non-assigned Government houses is maintaining its momentum, with an average of ten Deeds of Sale currently being finalised on a monthly basis. During the 2009/2010 Financial Year; 105 houses were sold and N\$ 15,326,000 was netted during this specific period. To date, 981 offers to sell were made to sitting tenants, of which 277 offers are still pending acceptance or approval at financial institutions. In total 670 houses were sold countrywide since the implementation of the scheme, while 34 deeds of sale are still in a process of being registered at the Deeds Office. An amount of N\$173,035,000 was generated since the implementation of the Scheme.

Last year it was reported that outstanding rentals and municipal accounts in arrears by sitting tenants are still causing delays in the sale of Government houses, and first need to be cleared before transactions can be finalised. I must report here that the Attorney General's Office was approached for a legal opinion with regard to bills left behind by staff members who passed away, being transferred, resigned or retired and those who purchased their own properties in the market. Proper mechanisms based on the legal advice received are being put in place to address this challenge in order to resolve outstanding issues pertaining to the sale of Government houses and allocation of flats to staff members

The maintenance of Government properties remains a challenge 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. To properly maintain Government assets valued at N\$22.5 billion requires an annual maintenance provision of at least N\$450 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

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housing and as high as 6% when it comes to complex buildings, like hospitals. Through the Development Budget, a number of new Government buildings and infrastructure are added annually to the existing asset portfolio, increasing the required expenditure for maintenance with an additional amount of approximately N\$15 to N\$20 million per annum.

Funds appropriated on the Operational Budget for the Sub-Vote 05 - Maintenance over the past five years amounted to N\$140 million per annum on average. This amount includes remuneration of staff, 50%, transport cost, 7.5%, utility cost that includes fuel to generator sets, 12.5% and only the remainder of 30%, approximately N\$42 million, can be utilised annually towards physical maintenance activities.

The actual amount available for maintenance activities for the past couple of years is still as low as 0.19% - N\$42 million instead of 2% - N\$450 million of the total asset value of N\$22.5 billion, which is grossly inadequate.

Cabinet has, therefore, directed Offices/Ministries/Agencies to ensure that they create maintenance units in their respective institutions responsible for coordinating the maintenance of Offices/Ministries/Agencies buildings. Significant progress has been made during the 2009/2010 Financial Year towards this exercise and submissions by Line ministries to seek approval of the proposed structures from the Office of the Prime Minister are in process.

As users of Government facilities, Offices/Ministries/Agencies will now be accountable and take responsibility for all routine and preventative maintenance activities that occur because of their occupation and utilisation of the property. This includes activities like cleaning gutters and storm water channels regularly to avoid unnecessary blockages during rainy periods, replacing blown out bulbs and fluorescent tubes, and attending to leaking taps, blocked sewer and wastewater outlets.

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. 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. During the current Financial Year, the Department will conduct a feasibility study to investigate

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the possibility of implementing a cost recovery system for this service delivery.

It was reported last year that the Ministry has made tremendous progress in the decentralisation of the Maintenance and Technical Services function. I would hereby like to inform the august House that all requirements as per the Ministry's Decentralisation Action Plan have been finalised and the maintenance function in nine of the 13 Regions were officially transferred and handed over to the respective Regional Councils during August 2009 and January 2010. The handing over of the remaining four Regions is scheduled to take place during May 2010.

The Department has started re-aligning its newly created staff establishments in the regions by transferring redundant staff to other offices and Line Ministries requiring their expertise.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the Ministry has embarked upon three projects to improve efficiency in the Department of Works, namely the upgrading of the IT network at the Head Office, the development of a Ministerial Website and the development of a Fixed Asset Management System (FAMS). Plans are underway to also incorporate the customisation of a Capital Project Management module into the system.

Some remote buildings on site, like the Ministerial Investigation Offices as well as the newly converted Transportation Policy and Regulation Offices, have been linked to the Ministerial IT network. The upgrading of the network infrastructure at the Head Office is now 75% complete. The Ministerial website is up and running and can be accessed at www.mwtc.gov.na.

During the past years, this august House was informed that measures have been taken to establish a reliable Asset Register. Therefore, I hereby confirm that the system has been fully implemented in the Head Office of the Ministry of Works and Transport. An ongoing countrywide survey is being conducted to obtain and compile records on Government properties and the verification and confirmation of this data is being done by means of continuous follow-up surveys at regional level. Furthermore, since Cabinet authorised the Ministry to enlist the service of an IT expert to set up the Asset Register System, the Ministry will continue improving the system to eventually enable end-users to

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access the system from any place in Namibia via the internet.

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 services include: procurement of computer hardware and software, networking, database development and technical support services.

Posts of a Systems Administrator and a Computer Technician have been filled during the previous Financial Year, while the position for a senior Analyst Programmer was interviewed and approval from the Public Service Commission is pending. In order to increase the network traffic, the bandwidth has been upgraded from 128 kilobytes per second to 2 megabytes per second.

The increase in the bandwidth has also contributed to the smooth running of the Human Resources Integrated Management System (HRIMS) that has been limited in connectivity for many years.

With the decentralisation of the maintenance function to the Regions, a tender for the procurement of computer hardware and software was recently approved and delivery of equipment is currently in progress. Most of these computers are earmarked for the Maintenance Regional and Sub-Regional Offices. As the donor assistance from GTZ for the expansion of network services to maintenance offices in the Regions could not materialise, the Ministry has made Budgetary provision of N\$20 million over three Financial Years.

Tenders for the renovation and upgrading of the existing Government stores in Katima Mulilo were called for during the 2009/2010 Financial Year and construction work will commence on 10 May 2010. It is envisaged to commission the Stores by the end of the 2010/2011 Financial Year. This Store will remedy the procurement logistic problems of Government with regard to stock provisioning in that 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 store. The store will commence with a staff compliment of fifteen.

At this juncture allow me to introduce the total Budgetary requirements for the Department of Works for the 2010/2011 Financial Year, which amounts to N\$462,877,000. From this amount, N\$401,810,000, which represents 86.81% of the total Budget, will go into operational activities. The remaining

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N\$61,067,000, which represents 13.19% of the total Budget, will be spent on capital-related investments.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me now to come to the individual programmes for which the allocation of N\$462,877,000 will be utilised.

PROGRAMME 1: CULTURAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

The purpose of this programme is to construct an Independence Memorial Museum that will allow all Namibian people and tourists visiting the building to be both educated and inspired by the schematic arrangement of historical displays demonstrating both the history and rising of the Namibian Nation. Construction work commenced during the 2009/2010 Financial Year. Progress is currently 20% and the entire project with a construction period of 24 months is scheduled to be completed on 30 August 2011. For this activity, I request an amount of N\$24,000,000 under this programme.

PROGRAMME 2: CONSTRUCTION OF MINISTERIAL FACILITIES

The purpose of this programme is to improve working conditions for Ministerial staff members and to enable the Ministry to operate more efficiently from both Central and Regional levels as part of the Ministry's decentralisation exercise. The programme includes the construction of two new Maintenance Regional offices at Omuthiya and Outapi, as well as the provision of seventeen new sub-offices in order to bring services closer to the customer. For these activities, I request an amount of N\$15,817,000 under this programme.

PROGRAMME 3: PUBLIC WORKS AND PUBLIC PROPERTY ASSET MANAGEMENT

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

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reasonable and adequate facilities to operate from, hence enhancing productivity.

Provision has also been made for an amount of N\$3 million to continue with the existing rehabilitation exercise of the borderline fence and patrol road between Namibia and Botswana, as well as to conduct a feasibility study on the rehabilitation of the Namibia-Zambia borderline. 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, upgrading and/or rehabilitation of existing 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\$370,552,000 under this programme.

PROGRAMME 4: WASTE, POLLUTION AND URBAN ENVIRONMENT

The aim of this programme is to improve the living conditions in rural 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\$3,000,000 under this programme.

PROGRAMME 5: CAPITAL PROJECT COMPLETION

The purpose of this programme is to successfully plan, supervise, monitor and finally hand over completed capital projects to line Ministries with an average of 450 projects running concurrently during any given Financial Year. The programme also involves regulating, co-ordinating and initiating building quality and technical standards as well as to administer and regulate the Act on professional bodies involved in the construction industry. It is the intention of

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the Ministry to revive the drawing office in the Directorate: Capital Project Management that was dormant for the past couple of years due to staff shortages. This will allow the Department of Works to handle smaller projects again by own staff in-house, resulting in cost and time savings to Line Ministries. For these activities, I request an amount of N\$16,402,000 under this programme.

PROGRAMME 6: PROVISION OF SERVICES TO THE GOVERNMENT

The purpose of this programme is to facilitate the provision of standard stock supplies to Ministries and provide printing services to all Government institutions. The envisaged upgrading and rehabilitation of the existing Government Stores in Katima Mulilo is catered for under this programme. For this activity, I request an amount of N\$24,061,000 under this programme.

PROGRAMME 7: AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE ICT SERVICES

The purpose of this programme is to develop affordable and accessible ICT services and to establish and maintain network services to the 13 Regions. For this activity, I request an amount of N\$9,045,000 under this programme.

In the light of the programmes outlined above, I now humbly request this august House to approve the total expenditure of N\$462,877,000 for the Department of Works, Vote 23. I thank you for your attention.

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Vote 17 – “REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT” is put for Discussion.**

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Before I start, this culture of long motivations, could we not have a system where we would have documents being distributed a day before?

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me start by thanking the Honourable Minister Jeremia Jerry Rukeeveni Ekandjo for a

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well-motivated statement. On page 7, enhancement of Local Government administration, you said: *“Inadequate financial resources coupled with lack of skills and qualified personnel continue to hamper effective and efficient service delivery by the majority of local authorities.”* Honourable Minister, I think I agree with you and I really want to know why after 15 years of having Local Authorities we still have the same problem? It is not only that they are not performing, there is constant fighting in these Local Authorities. Take the example of Okahandja, how many times has the Chief Executive Officer been fired? Take the example of Karibib, these things are continuing on a daily basis but it seems that nothing is being done to call these people to order.

The inability by the Local Authorities is caused by the problem of a lack of understanding of things connected to their offices and that is why we end up having fights all over the place. Minister, what we need to do here, is not only to continue training people who may be untrainable. We have been training, we have been giving them consultants, *aluta continua!* We cannot continue with that. I am sure you will be able to do something about that.

Minister, you mentioned that: *“The Local and Regional Development White Paper for Namibia which was formulated under the Ministry’s sector goal under NDP2 has now been finalised and adopted by Cabinet and will soon be submitted to this august House. The establishment of the Local Economic Development Agency as a Unit in the Ministry has already been approved by the Office of the Prime Minister and the recruitment of staff complements is already underway.”* The Cabinet has approved, the Prime Minister has approved, you are staffing the department, so what is the purpose of bringing the document here? We are not rubberstamps. You should not finalise matters and because you are the majority, just bring them here to be rubberstamped. It ought to be discussed here for our input and then you proceed from there. The Prime Minister has already approved, you have already started implementing, so what is the use of bringing it here? Please just keep it, we do not need it.

We do not want to rubberstamp something that you have already approved and employed the people. We are not in the business of wasting time, we are serious as leaders here. (Interjections).

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Member, make your point, put the questions to the Honourable

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Minister and he will certainly come back and give answers. I am trying to avoid a dialogue.

HON TJIHUIKO: Yes, I think we have only one Minister, nobody else. On page 10 there is mention of the Council of Traditional Leaders. Honourable Minister, congratulations, you are really doing good job, but my concern about the Council of Traditional Leaders is that it only meets once a year and it is very secretive. People are not allowed to go and listen to the Debates, we do not even know the agenda and this is contrary to the democratic openness of this country. It must be opened up so that we can go and listen to our leaders, so that we can learn from them. What is the agenda of keeping it away from the people? These are leaders and it cannot go on like that.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, on page 263 of the Medium Term Expenditure under Housing Infrastructure Development: Government has committed to facilitate housing loans in order to build at least 6 000 houses. This is going to be done within your Ministry, but on page 265 under the heading, "*Recapitalisation of NHE*", Government also Budgeted money to this institution to build houses. Why do we need to have two distinct structures dealing with one project? What is the need of having funds in the Ministry, being controlled by the officials and funds being controlled by a parastatal that has been created for that purpose? Tell us why do you need to have money that is not accounted for. (Interjections). We have one Minister and the Minister will answer.

The second-last point, Honourable Minister, is on page 272, "*Development of appropriate technology through Rural Development Centres.*" I am sure that there is a similar, if not exactly the same, programme within the Ministry of Trade. Why is it that we do not have it in one Ministry?

Another point is on the trust fund on page 273. Honourable Minister, you will remember that the Parliamentary Committee has submitted a Report about public consultation on the trust fund and clear recommendations were made. What happened to those recommendations? These were the recommendations that would enable you to implement the programme according to the wishes of the people that you and I represent. Could you also tell us whether the recommendations have been accommodated in your programmes or have they been rejected?

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Finally on additional resources, housing and infrastructure development. Here you mentioned single quarters transformation and for the last five, six years that I have been in this House you always had a Budget for single quarters transformation. Until when are you going to transform these single quarters? Which single quarters are being transformed? Are there still single quarters in this country to be transformed? The previous single quarters are now houses.

In the document you have Budgeted N\$5 million for informal settlement upgrading. Where is this money going to be spent? I have not seen in the documents whether it is at Okahandja or where this money is going to be spent. You have to tell us where this money is going to be spent.

What are community-based organisations? Which community-based organisations are these?

The last one is on the Shanghai Expo. Looking at the motivation of this project, this was a holiday paid for by the taxpayers' money. What have you benefited from this programme? What did you envisage getting out of this, except sending officials on a paid holiday in China? I only want you to mention one – not two – benefit that you have benefited from this trip, except a holiday paid for by taxpayers' money. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I overheard a comment by an Honourable Member that I should be impartial and I do not know whether I have overstepped my role as the Chairperson. I thought I have been extremely patient and really discharging my responsibility. I hope that question was not directed to me in any form or shape. Does it mean that I have said something that could be interpreted as being partial? My remark is directed to Honourable Ulenga, because I am very particular, I know exactly that when I sit here I should be even-handed and I do not have any reason for not being so. However, if I have offended any of you, please tell me, because I am big enough to acknowledge my mistakes. I want to be on record that I feel I am not in any way being uneven, I am being even-handed. May I call on Honourable Ankama, please?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I need information on two issues.

The first is the issue of the five-year development plan of the Local Authorities and the enhancement of the Local Authority administration, as mentioned on page 7. I would want to know to what extent is the Ministry involved in assisting the Local Authorities to draw up their five-year plans and if there is any involvement, maybe the Minister would elaborate. The same goes for the Budgets. These people have to draw up annual Budgets and I would like to know whether there is scrutiny of their Budgets *vis-à-vis* its implementation.

I further want clarity on how progressive these Local Authorities are with the servicing of land. Plots are very crucial to the populace within those Local Authorities and I do not know whether there is a long-term plan for servicing or these plots or erven for people to be able to buy. Can we not come up with a specific modest price for Namibians as opposed to foreigners? As a matter of fact, many foreigners are acquiring a lot of land in our cities and towns, meaning that within fifteen or twenty years to come, we may expect many foreigners who have money to own our Local Authorities. Therefore, I am just asking whether anything is being done to stop this kind of practice in some of the Local Authorities in our country.

Some of the Local Authorities have experienced problems with regard to floods and I have read in the newspapers that we are well-prepared. I said, "*oh, my Lord, are we well-prepared to stop the water or to do what, to again give people food or to relocate them again?*" Is that the preparedness we are talking about? I thought that we should embark upon serious, major plans to either build dykes where the water goes through or bring in foreign experts who are living in countries with lots of water to advise us and then we choose from among the plans the one that is affordable and acceptable. It does not necessarily need to be the cheapest, because we want to embark upon a long-term programme of five to ten years that would at the end of the day definitely do away with this flooding. This system of relocating and providing tents will not take us very far. We will eventually spend more money.

On page 8 it deals with the Regional Council Administration. On this I want to ask a similar question on the five-year plan and the extent to which the Ministry is involved, because if you look at the Regional Councils in this

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country, they are not growing at the same pace. One questions whether they have the capacity to develop these five-year plans, so that at least these are practical five-year plans which could be executed in a manner that is visible and measurable.

Then the question arises: How are we capacitating these Regional Councils to effectively handle the decentralisation process that we are talking about, because it is not a matter of simply saying we want to decentralise, but do we have the right personnel to handle the bulk of this decentralisation? Are these guys prepared to really do the right thing at the right time or are we going to decentralise and then after five or ten years realise we have made a mistake? It is like giving a child a knife and eventually the child cuts his finger.

In Constituencies we have the Constituency Development Committees. How are these people elected? Do we elect or select the right people who have an understanding of what development means? In many constituencies one sees a disjointed kind of approach of one centre here, one centre there, instead of developing a specific centre up to the level where the area has a clinic, an office for the Councillor, a hall, an agricultural workshop where they sell their products and feeder roads, connecting one constituency to the next constituency, telephone lines going there, MTC going there, pipelines, electricity and everything, so that after ten or fifteen years, you declare this area as a settlement or a town. I am only concerned about this, whether the Ministry has something in place towards this kind of achievement. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. I now call on Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to support the Vote under discussion. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Order. Honourable Ulenga was overheard by the Chairperson and for the decorum and decency of this House, he must just

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withdraw his statement and continue. If the Presiding Officer is not neutral, then he is not fit to be here. Honourable Ulenga must just withdraw his statement, otherwise he will derail the progress of this House.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Please, Honourable Member, just continue.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. As I was saying before the Member tried to interrupt me, I support this Vote wholeheartedly, however I must really ... (Intervention)

HON KAPIA: On a Point of Order. Yesterday I saw a Comrade here making an honourable move and he apologised and even when he stood up to reply to the vote, he repeated it. What is so difficult for an Honourable Member to just withdraw what he said before he continues with his contribution? We are going to be uncomfortable to listen to him.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

These are the kind of things that I would like to avoid. Honourable Ben Ulenga, do the honourable thing and then you move on to make your case.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I was waiting to hear you address the matter directly when I am on my feet. Honourable Deputy Chairperson, because you said you overheard something that I said, let me explain and repeat what I said and if it is required to be withdrawn, I shall withdraw it. However, I did not call the Deputy Chairperson not being neutral, I said that the Chair must be neutral. I did not say the Chair is not being neutral. (Interjections).

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Can we please allow the Member to continue on the question or withdrawal, so that we do not waste time? Please, let us make progress.

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HON ULENGA: Mr Minister, I was waiting for this document. (Interjections). I do not know what is it that I must withdraw. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I am sitting here and I definitely overheard you referring to the question of neutrality and, obviously, by implication there is no doubt that perhaps you are actually questioning me and, therefore, I felt obliged to say, in the light of that, I would like to do the honourable thing and I can actually state without any hesitation that I am interested in making progress in this House and I will never attempt to do anything that would detract from that. When I heard you saying that, I obviously felt there was a reference to me and that is why everybody is of the opinion that you felt I was not being even in handling the presentation of Honourable Tjihuko. That is why we got into this. If you say you did not intend to imply anything of that sort, is that what you are saying?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, you and I definitely understand each other very well. I definitely did not imply that the Chair was not being neutral, what I expressed is my anxiety. I have been anxious that the Chair should be neutral, not that the Chair is not being neutral.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You are an old Member of this House. When you are called upon to withdraw a remark, we do not enter into a Debate or argument. Just do the honourable thing.

HON ULENGA: As long as I know what is it that I must withdraw.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: That you did not direct that remark to the Chair and we end there.

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HON ULENGA: Chairperson, I definitely did not direct that remark to the Chair.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you, please continue. (Intervention).

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Order. Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the reason we are sitting here, some of us at least, is that we were elected and I am learning and I can equally be unruly and undisciplined. However, I respect this House, but if the Honourable Member is saying what he says, he is not being honest because when he made the remark, there was a speaker on the Floor, it is not something that came out of the blue and the Chair must be respected. He is now using semantics and if he said the Chairperson must be neutral, it is in reference to something that is happening. We cannot be selective, the Honourable Member must withdraw.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
The Chair will then act accordingly, by calling on Honourable Kavetuna.

HON KAVETUNA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the august House, I rise to support this very important Vote 17.

A roof over one's head gives a sense of pride, belonging and dignity. It is why housing is one of the very components of human rights. On page 3 the Minister talked about housing delivery and I have two serious observations to make.

The first is in connection with the way the people acquire land and in urban areas, specifically Windhoek and other cities. The poorest of the poor will never be able to own land as a result of the sky-rocketing prices. When erven are auctioned in Havana, everybody is allowed to bid, which makes it very difficult for the poor to access land in that area. I thought that maybe a policy could be put in place where a buyer may only acquire one erf, so that people

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could access land and be able to build their own houses, and with that assisting the Government with the provision of housing and this should not be applicable to Havana only.

My second comment is on the allocation of N\$50 million to National Housing Enterprise, as mentioned by the Minister of Finance. I feel the National Housing Enterprise is not the right beneficiary of this N\$50 million because they do not know the meaning of the term “low-cost housing.” They have built several house in Otjimuisse, but people cannot afford them and they are still empty. If you give National Housing Enterprise this money, their prices will always be high and people cannot access these houses. I would like to ask this House to give that money to the Build-Together Programme in order for us to build more houses, because for the price of one NHE-house, we can build up to ten Build-Together houses.

On page 6 mention is made of sanitation and I want to congratulate the Minister for the provision of toilets in rural areas, but I do not see any provision for toilets in informal settlements in urban areas while those people are experiencing serious problems. People are using plastic bags to relieve themselves. At least in rural areas one can go to the bush, but here in the informal settlements people experience problems with sanitation. It feel it is very important for us to allocate a certain amount for sanitation in the urban areas, because I cannot see how people should go on using plastic bags as toilets.

Lastly, I would like to touch on Local Authorities and request the Minister to look into the problem experienced with Chief Executive Officers. The trend is that a number of Local Authority councillors are at the mercy of the Chief Executive Officers, maybe because of the work that they are doing. Some of them are cleaners and maybe we can look at a way of capacitating them with knowledge so that they can lead the Municipalities. On this note I would like to strongly support this Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Utoni.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My comment is on page 8, paragraph 2. First I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister for what he is trying to do with Local Authorities. In the motivation the Honourable Minister is talking about providing funds to Local Authorities, but I still have a problem, because the Ministry is talking about small and newly proclaimed towns, but they are not including the big municipalities. I feel the Ministry should give funds to each and every Local Authority in Namibia, because all of them are struggling. Even the City of Windhoek is struggling. I would propose that the Ministry creates a table of categories of Local Authorities and allocate funds according to their size and level of income.

Honourable Minister, in the past the Ministry just decided that today I will give funds to Tses and leave out the others. That is not good and we need to move away from that.

Some Local Authorities are struggling and have now opted to take up loans from financial institutions at high interest rates, which is a burden to them. Since the introduction of the REDs, some of the Local Authorities no longer receive the income generated from electricity. That is why I am saying subsidies to all will make the Local Authorities grow very fast. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Utoni, you are raising very important points, among others the introduction of REDs, and you were talking about Government giving subsidies to all the Local Authorities. What would happen if Government has to give subsidies to all Local Authorities in this country and while giving these subsidies, the sources of income to the municipalities are being privatised? We created REDs and at the same time we are saying Government should now subsidise and give the money that has been given to private institutions.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I cannot answer the Honourable Member, he is talking about private institutions.

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I was saying that many Local Authorities are now falling under these REDs and the income generated from electricity is no more there. It is very important that subsidies should be given to all Local Authorities.

Honourable Minister, I also want to look at the criteria of bailing out Local Authorities. Maybe those criteria should be made clear to Local Authorities, because you find that they have not paid their water bill and then the Ministry is rushing to bail them out. Maybe there should be a mechanism of bailing out Local Authorities. It is very important we have a clear-cut policy on bailing out and on subsidy.

My last remark is on page 7, proclaiming Local Authorities. It is very good that we are proclaiming new towns, settlements and villages. However, we are proclaiming new ones, but we are not promoting the existing ones to a certain level. For example, a place has been proclaimed as a town fifteen years ago and that Local Authority is performing very well, but you cannot promote that Local Authority from the level of town to Part 1 or Part 2. Yet you are proclaiming new ones but not promoting the other ones, so that you can encourage those who are performing well. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Kapia.

HON KAPIA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My contribution will be on the settlement areas *vis-à-vis* the Village Councils. I want to advise that as we are growing as a Nation, we must have a programme to help the officials when a certain area is proclaimed as a settlement. An area is proclaimed as a settlement, but there is no service for two, three years. People who want land cannot get land. At the time we are planning to proclaim any area as a Local Authority or a Village Council, we must have everything in place, so that within two to six months this area should be seen to progressing and then we move to other areas.

Does the Ministry not foresee that they are going to run into serious problems when they are going to proclaim the areas between Ondangwa and Oshikango,

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between Ondangwa and Oshakati and Ongwediva? How are you going to rectify the situation, given the way the people are settling? I want to suggest that Regional Councils must be equipped with staff to start planning. We are going to experience serious problems with the area between Ongwediva and Ondangwa and the area between Ondangwa and Onethindi.

I want to suggest that in the Rural Development component there must be a programme to look at the development of all growth points. By the time we want to proclaim these areas, we will have spend a lot of money to get the people to move. Thank you very much and I support Vote 17.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Muharukua.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My remark is based on page 10, which deals with Traditional Authorities. The Traditional Authorities experience problems with their borders. They do not say which area belongs to Muharukua and which area belongs to Muheua. I want to suggest that not only the Ministry, but the whole Government look into this problem. We could even have a big conference for the people to know their borders. When you go from Omakange up to Tjirunda, you do not know whom the area belongs to because they do not know their borders. I want the whole Government to look into that and I believe the Chiefs who are sitting with us today are going to help me.

Comrade Minister, we have given Government cars to the Traditional Authorities, but some of them are using these cars to attend DTA meetings. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Member, can I please request you to concentrate on the motivation by the Minister?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I am talking about Traditional Authorities which are mentioned on page 10 and that is why I am talking about the vehicles. The Ministry needs to control the usage of the vehicles. They were not given the vehicles to conduct political campaigns for the DTA and the UDF.

The funds given to our Traditional Authorities are to be used to mobilise the people and not to make the people fight each other. We want our Traditional Authorities to follow what Mandume Ndemufayo, Hosea Kutako and Maharero did. Those were good things and not a political agenda. I support the Vote.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:
Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I really support this Vote 17 because it is the people's Vote.

I thought Honourable Tjihuiko would say something on page 6, but I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister for the replacement of the inhuman bucket system at many villages and settlements. This is a good move in the southern Regions.

On the same page there is mention of the rural toilets. 75% of our people use the bush and this causes diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera and gastroenteritis. I would plead that the beneficiaries of these funds would ensure that it is used to provide toilets in those rural areas, especially at these communities who live along the rivers. When it rains the rivers are polluted and we have to avoid this. The Ministry should see to it that N\$100,000 allocated to the Councillors in Caprivi, Kavango and Ohangwena are properly utilised.

The last issue is on the drought relief programme on page 11. I know this only applies to people living in the rural areas and not those in urban areas, but sometimes we find some very poor people in urban areas and the mother

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cannot even afford to buy a 5 kilogram of maize. Could these people not be identified and helped by this programme?

The Food-for-Work and Cash-for-Work is a good programme to assist our communities. However, sometimes you find communities struggling to do their own things, such as bringing water to their homes and they struggle to buy pipes. Could they not be provided with those pipes so that they could have safe drinking water? I support Vote 17. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My intervention is going to be brief.

I am very happy to note that the Ministry heard our complaints about lack of toilet facilities at the pension pay-points. We have seen some welcome developments in that direction.

The development of unproclaimed areas has already been mentioned, but some of us are on record on the question of how to undo the existing chaos, which is going to be costly, should such be deferred to the distant future. I want to link that to Traditional Authority reform. I do not know whether a Traditional Authority responsible for a growth point should be equated to the one that is just responsible for another area where there is no growth point, because according to me these may have different responsibilities. If you have this person allocating plots and reserving land and even blocking watercourses, it has future implications. I would like to see that education of some kind be given in this regard.

I am on record in this House having talked about the carrying capacity in those areas. We are talking about the carrying capacity of animals on our farms, but in those rural areas you do not know where your plot begins and ends and you do not know where your goats are supposed to graze. How are you to sustain

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yourself if the density is not taken into account? This is a matter where assistance is really necessary.

Lastly is on Traditional Authority reform. I welcome the move by the Ministry of setting up a Committee to deal with this issue, but when I look at elaboration, I see a lot about comparative studies with Botswana, but these people have subjects under them, when are their views going to be taken into account or are they commoners and their views do not need to be heard? We are in a democracy, we cannot have a situation where we are talking about you but not with you. That cannot be tolerated. The Constitution gives everybody their rights and even at those levels we must move away from that approach where we only hear from the chiefs and the commoners are left out. They must be heard too!

Some of these Colleagues are not conversant with the rights and obligations of citizens. I heard one – and I have said it and I am going to repeat it – who was saying a ward cannot be given to a woman because that one is not married. We have to start educating our colleagues and with those remarks, I support the Vote. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much, Honourable Nambahu. Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 17.

I want to start with housing delivery. Honourable Minister, through the Chair, I just want to find out how far you have gone with that good programme you have in mind that the Ministry will look at what other countries are doing to subsidise the Municipalities, especially for the servicing of erven. That would put an end to the Municipalities saying they do not get money from the Government to service the erven.

I was exchanging some views with a comrade and he said when his children

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are going to attend school here in Windhoek, they are going to be accommodated by people who are not Namibians. They own houses, they are the only ones who are in a position to buy these erven. Just imagine, an auction takes place in Otjomuise and the developers who developed the single quarters into flats or townhouses, are the ones who buy these plots and develop them into townhouses. I think that programme would assist the municipalities not to sell the plots at those sky-rocketing prices.

We have to congratulate ourselves that we made the traditional leaders see that what they were told by the Opposition is not true, because these vehicles were not given only to those who belong to SWAPO. That is why Comrade Muharukua mentioned here that they are misusing it and they need to be checked.

My other point is on page 15 of the motivation, Food-for-Work and Cash-for-Work, which is a very important programme. Maybe we need to have another look at the issue of tenders. Do we really study the tenders and understand what it means or say it is for the sake of transparency, while in reality the Government is being exploited? If we look deeper into the issue of tendering, the Regions are divided into constituencies and we do not need someone to tender to make fire cut-lines. This person comes with his own people, instead of the Councillors with their people who voted for them to be given those responsibilities. Comrade Minister of Finance, teach us that money does not necessarily need to be given to somebody who carries a bag of money, money can be in the bank and when the people do the work, the payment can be processed through the system. If there is a crook, you can detect it. Therefore, this issue of tendering for small things is sometimes not necessary.

Let us empower our Regional Councillors so that they take responsibility for those Regions, so that even the Council under my Chief there can implement Government programmes.

Comrade Chief Ankama put some very important questions, but instead of making a proposal, he put questions which need answers. I want you to look into the questions put by Chief Ankama and make concrete proposals on how we are going to use those categories of services.

The urban erven are too expensive. Our people cannot afford the houses because the cheapest ones start at N\$800,000. When you go to the bank, the

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bank adds another 50% and the amount is more than N\$1,6 million. Something needs to be done about this. All the Local Authorities need to be supported, as Honourable Uutoni said. With that I support Vote 17.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Dingara.

HON DINGARA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 17 and probably with some emphasis on the Traditional Authorities.

I have been working for the Ministry of Local Government for eight years before I moved to the Ministry of Health. I have recently seen positive improvements since 1996 with regard to the Council of Traditional Leaders. One improvement is emanating from the annual meetings of the Council of Traditional Leaders. That time, around 1996, most of the Traditional Authorities did not know each other. Those in the far North and those in the far south did not know each other. They did not know the values of the others and each Traditional Authority thought that it was higher than all the other Traditional Authorities. However, I want to congratulate the SWAPO Government that they have managed to bring together all Traditional Authorities in Namibia. Sometimes before a meeting, a Traditional Authority from the North called another Traditional Authority in the South to consult on the topics on the agenda and we have to congratulate the Government that it has managed to unite the citizens of this country, because if you unite the tribes in Namibia, starting from there, that is the unity of this Nation. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Honourable Member, would you agree with me that every time that something positive happens, then it is the SWAPO Government, but when something goes wrong, then it is the Namibian Government. Do you not think that is an inconsistency?

HON DINGARA: Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the truth is that the Government we have is a SWAPO

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Government. Even they themselves say it that it's the SWAPO Government when something is not good.

I also want to congratulate the Ministry for the purchase of the forty-nine vehicles. These vehicles have air-conditioning, radios and everything. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Member, I want to know whether the Chief of NUDO has also received a vehicle. Has Chief Riruako been given one of those vehicles?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can we concentrate on the topic?

HON DINGARA: Yes, he was given. I have realised that when they received these vehicles, they truly became leaders of their Traditional Authorities. You could see the sense of being a leader, because some of them did not have transport and when they got these vehicles, you could see their appreciation towards the SWAPO Government. I want to thank the Ministry and the SWAPO Government on their behalf. Comrade Minister, we should perhaps try to raise their allowances in future. A leader must not be the poorest person in the community.

Lastly is on the issue of the borders. In the past it was entirely up to the Traditional Authorities to solve their border disputes and it was not always easy. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: I would like to ask the Honourable Member a question. Honourable Dingara, having made that statement that the Chief should not be the poorest of the poor in the community, is it possible to maybe to request the Chief among us whether that statement is true or not.

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HON DINGARA: That question goes to the Chief, not to me. Honourable Katali, the Chief is here, I think he heard.

With the establishment of the Council of Traditional Leaders was created, the Council appointed other Traditional Authorities from other areas to investigate border disputes and to table their findings at the annual meeting. I have realised that the decision taken by the Council of Traditional Leaders is neutral and is accepted by both Traditional Authorities. In the past the disputes could not be resolved while the parties themselves were involved. With that I support Vote 17.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 17 and to share my thoughts on one or two issues.

Firstly, with regard to the availability of erven in urban areas, especially here in Windhoek. It is very difficult nowadays to get an erf in Windhoek to build a residence and this is not because there are no erven available in town, but it is because there are some members of our society who have made it a habit to speculate with erven. They buy these erven from the Municipality, sit on them for three years, not because they are short of funds to develop these erven, but because they never had any intention in the first place to develop them. They sit on them until the price goes up, then sell to the next person at an exorbitant profit, who sells it to the next person and the next person. By the time the last person who wants to develop that erf actually buys the erf, the price would be fifteen, twenty times the original price and I really think that something should be done, because in some of our towns where people, who buy erven with the intention to develop them, are put under so much pressure and threatened with repossession of these erven if you do not pay this or, if they do not start building, but then you have other people who can sit on these erven for three years and sell it to the next ten persons at inflated prices and practically make it impossible for those who want to develop the erven to get them. I want the Government to issue some guidelines to Local Authorities in this regard, so

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that this problem is curbed.

The other concern I have is with regard to the high fees that are charged by middlemen. I know that an agency in general is a business that generates income intermediaries and create employment opportunities that way, but some of our Colleagues are really exploiting people with the exorbitant fees they charge. Whether it is estate agents or whoever is involved as middlemen in the transactions of these assets, they charge exorbitant fees that puts the price beyond the reach of the average person in many of our towns. I would like to request that we have a policy in this regard, because previously we said a lot about the exorbitant fees and charges of financial institutions, Government took measures to address this, and I think we should do the same in other areas, especially in this critical area of housing.

Thirdly it is with regard to the development of towns and villages, especially the newly proclaimed ones. We should make it a requirement that for every new town or village that is proclaimed, there should be a study to determine the viability of such a settlement or town before it is developed and there should be a business plan to assist those that would be put in charge of such an establishment to develop it. Otherwise we create a situation where we have a proliferation of these centres which are not able to sustain themselves. I know that we are requesting Government to give subsidies, which we are already doing, but we know that we are not able to raise enough resources to fund even the core services provided by Government. Therefore, it would not help us to decide that we should provide further subsidies to all the towns and villages, because the fact is that there are not enough resources to go around everyone. We can make sure that everybody gets something by way of subsidies, but it will be so little that they can hardly do anything with it.

Therefore, we should really make an effort, before we develop these establishments, to know how they are going to sustain themselves, so that even if Government now decides to increase the subsidies, it would be to complement what they generate themselves.

Lastly just a comment on the policy on housing by our Local Authorities, because the policies are so divergent amongst our Local Authorities. One Local Authority says every year they give free erven to the poorest of the poor and you have another one where non-payment of Municipal utilities can result in old citizens actually losing their houses to the Municipality. There is no

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consistency. It should not actually matter which Political Party is dominant on that Local Council, I think we as a Government should put a policy in place in order to provide guidance in regard to some of these matters.

With these few comments, I support the Vote. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. Honourable Tweya.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I congratulate the Minister for tabling this Vote. My contribution would be more on how we can use this to create quick employment for the youth and the women and I will start by referring to pages 6 and 16 to address the unemployment that, I believe, is a serious concern to all of us.

Page 6 refers to sanitation and five Regions have been listed as beneficiaries of N\$100 million, which is N\$20 million per Region. In my own contribution and calculation, Comrade Minister, it is here where we as a Government should intervene. Instead of giving the whole N\$20 million to one, two or three big companies, why can we not make use of what is on page 16 under Programme 5, namely the funding which covers the various expenses for materials and equipment for the projects for these various areas, that we use this money as the Ministry and create employment per constituency, maybe with one or two per constituency to oversee the quality of these various toilets. In my view, we have not exhausted this as yet. Can we as a Government intervene so that we can create employment for the youth? The job opportunities are there, the money is there.

Talking about the rest of the Regions where the Government has made provision, can we follow the same principle, that we create jobs in all constituencies instead of singing about it as if there are no solutions, because the money is there?

The youth and women are the majority and they are the most affected and we must be serious. Therefore, I am talking about tangible things we can do without any other laws being violated.

Comrade Minister, let me congratulate you on the Build-Together Project, especially for deciding to add the Ministry or the Government's hand to the Shack Dwellers. I have witnessed that this is a very commendable exercise on the part of the Ministry, that we fast-track shelter that even the poor can afford, namely a one to two-bedroom house of less than N\$20,000. That is commendable. I would propose that in future, if not this time around, the subsidy to the Shack Dwellers should be increased from the current allocation.

Back to page 4: I will not repeat what others have said about the cost of land.

In the last paragraph it says: "*We are acknowledging that cost of land delivery in the country is unaffordable.*" Yet, I do not see some proposals how we can address that. Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila has proposed that something needs to be done and I want to acknowledge the existence of the Habitat Centre. My understanding was that it is supposed to do research and we keep pumping money into this institution. What research are they doing?

They were supposed, at least by now, to have come with solutions to the housing problem. We do not get value for the money and money is so scarce. We pay high salaries to people sitting in their offices and I really do not know what value they are adding to the mandate and the purpose for which they were established.

Talking about the high cost of land, let this centre deliver, for if they do not, either the institution is ineffective or the individuals are not willing. We cannot waste money on institutions which should give us solutions and they are not delivering. We cannot keep on singing about problems. Comrade Minister something needs to be done. Either abolish it or get people that are willing to work to generate solutions for the people.

On page 6, under Programme 2: I am concerned about the timeframe to get a piece of land. I can speak of personal experience. It took me more than six years to acquire a piece of land adjacent to my erf and it consists of only eight metres. I had to pay for a quantity surveyor to survey I do not know what. I do not have that money and these guys charge, they do not play. When I got the land, I had to pay for water and electricity and there is nothing on that land. When I enquired, I was told that is in terms of the Ordinance. Comrade Minister, we are still talking of Ordinances of 1934 and 1936 – nothing in the past twenty years. Can we now at least identify these so-called ordinances that

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were there to serve the colonial regime and come up with laws to serve our needs? My concern is that we keep talking about it but we are not doing something about it and the poverty is being perpetuated.

Comrade Minister, I have a serious concern that the speed to acquire land should also be fast-tracked from twelve months to maybe a month or so. There is no basis for waiting that long, except, in my experience, to create more money for the middlemen and women in-between. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I ask Comrade Tweya a question? When you buy a car to the value of N\$800,000, you only have to deal with the car dealer and the bank and then register your car. However, when buying a house, you need a middleman and transfer fees. Why is this the case? Could you shed some light on that?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I wish I had an answer to that one, but I do not have one. There are outdated laws that we should deal with in this House.

Finally, under Programme 5 – Rural Development: I am aware that many constituencies have now been constructed. On page 14 the Minister is saying that: *“The institution for the rural development function and staff complement has been finalised and all positions have been filled.”* I am not sure what are these positions being referred to, but I want to address this in the context of the constituency offices, the 107 constituencies. My simple calculation tells me that if all constituencies are being constructed and if we fill all vacancies, as reflected here, we should at least have not less than 960 jobs created in these constituencies. If we have constructed them and we have only a Councillor and a Secretary, I do not think that we have filled all the vacancies. Vacancies have been Budgeted for, let us please fill these, because we must create jobs for our people. There are jobs and we keep on denying them. I do not know why. Can we act and solve at least one problem instead of singing about it?

Having said that, Comrade Chairperson, I support Vote 17. I thank you.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I would now ask the Minister to reply to some of the questions.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chair, Honourable Members. I am going to respond haphazardly because the questions were haphazard.

Comrade Tjihuiko, the Ministry developed a booklet which contains rules and with the assistance of the Office of the Prime Minister we are training these people. Currently we getting ready to train the incoming elected Regional and Local Authority Councillors, so that they know what is their job.

The Honourable Member spoke about Local and Regional Economic Development and the White Paper which was accepted by the Cabinet and then he mentioned on page 8 the LERA, which is a unit within the Ministry. The Local and Regional Economic Development White Paper for Namibia was approved by the Cabinet and I will bring it to this Honourable House, but the Honourable Member said that if the people have already been employed by the Ministry, why should we bring it here to be rubber-stamped. These are two different entities. The Local and Regional Economic Development White Paper for Namibia is a document and the establishment of a Local Economic Development Agency is a unit within the Ministry. The White Paper will come here and the unit is already in existence and we do not need to bring the unit here for approval.

The Honourable Member wanted to know why the secrecy when the Traditional Councillors meet. This is a House for Traditional Authorities, you do not need to participate. They do not participate here, except for the three Chiefs who were elected. They run their own meetings, the Government has no role there. They determine who should attend and who not. Sometimes they do invite Minister to come and address them. Sometimes they invite the people to listen to their deliberations. Honourable Member, you are fortunate that your leader is also a Member of that House, just put the question to him so that he can invite you. We do not dictate to them what to do. Your leader should invite you and take you along, but if he refuses, do not come ask the Minister what the Government is doing.

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Most of your questions were centred around that document you in your possession, but what I wanted to say is that National Housing Enterprise is building houses for the middle-income groups. The Ministry has the Build-Together Programme and this is a process. Twenty years is not a very long time. When we started with Build-Together in 1991, the Ministry managed the finances and the beneficiaries applied directly to the Ministry. Twenty years later when I returned to the Ministry, the whole process has been changed and it is not stagnant. Currently the funds are transferred to the Local Authorities' and Regional Councils' open accounts specifically for the Build-Together and we are still improving on it.

National Housing Enterprise must also build rent of houses, because you may find a young single woman from Otjiwarongo working in Windhoek. She only wants to rent a house with two or three rooms. It is a process and we are developing that process.

With regard to infrastructure, last year I requested all fifty-four Local Authorities and all thirteen Regional Councils that they should their 2010/2011 capital projects submit to the Ministry. They submitted all their capital projects – sewerage, servicing of land, street lights, housing, everything under the sun they need and the total amount was close to N\$1,2 billion altogether. I submitted it to Cabinet in October, Cabinet approved it and spread it over a period of six years and we are now starting with the servicing of land. We will not do all fifty-four Local Authorities and all thirteen Regions with one go, we will go step by step, taking three or four towns per year, depending on the finances.

Currently land is expensive in the Local Authorities. They claim that they have spent more on the servicing of land, but we believe that if we subsidise Local Authorities through the servicing of land and then request the National Housing Enterprise to provide flush toilets, we can tell somebody from an informal settlement to take his shack to that serviced erf, but within five years he must start building. I do not think the Local Authority will now ask a lot, because they did not spend any money, it was barren land. Why should they ask that the people pay for the barren land if the Central Government serviced the land?

Our Ministry is also looking at the examples of other countries such as Angola and China. The land belongs to the State in those countries. Investors are

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running to Angola despite the fact that they do not own land. They invest in that country. We have to think about it and bring this question to the Cabinet and this august House, that is it really necessary to buy land in proclaimed areas, why can one not just lease for 99 years? You just spend on the infrastructure and if Honourable Tjihuike becomes old and goes to his farm, I just pay for the infrastructure and not the land itself. These are all ideas we are thinking about.

We are also thinking about expanding the boundaries of Windhoek to include the Hosea Kutako Airport, because Windhoek is surrounded by mountains and it is only opening up towards Okahandja and towards the East.

We are also thinking of coming up with Amendments in order to have one Act for Local Authorities. The current Act has been amended several times since 1992 and Local Authorities are currently being run on the basis of these outdated ordinances which are the ones playing the guitar. There are many different Committees involved in the servicing of land. We are thinking of creating a technical directorate of engineering within the Ministry so that we employ people ourselves.

In Kenya it takes less than three months to get a piece of land and build. They have a Ministry of Housing separate from the Ministry of Local Authorities. Those Ministries have a Department of Engineering and the Ministry of Housing employs technicians who are town planners and surveyors and the same also applies for the Ministry of Local Authorities. In our case we do not have those people, we have to depend on private companies to do these services and they are very expensive and then you have to wait for a period up to one year for the piece of land to be made available. We want to shorten the period and that is what we are thinking about.

The Honourable Member also talked about Shanghai. I attended the opening last week and we showcased what Namibia produces. It is a kind of interNational trade fair. Namibia has a stall and people streamed to the Namibian stall. There are different areas for Africa and our business community was showing their products, which is good for Namibian investments.

We have prepared a Strategic Plan for five years with the assistance of the Office of the Prime Minister and the officials at the level of Regional and

Local Authorities are being inducted.

We also have the Oshakati Master Plan for the floods and its implementation will depend on the finances. The Cuvelai Delta is flooded, the people have built in the flood area and the water cannot flow through.

There is a structure for who should serve on the CDC. We now have a Rural Development Directorate within the Ministry and a policy is being worked out currently. The structure has been approved by the National Planning Commission and the positions have been filled within the Ministry's headquarters. We are not talking about the 107 constituencies, these are two different things. In the past Rural Development was a Directorate within the Ministry of Agriculture and there were only seven staff members. It has been transferred to our Ministry and our aim is now to enlarge it, so that it is not only involved in Food-for-Work, but to develop the rural areas so that it develops to a status where people do not stream to the towns anymore. Rural Development will play an important role in decentralisation as a link between the line Ministries and the Regional Governments. This is the structure within the Ministry of which the posts have been filled and we are now busy with a Rural Development Policy on how to develop the rural areas.

Comrade Kavetuna, I have explained what we want to do about the land, because we cannot continue, land is very expensive and it is a God-given resource. Since Local Authorities are currently not subsidised by the Government, they depend on land to make a living. For instance, we have 54 Local Authorities and we have decided that we have to subsidise through assisting with infrastructure, but not by putting money directly into the accounts of Local Authorities. The Budget of the City of Windhoek is N\$6 billion, more than what three or four Ministries here receive. If the Ministry is to subsidise all 54 Local Authorities, then our Budget here should have been N\$30 billion, while the total Budget of the Ministry is maybe N\$6 billion. Currently the Budget of the City of Windhoek is more than half of the whole Central Government's Budget. I do not think it is possible to subsidise all Local Authorities.

When it is Budget time, all the councillors in their different constituencies sit with a CDC and they Budget for what they need in their constituencies. Then each Councillor brings it to the Regional Development Committee where they put the total Budget together. When the Regions are called for Budget

Hearings here in Windhoek, they come to the Ministry, they go to the National Planning Commission. Then each region brings its Budget, but before that, the various officials of the line Ministries are meeting and they are called to the Ministry of Finance for Budget Hearings. Each Ministry wants so many billions, but unfortunately the Minister of Finance who represents the whole Government, says: *“I am sorry, the small cake we have is this and that is the reality, you have to cut.”* If I bring a cake as big as this book and I say all of us must eat, you will get a small piece because that is what I have.

Therefore, the money Budgeted by all the Ministries, including the Ministry of Finance, is not what they want, but that is what the economy can produce and even if you say we must do this and that for the Regional Councils, where is the money coming from? I cannot instruct the Minister to give more money, she will say that is what she has.

At my house in a village in Kavango I have three big water tanks to catch rainwater and the lasted the whole year. I went to Agriculture and got tablets which purify the water. Maybe we can make a law that if houses are to be built in future, each house must have two tanks to capture the rainwater for household use, although not for cooking.

Coming to the reform of Local Authorities, it has been said here that we have been talking for many years about the reform of Local Authorities. Yes, we have done so and the Ministry approached the Commonwealth Secretariat to provide us with a consultant to reform the Local Authorities. In February I was in Botswana for a meeting of the SADC Ministers of Local Authorities and there I met the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. He agreed that they will provide us with a consultant. The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth is visiting Windhoek next week and we will again be discussing the issue of a consultant to assist with Local Authorities reform. This will also include the issue of the Executive Mayor.

There was also a question on the reform of Traditional Authorities. We have a Reform Committee which went to neighbouring countries and in my Report here I even said they are consulting internally the communities of the recognised Traditional Authorities.

Coming to border disputes, I do not think it is for the Government to say, *“no, Tjihuiko, do not come here, Ben Ulenga go there, Jerry Ekandjo go there*

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because you speak this language.” The territorial boundaries of Namibia are the ones recognised internationally. The third generation from our children will not know the borders of Uukwandi, Uukwangali, Masubia, Ndonga and others. For them Namibia will be one country and it is time we move in that direction. In fact, we should discourage those who are fighting about borders.

We received requests from Traditional Authorities for beacons to be put up. We have our territorial boundaries, the Atlantic Ocean, the northern border with Angola, the South African border at the Orange River and with Botswana and then we have regional and constituency boundaries. Do we again want to go back to the Bantustans and cut Namibia into small pieces and fight about small pieces?

Many speakers and especially Comrade Nambahu spoke about the overcrowding in the North. That area is overcrowded and people are fighting. If you put ten thousand people in this room, you will definitely push each other. Maybe there will be a time when we will do away with the Red Line, Namibia is big enough. The reason people are fighting about boundaries is because they are crowded into one small area.

Coming to Ondangwa, *Comrade Kapia*, all the infrastructure of Onethindi is linked to Ondangwa itself. Currently Ondangwa is in the Oshana Region and Onathindi is in the Oshikoto Region. If one drives in New York, then you hear you are in Manhattan, you are in New York, but it is one big town, crossing across boundaries. Maybe we should think about making Onathindi part of Ondangwa and in future we link Ondangwa, Ongwediva and Oshakati together.

We must also think about what Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila has said. Currently the 107 Constituency Councillors want to have a town or Village Council in his or her constituency, but is it really necessary? The Village Councils cannot survive economically. Why can we not combine a number of village councils and develop it and people will come and settle there automatically.

Let me give the example of Kalkfeld. This is a settlement under the Regional Council and the people want it to grow. The growth comes from the local people themselves, but if there is no economic activity, why can we not improve Karibib and Omaruru?

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If we Onyaanya, Onaena and Omuthiya, why can we not develop Omuthiya? The development comes from the people themselves, because every councillor wants a local authority in his area. If it is recognised, the Local Authority must make money and they tell the local people to pay for water, electricity, rates and taxes. They do not have money because there is no economic development, only cuca shops. At the end Government comes and subsidises.

If all the settlements in the country are proclaimed, it means the Government must Budget for each and every settlement. Why do we create so many? Maybe we should have a growth point which can attract and the others will automatically disappear because people will flock to this one.

Comrade Muharukua, you made a good point. Although they put flags on the GRN vehicles, those are still the property of the Government.

Since everybody supported the Vote, including the Finance Minister, and I want you to also support me in what I am going to tell you now, that come next Budget, each Ministry, the National Assembly, the National Council should donate half of their Budgets and even half of your salaries to the Ministry of Local Government. Then we will serve all your concerns. With that, Comrade Deputy Chair, I thank everybody for their support.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Any objection to Vote 17? Agreed to.

Vote 10 – “EDUCATION” put for Discussion.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 10.

Comrade Minister, let me congratulate you and put the first question. I want to start with the pass rate mentioned on page 4. We are talking of a low pass rate and you also indicated that certain schools are deserted by the parents and their children due to teachers not being committed to their work. What plan does the Ministry have to improve this situation so that all schools become attractive?

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Secondly, what plan do we have as a country to address the problem of Grade 10 and 12 students roaming the streets? We have learners who passed with the required mark to be admitted to either the Polytechnic or the University, but because they have an E for English they are not admitted? Do you not see that as another defect in our planning? These people lose a full year just to study English, which is a foreign language. Why can we not have a system that if a person attained the required mark to be admitted to an institution of higher learning, that they be admitted while doing a English course at university level? Why should they lose a full twelve months?

It was the practice in the former Socialist countries that a teacher concentrated on one subject. Even those who are doctors qualified in a certain field and our teachers should study for one or two years in the field of Mathematics and others to master History or Geology. Otherwise, when we reach 2030, which is only twenty years to go, we will still say we do not have the technical know-how.

Comrade Minister, I have to congratulate you for what is said on page 4, that Namibia as a Nation should revive the principle where a child belongs to a community. That statement in itself is a heavy one and some of us have said it in this House and outside, that as we were growing up, if an elder found you doing wrong things, he or she would punish you. Let us take this and own our children as our children and put them on the right path so that they can withstand the waves of change. If we do not give them principles, they can be swept away by those waves. With that I support Vote 10 and I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Let me bring to the attention of the House that we have very close to twenty Members who have requested to speak. In the light of this, I think it is only proper that we become more economical with words, so that we can give an opportunity to everybody to speak. I give the Floor to Honourable Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. One

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remark to say congratulations to the SWAPO Party Government for the Schools of Excellence at long last.

Two questions, Honourable Minister: Firstly, we have these unrecognised Colleges which offer courses. Our citizens pay exorbitant fees and upon graduation, they cannot get employment, not even in Government. That is when they come to know that they have wasted their money, effort and time because those Colleges are not recognised.

We also see our citizens being given two or three day courses in computing and after that they graduate in their thousands with the false hope of getting employment. What is the position of the Ministry on this issue?

Secondly, of late there has been a lot of debate concerning the Polytechnic becoming the University of Technology. My question is, who determines the Education Policy in this country? Is it Government or those institutions which are sponsored by Government? Otherwise I support Vote 10.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. Let that be the example. Honourable Tjiuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have at least ten questions.

First of all, let me congratulate the two doctors for a nice motivation. What I have seen in your motivation this time around is quite encouraging. Being new to the Ministry, I am not going to ask you questions that I know you will not be able to answer. Therefore, all that I can say to you is that it is a rare opportunity for one to get breathing space from me until next year. Next year I will ask you and I support your Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. That is a very good example. Honourable Kazenambo.

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HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Comrade Minister of Education, Dr Abraham Iyambo and your Deputy, Dr Namwandi, since I come to this Honourable House I have asked this question and I will repeat it today:

When students in Botswana and many other countries have completed their examinations and the results are out, they check their marks and when they know that they have scored certain marks, then they know automatically that they are guaranteed the universities in Botswana and they are also guaranteed to get scholarships abroad. The ticket is a result of their marks, opportunities for education are open to them.

In this country I have come across parents whose kids have passed with flying colours and these kids are sitting at home simply because they cannot afford or they did not get study loans. Can we address the plight of these vulnerable people so that if the kids in Namibia have passed with certain marks, it is automatic that their marks are their ticket to future green pastures? We really need to do something about this situation.

Even as I am speaking now, some of the children of the liberation struggle from Gochas have dropped out from the Polytechnic and University. They were there but it is not because they have failed, but because they cannot afford to pay for their education. This is the reality and we have to change our approach to help those who are capable, rather than people entering the university because they are the kids of the Kazenambo's of this world. Today I met kids in my office who were telling me that they cannot enter the Universities, they cannot get jobs because the question asked by the officials of this Government is, "*was your parents in exile?*" That is the perception outside, that if you parents were not in exile or if you do not know anybody either in the Government or in the system, then your chances of getting a job is slim. This is what the people who are talking to us are saying. Therefore, we should change the system so that those who have high pass results are guaranteed places in university and they do not even have to beg and apply, their results should be the ticket.

My last point is on page 8, tertiary education and the question of the policy on

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tertiary education. Recently there has been a debate about the University of Namibia, the University of Technology and the Polytechnic and I am interested to know who determines the policy for these institutions to become Universities. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Kazenambo, that question has been dealt with. It was raised by the Minister responsible.

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

No, I want to address another element, which is the following: I am a product of the British education system at University level and I went to the University of Oxford Brooks, which used to be the former Polytechnic of Oxford. The British system are today using education as an economic development tool, as a business. They are attracting students from all over the world to come to the UK to study at the Universities and polytechnics in the British education system, which we follow religiously in this country, has been transformed from polytechnics into Universities and there is no competition. They have relaxed the entry level and today they are even encouraging students from minority groups, the blacks, to access Cambridge and Oxford on Affirmative Action considerations.

Former polytechnics in the British system have been upgraded to Universities and they are attracting students from all over the world. What stops us from following the model of upgrading the Polytechnic to become the University of Technology, so that the people that are dealing with this institution, like the Polytechnic, can also be on par with a university like that. That is my question and I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Kazenambo, I am still of the opinion that that specific issue of the Polytechnic, in terms of the request to be transformed into a university, has actually been dealt with in the a most effective way. I am not preventing the Minister from responding, but in the light of the time at our disposal, I thought that question is redundant because it has been dealt with and that is how I look at it. Honourable Ulenga, please.

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HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, although I have informally congratulated the Minister, I do not know whether what the Minister formally really requires is felicitations or perhaps empathy and perhaps I will choose the latter. I would like to express my sympathy, that I feel with you and with your whole staff in the Ministry of Education.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, honestly speaking, if there is one page that is really bad as far as our history of the last twenty years is concerned, it is the area of education and it is a sombre kind of moment when you talk about this Vote. It is a vote that deserves our support, not because it is doing very well, but because it needs to do better and the Minister was saying it cannot depend on the Government alone, it will depend on the support of the whole Nation.

To start off, Minister, the language does not seem to match the reality. You start off by being very oversweet (smug) and of course, with all due respect, the previous people who occupied this hot seat have not been doing nothing, they have been doing something. However, I think perhaps the work was not that sterling. That is not their fault, that is because of many other factors involved. However, I must say this is an area that really needs a lot of work and while I congratulate the Ministers, I also have a lot of sympathy for them.

To jump into the issue of pre-primary education, at the rate of 300 schools – and this is not per year – how long will it take? Will it be in 2015, in 2020, 2030 when we shall have all the schools covered, especially taking into consideration that we also keep on opening new schools every year. It looks like it is going very slow if you have only more or less 25% of the schools covered with pre-primary education.

On page 2 the Minister seems to be saying there is only about 8% of the Budget available for development and investment. On page 5 where you are dealing with Vision Schools, you are quoting N\$110 million. This looks like more or less the same amount. You are saying that the money that covers developmental issues is to build those schools only. I have a few questions here and I will follow Minister Ekandjo's example and also put them haphazardly so that you can answer them haphazardly.

However, a very important issue – and this is not a question, it is a comment

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and I think it is a very important comment – is that I see this House, Parliament specifically, not doing this work as far as this whole area of education is concerned and it looks like the Minister is also following suit. In the third paragraph on page 3 you are talking about a joint review of ETSIP that took place at the end of last month. No one from Parliament was involved in this joint review. I see that in Parliaments of other countries, including some of our neighbours, there are Parliamentary Committees specifically and exclusively dealing with education only. Of course, we have a Committee here that deals with education, but it deals with education amongst other things and I think it is very burdened with other things, so it does not have time enough to deal with education. Therefore, when will this House that has oversight function start to seriously take their righteous place as far as education oversight is concerned, not only when things go wrong, but on regular issues, the money made available on a regular basis and the policies, etcetera. I hope the Minister will pay proper attention to that issue of getting properly involved with Parliamentarians on education, so that we will not just come here and blame you when you bring the Vote.

On page 4 the Minister is talking about the pass rates and I want to make a few comments on the pass rates.

I have not been visiting all the schools in the country, in many, many cases there are no schools there, my dear friend, the school is non-existent. How do you expect kids to pass from a non-existent school? If you have a Grade 12 class with thirty learners where there are ten Mathematics textbooks, how do you expect those kids to do any studies, if they get seven Biography textbooks in June or July?

I was happy when the President or the Ministry of Finance mentioned the provision of textbooks from now henceforth. My only problem is that I do not see this covered in the Budget. It is catch-22 situation. You have a whole N\$6 billion, however this does not seem to cover even one-quarter of the problems that need to be covered in the Ministry of Education. I can only say I sympathise with this catch-22 situation.

The Namibian Student Financial Assistance Fund: Why loans? I can say, already the way I see it spelled out here, it looks like it is loans which will be very difficult to get back. How are you going to be able to trace and administer the paying back of all these loans unless these people are going to

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work in places where you can control their employment? However, I think the Minister must think of something better and put other criteria and give the money based on those criteria and not necessarily to make them pay the money back.

On page 7 the Minister is talking about ablution seats. I do not quite get that. Is the Minister referring to toilets?

My last point, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, deals with information, adult and lifelong learning where on page 9 the Minister refers in his speech to 38,000 citizens accessing internet through these facilities and it is not very clear what facilities these are. Is it public libraries?

Honourable Chairperson, I thank you for now and I reserve my right to come back when there are more questions.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have three quick-fire combination of questions, observations and a concrete proposal and naturally, coming from the Education sector, I will definitely have to support the people's Budget.

On page 3, I want to commend the Ministry for maintaining focus in the area of constructing libraries and many other facilities that are required for us to be able to deliver quality education. There are only a couple of issues that I wanted to raise here, particularly from the perspective of having the advantage of having been a member of the Namibia Library and Information Council at one time and that has to do with libraries.

In terms of us being required to at least provide appropriate spaces where

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facilities such as libraries can be located, a couple of years ago we undertook an extensive tour of library facilities, both in terms of school and community libraries in Namibia and what we happened to find out was a combination of issues.

One is that in certain instances, rooms that were designated as libraries for schools were grossly inappropriate. Some of them were storerooms and not libraries, *per se*. The point that I am trying to make, Comrade Minister, is for us to try and develop uniform technical requirements for the establishment of libraries in schools, so that we can have standardised buildings that can be constructed to serve as libraries. That is one issue.

Secondly, seeing that Namibia has a very hot environment, a good number of these libraries were badly equipped in terms of ventilation and if you were to find yourself in these rooms that are called libraries and you want to conclude your projects, you would find yourself terribly challenged. Particularly some of us who are dark in complexion and, therefore, absorb heat, will not be able to survive for even half an hour. It is an appeal, Honourable Minister, at least to investigate the possibility of making it a standard requirement to provide appropriate facilities.

The other challenge has to do with the human resources that are manning these libraries, not only school libraries but also public libraries. When I was still around we started making concerted efforts, but we need to consolidate those efforts.

The last remark on libraries is the opening hours, both in terms of school libraries and also public libraries. The opening hours are during the time when teachers are busy teaching at a good number of schools. In some schools they open in the afternoon, but there are no universal opening hours. My appeal, which is also reflected in the Report that we delivered, but which Report has not been attended to in terms of considering the recommendations, is for the Ministry to try and investigate whether we cannot have universal, standardised library opening hours.

My second intervention is on page 5, Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund, particularly the first paragraph that deals with the need to address the human resources needs of our country. I would like to make a submission here, and I am making this submission in a way of flagging the discussions that

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will ensue under Vote 26 of the National Planning Commission. At the moment the responsibility of developing the National Human Resources Plan is vested in the National Planning Commission. The plan that we had as a country – if my information is accurate and I believe it is accurate – lapsed way back in 2006. As we are speaking, Namibia does not have a National Human Resources Development Plan, since the plan that we had lapsed. The submission that I am making, Comrade Minister, is to investigate, probably in consultation with the National Planning Commission, the possibility of locating the development of the Human Resources Plan in the Ministry of Education, so that we can synchronise the development of the Plan and our efforts to develop the required human resources, so that the two activities are located under one entity.

There is a possibility, Honourable Minister, to also consider locating this particular function within the National Council for Higher Education where I was employed.

My last intervention is on the same paragraph 2.6 and this is simply a plea through you, Comrade Minister and the Deputy Minister, to the administration in the Ministry of Education. Every year, toward the end of the year, institutions of higher learning are compelled to take drastic measures that clearly indicate to the beneficiaries under this scheme that if they do not pay, they will not be allowed to sit for examinations. Until now I do not understand, Comrade Minister, as to what seems to be the problem, particularly when the Budget has been debated, it has been considered, the Budget plans have been submitted to Finance, they have been approved, what seems to be the impediment in terms of the administration releasing the money to the beneficiaries on time, so that we do not detract the attention of our students in terms of focusing on their preparations for examinations. They are now digressing and they are in a crisis, trying to generate the money in order to pay the institutions.

On the basis of those submissions, Comrade Minister, I submit my support for Vote 10 and I rest my case.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Swartz.

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HON SWARTZ: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My first point is on parents' involvement in the education of the children. The children in pre-primary classes must be supported by the parents. Is it not possible that parents can be encouraged to participate in literacy programmes within the Regions, so that they could assist the children at that early age.

With regard to HIV/AIDS, I have seen in the newspaper that 419 teachers passed away last year and 54% of children also passed away. Is it due to HIV/AIDS related illnesses or something else and if it is related to HIV/AIDS, then I would like to know whether there is an HIV/AIDS plan in place to support the teachers and the children. I also mentioned this in my maiden speech and maybe the Minister of Education, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Gender can devise a plan for the children who are infected with the virus, because at the moment there is no programme to cater for those children, only for orphans and vulnerable children.

Honourable Minister, I saw in the newspaper last week that the Ministry of Education is registering orphans and vulnerable children, but the Ministry of Gender and the organisation LAA that I worked for also have a database for orphans and vulnerable children. Could the Ministry not liaise with the Minister of Gender instead of duplicating the programme? I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Kavetuna.

HON KAVETUNA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I want to congratulate the Ministry for modifying the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund, because I was one of the beneficiaries, but I could only get something to pay for tuition. However, I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister that the loan system is not working, because the administration of the repayments is not in place. Bills are not sent to people, nothing is happening in order to collect this money from the beneficiaries.

On top of that, we do not encourage people to study in certain fields, for

instance engineering, by only giving loans for those fields, but we are giving loans to everybody who goes to university and then we find these people sitting at home without having the means to repay the loans. Is it not possible that the Ministry revisit this loan system and again introduce the bursary system whereby people are compelled to come and work for the Government. At least then you know you will have people who can work for the Government after five years. The current system is really a waste to the Ministry and it is not really adding any value to the whole system of education.

On page 7 it deals with private schools. There are schools in this country that are creating empires for certain societies. The curriculum is not Namibian, they are asking exorbitant prices and that is their way of keeping their children away from the Namibian society. Does the Ministry also inspect these schools and deregister them if need be, because we are dividing a society that is supposed to unite. I do not want to mention schools, but those schools are mostly here in Windhoek, the empires of certain societies. The Ministry needs to inspect all these private schools to ensure that they are at least promoting the spirit of One Namibia, One Nation.

On page 10 it deals with the feeding programme. Specifically in Oshikoto, Omaheke and Kunene the issue of community hostels has been a bone of contention for some time. Where there are no schools close to the villages, children are sent and they set up hostels, where they do not have good nutrition, such as three meals per day or whatever is required in a normal hostel set-up. This has come such a long way and the Ministry has to either discourage this practice or do something, because the children are becoming more vulnerable. Some of them are even going to the extent of selling themselves in order for them to eat. The Ministry needs to look into this and either discourage it or give assistance to these community hostels.

With regard to the mother-tongue policy, I find a missing link between the pre-primary education and the primary education that requires that a child must be taught in the mother-tongue for the first three years. In pre-primary the children are taught in English, then you send the child to primary school and you want the child to be taught in the mother-tongue for the first three years. It is essential that the pre-primary follows the same curriculum of teaching children in the mother-tongue, rather than doing it in English and then your policy requires that the child must be taught in Otjiherero, Oshivambo or Damara-Nama.

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HON HAINGURA / HON UEITELE**

My last remark is on the vocational training centres. I would like to ask what is the possibility of providing the graduates with a starter kit. These are qualified artisans who can start their own businesses, but because they are so poor, they cannot even start a business, they just sit and wait to be employed. I wholeheartedly support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Haingura.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, two of my points have already been taken and on this one I am talking as a mother. You send your child to school in Katutura or wherever and in the April examination she gets 32 points, in August she gets 28 and you as the mother think that your child will pass the Grade. When it comes to the final examination, the same child gets zero and then you wonder whether it is because of the marking system, whereby the teachers are coming from different schools to do the marking. Then, when you pay for the examination to be remarked, the child passes. There I have a problem. Why do they get 30% in April, 28% in August and zero in the last examination? That is my concern and I thank you, Comrade Minister.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Ueitele.

HON UEITELE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. My contribution is based on page 8 of the motivation speech of the Honourable Minister.

Let me, first of all, congratulate the former Minister of Education and the current Minister and Deputy Minister. The Ministry has introduced pre-primary education into the formal education to cater for children between the age of 5 and 6 years. This is a step in the right direction, but I would also propose that we have well-trained teachers for Grades 1 to 3, because at the end of the day we are just looking at the Grade 10 and Grade 12 results, but

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forgetting that Grades 1 to 3 have an impact on those results. Once we have good teachers in Grades 1 to 3, we can also expect good results in Grades 10 and 12.

I agree with the Minister that education is the bedrock of any system and for that reason I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. Honourable Makgone.

HON MAKGONE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I rise to support Vote 10 with that modest amount, as it was said, and I could see that it is really a modest amount, because this motivation speech is the only one which was duplicated on both sides, showing that it is just that amount of money and that is what I am going to use. Very good, Minister, paper is not wasted here.

My first question is on the repayment of the loans, what percentage of loans are being repaid or what is the situation?

The issue of the pass rate is a concern to all of us, but the Minister mentioned something about the positive attitude of some teachers and others who do not have this positive attitude. We should know that any Ministry could have all the resources, but if this positive attitude is lacking, nothing will happen. I want to encourage teachers to do their work of teaching and the learners should learn. If there is teaching and learning in the classroom, then the education system will improve a lot. The President said in his State of the Nation Address that our goal is to turn around the education system and to make it the best and he said that goal is achievable. If all of us work on that, we can achieve that. I thank you and I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Right Honourable Prime Minister.

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RT HON ANGULA / HON UUTONI**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: As an educationalist I get worried about certain arrangements. On page 5, the merger of the Colleges of Education and Agriculture with UNAM. Honourable Minister, I am talking about the merger of the College of Education.

We know that universities have the tendency of teaching about education rather than teaching about how to teach and I want to caution that the merger should not lead to a situation whereby teachers for Grade 1 to 12 are taught about education rather than be taught how to teach. Be careful about that one.

The second point is that when you train these people in colleges and they become graduates, they will demand higher salaries because now they are graduates. Therefore, your Budget is likely to shoot up if you are not careful. In two or five years' time you might have a problem. Thank you.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Our concern, as many people have indicated, is on the low pass rate and that is also a concern to many parents. The low pass rate is caused by some teachers, some department heads and some principals. Out of these three, some are not committed. Why? You find a teacher, who was supposed to cover seven chapters of a subject, has only covered four. He comes into the classroom, he tells the kids to open their books and read while he is doing his assignments. The students here are learning alone, while he or she is busy doing assignments and end of the period, off he or she goes.

Now if one asks yourself, what is the subject department head doing? Does that department head evaluate the work of the teacher? Are the principals in control? This is a very serious concern. Honourable Minister, let the teachers not do their assignments during class periods, let them do that after classes.

I have seen in one secondary school in the North that a teacher who was

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supposed to have covered seven chapters, only covered three and in October when the children are busy studying for exams and doing revision, that teacher is putting pressure on the kids to complete those chapters. How do you expect these kids to pass?

Another issue is the gap between Grade 10 and Grade 12. Some teachers do not make great efforts in Grade 11, they only concentrate on Grade 12. It is very important that efforts should also be given to Grade 11.

Lastly, Honourable Minister is on the expensive uniforms of children in secondary school. The jacket costs N\$400, the blouse N\$600, socks N\$500. What is that? Now the child is psychologically disturbed, maybe some principals have shares in some companies and forcing our children to buy those uniforms, and therefore these things have to be controlled.

Comrade Minister, I suggest that maybe the Ministry should have a small Budget for ministerial awards to teachers who are doing very well. With that, I support Vote 10.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Jankowski.

HON JANKOWSKI: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my points have already been mentioned, but I need to put my comments on the Table.

On page 3, paragraph 2.2, I am elated and inspired that our Ministry of Education takes an aggressive and dedicated approach towards the reintroduction of pre-primary education. I believe that in ten years' time our beloved country, Namibia, will reap the fruits of this action and I thank you. The Education Vote is well Budgeted for and I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Nambahu.

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HON NAMBAHU / HON NAMOLOH**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I also rise to support the Vote and I have only one suggestion to make on educational training.

I know that the Colleagues at the helm of the Ministry are innovators and that has raised expectations. I know my good friend, Honourable Namwandi, was able to craft the first qualification or training or diploma in HIV. That is innovation.

When I look at the Reports tabled here, many Ministries are complaining about the lack of skills in the same areas and one wonders whether we cannot, on the basis of these reports, do a market survey as the basis for coming up with new subjects.

For example, I saw many of the Ministers at the desalination plant and I asked how many foreigners are working in this area and they said there are no qualified Namibians to do this and that. NIED in Okahandja could use some of these Reports when doing research. Sometimes people want to protect their markets and they will tell you that there will be no market for people trained in these areas. Why do we not train and saturate the market and also use the bursaries as a controlling mechanism? I do not have anything against Public Administration, but if we have saturated the market in that area, why should we continue giving bursaries and loans for that area? I am really confident that if you do market studies, even in a futuristic manner on solar farming and all those other things that are coming in future, I think we will be able to come to come up with something. Let us now use those Reports and identify the skills we need for us to coin some new careers that we are going to need. I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to support Vote 10.

The Minister said on page 3: *“It will be a National disaster if our children at primary level do not know how to proficiently read, write and count.”* We in the Ministry of Defence have the experienced of this and as the Honourable

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Minister correctly put it on page 4, that the subjects which should be taught are Mathematics, English and Science and of course, do not forget Geography.

We at the Ministry of Defence have a problem of recruiting students who are passing and also the private sector. The parents have the moral obligation and responsibility to see to it that their children attend school and not only to attend school, but also to study proper subjects. Especially in the northern regions the children take social subjects, no Science, no Mathematics and how do we recruit people in the Navy or Air Force who have only social subjects and no Science or Mathematics and the worst of it is that English is always a second language. They cannot read, they cannot write and we are complaining that the private sector is not recruiting our children, but they do not qualify. We need to emphasise that they study proper subjects.

Children in private schools pass with flying colours and they have good subjects and the Universities are taking them. They cannot take somebody who has passed Bible Studies with an A. Honestly, they must take proper subjects.

You also mentioned computer study. We must have a computer curriculum from Grade 1 to Grade 12 so that we teach computer as a subject in all the schools. In India they start with computer studies in Grade 1 up to Grade 12 and this is very important for our children.

Honourable Minister, I am a parent. How do I encourage my child to study hard if at the end of the day he passes with flying colours but there is no bursary. I thought what matters is the marks of a child and not who his family is. It is not only the children, some of our wives are young and they are studying, but they cannot get a bursary. What discrimination is this and who is benefiting? In all aspects we are being discriminated. As veterans we are discriminated, where do we benefit? This discrimination must be addressed and if it is a policy, it should be done away with so that we all benefit as citizens of Namibia.

Honourable Minister, who benefit from the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund? You want us to support the Budget, but who is to benefit if our children do not benefit? It is discrimination.

Honourable Minister, with these few words, I want to support Vote 10.

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HON MUHEUA /HON HERUNGA**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. I now call on Honourable Muheua.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

My sincere thanks, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. In supporting Vote 10, allow me to turn to page 4 of the motivation speech where it refers to pass rate, which is title "*failure rate*" and I beg to differ from your topic.

While I acclaim the sterling work done by the two Doctors, having heeded your call, Comrade Chair, regarding the time constraints, I will be very brief and to the point, that point being the career guidance in our schools.

The wise people have an adage which says, "*if you do not know where you are going, any road can take you there and most probably to failure too.*" Thus, my question is: How effective is our system of career guidance, if there is one? Maybe if we offer effective career guidance to our children from an early stage, say from Grade 3, they will have a dream early in their lives, which dream will be – and I am borrowing from the Doctor – catalytic in propelling them on a straight line towards that defined noble goal.

With that, Deputy Chair, I wholeheartedly support Vote 10 and I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. Honourable Herunga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:

Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson. I rise to commend the Minister of Education and his Deputy on establishing the Schools of Excellence in our Regions. I think it is a noble idea to have these schools and I am particularly impressed that the first Region to benefit from this is the Kavango Region. I propose these schools to be established in our remote Regions, because that is where we have a poor pass rate. If you create Schools

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of Excellence in those Regions, you will be able to improve the pass rate of our learners in those Regions.

These Schools of Excellence will create competition among learners and teachers, because learners will compete for spaces in Schools of Excellence. Therefore, this is a noble idea.

Every year in January the parents blame teachers for the high failure rate of our learners in Grades 10 and 12, but sometimes we forget that some of our teachers are compelled to teach subjects such as Geography to learners who cannot read or write. How can we expect a poor teacher to implement a syllabus of Grade 10 for a learner who has the competencies of Grade 4 or Grade 3? Sometimes we are unfair towards these poor teachers.

Therefore, we need to have a policy whereby learners will not proceed beyond primary education if they cannot read and write so that these poor teachers are not unfairly blamed for the high failure rate of our learners. This is one of the contributing factors to the high failure rate of our learners in both Grade 10 and 12.

Having said that, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I support Vote 10 and I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. May I now call on Honourable Mwaningange?

HON MWANINGANGE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to contribute to Vote 10.

ETSIP is a roadmap for education and Honourable Minister, I think this roadmap addresses more teaching techniques and methodology approach in education. Of course, education does not only mean you know the method of teaching. As a teacher one has to know teaching involves many things, such as child psychology. However, this is not enough, it includes the environment where the school is, where the parents are and the community.

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Therefore, Comrade Chair, much needs to be done as the groundwork at school. I made some observations where various schools in our country are, especially the primary and junior secondary schools in various localities. Of course, there is a difference between schools in urban and rural areas.

A teacher has to prepare and acquaint him or herself with what he or she is going to teach the next day or that week. The means of assisting teachers to do so may not be equal. A language teacher may have a heavier load of work than a Mathematics teacher and he has to go and mark and see where learners are to be guided as well as prepare to teach that particular subject. These are some of the setbacks I see in particularly the rural areas. That is why I am saying a teacher teaching in a Junior Secondary school may not be in the same position as the one who has electricity in the classroom and the house. These are some of the challenges which should be addressed by ETSIP.

Honourable Minister, the Budget addresses many educational matters, but the teachers find themselves in environments where they have to overcome some of these setbacks. There is also the challenge of problem children in the rural areas. Those are some of the problems, but otherwise the roadmap is excellent.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, it is true that all of us need to be engaged in education. I know all the Honourable Members have education at heart. Parents need to be changed through education and advice. Parents are not the same, some happen to be conversant in what is taking place at school but others not. School boards need to consist of members who understand and follow the education at all times. There is a tendency to elect any member of the community, but participation by the parents is vitally important.

Some schools tend to change the colour of their school uniforms every three years, which is a burden to the parents. I would suggest that the uniform should be the same countrywide. I support the Vote and I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Ankama.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you very much, Deputy Chair of the Whole House Committee. I have two points and one is on enrolment. I find it very difficult to understand that at the beginning of each year everybody is coming for placement and I feel we have to redress this by probably getting the right data and forecasting of the likely number of learners that would come up for next year's schooling at all levels. We probably need to look at our birth rate and make the right forecasting and then we would be able to sort this out. Institutions should be ready and this thing of education institutions saying they do not have space should come to an end.

Secondly, I would want to say something about the Education Act versus the Education Policy. The Education Act was recently introduced, it came into life four, five years ago, but the Education Policy that has been with us for some time is outdated. The two are not in tandem and as such they are creating a lot of loopholes within the system. Just to govern the Minister is a problem because of this Policy versus the Education Act and I think we need to redress it seriously and bring them into harmony. I support this Vote unreservedly.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. Honourable Manombe-Ncube.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I thought as one of the products of this vote I should add my voice to the Vote and support it.

The Namibia College of Open Learning is one of the training sectors under ETSIP and this sector really needs to be commended, Honourable Minister, because this sector is doing very well. I do however not think that it is appreciated and given the credit it deserves. Although there is a stigma attached to NAMCOL, they are offering such important programmes that is enhancing the capacity of our communities, especially in adult education. All of us are community workers as Members of Parliament and our skills also need to be enhanced, which can only be done by the Namibia College of Open

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Learning. They need to be given that credit and be appreciated.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to thank the Ministry for the reintroduction of pre-primary schools. This is really a noble and welcome gesture, because all of us who come from poor social backgrounds really need it. All we have to do is to speed up the process so that all primary schools could have pre-primary education.

Everything is set out very well in the document and they are getting the Budgets they deserve, but I do not see any Budget towards making our schools user-friendly. I hope that it will be taken care of in the next Budget. I support the Vote and I thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. Honourable Witbooi.

HON WITBOOI: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, this is a very serious Vote, Education takes place everywhere. As we are sitting here, education is taking place. The new Members have to learn a lot of new things here. I have only two suggestions and it is on IT.

Comrade Minister, many primary school teachers are not computer literate. My suggestion to the Ministry is to start with computer training workshops for our primary school teachers. These teachers can sacrifice their time during holidays to attend these workshops.

Secondly, I also suggest that the Ministry should encourage primary schools to start with computer classes. Let us try to pressurise IT from the side of the Ministry. I also thank the Minister for using the word “*discipline*” in his speech. A disciplined community will definitely contribute towards effective education and according to me, discipline is the key to success. I support Vote 10.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. Honourable Dingara.

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HON DINGARA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I believe that the maturity of the mind of a human being is not linked to age. It is not a matter that everybody at the age of six should be at the same level of maturity. I believe some may mature later to the level of understanding issues. On page 3 it is said that the reintroduction of pre-primary schools will be for children of six years old. I do not know whether it is the Act or the Policy that stipulates the age of seven years for Grade 1, but maybe an assignment is given to pre-primary teachers to determine the level of understanding of children at the age of six and whether they are able to proceed to Grade 1. There may be those who are intelligent enough at the age of six to start with Grade. That is my suggestion to the two Ministers and the Ministry of Education as a whole. Thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my contribution will be brief. I want to express my appreciation to the Ministry for Programme 5, *Knowledge Creation and Innovation*. The Ministry has decided to invest in research and development and this is very important. They are busy putting a regulatory format in place to establish a National Commission for Research. I believe this body will be able to find solutions for all the problems confronting our education system. I thank you and I support Vote 10.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chair. I have two questions, but first, congratulations on the good statement. I will start with page 5 where it deals with decentralisation of specific education functions to Regions.

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My question is linked to monitoring of decentralisations and it is based on those who do not have access to schools at all, the rural areas where in the villages you have over thirty kids and no school. The parents did not have schools and there is no adult education. In terms of decentralisation of these functions, is there any tangible measure that the Ministry has in place, because this situation exists out there. There are many who do not have access to a school and yet all 13 Regions have Regional Directors and it seems they are not aware of this because they have never been there, inspectors have never been there. Are there any tangible measures to also bring them on board? Their parents have missed out, at least the young ones should have access to school.

My second question is on page 6. The situation we have on the ground is that if a principal fails to run a school, he or she is promoted to an inspector. One wonders how he or she can manage a broader area if he or she has failed to manage a school. I do not want to mention names, but I know from the media that this is the situation. Is there any other way that the Ministry could assist to curb this type of behaviour? This paragraph refers to the joint monitoring, how would this joint monitoring add to the performance of schools so that this type of behaviour can be curbed? I support Vote 10 and I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Kapia.

HON KAPIA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. This is our Vote and I want, first of all, to congratulate the two Doctors and wish them well. They started on a very high note and I want them to continue doing so.

Firstly, I want the Ministry to investigate the possibility for children who turn six years old from January to March to start Grade 1. It is a pain for a parent to have a child start Grade 1 at the age of seven. That child is already late and I think you must investigate that very seriously.

On the issue of mother-tongue, our children are failing in Grade 5 because they

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did not have a very good basis from Grade 1. Investigate that and improve.

We must investigate the interest rate on the loans and reduce it, it is too high. Every student given money to study through these loans must be traced to pay back, but not at 15% interest rate.

Teachers trained in Zimbabwe must not be regarded as Zimbabweans. There is a reactionary tendency in our schools that we give preference to those who studied in our own colleges and it must be condemned. We cannot spend money on young people to study somewhere else and when they come back we discriminate against them. That is a very serious matter, it is an imperialist tendency.

Comrade Minister of Education, you are talking about ICT at schools. Ondiamande is five hundred metres from a power line but there is no electricity. It has learners up to Grade 10 and it is failing dismally. I want you to investigate that very seriously.

At Eheke Senior Secondary School the kids are leaving school to go and look for other fields of study, because there is only one field of study. Investigate that very seriously.

It must be investigated whether the many subjects is one of the contributing factors to the failure rate.

The Government schools in Windhoek who attempt to be private schools in terms of the fees to be paid by the parents must be investigated. This is a serious matter here in the City of Windhoek. Teachers and principals must refrain from telling the children that their parents did not pay their school fees and they are not going to be given their reports or they are not going to write exams. This must be stopped completely, the kids do not have money. The teachers must inform the parents, not the kids, because they are traumatising our kids.

Comrade Minister, NAMCOL is a very good institution, but while those teachers who graduated in Zimbabwe are at home, the teachers at NAMCOL are those who are already in regular employment. Why can we not engage those young people to teach at NAMCOL? Investigate and see whether that is possible. I am just telling you because you are a new Minister.

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Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I will reserve some of my remarks and discuss them with the Minister. There is a lot of information at the SWAPO Party Youth League which you should know so that you can do your work very well. Thank you very much and I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Sioka.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me join those who have spoken before me and congratulate the Minister and his Deputy for a job well done.

I want to refer to the challenges on page 9 and ask how long will it take before we Budget for the provision of teachers' accommodation in the rural areas in order for them to be attracted to work in the Rural Areas? In the area I come from, which is about 25 kilometres from Katima Mulilo, you would find that teachers sleep in Katima Mulilo and travel each morning to that school and sometimes they are late. Otherwise we should do what we have done in the olden days, by giving food for work so that the parents can build houses for them. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Who wants to sleep in thatched houses?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I

have asked some of them and they said they are willing to be accommodated in those thatched houses.

Honourable Minister, I do not see any mention of literacy classes. Has this now been privatised or what happened to it? I am referring to the literacy classes for those elders who are being exploited by their families when they

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receive their pensions. Yesterday I was speaking to one colleague from Zimbabwe who told me how these literacy classes assisted the elders to be engaged in classes in the evening instead of drinking tombo and other things. Comrade Minister, I support your Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you and finally, Honourable Beukes.

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

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I would like to base my contribution on pages 2 and 3.

As many of you already know, that I have been a teacher for plus minus 30 years, I would really like to have twelve hours to talk to the Minister when it comes to education, but unfortunately a lot has already been said. However, while I am congratulating the Honourable Minister and his Deputy Minister for reintroducing pre-primary education, I would ask them to look into the issue of special classes. We have learners in classes who need special attention and we need to have special classes for that purpose. There is also a hindering factor, namely the overcrowded classrooms. Honourable Minister, there is way to send a learner back home to the parents, that is not the intention, but please, schools need more classrooms. We can create employment by employing more teachers. When the classrooms are overcrowded, we do not have enough time for the learners. Some classes are so overcrowded that the teacher cannot move and I have been taught at College that you have to move around and speak to the learners.

Teachers are sometimes overloaded with work and they do not have time to complete their syllabi. They have counselling classes in the afternoon and you could even create employment by having people to do the counselling. There is the Window-of-Hope Programme, there are HIV/AIDS programmes, etcetera. Yes, I do believe that there should be time for a teacher to handle the HIV/AIDS programme. At my school I even had learners who were positive. I want to congratulate the Minister for the feeding programme. However, I want to add that the schools must go a further mile to see how they can assist those learners who are HIV-positive. The teachers need time to prepare

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themselves. Teachers need to have teaching aids. Nowadays you find teachers who do not have teaching aids and how do you reach those children in Grade 1 who do not know anything?

In Grade 1 it is not a formal class where you only stand at the table in front of the learners and talk to them. There are a lot of things to be done in Grade 1, there the ground must be level already. The learners must start reading in Grade 1. You cannot struggle with learners in Grade 7 who cannot read, they must start by learning the sounds of the alphabet in Grade 1 as well as the sounds. You can only read with sounds and I believe the Minister will look into that.

There are so many issues that I will make time to meet with the Minister and the Deputy Minister and I would like to support Vote 10.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

If there is no further discussion, I want to request the Minister to reply to some of the specific questions.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. It is after nine, it is sleeping time, but the House showed to the Nation how serious the Members are about the education of our Nation. We are showing that we truly have a moral responsibility towards the Nation.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I have a big number of experts and senior managers at the Ministry as well as from affiliate institutions, including those from the Polytechnic and University of Namibia. If I do not cover some of the questions, we promise that we will look at these questions when we go back to our duty station.

I do recognise that we have so many teachers in this House and when there is a crisis, we will come and call all the teachers here, starting with the Right Honourable Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister.

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Colleagues, the Deputy Minister and I are new, you should not ask the new ones too many questions on the first day. The questions were many but quite appreciated and I would like to start with the question raised by Honourable Ulenga from CoD. Comrade Ulenga, you said that I should not emphasise that the architects of our education, namely Comrades Nahas Angula, Mbumba, Mutorwa and their Deputies, have done a sterling job or they have laid a strong foundation. I think it is very important for the sake of history and for the same of the Nation for us to appreciate and recognise these Colleagues who have worked so hard, considering that Namibia was coming from a divided society. I will say it even louder, that they did a sterling job and I think we should really applaud the Colleagues.

Everybody who spoke support the people's Vote of education. There are also those who were quiet, but looking at them, reading from the body language, I know they will say yes, including the Chairperson. I will answer the questions systematically, including the full-stops and the commas. There were questions, there were comments, there were directives, advice, encouragement and even sympathy. All those are taken well.

After the Debate in the House, the Deputy Minister and I will be travelling to the Regions to engage the teachers, principals and parents. That time we are also going to be answering some of your questions that would diplomatically not be answered too straight today.

I want to start with *Honourable Ilonga* who mentioned the pass rates. He mentioned that many of the schools are deserted because of the low pass rate. All I can say at the moment is that we have a responsibility as a country, the pass rate is not too comfortable, neither for the parents or the children. Yes, there are some schools which are doing well. Two months ago the Prime Minister went to Oshikoto when we were celebrating some schools and teachers who have done so well. What we need is to investigate at those schools where for ten years there has not been any pass rate. If we got 20% this year, next year you get 19% and then 18%, it is called a sinking ship in Marine Science. Therefore, we as Parliamentarians have a responsibility to improve the pass rates. Yes, some parents are removing their kids from those schools and that is a reality that worries us.

Honourable Ilonga asked what are our plans. The plan is to look at what is happening at each and individual school. At some of them it might be because

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of the lack of teaching aids, it might be the condition of that school, it might be the preparation by that teacher, it might be the whole system in terms of the work of the inspectors to assist. There are many factors and we have to find answers to those questions as there are so many people who are sad about this although there are some schools which are doing very well.

The other question is about the children roaming the streets and that this is a bad sight. When you pass some of the traffic lights in the City of Windhoek as well as Ongwediva, you find children of the age of ten. Education is a fundamental human right and if we have these children on the streets, it is our responsibility to be answerable, accountable either as parents or members of the community to work out a strategy to make sure that these kids go to school. As a country we should not give up and say there is nothing we can do. However, it is not a good sight to find so many children on the street.

What Honourable Iilonga is saying with respect to the pass rate is true. The Deputy Minister and myself just noticed this and we are consulting with principals and inspectors of education and the directors of education. You find that a child scores an A in more than five subjects or even a B and all of a sudden that child happens to fail English or Mathematics by getting a D. Automatically, irrespective of the other subjects, that child has failed and we are concerned about that and we want to try to see what is really happening. Therefore, what you are saying is correct, it worries us because if it happens to be the case, this year there are going to be so many failures. However, we want to attend that.

You had a third question that I did not get, but you promised that we will have some consultations. We have to revive the principle where the community takes part in the education of the child. Education is not the responsibility of only the parent and then the teacher, but also the community, including the churches, including the Traditional Leaders, including all of us and if the child goes to a neighbour, he also becomes a counsellor or a teacher. What are you saying is for all of us to be a caring community and not to chase the child because he belongs to Nahas Angula. No, instil a sense of direction and peace in the mind of that child.

Dr Kawana, with respect to some of these fly-by-night colleges, they invite all Namibians to join those colleges, that you will obtain a qualification within two hours. Anyone who wants to operate an education institution in Namibia

is supposed to be quality assured through the National Qualifications Authority, to be accredited for you to be able to operate. All that I can do at the moment is to encourage all Namibians, before you join some of these bogus institutions, to find out whether they are accredited. If they are part of higher education, then you do it through the National Council on Higher Education. However, it is true that they are here and actually it is cheating and they should be given to Honourable Mbumba who deals with the police. However, we should find out whether these institutions are accredited.

There was a question by Dr Kawana on the renaming of the Polytechnic of Namibia. I am not going to say much at this point in time. An Act of Parliament established the Polytechnic of Namibia and that is the legal name. Everything else is additional to that and we accept what is part of the law. As I mentioned last week, we have referred this to the Council on Higher Education for an opinion and they are working on this and will pronounce themselves. However, as it stands at the moment, the Polytechnic is the Polytechnic, the University, the University, the College, the College. I will not delve into the intricacies of the argument at this point time, but at an appropriate time we will do that.

Honourable Tjihuiko said he will ask his questions next time and I hope some Members of the Opposition are still going to be here or they would have joined others. Anyway, we will see.

Honourable Kazenambo and many of the Colleagues spoke about the Student Financial Assistance Fund. I could see that there are serious concerns by Members of Parliament about this Fund. Dr Namwandi and I agree with you, it is something we are seriously worried about in terms of its administration, delivery, transparency and efficiency. This one really worries us.

The question was whether we are going to have a bursary or a loan system. All I can say that we had a meeting with MCA, Namibia, which has funded a consultant to work on the restructuring of this Fund. The question was asked whether it is true that the poor people who have been given the loans are unable to pay and if they are unable to pay, what are we going to do to get the money? We are informed that around 80% or more of these loans have not been repaid. This year we have for this Fund alone N\$200 million and the question is, how many have not repaid? Tomorrow we are meeting with the stakeholders which include members of the private sector and different

institutions. I will not be able to say what is going to happen while we are finalising the presentations, after which we will get guidance from the Cabinet, but if there is something that is worrying us at the moment, it is the situation with the bursaries.

Honourable Kazenambo was saying the children are not allowed to get their results. Also at tertiary institutions there were poor people who were not allowed to write examinations because of non-payment. I know that as part of the additional amount the Minister of Finance gave, this was one of the issues to be attended to and we had to discuss with the Polytechnic of Namibia as well as the University of Namibia that children from very poor backgrounds, who are not able to pay, are not prevented from writing their examinations and a different strategy should be applied.

With regard to the kids of the struggle at Berg Aukas who are asked whether they were in exile, I feel this is a serious issue that is dividing the Nation. The children at Berg Aukas, as other Namibians who qualify, cannot be discriminated against, they should also benefit from this Fund.

Both Dr Kawana and Honourable Kazenambo asked who determines the policy on tertiary education. As I said earlier on, we pass the laws as lawmakers. The policy, of course, is supposed to be determined by the Executive after submission by the Minister, but we have been kind enough, we have even brought policies to Parliament for discussion. Of course, Parliament is not to make policies, Parliament is to make laws, but we have been very kind to bring even the policies here for discussion.

There are provisions in the law on the powers of the Minister. If Parliament was to say they want to change something with respect to the law on UNAM or the Polytechnic and you instruct me to do so, then I will do so, but at the moment the Polytechnic is the Polytechnic and UNAM is UNAM.

Honourable Ulenga, thank you very much for the sympathy and congratulations. You mentioned the number of 300 and these are not schools, these are classrooms to be added. We have a figure of N\$110 million per Vision School and you mentioned that the Capital Budget is accounting for about 7,7%, whereas the Operational Budget is 92,3% and you wanted to know whether the N\$110 million are included in the Capital Budget. This will be

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sourced outside the State Revenue Fund and it is not included in the Capital Budget.

Again, you referred to the pass rates and you said many people are failing because of a lack of textbooks. Yes, this has been a problem, but the Government has gradually been attending to the issue of textbooks and recently we received around 700,000 books for more than 951 schools. This is only the first consignment, more are still to come. We have to address the shortage of books, so that at least every child has a book, rather than twenty children sharing one book.

With respect to the ablution seats, you asked whether it is the same as toilets and for lack of the right word, it is the same thing. You are a good teacher that you understand these complicated words and thank you for taking it up.

I did not get the question on lifelong learning and libraries and I will put it on abeyance.

Comrade Simataa, you said the libraries are housed in storerooms and the ventilation is bad, it is too hot and what can we do to improve the situation. We take note of that, it is very important. We have to continue building libraries if we want to instil a culture of reading in Namibia. Namibians are afraid of books and I want to make sure that we start with Parliamentarians, that you report to the Prime Minister and his Deputy on how many books you read per week. I want to encourage Members of Parliament to read, but we need to continue building libraries to ensure a culture of reading.

You mentioned standardised buildings for libraries and this is very important. We have a document on that and when we build libraries now, they are standardised. I thank you very much indeed for raising it. We have started to attend to the opening hours, whether we should open on Saturdays.

On the Human Resource Plan, Honourable Simataa highlighted that there is a deficit in the country, that we do not have a Human Resource Plan. This is very bad, because if we want 600 engineers or 700 accountants or 2,000 teachers, the Human Resource Plan is the document that would have that information. You are proposing that it should not be under the domain of the National Planning Commission but under Education. At the moment the development of a Human Resource Plan is in the domain of the National

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Planning Commission, but it something that the country needs urgently, we should have a National Human Resource Plan, otherwise we are planning haphazardly and I thank you very much for raising that point.

Then on the issue of the Council of Higher Education, we will wait and leave at the National Planning Commission for the moment.

I have responded to the issue of not being allowed to sit for examination. I do not really believe that these things should happen to you as a result of your economic situation.

Comrade Swartz, it is important that parents participate in literacy programmes so that they could assist the children at home, but there are some parents who are highly literate who do not assist their children. I want to start with the parents who can read and write to assist their youngsters.

Then you asked whether the 419 teachers passed away as a result of AIDS. Yes, this was the main reason. We have a directorate in the Ministry called the HIV/AIDS Management Unit and we have plan on how to assist the teachers, but yes, the majority of this number were infected, but not all of them exclusively because of AIDS, also related diseases.

The registration of vulnerable children to be done between the Ministries of Education and Gender. Gender is our partner at the pre-primary level. Children from the ages 1 to 4 fall under the Ministry of Gender and then we take over from the age 5 and onwards. However, we are condemned to work together and we have to work together. Comrade Sioka, let us work together.

Comrade Kavetuna also said that the loan system is not working. The Debate is whether we should have the loan system or the previous bursary system. As I said earlier on, we will be consulting on that that tomorrow and we will be able to pronounce ourselves after we have dealt with the Cabinet.

It is true that the private schools are too expensive. The hostels is an issue of great concern. Many of these households are now headed by orphans, the majority being children. This child needs some space when writing examinations and one way is for that child to go to a hostel and many of these children are very far from their schools. I was also informed today that many of these community hostels, particularly in Opuwo, are not authorised by the

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Ministries of Education and Health to operate. I am going there within two weeks to find out what is happening there, but hostels are very critical.

On the language, we have children who speak a bit of Afrikaans, a bit of Nama, a bit of Otjiherero and you find it difficult to determine which one is the mother-tongue, whereas if the school is hundred percent Oshindonga, then you know which one is the mother-tongue. If you have all of them, the option would be to use English.

On the issue of vocational training schools and whether we are giving the students a starter kit, that is what is happening, but what is required is for us to take care of those coming from vocational institutions. We are saying those from vocational institutions are not job-seekers, they are job creators and that is good theory, but in practice they are all job-seekers. These people should be assisted with initial capital, so that when they have the skills as plumbers, they do not necessarily good have good entrepreneurial skills. We need to concentrate on these people who had vocational training and assist them with initial capital as part of business of Small and Medium Enterprises, rather than to say they are job creators.

Comrade Haingura, you also referred to the pass rate. I did not get you so well, but we are going to have bilateral consultation to get more details on this.

Comrade Ueitele, you are saying we need good teachers for Grades 1, 2 and 3 and we fully agree with you on that, because you have to lay a strong level at this low level. It is like a small tree and you find that the tree is growing straight, then you are safe. If that tree does not grow straight at that young age, it is going to be so difficult to straighten it up. It is better that you prepare those youngsters at an early stage.

Comrade Makgone, you also referred to the issue of the pass rate and the attitude of the teachers. Many of the teachers who are working under difficult conditions in the rural areas are really doing a good job, many of them are really performing. Yes, there are always some rotten apples and we have received reports that some teachers have at times been intoxicated or are guilty of absenteeism, but there are those teachers who are always at school. It is true that many of our teachers are doing us proud. They have the attitude to uphold the profession and the calling. When the teacher is walking somewhere, you can tell from how the teacher walks. If you hear Nahas Angula speaking, you

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know it is a teacher. If you hear John Mutorwa or Mbumba or Comrade Marco Hausiku, you can hear these are teachers. If you see a soldier walking there, you can tell he is a soldier and we want to make sure that when the teacher is there, this is a teacher.

When I was growing up, a teacher was everything. By the way, my father was a teacher. A teacher was always so neat. There were no counsellors, those days the counsellor was a teacher. Those days the mayor was the teacher and the teacher has to uphold that profession.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, you are my mentor, you made me what I am. I was not sure where I was when I was young and I want to appeal to the following people, Comrade Prime Minister, Comrade Mbumba, do not reveal to these people how naughty I was when I was young.

On the issue of the merger, I want to take what the Prime Minister said. We are merging the Agricultural Colleges with the University and the Colleges of Education has already merged with the University. The Prime Minister is saying the people at university are taught about education and the methodologies of education, but he says teachers should be taught how to teach and not how to talk about education. It is very important what the Prime Minister has said and I am happy that members of the university and the Ministry are here to ensure that those people prepared at the university will really teach and that we monitor the whole merger system to make sure that it is not completely detached from us.

The problem that we are going to have is the question of conditions of service. The teachers from the Colleges of Education have a different salary structure and a different level in terms of the qualification. At the university it is a different level. The likelihood is now to change the conditions of service.

Therefore, what the Prime Minister mentioned is correct, that we in the Education sector should really look into that, otherwise the Budget of the Ministry of Education would be N\$12 billion next time.

Comrade Uutoni, you said that it seems Grade 11 is not given the same attention as Grades 10 and 12. Grade 10 and 12 examinations are external and they receive so much publicity, while Grade 11 has no publicity. The same with Grade 5 and 7, it is just like 10 and 12, but Grades 6, 8 and 9 are not the

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same. As I was saying in my speech, we need all the stages to be given attention, to make sure that education really functions.

You said that the school uniforms are too expensive and particularly the socks. There are so many shops and do not have the answer.

Honourable Jankowski, thank you very much for your support, we will be discussing the pre-primary education.

Comrade Namoloh mentioned the reading, the writing and the counting. As I said, if the children do not know how to read and write, it will be a National disaster and many of our children in Grades 6 and 7 have difficulties to read and write and that is very bad. Many of our children go to Polytechnic and University and experience problems, they do not even know what a library is all about. The lecturers are telling them to get a book from the library and they do not know what a library is. We should make sure that our children know how to read, write and count. With anything in life you should know how to count, being an accountant, you need to know how to count, being in medicine, you need to know how to count and we should lay that foundation. The writing I am talking about is not a bad handwriting. Many of us, especially doctors, have bad handwritings.

You said you find many people in Defence do not understand much. Defence is a scientific world. You need Geography, directions and mathematics and different angles and I agree with you that we need to lay a foundation.

It is true that the pass rate at private schools are very high and we are challenged to make sure that Government schools are not second-class, but to be seen that we can also perform. However, the Government has a bigger responsibility in terms of institutions and manpower than those in the private sector. I mentioned yesterday that at the moment we have more than 600,000 learners from primary up to secondary and we have more than 21,000 teachers. In the process you have some more qualified and some less qualified. So, we should beat the private sector very soon.

The issue of computers is so critical, our children need to be computer literate. The language of today is computer. We do not want to add to illiteracy. Many people say that if you work in an office and you do not know how to use a computer, you have added to illiteracy. I hope all the Members of Parliament

are very good at computers. Many people say they know computers when they can answer a cell phone, but that is not what I am talking about. We want to reach a stage where each Namibian child has a computer if we want them to succeed in the industrial world. Our children need to have access to computers from the primary level and we should continue doing more through our electrification process, to make sure that when we are giving computers to schools we can utilise these computers. We do not want to see the cables passing a school to land at a Cuca shop. We want them to land first at the school and then at the Cuca shop. Therefore, we should really pay more attention to IT at the school level.

Comrade Namoloh asked why are the children of those who have a better income not treated as all others in terms of bursaries. Again, we are going to have that discussion and I had better not answer that now.

Comrade Muheua asked why we do not have career guidance. We have it under life skills development, but I want to agree with you that our children have to be encouraged while young to choose what they want to do in life. If you look at the mining sector, there are so many things that our children can watch, about the sea, about the forests, etcetera, and I think the National broadcaster needs to show more of these areas to our children. However, the career guidance should be strengthened for our children to be able to choose a career at an early stage.

Comrade Herunga said the Schools of Excellence should be in the remote areas. The plan is to start with six and then to add more.

Comrade Mwaningange, you referred to ETSIP and Comrade Ulenga, sorry for not answering you earlier on, you proposed that it could have been good for Members of Parliament to have been invited to attend this. We take your advice for our next meetings and we hope that you will attend. I demand that the Parliamentary Committees become active now, but we will definitely make sure that we also invite Members of Parliament.

With regard to parents on the school boards, there are so many members of the community, either those working in banks, retired teachers, business people and some of them are assisting the school boards, but some need to be encouraged to become involved in the school boards.

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Comrade Ankama, at the beginning of each year there is always a National outcry. One mother or one father gets angry with anybody who is linked to the Education Ministry because the child has no space. It is very important that parents and the whole country decide where the child is going to attend school next year. Also the Regional Councillors should work on this to avoid this outcry. Where we have schools we should make arrangements in time. Where you do not have space, we have to make arrangements for a child to go at a far place. I thank you very much for reminding us of that very important point.

On the issue of policy, yes, we have a policy of 1993 and the law of around 2001. We are looking at the laws and policies, we are always revising.

Comrade Manombe, I agree that NAMCOL is very important and I am sure Comrade Ilonga agrees. You are saying that we should continue to appreciate the work being done by NAMCOL and give them credit. Let us not downplay them. It is very important that we do that as many people are graduating from there.

However, we have a problem at NAMCOL. Many of the teachers who are teaching Grade 12 in the morning are the same teachers who are teaching at NAMCOL in the afternoon and then you find that many communities are complaining that when these teachers teach the Grades 11 and 12 there are problems, but when they go and teach at NAMCOL, the kids are passing very well. We are saying that the subjects are quite different, but of course, people are worried whether teachers are being enticed by extra money.

You asked why schools are not user-friendly and it is exactly what we have done here at Parliament to have a lift, so that at least all our Members, irrespective of your condition, will be able to move freely and I am sure my Colleagues here have taken that good advice.

Comrade Witbooi, your suggestion was on ICT and I have referred to the importance of the use of computers at primary level. You have referred to the very important issue of discipline.

Honourable Dingara, thank you very much indeed. You also spoke about the primary schools, but there is one point which I did not catch very well and we will have bilateral consultations.

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Comrade Kaapanda, you supported the Budget and recommended that we strengthen the issue of research and development. That is very important that we do so.

Comrade Tweya, you spoke about decentralisation and I agree with you that is very important.

Comrade Kapia, you said the children born from January to March should not be discriminated against and I agree with you. You said that many of the teachers who went to study Mathematics in Zimbabwe are not taken up in the schools and the excuse is that they did not study Mathematics together with Science, but to me Mathematics is Science and I think it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that we make use of these teachers where possible.

Comrade Sioka, we are working on the accommodation for teachers in particularly the rural areas.

Comrade Beukes, you spoke about overcrowded classrooms.

Finally, I only want to thank all the Honourable Members.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. We have one follow-up question by Honourable Katali.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. There is one issue that I would want the Minister to go and investigate and this has to do with the policy on academic gowns. I have observed that even when they graduate from kindergarten they have academic gowns and caps and even women who have attended a one-week cooking course have these academic gowns. Is there no policy on this, so that we at least respect this attire, that it is either restricted or extended to everybody who attended a one-week training course. Honourable Minister, I just want to register that it does not look good for us to use the academic attire everywhere. It does not motivate the young people to

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study very hard to achieve what they are supposed to achieve. I support Vote 10.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Any objection to Vote 10? Agreed to. Honourable Members, I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House adjourns until tomorrow at 09:00.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 22:40 UNTIL 2010.05.07 AT 09:00