

**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>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr K Kazenambo	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture)</i>

DEPUTY MINISTERS

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

Ms P Haingura	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms A 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 E Utoni	<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 Namwandi (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 Bezuidenhout

Mr Hidipo Hamutenya *(Party Leader)*

Ms A Limbo

Mr H Lucks

Mr P Naholo

Mr K Nehova

Mr J Nyamu

Mr A von Wietersheim

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Ms C Gowases

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 Namwandi (Mr)	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms E !Nawases-Taeyele	
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr F Ueitele	
Mr E Utoni	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr Piet van der Walt	
Ms L Witbooi	

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)

Mr J //Garoëb	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr S Tjongarero	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

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

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

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
24 MARCH 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. The 8th of March was International Women's Day, an occasion marked by all women worldwide. It is a day where women from around the world, irrespective of their countries of origin, ethnic background, political affiliation, cultural differences, economic and social status, come together as one to celebrate their day.

Women have been struggling for centuries to be afforded the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes on an equal footing with their male counterparts. Today we honour and celebrate those gallant ordinary women who made positive living history. Those strong women, who came before us, survived and passed on to us their determination, wisdom and strength despite difficulties they passed through.

Comrade Speaker, the Charter of the United Nations signed in San Francisco in 1945 was the first agreement to proclaim gender equality as fundamental human rights. This is no strange thing to the Namibian women in particular; whose fight against gender inequality is a daily dialogue.

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However, the Namibian Government is working tirelessly in partnership with other Governments, the Private Sector, NGOs, civil society, international organisations, community-based organisations and faith-based organisations to create a gender equal society.

The theme for 8 March, 2011, was “*Equal access to Education, Training and Science and Technology: pathway to decent work for women*” – *Unleashing the full potential of women to emancipate them from poverty and gender-based violence.*” Namibia supports this special day on the calendar and will continuously celebrate women’s achievements in years to come.

This year’s theme was cementing the commitments made by the Namibian Government nationally, regionally and internationally. Namibia has a National Gender Policy that is calling for gender equality, women to access resources and participates in decision-making at all levels of society. On the regional and international fronts, Namibia acceded to various instruments, such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Discrimination against Women, the AU Charter on Human Rights and the Rights of Women and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, just to mention a few. The SADC Protocol and the AU Charter both demand for 50/50 women representation in politics and management by 2015 and 2020, respectively.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, Namibian women are progressing slowly but surely. You see now that there are women coming up as business personalities, managing their own businesses. We have managers in different institutions, in both the Public and Private Sectors. We have a growing number of girl/women at primary, secondary and tertiary level. Namibia has recorded a good number of students enrolling in fields such as engineering, law, different science subjects, just to mention a few, which were previously only dominated by men.

To this I just want to say: Ladies, get up and let your dreams become visions, the sky is the limit. Let us document the achievements of women, especially where they were not seen before. This will encourage our girls to grow up and become role models to look up to.

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We will see no progress in gender equality until we realise equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men in developing this country together.

We all know that education starts at home. Gender equality issues should start with families getting involved and teaching the younger ones respect for other people from a tender age. It must be clear that where your rights end is where someone else's rights begin. This understanding will help in reducing incidences of gender-based violence and the spread of HIV/AIDS. It will also increase production and service delivery in both paid and unpaid labour between men and women.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, let me call upon all Line Ministries, civil society, Parastatals, private entities to join hands in implementing programmes aimed at achieving gender equality and equity. Gender equality is a national goal that will help us to achieve maximum development of our country and is not only the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, let me use this opportunity to inform this august House that the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, in collaboration with the Spanish Government, will host the Sixth Spain-Africa International Meeting at the Safari Hotel in Windhoek from 9 to 10 April 2011. This international meeting will be officially opened by His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia.

For the last five years the Spanish Government, in partnership with mainly African Governments and women institutions, has been supporting several meetings in different African countries on the theme, "*Women for a Better World.*" Namibia will host this year's meeting and the objective of this meeting is to coordinate projects of development that facilitate the empowerment and advancement of African women.

I must also inform you, Honourable Members that my Ministry informed Cabinet and Cabinet approved for my Ministry to host this very important meeting. Lastly, I am honoured to invite you, Honourable Members, to

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join my Ministry during this meeting and thank you for your support. May God bless you all and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: And may God bless all the women of the world. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND
READING: APPROPRIATION BILL**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned yesterday, 23 March 2011, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. I give the Floor to the Deputy Minister of Works and Transport.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Speaker I thank you very much for the very important occasion to contribute to the National Budget.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, to begin with, let me air many happy returns to our far-sighted and grand movement, the SWAPO Party, for successfully scooping landslide victories in recent regional and local authority elections. I hope that the Opposition Parties have learnt an unforgettable lesson as the electorates have spoken at full volume. Quoting my Budget speech of 2007, I said that our conduct of maturity, vision and practice of upholding the ever-growing principles of democracy, both in the Party and in the country, do not only consolidate the wishes and aspirations of the majority of the people in our country and the international community, but these have also grounded the trust of people in the SWAPO Party to run this country's affairs on a thunderous democratic course. Therefore, I am sending my best wishes to all the SWAPO Party leaders elected onto the leadership positions at Local Authority or Constituency level and those Comrades nominated by His

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Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the SWAPO Party and of Namibia, as Governors of Regions, a bulky success in all our accomplishments.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, to the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, my best wishes for the expertly prepared and considerate national Budget. I have no doubt in my mind that the Finance Minister, her staff and all stakeholders involved in the draft have done their best to bring about this inclusive Budget to configuration within the series of inadequate finances.

This year Namibia turns 21 years of age, a very young country endowed with a vibrant democracy and a Rule of Law. This is particularly evident after the recent conclusion of the 2009 presidential and National Assembly elections Court challenge by the RDP-led Opposition Parties. Despite wanton provocations by such elements within our society, the Nation remained calm and vigilant as they were sure that eventually justice will prevail. Indeed, that happened.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, yes, unemployment among many of our youth is undisputable there and it remains a challenge. We spoke about it in the past and at present. Speaking about unemployment is not just enough, we must act upon it and this Budget seriously targets to address this predicament. In the words of Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, *“we will continue to promote economic growth and job creation, and we shall accelerate progress with achieving our development goals over the short, medium and long term. In order to realise this, we must not only look at the actions expected from our Government, but we must also get the support and firm commitment from the Private Sector and each individual within our great country”*, she stated.

As could be seen from the Budget figures, sizeable portions are allocated to education, finance, health defence and police, just to highlight a few. This is a deliberate commitment of the SWAPO Party Government to improve upon the livelihood of many of our citizens, especially the

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unemployed cream of the Nation, the youth, if these funds are used equitably and appropriately within the sectors and purpose intended for.

Comrade Speaker, fellow Members, I would like to bring to light the following significant issues I always feel should receive the utmost attention of Colleagues tasked with such responsibility, particularly when implementing Government funded programmes. These include amongst others:

Regarding Employment Creation - this time around I will avoid talking at length on my usual call to accelerate the reviews and/or repeal of, amongst others, the current Tender Board Act and Public Service Act and harmonisation of their regulatory policies for the creation of enabling environment for all.

Employment creation should no longer only be spoken about, but rather be implemented. A number of Employment Creation Committees have met many times and one believes that those who are members to such Committees do not meet for a talk show, but for the generation of practical ideas. Money was said to be an excuse. Now our Government made an extra effort to provide the much needed financial resources.

Our SWAPO Party Election Manifesto of 2009 has tasked all of us to respond timely and accordingly to societal socio-economic developmental challenges. The Budget has it all for us and we must shy away from failing the electorates. Recruitment of the unemployed in job positions must be done in a manner that educates recruits to value patriotism, work ethics, commitment and skills development, to mention but a few. Indeed, we must jealously guard against all sorts of discrimination such as regionalism, nepotism, favouritism, gender, religion and so forth. We must display at all costs in our recruitment drive the fragrance of “*One Namibia, One Nation*” based on the individual skills, capacity and/or professional training of recruits.

Recruits should be continuously encouraged to abundantly produce first for the country, second for export and moreover, to use skills acquired to develop own businesses, thereby employing many other Namibians to

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support unemployment.

Comrade Speaker, a lot of jobs will be created later along the line of maintenance, material production and instruction to sharpen people's skills through educational theory and research. As such, vocational and technical institutions will be a necessity to drive individuals towards self-employment or employment creation and by so doing, to restrain from dependency syndrome.

Honourable Speaker, in my last year's contribution to the Budget I stressed the need to increase the students' loans and grants for tertiary education and training. My appeal was that a review of the fund be made to ascertain that more students receive loans, especially those doing critical courses that Government lists as priorities and in accordance with the National Development Plan at hand. I appreciate the facelift on education by my humble twin Comrades in the names of Dr Abraham Iyambo and *omuntu gwotshili kuume* Dr David Namwandi. The duo is working tirelessly in tackling the plight of education.

Yes, much money is given to education, but we must still devise a practical method to follow up students who received Government loans and have completed their studies, to pay back the loans. This will help to enlarge the fund of the Ministry of Education to have loaning capacity for future students to benefit.

Two years ago I said "*the financial input into education should be equate-able to its medium and long term output.*" In other words, when we invest in education, we must as well be able to translate our work into visible dividends so that our products are marketable and of the best quality. Here, the public-private partnership must apply in order for us to make great strides out of this deal.

With regard to recurrent floods, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the effects of global warming to Namibia have made it a drought or flood-prone country and we need to prepare fully in order to avert disastrous consequences. The construction of mega dams is just essential for water harvesting. These will require the undertaking of mega

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projects, for example a project that would take maybe four to five years or even ten years. This will help to channel and contain devastating flood water. Such water can then be used for green scheme irrigation, water sports or for domestic consumption. Perhaps through entities like the National Planning Commission we can identify areas of significant community crossings during flooding seasons to enable us to design standard bridges and/or start construction of high crossing points in flood-stricken areas. We have all witnessed the flood situation in our country and, for that matter, it is just appropriate that we really know where people cross during the rainy season. We will equally learn how many bridges and crossing points Namibia needs. Referring to the aforesaid, one can just appreciate the enactment of the Statistics Unit and creation of the data pool that we have recently passed in this majestic House.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Budget at hand challenges our capacity to translate words into actions, thus making the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto of 2009 a practical living document. We must implement this expansionary Budget with the zeal it deserves in favour of the unemployed comrades and fellow citizens. Once more I thank the Finance Minister for a foresighted Budget that is employment creation focussed and pro-socio-economic growth.

Finally, I limitlessly support this Appropriation Bill and I thank you for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: Minister Kazenambo.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, YOUTH AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Firstly, let me thank the Minister, Deputy Minister and the staff of the Ministry of Finance for preparing and tabling the Appropriation Bill that we are debating in this august House. Secondly, before I make my own contribution, let me join Dr Ankama who has just spoken before me on the issue of coming up with mega projects to deal with water management in especially our flood areas

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in the north and north-east. I really support you wholeheartedly and I think this issue needs serious further investigation by the appropriate Ministries and the National Planning Commission. Let us turn a problem into an opportunity rather than to let it remain a problem. Therefore, I underscore what you have said as it is part of what I want to address in this august House.

There are three fundamental problems in economics which deal with what, how and for whom. What products do you produce for your economy, at how many quantities and how are you producing them? What do you employ in producing those goods and services and for whom do you produce those goods and services? These are the three fundamental problems of economics that confront societies, individuals and everybody.

In appreciating and dealing with the theme of this Budget, “*Micro-economic Stability, Economic growth, Job Creation, Welfare Improvement*”, I think these issues find themselves in this term. What we are employing, what are we producing to realise that we sustain this in the final analysis. For us to talk about economic growth, how are we planning our economies, who are the participants in growing this economy? When we are talking about job creation, what sectors have the potential to contribute to job creation in our economy and if we are creating jobs, how are the goods and services contributing to the welfare of our people? Therefore, the three fundamental problems of economics are finding their way into the theme of this Budget.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, more often than not the analysis of the Appropriation Bill concentrate on which moneys are allocated to which sectors of our economy or our Government. The Ministries will be receiving their Budgets soon and I will be coming here soon to motivate the money allocated to my Ministry. The fundamental question remains and that goes to the question that I have posed: How is this money utilised? Who are the beneficiaries at the end of the day? With what are we going to utilise that money and in what timeframe?

During the bitter days of the liberation struggle we used to have a slogan and our leaders used to tell us that we are our own liberators politically

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and the destiny of our country is in our own hands. Other people may assist us but the political destiny of our country is in our hands, we have to carry on the Liberation Struggle. This was the motivating statement and I believe that the same spirit and ideology is also applicable to our economic development and economic emancipation. I strongly believe that we need to ask ourselves, as we are intending to grow our economy, as we are intending to create jobs, as we are intending to improve the welfare of our people, can we sustainably attain this? Can we realise this depending on other people who are increasingly becoming a dominant force in our economy? Are we the drivers of our own economy? Are we the drivers of our own destiny? These are the critical questions that we need to ask ourselves. What are the bricks for the development of our country? Are we in charge of the bricks that we ought to lay the foundation of our economy?

After more than 21 years of our Independence I am still to be convinced and be more than willing for anybody in this country to tell me that, *“Kazenambo, do not delude yourself, do not blind yourself, Namibia in the past twenty years has managed to produce original home-brewed companies that can compete in the any sector of the economy.”* If somebody can tell me that yes, we have managed to create companies that can compete in all sectors of the economy competently, only then will my worries be addressed. (Interjection)

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: You can tell yourself.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, YOUTH AND CULTURE: Minister Katali is saying that I can tell myself, but the answer to me is that nearly in all the sectors of the economy, with the exception of power distribution and perhaps, water, we are still wanting. I can see a few progressive young Namibians and I salute them. When you drive northwards, you will see trucks transporting goods to the North in the name of Kambwa Trading. I would like to see more of those companies and I would like to see a deliberate programme of our Government that supports the Kambwa Trading. Kambwa Trading is a

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company just like Du Toit Transport, but what programmes does Government have to support these companies to expand in the transport sector?

There have been a lot of mixed feelings and there has been a lot of critique – and I will not be specific – that our construction industry is increasingly being dominated by foreign companies. Some are pinpointing two or seven countries and I will not mention them here. Sometimes this should not be taken as anti-patriotism, being against a certain country or being against a certain Nation, even those who helped us during the liberation struggle. We do appreciate their role, but the organisation of any economy will always go to whom, to what, how and for whom? The worry is that if you look at the money that we are going to allocate to the Ministry, other than the recurrent expenditure for salaries, procurement of goods and services, the bulk will go to those companies that are playing a role in the Namibian market and I am not against the private sector, but the fundamental question that I pose is, who are the owners of these companies? Are they Namibian companies, are there Namibian shareholders in these companies? The millions which we are going to appropriate here will at the end of the day fall in the pocket of a company and who are the owners of these companies, where are they coming from and where are they banking their money? We have passed a policy of repatriation of profit and if the companies which are operating in the Namibian market are dominated by foreign countries, in the final analysis it would simply mean that a lot of money that we appropriate here will flow out of the country because these companies repatriate their profits to their headquarters and owners in other countries.

If these Companies are repatriating profits, how are they contributing to the expansion of this economy? How are they going to expand the labour force? The motive of any business organisation is profit maximisation, there is no issue about that and if these franchises of other companies are operating here, they owe it to their shareholders to expatriate and they will repatriate the money. That means we have capital flight from our economy.

We have seen Namibian companies expanding in our economy, local and

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franchises of course, but they are doing a lot because they are investing in the Namibian infrastructure. Let us start scrutinising some of these companies that are getting mega tenders with a fair and objective mind without resorting to calling each other names.

I would beg to say that if a construction company got a tender and is working here, how is it fulfilling its tender procedures? We have found some companies, foreign and local, that have tenders lined up and they are not completing these projects in time because they are overloaded with projects. They pile up projects and the non-completion of these projects means that the services that were supposed to be rendered to the Namibian people in the form of a timely completed clinic, road or school, cannot be rendered. The question of what and how comes into play. These are critical questions that we need to scrutinise when we are dealing with these issues of appropriation. How are we distributing the goods and services in our economy?

Sometimes there are those of us, who are complaining, and I am one of those who complain, but for the sake of embarrassment I have shied away from doing that, but anyone who is interested may go and check some of projects that were budgeted for last year. Some of them are not even in the initial stage and it is a reality. This means it is a delay of services to the people who are supposed to benefit from this.

My Ministry is supposed to build a stadium there and for the past five years the stadium has been there, it has been developed in phases, money is wasted because the project is not completed. The money is being given piecemeal and the stadium is not there. We need to revisit this objectively and progressively without resorting to name-calling.

I like TIPEEG and I hope TIPEEG will not be subjected to the bureaucratic red-tape of tender procedures. Sometimes tender procedures also involve mass corruption. (Interjection). Yes, you mass corruption, it is mass corruption and I hope TIPEEG is going to take another direction.

The issue of what, how and for whom, these are fundamental problems of economics. I hope TIPEEG will address those, because the Eenhana

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Stadium and other projects will address the problems of our people, rather than just feasibility study after feasibility study to enrich consultants, some of them who do not have a feeling for our people. This is all I am begging for.

We are talking about development in tourism, development in agriculture and in dealing with the fundamental problems of economics, which goods and for whom are we producing? This economy is an agriculture dominated economy, whether we like it or not and the population size of Namibia is small. Of course, we are saying we can have access to a SADC market of more than 100 million people and it is an ideal way of thinking, but the people of Namibia are dependent on subsistence agricultural production. If you look at the comparatives of nations, you concentrate on what you are best at. Our strength is agriculture, so let us focus on agriculture, pump money into agricultural development, open up the rural areas, develop good infrastructure, and build tar roads that link rural people to better markets.

The Omaheke Region, areas like Otjinene and the commercial farms here, these are the heart of the agricultural economy. The road infrastructure there is almost *kaput*. Yes, I am aware that there is a road is being constructed from Drimiopsis to Grootfontein, but the bulk of the farmers are between Omitara and Otjinene. If you can build a tar road of 100 kilometres, you are definitely boosting your Agriculture Sector, because those ones who have better roads, will have better markets and they will increase their productivity and much of this economy is coming from the rural areas in terms of agriculture.

The road between Tsumkwe and Grootfontein: Maybe the people who live in Tsumkwe, in the terminology of certain people, are backward – yes, these are thoughts that we have come across, let us not pretend in front of the camera to be progressive while we are more reactionary than even Satan himself – the road between Tsumkwe and Grootfontein is an economic strategic road and Government should prioritise the tarring of that road. That road should be tarred immediately because it is an economically strategic road because it is the shortest route to the Okavango Delta in Botswana and if you link the Okavango Delta to

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Etosha, it will be a cream tourism route, no doubt about that. If you can develop Grootfontein and link it with Dobe and ask Botswana to develop from Nokereng in Botswana to Dobe, then you have a tourist flow and you will benefit from the foreign earnings of the tourist sector. That road is a link to Sikerete and Khaudum National Parks.

In dealing with our fundamental economic problems, let us have targeted development. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask the Minister a question? Honourable Minister, you are the Minister for the young generation and when you are finished I will need a copy of your statement.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, YOUTH AND CULTURE: Unfortunately my statement is oral. I was saying that in fulfilling the three problems of economics, of what, at what quantity, for whom, the Caprivi and the Kavango Regions is the breadbasket of this country in terms of food production. We do not need to a little piecemeal here, and there. During the last Budget Honourable Tjongarero asked me a question here, that we invest piecemeal here and there, why do we not take one sector and target it? I agree with her and that point that she raised keeps on haunting me, because in athletics we take one sector and we invest in that one and then we make an impact.

If you take the Caprivi and Kavango Regions and pump money into food production, then it will be working, but not just piecemeal here and there to reduce political pressure. We are not meeting our development target. This is my appeal, this is my request; let us have targeted development in all sectors, agriculture, and tourism and so forth, while of course we have to balance and develop the whole country.

With these few words, I support the Appropriation Bill.

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HON SPEAKER: Very impressive and eloquent. The House shall rise for refreshments.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:14 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

HON SPEAKER: The next speaker on my list is Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, again in 2011 we as the SWAPO Party and Government bring to Parliament a tested Budget for the people of Namibia, a Budget tested for all the citizens. When you look at last year's Budget, you can see an improvement on allocations to all the votes. Both the SWANU President and uncle of my good friend, Peya Nyamu, were in the Government and I will not listen to them. If they wanted better things, they could have done it their time.

In my speech I want to touch on the following areas: democracy, continuity approach Budget, Veteranship, patriotism, education, libraries, tenders and pensions.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, whether we like it or not, Comrade Sam Nujoma, the Founding President of the Republic, brought us here where we are today, no question about that. He commanded us in 1989 and we chose the democratic road collectively and since then we have been travelling on this democratic road with all its challenges. For twenty-one years we as a country and its people succeeded to keep Namibia on this stable democratic road, thanks to Sam Nujoma.

We furthermore as a Party assured the people and the world that the three words of SWAPO, solidarity, freedom and justice, remain our lights on this road. These are the key words that should guide every member of

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SWAPO and it guided us.

As a Party and a Government we believe that once you are elected to Parliament, you become a leader of all the people of Namibia and I want to see everybody elected to support the Namibian people. For example, when a group of people have a death in the family, you do not attend because they are not from your Party. Once you are elected you must attend the funerals because you are their leader.

Namibia is based on a Party system; people went to the election with a Manifesto. Let there be no misunderstanding, all of us went to the election with a clear Manifesto to tell the people why they should vote for us. The people voted for SWAPO in the election and that is why we are the majority in this Parliament to represent them.

In any Government the Ministries and relevant institutions should be run by cadres. Go to any country, the Ministries are run by cadres of that Party. Why do you want us here to be different? That is why I personally support that booklet of SWAPO Party that says the institutions should be run by not only cadres, but tested cadres. We have them and if there are other patriots around Namibia they will be considered. Experience taught us that.

Unity in Namibia should be taken seriously by all of us in Namibia. There is money enough in the Budget to help us to build this road of unity. We can only be united and focused in this country if we are against corruption. Sometimes corruption is being misunderstood, but corruption is an evil. Therefore, we should have unity of purpose, we must be against tribalism. If we use this Budget correctly, it will help us to stay on this road of patriotism and to see each other as Namibians. I also hear this vocabulary on the NBC, the point to each other as *Kwangara*. It is not our vocabulary; I do not who approves that. That is the Ovambo name on the NBC; they call others *Kwangara's*. I think the management of the NBC must make sure that this term is not used.

We must also put the fears of people who think they are not part of the united State of Namibia to rest. They must feel they are part of this

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Republic and they must also work in the interest of Namibia.

Coming to the Budget, my younger brother Kazenambo was saying the country must produce its own institutions to make money for the country. You can only do this if our approach to the Budget is national. These days' people are sharpening their knives to target the Budget in their own individual interest, but I want this Budget to be targeted to serve the Namibian people. Those who are going to get tenders from this Budget must make sure that the cake of the Budget be eaten by all. If you get the tender and eat half of it, give the other half to the other people. When you get a tender, let the workers be part of it. All of us must eat and the Budget must now allow a few individuals to eat alone. (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I am very sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member while he was speaking, but I want to ask him a small question. Will he allow me to do so? One is a simple question, a yes or no question. Has the Honourable Member ever heard of a term called, "*tenderpreneurs*?" If you have, please say yes; if not, I may want to explain to you.

The second question is, I am intrigued, you are talking about sharing, you say if I get a tender, I must take the one half and if I take the one half, then the others can have the other half. What kind of equal sharing is that one? I have one half alone and the others have to share the other half. Can you not make it a bit fairer?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Maybe it is the terminology. What I am saying is that if you get a tender to build a school, you cannot do it alone, so ensure that all subcontractors also benefit, especially among the poor of the poor.

The Prime Minister recently said that the Councillors must study the

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Budget because they were elected by the people on the ground. They have to study the Budget and see what is in the Budget for them.

As Members of Parliament and politicians we serve the people. Let us study the Budget and tell our people on the ground how they can benefit from the Budget. The Budget should not only be a privilege for us in Parliament alone, let us take it to the grassroots levels. Let the staff in our respective institutions also understand the Budget. That is why the President is eager to have the tender regulations changed, because they are cumbersome. For twenty-one years this tendering process has been cumbersome and it has to be simplified.

This Parliament approved the Veterans Act and that Act is very clear, it says everybody who was constantly part of the struggle up to 1989. In 1960 some were part of the struggle, in 1970 they went on holiday and in 1980 they joined DTA, so how can you be a veteran? (Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? You are talking about a holiday, do you mean that there were holidays during the struggle or you had to struggle consistently until the end? What holiday are you talking about?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: As Comrade Toivo Ya Toivo said, the struggle was long and bitter and some of the Colleagues got tired and they took a holiday from the struggle. I do not want to mention names, they know themselves. However, those who qualify, whatever Party they belong to, are those who were constantly part of the struggle. We must also guard against those opportunists who were not in the struggle and after Comrade Sam Nujoma brought us together in Namibia, now they want to be at the front of struggle in order to get tenders. I do not want to mention their names, they know themselves.

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What I am saying is that those who were leading this struggle, whether at the home front or in exile, know who the veterans are. They know who took holidays in Finland, or USA or Europe. Comrade Minister, please consult the people who know the veterans, so that these people who are taking chances are being minimised. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question in relation to what he said that I should call upon those who know the veterans. It is a complex issue, it is true that some people come for registration, telling all sorts of stories and my appeal to every Honourable Member, in fact every Namibian, is that should he or she know somebody, just come to us and say that person does not deserve the status of veteran and we will deal with that person.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Comrade Minister, I mention these things so that the public can hear. Since this Bill has been approved, everybody is running to be registered as a veteran. (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? It is interesting and you are talking about quite a number of relevant issues, but please consider this situation: Those, while they were in the middle of the struggle, who were taken away and for one or the other reason locked up in jails, not that they have gone on holiday by themselves, not that they have retired temporarily, but within the ups and downs of the struggle they were taken away, locked up in dungeons, jails and became not the masters of their time any longer, would these people still qualify to be veterans or do they not qualify? I also do not mention names just like you are not mentioning names.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Ben, you know exactly that these Colleagues were part of the struggle and if you look at the list of those

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who were approved, everybody who was part of the struggle up to 1989 got their share. Even some of these Colleagues who ran away also got their share. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Comrade Kaiyamo a question. Comrade Kaiyamo, since you seem to be an expert on the veterans, do you know the term of zigzagging?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I do not know but there are Comrades like you who might help us to know that vocabulary. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, YOUTH AND CULTURE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Comrade, you are a Marxist and you are talking about proper screening of those veterans and I agree with you, but what about this Johnny-Come-Lately whom we do not know, some who were hiding and now they are in the structures and they are the ones calling the terms. How do we deal with them because they are irritating?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I am a veteran and I am proud about that. I have my number and we know those people you are talking about, we as a people and as a Party should just stand together. According to the 1st phase it is only those who start in 1959 up to 1973. I started later. The rules of the Party are clear on this; we must not allow opportunists to hijack the revolution. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information, Comrade Speaker. On this issue of the veterans, there is

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nothing which is the position of the Party, it is the position of Government.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: I am seeking clarification. The Honourable Member spoke about somebody who went on holiday during the liberation struggle who does not qualify, then later on he said even those who ran away got their share.

HON SPEAKER: The Line Minister brought the matter to this House, the Honourable Members spent so much time debating it until you were collectively satisfied as to who a veteran is, what the entitlements of that veteran are. I repeatedly said that we are here to educate our children, but when you are now asking questions yourself, not knowing what a veteran is, is that not an embarrassment?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Comrade Speaker, when the senior Colleagues are addressing questions here the juniors should be quiet. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information, Comrade Speaker. I want to agree entirely with the Speaker that if we as lawmakers here have different interpretations of the issue, what about the population out there? The Act which all of us passed here says that those Colleagues who joined the struggle and in the mainstream of things went astray, but before 1989 came back to join the struggle, are forgiven, they get veteran status. If a Colleague was picked up – as Honourable Ulenga mentioned – and locked up in Robben Island or any other place, he was still in the liberation movement and there is nothing concrete that would prove that this person worked with the enemy, that person is also recognised as a veteran. I believe these are the kinds of people that Comrade Kaiyamo are mentioning, that some are in fact recognised as veterans. The Act is clear on those issues.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I am very clear on the issue of the veterans.

On the issue of education, I really appreciate the institution NIPAM and I think there is a need for us to make use of this institution to train our people. I would also like us who are occupying offices to go for training. We need to have a programme for people to go for training so that we are on the same page.

I have already mentioned tenders that we need to share the tenders and allow the poorest of the poor to benefit from these projects, even if it means the poorest of the poor have the job of cleaning those institutions. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I did not want to ask you a question then, but now you are back to this issue of the Namibian “*tenderpreneur*” or whatever the term is. This person is supposed to be a capitalist. Are you saying there is a different generation of capitalists or are you saying a Namibian capitalist must be different from other capitalists or how do you define that? I see you talking about attributes and ideas of a Namibian capitalist who should be different from an American and English capitalist. Can you elaborate and enlighten us on this?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Comrade, you cannot be a capitalist without having the means of production. What I am saying is that what the Government wants is to have the Namibian people survive. Our Constitution says we have a mixed economy and what I am saying is that some of these lumpenproletariat claim to be capitalists.

What I want to say is that senior citizens are constantly enjoying Government support. (Intervention)

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, do you know the difference between a lumpenproletariat and a petty bourgeois?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Yes Comrade Prime Minister. I am still the Chairperson of the Library Council and we still have the a, b, c of politics, they are still there for those ones who want to catch up on the scientific world outlook.

Our senior citizens in the whole country are getting a better deal from Government. On top of the monthly amount they are getting, they also get a tombstone on their graves after their death. That is why I say this Budget is for everybody, including the senior citizens.

Patriotism must be in the vocabulary of all of us. Namibia is a country of laws, Namibia is a country of people, and Namibia is a country of democracy. With these few words, I support the Budget and I want everybody to support the Budget. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Some of the people who were not in the liberation struggle asked many questions and they should listen attentively to those who were involved in the whole process.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to salute and congratulate all Members of DTA and the Namibian people in general who voted for me to represent them in the Namibian Parliament. You cannot be here as people's representatives unless you have rigged elections. I hope you get it. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Can you read that last sentence again?

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HON MOONGO: You cannot be here as people's representative unless you have rigged elections, because I said I was voted in by my people without rigging. Therefore, many of your people are here because things were rigged and that is why we have a Court case. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Speaker, may I ask whether the Honourable Member from Oniipa will accept a question from an Honourable Member from Olukonda? I want you to make that statement, very, very clear, that there are people here because they rigged elections. I want the Honourable Vice-President of the DTA to indicate exactly who in this National Assembly is here on the basis of rigging or shut up forever.

HON MOONGO: I do not want to because it is *sub judice* and I do not want go into details, that is why I only gave a hint because I know it is still in the Court and the Court will rule. Therefore, I will not continue with it. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Do not say things that you know are *sub judice* here in the Parliament.

HON MOONGO: I am happy because I was voted in here, but some of the people might be wrong... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: You are continuing, you said it is before the Court. Let the court decide.

HON MOONGO: Yes, I was saying, let us leave it there, otherwise if we continue some people will be withdrawn from the National Assembly. (Intervention)

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HON SPEAKER: Since it is before the Court, I ask you to withdraw what you have said.

HON MOONGO: I withdraw. It is now 20 years after Namibia's obtained its Independence that the so-called "*mighty SWAPO Party*" took the Government from the minority apartheid regime. I think the SWAPO Party had ruled long enough, she is supposed to have enough experience and skills on how to run the Government Ministries, control Parastatals and institutions effectively and professionally. (Intervention)

HON KAPIA: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Order. Does the Honourable Member want to say there is no SWAPO, it is so-called? Is that really what he wants to say, so-called SWAPO?

HON SPEAKER: He did not mean that, of course.

HON MOONGO: Some of the Colleagues on that side used to say "*mighty SWAPO*" and that is why I say so-called mighty SWAPO. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? Honourable Moongo, can you count how many SWAPO Members are here and how many DTA Members are there in relation to the "*so-called*" and the "*mighty?*"

HON MOONGO: If you are one of those who believe that there is only a mighty SWAPO, then it is not for me to distinguish.

It is shocking and horrifying that hundreds of millions are still being embezzled with impunity. (Intervention)

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask you a tiny question? For the sake of the education of the young people, can you say the full name of your Party?

HON MOONGO: It is impossible for me to say it, because some are saying mighty SWAPO and others are saying the Ruling SWAPO Party. In my time it was only SWAPO and it has become SWAPO Party and now the mighty SWAPO. I am now confused.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo, the question is not what you are addressing, the question is, what the full name of the DTA is. What does that stand for? (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: After you came from exile you were supposed learn that because you found the DTA here. Everybody is supposed to know that and I am here to address serious matters.

In my understanding, the more years Namibians allow the SWAPO Party to rule, the more they become poorer and in turn SWAPO becomes corrupt. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Can you tell us whether you are still a member of DTA?

HON MOONGO: I left SWAPO because SWAPO is corrupt, it is not for justice. SWAPO is a dictatorial Party, it locks you up and do not want to take you to Court. That is why I left such a Party. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Moongo a small question? Honourable

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Member, is it true that perhaps the reason why you could not answer the Prime Minister's question when he asked you the full name of your Party is because you really do not know whether your Party is SWAPO, SWAPO-D, NPF or DTA?

HON MOONGO: Of course, if I am in Namibia I am free to join whatever Party I want.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the NBC is busy slashing and minimising executive managers from nine to five because of a lack of funds and mismanagement. The Minister of Finance is giving us false hope that employment for all is coming now.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is embarrassing that the NBC loses N\$170.6 million... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. I have observed that whenever we are debating the Budget, it seems the Honourable Member did not listen to what the Honourable Minister of Finance presented to us. He is confusing the Nation with party-political issues and I think he needs to be called to order as people become confused by his contributions.

HON MOONGO: It is a pity that you want to derail my speech. You are the ones who brought up the Party issues, I was continuing with my speech. I was saying that the NBC lost N\$176.6 million and again more millions were corruptly abused in the previous cases in the past years. In the same Government hundreds of millions have been stolen through TEKO trading company and N\$660 million by GIPF, just to mention a few, and when I mention these things you do not want to listen and you continue with this corrupt Government. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, I did not want to interrupt the presentation of my senior Colleague, but I am afraid that some of the cases he is mentioning are before Court and I would like to caution him not to mention cases which are before Court. In terms of our democratic order, people are innocent until proven guilty in a Court of law. I want to caution the Honourable Member.

HON MOONGO: I mentioned just a few.

HON SPEAKER: If the cases are before Court, do not refer to them.

HON MOONGO: I have to inform them, some did not know, but now they know.

There are pertinent questions: Does the SWAPO Party need more years to rule after twenty years of our Independence have been wasted and money has been stolen? Does it need more time? How many more millions are going to get lost or embezzled or corrupted under its supervision? (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Are you not happy that at least the Ruling Party knows how to speak proper English?

HON MOONGO: I think you will be answered during the course of my speech.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is a fact that before Independence and during the war of liberation there were bitterness and anger caused by the dark chapter of oppression. That bitterness and anger must have been history today. It is supposed to be over after the arrival of democracy and self-determination in Namibia. The spirit of hope, unity,

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justice and time for true reconciliation was supposed to dominate the hearts of all Namibians in order for us to become a real “*One Namibia, One Nation.*” However, people are singing songs at SWAPO meetings while people are innocent; there is no proof that they committed any crimes. Twenty years after Independence you are still singing about them and this is really a torture which needs international action and help, because it is a crime against humanity to accuse somebody while he was outside and again twenty years after Independence and he is still innocent. We were detained illegally and they are still accusing us of collaborating with the enemy, which is not true! (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: May I ask Honourable Moongo a very small question? Honourable Moongo, I do not attach much value to most of the reporting in our printed media, but some time ago I picked up and I do not know whether it was at one of your business concerns or whether it was at a meeting you addressed, that the background music played there was from Ndilimani and they are usually mixing their songs with both Pre-Independence and Post-Independence songs. Can I, therefore, deduce that there is some degree of appreciation for the music that is usually associated with the liberation struggle and the SWAPO movement?

HON MOONGO: Before Independence there were anger and bitterness and we should understand that because the struggle was long and bitter, but after twenty years you are still singing and preaching agony. What is wrong with you? Do you not want peace in Namibia? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Speaker, may I ask my neighbour a tiny question? Before Independence and after Independence have you ever heard the name Philemon Moongo being sung by any member of SWAPO?

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HON MOONGO: Those who are doing it are saying we should not bring this topic to be discussed while they are the ones who in every meeting of SWAPO are falsely accusing others who are innocent. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Who are they?

HON MOONGO: The Shipangas and everybody. They never caused any struggle and you are still here, trying to blackmail. (Intervention)

HON SWARTS: On a Point of Order. Honourable Speaker, I want to ask the Honourable Member, is he busy with the Budget or is he busy with the mighty SWAPO Party?

HON MOONGO: It came from that side of the Floor. We used to say that the wound will never heal and I want to say that the wound will never heal as long as you are scratching it in every SWAPO meeting. What we need is to come together as Namibians. (Intervention)

HON MWANINGANGE: Those who have wounds and scars are those who were fighting for this Independence under the leadership of the mighty SWAPO Party, that time the liberation movement. There were scars; they were scratching those scars, Honourable Moongo, on both sides, even your own Members of your Party. We were here, who butchered our people here? Please stick to Budget issues, not political issues; you are scratching the wounds and the scars.

HON MOONGO: The best idea is that there should be a sort of truth commission, led by bishops and ex-judges who can call the people together and listen to both sides so that the wounds could be healed and the dark chapter be closed. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, YOUTH AND CULTURE: Honourable Moongo, are you now motivating your Motion?

HON MOONGO: No, I am just addressing a thorny issue which you do not want to recognise could have consequences. Be careful, Colleagues, we want unity, peace and true reconciliation and, therefore, I speak on this platform where people can hear. (Intervention)

HON A TJONGARERO: Honourable Speaker, I have a problem with the speech of the Honourable Member. Some of us who were in this country under the DTA Government suffered very much and people died. Can the Honourable Member please stick to the Budget?

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much for the advice, but that time I was fighting for liberation at the front and I think DTA never committed any crime

I am happy with the Budget and the amounts allocated can address the plight of the nurses who have been working without being paid overtime for years. The fence at the hospital which has collapsed and where people died must be repaired. People also died as a result of lack of oxygen in the Central Hospital and I hope things will change with this big amount budgeted. However, let me warn you again against corruption, only if we root out corruption things will happen in the right direction, but if you do not want me to mention that ... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Speaker, maybe I should again remind Honourable Moongo and also this House that when we talk about corruption, we should first clean our own houses. Honourable Moongo, I think you are aware that the Ongwediva Faculty of Engineering is not expanding because you, through a corrupt process, have occupied a Government building which

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belonged to Koevoet, which is Government property and now you are there as a Member of Parliament and you are talking about corruption. The young people there want the institution to be expanded, but you are sitting there. Is that not through a corrupt process? I want the media to expose this, seriously, not just for somebody to mention here that he is occupying that building. The media should expose this, we want to know.

HON SPEAKER: Corruption by whoever is a bad thing.

HON MOONGO: I said corruption is a very bad thing, I do not buy corruption, but the Municipality of Ongwediva found me there already and when he was in power, I already occupied that plot and they did not want to negotiate with me because I am from the Opposition. The law says there should be fair compensation and a fair hearing. (Intervention)

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

Honourable Speaker, I am a bit confused, therefore I would like to put a Point of Order to Honourable Moongo. We are confused, we did not know what is going on in the Parliament and I think people need to go for counselling. That is very important. I believe the Parliament is there for us to be serious, not to come and play. Maybe some people do not know where we are now; it is not time for campaigning. When it comes to the DTA, I am not a born-free and I know what happened in the country when it comes to the DTA. If needed, we can bring it point by point.

HON MOONGO: No, I do not want us to have long arguments on those points; I want to continue with my speech. I want to mention what I see wrong in the Government and if you do not want that to be said, then you need counselling, not me. I am here to defend the Government; I am here to defend the wealth of the country so that everybody can share equally and not only some. You need counselling yourself, not me, hundreds of millions are lost! (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Moongo, Honourable Uutoni spoke about the Honourable Member Moongo occupying properties that belong to the Government and the Honourable Member was just saying that the municipality found him there. My question is can the Honourable Member at least provide a receipt of how he acquired that property, so that we all know that if he was found at that particular property, it is a property that he legally acquired. For the Honourable Member to say that he was found there, we all know he served in the previous Government as a Member of the illegal National Assembly. He must indicate to us whether he has bought that property and provide a receipt.

HON SPEAKER: Somebody said earlier we should take recourse to laws. I did not know that the Honourable Member occupies properties that do not belong to him and for that matter, to the Government. Why does the Government not take him to Court to get the properties back and we can put them to good use.

HON MOONGO: I have all those receipts and I have a lawyer and I am on the right track, but the Government is trying to frustrate me because I am from the Opposition.

Therefore, Colleagues, we only want the wealth of the country to be shared equally so that every person can have a share and all must benefit. I am happy with the Budget of Defence which has a slight increase. Their barracks are very old and outdated. We all know that it is only those with high ranks who are well paid while those with ranks are underpaid. I was also shocked to learn that at one camp here in Windhoek there has been a Himba or a Zemba soldier without rank since 1990, underpaid and he is from a disadvantaged community. Why is he not getting a rank in the army? (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:

May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? That particular Himba soldier that you are referring to, is he the only soldier who has not been promoted since Independence in this country?

HON MOONGO: There are many others from disadvantaged communities, such as the San community, who are not being promoted? I do not know how you apply the policy of Affirmative Action. Since the Budget has been increased, we want them to be seen and not to be suppressed because they are a minority. (Intervention)

HON KAVETUNA: May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? I am really disturbed that a leader of this Nation does not know the difference between a Himba and a Zemba. Is it really the way that we have to approach the Nation?

HON MOONGO: I do not have time and I want to be serious. Another point is on the floods. People have been suffering more than five years because of the floods in the Kavango, Caprivi and the North and the funds budgeted is not enough to address this serious situation. The whole area has been flooded and I thought we are serious, we would come up with a tangible proposal and that the Budget would address the suffering of those people. Until when are we going to suffer like that or do you expect the people to vacate the whole area from Ondangwa to Oshikango, which will be impossible? (Intervention)

HON KAPIA: Honourable Speaker, yesterday Dr Amweelo was addressing climate change. Does Honourable Moongo understand what climate change is?

HON MOONGO: That was too scientific and I was in the “*University of Prison*” for quite a long time. If you wanted to educate me, you were

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supposed to educate me that time, but you preferred me to be in the dungeons. How do you expect me to understand such a speech?

Honourable Speaker, I addressed the House and I gave suggestions on how to solve problems and how to get rid of corruption. With this, I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Bezuidenhoudt.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. Our country's Vision 2030 is summarised in that book as: *"By the year 2030, Namibia should be an industrialised Nation, enjoying high per capita income, a highly educated nation, abundant prosperity and interpersonal harmony, peace and political stability."*

Let us keep this summary in mind when we evaluate the expenditure proposals from Government in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. The question in our minds should be: Is this Budget a support structure as we work towards our vision? Are the Ministries, Agencies and Offices adequately funded to carry out its mandate? Are the serious challenges of the Nation adequately addressed? My personal observation is that it does not appear as if the 2011/2012 national Budget totally supports the Vision as our development investments display little or no support for some of its objectives.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to spend a very short time highlighting some of the major objectives of Vision 2030. Some of these objectives are:

- To transform Namibia into an industrialised country of equal opportunities, which is globally competitive, realising its maximum growth potential in a sustainable manner, with improved quality of life for all Namibians.

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- The transformation from an aid-recipient country to one that is a provider of development assistance.
- To ensure that Namibia is a fair, gender responsive, caring and committed Nation in which all citizens are able to realise their full potential in a safe and decent living environment.
- To develop a diversified, competent and highly productive human resources and institutions, fully utilising human potential and achieving efficient and effective delivery of customer-focused services which are competitive not only nationally, but also regionally and internationally.

That is what we have set ourselves as a Nation to progress to in the intervening years up to and including the year 2030.

Achieving Vision 2030, as Honourable Hage Geingob, Minister of Trade and Industry, is quoted – rightly or wrongly – by the local media during June 2010, he said Vision 2030 is a tall order and this comes from *The Namibian*, Christof Maletsky's column titled, "*Deliver us from Vision 2030.*" Our collective view should be that even if it is a tall order, it is not necessarily an insurmountable order. We may achieve some, we may fail in some, but it is not insurmountable to achieve some of the objectives of Vision 2030, provided we have the focus, the will, synergies, implementation plans, financial resources and the correct resource allocation to achieve what we have set out to achieve. Surely this Budget must reflect this tall order of a Vision, unless the Government has quietly abandoned Vision 2030 altogether, but the Prime Minister is on record as of last Monday when he confirmed and asked us as a Nation to rededicate ourselves to Vision 2030. However, we must put our efforts in so that it does not seem as if the Vision is abandoned.

In my general reaction on the 2011/2012 Budget, I have two sections and the first one is what worries me in the Budget and the second one is to make some practical suggestions.

In the part that worries me I want to highlight the following:

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The level of borrowing, implementation and governance of TIPEEG and inadequate allocations.

In the Brundland Report, as published by Oxford University Press in 1987, the United Nations defines sustainable development as *“development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”*

The level of borrowing to me is frightening, to say the least. Maybe I am not used to those figures in their billions although I also worked in financial institutions. If two or more factors that will help us to repay our commitments fail, our future generations will have a massive problem. Let me draw from recent history.

In many economic crises' from the late 1990s to date were financial situations that severely affected the countries' economic growth and deeply affected the lives of citizens. As in South America and specifically Argentina and Europe, namely Greece, Ireland and the latest casualty, the Prime Minister of Portugal, Governments invariably ruled out restructuring debts that looked unmanageable. In Argentina in 2001, the Honourable Domingo Cavallo, Argentina's much respected Finance Minister, even took the pages of newspapers to call the idea of debt restructuring *“ludicrous”* and promised that *“Argentina will not be alarmed by calls from armchair critics.”* They tried IMF loans, short-for long securities *“megaswap”*. That is when you take your short-term debt and swap it for a long-term debt so that you can repay longer and the final desperate measures was zero-deficit budgeting, but all these measures did not do the trick and unfortunately the inevitable happened. During the last year we know what happened in Greece, there were Public Servant and citizen demonstrations. In Ireland there was the fall of a Government and the bad news for citizens all over is that the financial instability and insecurity in those countries are not over. Citizens in Spain and the United Kingdom are holding their collective breath and hope that their Governments can out-manoeuvre public debt and the pressure it creates. I would urge our Government to revisit the amount of debt and rather take it in smaller steps, also for capacity considerations, in order to achieve what we can achieve without putting into danger future generations.

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On the topic of implementation, the intention of Government, as expressed in paragraph 10 of the Honourable Finance Minister's statement is, "*starting this Financial Year, the Government will implement a targeted intervention programme for employment and economic growth.*" The operative words here are "*will implement.*" The intended target of 104 000 jobs over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, or about 2 898 direct and indirect jobs per month, starting very soon, will be the Achilles heel of the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth, unless we do something else and I will come to the something else later in my suggestions.

Another worry that I have is the governance of TIPEEG. The importance of governance in economic development has been understood by more and more institutions and countries in recent years. Personally, I regard good governance as one of *the* decisive factors in the modern economy. Overstaffed organisation, poor administrative efficiency, rampant corruption and the inability to deliver the required standard of service, greatly hamper economic growth, development and job creation. Countries have paid a very high price for the absence of good governance, which is one of the fundamental criteria that serious investors are looking at.

As indicated earlier, the Budget strategy from 2001 to date should have been to support the ideas and ideals of Vision 2030. In this Budget there are still Ministries that, according to my interpretation, have not received adequate allocation of funds to carry out their mandates in pursuance of Vision 2030. Here I specifically think of the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and to a slightly lesser degree, but still relevant, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. Unless I misunderstand the contribution these Ministries should make in support of Vision 2030, I would argue that their Budget allocations are inadequate. I will elaborate on these topics during the motivation stage of the various Votes.

I come now to the second part of my contribution. If we have to proceed with the Budget as it stands against all odds, I want to make some positive contributions and suggestions to the Government.

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On the issue of unprecedented levels of borrowing, Mr Everett M Dirksen, a US Senator from 1951 to 1959, is attributed with the phrase: *“A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you are talking about real money.”* Real money needs to be paid back. In Namibia we will have the biggest borrowing since Independence. The Honourable Minister of Finance has adequately explained the level of debt we will incur. If any of the repayment factors do not materialise, we can run the risk of a financial and economic nightmare. How and when will we or our future generations pay back this money? We have to rethink this level of borrowing.

Some of the Colleagues have spoken and I support them in that, that we can spread the borrowing over a longer period as there is also sufficient uncertainty on the capacity to absorb the level of borrowing. We cannot borrow ourselves out of trouble. It does not work for a household, it does not work for a company and it certainly cannot work for a country. Let us not ignore genuine, good advice from various fronts and be blinded, only to be paying a heavy price in the future.

As governance approaches change to be more transparent and accountable, I suggest to Government the following to achieve the noble goals of this Budget:

As the saying goes and Honourable Tweya yesterday indicated, *“You cannot manage what you cannot measure.”* As I said earlier, the implementation of action plans will be the Achilles heel of the TIPEEG intervention. Here I will strongly request from all Agencies and Ministries implementation plans, quarterly progress and accountability reports. Such management tools will strengthen the National Assembly’s ability to fulfil its constitutional responsibility of oversight and, when necessary, to adjust, accelerate, propose remedies if and when we see early warning signs that the aims of TIPEEG cannot be fulfilled during the 2011/2012 Financial Year. I will later deal with the issue of possible Amendments.

On the unemployment front, I offer some examples on how to address in the short term the unemployment and poverty situation in Namibia for some of our citizens. I will ask Government to apply the national Budget

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as a stimulus tool for the Private Sector to create sustainable jobs.

The regional spread of unemployment was captured in the 2008 Labour Survey. We have to find a common approach and a dedication to solve it over a period of time. We have schools, hostels, police stations, hospitals and many other public buildings all over the country that need maintenance and/or upgrading and now we have a Development Budget. Let us marry these three components – the unemployed, the public building infrastructure and our Development Budget to ensure the creation of the necessary employment opportunities, at least in the short term.

We also have to rethink, revisit and balance our work permit policies of allowing non-Namibians in areas where Namibians can supply the required skills.

In the longer term we need to be patient and innovative. The answers and choices are not going to be easy, but as a country we need to forge ahead with addressing the challenges of unemployment, hunger, sustainable social safety nets and poverty.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the Assembly, I want to touch on a few areas of focus in the longer term. These are by no means exhaustive or comprehensive.

The importance of human resources in economic development is self-evident as economic activities are carried out by people and for people. Since their Independence, many African countries experienced a rapid population growth, on the one side, and slow development of human resources, on the other. In tandem, there was also a sluggish economic growth. Over years these factors have moved in different directions, resulting in serious and negative impacts on the various countries on our continent. According to information on the Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions and the ongoing situations in other Arab States, the core challenges of those Governments seem to be a disjoint of a developed human resources with no or very limited job opportunities.

Education is a major component of human resource development. His

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Excellency President Abdou Diout of Senegal told an October 1997 meeting of the Association of the Development of Education in Africa that: *“only through education will the continent and its sons and daughters be able to meet the demands and challenges of the 21st century.”*

Similarly, in a speech, former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, argued that the university must become a primary tool for Africa’s development in the new century. Universities can help develop African expertise, they can enhance the analysis of African problems, strengthen domestic institutions, serve as a model environment for the practice of good governance, enhance conflict resolutions and respect for human rights, and enable African academics to play an active part in the global community of scholars.

The Kigali Institute of Science, Technology and Management in Rwanda have produced more technology graduates for the country since the Rwandan Government’s very strong focus on ICT. When the institute opened in 1997, the country had fewer than fifty technology-trained professionals and last year we were informed that the institute is now graduating over 200 technology-trained professionals for the service of Rwanda’s development in the country.

Closer to home, we need to raise the bar of our education excellence, to produce the necessary human capital to support our economic growth. We need to challenge our children in school to be able to understand the basics of mathematics, science and these things so that they can reach the level of University of London, Oxford or others, to study so that they can assist the country in developing itself and going forward. Our own institutions of higher learning, namely UNAM and Polytechnic must be supported, encouraged and empowered to make similar interventions to support our future growth path, but we need to allocate more financial resources to support innovations.

In Namibia, like the rest of Africa, women constitute a major chunk of the population and a significant percentage of the rural and urban labour work force. Women are producing food and provide enormous social services

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to families and communities. They spend many hours a day doing manual labour, domestic work, raising children and fending for their families. They play the role of holding up half of the sky and as a country Namibia, both Public and Private Sectors need to invest more in women empowerment for the benefit of the Nation. In the absence of any publicised detail action plans I would argue that this strong force, the women, will also be left behind if we are not careful and serious and truly invest in empowering them.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members China's economic growth is found to have a long-running relationship between household savings, enterprise savings and economic development. A distinct and very clear domestic savings policy can sustain our national desire to use local savings to support economic growth in the medium to long ter. I will not deal with these issues of domestic savings, as the Honourable Minister of Finance has indicated that we will deal with the relevant financial sectors in the foreseeable future and I hope domestic savings for economic development will be part of those discussions and interventions.

The desire and the will to attain the ideals of Vision 2030 alone should allow this august House to, if and when necessary, have the ability to adjust the Appropriation Bill. If we refuse to, against common sense or good advice, allow adjustments to the Budget, Parliament will in real terms abandon its mandate of oversight and its power and functions as contained in Article 63 of the Namibian Constitution. The possibility of Amendments should not arise to a question of us and them, but what is in the best interest of Government's ability to execute its plans and programmes. Stubbornness, negative pride and intransigence will, in the long run, hamper our collective responsibility to address issues of great concern to our Nation.

In summary, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the task at hand to effectively address unemployment and widespread poverty via our Budget instruments, as I said earlier, is not insurmountable. The virtues and benefits of innovative short term job creation, the long term development of our human capital through our education sector to support our economic expansion, growth and the ideals, the investment in women

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RT HON N ANGULA**

as agents of development, good governance and application of domestic savings for economic development are unquestionable for the future of this country and how we can progressively get hold of those unmanageable debts over time.

We need to follow the same route taken by many industrialised and emerging economies. We also need to be bold, we need to be courageous and we must work as a collective and we will surely overcome these challenge. I thank the Honourable Speaker for the time.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for the very constructive contribution.

RESPONSE TO QUESTION

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu is not here and if the Prime Minister is not given an opportunity to answer the question, there will be implications for both of us. He is ready to answer and I will give you the Floor to do so.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: First of all, I thank Honourable Nyamu of the RDP for this question and I would like to answer as follows:

Cabinet, during its 29th meeting held on the 12th of October 2004, noted:

1. “In view of the reported news that a certain Mr Jooste, who lives in Cape Town, South Africa, owns a large tract of land around Grootfontein, primarily to keep game for hunting, Cabinet expressed its amazement at how such land continues to remain the ownership of just one individual while the majority of citizens are craving for land.

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2. The Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation undertook to get more information on the extent of the land in question and to see if any action is warranted in this regard.
3. Cabinet found the above in order.”

The late Mr Jooste never, and I want to stress, never made an offer of land to the Government of the Republic of Namibia. I can only suspect that Honourable Nyamu’s memory is probably failing and I do not blame him. Age and confusion seem to be catching up with him. That is why he left while his Vice-President was reading a statement. I would suggest that it is time for the Honourable Member to retire. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned until Tuesday, 29th March 2011 at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 18:00 UNTIL 2011.03.29 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
29 MARCH 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we have in the audience today a delegation from Uganda, our sister country, a friendly country, a delegation representing the Parliamentary Budget Committee comprising of Honourable Rose Okullu Akol, the Chairperson of the Budget Committee, Honourable Geoffrey Ekanya, Member of the Budget Committee, Honourable Mudimi Wamakuyu, Honourable Tubbo Nakwang Christine, Honourable Nathan Byanyima, Mrs Ruth Ekirapa Byoona, Principal Secretary. They arrived in our country as guests of the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee. I had an audience with them, listening to them. They will be meeting with some of you.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Minister of Labour.

**TABLING: NATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE
REPORT ON HIV/AIDS IN THE WORLD OF WORK**

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SERVICES:
Honourable Speaker, I want to lay upon the Table, the National Labour Conference Report on HIV/AIDS in the World of Work and before I do so, Honourable Speaker, may I make a statement?

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**REPORT ON HIV/AIDS IN WORLD OF WORK
HON NGATJIZEKO**

Allow me to table the National Labour Organisation Recommendation 200 concerning HIV/AIDS in the World of Work which was taken by the 99th International Labour Conference in Geneva.

The Namibian delegation was led by me and it is now my honour to inform this House on Recommendation 200, its contents and how we intend to domesticate the provisions of this Recommendation.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is one of the most catastrophic challenges to health and development, economic and social progress facing the world today. In the countries that are worst affected, the impact of HIV/AIDS has eroded decades of development gains, undermined economies and destabilised societies. HIV/AIDS is expected to continue to be a leading cause of mortality and morbidity in many countries and populations. HIV/AIDS poses a significant obstacle to the attainment of decent work and sustainable development. It has led to the loss of livelihoods of millions of persons living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Its effects are concentrated among the most productive age groups and it imposes huge costs on enterprises through fallen productivity, increased labour cost and the loss of an experienced workforce.

In addition, fundamental rights at work are often violated on the basis of real or perceived HIV-status, particularly through discrimination and stigmatisation directed at workers living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. To make matters worse, the pandemic tends to move along the fault lines of society, particularly affecting groups that are already disadvantaged or marginalised.

The world of work is playing a crucial role in addressing HIV/AIDS; it offers a valuable entry point to reach female and male workers in a setting where they spend much of their lives in the workplace. The development and implementation of workplace policies and programmes on HIV/AIDS facilitate access to prevention, treatment, care and support services for workers and their families and dependents, thereby also reaching out to the larger community and yet, the important role of the world of work in addressing the pandemic has not been optimally utilised.

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**REPORT ON HIV/AIDS IN WORLD OF WORK
HON NGATJIZEKO**

If it is to make its full contribution in addressing the pandemic, it is essential for action in the world of work to form an integral part of national HIV/AIDS policies, programmes and strategies.

The resulting Recommendation 200 constitutes an unequivocal commitment by the ILO's constituency of member States and representatives of employers and workers, in close collaboration with organisations of people living with HIV and partner international organisations, in particular UNAIDS, to tap into the immense contribution that the world of work can make to ensure universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support. The Recommendation reflects the need to strengthen workplace prevention efforts and to facilitate access to treatment for persons living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. It calls for the design and implementation of national tripartite workplace policies and programmes on HIV/AIDS to be integrated into overall national policies and strategies on HIV/AIDS and on development and social protection. It calls for respect for fundamental human rights of all workers, including observance of the principle of gender equality and the rights to be free from compulsory testing and disclosure of HIV-status, while encouraging everyone to undertake voluntary confidential HIV counselling and testing as early as possible.

Where workers are free from the stigma and discrimination on the basis of real or perceived HIV-status, they and their dependents benefit from improved access to HIV education, information, treatment, care and support at national and workplace levels.

Honourable Speaker, this Recommendation covers all workers working under all forms or arrangements and all workplaces, including persons in any employment or occupation, those in training, including interns and apprentices, volunteers, jobseekers and job applicants and laid-off and suspended workers, all sectors of economic activity, including the Private and Public Sectors and the formal and informal economies and armed forces and uniformed services.

Given the scope of coverage, the Recommendation equally provides for the following general principles, among others:

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**REPORT ON HIV/AIDS IN WORLD OF WORK
HON NGATJIZEKO**

That HIV/AIDS should be recognised and treated as a workplace issue, which should be included among essential elements of the national, regional and international response to the pandemic with the full participation of organisations, employers and workers.

Furthermore, there should be no discrimination against or stigmatisation of workers, in particular jobseekers and job applicants on the grounds of real or perceived HIV-status or the fact that they belong to the Regions of the world or segments of the population perceived to be at greater risk or more vulnerable to HIV-infection.

Moreover, the Recommendation calls for the adoption of national policies and programmes on HIV/AIDS in the world of work and all occupational safety and health and integrate their policies and programmes on HIV/AIDS in the world work in development plans and poverty reduction strategies, including decent work, sustainable enterprises, income-generating strategies, as appropriate.

In respect of discrimination, the Recommendation calls for measures to ensure that persons with HIV-related illnesses should not be denied the possibility of continuing to carry out their work with reasonable accommodation, if necessary, for as long as they are medically fit to do so.

Measures to redeploy such persons to work reasonably adapted to their abilities to find other work through training or to facilitate their return to work should be encouraged, taking into consideration the relevant International Labour Organisation and United Nations instruments.

Similarly, the Recommendation encourages member States to implement measures to encourage workers to know their own HIV-status through voluntary counselling and testing, access to all means of prevention, including but not limited to guaranteeing the availability of necessary supplies, in particular male and female condoms and where appropriate, information about their correct use and the availability of post-exposure prophylaxis and testing must be genuinely voluntary and free of any coercion and testing programmes must respect international guidelines on confidentiality, counselling and consent. Moreover, that the results of

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

HIV testing should be confidential and not endanger access to jobs, tenure, job security or opportunities of advancement.

In the end the Recommendation strongly encourages intervention, such as training, safety instructions and any necessary guidance in the workplace that relate to HIV/AIDS be provided in a clear and accessible form for all workers and in particular, newly engaged or inexperienced workers, young workers and persons in training, including interns and apprentices.

Given the above and in line with the provisions of our Labour Act, 11 of 2007, Section 5 expressly prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis, among others, of HIV/AIDS. Thus we have a law in place that is meeting the expectations of the ILO Recommendations. It is, therefore, our commitment to ensure that we use the provisions of Recommendation 200 to amend with the intention to improve our National Code on HIV/AIDS and Employment to meet the international expectations. In this course we shall be involving our social partners and all stakeholders. I thank you all.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. Deputy Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

1. Regional Council for the Khomas Region for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2008 and 31 March 2009;

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HON MOONGO**

2. Regional Council for the Erongo Region for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2008;
3. Regional Council for the Oshana Region for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2008 and 2009; and
4. Village Council of Aranos for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2007, 2008 and 2009, respectively.

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

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 15:

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on the 7th of April 2011, I shall ask the Minister of Health and Social Services the following:

1. Is the Minister aware, or would he ignore the plight and the challenges faced by patients who used to go and fetch the Anti-Retro-Viral tablets from very far distances, like at regional hospitals?
2. Is the Minister aware that those patients are struggling to find transport money to collect their treatment tablets?
3. When will the Anti-Retro-Viral tablets be distributed to all clinics in all Regions?
4. Can the Minister explain as to why and when is the Ministry going to train nurses to also give Anti-Retro-Viral tablets?

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HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

5. Is the Minister also aware that the lack of food, money and long distances demoralise the patients? What can the Minister do to iron out these problems?
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HON SPEAKER: Any further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING
APPROPRIATION BILL**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on the 24th of March 2011, the Question before the Assembly was Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any further discussion?

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, my fellow Honourable Members. I stood here before in my line of duty and I believe I will stand here again a few, if not many more times to come.

However, today I, am particularly here before you fellow Members of this Honourable House, grateful for the opportunity accorded me to comment on this year's Budget presented by the Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Minister of Finance, about a month ago.

I am also thankful for this opportunity that permits me to congratulate our motherland, our beautiful country, the land of the brave, on her 21st birthday which we marked last week. We, amongst others, remembered the sacrifices borne by our heroes and those many others that came and stood here before us in this very same house. Their blood truly watered our freedom and their hard work truly charted a way for us to continue walking the walk we had embarked on to find economic prosperity, peace and tranquillity for our people, for our Nation.

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Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, it is clear that this year's Budget is a responsive Budget that begins to deal with the various issues affecting our country and its people. It was formulated to already start to respond to His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba's call upon all of us as Namibians in all our respective capacities to employ all the means at our disposal, and to harness the available technical, financial and natural resources in order to effectively fight and defeat the problem of unemployment. Once again it is a Budget with emphasis on education and health sectors and other essential sectors.

In particular, Comrade Speaker, my reason for making some remarks on this Budget is based on paragraphs 10 and 11 in the Honourable Minister's speech. The Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG) is aimed at addressing economic growth and the high unemployment rate through support for strategic growth of four key sectors, namely, agriculture, transport, tourism and housing and sanitation.

I am optimistic in the ability of TIPEEG's four key focus areas to create desired employment and economically empower thousands of young people in rural areas and poor urban areas. In other words, I speak here about the ability of this Budget allocation to respond to the economic needs of our rural poor and local authorities.

What is in this Budget for the communities of Tseiblaagte in Keetmanshoop, for the community of Leonardville, for the community of Okahao? Comrade Speaker, what is in this Budget for a young unemployed city dweller standing on the side of the road in Windhoek, in DRC or Swakopmund? Comrade Speaker, what is in this Budget for the young people who have business ideas but who are continuously asked to provide collateral in order to obtain start-up capital even in the identified key focus areas TIPEEG?

What role would the unemployed youth themselves play in the allocation and ultimate use of this budgetary provision? How would the big and established or, perhaps, well-connected individuals and companies monopolise this Budget at the expense of those who are not well-

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connected? These are amongst the questions and concerns which I believe require direct address in order to prevent this very important and historic Budget from sliding into the pitfalls of promises and no delivery.

Finally, Honourable Speaker, I wish to make some remarks on the situation of the youth in our country. It is not enough to recognise that we have youth unemployment and yet do nothing practical to respond to the challenges facing the young people. For instance, there are persistent cries by the National Youth Council of Namibia that its Budget is limited to respond to the demands of the youth.

Is it understandable that the National Youth Council asks for a close to N\$100 million Budget whilst the approval given is a mere N\$10 million? Does this make mathematical and policy sense? This clearly means that our verbal commitments often do not translate into financial commitment. There are thousands young and talented Namibians in the Music Industry, but who cannot have direct support for their innovation and business creativity. Comrade Speaker, it is my appeal that the National Youth Council be supported through its Youth Development Fund in order to respond to the real bread and butter challenges affecting our young people.

I am thus advocating that some of this money be channelled through projects of the National Youth Council as well as Local Authorities and even Traditional Authorities. This we can and should do in response to the challenges facing the Namibian youth. Indeed, our true measure as a free and mature independent nation should be how we respond to the needs and aspirations of our youth today, how we mould our young people into better adults that will create better opportunities for those who will come after them and here I am referring to the next generation. We have begun the work that demonstrates our readiness to step up to the plate.

All of us here have witnessed the reform of the entire education system that the Government has embarked on. We have become aware how our Government has established Engineering and Medical Schools. The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services tells us that Namibia is training a minimum of eighteen Medical Doctors per year. This is commendable national progress. There should however be more that can

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be done for our youth.

Fellow Honourable Members, some areas where our Government can make a practical difference, I believe, are in the area of compulsory national youth service. A few years ago I proposed for a compulsory national youth service scheme to be introduced for all the young people between the ages of 19 and 25 years of age. I repeat the same; I strongly believe that this scheme could be based in the Ministry of Defence or the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture. All young people who reach the age of 19 years must be called upon to do this national service for a period of 24 months.

Comrade Speaker, this will benefit our people. You will have a youth with basic vocational skills, you will have a youth that is patriotic and you will have a youth that is disciplined, as discipline will be part of the two years engagement. In the end you will indeed have a youth that will make a positive difference in the lives of all other Namibians. Obviously, those 19 year olds who are admitted to tertiary institutions of learning may be excused from the scheme, but would be required to spend some of their holidays participating in this scheme.

With these few remarks, I would like once again to commend and support this historic Budget and it is my only hope that all intended beneficiaries will benefit from this Budget. I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Works and Transport.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the august House. I would like to join other Members in congratulating the Honourable Minister of Finance and her team for putting together a Budget described by the local economists as an expansionary one, a forward-looking Budget of its kind, which we see for the first time in the history of an independent Namibia. I am particularly happy because the Budget gives special attention to four

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targeted sectors of agriculture, tourism, transport and housing and sanitation. I am convinced that this approach will help in creating the much-needed job opportunities.

While I am happy that so much money has been made available, I am a bit worried about how we are going to spend this money, for many reasons. My first worry is about the amount of time it takes to approve the Budget. I am worried that it takes too long and this process cuts into the programme of the implementation period. The Financial Year for the Public Service of Namibia starts on the 1st of April each year and ends on the 31st of March the following year. The preliminary investigations I have made revealed that the Budget approval process over the past five Financial Years has taken over two and a half months on average. The longest approval was in 2008 when approval was obtained after three months. This year's Budget was tabled by the Honourable Minister of Finance on the 8th of March 2011. I am not sure how long it will take before it is approved and becomes operational. While I am aware of the 33% continuation Budget that is always made available to bridge the gap, I am afraid to say that this only caters for old projects that are ongoing, but not for the new projects.

When approval of the Budget is completed in June, July, Ministries are informed as such and the process of spending starts. Tenders for procurement of specific goods and services are then called. The requirement of the Tender Board Act of Namibia is that tenders should run for four weeks at the most. This means the whole month of July and August is meant for running the advertisements, with the following month, August and September, dedicated for adjudication of bids and appointment of contractors. For major contracts, such as road construction, it also takes the contractor up to one month from date of appointment to mobilise resources and establish camp before actual work could start. This is done around September, October. Effectively, construction work of capital projects in Government would start around September, October each year with the financial year closing on the 31st of March the following year. This process leaves the Government with only six months to spend the allocated amounts of money to a specific project, especially in view of the fact that half of December and January each year

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are Christmas and New Year holidays in Namibia and that the rainy season between January and March disrupts work in the case of road construction, as we all know. We need to address how we can significantly reduce the time we spend to approve the Budget so that sufficient time is allowed for actual work to be done.

Many of the Honourable Members here have raised their concern about the poor rate of implementation of capital projects in the past. In this regard, I have directed my Ministry's staff to work out mechanisms on how the situation could be improved significantly. As a result of this directive, consultative meetings and workshops with all stakeholders were organised by the Ministry. These efforts and consultations had the participation and involvement of the relevant stakeholders in Government and the Private Sector. The meeting identified various bottlenecks, ranging from those encountered by the Ministry itself as a result of lack of capacity, as well as those encountered with the operations at the Tender Board of Namibia and several other Line Ministries. These issues were discussed at other subsequent meetings to find solutions to problems identified. Honourable Members, I must inform you that as a result of these consultations, an improved project cycle with clearly defined roles and timeframes of each role player will soon be agreed upon to accelerate the rate of implementation of capital projects.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, my second worry is on our Budget system, which seems to be rule-driven other than mission-driven. Our Budget system behaves like it is fenced-off items. While I appreciate that the system is aimed at ensuring effective controls, I am worried that such controls are often to the detriment of capital project implementation and, therefore, compromises the delivery of services to the people of this country. Let me give an example:

If you start a business, traditionally you would ask the bookkeeper to control how much you spend on items such as travel, supplies, personnel, etcetera, but you definitely do not allow your bookkeeper to control how much you spend under each item. The same is true for family Budgets. You may set aside money for groceries and other household items, etcetera, but this does not mean that when your car is broken, you cannot

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divert some money to have the car fixed. Our Budget system does not allow us to do this. Funds are fenced within line items that are often absurdly narrow in many instances, such as the floods taking place now.

Theoretically, we can approach Treasury and the National Planning Commission to request permission to move funds across the fences, but this is unfriendly, because more often than not, the answer is: *“We are glad to know you do not need so much on this line item, and we will take back the surplus, but we are sorry, money is tight, we cannot let you move it to the other Budget line.”* When you are lucky, the movement will be allowed, but does not take less than four weeks to get final approval. By fencing off money into line items, in other words, we waste billions of dollars every year.

Over the last twenty years Civil Servants have learned that if they do not spend their entire Budgets by the end of the Fiscal Year, they lose the money they have saved and they get less next year. As a result of this, smart Civil Servants spend every penny of their line item, whether they need to or not, when the end of the Financial Year is about to come to an end. I am not sure if Honourable Members have realised that January to March is the time for a spending spree of most Government Ministries. Our Budget system actually encourages every Civil Servant to waste money.

My third worry is about the value we get from our allocated Budgets. Let us take the Ministry of Education, for example. I take education to be the most important cornerstone for development in the country. Without education there will be no proper health care system, no food production, no proper transport infrastructure, and the list goes on. The fact that well-educated citizens make it possible for any nation to translate skills into economic sustainability cannot be underestimated. On that basis, I agree that education should get the biggest chunk of our Budget. However, I am concerned about our priorities in education. Is it access to education that is needed most or should the emphasis be placed on producing quality high school graduates that would be admitted to any University in the world? People out there do not want less education or fewer roads, or less health care, they want better education, better roads and better health care

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for the same tax money they pay.

It has been said on many occasions that there is a need to improve the quality of education in Namibia if we are to realise our set target of Vision 2030. The factors that would make effective transformations in the Education Sector are very diverse and many aspects have been overlooked in pursuit of delivery quality education. The main emphasis has always been placed on physical structures, such as classrooms, tables and chairs, laboratories and other related means. The argument is not that the infrastructures that we have are sufficient, but rather to say the integration of both tangible and intangible means would provide better solutions in education.

Huge amounts of resources that have been allocated to the Education Budget needs to be deployed to other invisible areas that will trigger quality education as an end-result. I believe that much focus needs to be placed on areas such as Education Administration, of which there is a great need to harmonise the system at both circuit and cluster levels. There is an urgent need to improve leadership in school management and further a need to make necessary efforts to support and ensure effective delivery of quality education.

This includes the need to improve teaching methods and the delivery mode in the classroom environment. It is also important to highlight that behavioural change and community involvement in the Education Sector will have long-term bearing effects if all stakeholders can take a stand and support education from all the spheres. Another important element is the aligning of our curriculum to adequately prepare learners to qualify and enter universities both at home and abroad. It is, therefore, important for my Colleague, the Honourable Minister of Education and his Deputy to look into those aspects I mentioned above.

Statistics have indicated that between 2000 and 2010, no pass rate for the requirement of university admission of 60% was reached in Grade 12 fulltime mode. The highest university qualification pass rate for this period was in 2008 when 58,8% were recorded. The lowest pass rate for university qualification was recorded in 2004 when only 26.5% of

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candidates reached the minimum requirements to enter university. On average, only 42.6% of fulltime candidates have managed to reach the minimum requirements for admission to university for the period 2000 to 2010. This should be a serious concern for every Namibian who values the importance of education. Based on these figures, you will agree with me that there is a need to craft strategies that will yield significant improvement in our education sector in order to curb this problem.

In conclusion, I would like to state my satisfaction that significant amounts of money have been made available in the Budget to carry out our capital projects as well as to improve our education system. My Ministry and Government in general will employ all the necessary efforts to make sure that the allocated money is put to good use. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Nghimtina a question? The Honourable Minister has several times mentioned University education. How many of us here have been able to enter University?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: You are correct Honourable Prime Minister, we came from the time when education was only for a few, but now we want education to be for all our children. However, we need to work very hard so that the children who cannot enter universities could revert to technical colleges. Not all children can enter university. We were unlucky because we came from the apartheid system and an apartheid colony.

The improved and trimmed project cycle will ensure that the implementation of projects is carried out in an efficient and effective manner. (Intervention)

HON NYAMU: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Minister, you gave figures regarding the pass rate over a

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period of time and some of the figures suggest that the results were dismal. I want to know if you can remember who were the Ministers of Education at that time and are those persons here. If they are here, what do they think the parents of the children who failed think about them?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Honourable Nyamu. I also want to know who the Minister of Trade and Industry was at that particular time that he is referring to. If I get that answer, then I can also answer you. (Laughter)

The improved and trimmed project cycle will ensure that the implementation of projects is carried out in an efficient and effective manner and that project completion delays are tremendously minimised. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I ask a question? Comrade Minister, can you remember somebody who was a Minister and then he said, "*I regret being a leader of the liberation movement?*" Do you remember that he said that he regrets being a member of the national liberation movement, that he regrets liberating Namibia?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Maybe that is an individual issue.

It is important to highlight the need to improve on the Budget approval, as well as to ensure that our Budget is more flexible and friendly to cater for the needs of user Offices/Ministries/Agencies. Harmonising the Budget processes from Budget Debate to Budget approval as well as to the actual Budget implementation is crucial and hugely determines the final outcome of the spending plan. I would like to reiterate my desire to see more being done to improve our education system. It has been said many times that education is the key to unlimited possibilities. Seeing that a large amount of money has been allocated to the Ministry of Education, there is no

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doubt that enough can be done with the resources made available. Countries that have gone beyond normal efforts to improve their education system are today reaping the benefits of those efforts. We as Namibians should be no different. Our economic development heavily depends on quality and effective education system. Let us put all our brains together and ensure that the feat of quality education is realised.

Honourable Members of this House, let us all give unequivocal support to this prudent spending plan. The most important part of the Budget is that it places huge emphasis on education as well as programmes of job creation and development of our key economic sectors. Please let us pass the Bill so that the implementation of all Government projects can start without delay.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I fully support the Appropriation Bill 2011/2012. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Uutoni.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this House. Let me also make my humble contribution towards the 2011/2012 Appropriation Bill under discussion and before that, I also want to join the others who have congratulated the Minister of Finance and her Deputy for tabling a very important Bill.

This year's Budget attracted more attention, not only from Members of Parliament but from all walks of life within the Namibian society. It is an attractive Budget in the sense that some members of society are happy with it, like me. Some are saying *it is too much*, while others are asking *why spend like there is no tomorrow?* There are also others with the opinion that the Budget will not achieve anything because there is no mention of increment of old-age pensions and orphans allowances.

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I am, therefore, pleased to mention that this is really the best Budget ever, because when you have a Budget that provides a public democratic debate, it is encouraging to the Minister's concern and also, to a certain extent, to the Ruling SWAPO Party.

Honourable Speaker, I regard the public Debate on the national Budget a good move and healthy in the interest of good democracy to national participation in the economic affairs of the country.

This year on the 11th of March 2011, some Namibian economists spared no time and organised short workshops for Members of the National Assembly on their views towards the 2011/2012 Budget. One of the presentations was by First Capital Asset Management, entitled "*Critical Review of the 2011/2012 national Budget presentation to the National Assembly.*" In addition to this title, it was accompanied by the sub-keywords, which are "*knowledge, creativity and solution.*" The presentation was more to analyse how the newly introduced Government programmes, known as Targeting Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth and Job Creation (TIPEEG) should be carried out.

The presentation was of the opinion that Government could only successfully achieve good results under these programmes if such programmes are broken down into phases, such as:

Short-term of one to three years: In the short run Government will spend more than N\$100 billion to support economic growth and job creation and the following measures are suggested:

- Expansionary Economic Policy Package (Fiscal Policy, etcetera)
- Spending on Targeted Infrastructure (for future manufacturing in the medium term); (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Information. Honourable Deputy Minister, for your information, you have now started presenting what has

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already been presented by those experts. We all know that what you are saying you have read in the newspaper and we have also read the same newspaper. Can you come to the point and present your view on the Budget?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. We are waiting for the Honourable Member to contribute. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: The House shall rise for refreshments.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Speaker, before the break there was a remark by Honourable Tjihuiko that what I am reading is what I got from the media, which I think is a very good thing because this is a Budget that the SWAPO Government has presented for a democratic debate by both Members of Parliament and the public. It is unfortunate that the Honourable Member's party has never tabled a Budget before and never will in their lifetime.

Honourable Speaker, the presentation was of the opinion that Government could only successfully achieve good results under these programmes if such programmes are broken down into phases, such as:

Short-term of one to three years: In the short run Government will spend more than N\$100 billion to support economic growth and job creation and the following measures are suggested:

- Expansionary Economic Policy Package (Fiscal Policy, etcetera)
- Spending on Targeted Infrastructure (for future manufacturing in the medium term);

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- Subsidies to small and medium enterprises and targeted support to private enterprises to boost production;
- Regulatory intervention that effectively addresses market and state failures.

Medium-term of three to five years:

- Agriculture-based manufacturing (Agriculture Value Chain);
- Government targeted support programme to induce the private sector to invest in targeted sector;
- Other manufacturing activities where Namibia has comparative advantage.

The third phase, the long-term is from five years and beyond. Here is where I have a problem with the Debate on the Budget.

It is a good proposal from the members of the public, but in the long run of five years and beyond phase is where I have a problem. The proposal says as full employment is achieved, the State must increasingly reduce its involvement in the economy, outsource and transfer ownership to private sector. It further said that Government confines its support intervention to knowledge and capital intensive sector in order to remain competitive.

The question is: If Government happens to transfer and reduce its involvement in the country's economy, then the nation will be in trouble, the reason being the experience we have with the Private Sector. For them it is profit and not social responsibility. If Government, for example, leave NHE, DBN NamPower and NamWater as well as many others in the hands of the Private Sector, what should we expect?

Our children will no longer be able to afford houses if the NHE is transferred to the Private Sector. Our children will no longer be able to pay their water bills. A good example is mortgage bonds with the banks, where you have to pay and pay. You would not even want to ask for

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another loan within twenty years. If you leave everything in the hands of the Private Sector, Honourable Tjihuiko would not even be able to pay his water bill. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I agree a hundred percent with you. The Private Sector has caused prices to be higher than the sky and nobody stopped them at all. House prices rocketed sky-high, individual agents get more money than the owner of the house and there is no control whatsoever and that goes for the farms too.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Therefore, to me, for TIPEEG to produce or achieve good results the National Planning Commission has to introduce an awareness campaign that will educate the population about the new Government programmes. However, this should be done with the assistance of other stakeholders, such as the NCCI, Development Bank of Namibia, Ministry of Trade and Industry and others. I am saying this because many people will not understand what we are talking about, but if we go out in the Regions and explain, the people will be able to understand.

This awareness campaign should be in the form of workshops targeting business people, regional and Constituency Development Committees. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a small question? Honourable Deputy Minister, you made a very important point that if everything is being left to the Private Sector, a number of our people may not be able to afford the services and you used the example of water that may not be affordable. Are you aware of the fact that water is at the present moment in the hands of a Government Parastatals called NamWater? Are you aware that provision of water to the poor people in the communal areas has been stopped because they cannot afford to pay?

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If that is what the Government Parastatals is doing, namely to deny the community access to a basic necessity such as water, is that the policy of the Ruling Party to deny poor people access to something like water?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, maybe the Honourable Member does not differentiate between private companies and Parastatals. Government is still running that one and it has not been privatised yet. We have to understand these differences.

Honourable Speaker, I was talking about the awareness campaign that should be in the form of workshops targeting business people. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information. Honourable Members, the DTA Government and NUDO told the people in Okamatapati not pay their water bills; therefore the bills went up and went up.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Speaker, thank you for the information, we did not know that one, now the House is aware of what has happened in the past. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: That information needs to be corrected; it cannot be left like that. If the Honourable Deputy Minister is referring to what happened during the time of the DTA, NUDO has never been the Government at any stage. The point the Honourable Deputy Minister should understand is to try and compare and justify the wrongs of the colonial Governments, including the Interim Government, with the wrongs of the democratically elected Government of the day. If you are trying to justify that we are doing it because the colonialists were doing it, that is mind-boggling to me and I cannot understand. It should not be

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compared. If you bring it down to that level, the public out there and I will appreciate that you are just equal to the colonial Governments.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Honourable Speaker, I was talking about the National Planning Commission to organise an awareness campaign in the form of workshops that would target business people, Regional and Constituency Development Committees, youth groups and others to understand how, where and when to benefit from the N\$14,6 billion allocated for employment and economic growth creation.

Further, the Development Bank of Namibia, on its own right, can also organise awareness campaigns through the media and face-to-face presentations throughout the country. I believe that not many of our young people, especially those with vocational skills, know how to get this money from the Development Bank. In addition, it seems to me that the same skilled young people have difficulties when it comes to the tendering process.

Honourable Speaker, I occasionally meet with most of the young entrepreneurs who wish to grow their businesses, but due to some difficulties, they express their dissatisfaction with the Tender Board. However, I understand that the issue with regard to the Tender Board is with the drafters after His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba expressed his views on the Tender Board regulations to be reviewed. Of course, the Honourable Minister of Finance has also informed this House that the Tender Board regulations are with the drafters and we are happy that maybe improvements are on their way.

Honourable Speaker, even after the Tender Board regulations are amended, the problem will still remain if the Tender Board together with other stakeholders, such as NCCI and the Ministry of Works and Transport, do not engage entrepreneurs with workshops to educate them about the processes to enable them to win future tenders. What we have learned is that many people do not know to tender, it is only a few individuals who can do that and this is the reason why we are emphasising

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that the Tender Board should go out to the regional and Local Authority development committees and invite business people to inform them on the process, because some people think they have tendered very well, but when their tenders are brought here, they are not accepted. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. The DTA party never governed this country and the record should be corrected. Not only that, while the Colleague was the chief in the Municipality of Ongwediva, the price of water was doubled every month. Now he is saying the opposite.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I did not understand the question, maybe he needs to frame the question properly, because here we are talking about the Private Sector and now he is mentioning Municipalities.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I believe that if this proposal that I am making is taken into consideration, the unemployment situation... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. Political parties were part of the interim government and the fact remains that the DTA was part of that so-called interim government. We were here in this country, we know, unless they were just puppets. The Vice-President of the DTA is just expressing his opinion, but the fact remains that the DTA was part of that Interim Government.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Comrade Speaker, in conclusion, I believe that if this proposal is taken into consideration, the unemployment situation will be something of the past in Namibia. With this statement, I want to congratulate the Minister of Finance and her Deputy for an attractive Budget this year. Thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Katjavivi.

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. I am pleased to join the Honourable Members of this august House in debating the Appropriation Bill for the 2011/2012 Financial Year and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework covering the period of 2011/2012 to 2013/2014. In this respect, I would like to welcome and commend the overall Budget presentation by the Minister of Finance and the entire team associated with the work that has gone into this Budget exercise.

As already noted by previous speakers, the Budget has provided an opportunity for various institutions to openly debate the relevant aspects of the Budget. This has happened both within this House and in the public, as reflected in the media. Like most democratic countries, Namibia has come to embrace the democratic culture and our National Assembly is at the centre of exercising its full authority in terms of accountability and oversight over the Executive. Therefore, open debate of issues such as those associated with the Budget is a development that is to be expected.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the Honourable House, Namibia, like most Africa Union member states, subscribes to the fundamental values that aim to create, “*a developed and prosperous Africa whose citizens are empowered with the ability to pursue lives of quality and meaning.*” It is for that purpose that soon after independence, Namibia set in motion various planning instruments, for instance, the National Development Plans 1, 2 and 3, the Long-Term Perspectives Plan, which is Vision 2030, as well as adopting the Millennium Development Goals.

The measures tabled now by the Honourable Minister of Finance are intended to build on those and other endeavours and contributes to the upliftment and general empowerment of the people of this country. I want to point out; however, that hard work and absolute commitment are required to achieve those noble objectives.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is clear for everyone to see that this country faces an unprecedented challenge in the form of unemployment, which particularly affects young people and the unskilled. I, therefore, welcome the overall measures proposed in the Budget. There is no doubt that the Government views the current status of unemployment with all seriousness. Our Government has emphasised rural development in the past and the current Budget is no exception. The rural sector represents more than 65% of our people and 75% of livelihoods depend on rural economic activities. The current Budget has allocated a substantial amount of resources to stimulate the rural sector so that welfare conditions of our people in the rural areas can be improved.

Accordingly, funding has been allocated to Rural Water Supply, transport structure, rural electrification, community Conservancies and agricultural development.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is essential that we act decisively on the measures that the Government has identified in this Budget. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the question of the Tender Board.

Government procurement plays a vital role in accelerating economic growth and development. In this respect, we need effective and efficient Tender Board procedures. At times the utilisation of allocated funds in a timely and efficient manner has been adversely affected due to cumbersome Tender Board procedures. These need to be streamlined to become effective, efficient and user-friendly. Indeed, the Government has committed itself to expedite Tender Board reforms as a top priority.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, finally, as a member of the Ovitoto community, permit me to express our profound thanks and appreciation to the Government for having responded to our request to build bridges over the rivers that flow across the road linking Okahandja with Ovitoto. Let me remind you, Honourable Members, that lives are lost every year during the rainy season on this road as the river comes down in flood. The building of bridges is, therefore, a life-saving intervention on the part of our Government. Therefore, this is indeed a

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source of joy. The Ovitoto community is very much looking forward to the early commencement of this vital project. With these few remarks, I fully support the Budget and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, I have been listening to other speakers mentioning the Tender Board and before I come back to my written speech, I wish to say that the Tender Board did not satisfy anyone, because before you go to attend a meeting, everything is prearranged and distributed to those who are supposed to get the tender. I am sorry about that. The Honourable Member mentioned Ovitoto and he mentioned the same things I mention here in my paper.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, let me use this opportunity to congratulate our community for having commemorated its 21 years of Independence two weeks ago where we witnessed the maturity of the Government-to-be. It is a very good sign of self-governance and determination which is guaranteed by peace and stability, which might lead our country to better economic development.

In the same breath, Mr speaker, allow me one second to commend our State President, His Excellency President Pohamba for the stand he took in his introductory remark in his speech he delivered in Otjiwarongo as the keynote speaker where he condemned the interference of foreign forces in the domestic affairs of Libya. I have been in Libya several times and I have never come across *pondokkies*, they are well-fed and well taken care of if you compare to other African states. One must learn to read between the lines to see how those people live.

Africa must show its integrity to the world and must never allow foreigners to contribute directly or indirectly to the domestic affairs of their sovereign states. If they ask for help, yes, but they did not. The African states have an organisation called the African Union from where to ask help for them to be given what they are supposed to be given by

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their kith and kin in order to solve their problems, but not to bomb and shoot as the answer to any problem in the world.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we are debating the 21st Budget of our Government and we must always look back and take stock of what was implemented and what is still outstanding. By so doing, the various Ministries will be in a better position for proper planning. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I have a question which I would like to pose to the Honourable Member. Thank you very much for accepting my question. How do you feel when you see a superpower group like NATO fighting a single country? How do you feel?

HON RIRUAKO: The fact remains that some are saying they want to rescue the people of Libya, some say they want the oil of Africa. The Germans were so reluctant this time to join the others, they said this time they cannot. Sometimes, somehow they do not have that attitude towards the African people.

Honourable Speaker, our Budget is geared towards job creation, which is a very good indication that Government is seriously embarking upon poverty eradication. The main question remains, how practically these jobs are going to be created. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, may I ask my Chief a question? Honourable Chief, as a Chief, father and brother, how do you feel when the Western superpowers bomb Libya where the women and children are? How do you feel about those things?

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HON RIRUAKO: I feel sorry about everything. As a father and a Chief I am sorry to see big powers killing a tiny fly. That is unfortunate and I am sorry. It is time that the African States have to come up with their own tangible proposals on how they are going to go about this issue. This is a big power that provides aid to them. (Intervention)

HON VAN DER WALT: Just on a Point of Information. I am also surprised by the attacks by the EU and the United States of America on Libya. They rated our President number five on the continent, but if I compare him to the Presidents of the world that made a decision to attack Libya, but they do not even know who is going to lead the coalition, they are still trying to find out who must lead this coalition. Secondly, they do not know what they want to achieve and I am saying it is easy to start a war, but to get out of it is a different story.

HON RIRUAKO: Iraq was defeated and the Americans are gone and even the owners of Iraq do not know who is who now. What was the purpose of going there and what is the purpose of going to Libya and what is going to happen afterwards?

To my understanding an important sector to create jobs is infrastructural development, such as building schools, construction of roads, to mention but a few.

Honourable Speaker, when you look at Vote 10 – Education, it received more money than usual, but infrastructural development is not taking place in some Regions. How can we convince the inhabitants of those specific Regions that they are catered for to have bread and butter on their table. As long as our Budget is not skewed in such a way to equally benefit from it, the status quo will remain and Regions, such as Hardap, Karas and Kavango, will suffer the consequences. There is a reason why I mention this. I do not want to create commotions, but what is wrong is wrong and must be corrected jointly. If we missed our point, we have to reach our point.

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I, therefore, want to caution the Honourable Members who are heads of the Ministries to make sure that in all our development projects we must treat all Regions equally. We have to treat our people equally as a Government of all the people, not a Government of a few people.

Honourable Speaker, let me dwell on some critical points that I think need more attention:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, with regard to the transport sector, I wish to see that the Trans-Caprivi Highway link with the Trans-Kalahari Highway will be completed within the current financial year. Let me also in the same breath commend the Ministry of Works and Transport for allocating funds for the construction of bridges on the road between Okahandja and Ovitoto in the Omatako Constituency. However, the half-tarred road between Okahandja and Okondjatu needs urgent attention as it links the Otjozondou Mine with Okahandja and currently trucks have been stranded on that road since the beginning of the rainy season.

The southern Regions are no exception at all and I, therefore, call upon the Ministry concerned to speed up the reconstruction of roads that are damaged by floods in these Regions. In conclusion on this point, Honourable Speaker let me use this opportunity to call upon His Excellency the President to declare a state of emergency as per Article 26 in the four northern Regions, including Caprivi and Kavango Regions, due to the floods.

I believe that the only vehicle that will bring about development in rural areas, in particular, and Regions, in general, is the implementation of the Decentralisation Policy as approved by Parliament. Now is the time for us to act in order to achieve what we mentioned in Parliament.

It is only through strengthened Regional Governments where a true regional development will take place. The current Budget tabled by the Finance Minister will not have a positive impact on the regional development unless the elected people, representatives, civic organisations and traditional leaders own the process, more especially youth and women. The remote control approach of development process that

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Government has been implementing for the past twenty-one years failed to deliver the required needs, because the affected people in the Regions have never been considered for them to be part and parcel of these programmes.

Mr Speaker, I appreciate the fact that His Excellency the President has recently appointed Regional Governors as per Article 32 of the Namibian Constitution as his advisors. Let me remind the appointed Governors that their mandate and sole function is to represent and advise His Excellency the President, but not to interfere with the functions and responsibilities of the elected Regional and Local Authority councillors. Governors are the ears and eyes of the President, whereas Regional and Local Authority Councillors are ears and eyes of the communities.

I am saying this, Honourable Speaker, because it seems to me as if some of the Governors misunderstand their terms of references and even went to the extent of interfering in the functions of the law enforcement authorities of this country and that cannot be accepted.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as much as I appreciate the efforts of the Minister of Health, I cannot accept that Namibia after 21 years of Independence does not have enough qualified doctors and registered nurses. We are faced with dilapidated hospitals where patients are dying because of simple things, such as electricity failures. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I ask the Chief a question? You said some governors do not understand their terms of reference. Are those the governors who used to call the Opposition Satan or who are they?

HON RIRUAKO: I cannot think about the past.

The issue of lack of medicines in hospitals and clinics, lack of sufficient ambulances at health centres and hospitals across the country cannot be

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condoned anymore. Mr Minister, please work harder than you are doing now and go ahead with the good work, only add more duties to it.

Since more resources have been allocated to this Ministry to address, among others, buying of medicines, renovation of hospitals and clinics and improvement of conditions of service for staff members, I, therefore, seriously urge the Honourable Minister of Health and his staff to utilise these funds for the abovementioned issues.

Furthermore, Mr Speaker, I want to request the Minister to consider methods and incentives that could encourage private doctors to spend some of their time in State hospitals to treat those who do not have medical aid. This practice will minimise the long queues of patients lining up every day in front of hospitals, waiting for doctors.

Honourable Speaker, in the Education Sector, NUDO's position has already been expressed in the media and I only want to emphasise the point that the position taken by Honourable Dr Iyambo, his Deputy and the staff to take the bull by the horns and to address the crisis that we are facing in our education systems is commendable.

Honourable Speaker, let me touch on an issue that is very much close to my heart, namely the land issue, the land that has been taken away from our people free of charge and an issue which you as Members of Parliament and members of the nation take so lightly. Let us be serious now. This is land that our forefathers paid for with their precious blood. They were not taken away while they were alive; therefore we are supposed to speed up on this issue. Land has a variety of socio-economic, political and cultural meanings to the Namibian people. Therefore, the land reform process must be specific in its intent and have different purposes for which resettlement are intended.

Honourable Speaker, the current resettlement programme of the Government does not address the real issue of those Namibians who physically lost their land. In Namibia we have two groups of landless people. One group is those who need land because of overcrowding in their respective ancestral land and the group that has never lost land

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because of colonialism. The second group is the one of those landless people that lost their land as a result of brutal colonial and apartheid system of yesteryears. We have to differentiate between these; we should not be blindfolded while talking about this issue.

To my understanding, when implementing the resettlement programmes priority should be given to the second group of landless. The division of communal land in portions of 20 hectares is not the answer to the outcry for land. Those who came up with this proposal must withdraw it as it is adding insult to injury.

I believe that the best way to go about is for the communal land at least to resort to common property ownership or land user associations or even under Traditional Authorities. Furthermore, I call upon the Ministry to embark upon serious consultations and bring back that Act to Parliament for serious review in order to accommodate the thoughts and the will of the people of this country. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Simataa.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. It is going to be tough task for me to speak after the Honourable Chief, but allow me to do so.

It is indeed that time of the year once again when we as representatives of the Namibian people are engaged in critical debate on the Budget – the financial instrument at our disposal to address our Nation's often competing needs. Prepared against the backdrop of a global economy still reeling from one of the worst financial crises to have beset the world, both the Minister of Finance and the Director General, of the National Planning Commission and their able teams deserve to be commended for having crafted a Budget that attempts to respond to our people's needs.

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Allow me to make a number of comments and observations on only four issues:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, increased allocation to human capital development is welcomed and appreciated. Yes, as we all know, our Nation's competitiveness is severely constrained by the lack of human resources. Yet, while acknowledging the increased investment in this area, judicious utilisation of the financial resources provided is likely to be constrained by the continuous lack of a comprehensive human resources development plan according to which higher education and training institutions must flex their academic offerings. I am, therefore, tempted to reiterate the plea I made last year for the relevant institution to expedite the development of such a plan. Procrastinating on such an important matter will certainly be at the peril of our Nation.

In the absence of a national human resources development plan, I for one wonder how we can do justice to the generous allocation made to human capital development. In saying that, I trust that I will not be seen as over-flagging this important issue.

Honourable Speaker, the allocation made in the Budget to develop the capacity of Regional Councils should be applauded. It is in the Regions where poverty levels are pronounced. It is, indeed, in the Regions where effective implementation of the planned projects and programmes has the potential to yield the greatest impact on the lives and livelihood of our people. Yes, as a Government that derives its mandate to govern from people, a majority of whom are located in the Regions, we have an obligation to channel all our energies in building conducive environments that will facilitate the implementation of planned projects and programmes in all the thirteen Regions. It is only through effective capacity development at regional level that decentralisation will be meaningful.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Government deserves to be commended for having allocated substantial financial resources to the Targeted Intervention programme for Employment and Economic Growth. This programme bears testimony to our Government's resolve to address the seemingly pervasive unemployment as well as rejuvenate the growth

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of our economy. I have no doubt in my mind that should targeted sectors vigorously implement the planned projects, this programme has potential to create the much-needed jobs. However, due care should be taken to ensure that we create a good mix of both short and long-term jobs to avoid what I prefer to call unemployment relapses.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members support provided to subsistence farmers, including myself of course, in the form of subsidised seeds and ploughing services need to be sustained, perhaps increased. Subsistence farmers should be encouraged to embrace the use of fertilisers because this will boost agricultural production, which will lead to improved food security. However, as a country we need to redouble our efforts to encourage Namibian businesses and individuals alike to source their supplies from local producers. At the moment, production of agricultural commodities, even expansion of our manufacturing base, is severely hampered by a very unsupportive, sometimes uncompromising local market. The tendencies we have as Namibians to prefer foreign produced products over those that are locally produced, does not encourage local production and as a matter of fact needs to be addressed. As a sovereign Nation we cannot rely on the goodwill of other countries to produce even the most basic commodities we need, we must aspire for self-reliance.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am relieved to note that we are now making serious efforts – and I believe this is a point which was made by Honourable Dr Ankama last week – to harvest excess floodwaters in flood-prone north and north-eastern parts of our country. Harvesting floodwaters will not only minimise flooding, but has potential to increase agricultural production in instances where irrigation is embraced.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, with these very conservative interventions, I support the Budget as presented.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ekandjo.

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I will be brief. I am speaking about what is a no-fly zone and I want to understand. When we speak on the Budget, I support the Honourable Minister of Finance for the way she has crafted the Budget and now the question is - will we be able to implement the Budget peacefully in time of war, because currently Africa is being attacked. The EU has imposed economic sanctions on Zimbabwe and now the NATO forces, under the leadership of the United States, are attacking Libya. The UN Security Council passed a resolution of no-fly zone and I suspect that many countries agreed to it, especially the Arab League and also some African countries voted for it in the Security Council, not understanding what no-fly zone means.

Comrade Speaker, no-fly zone means a declaration against a State, meaning if a no-fly zone is imposed upon a country, it means any military equipment that is capable of threatening a plane over the airspace of that country has to be destroyed. The UN Security Council resolution no-fly zone means any airport in Libya has to be destroyed and neutralised. Any anti-aircraft equipment in Libya, any military equipment... (Intervention)

HON NYAMU: On a Point of Information. My understanding is that the Honourable Member is not a military expert, has never taken part in military activities in his life except climbing on drums and shouting. So, he cannot teach us anything about the military. (Laughter)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Speaker, today we are proud military experts trained by SWAPO. SWAPO trained military experts turned reactionaries.

Comrade Speaker, no-fly zone philosophy means when that resolution was passed, people thought it is only to block any aeroplane over Libya, which is not the case. When the UN Security Council passed that resolution it meant a declaration... (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I rise on a Point of Order to seek assistance from the Chair. The Honourable Member referred to Honourable Jerry Ekandjo as someone who knows nothing about the military because his whole life he was just climbing on drums and shouting. Honourable Jerry Ekandjo is known to be liberation struggle activist and a hero of the Namibian people. I do not know whether the Honourable Member, by saying the Member only knows how to climb on a drum and shout, means the Member only knows how to participate in the liberation struggle at the home front and actually wants to refer to the home front of the Namibian liberation struggle as jumping on top of drums and shouting. Is that what the Honourable Member is saying? Because if that is what he is saying, I object and I am sure that I am not alone in that objection and I want to seek the assistance of the Chair to get the Honourable Member to withdraw.

HON SPEAKER: I thought the response by Honourable Ekandjo was more than withdrawal, so let it stand.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Speaker, my liberation credentials stand up to date, I never turned reactionary. We have many reactionaries, the Mozerellas, the Sitholes, the Shipanga's and others and Nyamus, they were revolutionaries and turned reactionaries. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: If the Honourable Member does not have something to say, could he rather leave military affairs and talk about mere politics?

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, the attack on Libya... (Intervention)

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HON DINGARA: I want to ask the Honourable Minister a small question. While he is on Libya, I want him to explain to me so that I understand properly, that if a country is in war where on the one side there are rebels and the other side the government and you join the rebels, are you also a rebel? I want the Honourable Minister to explain because in Libya there are those who have joined the rebels and they do not want to be called rebels.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. This is actually what I was going to illustrate, because the UN has passed a resolution and now the question is: Did the UN declare war against Libya? Passing a resolution means to destroy all Libyan military equipment and airfields and everything? The NATO forces came in and they talk about regime change. Was this regime change philosophy also part of the UN Resolution?

I am told there is a meeting in London today where the NATO forces invited the AU. (Intervention)

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD
WELFARE:** May I ask a question? Honourable Ekandjo, you talk about the air force and the military only, but what about the factories, hospitals and other facilities being bombed?

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** This means this is to re-colonise Africa, because those who are attacking crossed the Mediterranean Sea, coming from far to attack an African country. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, I rise to give information to Honourable Jerry Ekandjo. When he said when the

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resolution was passed on a no-fly zone, he must not forget that there was another insertion to take other appropriate measures. The regime change falls under those under those other appropriate measures. It is clearly said and. We must remember that there was another Motion that our troops can only go there if necessary. It can be interpreted in any way, regime change can be included, because today they are sitting in London and they are talking about Libya without Gadaffi. This is the information I wanted to give.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** My concern is that we in Africa are just looking on. Libya is under attack, the so-called National Council which is recognised by France was put in power, the EU has imposed sanctions against Zimbabwe which are killing the Zimbabwean people in their hospitals, in their shops. The shops in Zimbabwe are empty because the sanctions are killing the Zimbabwean people. Fifty years ago the US imposed sanctions against Cuba and this is re-colonising Africa through regime change.

Yesterday the President of France warned other States that if they violently suppress the demonstration, France will take action. It was said in the media that it is the 23rd US military involvement in foreign invasions since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Are we now subjected to NATO?

Africa is being attacked, they imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe, today is Libya, tomorrow it will be Zimbabwe and who will be next after Zimbabwe? This is a lesson for Africa. The Arab League sanctioned the no-fly zone but today they are regretting, but they are the ones who gave the go-ahead. This is just a wake-up call for Africa, Comrade Speaker, that in the today's world one is only respected if you are strong militarily. During the struggle SWAPO was recognised because we were militarily strong and the puppets were just crying foul because they were weak. Today's world is capitalist world; if you are weak militarily nobody will listen to you. It is really time for Africa to stand up. Africa is rich, we have mineral resources. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:

Comrade Speaker, may I ask a question? Comrade Ekandjo, I also have a problem understanding some terms, “*terrorist, terrorism.*” When we were fighting for Independence we were called terrorists. When we gained Independence even those who used to call us terrorists were here, presenting themselves as friends. These terms, “*terrorist and terrorism*” are usually used indiscriminately by the West. The Americans and the British use it. My question is, are those who are taking part within the NATO compound terrorists, terrorising Libyans or how do you call them? What should we call them?

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

I can say they are terrorists because they are terrorising the people of Libya. It is a wake-up call for Africa that whenever a resolution is passed, we must not be in a hurry. Now they talk of Libya as if Libya is not an African country, they talk about an Arab State. Libya is an African country and it is time for Africa to stand up be heard.

Secondly, Comrade Speaker, on the 20th of March this year I was coming from the UK and when the plane entered the airspace of Namibia, the pilot announced that that Sunday, the 20th, the moon was 30% closer to the earth for the first time in 30 years. If one looks at the environmental phenomena we now have, namely floods, millions of years ago the northern part of Namibia was a swamp, a lake and the world is not static, it is changing. Now we are going back to where we were millions of years ago. The Cuvelai Delta will twenty, fifty years from now be a swamp. The situation is catastrophic in that part of the country, Comrade Speaker. There are mosquitoes, the goats are just locked up in the kraals, and they have nowhere to graze. Villages are cut off, Oshakati is a swamp, and the situation is catastrophic. Every Saturday when the people go and bury their loved ones, the graves are filled with water and people just put the casket in the hole with water. It is catastrophic.

I am saying this is a natural disaster and tomorrow we are in April and normally the rain in Namibia ends in April, May and again starts in

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October, but the predictions are that even by May, June we may still have rain. If the rain continues up to May, June, we will only have three months left and then in October the rain starts again. Last year there were water in the oshanas, but I am sure this year's water will not subside by the end of the year. Therefore, Namibia should brace herself for the worst and if it happens by the end of this Financial Year that we have not fulfilled all our obligations because of the floods, we may divert half of the current Budget, because the floods are a priority. Schools are closed, clinics are closed, people in the villages are locked up and maybe in the future the only transportation in that part will be by helicopter. There are no roads. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister a small question? Honourable Minister, what you are talking about is very much close to my heart and it is very serious, the issue of the floods in that part of the country. My question is, now that we know the situation is that serious, would it not perhaps be a good idea for us, before we pass the Budget, to seriously look at the possibility of cutting here and there to put up a fund to address the issues that you have just raised, rather than just passing the Budget and then expect Government to run around and start looking for money once the Budget has been approved. Maybe we can look at it now, draw up a small Budget and start cutting here and there so that we can have that Budget ready, because it is obviously there.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Twenty years from now the Cuvelai Delta will be a swamp, therefore people should not complain if they need to be resettled, because Namibia is a big country. For the next twenty years there will be rain, no crops, while we have areas in Namibia where there are no floods and we have a 100,000 people in the flooded areas within the Cuvelai Delta. Namibia is big and we should brace ourselves for the worst and we should also prepare ourselves to resettle people, because we cannot every year continue putting people in tents. People have to be resettled permanently and Namibia is a big country with room for all.

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HON DR AMWEELO: On a Point of Information or a question. Comrade Minister, you are saying that these natural catastrophes will happen for many years to come; do you not think we need to sit around the table and re-engineer the whole process, take the water from the north and north-east and build a very big earth dam in the desert and pump the water from there to the desert? Do you think it would work?

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I think the only solution is to remove the people from the Cuvelai Delta so that the water can follow its natural flow, because those people in the Cuvelai Delta are blocking the water. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Given the politics of some Parties, will I be welcomed in a village such as Okatjoruu when my mahangu field is flooded?

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Comrade Speaker, it is high time we consider how to solve this problem, because the situation is changing. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask a question again? Minister, I really support what you are saying, namely finding a permanent solution for the problem in the North by resettling these people, but do you not think it is always better to have a known, transparent system of doing things so that everybody knows this is the reason why something is being done? I am asking this question because right now we have a problem with resettlement, people who lost land and who cannot come back to those areas. If it is known why it is being done, that will help us all to understand why Government is doing things the way they are doing it. I do not want us to create a situation whereby the nation will be surprised

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that people are moving. There should be a known programme to move these people permanently.

HON SPEAKER: There is no time to answer the question, Minister. The time is up. We are speaking as Namibians. My father died in 1950, I was a young kid then and what we are seeing here is not even half of what the floods were at that time. In Asia they have monsoon rains twice a year and now they are talking in terms of tsunamis. They have solved water and drought problems. During my last visit to China I specifically requested to be taken to the most arid part of China, because my President and I were there at one point and we could not believe that there could be a place drier than our desert. I went to see how much they have changed. Now they are exporting fruits and vegetables from that very dry part of China to the rest of the country. Not too many years ago, the Chinese made use of the Yang-Tse River and built a huge dam, so these problems can be solved, not now, but when we are not in the flood time these problems can be solved. I am sure the Chinese will be very happy to share their experiences with us. Some of the people that I took there are surprising themselves by using the technique that they learned there and are making gardens, fertilising their plots and farms. They have solved that problem. Therefore, let us think about solutions, I do not think that resettling the people is the solution. We are overwhelmed at the present time and worse is on the way as I understand from scientists. Let us think about solutions, let us harvest that water. So much has been done from the biblical days. The Big Flood was one of them. We can find solutions.

With that the House is adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:54 UNTIL 2011.03.30 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
30 MARCH 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

MEMBERS NOMINATED TO STANDING COMMITTEES

HON SPEAKER: I have been informed by the RDP that the following Members have been nominated to serve on the Parliamentary Standing Committees and Friendship Groups as follows:

Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security:

Honourable Anton Von Wietersheim replaces Honourable Hidipo Hamutenya.

Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration:

Additional Member – Honourable Hinananye Kandy Nehova.

Standing Committee on Women and Gender:

Honourable Heiko Lucks.

Friendship Groups:

Franco-Namibian: Honourable Hidipo Hamutenya and Honourable Anton Von Wietersheim.

China-Namibian: Honourable Steve Bezuidenhoudt and Honourable Jesaya Nyamu.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

Kuwait-Namibian: Honourable Jesaya Nyamu and Honourable Agnes Limbo.

Spain-Namibian: Honourable Steve Bezuidenhout and Honourable Anton Von Wietersheim.

USA-Namibian: Honourable Jesaya Nyamu, Honourable Agnes Limbo and Honourable Heiko Lucks.

Venezuela-Namibian: Honourable Hinananye Kandy Nehova and Honourable Peter Nangolo.

In terms of Rule 38(6) of the Standing Rules and Orders, I now declare these Members as duly appointed Members of the said Committees with immediate effect.

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

1. Diamond Valuation Fund for the Financial Year ended 31 December 2008; and
 2. Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development Build-Together Programme for the Financial Years that ended 2006 and 2008.
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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

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

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 16:

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on the 7th of April 2011, I shall ask the Minister of Works and Transport the following:

1. It is an untenable fact that rains bring fortune and destruction. When will the Ministry of Works and Transport employ thousands of road workers to repair the dislocated bridges, potholes and cut tall grass alongside the Namibian roads for safety reasons?
2. Is the Minister informed about the terrible situation on the road between Okahandja and Okondjatu? Will the Minister alleviate these problems?
3. Is it not high time now that hundreds of unemployed Namibians are employed? It is needed to initiate a project countrywide that will repair roads and cut tall grass.

QUESTION 17:

HON MOONGO: I further give Notice that on Thursday, the 7th of April 2011, I shall ask the Minister of Health and Social Services:

1. It is a fact that the Ministry of Health and Social Services gets the second lion's share in the 2011/2012 national Budget. Are there still other excuses not to consider the Community Health Counsellors?

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON ESAU

2. Is it true that the role played by the Community Health Counsellors in the Ministry of Health is to be counted because it is vital and effective? If yes, is it the right time to improve the working conditions with benefits, such as salaries, pensions, medical aid and social security and bonuses?
3. What is the good reason that Community Health Counsellors are working fulltime, full month, while they are regarded as temporary volunteers?
4. Can the Minister explain as to why the Community Counsellors are underpaid with only N\$2,220 while they have big families to maintain?
5. Is the Minister aware that it is a risk to serve people affected by communicable diseases, such as TB, people living with HIV/AIDS, while underpaid?
6. When are the experienced Counsellors going to be permanently employed?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Honourable Bernard Esau.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:
Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. As the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, I would like to inform this august House about the misleading article that appeared in the *Namibian* newspaper today. The article deliberately fails to reflect the factual picture of our hake sector. Moreover, the number of workers, as stated in

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HON ESAU**

today's article of the *Namibian*, which reflects ten thousand workers in the hake fishing sector is not correct.

I would like to provide a brief background to the situation that prevailed in the hake fishery before the article appeared in today's *Namibian*.

The Hake Association, which represents the right holders, requested me to consider an additional Total Allowable Catch (TAC) OF 21,000 metric tons during this current fishing season which ends the end of April. The reasons for the request were based on negative impact of the exchange rates, hake prices and other costs. At that stage the fishery had an uncaught quota of 36,000 metric tons. Also, 3,000 metric tons were converted from wet to freezer to assist the hake fishery for any detrimental impact on their businesses. For this current season which ends April this year, the Total Allowable Catch was set at 140,000 metric tons, of which 135,000 metric tons were allocated in respect of the Hake Fishery.

The Hake Association requested for an additional Total Allowable Catch That request was tabled together with an additional Total Allowable Catch for monk to the Marine Resources Advisory Council in terms of the Marine Resources Act of 2000.

Upon the recommendation of the Marine Resource Advisory Council, the matter was referred to Cabinet for consideration. Following Cabinet directives, I personally held consultations with the right holders in both hake and monk species from the 17th to the 18th of March in Walvis Bay. The purpose of the consultations was to ascertain from right holders collectively and individually their position in relation to the request for the additional quota. The conclusion of the consultations was that some of the right holders still had uncaught quotas for the season. Secondly, it transpired that the additional Total Allowable Catch requested was to offset the over-catches by some right holders for the current fishing season and that is unethical, to me personally. Thirdly, not all the right holders were consulted as to the need to apply for the additional Total Allowable Catch of 21,000 metric tons as requested and portrayed by the Hake Association.

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I would like to make it very clear that during the 2009/2010 fishing season an additional Total Allowable Catch was allowed as a once-off measure of assistance to the hake fishery. This does not imply the creation of a precedent. In my inaugural address to the fishing industry, in particular to the hake fishery, I made it very clear that right holders must respect the Ministry's policy that provides for right holders to spread their catches over the entire fishing season and not catch the allocated quota once. However, due to the improved catch rates, right holders tend to catch more fish in a shorter period than they should, therefore deliberately violating the policy of the Ministry with regard to spreading their catches over the entire fishing season.

With reference to the allegation that the reasons which I have stated in my letter to the hake right holders is not clear; I must point out to the contrary. In fact, the reasons given in that letter is a direct consequence of our consultations which I have mentioned earlier on. To this end, there is no scientific support to grant an additional quota of 21,000 metric tons.

Let me address the issue of workers, as mentioned in the article. The official employment figures in the hake fishery stand at 8,956 as opposed to the 10,000 mentioned in the Namibian media. It is not my intention to have workers go without wages. It is the fundamental responsibility of the right holders to ensure proper planning and spreading of catches, as mentioned earlier, through the end of the fishing season. In the event of failure to do so, it is unacceptable for right holders to use workers to bargain for additional quotas, whereas the bulk of the entire salary complement is spent on the remuneration of managers. We have those figures where the bulk of the salaries are going to. It is not going to the workers; it is going to the managers.

I also want to state at this juncture that if you have really caught your quota before the end of the fishing season, then you must have generated the necessary income to sustain the operations, the workers included, for the rest of the fishing season. Why do they now want to put the workers on the street?

It is worth noting that in the light of recent calling for fishing rights, some

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HON NGHIDINWA**

existing right holders might feel insecure with possible new entrants and, therefore, attempt to create confusion with the Namibian people, but that resource belongs to all of us and must be shared.

Finally, Comrade Speaker, this morning I received some letters from hake right holders, confirming that the chairperson of the Hake Association did not consult them on the issues appearing in the *Namibian*. They are therefore distancing themselves from the article. I also have other letters which confirm that none of their employees have been laid off. There is no intention to do so or that the hake fishery will shut down. Some right holders have categorically stated that they have accepted and, therefore, respect my decision not to grant additional quota for the current season as the new season is starting only four weeks from now.

Let me assure this august House of the responsibility entrusted upon me and my commitment thereof and I shall continue to serve the Government and the people of Namibia to the best of my ability. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for the very important clarification in response to what the daily has reported. Any further Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:
Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to respond to the article in the *Daily Sun* newspaper of today.

Comrade Speaker, in 2006 the *Demographic Health Survey*, published by the Ministry of Health and Social Services, revealed that only 67,1% of all children in Namibia below five years old have their births registered.

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HON NGHIDINWA**

The lowest percentage of registered births is in the northern rural Regions, with only 49% of children being registered in Kavango and the highest percentage in Karas of 96.1%.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration addressed this by revising the strategy on birth registration. A three-pronged, multi-sectoral strategy with particular focus on accessibility was adopted in 2007/2008 after the survey.

Opening of sub-regional offices in rural areas: Since 2007, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has opened 22 sub-regional offices across the country, many of which are situated in rural areas. Many of the sub-regional offices have set up local partnerships with the local clinics and hospitals. Upon request, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration will visit the hospitals or clinics to register newborn babies where there are no hospital-based facilities for registration of births.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has since 2008 opened hospital-based facilities to reach mothers directly after birth. We signed an Inter-Ministerial agreement with the Ministry of Health and Social Services to open hospital-based birth registration facilities at all the largest hospitals in Namibia with support from UNICEF. The Katutura State Hospital facility was the first one to be piloted towards the end of 2008. Today, nineteen birth registration facilities are fully operational across the country and another fifteen will be opened soon.

The Ministry is also cooperating with the councillors of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government in order to register the communities at constituency level where we do not have sub-regional offices and hospital-based facilities. Mobile campaigns complement the registration points to ensure that the Ministry also reaches children and families in rural areas. In 2007, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration purchased ten mobile registration trucks at a cost of N\$11 million and over 18,000 children were registered countrywide. In 2009, over 21,000 children were registered. In 2010 the Ministry could not conduct its mobile birth registration campaign due to financial constraints, because the cost of sending staff out is very high.

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The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has had great success with improving access to birth registration and establishing hospital-based facilities. About 25 000 children were registered at hospitals in 2010. In eleven Regions there has been a considerable increase in timely registration. The Khomas, Karas and Erongo Regions have registered more than 85 percent timely. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration expects that the number will increase dramatically in 2011, as many of hospital-based facilities will open during the course of this year. Central Hospital and Grootfontein are expected to open soon.

However, the problem of children who are not given names by the fathers in time is the biggest challenge faced by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration in order to register the babies within six weeks after birth.

The high level of late registration is being addressed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Services. Discussions have started on how to integrate birth registration information into antenatal, care and postnatal care to ensure that the mothers understand the importance of birth registration and which documents they must bring to the hospital when giving birth. In Namibia, 92% of all women attend one or more of the antenatal or post-natal sessions.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is also strengthening its partnership with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to reach orphans and vulnerable children.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has also strengthened its partnership with the Central Statistics Bureau with regard to measuring the number of children registered. The National Census, which will be conducted in August 2011, will include questions on number of registered and unregistered children by age. This will give the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration important indicators on the state of birth registration in Namibia and not as the *Daily Sun* reported today.

The birth registration rate is increasing. From 2008 to 2010 it went up from 44,809 to 65,405 children registered. The improved access is also reflected in the enlarged numbers of orphans that today receive grants.

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HON KAMWI**

Late registration, in particular, is still a challenge for the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. This challenge is being addressed, however, we are aware that the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration continuously needs to review and revise its strategy on universal birth registration.

Attached are some statistics for your information on how many births were registered per hospital and how many birth certificates issued during the period from 1990 to 2010 per Region, which is altogether 1,810,114. I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister for her Ministerial Statement. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING
APPROPRIATION BILL**

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on the 29th of March 2011, the Question before the Assembly was Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any further discussion?

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much indeed, Honourable Speaker, for giving me the Floor.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, there are reasons to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her Deputy, the Director General of the National Planning Commission and their entire team for an expansionary Budget that accelerates Namibia's effort to fight poverty, create employment, generate sustainable economic growth and social development.

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The Budget allocation of N\$3,332,615,000 to the Ministry of Health and Social Services is 9 percent of the total National Budget and reflects a 22 percent increase on the Budget of the 2010/2011 Financial Year for the Ministry of Health and Social Services. This is most welcome.

A closer look at the composition of the health expenditure reveals that more than 80 percent of the Ministry's Budget goes into current expenditure. In this regard, I am happy that capital development expenditure has been increasing, rising from 7 percent 2007 to 17 percent of total expenditure in the current Budget. This suggests that the Ministry has been investing more in health infrastructure, including hospitals, clinics, medications and equipment. I can assure the Nation that if this trend continues, Namibia will not only provide quality health to its people, but the country is likely to become an exporter of world-class medical services to the world.

Indeed, I am immensely grateful for this allocation, especially for the additional allocation for the procurement of pharmaceuticals, namely ARVs, procurement of condoms, funding for the malaria elimination programme and the funds for the regarding of medical officers. These commendable measures will address funding gaps resulting from the implementation of the National Strategic Framework on HIV/AIDS, 2010/2011-2015/2016 and thus accelerate the Ministry's progress in achieving development goals over short, medium and long term.

However, I will continue pleading for some more financial assistance to the health sector during the coming financial years in order to reach at least 15% of the National Budget in terms of the Abuja Declaration, to which Namibia is a signatory.

This will enable the Ministry to address the continuous enormous challenges of HIV/AIDS, TB, maternal and child health and strengthen the health system for improved health service delivery.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, permit me to share with you some information on the challenges and progress being made in the health sector as a result of the continued financial support provided by the

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Honourable Minister of Finance.

The revision of the Antiretroviral Guidelines has led to the increase in CD4 count treatment threshold eligibility from 200 to 350 in line with the World Health Organisation guidelines. This is a highly commendable achievement. The revised prevention of mother-to-child transmission regimen has increased the number of patients in need of HIV care services. As a result, this will impact on infrastructure and increase the cost of delivery of health services.

The recently released National Health Accounts Report of 2008/2009 to 2009/2010 provided us with relevant information on how our health systems are financed and where the money comes from. The Report provides clear indication that Government needs to address the issue of sustainable financing in the health sector. For example, Government funding is approximately 50% of the total resource needs for HIV/AIDS despite the additional allocation in the 2011/2012 -2013/2014 Medium Term Expenditure Framework. Most of the external resources for HIV/AIDS come from the two main development partners that is the Global Fund in the Fight against AIDS, TB and Malaria and PEPFAR.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, while appreciating the support from these development partners, I wish to caution the serious risk in the event that one of the partners reduces funding significantly. In this regard, there is an urgent need for the development of a financial sustainability strategy for the sake of those whose lives are dependent on life-saving drugs.

Access to antiretroviral therapy continues to expand at a rapid pace. Of the estimated 95,000 people in need of treatment during 2008/2009 in Namibia, 80% were enrolled into treatment and care by the end of December 2010.

During the same period, approximately 85,957 people were receiving ARVs, which means that more than 85 percent of adult Namibians who are eligible for the treatment that is in line with CD4 350, and almost 100% of eligible children now receive antiretroviral therapy in this country.

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This is by far the highest in the Region.

On the other hand TB still remains a serious threat to the Namibian people due to case notification rates which are among the highest in the world. Additionally, there is a high TB/HIV co-infection rate, with around 60% of TB patients being HIV positive. In addition, there is a significant human resource challenge, especially at district level, which is partly due to staff attrition. This precludes focused capacity-building leading to the need for continued training as well as challenges related to quality of data.

To make matters worse, Namibia has also reported relatively high numbers of cases of Multi Drug Resistance, commonly known as MDR-TB. For example, during 2010 we reported 204 cases of MDR and eight cases of Extensively Drug Resistant XDR-TB. This is compounded by the limited infrastructure for isolation of Drug Resistant-TB cases as well as the inability to monitor TB drug resistance in the laboratory.

There is also a need to reduce defaulting of TB patients and improve adherence of people on AIDS medication through improved community-based health care. This is very important to ensure that Namibia can afford and our patients can continue using affordable medicines in the long run. But defaulting and non-adherence is a huge challenge within our communities. Just imagine the impact of the current flood situation in the northern part of the country. To address this, my Ministry is now actively engaged in planning for the introduction of community-based extension workers and community health assistants. Meanwhile, following these floods we have decided to supply a two-month course of ARVs so that it may assist those who are trapped by the floods.

This initiative is in line with NDP3, the new World Health Organisation Primary Health Care Strategy for Africa, as well as the 2009 SWAPO Party Election Manifesto. Given that we are looking at a cadre of people who do not require post-school training, the rapid introduction of this cadre can also support Government's Employment and Growth

Programme, while at the same time reducing poverty at the community and household level by improving the health of families and especially

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enhancing health education, health promotion and the prevention of diseases.

On a positive note, Comrade Speaker, the treatment success rate has improved from 83 percent during 2008 to 85 percent by the end of 2009. This means we now meet with the World Health Organisation requirements, although of late it has been raised to 90 percent, but we remain on course. I am also happy to say there is now an increase in the HIV testing for TB patients as more than 75 percent of TB patients knew their status during 2010. Programmatic management of drug-resistant TB is now well-established, with all diagnosed cases being put on treatment.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, while appreciating the financial support from the Global Fund to fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, I note with concern that the management of the funds by the Programme Management Unit were at times not distributed to recipients in terms of the agreement signed between the Principal Recipient and the Global Fund. This agreement stipulates that any envisaged changes in priorities have to be communicated and approved before implementation of such changes. We are currently addressing this unacceptable trend.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, it had been my dream all along to establish private wards in key State hospitals in order to generate revenue and promote public-private partnerships. This will complement our cherished desire to improve the quality of health care services in Namibia. In this regard, I wish to thank His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba for commissioning the newly established private ward at the Oshakati Intermediate Hospital which is comparable to any modern private ward. During the commissioning of this state of the art facility, His Excellency the President directed that we continue establishing private wards in the remaining 34 district and intermediate hospitals in the country. For this to be realised, it calls for maximum support from all Members of this august House to the Honourable Minister's current Budget.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, finally, permit me to share with you food-for-thought in regard to the Global Health Initiative, spearheaded by President Barak Obama, with a vision to tackling

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HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, maternal and child health, nutrition, family planning and reproductive health and seven neglected tropical diseases, including leprosy, in a comprehensive manner, with the

underpinned objective of strengthening of health systems. However, most importantly, in departing from failed business models of the past and ensuring effective, efficient and country-led partnerships, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we will continue to follow developments on this Initiative and make our modest contribution to its success all in the best interest of the Nation.

I support the Appropriation Bill 2011/2012. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. I am both interested and concerned; you put particular emphasis on what seemed to me like a surprise to yourself, the TB and HIV co-infection. What does that mean?

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: The scientists came to know about it in recent times, that there is that inter-relationship. If someone has TB, the chances are 60 percent that he/she may be HIV-positive.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Witbooi.

HON WITBOOI: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to add my voice to congratulate the Minister of Finance, HER Deputy and entire staff for a well-prepared Budget. In the SWAPO Party Manifesto we promised a better and brighter future for all Namibians. This year again the Ministry of Education has received the largest share of the Budget.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to make a few remarks about counselling at schools. Counselling in schools is

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HON WITBOOI**

commendable, given the factors that affect learners' achievements. The four basic areas from where factors can impact either negatively or positively on learner achievements are:

- The community in which the learner grows up;
- The home of the learner where education starts;
- The school which is the secondary education source; and
- The teacher to teach (mainly).

Counselling is an indispensable part of the education of learners, but the following factors hamper the counselling process at schools:

- The teacher counsellor who is responsible for counselling at schools has to teach, which is the primary responsibility of the teacher.
- To be able to teach, a teacher must be in possession of a written preparation, teaching aids and learning aids.
- With the policy on inclusive education, teachers must do learning support in the classroom and in the afternoon as well.

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

HON WITBOOI: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, other factors hampering the counselling process at schools are:

- Another issue which occupies the teachers' time is administrative files, marking of written work of learners, etcetera. I recall the assessment file which one had to work on every day.
- Lack of social workers in many towns who can assist the schools

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with some counselling matters.

The daily activities of a teacher can be categorised percentage-wise as follows:

Planning and preparation	-	10 percent
Teaching	-	50 percent
Administration	-	10 percent
Marking	-	10 percent
Learning support	-	10 percent
Extramural	-	10 percent.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in our societies where violence is prevailing at an unbelievable degree, counselling needs to be done thoroughly and to do this, enough time must be set aside. It is not only violence that is prevailing in our societies, but also other social evils which have a negative influence on our learners in general.

Every year teachers are being trained continuously in counselling and I can remember that the first training is Basic Counselling and then after a year or two, Process of the Counselling and after another year or two, Bereavement Counselling. Government invested so much time and money, but after returning from workshops, teachers are faced by the already existing time-tables and there is no time to apply new knowledge and skills.

Counselling also involves a lot of administrative work, procedures and expectations. For example:

- Referral forms must be completed;
- Activities with learners must be recorded. Each learner must have his own file with his own activities and it involves three, four sessions per learner and it must be recorded;
- Trimester reports must be submitted to the Regional Office;

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HON WITBOOI**

- At the end of each trimester the principal must submit the school's report to the Regional Office. The counselling reports also need to be presented, which means that the counselling set-up in the school must be up to date and I can remember it consists of many forms and even the pamphlets that we receive from UNICEF and UNAIDS have to be recorded because you need this information at the end of the day to compile your report to the Regional Office, which report will assist the principal to compile the report on the school as a whole.

So many children get lost along the way. They become criminals, school drop-outs, etcetera, simply because educators do not give full attention to them.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the teachers are eager and willing to do counselling, but the only problem is that time does not allow. Quality education will never be achieved with overloaded teachers and overcrowded classrooms. I have asked for information from a Grade 1 teacher at an Afrikaans and Khoi/Khoi double medium school. The Khoi/Khoi classes consist of 50 with one teacher and I know she is one of the counselling teachers. Of those 50 learners, 23 need learning support. One needs to prepare in the afternoon for the following day and you need to prepare extra activities for those learners who need learning support and you need to visit the houses for follow-up counselling besides marking fifty books.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, there is a need to appoint an additional teacher per school for counselling purposes only. The teacher should teach life skills, be available for counselling of learners, be responsible for cumulative cards, be the coordinator of learner support groups, be responsible for the Window of Hope programmes at schools, which is a compulsory programme at Government schools and be responsible for girl child and boy child activities.

The appointed teachers can regularly meet in the cluster to discuss challenges of mutual concern and even address parents through the school boards and the school management of the schools.

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

With this, I thank you and I support the Appropriation Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I have a short statement to make on the Budget and let me start off by expressing our sympathy and solidarity with the flood victims in the central north and north-eastern Regions. We are happy to note that Government yesterday did at last declare an emergency situation in those areas. We hope that the floods will not become worse and destroy further properties and take the lives of our people.

Coming to the Budget, I would like to start off by talking about the Budget process. The Budget process in Namibia is described generally as being open and transparent to a great extent, but still we feel that more consultations should take place on the Budget with the various stakeholders. People from this side of the House should be known in the Budget-making process, even to be informed and not to be surprised on the Floor by the figures.

We are of the belief that we as a Nation should consult and have a dialogue on the Budget. Of course, we do know the priorities of the Majority Party, but surely an input would be appreciated, would add value to the Budget if people are consulted so that we can also make suggestions as to what priority items need to be taken into account. I call on the Minister of Finance that in future we should have an all-inclusive Budget, even just to give an ear to leaders from the Opposition, so that they can be taken into confidence as nationals of the country and to see what contribution we can make. Coming here and talking about the Budget figures here, quarrelling across the Floor does not help us; therefore behind-the-scene negotiations on the Budget would enable us to make a better input to the Budget process.

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HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, it is a good proposal, but we must not forget one thing, sixty people died in the North and I ask the Speaker to say something in order that we give the respect we ought to. Sixty people died in that flood and, therefore, we cannot just be silent and carry on with our normal work as usual.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Our condolences go to those ones who have lost loved ones.

The next point I want to talk about around the Budget is Government's accountability. It is good that we have a Report like this laid on the Table of the House for us to evaluate the performance of Government and Ministries, Agencies and Offices, but the format of this Report to me seems to be a Report put on the Table for the sake of trying to win political points. I would like to see an Accountability Report which is done not by the Ministries themselves, but by a person who can do a proper performance management audit, who would be able to say whether the Ministry is performing properly or not. As it stands now it is like a teacher evaluating himself that, "I am teaching very well." We need to have a system where somebody from outside comes to the Ministry to say whether the Ministry is really meeting its target or not. That would give us a better picture of whether the Ministries are meeting their targets or not.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: May I ask Honourable Shixwameni a question? Honourable Shixwameni, you are alleging that it is wrong for the Ministries to draft their own Budgets, because in a school you need somebody else otherwise the teacher will appraise him or herself. Are you not aware that at school level there are ordinary teachers, there are Heads of Departments, Deputy Principals and Principals and all these people ensure what needs to be done is being done. The same goes for the Ministries. There are Directorates with Deputy Directors, Directors, and then you have the Permanent Secretary, then you have the Deputy Minister and the Minister.

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HON SPEAKER: I do not think you are responding to what the Honourable Member was saying. I do not think the education example is relevant. The Honourable Member spoke on broad-based consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker, he said what we are doing is like a teacher evaluating him or herself. That is why I am saying there are checks and balances within the Ministries just like in the schools.

HON SHIXWAMENI: All I am saying is that somebody needs to evaluate somebody and it is always good to have an independent evaluator.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, I think Honourable Shixwameni is right in a way; we do not bring politics into national issues. There are national issues where you cannot bring your own political activity needs.

HON SHIXWAMENI: My brother who has been in the profession himself would understand that teachers are evaluated by inspectors. Somebody needs to evaluate somebody that would be the best performance evaluation system than allowing the person to evaluate himself.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, I take note of what the Honourable Member is saying, but in terms of our laws, including the Namibian Constitution, performance audits are performed by the Auditor-General and those Reports are tabled in this House. Therefore, to suggest another one would be duplication and a waste of resources.

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HON SHIXWAMENI: Yes, Honourable Member can have his own opinion but I must indicate that these Reports are financial audit reports.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Shixwameni a question? What is the total Development Budget of Kavango Region in this Budget?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I do not know why you are asking specifically for the Kavango Region because I do not represent the Kavango Region here. You have a Governor appointed there and he is the one who represents Central Government, but I know about the quotas, I will talk about it when we come to the specific Ministerial Votes.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member is in this House to do two things, ask questions and propose Motions and do oversight. If you do not even know the figure of the Development Budget of your Region, how do you evaluate?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I do not want to carry on a dialogue with the Right Honourable Prime Minister, but I know the figures at the tips of my fingers. The Honourable Prime Minister is now trying to detract me from my statement and he is trying to make it an ethnic Vote. (Interjection). I do not disown the Region, I represent Namibians and that include the people from the Kavango. I represent the totality of the whole territory of the Republic of Namibia and not a specific Region and I think it is malicious, if not ethnic, for the Right Honourable Prime Minister to insist that I cite the figure for a specific Region. Ask me what is the Budget for the Oshikoto Region and I will be able to tell you.

The next issue that I want to address is the Targeted Intervention Programme for Economic Growth and Economic Empowerment. This programme is long overdue, referring to the unemployment rate of more than 51 percent in this country. Our wish and hope from the APP is that

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we would move as fast as possible as a Nation into implementing this programme over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, but I want to caution that we should not recycle beneficiaries, because there is this whole issue that is called Black Economic Empowerment. It is the same people who benefit from tenders, the same people who benefit time and again from Government projects. It is time that we put some of these people on the blacklist. Government cannot be the golden pot of a few Namibian individuals.

It is high time for Government and for the Tender Board to ensure that the benefits that would accrue from the implementation of projects from TIPEEG do not benefit the recycled beneficiaries.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Is the Honourable Member saying we should not continue to implement the Green Scheme in Kavango Region?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I will not answer that because I do not know why the Right Honourable Prime Minister is insisting on the Kavango Region. Of course, I would like to see that the Green Scheme is implemented throughout Namibia and that it benefits the Nation, that food security is ensured and that we are self-sufficient in food. Of course, the Kavango, being one of the areas where we can produce more food, needs to receive more attention.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Shixwameni, do you think that some of these questions are maybe meant for family business relationship or something like that?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I was saying that there are people who right from the day of Independence specialised in the capturing of tenders and it is the same people who get tenders from Government. These

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“Tenderpreneurs” need to be looked at properly, that we share the cake that comes from TIPEEG that other beneficiaries be brought in to benefit from TIPEEG projects, particularly in the construction industry, in the tourism industry and in the agriculture sector.

HON NYAMU: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, are you aware of the fact that the Prime Minister is of the same view as yourself in respect of those people who are benefiting from the tenders. Therefore he does not believe in the so-called Black Empowerment. Are you aware of that?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I am fully aware of that. I looked at his Manifesto when he was running for president that he articulated some of those issues and those are the issues that we need to emphasise, those are the issues that we need to underline. We need to send a clear message out there that we cannot have a handful of people benefiting from Government projects.

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Honourable Member, now that you referred to the Right Honourable Prime Minister’s view on BEE, what is your view on the broad-based economic development as opposed to BEE? What is your personal view on that?

HON SHIXWAMENI: Ours is simple and straightforward, we shared these views with the Right Honourable Prime Minister and that is that Namibians should benefit. The Black Economic Empowerment concept has been hijacked and it should probably now be brought to an end so that we are able to empower communities to benefit from what the State is able to offer. That will empower all Namibians who can take hands with one another, not only blacks for being black, but Namibians whether white, black or whatever. They should all get together, find

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businesses in partnership and grow the economy, but communities need to be targeted.

The next point I want to talk about is education. I congratulate the Minister for the initiatives that he and his Deputy Minister are taking in advancing the cause of education, but the situation needs the attention...

HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, I would like to ask the Honourable Member a question. You talked about Black Empowerment and you said it should be applicable to whites and as we know, some people were left behind because they were white or black.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I think twenty-one years after Independence I do not want to look at things, whether social or economic issues, in terms of black and white. I want us to look at it in terms of Namibia, how do us as a Nation, made up of both black and whites, take our Nation forward and if we can unite on the political front, I still believe that we can unite on the economic front. We can do much better as Namibians of all races, of all ethnic groups, or all tribes, taking one another and pulling ahead instead of looking at it as a black or white issue. I think with that I rest my case on the economic front. What we need to strive for is economic independence for all Namibians and for all Namibians to be empowered.

I said there are many problems we are still facing in our education. We have a situation where some learners are taught under trees and I think that situation is unacceptable 21 years after Independence. In 1999 the Founding President, Dr Sam Nujoma, commissioned a Presidential Commission on Education. Already in 1999 this Report warned of the impending catastrophe in education if we did not act. We left it ten years late for us to realise that the education system is in shambles.

Welcoming the efforts that are being made by the Government, I think it is time that we act and implement the measures which are recommended. We must file reports and let them gather dust, because, one, we waste money on commissions of inquiries and secondly, when professionals and

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experts recommend something, we decide to sit on it. That is unacceptable for the taxpayers and for this Nation. However, I commend the Government for the current efforts and I hope that each and every one of us will be able to make a contribution in order to correct the wrongs in education.

HON NYAMU: Honourable Speaker, may I ask my Colleague a question? Honourable Shixwameni, I am sure you have, as I did, witnessed that the new Minister of Education has been working very hard, in fact too hard for his own good. He is reported every evening on television, visiting schools, inspecting broken pipes at schools, trying to fix electricity where it is not working, participating in the construction of schools as if he has no staff. It is said that wars are not won by generals, but by the foot soldiers on the ground. What is our Minister trying to prove by being everywhere all the time, even inspecting things which have to do with medical practitioners? Is this a campaign for the improvement of the programme or a campaign for some office?

HON SHIXWAMENI: Well, I hope he does not overwork himself that he collapses one day. I can only wish him good health, but that is what all Ministers should be doing. We should encourage that all Ministers, not only Manneljie and his Deputy, should be hands-on. (Interjection). The Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry is also trying his best when I look at the scores that you got. It is an ethic that we should encourage in Government that Ministers should adopt a hands-on approach that Ministers should go all around the country, making sure that the Civil Servants are doing what needs to be done.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask my younger brother a question? Comrade Shixwameni, let me just say that once a Comrade, always a Comrade. For instance, a car is stuck in the mud and all of us, including you and Honourable Nyamu, are pushing the car, when the two of you jump out and stand at the side, saying, “do this, do not push

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this one.” Who is trying to solve the problem? You were part of the team to solve the problem. We have a problem, the two of you jumped, went there and one of you were a Permanent Secretary, even defending the Budget. As a Permanent Secretary this was your work, now you are saying the Minister of Finance should have done this. Can you solve the problem by being outside or being inside?

HON SHIXWAMENI: My loyalty is first and foremost to Namibia. I do not owe loyalty to individuals; neither do I owe loyalty to institutions. I hope this car is not the SWAPO car that is stuck. We must be part of team Namibia and this Team Namibia must have its own diversity, political, ideological, cultural diversity.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: This is a very important question. You say you do not have loyalty to institutions. Do you know that Parliament is an institution?

HON SHIXWAMENI: Let it be understood like this, if I decide today, just as I decided more than eleven years ago that I am moving out of SWAPO because I am not happy, I would move on. Institutions should live on even if individuals depart and that should be the principle of belonging. There will always be Parties, but individuals can always move on.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I ask a small question. If I go to the Okahandja Park informal settlement, people are confused by you. They say Shixwameni is SWAPO, because he recruited me, others are saying no, he is not SWAPO, he is CoD, he recruited me into the CoD. Then the other one says no, he is not CoD, he is AAP... (Laughter). Is it AAP or PPA? I do not know which one. They are confused, the other one says he is an AAP, no he is CoD, no he is

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SWAPO. Where is your loyalty now, the people are in three groups with every election.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I think you are making a mockery of a very serious Budget Debate.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I think the Minister is confusing himself.

HON SPEAKER: I know that jokes and clever sayings are also allowed in Parliament, but I think it is enough, let us concentrate on the Budget.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Comrade Speaker, I think we need to pull our education system out of the mud to make it an education that is excellent for our children. Making it excellent would require that even we as leaders should feel comfortable to send our own children to these public schools otherwise we will be cheating ourselves, that we as leaders do not have confidence and trust in the system, we send our people abroad and to private schools, but we want other people's children to attend this educational system. All efforts are to be made by Government to correct what has gone wrong over the past 21 years in education.

To this I add the issue of skills shortage. I hear the private sector complaining about a skills shortage and even Government is admitting that there is a skills shortage. I would urge the Minister of Education that we as a Nation we should be able to resolve to make university education free so that we create the necessary critical mass of skilled and educated people to take our country forward. We would not be able to address the skills shortage until such time that we make education free in this country, both vocational, university, polytechnic and all these kinds of things. The important thing that we need to emphasise is that until we make that critical decision, we shall not be advancing the base and the level that we want to move to.

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HON MAAMBERUA: May I ask my Colleague a small question? Is Honourable Shixwameni aware that Namibia can actually afford to abolish the student fees at the University of Namibia, the Polytechnic and all the tertiary institutions so that education at that level can be free? Are you aware of that?

HON SHIXWAMENI: Yes, indeed, I am fully aware of that, we have done some calculations and we believe that Namibia indeed can do it. If Tanzania and other countries did it, why can we not? We can afford it, it is a question of taking bold decisions and it is a question of having the political will to take that bold decision to the benefit of our country. We owe it to ourselves, our children and our grandchildren for them to benefit.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? You are a president-in-waiting and when your time comes, would you really encourage even rich people to be dependent on Government for the sake of giving free things?

HON SHIXWAMENI: We in the APP believe that we need a developmental State; we need a State that takes care of the vulnerable in our society. The millionaires, for your own information, do not send their kids to these public schools; neither do they send their kids to UNAM or to the Polytechnic. The filthy rich, the “tenderpreneurs” send their children abroad. They even get treatment abroad; they do not go to these failing hospitals around here. Therefore, the millionaires have taken care of themselves, what we need to do is to take care of the most weak in our society and the people who attend UNAM, the Polytechnic and the vocational training colleges are from poor families, the people that vote for us, that vote for you. It is imperative that we act in the best interest of the electorate and we would be doing ourselves as a country the greatest favour by making education free.

The other issue that I want to mention in relation to education is the indebtedness of students. What is happening with this Students Financing

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Scheme is that before a student graduates he is already in debt. He might not even be able to get employment, but by the time that he graduates he is already indebted. What kind of Nation are we creating with people who are already in debt before they even start working? I think something needs to be done and that is where we are calling for free tertiary education to be implemented in this country.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: May I ask a question? Honourable Member, I assume that you are saying your Party has done a survey on the affordability of free education. For the sake of information, would you be able to give the amounts involved and also the means to sustain that?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I thought my Colleague and former Secretary General of the Namibia National Students Organisation would in fact be able to answer that question himself. Before Independence we were saying we will implement free education in Namibia. For your own information, the 1989 SWAPO Election Manifesto. (Interjections). Right Honourable Prime Minister, encourage your fellow Colleagues to read, they must have a culture of reading and researching.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Shixwameni, you have there the SWAPO Manifesto. You are saying that there was something on free education in the 1989 Manifesto. Can you read that paragraph, please, so that some of us can go and do research?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I thought the Honourable Member is supposed to have your own copy and you are supposed to study it as a loyal cadre. Now you want me to read for you. I hope you are not a hibernator.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. Free education is mentioned in the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia and the manifesto the Honourable Member is referring to is saying exactly the same thing that is in the Constitution. However, maybe you do not understand that it is free education from Grade 1 to 12. The learners do not pay fees to the Government; they only sustain the development funds. You are talking about something that we have been saying twenty years ago, but things have changed. Can you just tell me, if you say you have conducted a quantitative survey, what were the figures twenty years ago and what are the figures presently and based on how many students if you are talking about free education in all institutions of higher learning in Namibia?

HON SHIXWAMENI: The Honourable Member can come to my office, I can inform you properly and give you the figures, but I must say here that it is a historical pity that the person who was leader of the Students Organisation tells us in this House a story that can only be believed by children in a kindergarten. I would like to challenge you to point out a school where parents are not paying, whether it is called school development fees or whatever. Show me a school in this country, because all that I know is that the fees are on the increase every year.

Whether the Constitution says free primary education, we are saying, let us make education free up to university level and Government can do research and you would be able to come to a figure. It is not impossible.

I went to school in Cuba, a small country without the resources that Namibia has, but they have free education.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Shixwameni, your time is up, you may wrap up in one sentence.

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HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I would say the things that I want to say during the discussions of the various Votes.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Lucks.

HON LUCKS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this esteemed House, I rise today not to oppose the 2011/2012 national Budget, but to constructively criticise and point out areas of concern in the hope that this will contribute to a debate in this House that is purely aimed at addressing the challenges of this Nation to ensure a better tomorrow for all its people.

Let me, first of all, compliment the Minister of Finance and her entire team on one thing: I believe she was extremely brave to table a Budget that I can only describe as drastic. While studying and dissecting both the Appropriation Bill and the Budget speech of the Honourable Minister, my mind was filled with a lot of questions. To some of these questions the answer is self-evident, and some I was able to answer myself and to those questions for which there is no apparent answer, it is my hope that this House will be able to find those answers.

One of the very first questions that came to mind when the Honourable Minister announced an expansionary Budget with the focus on job creation was: Is this the very first time that job creation is a priority for our Government? The answer in this case is self-evident; we all know that this Government has always made job creation a top priority. However, I ask myself then: Why then has the jobless rate over the past 21 years constantly increased to reach the crisis proportions that we have today? I will not attempt to answer that question, but will rather offer a few ideas towards a possible solution.

It is evident that Government alone is not able to address the jobless situation. The Minister as well as other Members of this House rightly said that the Private Sector holds the key to job creation and economic growth in this country. Against this background I find it worrying that the

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role of the private sector in Namibia and the Namibian economy is diminishing. With the amount of money injected into the economy over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, Government's share in the economy will grow to more than 50 percent and the Private Sector will find it increasingly difficult to compete. I did not find much evidence of exactly how Government intends to support and grow the Private Sector. In fact, from previous contributions of Members of this House I got the impression that a lot of animosity towards the Private Sector exists in Government.

Vision 2030 states as one of its objectives that Namibia should become an industrialised Nation. This will not be achieved without entrepreneurship and Namibia simply has too few entrepreneurs.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I know many Small and Medium Enterprise owners and entrepreneurs in this country. None of them started a business in order to break labour laws, mistreat workers or transgress when it comes to paying taxes. All of them do not only want to earn a living but are also glad to provide job opportunities to fellow Namibians. All of them are glad when their businesses grow and they have to employ more people and pay more tax. All of them, however, agree that it is difficult to do business in Namibia and Government should do more to support them. Interventions that are required include lower corporate tax, which will also have the effect of increasing foreign direct investment.

Laws that not only protect employees but also the ones...

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask a question? Honourable Member, I am very sorry to interrupt you, but you made a statement that should be analysed. When you say there is animosity in Government towards the Private Sector, then I would like you to explain this concept of "Private Sector." If I am in Okanguati, am I in the Namibian Private Sector? Can you elaborate, because I think you are much more conversant in this issue?

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HON LUCKS: I am not quite certain; does the Honourable Member mean that the Private Sector in Namibia is a myth or does he mean that the animosity is a myth? As I said, the impression was created from contributions of Members of this House that a lot of animosity exists. An example of this, and I cannot remember who the Member was that made that statement, is that Private Sector does not want to reform, the Private Sector does not want to come to party, the Private Sector is being labelled as something that is contrary to what Government intends to do and that is my impression.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, we accuse the Government, there are white businessmen and it is quite clear, we do accuse them, because most of the entrepreneurs you mentioned are white or all of them. How many names do you have from the black people? You do not have one. (Interjection). If there is one, he is “so-called”.

HON LUCKS: Interventions that are required include lower corporate tax, which will also have the effect of increasing foreign direct investments, laws that do not only protect employees...

HON NYAMU: Honourable Member, you have now spoken about the animosity of our country, our small and beautiful country towards foreign investors. Are you aware of the fact that it takes years, up to even ten years, for a business person to get a work permit in this country? Do you know that we are the only country lagging far behind other African countries where people are even given work permits before they start putting up a business? This is xenophobia, economic xenophobia. We are lagging behind in facilitating investors and do you know that when you ask one Ministry, it will put the blame on the other Ministry. Now you do not know which Ministry is in charge of work permits.

HON LUCKS: Yes, my senior Comrade, I am acutely aware of all of that.

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HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: On a Point of Information. Yes, I am now the Minister of Trade and Industry and I was shocked by what I found there. We are clearing up that mess.

HON LUCKS: Continue, it is very encouraging. As I said, laws not only protect employees, but also the ones who risk all their capital, the business owners, and laws that make it faster and easier to register a business in this country.

I recently heard that a country like Macedonia can guarantee that it will not take more than four hours to register a business. We should try to emulate such examples. If we could make Namibia a more attractive place to do business in, where money for development, the money for job creation would come from business and the Private Sector, then Government would not need to have a growing Budget deficit year after year.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, a lot has been said about the Minister's announcement that a 104,000 direct and indirect jobs will be created. I would like to point out that the Honourable Minister in her speech said that a 104,000 jobs will be preserved and created. The question is, exactly how many jobs will be preserved and how many jobs will be created? My suspicion is that not many new jobs will be created as I am not convinced that the vast amount of money to be spent on infrastructure like road, the railway network, tourism facilities, silos, cold storage facilities and houses will achieve the sustainable creation of jobs. A more direct intervention in the form of skills development, subsidies and loans is necessary to achieve real job creation and this not only in the agriculture section, but across the entire Namibian economy.

For too many desperately poor and unemployed Namibians a new road or railway will be meaningless unless they have the skills, abilities and funds to start earning a living. Let us help the poorest of the poor and empower them to become masters of their own destiny.

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I am also worried about the fact that nothing is said about infrastructure that will directly impact our manufacturing capability which is needed to achieve the Vision 2030 of becoming an industrialised Nation.

Honourable Speaker, there has been a lot of heated Debates and controversy also in this august House about our jobless statistics. It is extremely worrying to me that a drastic and far-reaching Budget, a Budget that will so drastically increase Government debt, like the one we are currently discussing, is based on statistics that are three years old. The 52 percent unemployment rate that is currently on everyone's mind is the figure of a survey conducted in 2008. What is the real unemployment situation in the country at this precise moment? We can make an informed guess, but we can simply not be certain.

What is equally worrying is that it will be extremely difficult to measure the effectiveness of the announced Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG). Does this mean that we are aiming into the dark in the hope of hitting a target? The recently introduced Statistics Bill is obviously a big step in the right direction, but I believe this requires much more urgent attention.

Namibia, like other countries, has just emerged from one of the biggest economic downturns in recent history and although we are on the path of discovery, the people of Namibia still struggle with the effects of this global economic crisis today. I was disappointed to notice that no immediate relief in the form of income tax reduction was offered. The people of Namibia are suffering and tax reductions would not only put back some of the hard-earned money in their pockets, it would also immediately stimulate spending and thus, the economy.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: My apologies to interrupt the Honourable Member, but on a Point of Information. Before the Honourable Member became a Member of this House, the SWAPO Party Government zero-rated a number of staple foods, such as bread, sugar, milk; however, because of capitalism those prices kept increasing. Therefore, it would

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not help this Government to zero-rate some of those goods because it will just be super profits for the rich at the expense of the poor.

HON LUCKS: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, one of the most overlooked reactions to time of hardship, like the worldwide economic meltdown, is the reaction of those who are not or only slightly affected. The focus is always on the most vulnerable. It is a well-researched fact that those who are not affected have a tendency to be more caring towards those who suffer the most and I believe the same is true for Namibia. I also believe that we need to amend laws in order to enable churches and other faith-based organisations to receive tax deductible donations that will help alleviate the extreme poverty in our Nation. Churches and faith-based organisations in Namibia are both willing and able to bring immediate relief to thousands of Namibians in need.

In terms of Budget allocations, we as legislators of this Nation must be able to honestly declare that all decisions are for the best benefit of the nation and not to buy loyalty or silent protest of just a small group or groups.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, you spoke about wanting so much that we change our laws to enable the churches to get what? Why can those who are so sympathetic to the Namibians not give such aid through the Government?

HON LUCKS: Honourable Member, I was not talking about foreign aid, I was talking about Namibians, Namibians that care about their fellow Namibians. Businesses that would like to help but they have no channel to do that, businesses that can give a thousand or two thousand or whatever and churches and faith-based organisations that have the infrastructure, that have the heart to help Namibians in need.

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Our integrity on matters of finance will in the long-run determine the success of this Nation as well as the legacy we leave behind. To ensure that an impression is not created that Budget allocations serve limited interest, I would like to add my voice to calls of a broader inclusion of business, political, social and religious interest groups in the budgeting process. This could be achieved through the establishment of a Parliamentary Standing Committee that deals exclusively with the Budget.

I will not go into much detail of the allocations to the different Votes...

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

May I pose a question to Honourable Lucks? On the issue of consultations with different stakeholders in preparing the Budget, something that I personally do not have a principle problem with, but I am looking at the Constitution, Comrade Speaker, and maybe you may also guide us because this Debate is now being taken out of proportion, Article 40(c) details the functions of the Executive. This particular Article states the following: *“The Members of the Cabinet shall have the following functions: (c) to formulate, to explain and to assess for the National Assembly the Budget of the State and its economic development plans and to report to the National Assembly thereon.”* I just want to understand properly, in terms of the consultations, is it my understanding that these consultations will be before the Minister of Finance tables the Budget and the parliamentary committee that you are referring to should now be the one to formulate this Budget and then table it here for the consideration of the National Assembly? I do not understand. When it comes to the functions of the National Assembly it is very clear that the National Assembly’s function is exactly to do what we are doing now and that is to debate the Budget as presented by the Executive and to approve it for implementation.

HON LUCKS: I agree that the Constitution makes all those provisions, however the Constitution does not prohibit consultation. On the point of the standing committee, that is a suggestion and it would probably have to

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go through the right channels, a Bill being introduced in Parliament to be enacted.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask a small question, please? Honourable Member, do you mean that the Executive should consult those people you mentioned before formulating the Budget? Is that what the Honourable Member means? According to the Constitution the Executive must formulate the Budget and then bring it here. Do you mean that after formulation the Executive must consult or is it the National Assembly that must consult? Just make it clear.

HON LUCKS: Yes, what I meant is that the Executive, in the interest of inclusion, consults with all interest groups.

I will not go into much detail of the allocations to the different Votes, but rather highlight a few figures:

Firstly, I am disappointed about the small amount being allocated to the Ministry of Trade and Industry. This sector is vital for economic growth and forms the backbone of Namibia's vision to become an industrialised Nation.

Secondly, the amount allocated to the Police is more than N\$1 billion less than that allocated for Defence. Crime, especially against women and children, as well as corruption is a major challenge for this Nation and I would have hoped that more resources are made available to improve safety and security.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask you a small question? You are worried because the Defence got more than the Police. Are you currently feeling safe in the country or not? If countries can have their warships in the ocean and start firing missiles from there, do you not

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think our Defence should be strengthened to block those missiles? This is a ruthless world, are you sure that Namibia will be peaceful and what deterrent is there for countries to attack Namibia? Compare crime with war initiated by another country, like in Libya today. Is crime more dangerous to Libya or the aggression conducted by NATO?

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: We are not in Libya.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Do you not think Namibia can one also become a second Libya?

HON LUCKS: Honourable Speaker, I do not know of any country that would like to invade Namibia and at this stage the chance of myself being hit by a missile against the chances of myself being robbed and mugged outside, there is really no comparison. To answer your question, do I feel safe? I have electric fencing; I have an alarm system and all those kinds of stuff because of the crime situation. So, no, Honourable Minister, I do not feel safe.

MR DINGARA: Can I ask a small question? The Honourable Member indicated that the Police were supposed to get more funds than the Defence Force. Does he imply that when a Ministry submits its Budget request, the Minister of Finance must give more than what they have requested?

HON LUCKS: It is very difficult for me to answer that question if I do not know what was requested.

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? Honourable Lucks, you were talking about the Police and the Army and

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you used the good example of the fencing off our houses. Do you not think that those who do not see the crime rate in this country are those with Police Officers, security and body guards around them?

MR LUCKS: I fully agree. Finally, I noticed that the amount being made available for Veterans Affairs exceeds N\$1,2 billion, while Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture receives less than half of that amount, of N\$509 million. I believe the youth, the future of our Nation, should receive more from prominence in future Budgets.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask you a question? If we ask those war veterans without legs, eyes or arms to line up in Independence Avenue with their wheelchairs, they are more than five thousand. Those veterans who liberated this country do not have legs; they are being pushed in wheelchairs, a person who sacrificed for you and me to be here. The youth have a future, they can still work, but these are persons in their forties, fifties and sixties. Do you really think a person of sixty who went into exile, left his wife and children behind to fight for you and me so that we can today say whatever we say should not be assisted while he does not even have five dollars in the bank? Must the Government neglect them? Every day we sing their blood waters our freedom.

If you go to the Central Hospital and visit a person who is suffering from cancer, that person will feel the pain, but the visitor will not feel the pain. Please, do not touch anything of the liberation struggle if you are not involved.

HON LUCKS: Honourable Member, I fully agree with you, I did not suggest that veterans should get less; I suggested that the youth should get more. I fully agree with you. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, before I conclude, I would like to comment on some of the contributions made in this House on the 2011/2012 Budget. It grieves me tremendously

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to hear so much divisive language. The Honourable Deputy Minister Kaiyamo in his contribution rightly said that a Member of Parliament is a leader of all the people of Namibia. It puzzles me when I hear Members speaking of a SWAPO Party Government and not of a Namibian Government. I thus stand today to challenge every Member of this House to publicly declare whether they are serving only their Political Party or the entire Namibian Nation. We are all there, not only as elected leaders but as servants of the people of Namibia with only goal in mind, to make this country a better place to live in for all its inhabitants.

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

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2011.03.31 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
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The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

**TABLING: LOCAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT WHITE PAPER**

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I lay upon the Table, the Local and Regional Economic Development White Paper for consideration by this august House.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Report? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions?

**NOMINATION OF MEMBER TO
STANDING COMMITTEES**

I should have informed the House of a communication from the Republican Party with the following information: That Ms Clara Gowases will serve on the following Parliamentary Committees:

- (a) Gender and Family Affairs;
- (b) Human Resources, Social and Economic Development;

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- (c) Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security;
- (d) Standing Rules and Orders and Internal Arrangements; and
- (e) Constitutional and Legal Affairs.

In terms of Rule 38(6) of the Standing Rules and Orders, I now declare the Honourable Member Gowases a duly appointed Member of the said Committees with immediate effect.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING
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HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 30th of March 2011, the Question before the Assembly was Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Lucks had the Floor.

HON LUCKS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. As I was saying, we are all here, not only as elected leaders, but as servants of the people of Namibia with only one goal in mind, to make this country a better place to live in for all its inhabitants.

Allow me to conclude by quoting the Bible, from Proverbs 11:14: *“Without wise leadership a Nation falls. There is safety in having many advisors.”* May God bless every leader in this House with the wisdom to lead our Nation on the path to prosperity? I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. We can always do with guidance and blessings; it is good for the House. Honourable Kasingo.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for giving

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me the Floor to make a short comment on the 2011/2012 Budget as presented by the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the biggest achievement in my mind for the past 21 years is the maintenance of peace, stability and law and order which, as I used to say, are “*condition sine qua non*” for the socio-political and economic development and, indeed, for the respect and protection of our Constitution, the Supreme Law of our country. For the past 21 years we have succeeded to respect our different functions as the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive. For the past 21 years we have respected the Rule of Law, irrespective of how costly it had been. For the past 21 years the SWAPO-led Government succeeded to table the Budgets and we have fulfilled our constitutional obligations to debate on it and pass it. For the past 21 years we were, and still are, being guided by the supremacy of the Constitution, because by-and-large the laws we made were within the Constitution.

The implementation of laws on the part of the Executive is also within the letter and spirit of the Constitution, as well as the Judiciary when interpreting the law. Hence in Namibia we talk of constitutional supremacy. What an achievement! For this we can thank the gallant sons and daughters in uniform who are day and night keeping peace and stability and helping us maintain law and order. Thanks also go to the Namibian citizens’ resilience in respecting the Constitution.

It is against this background of the aforesaid achievements and successes that I would like to thank all the security-related Ministries, meaning the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Safety and Security, the Minister of Justice, Attorney-General, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs as well as the men and women at the helm of the Judiciary. I have no doubt that the money allocated to these institutions will be used to continue to fulfil their noble constitutional obligations.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy to note that a portion of the amount of money allocated for housing will be used for the housing needs of the Police Officers within the Ministry of Safety and

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Security. These men and women need shelter and we know housing is not luxury, it is a necessity. We also have to remind ourselves that the Ministry of Defence as well as the Ministry of Safety and Security have been the biggest employers of our young men and women within Namibia after the private sector has failed to meet the Government halfway.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, having mentioned the aforesaid achievements, we all know that human beings' needs and behaviours are dynamic and not static, hence the dynamic responses to them. Our people are facing many challenges, some of whom should be addressed by coming up with new laws or revising the existing ones. We also have to keep in mind that the colonial master has suppressed us with the types of laws they made. I would therefore like to propose some legislative reforms.

I have praised our Constitution and there is no doubt that our Constitution remains one of the best, thanks to the founding mothers and fathers of this Constitution. As I have stated, the behavioural needs of our people will continue to change and hence there is a need for a body to periodically review the Constitution, which I will call a constitutional commission and anybody can call it by another name, as long as there is a body to review our Constitution every two or five years.

The Honourable Minister of Finance, on page 16 of her Budget speech, has touched on some of the legislative Amendments she has in mind, which she has promised would come to this House soon, amongst them the State Finance Amendment Bill as well as the new Tender Board Bill. I would like to urge that a mechanism be put in the Tender Board Bill to ensure that those companies which win tenders have employed a reasonable number of Namibian citizens across the board. I am saying this because I have seen that some of the citizens who have been benefiting for many years from tenders are only employing members of their extended family. There should be a body in either the Ministry of Finance or Ministry of Labour which would inspect these companies which have won tenders, so that we ensure that everybody is enjoying the cake. (Intervention)

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HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask a small question? Honourable Kasingo, we agree on the division of the cake, but my simple question is, what percentage do you regard as a reasonable number of that cake?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: My message is clear, I am not here to determine the percentage, that is up to the men and women of the Ministry of Finance and the Minister of Finance will probably answer to that.

Let me proceed with some of the legislative Amendments. I have mentioned the Tender Board Bill and I would also welcome the State Finance Amendment Bill which the Honourable Minister has promised to bring here. When an individual owes the Government money, a lot of interest is accumulating, but when the Government owes an individual, no interest accrues. Honestly, to be fair, this State Finance Amendment Bill should also address that scenario. Some of us are paying a lot of money for interest which accumulates daily.

I would also like to touch on the old law on trespassing. All of us have read about incident where Councillor Kilus Nguvauva is involved and this Honourable Member is a hardworking person. His constituency is surrounded by many farms and this law on trespassing is only there to protect the farmers, while we all know that inside those farms there are men and women who have suffered and are still suffering. Before and even after Independence some of them have been killed, being mistaken to be a baboon. I want to appeal to the Minister of Justice to amend this law in order to ensure that the right of passage is allowed, so as to ensure that these people will also enjoy rights as contained in the Constitution. They have the right to be informed of their benefits, they have the right to be organised and to belong to any Political Party.

On the education sector, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, while I recognise the efforts of the founding Ministers and Permanent Secretaries in equalising the education sectors which were divided on the basis of colour and ethnic groups, as well as other subsequent Ministers, I have to applaud the efforts of the current team led by Dr Iyambo. You are doing well. I personally have a lot to learn from you people on the art of

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teamwork, the art of planning and implementation. You are managing humans whose needs are ever-changing. Although you are trying your level best, you are now facing many challenges, amongst them the floods.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, much has been said on the floods and the President has declared an emergency situation in the north and north-east areas. Perhaps there is a need for a national forum, consisting of local engineers and others with related knowledge to deliberate on how this threat could be turned into opportunity and how we can channel this water to where it is needed. This can be done.

Let me come to the strengthening the accountability of the Parliament's Standing Committee system.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, while I recognise the fact that the Parliamentary Committee system has grown from its embryonic stage since 1996 to its adolescence stage, as well as the seriousness and importance on the part of the Executive Branch of State they attach to some reports, we would like to propose some improvements on the Committee system of Parliament.

In Namibia we have the policy of Vision 2030 and I believe that Vision 2030 is not only for the Executive component, but for all the organs of the State to implement, namely the Legislature and the Judiciary and I would like to propose that provision should be made for automatic referral of Bills to the relevant Committees. It has been done in the SADC Region, meaning that before a Bill is debated in the House it is referred to the relevant Committee to consult the grassroots. To ensure that is done, the Committees need to be empowered and equipped with technical qualified personnel, researchers as well as legal drafters. In other democracies legal drafters are assigned to Parliament. Financial resources should also be given within Vision 2030 in terms of mobility, to ensure that the backbenchers carry out their task effectively.

Honourable Speaker, as a country and a Government we have done well in terms of passing laws and ratifying many international instruments.

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However, what we should improve on is the implementation.
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: May I ask a question? I am really following the discussion and I just want to find out whether this Parliament could revisit its Agenda for Change.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know that you are one of the founding members of this document and this document is just gathering dust and I would be happy if you could sensitise those who were not here. You did research on the continent and elsewhere in order to come up with that document and we are stuck while we want to move. We are not doing this for us who are there, some of us will not be here for Vision 2030, and it is for the future generation. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I think this is the first time in my life that someone stood up and told this boss he is not good at all. I thank you for that.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: As I move towards the conclusion of my intervention, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as a citizen of the African continent I will fail in my duty if I do not comment on the attack on Libya, which can call a war of aggression.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me associate myself with those who have condemned the attack on Libya by NATO and the USA. Can you imagine a single country on the African continent being attacked by the most powerful nations on earth? The war in Libya reminds me of the bitter liberation war we have fought. The majority of the Members of Parliament here left this country to fight this liberation war, others remained and during the liberation war some of us could see on a daily basis the French Mirage flying from, by then, undemocratic South Africa to Angola and the target was the destruction of the SWAPO camps. What is happening in Libya is not new to us and we succeeded.

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We succeeded in the liberation struggle led by SWAPO although these Western people who are now in Libya were assisting South Africa.

This attack on Libya also cautions me that once you have an enemy and that enemy wants to shake hands, not to trust that person as he will come in different forms and shapes. NATO comes to us in Africa in different forms and shapes to convince us that the attack on Libya is democratic. They have even changed some of the terminologies. A rebellion is called a civilian-led uprising, a justifiable coup *vis-à-vis* the unjustifiable coup, but a coup is just a coup. When I attended a workshop of the Pan-African Parliament, someone said no, this is a civilian-led uprising.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, apart from the attack on Libya, they came up with the International Criminal Court, just to keep is in perpetual tutelage and this International Criminal Court is just targeting the African leaders and others who are not dancing to their tune. That is why some of us were calling for a revised Rome Statute which established the International Criminal Court. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I put a question to the Honourable Member? Comrade Deputy Speaker, you are mentioning the International Criminal Court targeting Africans. Can you not, when attending international conference, remind them that Africa is now ready to resign as a member of the International Criminal Court?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I have mentioned it somewhere. In my frustration I said America which is attacking us is not part of the ICC. ICC is just there to target some of the African leaders who are not dancing to their tune. Why should we be part of that? Of course, Namibia is democratic; we have ratified the Rome Statute. We can even decide to pull out.

I am saying the acts of aggression should be declared a crime against humanity and fall within the ambit of the ICC, so that some of these

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people can appear before this Court. One can ask the question: Could all this be described as a global democracy dilemma?

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the divide-and-rule policy has deeply penetrated Africa. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY

GENERAL: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Speaker a question? Honourable Deputy Speaker, speaking of double standards, are you aware that our people experienced atrocities and genocide, particularly during the German-Nama/Herero War, and those others who came later received compensation, but because we are Africans we did not get compensation. Are you aware of that?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am aware of that and I will continue to request that our victims of the genocide be compensated.

I was saying that the divide-and-rule policy has deeply penetrated Africa. That is why they succeeded and will continue to succeed to exploit the riches of Africa, unless we stand up and talk with one voice and act together. (Intervention)

HON DINGARA: Honourable Speaker, may I ask a small question to the Deputy Speaker? Did you hear yesterday that Comrade Gaddafi chased and reclaimed several towns from the rebels? The rebels include the United States of America and others. Did you hear that?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I heard that. They can also be called rebels because they are assisting the rebels. (Intervention)

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HON MWANINGANGE: May I put a question? What message would you send to those unpatriotic Namibians and Africans who are supporting the NATO aggression in Libya?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: My response to that is: *Today it is Libya, tomorrow it is you*, because I am sure those people will also line up to be high up. Some of these people do not care. NATO has been sitting with Libya for years, they know this guy is autocratic, they received money from President Gaddafi, but when the rebels started attacking, they said the assets of Gaddafi must be frozen. Where will these assets go? Is it not robbery? (Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, what would you say about the very mysterious silence of the African Union regarding the bombardment of Libya?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I condemn the silence and that is why I say we have a policy of divide and rule in Africa. As long as we remain divided, the people will exploit the riches of Africa. The war in Libya is not against Gaddafi, it is for the oil and Africa is silent. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I would like to ask a small question to the Honourable Member on that very important point that you are making. Do you not think it is double standards for Western countries to say they freeze the personal properties of African leaders when they overthrow them or when they blacklist them, but they steal African wealth and the wealth of other developing nations, like the pumping out of oil of Iraq and the pumping out of oil from Libya, which will follow the fall of Gaddafi? What should happen to the proceeds from the sale of this African and Iraqi oil? Why should that money not be frozen and returned to Africa?

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I agree with you that that is really daylight robbery and we in Africa have to stand up. Our headquarters in Tripoli must sensitise our Head of States to be united. They must not think they are not going to be attacked, tomorrow it is us. (Intervention)

HON MAAMBERUA: May I ask the Honourable Deputy Speaker a small question? Would you agree with me that since we are talking about the Budget and we have raised very serious concerns here about our reparation that is not forthcoming, that we should demonstrate our seriousness in that case by allocating as much resources as possible to assist us to engage the Germans in terms of negotiations and if they are not ready to negotiate, that we use this money to take the German Government to the International Court of Justice?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, it will eventually lead to that. I am one of those people who support the victims of what is called the Herero-Nama genocide to be compensated. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information. When we are talking about genocide in Namibia, we cannot talk about Herero's or the Himba's, we have to talk about all the Namibian people, including Ovambos, Namas, Kavangos, and Caprivians. We cannot talk of one tribe.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Speaker, generally the demand for reparation is justifiable. The nitty-gritty we will negotiate among ourselves. Some of my ancestors assisted the Herero-speaking during the genocide. (Intervention)

HON NEHOVA: Honourable Speaker, may I put a question to the Deputy Speaker? Honourable Speaker, is the Deputy Speaker aware that

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the attacks on Libya have the blessing of the United Nations and also of some very powerful African countries?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whether it has the blessing of the United Nations, who is the United Nations? The United Nations are those people who have power, which consist of America and the Western Five and I have already expressed myself clearly on the division of the African continent and I cannot say more than that. Although it has the blessing of the United Nations, it is the wrong strategy, the problem could have been solved differently. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, I want to find out, how did you feel when you read this article in the *Namibian* this morning that President Museveni of Uganda has offered Gaddafi asylum? How did you feel, because it came as a surprise to me?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not read it, I will come back to you, Honourable Member. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Now because Gaddafi has been offered asylum in Uganda, must all the African leaders be shifted to other countries? Are you prepared to take asylum somewhere else if you are not in a position to defend yourself?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, any volunteer from this House can take the Floor and proceed with the Debate.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to quote from my 2001/2002 Budget speech when I said: “*The regular tabling of Budgets should not only be seen as the fulfilment of the constitutional obligation on the part of the Namibian Government, led by*

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the SWAPO Party, but should also be seen as a true reflection of the democratic values and transparency of the Government. It is a mirror through which unique features and characteristics of the SWAPO Party-led Government could be clearly seen and recognised.”

Thank you, Honourable Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and your team for keeping the mirror clean and holding the torch high. I support the Budget.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I rise to add my voice to the Budget.

Honourable Members of this august House, it is once again time for parliamentarians to debate the 21st National Budget in an Independent Republic of Namibia. Comrade Speaker, tomorrow is the 1st of April and all of us will recall that our Comrades were massacred by the forces of aggression, the imperialists, with the purpose of derailing the implementation of Resolution 435. In spite of that we still say: “*Freedom fight we have won.*” We salute those heroes and heroines of the liberation struggle. The Namibians have spoken, life is continuing as usual from November 2009 Presidential and National Assembly elections and the year 2010 Regional and Local Authority elections. We all know that those who call themselves democrats failed to honour the wish and the will of the Namibian people who voted SWAPO to power. They challenged the outcome of the elections in Court and that is why we say the Namibian people have spoken.

I would like to congratulate President Hifikepunye Pohamba on the 21st anniversary of the Republic of Namibia.

Comrade Speaker, let me thank the Minister of Finance, Saara Nandjila Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, her Deputy, Comrade Calle Schlettwein and the

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Director-General of the National Planning Commission, Comrade Tom Alweendo and their entire staff component.

Education is the best equaliser. A strong education sector which is capable of creating an educated Nation is the backbone of every Nation. Therefore, the biggest chunk of the Budget went to education.

Together with education, the provision of high quality health care services to safeguard the health of our Nation is critical to the success of our socio-economic development strategies. We have seen the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare tabling the recommendations of ILO on HIV/AIDS. The SWAPO Party Government looks after its people when it comes to health and has made provision to procure antiretroviral drugs to provide to those who need it. Immunisation is provided to protect the Namibians from preventable diseases, especially childhood illnesses.

Comrade Speaker, we salute our youth for mobilising their fellow youth, especially the born-frees, to participate in the 2009 Presidential and National Assembly elections as well as in the 2010 Regional and Local Authority elections. That is why we emphasise that education and training should continue to take centre stage in order to prepare our youth as leaders of tomorrow.

Comrade Speaker, the Development Budget also shows the seriousness of the SWAPO Party Government on employment creation.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:20

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, I was saying the Development, Budget shows the seriousness of the Namibian Government towards employment creation. Therefore, provision has been made for N\$9 billion in this Financial Year alone. All of us, namely Governors, Regional and Local Authority Councils, Parastatals and the Private Sector, must ensure that all

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projects in the Regions are fully implemented and that our young people are given employment opportunities.

I want to thank the SWAPO Party Government, especially President Hifikepunye Pohamba, for appointing Governors. Namibia is a unitary State and I am so happy that the Governors will now look after the interests of our people in the Regions, especially Kunene Region. Last year I called upon Chief //Garoëb to call upon his Councillors to employ all Namibian people and now I call upon him as a Chief to show leadership and ask his Councillors to work together with the Governor in order to develop Kunene Region and its people. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: You are calling on Chief //Garoëb to show his leadership, but are you aware that he is the one who moved the education headquarters from Opuwo to Khorixas?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I am well aware of that and I call upon him to show that leadership and to work together with the Governor with the purpose to develop Kunene and its people. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. I did not say the Governors do not have any say, I said everyone must recognise his duty according to the Constitution.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, I want to call on the staff of the Ministry of Finance to check the figures on the Development Programme. The figures per Region do not reflect what is there. If I can give the example of Ohangwena on page 765, the total allocation for the three-year rolling Budget is said to be half a billion, but when you add the three figures, Ohangwena will receive N\$1.9 billion for the development of that

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Region. I just call upon the officials to correct the figures of all Regions. I have them here, but I do not need to bore the House with those figures.

Comrade Speaker, we are always talking about the lack of skills. I always wonder whether Namibia did not have skilled people when it was colonised. If it did, where did these people go? The people working in this country are the same people. They were erecting buildings but we are always saying there are no skills. I call upon our Parastatals, educational institutions to introduce pre-primary skills training of our young people. This is how we were brought up. We came to know how to build silos at school; we came to know how to build these beautiful huts, which is not done today. We need to develop the skills of our people while they are young.

As a country we also need to look for good examples around the world, so that we make sure those technical skills is the core for development. I always use the example of Singapore which is not bigger than Windhoek, but today Singapore is carrying the international economy. Why? Because they changed the way they were running their economy. They were just like us, but today the Singapore dollar is equal to the US Dollar. Here the so-called business people want our country's currency to be devaluated. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, how can we develop skills while all our youngsters are in school at NAMCOL? They are all thrown in NAMCOL. How can we develop skills there?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: This is why I say Honourable //Garoëb must show leadership. You are a leader and you are supposed to show that leadership. NAMCOL is one of the best opportunities which you and I did not have and that are why you ran away from this country. Some of our best lawyers and professors went through NAMCOL and it has the highest pass rate. (Intervention)

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HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, a follow-up question, if NAMCOL is that good, why did Abraham Iyambo now change the scenario by allowing Grade 10 failures to repeat?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: To repeat is not a crime and it was already being done. That is why I always like to say that if you repeat, you learn. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: May I ask a question? Honourable Iilonga, I have listened to you on several occasions and you are always citing Singapore. Are you aware that the very first President of Singapore at independence was a renowned trade unionist and he inculcated that spirit of putting Singapore first in what the Singaporeans would do and also go to the extent of compromising on salary increments because they had a common objective? Are you aware of that?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Yes, I am aware, that is why I always cite Singapore, Malaysia and even the Kingdom of Thailand. In 1994 they were poor just like us and they encouraged their Parastatals to do business. In Malaysia Petronas and another company even penetrated British companies until Margaret Thatcher later came to realise that that is not a private company, it is owned by the people of Malaysia. The purpose with our Parastatals was to develop our country. TransNamib is supposed to build railways and the RCC to be the contractor. Instead they are sub-contracted by private companies.

If we want to overcome these problems, let us embark on skills development of our people. You can have a doctor, but that doctor can only operate in a theatre, but when it comes to their tools and medicine, they do not know how it is manufactured. Therefore, we need to have engineers who can manufacture the equipment.

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Comrade Speaker, expatriates are not permanently in any country, the same as foreign investors. They are only in your country until their interests have been realised. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that our Government should change the current method of issuing bursaries. The only way to create patriotism towards the country is when that person sees that his or her Government did something for him or her. The kids of Honourable Hidipo and others are sent to private schools elsewhere and those people will never love this country. We need to have a fifteen-year period in which we embark on skills development. We determine that this year we need to have so many engineers and they go through those fifteen years. When they reach seven years, they are already mature and then others come in. Those in internship will be there for five or ten years before going outside and then from there you will have a generation of skills. We will never be able to defeat these imperialists, even militarily, because we are not even in the stage where we can produce our own weapons. We depend on them for everything. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information for this House and the public. Comrade Iilonga talked about education starting at home. I have information of mobile Schools, at Okoupaue there is a mobile school, we have boy from NAMCOL, he went to Okoupaue, from Okoupaue he went to Ovinenge, from Ovinenge he went to Omakange, from Omakange to Ruacana and then he went to the Polytechnic. When you start from home and go out, I support you for that and I want to inform the public out there, including Honourable Kaura who said NAMCOL is not a good thing.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: We need to have our own scientists, engineers and technicians in various fields.

As I said, Comrade Speaker, expatriates are not permanent in any country and the same with foreign investors. Therefore we have to ensure that we train people and have programmes to create our own skilled work forces.

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Comrade Speaker, we must remind our workforce that they are categorised... (Intervention)

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, just on a small Point of Information. Honourable Muharukua is my uncle's daughter, but could you ask her not to bring this *tjiramue* business to Parliament?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: We must remind our workforce that they are categorised in several ways by designation, job description, gender, linguistic background, educational qualifications, etcetera, while all these and many others such criteria can be valid and useful for the development of the country. We must also look at some of those generic categories of the people who psychologically make up those skills through practical exercises. The ones building those bridges are not the ones from Valombola or from the Polytechnic, it is those people who learned from the job and I am always saying that these people need to be identified and given a certificate to prove that these persons are qualified.

Therefore, Comrade Speaker, I want our vocational institutions to evaluate this important workforce, because these staff members developed their practical experience through competence and commitment. I said already that the vocational training institutions should do job evaluations because these are important skills which were gained through experience.

Comrade Speaker, I would like to express my best wishes to our Founding Father, the legendary freedom fighter, leader of our revolution and also the President, Hifikepunye Pohamba, for his excellent leadership. He was rated fifth in Africa.

Comrade Speaker, we are speaking on the Budget while a fellow African country is under attack and has no opportunity to discuss their Budget for the implementation of their programmes. I want to join Cde President Hifikepunye Pohamba and Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma as well as the AU Peace Council who made it clear that "*any foreign military invasion in the*

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internal affairs of any African state must be condemned and rejected in the strongest terms.” These are the people we have fought to liberate ourselves, they were here. We should fear them because they come with their bombs. Let us start to prepare ourselves and when they come, the Government will show them. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I ask a question? Some newspapers wrote that Gaddafi has seventeen billion in the USA and now the USA is siding with those fighting against Gaddafi. Will they not keep that money and he ends up having nothing?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, these Western powers are always telling us that they are the champions of democracy, but now they are the ones recognising rebels. They say there must be democratic elections, but now they are recognising rebels. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Iilonga, do you recall that these same countries that are now recognising rebels are the same ones that called the liberation movements in Africa terrorists for rising up against their colonisers? Are those not double standards?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Kuugongelwa-Amathila, it is true, they told us that they are the champions of democracy. Twenty-one years ago I was a terrorist and I am sure that I am still regarded as a terrorist by these Western powers. One can just see it from the manner you are treated at their airports. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I want to ask the Honourable Member a small question. Does he mean that

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those people are not respecting this black skin, they are regarding us that we were all terrorists?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Not really. We have our Comrades who were helping us in the former Socialist countries, such as Yugoslavia. They were humiliated by NATO and they do not care about the skin. However, what is important is that these people are supposed to recognise the Government of Libya with which they have business arrangements. They were pumping in money to get oil from Libya.

HON KAURA: May I ask a question? Honourable Member, what do you call a rebel if he becomes the president of a particular country or a terrorist if he becomes the president of a country? What do you call him, a rebel today, and president tomorrow?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, the Honourable Member is my senior and he knows all those terminologies. He will have the answer. Instead of these people recognising the Libyan Government with which they even have business agreements, they came and twisted the truth. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask you a question? How many countries were overthrown by those who were not happy with their Governments? It is Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Syria and Morocco. Al Qaeda is there, they are well-known, but now we do not know who is who. Whom are we fighting? These people who came to fight do not know who are going to be the new leaders.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: We saw that these people starting twisting the truth by saying they came to Libya to save the lives of Libyan people who are

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being killed by Gaddafi. Until February there was no uprising and even after the uprising there were no civilians being killed. What we are seeing is the civilians armed with heavy and sophisticated anti-aircraft machine guns.

They said they came to save the people in Benghazi from Gaddafi, but now with the bombardment it means that the lives of those civilians who do not find themselves in Benghazi are worthless. People no longer read *Das Kapital* because of the doctrine of the capitalists. Karl Marx said that capitalism will grow and that is what is happening now. (Intervention)

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Is the Honourable Colleague aware that these actions he is ascribing to some Western imperialists are based on a UN Security Council resolution? Is he aware of the voices of the African States involved, as South Africa, who regretted that the Council's previous resolutions had not been heeded and believed that by adopting the current text, which is the new resolution, the Council had acted responsibly to answer the call of Libyan people, people who would also speed humanitarian assistance to those who need it most? Is the Honourable Colleague further aware of the attitude of Nigeria who said that "*this resolution had been necessitated by the persistently grave and dire situation in Libya? The current state of affairs, the Nigerian representative said, leaves an indelible imprint on the conscience and compels us to act*" and I would just like to quote one more, Honourable Speaker, and ask the Honourable Member whether he is aware of the attitude of China which had serious difficulties with the resolution, but it had not blocked the passage of the resolution because it attached great importance to the request of the Arab League and the African Union.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, somebody can think the UN resolution is a solution, but it is not a solution. America who bombarded Libya is the one in control. All those, Canada and others are the ones controlling the UN and, therefore, they only use it to do their hypocritical deeds.

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HON RIRUAKO: Five countries were bombed simultaneously and the Germans destroyed their kith and kin.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Even those voted for the resolution are already regretting. That is why people cannot understand the Americans and British. Look what they did with the Soviet Union. There was a balanced power, is it still there? This is how they always come with that manoeuvre. (Intervention)

HON MAAMBERUA: Comrade Speaker, I have two small questions to ask. I admire your in-depth knowledge of Marxism and my question, therefore, is: Are you still a Socialist? Comrade Iilonga, I agree with everything you said, however what are you suggesting Namibia should do to assist the Libyans?

HON SPEAKER: Before you answer, during Second Reading the Honourable Members say things unrelated to the Budget. That is when we have the General Debate. This is a topic that will stay with us for quite some time and I urge one of you to introduce a Motion. I will take the Floor myself; I am an elected Member, and say a lot of things on the distortions and people who are calling themselves democrats. Africans should be the last people being taught about democracy. Where there is no example of those people who claim to be democratic, evidence speaks for itself, even before the slave trade, ahead of that. Obviously, we should be the last people to be taught. We might not be democratic, but the ones who would want to teach us democracy have no record of being democratic. Nobody prevents you from taking the Floor to speak on this issue as Members of Parliament, but let us not waste all the time on Libya. My views are known publicly on Libya. Let us try to speak as much as possible on the Budget.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, I started with the Budget and then I came to Libya.

Comrade Speaker, you will recall vividly that in 198 you were a happy man and your heart was strengthened when the African leaders showed solidarity at the Ouagadougou Summit when the Libyan people were subjected to sanctions by the imperialists through the UN. They stood together and they defied that resolution on sanctions imposed on Libya. I want to know where that unity of the Africans went. They defied, they said no for sanctions against Libya because Libya is firstly an African State, a member of AU and we need to defend our people.

I am not ashamed that I am a Socialist and I am the only who carries Lenin with me daily. I do not know whether the others are ashamed to say it. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: On a Point of Information. I am also one of those who do not hide that I believe in the Socialist ideology.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, the African leaders came together and adopted a unanimous stance to defy such sanctions and re-engaged Libya as a *bona fide* OAU Member State. Why are the African leaders not now standing together in that unity they have adopted in 1998? Libya is still an African country and an AU Member State. The Secretary-General of the Arab League regrets their stance, because these people will never be truthful. They pretend. They are not honest. When you have sanctions against a country, do you think it is only the leaders who are going to suffer? They are the ones who commit more crimes, but because of their weapons of mass destruction, which they do not want others to possess, they are bullies. They must not forget that they are the ones we fought in Vietnam, here in Namibia; they are the same with their guns.

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Our weakness of Africans in the so-called Third World countries is disunity. We say we are poor, but we are not poor. We have the materials and we do not use it as our means. The people only talk about the British Pound, the US Dollar, but they forget that we have the minerals and that is our wealth. However, our disunity has made us weak. We are supposed to bargain. If they impose sanctions against Libya, why can we not also impose sanctions against them? Where did we go wrong? (Intervention)

HON LUCKS: On a Point of Order. On the Budget programme for today the time allocation is for three more Parties that are supposed to speak today and I notice that one Party has already used up their allocated time.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, in the same summit I mentioned earlier you were proposed as the African candidate for the UN presidency. Where did that unity go? Therefore, we need to applaud our leaders who were united that time and we really want them to regroup and unite themselves.

We need to think deeper, Comrade Speaker, because the imperialists are now coming up with new manoeuvres. Libya has deliberately been turned into a political and military battlefield by the imperialists. Different from Tunisia and Egypt they were killed for peacefully transition. People are killed in Bahrain. Saudi-Arabia sent troops when they said they condemn Iran. People are being killed in Yemen, but they say, no, the President of Yemen is our friend because we are on the same side to fight Al Qaeda. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. I am listening to the speech of the Honourable Deputy Minister, but he is supposed to conclude by saying the Namibian Government wants to send troops to Libya. Do not waste our time.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, I want to conclude by calling on all peace-loving people of the world to stand up and condemn all these imperialist aggressions against the Libyan people and its leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

Comrade Speaker will recall that around the year 2001 Gaddafi's three years old daughter was murdered and it started from the President of America, Ronald Reagan. Is that not a crime? Is this not a man to be taken to the International Criminal Court? That time there was no prior agreement with NATO, no Human Rights Council, or even a Security Council Resolution. When they went and bombed Libya, was there a resolution? (Intervention)

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, by 2001 Reagan was not the President of the United States.

HON SPEAKER: No, he was in the eighties.

HON KAURA: His presidency ended in 1981.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I have the facts; I know what I am saying. Those who killed Gaddafi's daughter were under Reagan.

HON SPEAKER: It was not in 2000, it was in the eighties.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: It was not in 2000, but it was under Reagan.

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Comrade Speaker, this is a clear indication that the imperialists are now on a crusade or mission to re-colonise us through a baptised coup, through what they call mass demonstrations. The Libyan people under the leadership of Muammar Gaddafi have never been poor since 1951 when Libya was regarded as the poorest country in Africa, but there is no Libyan person without a house and three expensive cars. They are going to regret, from February they have started to queue for food. They were told Gaddafi is killing you. Their per capita income is more than that of Britain and now they are going to find themselves in the same situation as Iraq and Afghanistan. There is no Government in Tunisia, just like in Somalia. Do they want to have ungovernable countries?

Therefore, we must really condemn this aggression against African countries. Look how many people lost their income in Libya, be it Libyan or people from neighbouring countries who were employed in Libya? How many millions have no bread on their tables?

Comrade Speaker, we sympathise with the leader of Libya, Muammar Gaddafi. Let him join the spirits of our forefathers, Maharero and Witbooi who, when the German forces invaded Namibia, were saying, “*let us die fighting.*” Let Gaddafi die fighting. I support the Appropriation Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, perhaps it would be wise if I do not say anything now about Libya, the Colleague there has perhaps spoken on behalf of all of us by taking so long on dealing with this subject. Therefore, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I will deal with the Budget directly.

I am happy to state that I approach this year’s Budget Debate with some degree of optimism, though cautious, and some modicum of hope, though unfortunately I must say it is very clearly not yet the time for enthusiastic celebrations.

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That, Comrade Speaker, was also the gist of my initial comments when I was asked by the media to comment about this year's Budget presentation. I am glad to have the opportunity to expand on some of the aspects of my comments at the beginning. My optimism and hope do not derive from a perception of the current Appropriation Bill as being the panacea of all or any of our problems. Indeed, it is just a drop in the ocean.

However, as we used to say and as we still say in the struggle, "*Aluta Continua*" and the conclusion is that victory is certain. In other words, life in itself is a struggle and as a struggler you have to be optimistic at all times.

Comrade Speaker, my approach is not going to be party-political today. I speak for the Congress of Democrats, but I also speak for our people and country, including everybody. I am, therefore, not necessarily going to be antagonistic, neither towards SWAPO Party, nor to other Parties in the House because I believe this is not the time.

Comrade Speaker, the struggle that we are talking about and I am not going to the aspects that others have dealt with, has many local aspects, including local players, local overtones, local ramifications, but it is essentially a global worldwide struggle. We are all struggling against a social injustice imposed on us on a global scale.

Rest assured, Comrade Speaker, Comrade Members of the Assembly, if I were the Ruling Party and I were the one presenting the Budget to this House, my figures would definitely have been different from the ones presented by the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, especially where the specific allocations and vote prioritisation is concerned.

However, given the prevailing economic situation, both globally and at home, the overall choices are limited in the short term and the overall pool from where we draw is very precarious.

Let me put it this way: The natural resources of Namibia are all still in the hands of the international capitalists. It has been like that for the last one

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100 years. Further, Namibia's role in the so-called international division of labour continues to be that of supplier of raw materials for the Industries of other nations. As a country we import finished products from the industrial economies at exorbitant prices, including luxury goods. I must say here, ironically, Comrade Speaker, it is us, and especially the likes of us here in Parliament, who are so addicted to foreign luxury goods, from luxury cars to cell phones to computers to expensive perfumes – that is why I am not excluding myself. It is us and even though you are laughing, I am talking about you yourself, it is you and I who are leading the shopping sprees to New York, London, Paris and Shanghai and return to display ostentatiously, show off to those who are not as privileged as we are. This deeply deplorable state of affairs will continue to be the reality until such time that we do something about it as a Nation. What is more, more and more of our natural resources pass into the hands of the foreign capitalists day by day.

Article 100 of the Namibian Constitution states very clearly: *“Land, water and natural resources below and above the surface of the land and in the continental shelf and within the territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone of Namibia shall belong to the State if they are not otherwise lawfully owned.”*

As the elected representatives of the people we must stop conniving and being complicit to this exploitation and this raping of the wealth of the Nation by just sitting there and doing nothing. When I was talking about this issue with some colleagues outside the House, I was reminded of the example of NAMDEB and I was told that at least NAMDEB is one example in Namibia where we as a Nation, through the Government, are sharing with the Private Sector. However, I must say that apart from the fact, I suspect it bypassed Parliament and was never discussed and approved in this House as far as can remember, NAMDEB is actually just a joke. Perhaps it is even the joke of the century. It is not a 50/50 story as we are made to believe. All the support services are performed by De Beers and all the sub-contracting go to De Beers or Anglo-American. So, NAMDEB is at most the *“shammiest”* sham that you can imagine.

Comrade Speaker, earlier on I heard about Epangelo Mining, however I

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must say thus far there has not been any separation of fact from fiction and perhaps Epangelo Mining has disappeared. I would like to hear more about "*Epangelo Mining*".

There used to be in the past something called the Namibia Development Corporation, NDC, but they are probably now somewhere in the dustbin of corruption. Comrade Speaker, there should be a State body that would take care of Article 100 of our Constitution and that should be in the forefront and at the heart of industrial development on behalf the Namibia people. I am not talking about nationalisation, for that is an entirely separate topic that should be approached in a different manner.

I remember that in the early sixties and seventies there used to be in South Africa, through the South African Government, something called the Industrial Development Corporation, IDC, which used to hold about 13% of the shares in Rössing Uranium and it may still be the case. There was hardly any aspect of economic and industrial life that the IDC was not involved in. It created Sasol, Iscor, Imcor Zinc, the Uis tin mine. When I came in this country from prison, they were running about four or five mines in Namibia, including Oamites Mining, Soekor Zinc in Rosh Pinah, Safmarine and even Swawek. That was an association or corporation set up entirely by the Government to get involved in the development of the economy and that was done by the Apartheid South African regime. I think we are doing very poorly indeed in this regard and it is high time that we do something about it.

Comrade Speaker, talking about Rössing Uranium, another co-owner of Rössing used to be Urangesellschaft, the public company owned by the German Government. Their presence in Rössing Uranium was a matter of strategic importance for the German Government as Urangesellschaft was responsible for the supply of uranium to the German nuclear industry. They were entitled through their ownership to 10% of Rössing's yearly production of uranium to build Germany's Nuclear Industry to where it stands now and that is how our resources have always been available for harvesting by imperialists. Comrade Speaker unfortunately that is still the stand of affairs with regard to the Namibian economy.

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Comrade Speaker, as I was writing this I suddenly thought of something that some of us would say comes from the dustbin of history and that was something called *Decree No. 1 of the United Nations Council for Namibia*. I suspect that the Honourable Speaker himself was one of the authors of this important historical document.

However, as for today, not only have we abandoned the potential approach of Decree No. 1, but we have continued to foster the same neo-colonial relationship with the imperialist countries and trans-national corporations. In this context I note that Areva, the European and international nuclear giant, has entered the Namibian uranium scene.

Somewhere in the past the roads of Urangesellschaft and Areva met and because of the European Union they have merged and they have become one company. Areva is now a frontline name in the international nuclear energy and renewable energy industry. Areva should not only mine uranium in this country and carry it off to France; it is high time that the knowledge and expertise that Areva has been applied on Namibian soil and in the further processing of uranium and expanding the scope of ownership; by Namibia of her own natural resources. Despite what has happened in Japan way back in 1945 and again now recently, I think one should feel optimistic that there is a bright future in nuclear energy, therefore the importance of uranium that is so bountiful in this country.

The Minister of Finance, whose presentation I support, always introduces the Budget by sketching a global picture of the economy and this year is no exception. She presents it as if, as a Nation, we are all happy members of the global human family, not that she means it, I think she just does not go into elaboration. Now it looks like we all just live happily together, confronting common economic threats and so forth.

The fact of the matter is that we live in a big, bad world. It is big, bad global neighbourhood. It is an empire run by a few individuals on behalf of a few other individuals who own all the money. The so-called financial meltdown is a crisis that is systemic to the capitalist economy. It has happened before and it shall verily happen again. It was not an avoidable mistake brought about by the policies of the Bush administration or even

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by the Labour Party Government, as is now alleged by Mr David Cameron in the UK in justification of the infamous economic “cuts” that they are applying now in the UK.

The meltdown was an unavoidable crash that is a direct outcome of capitalist greed made in Wall Street. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Ulenga, can I share information with you on the global bad neighbourhood? Are you aware of this book called the Bilderberg Group by Daniel Estulin? You had better read this book and you will be better informed on who is controlling the world.

HON ULENGA: Comrade Speaker, I would like to be honest and frank with the Prime Minister, it is just a pity that time is not on our side. My son who likes to get into DVDs and the computer is the one who introduced me to the book and also to the DVD and everything was there. Some of the stuff I knew about, I suspected and so forth, but to tell you the truth, my son who was still a student at school that time, not even at University, is the one who laid out everything to me. But I have not seen the book yet, I have just seen the DVD version of it.

Honourable Speaker, the current Prime Minister of the UK is blaming the previous Government of all the evils that happened in the world the last few years, while everybody should know that this thing happens every ten years or so in the capitalist economies.

When these crashes happened, as we have observed, the handing out of life vests and parachutes becomes a matter of blood being thicker than water, and poor Namibia is no blood relations with anybody in Washington or New York. We saw how the money was dished out by the trillion to the likes of General Motors in the USA in 2009 and 2010 and how, on the other hand, the poor cousins in the capitalist empire, such as Greece, Iceland and Ireland, and now again Portugal, have been treated. Bail out conditions have been a very bitter pill indeed for them, often

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involving the poor working people of these countries having to bear with and suffer the most austere of measures and conditions imposed by the European Central Bank and the cuts, as is currently the case in the UK.

Honourable Speaker, imperialism is not a style of government, it is a system that ensures and has as its ultimate aim the private control and private appropriation of world resources at all costs. Initially that system was held in place through the military subjugation, political subordination and socio-economic political domination of one nation by another, and we called this system colonialism. Later and more recently the crude political subjugation of nations by other nations has been replaced by a smarter, more nuanced system that involves remote controlling, namely neo-colonialism. We are all subjected to this subtle control.

HON RIRUAKO: You are talking about imperialism and the point is that no communism or no imperialism is going to rule this world. It is the great entrepreneur who is going to rule the world as a whole.

HON ULENGA: Comrade Speaker, I mentioned earlier on about Decree No. 1. The full title was, "*Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia.*" It was decreed by the United Nations Council for Namibia on the 27th of September 1974 after the United Nations General Assembly terminated apartheid South Africa's mandate over Namibia in October 1966 or rather let me say, after the UN terminated South Africa's mandate over Namibia in 1966, the international community and, of course, the Namibian liberation movement had continued to be concerned about the plunder of the Namibian wealth by Apartheid South Africa and other foreign economic interests. It was the United Nations Security Council that passed Resolution 283 in 1970, calling upon all States to discourage their nationals or companies of their nationality not under direct Government control, from investing or obtaining concessions in Namibia and, to that end, to withhold protection of such investments against claims of a future Government of Namibia. I think it is very important, these Nations were clearly warned that they should withhold protection against claims of a future Government of Namibia against these

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companies that were mining in Namibia at that time. That was the background to the UN Council for Namibia's Decree No. 1, which prohibited any person or entity, whether a body corporate or unincorporated, from searching for, prospecting for, exploring for, taking, extracting, mining, processing, refining, using, selling exporting, or distributing any natural resources, whether animal or mineral, situated or found to be situated within the territorial limits of Namibia without the explicit consent and permission of the Council for Namibia.

On the other hand, Honourable Speaker, Chapter 21 of the Constitution, Article 145(2) says: *"Nothing contained in this Constitution shall be construed as recognising in any way the validity of the Administration of Namibia by the Government of South Africa or by the Administrator General appointed by the Government of South Africa."*

Comrade Speaker, it is on us that the Nation relies, but for more than twenty years we have neglected to act in the people's interest in this regard. This, I think, as Government and as a Parliament of elected representatives, we have neglected, have failed to do immediately after Independence. I must say the trend that the successive administrations have followed since Independence in 1990 and the overall ideological direction of the SWAPO Party sheds more light on the way the SWAPO Party has treated the National Union of Namibian Workers since Independence. I think this is very important, the current relationship between the SWAPO Party and the labour movement in Namibia has led to the castration of the NUNW and apparently the SWAPO Party did this in order to ensure there would not be any opposition to the neo-liberal policies followed by the Government after Independence. (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Can the Honourable Member just repeat so that I can follow what he said about SWAPO Party?

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HON ULENGA: Comrade Speaker, I will paraphrase what said. Basically what I am saying, Comrade Jerry, is the fact that the NUNW has been more or less cancelled out by the Ruling Party and the other fact, namely that the Government tends to pursue a very neo-liberal approach when it comes to the economy of the country, the truth seems to be connecting because it looks like the one was suppressed so that a certain economic ideology can be followed. (Intervention)

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Speaker, in 1969 at the Tanga conference in Tanzania SWAPO decided to establish wings, the Women Council, the Youth League, Elder Council and the NUNW. You cannot come in between SWAPO and the NUNW; this is a baby of SWAPO. SWAPO started this workers movement, so what are you talking about? If you defected from the workers, it does not mean that you must come and make propaganda here.

HON ULENGA: I tend to agree with at least 60% of what Honourable Ekandjo is saying; it was indeed established in 1969 by SWAPO. That was very good. The same cannot be said for the other subsequent events and the way the relationship developed. However, let me pour cold water on something that is starting to heat up now. It is not everything lost; there is still time and we want to see what is happening.

Comrade Speaker, I remember that when I was in the movement... (Intervention)

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND
FORESTRY:** May I ask Honourable Ulena a question? Honourable Ulena, you said the SWAPO castrated the NUNW. Last year during the Regional and Local Authority elections when you used to go to NUNW headquarters, did you want to strengthen or weaken the relations or why did you go there by taxi?

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HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I am just worried about the time otherwise I would have had time for all these questions brought up. In the first place, you know very well that if I want to hide visiting the NUNW offices, I would not just go there in the first place. It is a public place and even if I come by underground submarine, as soon as I step out of the submarine everybody will see me. So, what is the point? You say I am hiding because I was using public transport. I will continue to go to the NUNW offices. I do not want to say I was *the* person involved in the establishment of the NUNW, but as you well know, I was responsible for quite a lot of the work that was done there, so it is my baby, not only Honourable Ekandjo's baby as he is saying. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: On a Point of Information. Comrade Speaker, somebody always said, "*moenie krap waar dit nie jeuk nie.*" I want to put the record straight, it was SWAPO Party that created the NUNW. Comrade Sam Nujoma told me in Lusaka when you came out of jail that we must put you and Comrade Iilonga into the Union.

HON ULENGA: Comrade Speaker, to continue, the current debacle involving the GIPF, the Government and the trade unions is not only an excellent example of how SWAPO Party smothers the independent voice of the workers, but also of the politically disastrous outcomes of that specific kind of relationship. I hope it really moves for the better.

Comrade Speaker, it has been more than four years since we passed a Motion in this House, introduced by the Honourable Kuaima Riruako, Member of Parliament and Paramount Chief of the Herero, on the genocide and other crimes committed by the Imperial German Government against Namibians at the beginning of the 20th century. The Motion passed was very explicit, namely that the Namibian Parliament and people demand reparations from the German Government, heirs and representatives of the former imperial Government of German and I am talking about the Kaiser's Government.

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One gets the impression, Comrade Speaker, that the current Namibian Government is not fully committed to the reparations demand and that it is dragging its feet on this important issue.

It is high time that the Namibian-German relationship be transformed into a truly sisterly, equal and equitable relationship, from the present one that seems to suggest that we are Germany's neo-colony. I was recently exasperated to read in one of the local daily newspapers that referred to Germany as apparently the so-called "*the hand that feeds us*" as Namibians. The question is, how does Germany, with the help of some of the media here, manoeuvre themselves from the position of perpetrator of genocides to that of benefactor and Father Christmas who is apparently handing out to all and sundry? Comrade Speaker, our Government here must seek to pursue an equal and equitable relationship between our two Governments and peoples, one that ensures that justice is also done, seen to be done and swiftly so too.

Moving to a third issue, the matter of resources is inextricably linked to land and the access of us poor working people to land. On this I want to thank very much the Honourable Deputy Speaker who in her speech earlier on today brought up the issue of one of the citizens.

The matter that I really want to get to and I think it is now high time, we cannot hide away from it any longer, is the question of "*willing seller, willing buyer*", but let me dwell on what the Deputy Speaker spoke about earlier on. I think it is clear that the law in this country needs to be changed so that whatever property you are talking about, there should be access to everybody who is a member of the public – full-stop. When the Government wants to build a road, it does not even care whose house is where, the road goes through. You move and you get compensated. Why can those who want access to workers, to family members on private property not have that access by law? I cannot understand how a particular member of society, whether a Councillor or not, can be prevented, simply because it is private property, to have access to certain people. What they did in the UK is to leave everywhere a footpath that gets to every place, through every farm.

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The question of willing seller, willing buyer is actually very neo-liberal, because it simply says do not interfere with the forces of the market and as such it is not getting us anywhere. I think our Constitution is very clear, it says land can be expropriated for the public interest. It looks like – and I am sure the Colleagues will not like this; it looks like as long as the SWAPO Party is ruling there will not be any effective land reform in this country.

I want to come to Article 98: Principles of Economic Order: “*The economic order of Namibia shall be based on the principles of a mixed economy.*” We all know that this refers to the possibilities of all kinds of property relationships and the only question that I have in regard to this is: Why do we not move into implementing all those six of economic or property relationships in our economy?

Honourable Speaker, lastly, Vision 2030. In the first place, it is a good thing for a Nation to set a vision for itself. It needs to be owned by the Nation and it needs to make sense and be realistic. It requires a totally different relationship amongst the constituent parts of the Nation, apart from the one that we have now in Namibia. Everyone must see and feel that they belong. That is what we need to work towards in Namibia.

I listened to the Prime Minister one day here in the House and he talked about something like a transformational state or a developmental state. You know what I am talking about. It is definitely a State that is utterly involved in the economy and I would like to commend the Minister, because last year she spoke about an expansionary Budget and this year again about an expansionary Budget, but at least year you were talking about specific amounts put aside for employment creation. I want to follow very clearly, actually some of the stuff I cannot see, I cannot see how the money is allocated, but at least we now have a way of putting you in the corner and pinning you down and asking exactly where is this money going to and how has it been employed at the end of the day.

The State must be truly developmental and not just capitalist. Perhaps we are closer to moving into that direction as a Nation and as I said at the beginning, Comrade Speaker, I am optimistic. Thank you very much, I

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**NOMINATION OF MEMBERS
HON DR GURIRAB**

support the Bill.

**NOMINATION OF MEMBER TO
STANDING COMMITTEE**

HON SPEAKER: In terms of Rule 38(5) and (6) or the Standing Rules and Orders, Honourable S Bezuidenhout has been nominated by the Rally for Democracy and Progress to serve on the Privileges Committee. I, therefore, declare Honourable Bezuidenhout as duly appointed Member of the Committee.

HON SPEAKER: The House shall rise until Tuesday, next week, the 5th of April.

HOUSE ADJOURNED AT 17:58 UNTIL 2011.04.05 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
05 APRIL 2011**

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? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING
APPROPRIATION BILL**

HON SPEAKER: When this House adjourned on the 31st of March 2011, the Question before the Assembly was Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I will be as brief as possible so that many Members can participate.

Honourable Members, the theme of my address to the 2011/2012 Appropriation Bill is, "*Toward human-centred Budget!*"

Honourable Members, a Budget is a tool for planning. Planning implies making hard choices. Choices had to be made because of scarcity. This means that the available resources put limitation on a range of choices to be made. The Budget is, therefore not an open ended affair, it has parameters.

The Minister of Finance in her fiscal policy for the 2011 to 2014 Medium Term Expenditure Framework has set physical benchmarks which shall determine the size of the cake. These benchmarks are:

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- Maintenance of average debt within the limits of 30% of the Gross Domestic Product;
- Keeping the average Budget deficit within 7% of the Gross Domestic Product;
- Ensuring that public expenditure levels are below 10% of the Gross Domestic Product on an annual basis;
- Keeping the interest rate payments as a ratio of revenue within the limit of 10% annually; and
- Maintaining contingent liability of the State below the target of 10% of the Gross Domestic Product annually.

These benchmarks are the bedrock of a sustainable macro-economic framework. Public revenue has to be generated within these parameters. Therefore there are limitations to revenue generation. This is the first hurdle any Minister of Finance has to face.

The second challenge is how to allocate the resources generated from the public. This is a serious responsibility. The Minister exercises this responsibility in Cabinet. At Independence, Cabinet identified priority sectors for Government investment. These were education, agriculture, health and housing. These still remain priorities of the Government. In the current Budget these sectors collectively are allocated N\$15.3 billion. This is more than one-third of the Budget.

Cabinet recently added another priority, which is employment creation. The Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG) is being developed to be an anchor for employment creation. Four sectors have been identified as having high potential for employment creation. These are agriculture, tourism, transport, housing and sanitation.

An amount of N\$9,1 billion has been allocated to these sectors for this purpose during this Financial Year.

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The choices of Government are clearly to address the human needs. This is, therefore, a human-centred Budget. Unfortunately the social deficit we have inherited is enormous. This social deficit cannot be smoothed out in a single Medium Term Expenditure Framework. Poverty, both absolute and relative, shall continue to haunt us for some time. No wonder some citizens are pushing for the Basic Income Grant, the so-called BIG.

Proponents of the Basic Income Grant tend to paint a picture of that of an uncaring Government. That picture is wrong. What the Government is saying is that poverty eradication should be tackled in a sustainable manner. Furthermore, poverty reduction should be empowering. Sustainability is the key condition in the Brazilian Law on Basic Income Grant.

Article 2 of the Brazilian Law on Basic Income Grant reads: “*The Basic Income Grant will be distributed equally and will be sufficient to cover all the basic needs, such as food, education and health, taking into account the country’s level of economic development.*” I want to repeat that, “taking into account the country’s level of economic development.”

The other end of it is continually ignored by the proponents of the Basic Income Grant. Equally, the figure of N\$100 will not be able to cover the basic needs, such as food, education and health. Moreover, whatever measures are adopted to fight poverty, such measures should empower the beneficiaries. Empowerment restores dignity of a person. A healthy, fit and strong person shall feel more dignified if his or her independence is restored through empowering social interventions. Such a person will feel offended if treated like a child by a benign benevolent State. BIG is, therefore, a paternalistic way of fighting poverty.

For the elderly, the disabled, the vulnerable and war veterans Government has created extensive safety nets to take care of their needs. These safety nets cover early childhood development, support subsidies, grants to women projects for capacity-building, maintenance grants for foster parents, allowance for war orphans, social pensions, funeral plan, Namibia Emergency and Disaster Fund, veteran subventions, food-for-work in casual work, school feeding programmes and many more and those

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programmes in the Budget we are debating now are funded to the tune of N\$3,7 billion.

If the amount allocated to the health and well-being of Public Servants through the PSEMAS, that is the Public Servants' health plan, is added to the social safety nets, it will go beyond N\$4 billion.

In addition, allocation to Anti-Retro-Viral therapies, the Students Financial Support Scheme and the San Development Programme further benefit large sections of our population. I am informed that more than one million citizens are benefiting from these social safety nets. Undoubtedly our Budget is people-centred; it is not only pro-poor but pro-vulnerable members of our society. This is a demonstration that our Government cares.

Furthermore, serious attempts are made in the Development Budget to equitably allocate resources to Regions and I want to focus on the Development Budget.

The total development figure for 2011/2012 is N\$8.6 billion. How is this amount distributed per Region? The Khomas Region receives the highest allocation. An amount of N\$1.4 billion has been allocated to this Region. The largest allocation of N\$120 million is for the School of Medicine of the University of Namibia. The allocation of N\$25 million is for the expansion of the Hotel School of the Polytechnic of Namibia. Other notable allocations are to the construction of the Otjomuise Primary School, new Cimbembasia Primary School, University of Namibia Student Resource Centre, construction of the National Genetic Organism Testing Centre, improvement to Neudamm Agricultural College, etcetera. Other large allocations are for the construction of Government Office blocks and other public physical facilities.

The Kavango Region received the second-largest allocation of N\$852 million. This amount will cater, among others, for the construction of Ncaute Secondary School – N\$20 million; Rundu Vocational School – N\$17 million; construction of water, sewerage and roads in Rundu – N\$20 million; development of Katwitwi EPZ Industrial Park – N\$20 million;

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Rural Electrification – N\$9 million; etcetera.

The Omusati, Karas and Ohangwena Regions received N\$719 million, N\$652 million and N\$641 million, respectively, whereas the Oshikoto, Erongo, Oshana and Caprivi Regions received N\$593 million, N\$476 million, N\$573 million and N\$423 million, respectively. Otjizondjupa Region is also in this class. It was allocated N\$523 million, whereas Hardap and Kunene Regions received N\$247 million and N\$198,8 million, respectively.

An amount of N\$257 million is allocated to maintain and acquire Government properties abroad. In terms of the allocation per person in Regions, the Karas Region received the highest. The Caprivi and Khomas Regions received the second-highest per capita allocation. The Omusati and Ohangwena Regions received the lowest per capita allocation. Erongo, Hardap, Kavango and Omaheke Regions received more or less the same allocation per capita. Similarly, Oshikoto and Otjozondjupa are *at par* in terms of per capita allocation.

There is, therefore, no doubt that the development cake is being sliced equitably. The challenge, however, who determines the priorities of Regions in terms of which projects to be funded by the Development Budget. One hopes that the appointment of the Regional Governors shall enhance wider stakeholder participation in the allocation of the Development Budget.

Honourable Members, in conclusion, the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Honourable Director-General of the National Planning Commission and their staff should be commended for making the right choices in the allocation of the public resources. The choice of allocation demonstrates that the Namibian Government is human-centred, caring, is fair and empowering. These are the qualities of a peoples Government and of a development State. (Intervention)

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HON MAAMBERUA: May I ask the Leader of the Government Business in the House two questions? Now that the Right Honourable Prime Minister is talking about efficiency and care of the people, there are two questions.

The first question relates to the construction of the Office of the Auditor-General and that is now on the question of efficiency. If you look at the development programmes, the Office of the Auditor-General has budgeted N\$17,791,000 in 2010/2011 for construction to take place and in terms of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework we are informed that for 2010/2011 such construction of the building of the Office of the Auditor-General should have started in that year. 2011/2012, that is the year that we are now starting, 80% of the building should have been completed. The question is: When we look behind somewhere there near the Ministry of Finance, near the police, opposite the offices of the Turnhalle Building, there is a black hole and that is supposed to be where the Office of the Auditor-General is to be constructed. Nothing has been constructed, N\$17 million were already allocated, what happened to the efficiency and what explains that constructed has not started and yet in the previous Budget that amount was actually allocated and budgeted for?

The other question: The Efficiency Management Unit is located in the Office of the Prime Minister. Now that the Prime Minister is talking about caring for the people, it is also that office where the Customer Care Charters are supervised from. In the Government hospitals, specifically Katutura Hospital, is there a customer care charter or not and if there is a customer care charter, what is the time allocated for a doctor or nurse to see a patient once such a patient has arrived at the hospital? (Interjections). It is a constructive question, a very important question, because when we are talking about efficiency and we are talking about caring for the people, we should be able to demonstrate that with the charters we have and with the Budget allocations we are considering.

Those are the two questions, what is the length of time that a patient must wait at a hospital in terms of that charter before being attended to?

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable president-in-waiting until 2014. Let me read what I said so that when I answer, you will understand.

The choice of allocations of the national Budget demonstrates that the Namibian Government is human-centred, is a caring Government, is fair in the allocation of resources and is empowering and these are the qualities of the peoples Government and of a developmental State. Now to your questions:

Your questions are very pertinent. Unfortunately you are asking them prematurely. You are supposed to wait for the Committee Stage and ask those people who are supposed to build the Auditor-General's Office what happened.

With regard to the Efficiency Charter, the Office of the Prime Minister is just a service-rendering office. We render the services to the Ministries, Offices and Agencies that should have a charter and implement it. The responsibility of implementation is with specific Ministries, Offices and Agencies. If you can wait for the Committee Stage and ask the Minister of Health what is happening at Katutura Hospital, then the Minister will be able to answer you. (Intervention)

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, my question was addressed to the Leader of Government Business in this House. Thank you very much.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I just want to thank the Honourable Members for their attention.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable !Naruseb.

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HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I can see that there is a peace accord between the two neighbours here.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I take this opportunity to contribute to the ongoing Debate on the National Budget before this august House by registering my unconditional support for the Budget that was presented by the Honourable Minister of Finance earlier in this House.

I would further like to extend my gratitude to the Honourable Minister, the Director-General of the National Planning Commission, the Honourable Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and the entire team for a job, in my opinion, well executed under very challenging circumstances given the global economic environment.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, having said the above, I would like to point out that the Budget is about the future of our people, all Namibians, in terms of their social, economic and political well-being. It is expected that the aspirations of the people be articulated and translated through the just presented Budget, even though the prevailing economic challenges are still apparent and required to be mentioned. Although the worst of the global economic crisis appears to be over, considerable risk to the global recovery remains. Thus, as a Nation we cannot allow ourselves the luxury of complacency. Such risks include the situation in North Africa and the Middle East which is adding to the pressure on oil commodity prices.

Further, the sovereign debt crisis in the EU Zone could derail recovery in that region, with spill-over effects across the globe. In turn, food prices could escalate further, placing a burden on the most vulnerable in our society. Alongside global risk that could impact on the domestic economy, Namibia also faces many socio-economic and structural challenges which need to be addressed urgently.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, these challenges, include high unemployment, poverty, unequal access to benefits from natural

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resources, labour skill shortage and a narrow industrial base.

It is also important to note that the Honourable Minister of Finance has availed funding to implement the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth, a programme aimed specifically at addressing economic growth and the high unemployment levels in our country. Through support to strategic growth sectors this noble idea should be applauded and supported by all us, bearing in mind that almost 104,000 direct and indirect job opportunities are expected to be realised.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to quote His Excellency President Pohamba during the opening of the Third Parliament when he said: *“This occasion is taking place at a time when our Nation is looking to Government with great anticipation to provide answers to the pressing issues of the day. These include the question of unemployment, the needed improvements in provision of quality education, health care, housing, access to land and other social amenities.”* The President, however, continues: *“I call upon all Namibians in all our respective capacities to employ all the means at our disposal and to harness the available technical and financial resources in order to effectively fight and defeat the problems of unemployment.”*

Based on that understanding it is my humble submission that Namibia will be able to ameliorate some of the stated challenges in that statement through the development of an education system that emphasises skills transfer. I hasten to take note that our people have given us great responsibility, all of us, place high expectation on us in terms of bringing up and generating policies that lead to the socio-economic upliftment of their livelihoods. I am sure you will agree that the sectors of education, health and economic development remain pivotal in playing an important role in bringing about immediate fundamental change in the lives of our people.

On the aspect of development of human capital: An effective education and skills training system is important for creating prerequisite skills and knowledge that are critical for the country to grow and interact at the international arena. The current expenditure on education should, and is

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expected to yield results and be able to address the socio-economic needs of the disadvantaged in our communities. Our policies in this sector should address the well-documented link between household poverty with low school attendance and failure. The current Budget, through the allocation of N\$8.3 billion, has identified this sector as a priority area and this should be applauded by all of us.

The Ministry's target of increasing the enrolment in vocational education and training from 6,560 in 2009 to 24,944 in 2014 and the average completion from the current 75% to 90%, respectively, is commendable, bearing in mind that these are the skills that can bring a multiplier effect to the growth of our economy.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, over the years, enrolment at the Polytechnic of Namibia and the University of Namibia has grown significantly. The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement is proud to be associated with the Polytechnic of Namibia after having constructively contributed to the establishment of the Department of Land Management through the Training and Education in Land Management in Southern Africa Project. Namibia is still to address the aspect of training of personnel in scarce technical fields where there are skills gaps. The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement faces a critical skills shortage in the areas of surveying and mapping, valuation and land-use planning. I urge, through our able Minister, our institutions of higher learning to broaden the curriculum and introduce courses that address some of these specialised skills. The acquisition of appropriate skills and innovation will undoubtedly facilitate economic growth and ensure better service delivery in the Public Sector.

Most developed countries have invested significant resources towards the attainment of education and relevant skills by their people and our Government should be commended for its continued commitment to invest in education, Health and other Social Sectors.

Turning my attention to the Health Sector, the health of our Nation is important as it is linked to development. The health sector is crucial as it strives to bring quality medical services in the Public and Private Sectors.

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We as Members of Parliament and members of the Namibian society must feel at ease and feel comfortable to take our families to the health facilities provided in Usakos Hospital, Katutura Hospital, Eenhana Hospital and not, because we are able to pay, take our next-of-kin to the Medi-Clinics and the Rhino Parks of this world, not to mention the Roman Catholic Hospital.

The provision of quality health care and social services of Namibians is linked to the availability of a qualified human resource base. The 2011/2012 Budget sets aside an allocation of N\$3.3 billion towards the different programmes in the health sector, an allocation much higher than the N\$2.6 billion allocated during the previous corresponding period and N\$2.4 billion allocated for 2009/2010 Financial Year.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, while health care funding continues to sink in most countries, health needs are increasing exponentially through the challenges posed by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In comparison to other sub-Saharan countries, Namibia's health indicators are much better and our people expect an affordable and quality health care system. Hence the need to applaud the current efforts in our country due to thorough planning and policy coordination in identifying areas where resources are channelled to have the greatest impact.

Honourable Speaker, I am turning to the sector that I am privileged to be presiding over. At this juncture allow me to focus on a key issue, whose role is crucial and imperative in bringing about economic empowerment to Namibians. The key issue, even if I have to say it myself, is land. The land sector received a total allocation of N\$221,7 million up from N\$190 million allocated in the last Financial Year to implement one of the most visible and talked-about policies in Africa, if not globally. The Ministry targeted the acquisition of 534,000 hectares per year for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. At the same time, 296 families are to be resettled annually under the National Resettlement Programme.

The Land Reform Programme is premised on the recommendations and resolutions of the National Conference on Land Reform and the Land

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Question that took place way back in 1991. It is with a sense of gratitude and humility that I recognise the legacy and sterling work done by the predecessors in laying down the respective framework under which the current Land Reform Programme is being undertaken. The programme has been accorded priority as it is tasked with the prudent management of the land resources in a way that promotes equity and access for socio-development by all Namibians.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Land Reform Programme is one of the strategies adopted by Government to empower the people through access to use and secure land tenure systems. The Government has invested a lot of resources in addressing the skewed land ownership patterns. The process of land reform to some may seem slow and ineffective, but the programme is well defined and the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement understands the responsibility and is on course to deliver.

It is appreciated that the programme is dynamic and laden with continuous challenges. Some of the current challenges, to mention but a few, are:

Lack of productivity on the resettlement farms: Most farmers are not performing well. This is due to challenges associated with inadequate post-settlement support. The Budget constraints to address water infrastructure problems have to be addressed to respond to the request by the resettled farmers for assistance in the rehabilitation of boreholes, which is critical for farming in Namibia even during times like this that we are so mercifully blessed with a lot of water. Most of the farms are experiencing this challenge. The Ministry is aware of this challenge and is working towards a solution.

The Ministry is happy that the rate at which land is being offered has drastically increased. This is attributed to the introduction of the new administrative arrangement within the Ministry and the continuous dialogue with the relevant stakeholders. However, the price at which these properties are being offered is still very high.

The other challenge is greed. I am disturbed to note that there is a

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development of a new phenomenon in our society. Our people, because of greed, are entering into illegal deals, involving the circumvention of the laid-down legal systems in the acquisition of land. Our people are being paid large sums of money to enter into what one can only term as fraudulent land ownership deals. They acquire farms under false pretences, get a loan from AgriBank, default on the loan and wait for the farm to be repossessed and subsequently auctioned. The real owner then buys the farm at the auction albeit it at a profit. These criminal activities require a sectoral approach, but the Ministry is using available resources to contain the situation and find a remedy for the mischief as it presents itself. In the meantime while we are doing it ourselves, we are turning around and pointing fingers to the Government, the Ministry in particular, that because of us buying farms on a willing seller, willing buyer approach, which is a policy directive of the Government, the prices are being inflated, while conveniently ignoring the activities that we are engaging ourselves in. It is probably now time to talk to our people that they desist in engaging in counter-productive activities.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my humble view that this Budget will address poverty and unemployment in our country, especially among the youth. (Intervention)

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Minister a simple question?

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Naturally I would allow him to ask a question, but I am mindful of the time constraints.

It is my humble view that this Budget will address poverty and unemployment in our country, especially among the youth and ensure food security and general socio-economic prosperity of our people. The emphasis is on “our people”, not some sectors of our community, our people, all of them, but it requires constant commitment to the agreed

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goals in Vision 2030. Once again, I congratulate the Minister, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, for tabling the 2011/2012 national Budget, which I fully support, and I thank you so much and would beseech the Almighty to bless us all. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Gowases of the RP.

HON GOWASES: Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members of this august House. It is a tremendous honour and privilege for me to stand here today as a Member of this august House and I thank the Almighty Father for the opportunity to represent not only the thousands of our Republican Party supporters but the Namibian people as a whole. (Interjections)

HON SPEAKER: It is a maiden speech. Can you please listen to her and maintain the usual courtesy?

HON GOWASES: I am truly humbled by the confidence and trust of my President, Mr Henk Mudge, for having nominated me to take his place in Parliament and I would like to use this opportunity to sincerely thank him. I am ready and I know that I am able to represent my Party with pride and dignity.

Honourable Speaker, the RP has a proud history and we are continuously encouraged by our RP President to act with integrity so that we can be trusted by our fellow countrymen and women. Our contribution, therefore, will always be for the benefit of the entire Namibian Nation.

In this House, Honourable Speaker, I will rely on you for protection and guidance. I am not interested in anything that could undermine the dignity of this august House. I am fully aware of my responsibility as an RP Member and in line with our vision I will always strive to make my humble but constructive contribution in order to bring about the much-

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needed change in the lives of the poor and the unemployed people of our country.

Honourable Speaker, all of us were elected through different voices, but by people with common needs and dreams. My experience is that our election campaigns were merely different approaches to a common objective. I am, therefore, confident that all the Honourable Members in this House will agree that a solution needs to be found quickly for the suffering of our fellow Namibian brothers and sisters due to unemployment and poverty.

Honourable Speaker, I want to caution that we should be careful because for many years the Namibian people have been patient, but the day will come when their patience will run out. (Interjections). We have seen what has lately happened in the north of Africa and we fool ourselves if we think that it could never happen here. I think we agree that the last thing that we want in our country is instability.

Honourable Speaker, we should not be driven by the fear for retaliation, but rather by an honest desire to improve the living conditions of especially the grassroots level, on the one hand, and to be able to fulfil the dreams and expectations of our young people who are encouraged to obtain better qualifications under very difficult circumstances due to financial constraints. My worry is that despite the efforts, they still struggle to find jobs and they are becoming restless.

Honourable Speaker, this brings me to something that has become very controversial, namely the Chinese issue. Reactions by His Excellency President Pohamba and other Government officials lately have created more questions than answers and I am of the opinion that the Government must come clean on this issue without any further delay. What was said in defence of the Chinese just does not make sense. I am of the opinion that the President attacked South African companies operating in Namibia when he accused them of exploiting the Namibian workers and taking money out of the country. Obviously an attempt to defend the Government's position on the Chinese was very unfortunate.

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South Africa is our direct neighbour and we are both members of SADC. We have been importing almost everything we need in this country from food to motor vehicles from South Africa. South Africa has been accommodating many of our students who attended its universities and colleges. In the meantime we show our gratitude by turning down applications for work permits of well-qualified South Africans with the excuse that we have to reserve these employment opportunities for the unemployed Namibians. At the same time our Government is quite happy to allow Chinese nationals with very little, if any, qualifications to enter our country, seemingly without any repercussions and to be employed as bricklayers, carpenters, plumbers and even as ordinary labourers and to open shops in direct competition with our own entrepreneurs and Small and Medium Enterprises.

However, Honourable Speaker, the Chinese nationals are not only taking the food from the mouths of our own brothers and sisters, but their construction companies are also allowed by this Government to compete unfairly with Namibian companies when it comes to tenders, because it is common knowledge that the Chinese Government is subsidising the local Chinese Companies.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:10 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: We resume the business of the House. May I appeal to the Government side to allow the Honourable Member to finish what she has to say? That is the established tradition. The moment she sits down she will be free-for-all, but for now we usually give courtesy to new Members when they speak for the first time.

HON GOWASES: The Government and the unions are also very quick to act when local commercial farmers and businesses are mostly unfairly accused of transgressing our Labour laws, but desperate outcries by

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workers employed by the Chinese have been falling on deaf ears for many years now. Honourable Speaker, this cannot be tolerated any longer and I earnestly hope that the Government will explain its position clearly. We as the Republican Party will not hesitate to join all those who have been complaining about this for years, but we have been ignored for whatever reason. We firmly believe that charity begins at home and that we should look at our Constitution and find a way to stop this.

Honourable Speaker, the President's defence that the Chinese are welcome because of the contribution to the struggle for Independence does also not make sense. The struggle was primarily to improve the living conditions of the Namibians first. Now it seems that our Government is more worried about the well-being of foreign nationals, like the Chinese than the situation in which most of our Namibian brothers and sisters find themselves due to unemployment. We are, however, grateful for the amounts that have been provided for capital projects in this Budget in order to reduce unemployment and we sincerely hope that Namibian companies, big and small, will be the beneficiaries of the bulk, if not all the projects.

We are, however, not convinced that the amount that will be spent will contribute to create employment that will be sustainable. We are worried that if that will be the case, the unemployment crisis will only be postponed for another three years.

Honourable Speaker, allow me as a former teachers for many years to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Education for the measures he announced in order to solve the many problems surrounding education in general. We in the Republican Party trust that he will be able to institute measures whereby principals and teachers will be held accountable for what they are supposed to do. We are worried about the lack of classrooms, learning materials and discipline in our schools and we trust that a way can be found whereby our teachers can be assisted to be well-trained and become even better qualified.

A source of great concern is the salaries of teachers and we would like to

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encourage the Honourable Minister to look into this as a matter of urgency.

Honourable Speaker, I will not deal with so many other issues like health and Local Authorities today, but will make my contribution during the Committee Stage. I would, however, want to say something about the land issue.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to share with you an experience I had while I was campaigning in the southern part of the country. I am not a farmer but I hail from that part of the country and I met with some of the resettled farmers and I only want to relate what they complained about. A number of stock owners have been given grazing rights on these resettlement farms, they mentioned five. According to them some of these persons settled on farms bought by the Government are not bona fide farmers, but part-time farmers. Apparently there are even farmers who have their own farms, who sometimes keep cattle or goats there on the farms allocated for resettlement.

These resettlement farmers complained that they are merely allowed to put up shacks and keep animals on these farms while the farms belong to the Government. The farmers do not have ownership or security of tenure. In other words, those who have been resettled do in fact not own a square inch of land. They wanted to know from me whether that is the end-result of what was promised, namely land for the landless. I did not have an answer; maybe the Minister can enlighten me during the Committee Stage.

The RP is very much confident that sustainable solutions will be found under the guidance of the Minister of Lands and Resettlement, because we are aware that he is adamant to find lasting solutions for a very difficult issue. I, therefore, want to pledge our full support whenever he feels that we can make any contribution.

Honourable Speaker, following remarks made by senior Members of the Ruling Party where we were compared to snakes and called the enemy, etcetera, I would like to say something. The Republican Party is a non-

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racial and non-ethnic political organisation, a Party of which the majority of the members are black while the leader happens to be white. Should any Member of this House accuse me of sleeping with the enemy, they should stop talking about reconciliation. (Interjections). The existence of different ethnic and language groups cannot be denied, but it must never be allowed to become an obstacle in other efforts to build a united Nation. All that is needed is tolerance and understanding. Just keep in mind that majority groups have nothing to fear and can easily disregard, but smaller groups are concerned about the possibility of ethnic discrimination. We are, however, satisfied with the provision that has been made in our Constitution whereby minorities are being protected. Let us not just leave it there, but let us act accordingly and make every Namibian feel at home and eager to make use of his or her contribution for the benefit of all of us. Let us refrain from calling fellow Namibians names and let us rather spend our energy to ensure that the process of national reconciliation does not remain lip-service.

We in the Republican Party are fully committed to our Constitution, we never create false expectations. We do not promise that after Independence every Namibian will be rich, that they will share equally in the wealth of the country and that every Namibian will be a land owner. Nowhere in the world is this possible, but we stood by the provision of the Constitution that we will support every effort to promote the welfare of the population as well as policies and programmes to advance them. Much has been done by the Government in order to achieve this supreme goal and I would like to congratulate them

Honourable Speaker, be assured that we are committed to make our continuous contribution in order to protect our wonderful Constitution that was written by the founding fathers of our independent Namibia, many of whom are still senior Members of this House. I want to salute all of you, including those who are no longer here, for a job well done. The fact that after 21 years of Independence our Constitution has not been tampered with deserves praise and I give it to you. I fully support the Bill. Thank you for listening to me.

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HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. From now on you are on your own. Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, the Head of State is going to address this House next week Wednesday and after his address we will give opportunity for questions by the Opposition Parties. The Honourable Member there went out of her way to say the President was talking nonsense and the President is not here to defend himself. I need to be guided. I kept quiet because it is a maiden speech.

HON SPEAKER: A very important point. I do not second-guess the Honourable Prime Minister. Honourable Member, if you in your statement made any reference to the effect that the Prime Minister has said that our President talked nonsense or made nonsense, if indeed that is what you said.

HON GOWASES: Honourable Speaker, I never used the word “nonsense”.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The Honourable Member said what the President said does not make sense. That is nonsense.

HON SPEAKER: No, if you used the word “nonsense” I would have asked you to withdraw, but it is “does not make sense.” It is close enough but the point is taken, you will have an opportunity as a new Member, and I am sure you have been watching television that the President allows the opportunity to Members mainly from the Opposition, to engage him by way of questions, issues and so on, but when that moment comes, we accord the President, who is a guest in a way, all the respect that the Head of State of the country deserves. Honourable Tjongarero.

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HON S TJONGARERO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members of this august House. Today, precisely fifteen days ago, we celebrated our 21 years sovereignty as a proud, united Namibian Nation. At that occasion we underlined certain principles, to promote unity, peace and stability. In that spirit I now have the honour and privilege to make my contribution towards the Appropriation Bill.

As we are aware, there are many ways to kill a cat. There are also many ways to approach development. Sustainable development is essential and should be our focus point. In my personal opinion, the three-year rolling financial plan, with specific reference to the 2011/2012 allocation, is worthwhile to be considered. It took hard work and dedication to compile a document of this nature and every fulfilled hard work is appreciated.

The low Budget execution rate is a challenge to all of us, while some of us find it too difficult to understand why delays remain part of every year's undertakings. Important points that need future Budget improvement have been identified by the experts. For the sake of progress one would like to see some of the recent suggestions accommodated in the future Budget preparations.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I have only a few remarks before confirming my position.

I commend initiatives for job creation. The 104,000 direct and indirect job opportunities for the upliftment of our people are very encouraging. It is important not only for its material returns; it will provide individuals with a sense of social identity and purpose, a feeling of being integrated into the society. On the other hand, community development and the social well-being of our people is one of the core issues of our political endeavour. Therefore, one should like to have more detailed information about the plan of action to reach this noble goal.

Honourable Speaker, unfortunately the culture of hard work, responsibility and commitment is lacking in some of our societies. His Excellency the President once expressed concern about poor service delivery in

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Government institutions and that is a true phenomenon that cannot be denied.

The first year of the term of office of the Honourable Minister of Education, Honourable Dr Abraham Iyambo, and his Deputy, Honourable Dr Namwandi seems to be running out while visiting schools and launching programmes to motivate professionals to be committed. There are local management teams at each and every school with the responsibility to do that kind of basic management, however things remain the same with the negative image and poor results.

Support to Regional Councils is strengthened to enable them...
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? The Honourable Colleague mentioned something about education. In order for us to internalise what he is saying and possibly to follow up, what exactly did he say? Just to assist us to follow, Honourable Speaker.

HON S TJONGARERO: Honourable Minister, I said our Minister is doing a good job, visiting schools, talking to the teachers to work hard to change the results. That is what I said in short.

Support to the Regional Councils is strengthened to enable them to ensure efficient management and development in regions. In this process we are aware that some of the Regions are better off than others. That means even equal distribution of funds will not serve the objective to narrow the gap among the various Regions. This variety in Regions moved the Association of Regional Councils to establish a Trust Fund for regional development and equity provisions. However, I am not convinced that this fund, serves the purpose for its establishment in letter and spirit.

When we look at recent allocations to Regional Councils, the scenario of those who have need more prevails in the 2011/2012 Budget. The

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economically strong Regions got more than others. One should perhaps assume the allocation formula justifies it and if that is the case, how should we alleviate rural poverty?

Honourable Speaker, the fact that transport is identified to be one of the key sectors of the Budget is very welcome. I assume that we are not only concentrating on the main and district roads. The farm roads connecting more than two farms are also in very poor condition. The Affirmative Action loan farm owners, especially in the mountainous areas, like Khomas Hochland, where heavy machinery is the only source to maintain roads, are hard hit. The current provision by our Government is a huge assistance; however it is not financially accessible for all affected farmers. Having this in mind, my humble request is that our Government revises the assistance formula for farm roads.

Another very crucial matter is the construction of bridges in communal areas, whereby communities in settlement areas are divided into two parts for weeks, if not months, by big rivers in flood, while important services, such as schools, clinics and the mortuaries are on one side of the river. This is the case in Otjimbingwe, Okombahe, Groot Aub and elsewhere.

Honourable Speaker, from a layperson's viewpoint, the high deficit and rising debts are, as already mentioned, somehow worrisome. If things are not working out according to plan, the high deficit may jeopardise the future prosperity. That is the main reason why we put emphasis on positive multiplying sectors.

Honourable Speaker, with these few remarks, I have to thank the Ministry of Finance and declare my profound support for the Appropriation Bill. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nehova.

HON NEHOVA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House. Before I address myself to the Budget, allow me to express

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my deepest condolences and sympathy to all the victims of the floods in the north, north-west and north-eastern parts of our Republic. Let me also stress my fear that if the current rate of precipitation of rains does not relent soon, we may experience a catastrophe of major proportions. I will say more on the floods during my intervention.

Honourable Speaker, the word “Budget” originates from the French word “*bougette*”, which means purse. It is a list of all planned expenses and revenues – and the Prime Minister has also mentioned this- that is spending and saving. It is an important concept in macro-economics because it serves to illustrate the trade-offs between two or more goods. In other words, a Budget is an organisational plan stated in monetary terms. It focuses the revenue and expenditure of the year.

A Budget is a statement of financial plan made by Government every year, outlining how it is going to obtain money it needs to spend on the country. The Government has to decide how to spend money on infrastructure like schools, hospitals, roads, railways, housing, etcetera, but the money needs to come from taxes and rates that the citizens pay.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Honourable Minister of Finance, in presenting this Budget, underlined four fundamental principles or objectives, which are, macro-economic stability, economic growth, job creation and welfare improvement. In my contribution I will concentrate on the last two, namely job creation and welfare improvement.

The total appropriation amounts to N\$37.7 billion. Some economic analysts call it an expansionary Budget. I do not agree with such conclusion because the monetary value has certainly not been taken into account. However what are more important, are fair distribution, transparency and accountability to the end.

Honourable Speaker, the Labour Survey undertaken by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in the year 2008 reveals that unemployment in Namibia reached a staggering figure of 51,2%. Today that figure might have gone up taking into account the effects of the world economic trends. If the Survey is anything to go by, the hardest hit sections of our

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population are the youth and women. In my view, this is the most serious challenge facing our Nation.

As we may all know, unemployment generates poverty. Poverty engenders hopelessness, destitution, ill-health and unhappiness. Ultimately, poverty engenders crime.

Honourable Speaker, the Budget we are presented with indicates the intention of the Government to preserve and create 104,000 direct and indirect job opportunities. However, the Budget does not show whether a researched development programme has been conducted, detailing the various Economic Sectors in which new jobs will be created in Regions hardest hit by poverty and destitution. I would like to know in clear unambiguous terms how many new jobs will be created and how many existing jobs will be preserved.

Honourable Speaker, while the Government indicates that agriculture, tourism, transport and housing and sanitation are the potential sectors for employment creation, budgetary allocation to these sectors are not convincing that such big numbers of jobs can be created. In my view, Honourable Speaker, permanent jobs can only be created in the manufacturing industries, service providers and large-scale industries. It seems that the Government has not yet developed a national policy on industrial development for manufacturing of goods for national consumption and export.

The Budget allocation of the Ministry of Trade and Industry lacks the necessary provisions for industrial development. For the year 2011/2012 a Budget allocation of a total of N\$558.57 million, of which N\$206,322,000, equivalent to 37%, is for trade promotion. Is the portion for industrialisation enough to create jobs? What products are we going to promote, yet we are failing to meet the EU beef quota of 13,000 tons a year and we have not yet responded to AGOA opportunity in the United States of America? What else is there to be promoted besides fish, grapes and beef?

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Honourable Speaker, agriculture is regarded as potential number one sector for job creation, yet the Budget allocation and the distribution of this Ministry does not make provision for massive irrigation schemes, subsidies to commercial and communal farmers where the potential for job creation and food production is the greatest. The N\$61 million allocated to the Agricultural Bank is nothing but peanuts. The construction of silos and other food storage facilities will only create temporary jobs.

Honourable Speaker, I fail to understand the logic behind the construction of silos and other food storage facilities before the improvement of food production. Since Independence the Government has initiated, revived or expanded a number... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, you are accusing the Government of not having created the necessary conditions, for example for AGOA and beef exports and all these things. Would you agree with me that when the Ramatex factory was created here under the AGOA Agreement to export textiles to the USA, the Opposition was largely responsible for the sabotage of this noble initiative and they will consistently and persistently against Ramatex and as a result, they have destroyed the goose that lays the golden eggs? Would you agree with me?

HON SPEAKER: Whom do you mean by “you?”

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: The Opposition.

HON NEHOVA: The Honourable Member put the question to all of us on this side, but my understanding of the closure of Ramatex is that the Government was not in a position to bail out that factory. They needed N\$25 million and the Government failed to bail them out. That is my understanding. (Intervention)

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Honourable Nehova, can you ask the young man on your left? He can tell you the story.

HON NEHOVA: Honourable Speaker, since Independence the Government has initiated, revived or expanded a number of major agricultural projects, such as the Naute date production, Aussenkehr grape production on the Orange River, Ndonga Linena in Kavango, the Kalimbeza Rice Project in Caprivi, Etunda Project in Omusati, Vungu-Vungu Dairy Farm in Kavango, Divundu Project in Kavango, Shadikongoro Irrigation Scheme, Shitemo Project, Musese, the Omega Resettlement Project, Omahenene Seed Production, Development Brigade Cooperation Projects, wheat production project at Hardap and the Naute Dams, Berg Aukas Youth Project, etcetera. These projects were created with a view to increase, in the first place, food production and create employment.

It appears that marketing security for the produce from these projects has not been catered for or that the local supermarkets have not yet been obliged to buy from these national suppliers or the projects have failed dismally, either because they... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: You mention the DBC; can you ask your dear leader to explain what happened?

HON NEHOVA: Honourable Speaker, the question should be directed to the dear leader. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I want to provide some information to the former Honourable Chairman to put some of the contradictory statements that he made earlier in context. He is right in enumerating all those projects and I would like to inform the Honourable Member that as we speak, all these

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projects are producing and secondly, we are busy expanding them and thirdly, the silos are exactly there for the products of these projects to be stored and as we speak, almost all the silos erected in Katima, Rundu, Omuthiya, Okongo and Tsandi are filled with maize and mahangu. I would like to invite the former Chairman to expand your mahangu production so that you can sell your produce to these silos. They are marketing outlets at the same time. The same with horticulture, we are busy putting up horticulture marketing infrastructure in Ongwediva, Rundu and here in Windhoek. I agree with you that more needs to be done, but to say that nothing is happening is not true.

HON NEHOVA: Honourable Member, I did not say nothing is happening. In fact, what I want to say is that jobs must be created by the projects. Can the Honourable Member tell me how many workers are employed on these projects? I know almost all of them. Just look at Etunda, it is a mess, it is not producing. Many of these are not producing because they were either privatised prematurely, something I do not like, or they are badly run or they were handed over to comrades to manage. (Interjections). You know them, do not ask me.

I am saying that if we want to create jobs, these are the projects that we must expand and create new ones. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: May I ask the Honourable Member just one small question? The Honourable Member just referred to these projects given to the Comrades. Can he share with this House what he has done with his project that was given to him when he was a Comrade?

HON NEHOVA: Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Member is right, I have an agricultural project and that is why I am concentrating on agriculture. The project was not given to me because I was a Comrade or I am a Comrade, it was bought by me and I have that project, it is producing.

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I am employing twenty persons on a permanent basis on my farm and at the peak I employ around fifty persons.

I am saying if the Government is serious with job creation, they must give subsidies to farmers. There are no subsidies here for farmers.

Honourable Speaker, until today 90% of the produce sold by local supermarkets in Namibia is imported from South Africa and this has a negative implication on our balance of payment.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is indeed gratifying to note that over the past four years, Namibia as a dry country, has been receiving excellent rainfall throughout the country. The heavy precipitation of rains both in Namibia and Angola is causing severe floods, particularly in the north, north-east and north-western parts of the country. Presently the entire Cuvelai Basin is flooded with water streaming from central Angola into the Etosha Pan and other low-lying areas.

Honourable Speaker, in the process the floods are inflicting widespread destruction of people's lives and livelihoods and infrastructure, some of which are both poorly located and shabbily built. Homesteads and houses, shops, schools, churches, roads, bridges, vehicles, trucks and domestic animals are perishing because of water. Regrettably, the SWAPO Party Government has failed to devise a comprehensive plan of harvesting water in earth dams or redirecting the floods into natural water passages.

Honourable Speaker, this scarce resource, water, is essential for the construction of massive irrigation schemes that are needed for food production for human and animal consumption and employment creation. Instead of constructing sufficient earth dams to harvest water...
(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? It is good to criticise others, but having known the Member for twelve years in Government by then when he was a Councillor of the Ongwediva Constituency, can he tell us how

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many earth dams were constructed by him in that constituency to create jobs and to harvest water?

HON NEHOVA: Comrade Speaker, I thought we are serious there. Maybe the Colleague from Ongwediva does not know that Regional Councillors have no power and still today they have no power to initiate projects of this magnitude. In any case, earth dams are supposed to be national projects, not projects for councillors. Even when you were in your town, how many did you initiate in Ongwediva? People are also affected the floods there. Honourable Speaker, let me continue and I will not allow any more questions, time is running.

Instead of constructing sufficient earth dams to harvest water, the Government of SWAPO is dreaming of constructing desalination plants, projects which are extremely expensive to manage and sustain. What would be more feasible? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Speaker, I would like to provide some information to the Honourable Member. Honourable Member, Councillors have powers. I do not know what kind of Councillor you were, but let me explain. I think either some Councillors like you, did not understand the Act very well or they were ignorant. As a Councillor you are given powers by the Act within your Constituency. At the same time you also had the CDCs, your advisors who are advising you on specific programmes and challenges within your constituency so that you can carry them to your national chamber, the Regional Council, where you table all these important ideas. Others have done that, if you have never done that. These are submitted through the Regional Council to the National Planning Commission. If it is news to you, then you have neglected your work.

HON NEHOVA: Honourable Speaker, I am now going to say what I did not want to say here. In the North three towns have been flooded, something that could have been avoided long ago. The problem in that

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area, particularly Oshikoto, Oshana and Omusati, is that highway from Omusati to Ruacana. That highway was not properly built; it was built by the enemy in order to carry weapons into Angola. Therefore, the water coming from Angola collects there and flows to all those areas. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, I want to ask clarification from my senior Colleague. Did I hear him saying the highway from Omusati to Ruacana?

HON NEHOVA: No, from Omuthiya to Ruacana. If we put that highway right, we will stop the floods and these are projects which were supposed to provide jobs – not silos – permanent jobs. However, to my Colleague there, some of the projects are national projects and Regional Councils cannot just stand up and put up any project. There are projects that are initiated by the Cabinet or by a Minister and the Councillors have their limits.

When considering construction of earth dams, the Government must determine under a comprehensive programme of water utilisation, declaring the locations, the number of dams, the capacity and the lifespan of such reservoirs or man-made freshwater lakes.

Honourable Speaker, the housing situation in the country, both in urban and rural areas, has become deplorable. The majority of our people around cities, towns and villages live in squatter shacks made mainly from second hand corrugated zinc sheets. Life under such squalid conditions is totally unbearable. After 21 years of Independence we no longer have an excuse for not providing decent housing for our citizens.

In the Budget under discussion there is no master plan or comprehensive programme for housing provision in the country. For how long will our people be condemned to live in such degrading human conditions?

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Honourable Speaker, the Government has the responsibility for ensuring that citizens are provided with proper and affordable housing. In this regard, I would want to call upon the Government to, as a matter of extreme urgency, formulate a national master plan for housing construction which will address the housing needs in the country. A national housing construction programme should not only be seen as a way of creating jobs which are needed and related schemes, but also a programme of addressing the health and welfare needs of our people.

Honourable Speaker, the other way of addressing the welfare of our citizens is by deliberately increasing the old-age pension. As it is now, the old-age pension amounts to N\$500 per month, which falls far short of the basic requirements to meet, in particular, the food prices and other essentials for old people. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask you a question? Can you deny or confirm that you are receiving old-age pension of N\$500, veteran subvention of N\$2 000 and your own Government pension? Can you deny or confirm that?

HON NEHOVA: Yes, all of them but one. I am receiving N\$500 and the normal pension. I used to receive the N\$2,000 but the Minister cancelled that one. I am receiving these and I am grateful that the Government has done that.

Naturally the amount of N\$500 is greater than what the senior citizens received fifteen to twenty years ago, but when inflation is properly factored in, our pensioners are worse off today than before. (Interjections). Yes, make your calculations.

Finally, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I repeat that I have no serious problem with a so-called expansionary Budget, expansionary probably meaning too big, too much money over a long period of using this money. I have no problem with that, after all, some of the funds will be borrowed from local financial institutions and not from IMF or World

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Bank. Keep it this way, Honourable Minister of Finance, do not borrow from those, borrow locally. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. I listened to the learned Honourable Member and Comrade-in-arms. What kind of objection do you have to everything you mentioned here? The point is this, why do you not say we should come together and solve our problems? I would like you to say, *“Yes, we made a mess, now it is our turn to solve the mess together.”*

HON NEHOVA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am very concerned with the way funds are distributed to the various Votes and I will raise my concerns further when the individual votes are being discussed in the Committee Stage. I do not agree with the distribution. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I must admit that when I was listening to the presentation of the Honourable Minister I was very excited about what she was saying, looking at the good ideas that she was putting on the Table, the big Budget that has not been increased and it really sounded good at that particular moment. Then I said to myself that let me take a bit of time and look at it in more detail.

The first thing that crossed my mind was that the Budget that would create 104,000 jobs excited almost everybody, but when I looked at the actual process of getting us to the 104,000, I was thinking of somebody giving me a Mercedes Benz and N\$2,000 to go to Okahandja, to realise later that there is no petrol in the car and there is also no petrol in town, which means that the N\$2,000 that I have been given to fill the car to go to Okahandja will not be used. You have money, you have a vehicle but you

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do not have the means to get you there. That is what I have seen when I was going through this Budget.

Honourable Speaker, I am going to be more comradely critical on this Budget. The Minister of Finance once again presented her annual Budget with great fanfare and promises of jobs and work for every Namibian, but we should remember that for the last twenty years the Minister has presented Budget after Budget referring to pro-poor, pro-growth Budgets, Budgets for economic growth and job creation. However, after 21 years of implementation of SWAPO Election Manifesto by the carefully selected trusted and card-carrying members, unemployment has reached 51,2%. Obviously, three years ago it was at 51.2% and looking at the annual contribution through unemployment of plus minus 16,000 young school dropouts, realistically speaking unemployment would be closer to 70%.

Honourable Speaker, it was reported that plus minus 400,000 Namibians are classified as poor. Corruption has become the order of the day. The question that we need to ask ourselves is what has gone wrong with development and job creation strategies that we have been informed of for the last couple of years. What are the results of this in the good Election Manifesto that has been implemented for the last ten years? I am asking these questions because throughout all these years, money has never been a problem. To say that once we have this big Budget now it will solve the unemployment problem, we have never identified money as being the problem. The problem that we have is the system, the system that needs to take us through to the Promised Land. That is what we need to look at before we start looking at the amount of money that will be spent. Throwing millions into a problem will never solve the problem, we need to plan carefully.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, presenting the Budget the Honourable Minister of Finance as usual said the following: *“Before delving into the challenges and interventions which this Budget necessitates, let me remind the House of some of the economic and fiscal policies upon which the SWAPO Party received its landslide mandate from the Namibian people. Namibia’s economic landscape will be refined*

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to address bottlenecks of supply and obstacles that limit the pace of faster and sustainable economic growth, employment creation and poverty reduction.”(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I would like to ask my Colleague a question. Honourable Tjihuiko, I think I will miss the point if you do not explain in detail. You said we need to plan carefully and I want you to elaborate a bit more on what that means. What does it mean to plan carefully, to do what?

HON TJIHUIKO: I shall come to that. *“We shall define programmes geared towards encouraging initiatives in economic activities, such as SME development. Development finance institutions will be capacitated to promote investment in productive economic activities and in entrepreneurship development. Capacity-building for management in financial institutions and capital markets will be enhanced to ensure the credibility and reliability of financial system in the country. In order to ensure broad-based economic development and growth – not BEE – it is imperative that there is a significant investment in economic infrastructure which supports economic activity in this country. In this regard, strong emphasis will be put on housing, water, energy, telecommunication, roads, rail network, airports and seaports, office space and business facilities.”*

On the same page the Honourable Minister stated by saying: *“This Financial Year the Government will implement a Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth. This programme is specifically aimed at addressing economic growth and the high unemployment rate through support to strategic growth sectors, namely agriculture, transport, tourism, housing and sanitation.”*

Before she said that, she said: *“The emphasis will be put on housing, water and energy.”* That shows that we have moved away from our strategy.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, coming to Honourable Ankama now, before the identified inhibiting factors are addressed, the review of Tender Board laws, complete implementation of the decentralisation programme, the undesirable and prohibiting immigration laws as identified by the Private Sector, the uncontrolled dumping of cheap subsidised products from various countries of the world and the opening of the SME trading sector, these are the inhibiting factors that have been identified. We have not developed a clear strategy as to how would we go about to strengthen this sector in order for this sector to benefit from these millions in order for the sector to create jobs. What we did was to throw N\$9.1 billion into the programme. As long as these problems are there, how on earth are we going to get this car to Okahandja if there is no petrol in Windhoek? Realistically speaking, it will be a good thing but it will never work.

Furthermore, we need to operationalise the Namibian Competition Commission. This will ensure that the playing field is levelled and a conducive environment has been created to allow all sectors in the economy to optimally contribute to the economic development. This anti-competition and favourable conditions given to the Chinese contractors undermine efficiency of that sector and should be stopped with immediate effect.

On small and medium enterprises, Honourable Speaker, I have learned with great shock and total disbelief that Government has decided to establish what they call an SME Bank. Before this bank opens its doors, I would like to know from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, specifically the Honourable Minister of Trade, as to what happened to the NDC. (Intervention)

HON MEMBER: You killed it!

HON TJIHUIKO: I want to know this because the NDC as an institution had the in-house capacity to implement SME programmes (Intervention)

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HON RIRUAKO: I heard somebody saying you killed it. Who killed it? Mind you, I am looking at this side. Who killed it? Let us face reality, let us come up with an answer to the problem. I do not want arguments for the sake of argument, who killed it?

HON TJIHUIKO: If you look at the different countries that are serious with SME's, such as India ... (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: I want to know whether the Chief represents the Opposition or he is a Member of the Ruling Party. (Laughter).

HON RIRUAKO: I am not a Member of the Ruling Party and I do not want to be taken for a ride. What is false is false no matter where it comes from.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, looking at the various countries that are serious with SME development, they have Government institutions created by law. SME's are part of the total development of a country; it cannot be done by a piecemeal approach. What happened to the NDC? At one stage we were informed that the NDC will be reinitiated to do the things that they were supposed to be doing. I do not know what happened.

I want to know what happened to the Credit Guarantee Scheme that was created by the Ministry of Trade and Industry to do the financing of SMEs. We need to go back and look at why these things did not work. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: You were there!

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I know that when we are talking about this issue we are in a better position because at least all the Ministers of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, from the first to the last one, are sitting in this House. I want to know what happened to the funding provided to the public financing institutions, such as the Development Bank of Namibia, AgriBank and National Housing Enterprise in order to facilitate access to funding for SME development, agricultural production and home acquisition.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the SME Bank, in my view, will not succeed. SME success does not depend on financing. You can throw money as we did in the past, but thinking that if you create a Credit Scheme and give money to these people and the problem will be solved, is a process that you have missed, looking at development as the whole process before you come to the point of funding. I guarantee you that the SME Bank will not succeed. That will be a recipe for disaster, because we have created the Credit Guarantee Scheme in the Ministry, we linked the Scheme with the commercial banks, we encouraged the commercial banks to open funding windows for SMEs, which they have done. Up to now those banks that we have encouraged are busy challenging SMEs, with all the promises that they will get the necessary support from Government. Out of the blue now we decide to have our own bank. What difference does it make? A bank is a bank; you cannot run a bank on a Budget contribution from Parliament. That is the reason why we realised the Credit Guarantee Scheme will not work and that is why it did not work.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, if one goes by the concern expressed by very seasoned economists in this country, the fact that every dollar of this big Budget we talk about, namely N\$120 billion over the next years, that only 18% will go into development and job creation, I want the Minister to take note of that and to respond to that in her contribution. That is what the experts say, that only 18% of the N\$120 billion, for each dollar that we spend, N\$12 will go to development, which means the money that was supposed to create jobs. The 82 cents will go to the construction industry. We will pay servicing of the interest of the N\$41.5 billion loan that we have. Looking at that itself, it gives you an impression that you cannot create jobs. It gives us the impression that we

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have increased the money to increase consumption spending rather than putting it in a sector that would create jobs.

If you look at the Budget that has been given to the productive sector, take the Ministry of Trade and Industry, they did not get a billion and you expect to create jobs. How would you do it? It is miracle that can only be made possible by the Ruling Party.

Honourable Speaker, as usual we have failed in one thing. I am not saying that you have failed; I am saying we failed one thing and that is to do proper planning before we moved on. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Tjihuiko, I just want you clarify, you said we have failed. Do you mean you as a Director and the former Ministers of Trade or who are these “we?”

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, as I am standing in this House I am a national leader, it is my responsibility to provide an oversight function on the wastage of Government spending. If things have gone this far, then obviously we did not provide the necessary oversight function to make sure that money is not going through our fingers. I cannot just say I am the angel and the rest are the ones who have made those mistakes. The day we are no longer here, our kids are not going to say, “*No, Tjihuiko was not a Minister, it was only the Ministers.*” They would say the Parliament of 2010 to 2014 has failed and that is why I am saying that we have the responsibility to make sure that things move and that is why it is important that you should also listen to us and take our good advice that we are giving you. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: I want to give information to the Honourable Colleague. I can see the members of NUDO are uncomfortable whenever SWAPO is criticised. What do you call such persons?

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, we are coming from different homes, different Political Parties and every Party has its own position. Therefore, I am known to be one of the critics of Government and I will continue doing that based on what I think, not what somebody else wants me to do. Do it yourself.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as usual, instead of doing proper planning to create a conducive environment through reviewing the Tender Board laws and prohibiting factors, such as the reviewing of the Foreign Investment Act, the EPZ Act, the SME Policy and Programmes, which are twenty years old, getting the report and recommendation of the Unemployment Conference held at Safari Hotel last year and through that, to develop and impose strategies to deploy unemployment programmes, before all these things have been done, Government decided out of the blue, only God knows, that they need an additional N\$9.1 billion.

HON SPEAKER: The House shall rise until tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2011.04.06 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
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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? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING
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HON SPEAKER: When this House adjourned yesterday, the 5th of April 2011, the Question before the Assembly was Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Tjihuiko had the Floor.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Before I continue, I just want to indicate to the Honourable Members that I will not entertain any questions; I will try to conclude so that others can also participate in the Debate.

Honourable Speaker, education is the key to freeing people from poverty. An educated Nation is a liberated Nation; therefore I am not surprised to see the biggest Budget being allocated to education. My concern is however that for the last many years now, the highest Budget was given to education, but yet there are no textbooks in schools, no desks, there are problems with classrooms. 21 years after Independence our children are still being taught under trees and dilapidated classrooms. This state of affairs cannot and should not be tolerated any further.

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Honourable Speaker, I appreciate the effort by the current Minister, the Deputy Minister, Dr Abraham Iyambo and Dr David Namwandi, for what they are trying to do. The effort of the Minister of Education and his team is very much commendable, but more needs to be done. Your capital projects must benefit all the Regions in the country. Tenders for renovation and classroom construction must discriminate in favour of local or regional Namibian SMEs. The huge Budget that you have received is in fact taxpayers' money and it must, therefore, be spent in such a way that it benefits the Namibians.

Honourable Speaker, on the question of land, land reform and resettlement, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, has a variety of socio-economic, political and cultural meanings to a Namibian. Therefore, the land reform process must be specific in its intent and therefore, differentiate between the purposes for which land reform and resettlement is intended.

Honourable Speaker, given the historical background of land dispossession, I wish to call on Government to be more specific in addressing the needs of the landless masses. It is high time that Government comes up with a clear definition of "landless" and the various categories of priorities of resettlement programme.

Honourable Speaker, on commercial farm, I want to know and my concern is based on the ongoing Debate between a commercial farmer and a Member of Parliament, whether commercial farmers, whether white or black, have a legal right to the land they have bought under the Namibian laws. I want to know whether Chapter 3, Article 5 of the Namibian Constitution is applicable to white commercial farmers in this country. I am asking this question against the background of the ongoing Debate between a farm owner and a Deputy Minister.

Honourable Speaker, the Debate between the Honourable Deputy Minister and a farm owner in Omaheke Region is not about the unreasonable refusal of the farmer to allow the Honourable Deputy Minister to enter his farm, neither does it have anything to do with the colour of the farm owner. I believe that the action of the farmer was based on principles and

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human rights are guaranteed and respected in Article 21 of the Namibian Constitution. It has nothing to do with colour; it is a fact that a person has a right to the land that he owns.

I want to emphasise the point that even us sitting in this august House who have farms, what you would do if I come to your farm and the next Saturday morning I claim that my grandfather was buried here and I am going to bury my grandmother there without getting permission from you. Would you allow that? You will not. It is not a question of colour. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I really want to accommodate the request by the Honourable Member that we should not interrupt him because of time constraints, but I think the way he is using this opportunity he has, to finalise his statement is not a productive one, because obviously nobody has said that people should be allowed to enter other people's properties as they please without consulting the owners of the properties, but here we are talking about a member of the Government of Namibia, going there to see the owner of the property in order to discuss matters related to the employment conditions of the employees and now this Honourable Member is trying to justify that he was treated the way he was treated and that the farmer was actually correct. I think it is most unfortunate that the Member should choose this platform of all places to make the statement that he did.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Member, we should also remember that three years ago an old man from Gam died and he wanted to be buried next to his grandfather at *Okatjiho* and the farm owner refused and there was no outcry. Did you not know? You only know the things you want to know, it is not the first time, it happens almost every day. (Interjections) Even if the Traditional Leaders want to be buried in Okahandja, they must get permission from the Lutheran Church in Okahandja. The only problem is that you only want to know the things you want to know.

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Honourable Members I read in the newspaper that there is a white commercial farmer doing this. The point is, as long as we are being protected by this Constitution, we must respect it. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: On a Point of Information. I think my learned Colleague is trying to mislead Parliament and also the Nation. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Not Parliament, maybe the public.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The point is this, Comrade Speaker; even as Parliament we have Committees which are tasked to interrogate social conditions in our country. You may recall there was the Kameeta Commission on Farm Workers and if that Committee of Parliament goes there in their official capacity, could they be prevented from entering those farms because it is private property? I do not think so and I think the Member is really missing the point. If a Labour Inspector goes there to solve labour matters in terms of the Labour Act, can they be prevented because it is private property? It is part of Government functions in terms of the laws of the Republic.

HON TJIHUIKO: The Honourable principal advisor to Government should also remember that even if the Police Officer wants to enter your house, investigating a criminal activity, you have the right to refuse. He can only enter with a warrant from the High Court. What was the problem that the Deputy Minister could not get permission from a Magistrate in Gobabis to enter the farm?

HON RIRUAKO: I can agree with him that one needs a warrant to enter somebody else's property as that authority cannot be challenged by

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anyone. In order to prevent an argument, you must have a warrant. That is the right way to go about it.

HON TJIHUIKO: In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I just want to quote from Chapter 3, Article 5 of the Constitution. “*The fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in this chapter shall be respected and upheld by the Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary.*” (Interjection). You must listen. If you listen to me you will become wise. “*...and all organs of Government agencies where applicable to them by all natural and legal persons in Namibia and shall be enforceable by Courts*”, not by lawmakers, not by Members of Parliament imposing yourselves, saying, “*I am a Member of Parliament, I am a Minister, I have the right, despite the Constitution, to enter your farm.*” It was wrong and it should not be encouraged. I rest my case, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Van Der Walt.

HON VAN DER WALT: Honourable Speaker, I thank you very much for the Floor but I did not think I will speak so soon.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise today to support the National Budget. I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister Saara Amadhila and her Deputy for such a comprehensive Budget. Honourable Speaker, I have said in the past that the Budget does not start with the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry can just work with what is available.

Honourable Speaker I would like to congratulate the Minister for her courage and her positive way of thinking. I do believe that money makes money, so what we put back into the economy will be returned as long as there is discipline and a framework and that we all work together. Taxpayers’ money will come back to our economy and I believe that it is a well-considered Budget.

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Show me a country in the world that does not have debts. As long as there is a programme and it is structured and there is discipline, then there is no problem, then I believe we will make a success.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, our Government focuses on the following points and this is of utmost importance to the wellbeing of all the key role-players in our country: administration, health, agriculture, education, job creation, development and poverty reduction.

An issue very close to my heart is the floods in the North. I was thinking about that and I asked myself, how difficult is it for our people in the North? What has happened in the last four years is that they actually only stay for three months after they have repaired everything and then they wait for the next flood. I believe that there must be a way that we can channel the water in the North, because as soon as our people are back on their feet, everything is destroyed again. I believe that we need to channel that water and use it productively. I know the people are used to their traditional way of living, catching fish and the rest, but I believe aerial photos can be taken of the area to come up with a constructive plan.

If you look at the millions we spend every year to rescue these people and to build up the community again, then I believe, Honourable Minister of Finance, that as long as there is peace and stability in our country, which I believe will be there, we can get into debt. That is not a problem, we will work for that money and we will solve the problem, but I believe that we need to spend money in the North to secure these people once and for all. We cannot spend N\$150 million, N\$200 million every year. Let us spend once and get it done so that we know these people are safe. We are making light of the lives of our people in the North, which I do not agree with at all and we should make a plan because that is why I am here. There is a story that I do not want to represent the Afrikaner, but I am not representing the Afrikaner, I represent each and every Namibian, especially people in poverty and the unemployed people.

I want to make it clear today in this House, Honourable Speaker, Van Der Walt is here ... (Intervention)

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Pieter Jacobus Van Der Walt a question, please? Honourable Van Der Walt, you are doing well. I have read in the paper that you have set up some sort of company; I do not know to do what but maybe to benefit from the Budget. You said you are not representing the Afrikaners, which is a good thing, but can you tell us who are the would-be beneficiaries of your company and whether I can also come and join your company? Is it transparent, is it open for everybody? Can you just explain a bit about this company?

HON VAN DER WALT: Honourable Speaker, I thank Honourable Tjihuiko for the question. My wife told me the other night that, "*Pieter, when you speak you become too excited*", so I need to calm down.

Honourable Tjihuiko, I thank you for the opportunity. The Namibian Business Drive is very simple, it is an organisation. I believe that we are not in competition with anybody; it is an organisation for each and every business in this country. Where you come from does not matter at all and it is not in competition with anybody, but we are all in competition with poverty and unemployment in this country.

I have already spoken to my sister of the NCCI, Martha Namundjebo, and I love the woman a lot, we have come a long way for many years. (Laughter). No, I am honest, there is nothing to lie about, Martha and I are very close, we have come along for many years and the Prime Minister and I have come for many years and there is nothing to hide about it, this is the truth. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

With your permission, Comrade Speaker, may I put a question to Comrade Van Der Walt? I see you have a written statement, well-prepared and you started off well, but I am just afraid that Honourable Tjihuiko wants to divert you. Would you receive a question from me that you may consider to stick to your statement and then invite Honourable Tjihuiko to elaborate on the question that he has put?

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HON VAN DER WALT: I think you are a hundred percent correct, but the NBD is there for all of us and I think I have said enough about this.

Honourable Speaker, I know to some, debt is a threat, but we as a country have all the ingredients to sustain and maintain our debt. If you look at our Namibian economic freedom, we rate 73rd in the world out of 179, 180 countries. Namibia ranked 4th out of 46 countries in the sub-Saharan African Region and our overall score is above the world and regional averages.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, of course there is a huge space for improvement. Our overall regulatory environment is efficient and fairly straightforward. Openness to trade is relatively high and our economic growth has averaged close to 4% over the last five years.

Honourable Speaker, if I look at our fiscal position, we have a relatively high tax rate of 35% and on top of that corporate has been raised to 37%. Our Mining Industry is 37.5%, which I also believe can be increased because our raw materials are exported. However, our diamond mining profits are subject to the 35% and then we have the manganese mines in the Otjozondjupa area, Otjozondju, close to my farm and we only need to erect a smelter. We do not need rocket scientists to erect a smelter there and to produce the final product with our own manganese. They export thousands and thousands of tons every month and we have very, very rich manganese in our country. We can produce the final product and we do not need rocket scientists to do that. We can talk to ISCOR in the Transvaal and the only problem is electricity.

It is time that we and our neighbours sit down and look at what we have that the other country does not have and support each other. We try to rely on the EU and these people, they only spoon-feed us. We as Africans need to sit down and plan and work together and build up Africa so that we can become a united force so that they in turn need us. We do not need them all the time; we need to make a plan to sort that out.

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However, our diamond and mining profits are subject to 35%, so we can increase the taxes on our mining industry, but I believe we must start producing the final product.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, if I take all the above into consideration, I would say that trade is one of the biggest contributors to our GDP and we need to take a look at our import bans and restrictions, our import licensing regulations. Corruption is also a big problem. If we are corrupt, the people who suffer are the poor people and the unemployed. Therefore, we need to stamp out corruption at every level in our country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, if we want to improve on our foreign investment, we need to consider our BEE structure. I do not have a problem; we need to teach the people of Namibia how to catch their own fish. I am aware of the disadvantages and injustices of colonialism, but somehow we need to get our people on board and get them to understand that we as a Nation need to work together to solve our problems.

Honourable Speaker, our financial sector is not fully developed. Financial intermediation is uneven across our country. Access to credit and banking services discourage entrepreneurial activities.

Honourable Speaker, we need to create a sound and stable environment when it comes to property rights. We need to finalise our land reform issue. I hear people touch-touch the Farming Industry and the commercial farmers like this, but it is not necessary to do that. We need to be honest with each other and say where do we stand, what are we aiming at, and do we really want to achieve Vision 2030? We need to finalise our land reform issue so that each and every Namibian can work together, so that we embrace Vision 2030 as one Nation, also to have one vision as a Nation to create an environment of stability in our Agricultural Sector. We have enough land and are able to generate an income to buy farms to enable our communal farmers to become commercial farmers. As long as the money we pay for farms stay in this country there is no problem, then it will be ploughed back into the economy.

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If my house, which is not bigger than this National Assembly, is valued at N\$4.5 million, how can you compare a house in Windhoek to a farm? On the farm there is a house, there is the farm from which you generate your income. I am saying, if a farmer wants to sell his farm, let us not handicap our own economy, let us go and buy the farm. The farmers pay land tax, use that money to buy farms, but there must be a rule that the money may not be taken out of the country; it must be reinvested in Namibia. Then there is no problem, it is money from our people to our people and the money will remain in Namibia and we can work with that money.

We need to mobilise our own resources to its fullest capacity to enable us to become economically independent. African neighbouring countries need to assist each other with their resources so that we can create a united force. Africa should become the biggest supplier and not stand by and watch as China and India take over the African market. I do not have anything against China and India, let me make that clear, but I am saying we are also able to do this.

We as a Nation have already reconciled and, therefore, I need to thank our Founding Father, Dr Sam Nujoma, and I have to thank our President, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, and I have to thank all the leaders. That is also something I want to say to the people in this country, they need to respect our elder people because they have the wisdom and were it not for our elder people, we would not have been reconciled today. Thank you very much for that.

There is no time for racism and ethnic groups anymore. Those days must be over, we need to stand together. We are a small Nation with a big and beautiful country with all the resources, enough for all the people. There is no need for poverty and unemployment. Honourable Minister, I support the Bill. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura.

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HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament. It is time for the Members of the Legislature to rubberstamp what has been decided by the Executive. We have been operating in a nebulous situation over the last twenty-one years which contradicts the separation of power between the Legislature and Executive. The Legislature is loaded top-heavy with Members of the Executive, thus diminishing the independence of the Legislature as provided for by the Constitution.

Members of the Legislature are thus puppets of the Executive because Bills are drafted by the Executive, including the Appropriation Bills. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information, Honourable Speaker. I think the Honourable Member is Out of Order.

HON SPEAKER: That I will determine.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I am trying to help the Presiding Officer. The Honourable Member is a founding Member of this Honourable House. He participated fully in the Drafting Committee of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. I was there, he was there, and we went through each and every aspect of the current Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. When did he come to realise that the National Assembly is a puppet of the Executive? Twenty-one years into Independence he wants to tell the Namibian public that he has made a mistake twenty-one years ago. Is that in order?

HON SPEAKER: We will listen to what remains of Honourable Kaura's contribution.

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HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I raised that question in Parliament to His Excellency President Nujoma. I asked the question, why is Cabinet so big, to such an extent that it undermines the independence of the Legislature? The answer was: *“You know, we have to accommodate as many people as possible, but as time goes on I will reduce Cabinet so that it will not dominate the Legislature.”* That was the answer of His Excellency President Nujoma as far back as the year 2000. Therefore, I am cognisant of this loading of this top-heavy Executive. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I know that Honourable Kaura is a senior citizen and his memory is probably failing him.

HON KAURA: Not yet.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: President Nujoma was never a part of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution. Whatever appointments he made were done within the bounds of the Constitution. Therefore, President Nujoma should not feature in this Debate. The second is a Point of Information.

HON KAURA: Who appoints Ministers?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: This book here is the law which we adopted, you and me and a few others. Now you want to question the law. Why do you not just move a Motion to amend the Constitution?

HON KAURA: I am not going to table a Motion to amend the Constitution. Ministers are appointed by the President and if we end up with forty-four Ministers and Deputies in Parliament, that is undermining the Constitution. We do not need forty-four Ministers. (Interjections).

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They are defending jobs and their Mercedes Benzes. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Comrade Speaker, I would like to provide some information as an addition to what the Prime Minister has just stated and that will probably help us out. Article 35 of the Namibian Constitution, which was drafted by Members who are here, including the Honourable President of the DTA, my neighbour, reads as follows: “*Cabinet shall consist of the President, the Prime Minister and such other Ministers as the President may appoint from the Members of the National Assembly, including Members nominated under Article 46(1)(b) hereof for the purposes of administering and executing the functions of Government.*” There is no specific number mentioned in the Constitution which the President must use to compose the Cabinet. If the Honourable Member could point out the Article in the Namibian Constitution which determines the size of Cabinet, then we can talk about the violation of the Constitution.

HON KAURA: It is because of that loophole that we ended up with an Executive Legislature and the separation of power no longer exists. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Honourable Kaura, there is no loophole as you are claiming. When you use a loophole it means you are bending the Constitution and I do recall that it was exactly the DTA, through Mr. Dirk Mudge, who made sure that Members of the Cabinet must be Members of the National Assembly. It is you who proposed this.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, therefore, having made that point... (Intervention)

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HON RIRUAKO: I thank you, Mr Speaker. I am the only person who was kicked out of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution by my own Political Party and they made sure that I am not one of the people who drafted the Constitution and there was a reason for that. They wanted to do things according to their desire and that is the desire they are now complaining about.

HON KAURA: Chief, we have come a long way, you know exactly what circumstances prevailed at that point in time that made it impossible for you to be part of the Drafting Committee. I cannot divulge that here. So, please, you know the circumstances that prevailed.

Therefore, I shall execute my legislative responsibilities by addressing burning issues in the Namibian economy. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I rise on a Point of Order still on an earlier point that was made by Honourable Kaura on which a number of the senior Members of the House have already commented. I wanted to emphasise the point that the Article of the Constitution that was cited by both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture is very clear that the consideration for the President in appointing Members to Cabinet is not how many Members of Parliament would also be Members of the Executive. The consideration is indicated in this provision and it is stated clearly that it is for purposes of administering and executing the functions of Government. Therefore, when the Minister has to appoint Ministers, he has in mind specific functions that must be carried out by offices headed by those Ministers and not necessarily the activities of Parliament. There is obviously nothing that shows that a certain number of Ministers in this House compromises the autonomy of the House. I think that is such an important issue that it is so undesirable for Members to make the public believe that this House cannot function the way it is supposed to because of the number of Ministers that are also Members of the House. I think we have the responsibility to educate our people properly and it is most unfortunate that he chose to do this.

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HON KAURA: The Honourable Minister of Finance, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, stated the following in her Budget statement: (Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask the Honourable Kaura a question? In the light of the contradictions around the Constitution, one on the Cabinet and the issue of the land, do you not think it is high time that we have a national constitutional conference to review the Constitution in order to adjust it to the new times of today?

HON KAURA: Precisely, because the arithmetic of it all says a lot. If you have forty-four Ministers and Deputies and the minority are ordinary Members, do you think you have an independent Legislature? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Order. There is nothing mathematically or arithmetically wrong with anything that has to do with the ratio of Ministers and Members of Parliament in this House. If you want to make a point, you could probably bemoan the fact that the numbers of Opposition Party Members are so insignificant, to the point that you cannot make a dent. That is the issue; please do not blame it on the Constitution.

HON KAURA: I think even if you defend it in whatever shape or manner, you do realise there is something wrong here. Even if you have a whole SWAPO Parliament without any Opposition, if the Executive is loaded top-heavy, then there is no separation of power between the Legislature and the Executive. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: May I ask the senior Member a question? Since 1990 the Honourable Member, the President of the DTA, has been mobilising the Nation to

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become the President of this Nation and he failed to do so. How many Cabinet members did he plan to have in his Cabinet?

Secondly, how many Cabinet members did the DTA-Government have during that time?

HON KAURA: During our Interim Government we only had twelve and if I have the opportunity to become President, I will only have twelve Ministers, not forty-four.

The Honourable Minister of Finance stated the following: “*We are in the fortunate situation to have physical space within which we can give attention to these pressing issues of the day and hence, I shall table an expansionary Budget.*” Honourable Speaker, it is this expansionary Budget we are going to interrogate.

The Honourable Minister states that, “*N\$14.7 billion have been allocated for job creation. She further states that the implementation of Targeted Intervention for Empowerment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG) will create 104,000 jobs.*” That sounds positive, but would this be realised or is it a pie in the sky? How can this be achieved while the ranks of the unemployed are swollen by the thousands of unemployable youngsters that fail Grade 10 and 12, that are discarded to the streets of the cities of Namibia and when you apply for a job, they ask for experience and qualifications? How are we going to achieve these 104,000 jobs?

How can unemployment be addressed while the Construction Industry is handed over on a silver platter to the Chinese? In the SWAPO Party Government newspaper, the *New Era*, of Friday, the 1st of April 2011, the Namibian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Metal and Allied Namibian Workers Union are raising strong objections to the way the Chinese business people are allowed to literally do as they please in Namibia. They stand accused of paying no taxes in Namibia. They are accused of showing disrespect for Namibian labour laws. They are accused of dealing in foreign currency and illegally siphoning funds out of the country. (Intervention)

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question?

HON KAURA: For how long are you going to defend the Chinese?
(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: You said that article appeared on the 1st of April. Are you sure it was not an April fool's joke?

HON KAURA: It was on the 1st of April and it was not April fool's Day, mind you. The *New Era* states the following: "*Construction Industry insiders told New Era this week of the specific Construction Company offering bribes to Architects, Quantity Surveyors and project engineers to overlook the low standards of the construction sites instead of using prescribed standard material.*"

The Chinese construction companies bring in their own labourers to do work that can be done by Namibians. In that prevailing anomaly, how are 104 000 Namibians going to be employed?

It is stated further in *New Era* that everything from doorframes to steel nails used at construction sites are brought in from China. In view of this unfair competition, how are the 104,000 jobs going to be created?
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: You said the nails are imported from China. Where are we manufacturing nails in Namibia? You must tell the truth and not mislead the public, where are our own companies in the Construction Industry? Name them and then we can compare. Other external companies are charging more and they are milking the cow here. We have savings of up to N\$50 million because of the Chinese? Do you think Government must just spend on other external companies which are competing with them? I would agree with you if

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they were Namibian companies. Tell us why did those South Africans not even have the audacity to create one manufacturing company?

HON KAURA: You are becoming real sell-outs. Honourable Speaker, I thought the Metal and Allied Namibian Workers Union was an affiliate of SWAPO and they are the ones making these allegations. Your own Comrades are making these allegations that you are selling Namibia, mortgaging our country to foreigners.

I would prefer buying nails from South Africa, which is a fellow African country, run by the ANC Government. (Intervention)

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

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, on the issue of nails, I just want to advise the Honourable Foreign Minister not to say it loudly, because he is divulging a secret that twenty years after Independence we cannot even produce nails.

Honourable Speaker, there was a huge Debate on a Motion tabled by Honourable Moongo in Parliament concerning disproportionate fines meted out against taxi drivers. The Honourable Minister and SWAPO Secretary-General, Honourable Iivula-Ithana, gave a brilliant exposé in Parliament that there is divine justice under heaven. In the *Namibian* of the 31st of March 2011 we read the following: “*Councillor cannot afford to pay speeding fine. Keetmanshoop SWAPO Town Councillor Phiina Elago, was fined N\$2,000 in the local Magistrate’s Court yesterday for speeding. In mitigation of sentence Elago said she was a single mother of five children and could only afford N\$1,000.*” There is divine justice under heaven and that is why we are saying these draconian fines must be reviewed. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I would like to say that the exposé was given to refute the allegations being made by whoever is making it that it is targeting the taxi industry. Those that the Honourable Member has quoted are not taxi drivers. I am happy that he has given that information.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, if a Councillor cannot afford those heavy fines, how do you expect a taxi driver to afford it? That is why I say there is divine justice under heaven.

Honourable Speaker, under total debt stock the Minister states that: *“In 2010 the total debt stock increased slightly, reaching 16.9% of the GDP in December 2010 compared to 15.1% of the GDP in December 2009.”* I nevertheless congratulate the Minister when she states that domestic debt constitutes 77%. Domestic debt is more acceptable foreign debt which has strings attached, such as the settlement of five thousand Chinese families in Namibia to compensate for a debt incurred with China. (Interjections). (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Order. Is it allowed for a senior Member of this House and president-in-waiting to spread rumours? Are we calling him “President Rumour-mongering” or what shall we call him?

HON KAURA: We cannot mortgage our country to foreigners, thus bringing back colonialism through the backdoor.

Honourable Speaker, in paragraph 51 of the Budget speech the Honourable Minister states the following: *“A comprehensive programme of upgrading of school buildings and related infrastructure, teachers’ housing, provision of additional classrooms and the delivery of teaching materials has been started.”* Honourable Minister of Finance, the school hall of Okakarara Secondary School was burnt down by SWAPO operatives as

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part of the SWAPO Independence struggle. That hall remains as it was in 1988, 21 years after Independence during the reign of the SWAPO Party Government. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: The Honourable Member refers to the national liberation struggle as SWAPO's struggle for Independence. Is the Honourable Member trying to say that the struggle for Independence did not receive his contribution? In the past he used to complain that Independence was brought about by the contribution of all Namibians. Today he is actually calling the national liberation struggle SWAPO's struggle. Is the Honourable Member saying that? If he did not make a contribution himself, is it correct to diminish the contribution of others? (Interjection)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Even when he is saying it was burnt down by SWAPO, he does not have facts.

HON KAURA: I left Namibia in 1964 when you were not born yet, so let us leave it there. We are part of the Tanganyika Group.

For how long will the students at the Okakarara Senior Secondary School be denied space where they can carry out extramural activities?

The Finance Minister talks of an allocation to the provision of water. My question is: A Motion was tabled by Honourable Venaani on the issue of debts owed to NamWater along the Eastern Water Carrier. He requested that debt to be written off. A Committee of Parliament went and investigated that matter but their report was never tabled in Parliament.

The debt to NamWater amounted to N\$60 million at that point in time but nothing was done about it, while N\$600 million of GIPF were written off as bad debt. How do we justify this hypocrisy and double standards? (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask a small question? If others are accused of double standards, what will happen to those who tell citizens not to pay their water bills and are actually accomplices in bringing about these kinds of debts to NamWater? Are they not also guilty of practising something unbecoming to a leader?

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, ignorance is bliss. When a pipe has burst and there is a huge pool of water and then you charge the people to pay that water which has spilled all over the place and NamWater is unable to repair that pipe, how do you deal with that situation? You make people pay for what they did not consume and that is the problem with NamWater. Ignorance is bliss because you do not know that.

Honourable Speaker, the Finance Minister states that AgriBank advanced loans for the acquisition of farmland. Honourable Speaker, is there any more land in Namibia? Commercial farms are registered as close corporations and buyers no longer buy land, they buy shares. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I am sorry for interrupting the Member, but I just want clarity on something the Honourable Member has said. Did I hear correctly that the Motion that Honourable Venaani tabled in this House last year was referred to a Standing Committee of Parliament for further investigation? Did I hear correctly that the Parliamentary Committee did not complete its work and that we are still awaiting a report by that Parliamentary Committee? Is that what you have said? If that is the case, maybe the Honourable Speaker may give us guidance as to whose fault that is.

HON KAURA: The Committee investigated but that report has not seen the light of day yet. The Motion was referred to the relevant Committee

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to deal with this issue and they went and investigated and the Report has not been tabled in Parliament up to now. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information. My information is that the Committee completed its Report, all Members agreed, including a representative from the Party of the Honourable Member. This Report was brought to the Standing Rules and Orders Committee and Honourable Speaker; you will remember very well that two Members of the Honourable Member's Party objected to the Report. The Honourable Speaker ruled that this Report should go back to the Committee and that was the end of the term of that Parliament. Therefore, who should be blamed?

HON KAURA: I am saying then it died there, just as the Motion of Honourable Chief Riruako came to this Parliament and is nowhere to be seen. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, that particular issue is of interest to us as a Ministry dealing with water and I remember very well when we debated the Motion, we did not vote on the Motion, we did not oppose the Motion. As the Line Minister I said it should be referred to the Standing Committee because the matter is quite complex and maybe the information gathered by the Committee will assist us as the Line Ministry and NamWater to see how to take this matter forward. As the Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs is saying, if the work of the Standing Committee just died a natural death like that, I do not know if it would make much sense if we continue saying NamWater is to be blamed or the Government is to be blamed, because that work could have assisted us to take the matter forward. How do we now get out of this situation?

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HON SPEAKER: There are two ways. Somebody could reintroduce the same Motion or alternatively, you listen to Honourable Kaura and clarify the issue as it stands. Regardless of the status of that Committee's work, you as the Line Minister could clarify the actual situation as it stands now.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, is there any more land in Namibia? Commercial farms are registered as close corporations and buyers no longer buy land, they buy shares. The prohibition of foreigners buying land in Namibia is no longer relevant. Even an Eskimo from Alaska can buy land in Namibia by way of buying shares. Who is fooling who, Honourable Speaker? Maybe there is land in communal areas, but the contentious commercial farming sector land is no more. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The Honourable Member referred to the Eskimos. It is like referring to the San people. These people are marginalised in the world and I do not know why he wants to continue to marginalise them. Why do you not talk about other people, why the Eskimos?

HON KAURA: I said maybe there is land in communal areas, but in the contentious commercial farming sector there is no more land, just shares, like any other business listed on the Stock Exchange in Johannesburg.

The Honourable Minister states that the National Housing Enterprise constructed housing units in all locations for low-income groups. The question is, where? Not in Havana, Sewende Laan, Agtste Laan. Unless the Municipalities are given allocations to build houses for the poor, the problem of lack of housing for the poor will go beyond Vision 2030.

External grants: In paragraph 74 the Minister states the following: *“Grant support from development partners in 2011/2012 will amount to N\$1.6 billion outside the State Revenue Fund and N\$230 million through the State Revenue Fund.”* Honourable Speaker, what happened to the

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Special Initiative money from Germany? We heard of a few goats bought in Omatjete that died because of adaptation problems. They were bought in the South and they could not adapt to conditions in Omatjete, so they all died. We also heard of goats bought in the South and that is the end of the story. The other areas that expected to benefit, such as Khorixas, Opuwo, Gam, Okakarara, Otjituu, Ovitoto, Otjimbingwe, Okamatapati, Okondjatu and Eiseb are still waiting in vain. What happened to the Special Initiative money from Germany?

In paragraph 81 the Minister states that during the 2011/2012, 2013/2014 Medium Term Expenditure Framework period of, N\$23 billion or 19% of the total expenditures are allocated to the Development Budget. I say congratulations and ride on, sister; we want to see the results.

In paragraph 86 the Minister states: “*Despite all the Government efforts unemployment remains high among the youth.*” I say, shut down NAMCOL, keep the children in school, let them repeat until they finish Grade 10 and 12. Thousands of our children are leaving Namibia to look for work in the United Kingdom and Canada. How painful!

During our time we left Namibia because we were denied educational opportunities and human rights under the South African apartheid regime, but today’s youngsters are denied educational opportunities and employment under the SWAPO Party Government.

In paragraph 99 it is recognised that Mining is one of the key industries for the Namibian economy. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, this time I would really like the Honourable Member to share with the House more details about the circumstances under which these people are *fleeing* to Canada. Is it true that particularly the ladies are running away because of female circumcision? You are raising the issue and this is what the media is saying. Can you confirm because you seem to be in the know as to what is happening.

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HON KAURA: Anyone who talks of female circumcision in Namibia, I would say *ǀhomi ra*. There is no such thing as female circumcision in Namibia.

While I agree with the statement, I want to find out from the Minister why prospecting licences are given to Russians to monopolise the whole Kunene Region, yet after 21 years of Independence not a single mine has been opened by Russian businessmen or women. The prospecting licences have been renewed, keeping competitors out, yet they are doing absolutely nothing. Is that fair, Honourable Minister?

In paragraph 119 the Minister states: *“Furthermore, the men and women who fought to secure independence will also receive the recognition and support they deserve.”* We support that wholeheartedly, but how about Reverend Asaria Kamburona who assisted President Nujoma to leave Namibia, how about Duivel Shitele who fought with rocks against bullets in the 1959 uprising? His pointing finger remains a clear evidence of the night of December 10, 1959. It was damaged by a bullet from a Sten-gun. Are these people and many others going to benefit from this allocation or is it for SWAPO only?

In paragraph 123 the Minister states: *“In order to improve learning standards in rural areas, the Government is significantly expanding its Budget allocation to this sector.”* When is this allocation going to reach Gibeon without flushing toilets and shamefully stinks to high heaven? When is this allocation going to reach Tses, Berseba, Bethanië, Koës, Khorixas, Kongola, Linyanti and many other rural communities?

In paragraph 130 the Minister states: *“In relative terms total debt is estimated to increase to 20.4% of the GDP in 2011/2012 and going up to 33% of the GDP in 2013/2014.”* I am seeing red lights flashing. That is very dangerous and unacceptable. The total debt should not exceed 25% of the GDP in any normal economic situation. That increase will move us closer to bankruptcy.

In conclusion, old-age pension must be increased to N\$1,000 per month. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, for the Floor.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, first of all, I would like to make my contribution and I wish to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Deputy Minister and all the staff for this people-centred radical Budget. This is indeed a departure from the usual Budgets we have seen since our Independence 21 years ago. It is a serious attempt to address contemporary challenges that our country faces which, if not dealt with effectively, could have grave consequences.

In this Budget the Government has taken a decisive stand on the scourge of unemployment and its consequent dehumanising poverty that rendered many of our people helpless, especially the youth who are the future of this country. Close to N\$15 billion have been proposed in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework to facilitate the creation of more than 100,000 new jobs through the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG) by 2014, by investing more in agriculture, tourism, transport, housing and sanitation and public works.

The challenge of unemployment needs to be tackled in increasing economic growth while maintaining the country's fiscal stability. The identified sectors have the potential to create more jobs due to their strategic positions within the national economy. Agriculture continues to dominate the activities of the majority of our people in rural areas and if fully developed, the sector can even address the rural-urban migration with all its accompanying challenges of increasing demand for services in urban centres. An increase in agriculture production will enable us to kill two birds with one stone by creating employment opportunities whilst improving food security at the same time.

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Tourism, on the other hand, has the potential for growth, as so many speakers before me has stated. In this regard, besides improving the quality of tourist infrastructure, our concentration on the development of cultural and community-based tourism, which again brings the rural communities into the mainstream economy without necessarily having to leave for towns and cities, deserves to be commended.

On the other hand, the importance of infrastructure development in previously neglected areas of the country cannot be over-emphasised. As the Honourable Minister stated in her statement, we have been witnessing a steady improvement in the standard of living of many of our communities as a result of access to modern a transport and communication infrastructure. Travelling times have been drastically reduced, while vehicle maintenance costs have been reduced due to better roads. This can also be said of communication services whereby mobile telephones have not enabled many outlying villagers to communicate with their loved ones, but also the summoning of lifesaving services, such as the Police or Ambulances.

The construction of water facilities and the laying of pipelines that snake the length and breadth of our communal areas have restored some dignity in many of our people and as a Government and a people we need to congratulate ourselves for some of these achievements. The provision of clean water just needs to be backed up with housing and sanitation services about which some humble beginnings have already been made. However a lot still remains to be done. Of course, we are cognisant of the fact that we have inherited a deficit due to colonialism and oppressive successive colonial Governments. The Germans and others have left a serious deficit in terms of education and that is the challenge we need to face with the little resources. In twenty-one years we have made tremendous advances which need to be commended.

Of course, there are many Members of this august House who prefer to be blind to these successes and there is not much one can do to change the mentality of those prophets of doom.

We have been criticised left, right and centre for not doing much to create

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jobs for the unemployed. Now some seem again to suggest that the proposals that are contained in the present Budget are too bold to handle, while others are merely concerned about the amount of money to be spent, without really taking into account the likely benefits to be derived if these proposals are successfully implemented. Honourable Speaker, I believe that we must be prepared to pay our way out of the problems we are facing. You need to spend money in order to get something back, because there is no way we can have it both ways. We have to do it differently, because if we do what we always did, we will always get the same results.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Government alone cannot successfully address unemployment in the country; it must be national undertaking that requires the active participation of all stakeholders. This requires them to find the proper linkages where the private sector comes into equation in order to create permanent jobs for the unemployed masses of our people.

The feasibility and active role of State-Owned Enterprises in this endeavour is also crucial. Only a few of them have so far been making a valuable contribution to the development efforts, while some remain a liability to the State.

Capital projects and programmes envisaged under the TIPEEG must be private sector driven and the Small and Medium Enterprises should play their decisive role as a catalyst for employment creation. Failure to do so will result in the creation of temporary employment opportunities only that will cease with the completion of such projects. In this regard, the establishment of the SME Bank, for which N\$60 million have been provided in this Budget, should be encouraged and supported by this House as a commendable initiative to address the financing needs of Small and Medium Enterprises.

Furthermore, it would have been good if the Amendments to our procurement mechanisms and processes preceded this Budget because of the difficulties Small and Medium Enterprises normally face in accessing public tenders despite efforts by other role-players, such as the Development Bank of Namibia, to provide bridging financing. We do not

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have the luxury to wait any longer.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the kind of unemployment we are facing as a country is a unique one. The majority of those unemployed are actually unemployable due to lack of education and practical skills. One just needs to look in the print media to realise that there are actually a number of advertisements for job vacancies every day, however it is increasingly becoming clear that what the country has available in the form of labour is not what it market requires. In this regard we need to persist not only in investing heavily in education and training, but also in refocusing, while at the same time rendering unwavering support to the Honourable Minister of Education to bring about the required transformation of the education system.

Apart from improving education infrastructure and quality, it also goes without saying that vocational and technical training will go a long way to make our people employable by equipping them with entrepreneurial knowhow.

On the other hand, we need massive investment into the manufacturing sector in order to absorb the unskilled and semi-skilled segments of our labour force. Here I can recall when the Ramatex factory was in operation here, you could see how many unskilled and semi-skilled people were employed and how even the secondary market benefited and yet the so-called opposition consistently and persistently criticised Ramatex and the efforts of the Government. As a result we have closed that factory. You sabotage whatever we do. (Intervention)

HON NEHOVA: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Minister, are you not aware that Ramatex at that time needed N\$25 million in order to continue its business? Are you not aware of that?

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: I am not aware of that,

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but why do you not ask the Minister of Trade and Industry then, which is Honourable Nyamu?

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I wish to... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Honourable Nujoma, Ramatex closed down because Honourable Peter Naholo and Herbert Jauch campaigned and campaigned until Ramatex was given a certificate of a bad employer by an international Trade Union and people denied Ramatex a market. That is how Ramatex collapsed. It was Peter Naholo and Herbert Jauch who campaigned.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: I agree hundred percent with you, Prime Minister, and that is why I always keep on referring to the “*so-called Opposition*.” (Intervention)

HON NAHOLO: Honourable Speaker, I am afraid the Right Honourable Prime Minister continues to look for a scapegoat. The Union which I was representing never ever had an agenda to close an industry. Workers do not close industries. Even if the workers were not happy with conditions at Ramatex, still the Government had the power to rescue Ramatex by giving them the N\$25 million. You had the power and you failed Ramatex and now you are looking for a scapegoat. That is very unfortunate. The problem is that you as the Government have the power to do things, but you do not know how to make use of that power. That is why it is now time for that power to be withdrawn from you, because you do not know how to use it.

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HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: You cannot expect Government to rescue your mess.

Honourable Speaker, I wish to reiterate my earlier commendation to the Honourable Minister of Finance for her bold efforts and I pledge my support for the proposed Appropriation Bill for 2011/2012 and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the period of 2012, 2013 and 2014. I also commit to make my contribution towards the successful implementation thereof.

Finally, Comrade Speaker, yesterday I appeared to behave in a very un-gentlemanly fashion when the RP representative was taking the Floor, but you will soon realise that I am a gentleman and what annoyed me most was your presentation which did not reflect you yourself as a lady, whom I respect, and you represented somebody else. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: You are insulting.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: I am not insulting; I am trying to explain to her so that tomorrow she knows this is a gentleman. I hope you take note of that, that I am a gentleman, as I said.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Limbo.

HON LIMBO: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, first of all I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Finance and her team for tabling the 2011/2012 Budget and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2013/2014. The aim of this Budget is focus on addressing the current unemployment in our country.

Honourable Members before I continue with my speech, I would like to quote a short paragraph from the *International Journal of Business and*

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Management” entitled “Determinants of Unemployment in Namibia.” “Namibia has enjoyed about 20 years of peace and stability. However, the rise in the unemployment rate in Namibia has the potential to cause a serious threat to the prevailing peace and stability in the country. In general, unemployment has a significant impact on poverty, homelessness and affects family cohesion. It causes hopelessness and other social evils, such as crime, violence, break up of families, alcoholism and prostitution.”

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe the scenario reflected in this quote is familiar to all of us here today. We witness it every day on television, on our streets and even on our way to work. However, it seems like this reality is not real enough as our Government has taken too long to address this problem. It has taken over twenty years and the rise of the unemployment rate of 51.2% before action was deemed necessary. The time has come for us to stop calling each other names and not only the Government, but if all of us as a Nation realise that this is a serious problem, we must stand together and address unemployment. That is why we are seeing this exaggerated Budget today. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I ask a question? Is the Honourable Member aware that when you are a SWAPO Member and call the Opposition names you are promoted?

HON LIMBO: I am aware of that, but due to the time I want to continue with my speech. If the Government of the day is in position to create 104,000 jobs in three years, the question is, why have they waited for the situation to reach a crisis point and where will the required funding come from to establish these jobs in a short period of time? If Government has failed in the last twenty years to expand the economy in order to absorb the ever-growing job-seeker portion of the population, one wonders how they can now get it right in the short space of three years.

Coming to education, a big chunk of the Budget is given this Sector,

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but the output is always disappointing. Every year the failure rate continues to increase, yet the problem remains unaddressed. The few that are lucky enough to make it into one of our tertiary institutions, namely UNAM or the Polytechnic, are found to be on a lower grade or standard than their counterparts that study in South Africa, Zimbabwe or Botswana. This is what we are told by the Private Sector. This is due to the low quality infrastructure throughout the education system. It took nineteen years and four Ministers for the Government to notice that the education system is in disarray. However, I would like to say that credit should be given to Honourable Iyambo and his Deputy, Honourable Namwandi, that they realised the education system needs an immediate revamp.

My proposal is that the Government should try to keep its promise and provide free education, as we have been preaching, free education of high quality to all, from primary to tertiary level. By so doing, I believe this will instil a high sense of pride in our graduates as they will feel that their country has brought something to them to make them what they are today. I believe it will even stop the brain-drain we are experiencing, because some of our children ask why they should work for Government if they do not get anything and I have to struggle to repay my bursary.

I also propose that bursaries should be given to all deserving students regardless of their political background, so that each Namibian, whether white, black, or yellow, must feel that he is part of this Nation. The current system of providing Government loans leaves a lot to be desired, because the minute a student signs that contract and starts his first year at UNAM, he is already in debt and immediately when he starts working, he has to repay that bursary. When is that child going to establish him or herself?

The Ministry of Health is always getting one of the biggest chunks of the Budget, but the service at hospitals is very, very poor. Patients tend to wait for hours before being seen and once they are, the doctors and nurses are overworked and very tired. As a result, the relationship between the patients and the doctors and nurses is always bad. We need something to be done drastically. We need qualified nurses and doctors who have a passion for their profession and not only to be paid at the end of the

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month.

Agriculture is one of the four areas identified under TIPEEG, but my main concern is how villagers, especially women, in the very remote areas will benefit so that at the end of the day we are going to say these women are also contributing to food security in the country. The current status quo is that Government subsidises the use of tractors, the buying of seeds and the weeding of fields, however the people who actually benefit from these schemes are minimal, and the reason being that the majority of our people cannot afford to pay for tractor services. Currently the farmer pays N\$350 and the Government, N\$150. Thus, I feel the initiative will not help in curbing unemployment as it focuses more on short-term employment rather than long-term employment.

Honourable Minister of Agriculture, I was told that four silos were built in Caprivi, but only one is being used and not even to its full capacity. The farmers cannot produce because they cannot afford the services. The seeds are expensive, the tractors are expensive. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? There is only one silo being utilised, meaning the others are not yet utilised, do you not think that the havoc caused by elephants is one of the reasons that there is not enough maize to be harvested for the silos?

HON LIMBO: Yes, that is one of the problems, but the main problem is that the list of applicants for the utilisation of the tractors is very long, because the owners of the tractors will first plough their own fields before they attend to the villages. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: While you are on that, can some of our banking institutions not also be blamed because if you choose to buy a second-hand tractor from Europe where they are very cheap, our

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banks will not finance that. Can they also be blamed for that, so that we do not end up blaming the Government for the disappearance of the dinosaurs?

HON LIMBO: Another aspect is that I have come to realise that the extension officers tend to spend more time in their offices than teaching the communities how to utilise fertiliser or immunise cattle. This needs to be attended to if we want to fill our silos and have better quality cattle in our Regions.

The second sector which was mention is tourism. It is good to hear Namibia is doing very well, but I still feel that much more needs to be done. Many of our people are left out of this industry because we do not have the necessary skills and money is also a problem. The Government must try to equip the people, especially in the communal areas and avail money to all thirteen Regions so that our people can participate in the Tourism Industry.

With regard to transport, there are some areas in the Caprivi and the Kavango which cannot be reached without a 4x4 vehicle. You even need a 4x4 vehicle to drive in Katima Mulilo town as a result of the potholes. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? Honourable Member, you are doing well with some of your serious allegations, but I want to learn something. You said earlier on the Ministry of Health receives the second-largest chunk of the Budget and that is correct, but then you made another serious allegation which I want to understand well so that I can talk to the doctors and nurses. Did I hear well that you said our doctors and nurses are delivering poor services or you said one out of so many? When you criticise in general, it has a negative impact. Uncalled for criticism breeds bad results.

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HON LIMBO: I said, despite the fact that the Ministry of Health is getting a big share from the national Budget, you still find these doctors and nurses who are overworked and as a result the relationship between the nurse and the patient becomes sour.

On transport I want to say that good roads are supposed to be extended to all thirteen Regions so that at the end of the day we can say everybody is driving on good roads. If you go to Katima Mulilo today, despite the fact that I was the Chief Executive there... (Interjections). No, I am not trying to run away from the problem, but you need to understand that these Local Authorities are very poorly funded. They need extra funding to be able to build good roads. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: Are you aware that if the Minister of Local Government, Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, who deals with towns, hears that one needs a 4x4 vehicle in town, he will joke about it as he never takes things seriously.

HON LIMBO: The reality is that some of our roads are not very good and if you go to Katima, you will see what I am saying. I am not exaggerating. I was there two weeks ago and I know what I am talking about. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Are you aware that that road will be tarred all the way to Singalamwe, passing your village and this Budget provides the money? (Intervention)

HON LIMBO: Thank you very much, Honourable Prime Minister. I got the information some time ago, but it is because there was an outcry. From 2008 this road was tarred from Katima to Linyanti and many people were saying this is just a campaign road because it did not even create jobs. Instead there was one man who was driving a truck, the other one

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was coming behind and tarring. I used to drive there every day on my way to my village. However, I am happy that the road is in the pipeline. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? You mentioned that you were a former Chief Executive Officer of Katima. Do you remember that company which was tarring the road in Katima during your reign? What is the condition of that road right now?

HON LIMBO: I do not want to go back to that story because I know I will be chopped into pieces by the Mayor of that time when I go back to Katima if I tell the House what happened during that time.

Housing and sanitation: Although Government has established a scheme for low-cost housing, we still see many Namibians without houses as they cannot afford the exorbitant prices. This morning some of the Honourable Members talked about the land issue, which is becoming a problem because our land is becoming very expensive. As a result, the developers tend to transfer the prices to the house owners and something needs to be done in this area. (Intervention)

HON MAAMBERUA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Yesterday the Minister of Lands lamented the fact that land prices are becoming inflated, they are being offered at unfair prices and today Honourable Kaura also expressed concerns about the commercial farms being turned into companies. In support of that, the Honourable Member is also lamenting that reality of land becoming very, very expensive and that something has to be done. In terms of Article 16(2) of our Constitution, "*the State or a competent body or organ authorised by law may expropriate property in the public interest subject to payment of just compensation in accordance with the requirements or procedures to be determined by Act of Parliament.*" Would you recommend that perhaps it

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is time that we devise a comprehensive programme of expropriation and just compensation – just compensation in our own understanding?

HON LIMBO: I think much has already been said on the issue of land and it is not something to joke about. We have to seriously look at how we are going to address this issue. What you are saying is hundred percent correct because the Nation is suffering and we need to do something now.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Government should spend money on empowering the human capital so that we support the entrepreneurs who can at least help us to expand the informal sector. By so doing, I believe, these sectors will also help to create employment. At the same time I would like to say that Government should try to offer quality education and skills because a Nation which is well-equipped, well-educated will be a very productive Nation. This is what I would like to request through this House. I rest my case and I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Lempy Lucas.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the national Budget is an important matter and as members of this august House we ought to discuss it in that spirit, but it appears that some Members of the House and the public take the Debate lightly by trying to score political points out of it and opportunistically criticising this Vote or that Vote.

Honourable Speaker Honourable Members, I was amazed when Honourable Moongo made unfounded claims that “*a Himba person*” has been a private, meaning an ordinary soldier, in the Namibian Defence Force since 1990. These claims are not just aimed at criticising the Defence Budget, but are also tribalist in nature. In the Namibian Defence Force soldiers are not identified as “*Himba person*” or the other person.

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The Namibian Defence Force is a professional and apolitical institution whose mandate, as per Chapter 15, Article 118 of the Namibian Constitution, is to defend the territory and national interest of Namibia. Namibian Defence Force members have numbers and names for identification and if the Honourable Member wants to prove his statement, he should have come up with the name and number of the NDF member in question, either here in Parliament or to the Ministry of Defence, so that such a case could have been investigated as to why a member has remained in the same rank for 21 years.

That is unbelievable and unless something was seriously wrong with regard to that member's performance and conduct, it cannot be true. It is true that during the 1990's promotions were slow in the Namibian Defence Force, but since 2000, NDF appointments and promotions were managed professionally and most soldiers who joined the NDF at the beginning have been promoted at least every three years if they maintained acceptable standards of performance and conduct, irrespective of their background or ethnic origin.

Special promotion exercises were carried out in 2004 and 2006, respectively, which swept downwards from those years... (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: I would like to pose a question to the Honourable Member.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, due to time constraints I will not entertain any questions.

HON MOONGO: Do you want me to give the name of the person?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I invite you to the Ministry of Defence.

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If some members were left out during those special promotion exercises, it was not because of negligence on the part of the NDF leadership, but maybe such cases required special consideration, such as members who had pending disciplinary cases. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: On a Point of Information. I want the Honourable Deputy Minister to investigate, because the person joined the NDF in 1990 and just because he is from the minority group of the Himba's, he has not been promoted since that time. He is there, did you investigate or not?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, I will appreciate if the Honourable Member would be serious and provide a name and force number of that particular soldier so that we can investigate. (Interjection)

HON MOONGO: Then you will fire him.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I would like to inform this august House, Honourable Speaker, and the public that we are building a representative Defence Force in terms of demographics of the Namibian society. Members of the Defence Force are posted and promoted based on merit, regardless of their ethnic or political affiliation.

Some members of the public appear to be ill-informed or are deliberately taking advantage of the national Budget Debate to criticise the Defence Budget. An article published in an English daily on Friday, 25 March 2011, questioned the existence of the Namibian Defence Force. The author of the article criticised the Defence Budget by quoting authors of the same kin, making unfounded allegations and irrelevant comparisons between the NDF and the militaries of other countries.

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The article alleges that *“there is no return by investing in the military”* and argues that *“how to stop the bloated military Budget and thus a waste of the country’s resources being spent on things that have no positive impact on our development agenda are issues that need to be debated,”* as if development takes place under instability. Development and stability are two sides of the same coin. The one cannot take place without the other.

The Namibian Nation needs to understand that the NDF is a legal institution, established in terms of Chapter 15, Article 118 of the Namibian Constitution to defend the territory and national interests of Namibia. To question the need for the NDF is to question the judgment of the founders of our Constitution.

It should be remembered that when Namibia got its Independence in 1990, apartheid was still alive in South Africa and there was an ongoing civil war in Angola that time. It would have been inconceivable would the founders of the Republic not have been able to see the need for a Defence Force. Even if we did not want to, the political and military situation at Namibia’s Independence required that we have a Defence Force, thus the founders of our Republic and its Constitution were right in making provision for the establishment of the Namibian Defence Force.

How would Namibia have survived the security threats that faced it in the 1990’s if it had no Defence Force? Who was going to defend it? Defence forces from other countries? If we cannot defend ourselves, we either forget about Independence or we have to call on someone else to defend our country.

The NDF is there to make sure that would-be aggressors would think twice before they contemplate invading our country. The NDF is the guarantor of peace and stability in our country and supports our foreign policy by supporting peace in Africa and the world. Namibia made the right decision by establishing its Defence Force at Independence and it should be proud of its Defence Force rather than regretting its existence.

Since Namibia has taken the decision to have a Defence Force, it has to be

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prepared to allocate adequate resources to it. You do not want a half-baked Defence Force, you want an effective Defence Force and that requires resources. There is no two ways about it, we either have a Defence Force on which we can rely for effective defence of our country or we have nothing, or maybe rely on some celestial force to salvage our Independence, which is idealistic.

The defence of our country is a noble duty for all Namibians and we have to do it ourselves, if need be. For that we decided to have the Namibian Defence Force and it is our responsibility to fund it properly in order to be effective.

The Namibian people should, therefore, understand that the Namibian Defence Force was established taking into account the political and military situation that prevailed just after our Independence. The Namibian public must remember that the world changes constantly, including the security situation, as we see it happening in North Africa and the Middle East. We therefore need to be prepared to defend our country in case of security threats and we cannot do that if we have a poorly funded Defence Force.

Technological advancement is experienced to the same degree in the military field, with modern weaponry and military equipment emerging constantly. As a result, the Namibian Defence Force is challenged to keep pace with military technological advancement. They cannot be expected to fight modern war with outdated weapons, hence the need for adequate funding for the Namibian Defence Force to train and equip itself well to be able to carry out any operations competently.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy to note that the Budget allocation to the agricultural sector has increased this financial year and the sector has been identified for employment creation under the Government's Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth. However, I would like to share my experience about the Etunda Irrigation Project in Omusati Region. I visited this project

more than once in my capacity as a private citizen of this country and my

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findings were not satisfactory.

I found that, despite the potential that the project has, the produce at the project are usually not handled with the necessary care. They are exposed to the sun, rain and all other weather conditions. There is no cooling and storage facilities to store the produce as it should be, especially the vegetables. The talk about Namibia not having enough cooling facilities has been on the cards for quite some time, meaning a challenge was identified but the solution is not being sought. The level of production has dropped significantly to a level one cannot imagine. It is high time that the institutions responsible address the current situation sooner than later.

Based on my observations, Honourable Speaker, I concluded that the main problem at the Etunda Irrigation Project is lack of leadership and coordination. I am, therefore, appealing to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the management of the Etunda Irrigation Project to intervene as a matter of urgency so that the project can produce to its fullest potential.

It seems that the Etunda Irrigation Project is no longer pursuing its original goals. I believe that if the project reverts to its original goals, production will again increase and the project can significantly contribute to food security in our country, particularly at this time when the country is faced with severe floods.

With regard to the transportation and roads sector, Honourable Speaker, it is painful to watch each year during the rainy season, especially when there are floods, the destruction of roads, including strategic ones, in our country. The roads are damaged and destroyed by rain almost every year and as a result, many economic and social activities come to a standstill.

It seems that the main cause of this problem in some instances is the poor road workmanship. This situation results in the wastage of money and delays development, particularly in the most affected areas and in the country generally. Because the roads were poorly constructed, money has to be spent each year on the repair of the same roads and social services,

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**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON LUCAS**

such as education and health, are often interrupted because of damaged roads.

I am suggesting that we strengthen the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for road construction in order to avoid further waste of taxpayers' money and facilitate uninterrupted socio-economic development in all the Regions of our country.

Finally, Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance, the entire staff of the Ministry of Finance as well as the Director-General of the National Planning Commission for an inclusive Budget.

With these few remarks, I support the Appropriation Bill and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. We have completed the second phase of the Budget consideration process. The Second Reading phase is a prelude to the real deal which will commence with the Committee Stage. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2011.04.07 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
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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?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to express my Ministry's sympathy with the families of the fellow Namibians who lost their lives in the floods, especially in the northern Regions of our country.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is very much worried about the safety of our national documents which may be destroyed or misplaced during the movement of persons from one area to another due to the flood. However, the Ministry will try its level best to address the issue and we as a Ministry commit ourselves to assist those who lost their national documents in this regard.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, our appeal as a Ministry to the Nation is for these fellow countrymen and women to always keep copies of their documents safe and also to keep records of dates of their births and correct names as they appear on the destroyed documents. This will assist us as a Ministry to trace their records and issue duplicates. When one is issued with a national document, it is always good to make copies, have them certified at a Police Station and give them to a friend or relative for safekeeping. This will help the Ministry to trace the

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY HON MOONGO
HON DR KAMWI**

documents easily. The public should always, if possible, have their documents laminated so that they are safe from rain and flood damages.

For the staff members of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration countrywide, our message to you is that all regional offices, sub-offices and health facilities should constantly assist the affected people whose documents were destroyed by the floods and issue them with duplicates where necessary. I thank you.

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

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 13:

HON MOONGO: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for giving me the Floor to respond to the questions put to me by Honourable Moongo.

“Is the Minister aware about the plight and the challenge faced by patients who used to go and fetch the antiretroviral tablets from very far distances, like at regional hospitals?”

Yes, I am aware of this. If that is the question that he is asking, I am aware.

“Is the Minister aware that these patients are struggling to find transport money to collect their tablets?”

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Yes, I am aware, and what have we done? Just last week I was on air, informing the Nation what we are doing there. Mindful of the floods, we were informed by our colleagues in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and we reorganised our logistics and put everything in place. We have stocks up to two months supply and that includes supplies related to people living with HIV/AIDS. Yes, indeed, we remain grateful to the Ministry of Safety and Security and the Ministry of Defence who supplied air transport and once we are out of stocks, they are always available to assist these fellow Namibians. Therefore, everything is in place.

“When will the Anti-Retro-Viral tablets be distributed to all clinics in all regions?” I said the stocks are in place and I do not know which clinics you are referring to.

“When will the Ministry start training nurses to also give out Anti-Retro-Viral tablets?”

Honourable Speaker, Sir, the mere fact that we have Anti-Retro-Viral drugs in place at these clinics suggests clearly to anybody that these nurses are qualified to do what they do professionally. They are trained to do that. For those who were not trained, training is an ongoing exercise and we are working on that.

“Is the Minister also aware that lack of food, money and long distances demoralise the patients?” I am not aware of that.

“What can the Ministry do to iron out these problems?” I cannot because it does not fall within the jurisdiction of my mandate. Thank you very much, indeed.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank the Honourable Minister for the answer, though he tried to make a joke of it while this is a serious disease which affects everybody and when we discuss this matter we have to be serious.

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**RESPONSES TO QUESTION BY HON MOONGO
HON NGHIMTINA**

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

QUESTION 14:

HON MOONGO: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, first I would like to thank Honourable Moongo for the questions that he raised. In answering these questions, I will also take advantage of explaining some programmes that the Ministry is engaged in. I agree with Honourable Moongo when he says that it is a fact that the rain brings fortune and destruction. It is a fact that no one can dispute. He furthermore asks when the Ministry of Works and Transport will employ thousands of road workers to repair dislocated roads, bridges and potholes, as well as to cut grass alongside the Namibian roads for safety purposes. In addressing this question, I would like to deal with it in two ways.

First, I will deal with the substantive matter dealing with the repair of roads, bridges and potholes. Secondly, I will then deal with the matters that relate to job creation by our Ministry and finally, I will deal with the matter relating to safety on our roads.

I want to give the statistics of the roads which we investigated. Damaged road infrastructure that needs urgent restoration are found in the following regions:

Hardap Region: MR 31 gravel road: Helmeringhausen – Maltahöhe and Maltahöhe-Sesriem-Solitaire (tourist passes and river drifts washed away).

Erongo Region: Walvis Bay-Swakopmund (washed away by the flooding of the Swakop River). This road was restored by Langer Heinrich Mine.

Khomas Region: Windhoek-Midgard and Solitaire-Kuiseb Pass (Damage at Gaub Pass over Gaub River).

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Omaheke Region: MR 39 gravel road Leonardville-Gobabis; MR 70 Omitara-Steinhausen; Gobabis-Trans-Kalahari border post (Buitepos).

Otjozondjupa Region: MR 59 Okahandja-Otjozondju;

Oshikoto Region: DR 3629 gravel road Omuthindi-Olukonda.

Omusati Region: DR 3616 gravel road Epalela-Onesi; DR 3633 gravel road Tsandi-Ongulumbashe; DR 3626 gravel road Okahao-Etilyasa; DR 3641 gravel road Olupaka-Onesi; DR3655 gravel road Etaka-Oshaala.

Oshana Region: DR 3636 gravel road Eheke-Onakanwandi; DR3615 gravel road Oshikuku-Elim; DR 3619 gravel road Onaanda-Omapopo.

Ohangwena Region: DR3637 gravel road Okapya-Ohalushu; DR 3608 gravel road Ongenga-Okombebe; DR 3639 gravel road Oshokango-Okahenge; DR 3633 gravel road Okanwa-Onheleiwa; MR 120 gravel road Okatana-Endola; DR 3609 gravel road Oshakati-Omungwelume; DR 3625 gravel road Oshigambo-Eenhana.

Karasburg-Ariamsvlei road: On 4 February 2011, heavy rains caused extensive damage to TR3/1 between Karasburg and Ariamsvlei. Government availed N\$25 million for the restoration of the damaged section of the road. The repair work is in progress and the work is expected to be completed in May this year.

Resealing work: Gobabis-Trans-Kalahari border post (Buitepos) road: In addition to the above, the condition of the tarred road has deteriorated into potholes due to the heavy rains. The most severe affected road being the road between Gobabis and Trans-Kalahari border post (Buitepos). The Namibia Roads Products has been appointed for the potholes patching work and a rejuvenation seal will be applied as soon as the rains have ceased, as this work can only be executed in dry conditions. This will be effected under the normal road maintenance programme for the Financial Year 2011/2012.

Actions being taken to repair the affected road infrastructure:

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HON NGHIMTINA**

On all the affected roads the Roads Authority has contractors on site through their Annual Road Maintenance programme to restore accessibility.

Let me start with the matter dealing with the repair of roads, bridges and potholes. My Ministry, through the Roads Authority, has commenced with the potholes patching and repairs to the roads washed away, which includes the drainage system and the road reserve grass mowing. The SME contractors are involved in these road maintenance works. This process, however, is commencing at a slow pace due to continuous rainfall especially in the northern parts of the country.

I must also mention here that my Ministry is faced with a financial backlog on the periodic maintenance of our road network. According to our assessment for this financial year, the Roads Authority requires a lot of money for the road maintenance projects.

I now turn to the issue of job creation from our Ministry. As you may know, the Government of the Republic of Namibia is seriously concerned about the persistent unemployment rate, especially amongst the youth. As a result of this, the Ministry of Works and Transport will be engaged in job creation efforts in all two sectors of transport. In particular, job creation in the Road Sector will top the priority. In this regard, I have in mind labour-based projects planned for 2011/2012 and 2012/2013. These roads that will be constructed, using labour-based methods, have a potential of creating over 5,600 jobs in the next two Financial Years. Many of them are at the moment in several different phases, from feasibility study, design and tender process. Actual construction to many of these roads will start in June 2011. Upgrading of Omafo-Ogenga-Outapi and Omakange-Ruacana roads are planned to start by 1st November 2011. These two roads have a potential of creating over 240 jobs over the next two years.

On the rail sector, as you might know, we have taken delivery of over 6,000 metric tons of rails. Over 900 metric tons of these rails are already delivered in Ondangwa. These are the rails to be used on the Northern Railway Extension between Ondangwa and Oshikango. Already several

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job opportunities have been created with the loading and off-loading of these rails. The tender for the construction of the railway line between Ondangwa-Oshikango closed on the 28th March 2011. Adjudication is underway and actual construction is expected to start soon. This project has the potential of creating over 100 jobs over two years. Similarly, the upgrading and rehabilitation of Aus-Lüderitz Railway Line, which is a continuing project, has the potential of creating another 100 jobs. Equally, the Sleeper Manufacturing Factory which we have established in Tsumeb recently to support the upgrading of the entire railway net work will be in full production by June this year. This project has a potential of bringing over 50 permanent jobs.

With regard to the issue that relates to safety on our roadsides, I agree fully with Honourable Moongo as safety is our Ministry's prime focus. We will soon start clearing long grass along the rail reserves of most of our railway network as well as the road reserves. These processes are at tendering stage. The combined efforts of both roadside clearance as well as rail reserve clearance have the potential of creating several jobs.

I would like now to deal with Honourable Moongo's question that relates to the terrible situation on the road between Okahandja and Otjosondú. The question asks if the Minister will alleviate this problem. Honourable Speaker, the responsibility to manage the entire road network of this country rests with the Ministry of Works and Transport. It is also the responsibility of the Minister of Transport to ensure that construction standards on our national roads do not compromise safety. In this regard, I must explain to the Honourable Member that the road between Okahandja and Otjosondú settlement has deteriorated significantly on account of trucks that move heavy loads to and from the mines. Over the past few years the growth of the mines in that area has increased significantly, resulting in increased export commodities. Because of this, the frequency of the movement of the trucks on this road has also increased unexpectedly. As a short-term measure and to alleviate the dangerous situation that prevails on these roads and to allow maintenance work to be done undisturbed, a section of this road has been closed to traffic. The alternative route via MR0057 is being repaired to allow the traffic flow. On the long term, discussions are underway with the Private

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Sector operating on that road to see how the road can be upgraded to bitumen standard, using private-public partnership.

Finally, I concur with Honourable Moongo's question which he posed in the form of a statement and support him that it is time for us to employ hundreds of unemployed Namibians on various projects in this country. I have dealt significantly with such projects in my attempt to answer Honourable Moongo's first question, which I believe is similar to this one. I thank you.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I would like to salute the Minister for the example he has set to other Ministers and he should keep it up. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Question 15 is by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

QUESTION 15:

HON MOONGO: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, for once again giving me the Floor. Indeed, I wish to thank Honourable Moongo for asking me these questions, some of which were earlier put to me by one of his senior Colleagues and I will be referring to my earlier response.

Question 1: *"It is a fact that the Minister gets the second lion's share in the 2011/2012 national Budget."*

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HON DR KAMWI**

Indeed, I agree and I already thanked the Honourable Minister of Finance for returning our status of being the SWAPO Party Government's second priority. However, on the question of, *"are there still other excuses not to consider the community health counsellors"*, I wish to state that this Budget is addressing the salaries of Civil Servants and you would recall that when I responded to Honourable Ben Ulenga on 3rd March 2011, I said Community Counsellors are not Government employees. Indeed, Honourable Speaker, I wish to state that Honourable Member Moongo is in possession of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2011/2012 and I do know that he has the speech of the Honourable Minister of Finance. May be the Honourable Member should assist me and show me where there is a provision meant for salaries for Community Counsellors. I perused the documents and I could not come across any.

On question 1, *"is it true that the role played by the Community health counsellors is vital and effective"*, yes indeed, I responded to Honourable Ben Ulenga by saying: *"Yes, indeed, I am aware of the efforts being made by community counsellors and we acknowledge they are part of the team, but the underlying factor is, they are not Civil Servants."*

Question 3: *"What is the good reason that Community Health Counsellors are working full-time, full month while regarded as temporary volunteers?"* As far as I am concerned, Honourable Speaker, Sir, they are not temporary volunteers, but they are simply volunteers and they are not Civil Servants.

"Can the Minister explain as to why the community counsellors are underpaid with N\$2,220 while they have big families?" I responded to this on the 3rd of March 2011, and I quote myself by saying: *"Recognising their important contribution to the health sector, the Ministry of Health and Social Services successfully sourced funds from the Global Fund and the American President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to give monthly incentives to community counsellors, which currently stands at a sum of N\$2,220,99 and at first they were only receiving a sum of N\$500 per month."* That remains my answer to Honourable Moongo as well.

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“Is the Minister aware that it is risky to serve people affected by communicable diseases, such as TB, living with HIV/AIDS.” By definition, yes, indeed I agree with the Honourable Member that these are communicable diseases and, therefore, they are at risk. All health workers are at risk when they attend to clients.

“When are experienced health counsellors going to be permanently employed?” I cannot give a definite response to this, because there is no such a provision in the Public Service, unless we would be advised by the Public Service Commission, but otherwise as it stands for now, we do not have such a provision in the Public Service, they remain volunteers.

When I responded to Honourable Ulenka on 3rd March, I stated that the Ministry of Health and Social Services is undergoing a restructuring exercise. We made provision during this exercise and some of them, should it be approved by the Public Service Commission, would be enlisted as public servants and they will be taken on board. However, as it stands, they remain volunteers. Thank you very much indeed.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister for the answer, although I wanted to know whether the Ministry of Health and Social Services allocated some money this year in order to create jobs, because we have to start with those volunteers. Have you started employing in order to fight against unemployment in Namibia or do you still have to wait for the Public Service Commission?

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Members in this Chamber received this book. Please, I want to plead with the Honourable Member to go through this book. (Interjection)

HON MOONGO: I am asking you.

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HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I cannot read for you. You are one of the senior Members of this Chamber. Please let us do the homework given to us by the Honourable Minister of Finance. Thank you very much.

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

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON DEPUTY SPEAKER'S
OUTREACH TO ERONGO REGION**

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on 16 March 2011, the Question before the Assembly was Motion by Honourable Makgone. The Honourable Minister of Health had the Floor and he may continue.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members. Last time when I attempted to make a contribution to the Report by the Honourable Deputy Speaker on an Outreach to the Erongo Region, 15 – 21 August 2010, I thanked her and the team for this well-intended assignment. Many Colleagues who made a contribution equally applauded her and her team, but then Honourable Tjihuiko took the Floor and challenged some issues related to some discrepancies on public health on page 3 of this Report.

When I went through the Report I felt the need to make some corrections. For instance, under public health, the Clinic in Okongwe was already inaugurated by the Honourable Deputy Minister for Health and Social Service, Comrade Petrina Haingura, during December 2010. Similarly, the Omaruru State Hospital was inaugurated by His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba during December 2010.

Under shortcomings it is mentioned that doctors and nurses do not examine patients properly and I found this to be a vague statement and

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one would like to know what are the areas of concern, in line with the existing standards and norms. I find that the Report was not useful to some of us who would want some of the concerns to be addressed.

Similarly, it is mentioned that the Region is challenged with a staff shortage, especially in Omaruru and Usakos, which have only one doctor each. That, Comrade Speaker, is not correct. In terms of the staff establishment, each of these two hospitals has three doctors, but by the time of the visit of the Honourable Deputy Speaker, they only had one permanent doctor at each of these two and a relief doctor for each from Swakopmund Hospital, meaning they each had two doctors.

In addition, the Report states that there are also only enrolled nurses with neither theoretical or practical knowledge, nor experience in midwifery. This is very unfortunate, especially coming from my Colleagues and maybe I need to give some information here.

There is no way that one would establish a primary health care clinic with only enrolled nurses – certainly not in the 21st century. A clinic with the least staff has five nurses, that is two registered nurses and three enrolled nurses. However, what was the situation at the time? I should also give some information because when I read this, it disturbed me so much that I decided to drive to Omaruru and Usakos and I was accompanied by some journalists to see for themselves.

There is no way one would establish a clinic, a health centre, needless to talk of a hospital, where you only have enrolled nurses and, for that matter, inexperienced nurses. In that respect this Report is not helpful. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: May I ask my Colleague a small question? Dr Kamwi, should we not perhaps look at what the findings are of the Deputy Speaker's programme? I am probably running the risk of what our Prime Minister said three weeks ago, that the Deputy Speaker is merely reporting on what her team and herself were told by the people on the ground and if that is the case,

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maybe as leaders we should just attempt to rectify what has to be rectified and try to listen rather than be on the defensive. Should that not be the approach?

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I tend to disagree on this one, not when it is documented, absolutely not. I disagree with you without reservation. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I want to ask the Honourable Minister a question while he is on this page. Under shortcomings, point 1.2, the second line, could you perhaps shed light because in the third line it says "*there are only enrolled nurses with neither theoretical nor practical knowledge*". My question is how will it be possible that somebody without theoretical or practical knowledge is called a nurse? I am not saying this is not what the Deputy Speaker was told, but perhaps the Line Ministry could have been approached on some of these issues before the Report was published. Right now this is in the domain of the public, but yet I think what is said here is not true.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I want to start by thanking my mentor. That is exactly what I am trying to correct here, let us not take things for granted. It could damage some of your colleagues if you leave it this way.

What was on the ground at the time? There are 23 registered nurses and 42 enrolled nurses. These are professionals who were certificated, awarded by an accredited institution, the University of Namibia. If you want to say they did not have theoretical or practical knowledge, nor experience in midwifery, what are we trying to address here? It is not fair. (Intervention)

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: I am terribly sorry to interrupt the Minister, but I would like to find out whether the Minister is aware that

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when these kinds of missions are undertaken, officials from the different Ministries accompany the Members of Parliament in order to clarify matters on the ground and to try and explain what is happening in the Ministry. If the Minister is aware of that, perhaps his officials may be the ones distorting the facts on the ground.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much for that leading question. I am aware and, indeed, the Director herself was informed. She disputed these facts and she gave the correct answers, which is not what is recorded here.

I want to say there were 22 registered nurses. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask a question? We are entitled to ask the people who went on the mission regarding this document and those people have the means of informing you ahead of time before they table the document here in order to get the information from the horse's mouth. What are we doing here with this Report?

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I said that yes, indeed, my officials were consulted and they gave correct information while they were still compiling the report. However, this was not corrected and as Minister responsible and accountable to Parliament, I have a duty to respond to put the record straight and that is what I am trying to do here, as simple as that and I think I am doing well. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: I thank you for your intention, but the truth in that document is not yet approved, according to you and according to others. Please, could you return it to those people who brought the document and have a discussion with them? Take it back where you got it from and discuss it there.

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HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

Honourable Speaker, Sir, there were 22 registered nurses, meaning only one post was vacant. At the time there were 31 enrolled nurses and from that number only three had no midwifery certificates.

For Usakos District Hospital, around that time there were 17 registered nurses and only five positions were vacant at the time of the visit. Enrolled nurses, in terms of the staff establishment, are 28. At the time of the visit there were 27, meaning only one was vacant and all of them had midwifery certificates.

Regarding the Omaruru Clinic - there are currently two registered nurses and four enrolled nurses. All posts are filled at this clinic according to the staff establishment, even at the time of the visit.

The Clinic that exists in Usakos had two registered nurses and three enrolled nurses and this stands to this day.

For recruitment I should admit that a challenge still exists regarding recruitment of health personnel. We are now undergoing restructuring and this matter is receiving attention.

The statement that mortuaries should be provided at every clinic with an ambulance is illogical. For me that is unfortunate. As I said earlier on, I thought the Colleagues do read the Budget as tabled by the Honourable Minister of Finance. It is not possible at this point in time in this country for the Ministry of Health and Social Services to be providing ambulances at every clinic. (Intervention)

HON UEITELE: Honourable Speaker, I just want to correct one thing here. When Honourable Makgone tabled the Report on the Deputy Minister's Outreach she mentioned that some of the concerns raised in the Report have been addressed and we also congratulated the Minister for doing that, especially on the issue of mortuaries and on the issue of transport. When the delegation went to Erongo, some of the issues have

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already been attended to and it is just a pity that during the time of tabling it had already been attended to.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I wish I could answer you but I will not and just say there are standards. You are saying each clinic should be given an ambulance. We have 267 clinics in this country and 43 health centres and we are expected to give at least five ambulances to a district hospital. I am saying in terms of the current Budget that we are receiving that is not possible. In a country such as our neighbour, Botswana, it is in place. (Intervention)

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I think I have tried to show some deficiencies in the Report and I wish to tell my Honourable Colleagues who participated in this Report that I was not being personal, but rather just to share with you that we are dealing with a very sensitive institution and in this country we are reporting that we are faced with challenges related to maternal mortality, which is quite high. We have worked around the clock, from reporting 449 per 100,000 women dying in this country, down to the current situation, according to UNAIDS and WHO estimates, where we are now reporting 180 per 100,000. This is good news.

However, can we imagine that some women out there come to know that in Omaruru and Usakos we have nurses who are not qualified to assist these women? It is likely to contribute negatively to what we have already achieved as a team. Therefore, I again want to say that this is a very sensitive issue.

With this in mind, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to move that this Report be referred back to the Committee in order to go and

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polish it, attend to some of these corrections, so that at some time it may contribute positively to what all of us as Honourable Members in this House want to achieve, namely good health for all. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I must confess, I was myself getting worried, also after Honourable Ueitele has spoken, that something might have been rectified between the visit and the introduction of the Report in the House. Missions taking Parliament to the people do things differently, but this one leaves a bad impression and this Minister, in my book, is number one in keeping the House informed about the activities of his Ministry on a frequent basis. I appreciate his commitment, diligence and all that. The Report will come back corrected without in any way trying to whitewash the Report. This might be the way out. (Interjections) We are not continuing the discussion on the Report, we are going to send it back and the Ministry and the Deputy Speaker's team will sort out where the misunderstandings are without changing things on the ground that are not up to standard.

Normally after the missions return, they go to the Ministries, Offices and Agencies concerned to say that these are the findings on evidence. I do not want us to prolong this discussion. They will go and rectify the misunderstandings and bring it back. Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The person who tabled the Report is the one who should withdraw it from the Floor.

HON SPEAKER: The Speaker can do that if in the Speaker's judgment this is going to bog us down. After all, it is the Report of the Deputy Speaker. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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**MOTION ON STIFF TRAFFIC FINES
HON KATALI**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON RECENT OUTCRY BY
PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS**

HON SPEAKER: When this House adjourned on Wednesday, 16 March 2011, the Question before the Assembly was Motion by the Honourable Moongo. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy had the Floor and he may continue.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I was about to conclude when the time prevented me to do so. What I was saying in conclusion is that I took note of the explanations of the Honourable Minister of Justice on the misunderstanding that was lingering in the community that the fines were made for the taxi drivers. I do agree with her that it is indeed not the case. However, I had consultations and established what I have put to the House, that not all the taxi drivers, especially those that belong to SWAPO, do not believe that the fines only target the taxi drivers. (Intervention)

HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? I am puzzled that the Minister is trying to politicise the issue of the taxi drivers by dividing them into SWAPO taxi drivers and non-SWAPO taxi drivers. When these taxi drivers were demonstrating, were they wearing paint on their teeth or have crosses on their foreheads to indicate which Political Party they belong to or how did you identify that the SWAPO taxi drivers were not part of the demonstration?

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: I did not say they were not part of the demonstration. I met them after the demonstration and, therefore, I could identify that yes, this is a comrade and they are saying that the fines are justified because they are introduced to prevent accidents and loss of life.

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However, there was one central issue they mentioned and I am sure that the Committee which is tasked to come up with measures will take note of that. That was on the issue of loading and off-loading zones for passengers. They are pleading with us that we accommodate them on that particular aspect. This demonstration was not really on the fines alone, there were other things which are the causes for these fines and, therefore, Honourable Moongo, by introducing this Motion, painted a picture as if the fines are introduced to target a certain group of people and that is not true and, therefore, let us not comb the taxi drivers with one comb while their reasons for demonstrating had different objective altogether. I urge the Committee that is tasked to look into this and the Municipality of Windhoek to look into the question of taxi ranks so that the problem can be solved. I rest my case, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister. Any further discussion? Honourable Witbooi.

HON WITBOOI: Honourable Speaker, allow me to add my voice to the Motion tabled by Honourable Moongo. A traffic accident occurs when a vehicle collides with another vehicle, a pedestrian, an animal or a geographical or architectural obstacle. Traffic collisions can result in injury, damage to property and death. A number of factors contribute to the risk of collision, including vehicle design, speed of operation, road design and driver impairment. Worldwide motor vehicle collisions lead to a significant number of deaths and disability as well as significant financial cost to both society and the individual.

According to information from the Motor Vehicle Accident Road Fund, a total of 2,689 reported accidents took place in Namibia during 2010. They resulted in 536 deaths and 5,125 injuries.

The report of the Motor Vehicle Accident Road Fund, Traffic Crash, of 2009, indicated that young people between the ages of 21 and 30 years accounted for 31% of victims in traffic crashes. The loss of young and

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productive people does not only have a social impact, but also impacts negatively on families and national economic aspects.

At the global level, more than 10% of the world's population die of road accidents each year. Therefore, there is a need to reduce road accidents in order to save lives. The following are some of the measures that could be taken to that end:

To avoid over-speeding and reckless driving. Those that make themselves guilty of those offences should be charged in a Court of law.

To avoid drinking and taking harmful drugs, because they are the serious causes.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, traffic fines are not only for taxi drivers, as already mentioned, they are meant for all Namibian citizens and it is for all of us to obey the law. The long-term solution to the problem of traffic accidents is for taxi drivers to change their driving attitude, discipline their driving and obey the law, because then they will not be fined. Furthermore it must be compulsory for taxi drivers to undergo a defensive driving course to help them to improve their driving skills. There is a company in Windhoek that offers such a course. One such company is the Road Traffic Management Service, situated at the Thuringerhof Hotel.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that it is vital that we should promote a culture of respecting our laws in our communities. During the apartheid regime we obeyed the laws. Now that we have our own Government, we disrespect it. Why? In the *Informanté* of the 17th of March was a heavy truck emerged in thick mud and gravel when the sluices of the Avis Dam was opened and that man received a fine of N\$2,000 because he did not obey the traffic signs which were there. The signs are placed there for a reason. The article further reads: "*We have had our hands full with people disobeying the traffic laws especially during this rainy season. Nowadays traffic road signs erected in Windhoek were stolen.*" One wonders why.

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Comrade Speaker, our society is governed by rules. No one is above the law and every citizen is expected to respect the law. Therefore, my message is that we must all obey the laws. If we do that, every Namibian, including the taxi drivers, will live in peace. With that, I support the explanation by the SWAPO Party Secretary-General and the Minister of Justice. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you. Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for the chance to air my views on this very important Motion.

Honourable Speaker, I have been following this issue with keen interest and I was trying to educate myself as to what is the issue we are talking about. Citizens are governed by laws and whether the punishment for committing a crime is harsh according to you, or lenient according to you, is a very subjective point. However, whether it is harsh or lenient to you, the argument should not be that I should be allowed to break the law because I am poor. One should know that if I do this, I am going to break the law. We are now saying yes, we agree that we are breaking the law, we agree that through that process other people are getting hurt and being killed, but in the name of being poor, we should be allowed to continue doing the things that we want to do as much as we know that there is a law or for one to argue that a law must be changed in such a way that it fits into our doing of things. How many of us are not being affected by one law or the other?

I personally do not have enough cattle, I would love to have cattle but I cannot afford them. Can the law be changed to allow me to steal some until I have enough and then it can be changed again? Is that the kind of system that we want in this country? I think that will be chaos. We are moving towards a system where citizens will admit to breaking laws and justify it by reason of being in a hurry. I should not be given a fine because I am late for Parliament, but I knew that Parliament starts at 14:30

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and I am leaving my house in Pionierspark at 14:30. There is no justification at all.

There was a question of linking two issues which are not supposed to be linked. I am not aware of any mention in the law about taxis, but now the whole issue is taken out of context by saying the fines were meant for taxis. I do not understand how that came to be.

Even yesterday Honourable Kaura made a very good reference in his contribution of a Councillor in Keetmanshoop who was caught speeding.

She is not a taxi driver and she was not left off the hook because she is not a taxi driver, which means that the law applies to all the citizens of this country. Obviously, let us not depart from that context.

The third point that I wanted to touch on, Honourable Speaker, is the fine for speaking on a cell phone. I do not think that the majority of these people will be taxi drivers. Obviously it will be some of us. For one to say that it was meant for taxi drivers does not make sense.

In Honourable Moongo's motivation he made a very good reference, he said that there are some drivers who do not know the road signs, which means that – as all of us have been suspecting – something is not right. People are getting driving licences while they are not ready to do so and if we change the laws to fit those who do not know what they are supposed to do while they are on the road, where are se heading to? These are some of the critical issues that we should look at. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Tjihiuiko a small question? Honourable Tjihiuiko, are you aware that Honourable Philemon Moongo owns a chain of taxis and perhaps that is where he employs these people who cannot read road signs.

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Prime Minister, I only know that Honourable Moongo owns Uukumwe Group of Companies.

With regard to the loading and offloading of passengers by taxis, I definitely disagree with the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy. One can go right now to Shoprite here in town and see what is going on there. It is chaos. You cannot pass there, you will be stuck and it is not because there is no parking space, it is just because a taxi stops in the middle of the road. He will not double-park and allow the person to pass; he stops in the middle of the road. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, YOUTH AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. The Windhoek central Business District does not constitute Shoprite alone. There are workers here at Parliament, the Office of the Prime Minister and at Kalahari Sands. Where are the taxi zones at those places? Do they have to go Shoprite? The issue is that the taxi ranks are not everywhere.

HON TJIHUIKO: I would agree with you that taxi drivers should be allowed to load and unload passengers wherever in the city, but what I am saying is that there is no justification for stopping in the middle of the road. If a taxi can pull aside to load or unload people and allow other vehicles to pass, then there is no problem. What we should accept is that our city was designed at a time when nobody knew that we were going to have this number of cars on the streets and there is no way that the Municipality can enlarge the roads. What we need to do as citizens is to understand that you do not own the road. That is my argument.

I want to say to our colleagues, our taxi drivers, that it is not a question that we do not like them, it is not a question that we do not appreciate the things that they are doing, it is a question that they should also take others into consideration. I should also have my right to be on the right as much as the taxis may be on the road. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes, for the first time we are in agreement and we are making progress. We have heard the statistics of the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, but are you aware of any undertaking from the side of the bus and taxi owners on what they are going to do to meet society halfway?

HON TJIHUIKO: I am not aware of that and I think that is what we need to accept, that if you do not regulate yourself, you will be regulated. All of us, not only the taxis, had a chance to regulate ourselves and the reason why we have the situation that Parliament has to regulate is because we have failed to regulate ourselves to respect the rights of the others. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: Honourable Tjihuiko, if I go to Standard Bank at Ausspännplatz and I come out of there and need a taxi, where would I get a taxi with these colonial laws still prevailing, preventing black taxis from going anywhere? From Standard Bank at Ausspännplatz, where would I get a taxi?

HON TJIHUIKO: I think the question has already been answered by the intervention by the Deputy Minister of Justice. It is not a question that we should take the law into our own hands to justify that the system is not reaching us; there are ways and means of getting taxis where we want them to be. The issue is not that taxis should be prevented to come and pick up people at Parliament; I am saying that they should also consider me and allow me to pass.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. When I found Honourable Kaura at the Columbia University in New York, he used to travel from Brooklyn to lower Manhattan and he knows that when you travel on a freeway you cannot stop unless there is an accident. (Interjection)

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HON MEMBER: He did not have a car.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I had one, he had a *skoroskoro*.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Prime Minister, two weeks ago I was in Geneva.... (Intervention)

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Correction. I was driving a brand-new Saab.

HON TJIHUIKO: We thought when our Colleagues were in the United States they were refugees, but it seems they were driving cars. The point I wanted to make is that two, three weeks ago I was in Geneva and in Geneva and other countries you cannot just stop a taxi as it is passing, you have to go to a taxi rank. If we want a system where our taxis should pick up people left, right and centre, I will have a problem with that. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, YOUTH AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. We appear to be divided while we are not. Honourable Tjiuiko painted the picture at Shoprite and I agree, it is a nightmare, but if you take the road from the old State House to the new State House past Windhoek High School at 13:00, you would find these rich people's cars parked in the middle of the road, picking up kids. Near the taxi rank you mentioned there is a Catholic School where the rich people pick up their kids. So, while we are addressing this issue, let us say the Municipality should address this issue.

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HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Tjihiuko, could I ask you a question? In Rome the cars are going like fish but there is no accident at all. While we have many rules our accidents are more than in Rome. If you want to know what I mean, just to go Rome and see how they move, how they do their things. There are no signs anywhere; they know what they are doing. I said they are like fish in water. We should teach our society to do as the Romans do.

HON TJIHUIKO: Let me try to answer the question that was raised by the Minister of Youth. Honourable Minister, the regulation we are talking about does not preclude Ministers and rich people. If they park in the middle of the road they should be treated equally, the law applies to everybody. So, there is no justification for one to say these people are doing, therefore everybody may do it. I said in my contribution that the people who make themselves guilty of talking on phones and driving fast are the ones with the new vehicle, it is us, but the point that I am trying to make is that the taxi should be allowed, who are the people who are suffering most? Those of us sitting here are not travelling by taxi and we will never be killed in a taxi and your wife and kids will never be killed in a taxi because they are not travelling by taxi. The poor people are travelling by taxi and they are the ones who have been dying in taxis.

The kombis taking people to Okakarara, the North and Katima are supposed to take fourteen people, load thirty-two people and how many poor people have died as a result of that? The issue we are referring to is that people are living, but what about the lives that have been lost? The kids that are being left behind are the kids of the poor people.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, let us support our law enforcement officers. The Police Officers are there to maintain law and order and if a Police Officer arrests you, in most cases you must have done something wrong. If we, the lawmakers, are supporting lawlessness, how do you expect the Police Officers to be effective? I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nghimtina.

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HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. For the first time I support Honourable Tjiuiko.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as we are all aware, Namibia is a sovereign, democratic and unitary State, founded on the principles of democracy, the Rule of Law and justice for all. It is not the intention of the SWAPO-led Government to, in any way, exercise acts of injustice upon the citizens of this Republic.

Honourable Moongo, in motivating the Motion being debated, acknowledged and conceded to the fact that law and regulations must be put in place to address pressing problems. I expand on this further by saying public policies, laws and regulations are devised and put in place to bring about an environment that may not come naturally by itself. In this instance I cite the Policy on National Reconciliation, Affirmative Action, Land Reform, Labour-based work, BEE and many others. These public policy instruments were specifically put in place to achieve specific objectives that would not have come naturally by themselves. In the same vein, the new traffic fines are put in place to serve as a meaningful deterrent, as violators of the law will think twice for every action they take while on the road.

In 1999, this august House deliberated and passed the Road Traffic and Transport Act, the law that was intended to modernise our road traffic environment. Since then we have seen many changes taking place, including amongst others, the introduction of the NaTIS system, Credit Card Type Driving Licence and the establishment of one-stop vehicle and driver testing stations in various areas of the country. All these developments were meant to bring and ensure quality in our road traffic system.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, what we have seen unfolding is, in most cases, the opposite of what we wanted to achieve. Namibians, especially road users, should be proud of what we have achieved in the first twenty years of self-determination. Many vehicle owners continued to neglect paying their vehicle licence fees to the extent where Government was forced to declare an amnesty in relation to outstanding

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licence fees in 2007. As if this was not enough, my Ministry continued to receive requests for exemptions from a host of the provisions of the law.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me at this juncture, before reverting to providing specific responses to some of the issues raised by Honourable Moongo, to share with the House and the country what has become a common scene on our roads from 2007. Here I am only going to report on the accidents and the figures of fatalities or injuries, because the Honourable Minister of Justice has mentioned everything correctly.

On the basis of the national accident data generated by the National Road Safety Council, the following comprehensively provides an overview of the gravity of the situation in which we find ourselves.

In 2007, 15,283 accidents took place in Namibia. In 2008, 14,555 accidents took place. In 2009, 15,991 accidents took place. In total, over 45,800 accidents took place, involving 20,138 drivers over a period of just three years. In these accidents, 379 drivers, 678 passengers and 233 pedestrians were either killed or seriously injured. In these figures those unfortunate Namibians who died after admission to hospital are not included and they cover those who either died on the spot on the way to hospital or within 24 hours from the incident and does not take into account underreporting.

We also have the figures per Region:

2007	Accidents	Killed
Khomas	8,466	33
Erongo	1,563	15
Oshana	1,311	78
Otjozondjupa	777	36
Omaheke	245	3
Oshikoto	653	10
Omusati	241	15
Ohangwena	222	11
Kunene	205	9

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Kavango	394	13
Karas	740	25
Hardap	267	19
Caprivi	217	19
Total	15,286	286

We also have the figures for 2008 and 2009, but the Minister of Justice has already mentioned all these issues.

From the above figures, it is evident that the Khomas Region is accountable for more than 50% of accidents reported each year, followed by Erongo and Oshana in second and third places, respectively. For Namibia to make significant impact, much needs to be done in these Regions. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question to the Honourable General? You have done good research, but can you give me the figure of women who caused the accidents compared to men?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I do not have those figures right now, but in reality women are more cautious than men.

As the 2010 reports are being collated and analysed... (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Clarity. The previous speaker just addressed the Honourable Minister as “General”. Is this jokingly or is it a rank that the Minister has?

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HON SPEAKER: Once a General, always a General. I do not know whether you are implying it infringes on any of our rules.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: A Corporal cannot command a General. Once you have commanded the Generals you are automatically a General.

As the 2010 Reports are being collated and analysed, there are indications that a similar or even worse picture will be presented. Our estimates are that there has been close to a hundred percent increase in fatal accidents alone in 2010 as compared to the 2009 figures. This trend cannot be left unchallenged, hence our resolve to start tightening our grip on the situation and reduce all obvious loopholes. To this end Namibia is joining the United Nations in the implementation of the 2011-2020 Decade of Action for Road Safety to be launched in May this year. The aim of the Decade is to stabilise the current trend in the first half and to work towards accident and injury reduction in the second half.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to now respond to some of the specific issues raised by Honourable Moongo.

The Honourable Member's insinuations that the effort of Government to increase traffic finds is meant to generate income for the salaries of the men and women in uniform is devoid of any truth. It says a lot in relation to the Honourable Member's lack of understanding of the laws he helped to pass.

Section 109(1) of the Road Traffic and Transport Act states that "*all fines imposed or moneys received as bail in respect of any offence in terms of this Act, except in terms of a regulation made by a Local Authority Council or a Regional Council under Section 92 or adopted by it in terms of section 93, shall be paid into the State Revenue Fund*", from which the Honourable Member also receives his salary.

In terms of this provision, all moneys collected through traffic fines are

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paid into the State Revenue Fund. At present no funds from fines are channelled to Local Authorities. As a result of this arrangement, traffic officers are currently paid by the Authorities employing them.

I agree with the Honourable Member that enforcement alone will not bring about long-lasting solutions. It is my instruction that in the new Financial Year more needs to be done to educate our people on the dangers associated with irresponsible road usage. Plans are underway for a year-long educational campaign. This will be done by the National Road Safety Council in collaboration with GTZ and other willing stakeholders.

Coming to the issue of income disparity, it is difficult to comprehend how a Member of Parliament advocates discrimination on the basis of income. How will such a system be managed? Does the Honourable Member expect all road users to be using the road with their payslips on their person, or how will a traffic officer decide your income bracket in determining the appropriate fine for a road user? These are serious questions that must be answered before staggered fine list could be developed.

Hardly a week passed after the tabling of the Motion... (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Who took the decision to implement these fines which did not exist before? These are new fines that were implemented recently and we are objecting to these draconian laws. Who decided on them? Was it Cabinet and what motivated them to implement these fines?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Who decided? Honourable Member, you are a Member of this House. You were here when an Amendment was introduced in this House in November last year and now you want to say you do not know. Were you sleeping in the

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House or what? It was passed here. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Nghimtina a tiny question? With the disinterest demonstrated by the President of the DTA in lawmaking, would you suggest that DTA must be recalled from Parliament?

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: I think DTA is not representing their members in Parliament.

Hardly a week passed after the tabling of the Motion when an accident happened here in Windhoek on Sunday, 06 March 2011 in which three people were seriously injured. That accident was caused by one of the drivers who jumped a red traffic light. After causing the accident he ran away. Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what do you think should happen to such a person? I would like to hear your suggestion in this regard.

The other thing that Members of this House and all Namibians should keep in mind is that transport falls within my portfolio, therefore it goes without saying that the responsibility for transport rests with the Minister of Transport. This I am saying to indicate the extent and nature of role-players in road safety.

Finally, I would urge all Namibians to abide by the law. If this is done, then there is nothing to fear. If you do not break the law, you will not even notice that there are stiffer fines in Namibia. To my fellow Honourable Members, we have a collective responsibility to uphold the laws that we helped to put in place.

Another issue is the demand of the taxi drivers. There were also genuine demands which we need to look into, namely bus terminals. There are no bus terminals even in Windhoek where you can find a bus going to

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Omaheke or Lüderitz, Katima, Opuwo or my village and this needs to be looked into seriously. There are some taxi ranks however not sufficient and that issue needs attention. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask you a question? Honourable Nghimtina, you have a Member of Parliament who sits in Parliament and allows a law to be passed. After the law is passed and implemented, he moves a Motion against the very law passed. Do you not think the Committee on Privileges should interrogate this untenable situation? It is one thing for the taxi drivers to claim this and that, but not a lawmaker who was here when the law was passed. The Criminal Procedure Act was passed here.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Prime Minister, we have taken an oath in this Parliament to protect and defend the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Namibia and that oath is repeated here every day. You have passed a law and tomorrow you are against it. You should move genuine Motions and not only because you say you did not see it. We passed this law here last year. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Minister, may I just put a small question? The senior Member of Parliament denies that the law was passed here, but we had the Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill here. Honourable Minister, I will pass this to you so that you can just read it to the Honourable Member.

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HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: That law was passed here; there is no doubt about it. I want to repeat what I was saying. There are genuine demands for bus terminals, not only in Windhoek but in all municipalities, to enable our people to know where to find buses. The existing taxi ranks are not sufficient and we also need to look into that. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, YOUTH AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. When this law was passed in November last year it was a very hectic time for the DTA.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: As Minister of Transport I also have my own problems which I want to be solved in this country as a whole. One does not find any pedestrian paths in this country as if everybody is rich, everybody has a car and even for exercise we do not have anything. There are no cycle lanes and I am telling you, everybody is a potential victim. We pass laws as if everybody is rich, everybody has a car, while we have realities which need to be taken into account. We have to advise our Municipalities that when they are planning their cities, they should make provision for broad roads lanes, not as narrow roads as those I saw in London. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: I am getting derailed mentally. I do not know whom we are complaining to. Who is supposed to do these things? Who is the enemy here? I am getting lost

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, I want to put a question to the Honourable Member. Comrade Nghimtina, you have now talked about these people who have been crippled by accidents.

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Do you not think that these people's opinions are also supposed to be heard, so that they have a say in this, rather than just hearing from people who are benefiting from the industry? People who have been victimised should also give their opinions so that we have all the elements.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister, who are these people who have been left out?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: The victims of these accidents, people who commute from here to Oshakati and Katima, who are not rich people. Do you not think that these are also stakeholders whose opinions are supposed to be heard?

HON SPEAKER: Our criminal justice system and Judiciary does not have mechanisms to deal with what you are saying. Who is supposed to bring those people?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: The Committee that has been appointed by Government to look into this should not only confine their consultations to these vocal people, but also to those ones who have been prejudiced.

HON SPEAKER: The question is who is supposed to do that?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: There is a Committee, Comrade Speaker, and even the Committee of Parliament or ourselves are supposed to reach out.

HON SPEAKER: Are you asking the Minister to tell us to do what we are supposed to do?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, I think the Government has appointed a Committee.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Before he answers the question, I would like the Honourable Minister to do me a favour and help the Honourable Deputy Minister with the right terminology of these people he is saying has been crippled by accidents. Please, I know you know the right terminology.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Comrade Speaker, the terminology is people with disabilities. Honourable Speaker, I am saying to our Municipalities that when they develop towns, they should consider pedestrian paths, cycle lanes and streets with three or four lanes. We are only thinking of today, but after 200 years our generations to come will not have enough space.

The same goes for the small erven of 300 square metres we are giving to the people in this country and tomorrow we blacks will have many children, and once they come from University they will not stay with their parents because the erf is too small to take up all the children.
(Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information to help the Minister. The concern raised by the Speaker is that we are telling ourselves what we ought to have done or what we should do. For the Minister to be seen urging others to do what we ought to have done is where the Speaker is getting lost. This is our task and if we have not done so, let us do so. I am now talking as a Member of Cabinet.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: An opportunity only comes once, not twice. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, this is the Legislature, this is the House where people must talk about these things and I think the Minister is correct, this is the place, not any other place at all. He must express his views in this House among all of us, Members of the Executive and backbenchers.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you for understanding Honourable Kaura. This is Parliament(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker, I think what the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport said is that there are genuine demands that he acknowledges, that the people have genuine demands and these are the demands that he wants us to consider. He is just acknowledging that we are listening to your demands and we agree that some of your demands are genuine and he is just pointing out that there is need for improvement. It does not matter that he is the Minister of Transport, it is not something which was done yesterday while he was the Minister, but one can acknowledge things that went wrong in the past with the view to improve them. It is not wrong for him to say so

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because he is the Minister of Transport today.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Honourable Katali. The points which need to be addressed are straightforward. Even in the new towns being developed right now the roads are very narrow. How can they be expanded tomorrow? It is going to cost a lot of money to demolish all those houses. Therefore, the Municipalities should think twice when constructing the roads in Municipal areas and also consider having pedestrian paths and cycle lanes, which are very important for all of in this country.

Let us wait until the Committee has completed its work. I do not think there is a need to go to the Parliamentary Committee as there is already a Committee looking into these genuine demands, however not into the fines. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I am at a disadvantage as I have not listened to several of the speakers. The Minister of Justice seems to have put quite a lot on the table and I have not been able to listen to her, so I will be very careful with what I want to say because I may repeat what has been said already or I may argue against the obvious, which will not be very healthy.

However, Comrade Speaker, I think that there is an unfortunate conflating of several issues here. There are a number of things which seems to be very straightforward and in order, which several speakers are raising, however they seem to be mixing this with other issues which, to my mind, are totally unacceptable.

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Let me put one thing very clearly. This issue of acting within the law, there cannot be any argument about that. Whether the law is bad, it is for us to change it and to change it quickly. Unfortunately, when a law has been made, it has been made and we have to be a country of laws. I think we are doing very well so far. If elections in other countries have not gone well in the minds of certain people, they go to the streets and burn stuff. Namibians are not doing that and we are doing well.

Secondly, something which was also very important that was raised by one of the Deputy Ministers and which we should take note of, is the issue of having to listen to everybody, including the victims of road accidents. I must say road accidents in Namibia are really taking their toll. Quite a lot of very talented, very useful members of society are lost in road accidents on a daily basis. Therefore, this is an issue we need to address as a Nation and it is not a question of taxi drivers only.

It seems as if many of us in Namibia, despite being a country with open spaces and some of the roads actually being broad roads, have a problem of driving skills. Honourable Minister, make the laws stricter. When is it possible for me to get a driver's licence? It is when I have passed which examinations? Make sure that the people who get into those vehicles are really properly qualified.

Generally speaking I support the regime that is put in place to regulate road use. Of course, some of the fines look exorbitant, similar to the law that we passed here once regarding stock theft, but the principle is right. However, I want to come to one specific issue.

I was not in the country when the taxi drivers demonstrated, but there is a tendency and trend in this country that I feel we should immediately stop. There seems to be a growing intolerance towards demonstrations and public expression of views. Firstly, when people stand up and get onto the road to express their views, let them go, that is their right, it is in the Constitution. Some of our people need to be educated in terms of what ... (Intervention)

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Can Honourable Ulena cite an example where somebody was prevented to demonstrate this way?

HON ULENGA: I can cite several examples, but I said there are a tendency and a trend in the country, because I hear it from the views given by several leading citizens of the country. If you want me to get into this, let me give you an example of the GIPF issue on several occasions and other issues as well. Members of Government have gone out of their way to make sure that there would not be a demonstration. It is important that people are allowed to demonstrate if they want to demonstrate, whether you agree with the issue underlying the demonstration or not. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: On a Point of Information. During the campaign last year my group was prevented to go to a certain section of Opuwo.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I must say I was being very careful about it, because I did not say there was an explicit order from anybody, but the tendency is there and I am worried about it, we should take note of it. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. I think Honourable Ulena's caution is taken into consideration, but I want to inform Honourable Kaura, who is a senior citizen, that as senior citizen and a senior leader he was supposed to cultivate a civil culture in Namibia. If your group was prevented to demonstrate, you were supposed to go to the Commander of the Police and say my group has been denied to express this opinion. (Interjection)

HON KAURA: It was the Police that denied us in Opuwo.

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Kaura took the law into his own hands. Is that the kind of country you want to create?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, can I wrap up, please? I think I have said enough about demonstrations and so forth. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: On a Point of Information on this subject matter in Opuwo and if the Honourable President of DTA is insisting, we can prove by way of documents. The DTA approached the Police Station, the Police asked the route and they were given this by the DTA. Halfway through the DTA leadership, those who were at the forefront and I am not referring to my senior Colleague as being there, insisted to change the route. That is where the problem started. That is the truth and we have documentary proof.

HON KAURA: You are absolutely wrong. The Police were escorting us, but there is an area with many SWAPO supporters which is off-limits to anybody. We were escorted by the Police when we were attacked. (Interjections).

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, this whole matter is being hijacked now by an issue which should have been referred to a Court of law. Honourable Speaker, we need to teach our people what it means to demonstrate peacefully so that they do not make these mistakes. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Yesterday the Front Office was trying to advise me when I announced that we have now completed the Second Reading which would lead to the Committee State. I should have given the Floor to the Minister of Finance to adjourn that part and to let us know

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when the Minister will reply and when the Committee Stage would commence. I give you the Floor now to do that, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I wish to respond to the Debate on the Budget on Tuesday, the 12th of April 2011.

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

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:48 UNTIL 2011.04.12 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
12 APRIL 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES**

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:
Honourable Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Reports of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources for the year 2008 and 2009.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 16:

HON MOONGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 21st of April 2011, I shall ask the Prime Minister the following question:

1. It is a fact that members of PLAN, SWATF and Koevoet were integrated at Independence and were made to share 36 million Rand

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from South Africa. What prompted the Namibian Cabinet to decide to discriminate and to go against Article 10 and Article 30 of the Namibian Constitution not to consider members of the SWATF and Koevoet also to be assisted by receiving Veterans money? Can the Prime Minister explain what type of justice was used? When will the ex-SWATF and Koevoet be reinstated?

2. When will the Cabinet decide to pay the 24 million Rand to the rightful owners, the SWATF and Koevoet, since they are not considered to receive veteran money?
-

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING
APPROPRIATION BILL**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this House was adjourned on Wednesday, the 6th of April 2011, the Question before the Assembly was Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. The Honourable Minister of Finance now has the Floor to reply to the Second Reading Debate which was concluded.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, it is an honour for me to make a few remarks in response to comments made on the 2011/2012 Appropriation Bill and the 2011/2012 to 2013/2014 Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

The Budget has drawn extensive comments from across the wide spectrum of our society. I am grateful to all Honourable Members and members of the public who have contributed to the Debate.

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Let me start by responding to questions about fiscal sustainability. Over the past years we have created the fiscal space that enabled us to follow an expansionary approach in order to strengthen our response to the developmental challenges that continue to face our Nation. However, we have to remain fiscally sustainable at all times. As a result, our debt to the GDP ratio will stand at only 28,3% at the end of the 2011/2012 Fiscal Year despite the significant expansion of the Budget, well within the target of 30% that we have set for ourselves. Over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period debt will average at 32.2% of the GDP, well within the internationally accepted debt sustainability target and below the SADC target of 60%. Our approach is, therefore, sustainable for now.

I am saying for now because in the long term it would be difficult to continue with an approach where expenditure far exceeds revenue. To avoid a debt crisis similar to that experienced elsewhere in the world, we must maintain our ability to satisfy expenditure demands for development and for debt servicing. We have managed well so far and we shall continue on that path.

A question was raised on the reason why our borrowing during the Medium Term Expenditure Framework is biased towards domestic debt. This is a deliberate policy aimed at developing the domestic financial market and ensuring minimum exposure to foreign currency exchange risks.

I wish to inform the House that we have developed a borrowing plan which includes new types of borrowing instruments, such as retail bonds and inflation linked bonds.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, some economists and some Opposition Members have cast doubt on whether the TIPEEG approach will indeed deliver the desired outcomes, which are to create and maintain a significant number of jobs, grow the economy and improve standards of living. My response is that it will and here is why.

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We have adopted an approach where a few targeted sectors with significant growth potential receive a significant boost. These few, namely agriculture, tourism, transport and housing and sanitation were carefully selected because of the potential they have to create jobs, grow the economy and improving living standards.

Let me share specific considerations that made us select these sectors.

Agriculture is the most important sector in respect of employment in Namibia. 65% of the workforce is directly and indirectly linked to agriculture. It is also the sector where import substitution is most likely to be achieved and we must address food security as a matter of urgency. Further, in agriculture there is significant potential for both upstream and downstream development. These are some of the reasons why agriculture was selected.

Let me now turn to how our intervention will unfold and let me start with the investment aimed at increasing production that is boosting the upstream potential.

Our interventions are focused on:

- Provision of water supply infrastructures, such as dams and pipelines;
- Development of agriculture infrastructure, such as irrigation systems;
- Provision of subsidies for fertilisers and ploughing services;
- Provision of improved seeds and breeding stocks and other related farming inputs;
- Improved animal health;
- Provision of subsidised land acquisition and production loans; and
- Generous tax incentives, including allowable tax deductions for both capital and operational farming expenses.

Increased agricultural production and appropriate storage facilities improves the potential of agro-processing. A prerequisite for creating value chains based on agricultural produce is a reliable supply of raw material of high quality and sufficient quantity. Proper storage facilities, be it cold storage for perishables or silos for grains, satisfy this demand

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and the serious supply constraint can be overcome. It is our expectation that the Private Sector will take advantage of this opportunity and embark on further processing of agricultural products.

Vegetable and meat canning, milling and production of cereal-based finished goods become viable. Equally, import substitution of fresh agricultural products is to be enhanced.

I am convinced that Government's intervention in this sector, therefore, crowds in rather than out private investment by significantly enhancing opportunities for both upstream and downstream agricultural and agro-industrial activities.

Our intervention in the Tourism Sector is targeted at enhancing the country's attractiveness as a tourist destination and to increase tourist numbers.

Simultaneously, our intervention is targeted at, amongst others, linking conservation to poverty reduction through communal conservancy programmes. Through this, communities are enabled to benefit directly from environmental resources and tourism activities in their areas and, therefore, providing communities with incentives to manage and conserve their respective ecosystems and wildlife. This has not only resulted in recoveries of wildlife populations outside national parks, but it also created wealth and jobs for many households.

Government efforts on community based tourism are further completed by the Millennium Challenge Account support towards community conservancy management.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the Tourism Sector investment will also cover the development of infrastructures in the parks. This will enhance the image of our parks and thereby attract tourists. Investment in this regard will be directed at improving access roads to tourist attraction sites, while ensuring ecological sustainability in our parks.

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Furthermore, support is provided towards the upgrading of existing and construction of new tourism accommodation facilities owned by Namibia Wildlife Resorts. The Namibia Tourism Board is also provided more funding to intensify marketing of Namibia as a tourist destination. During this Medium Term Expenditure Framework, Namibia Wildlife Resorts funded projects are estimated to create an additional 660 jobs.

There are many linkages associated with developments in the tourism sector, including the development of private tourism accommodation, tour operators, catering services, car rentals and travel services, to mention a few.

Namibia is currently ranked as the third fastest growing tourist destination in sub-Saharan Africa. Available statics indicate that for every twelve tourists who visit Namibia, one permanent job is created.

In 2009, the direct impact of tourism on the GDP amounted to N\$3.1 billion or 3.8% of the GDP, while direct and indirect impact amounted to N\$11.5 billion or 14% of the GDP.

On employment, the travel and tourism economy, both direct and indirect, accounted for about 81,000 jobs in 2009, with significant potential to increase this number.

The Transport Sector serves as the catalyst for economic development. Investment in transport sector will address the development and rehabilitation of our strategic transport infrastructure network, encompassing roads, railways, seaports and airports. These, in turn, will enhance domestic linkages as well as regional, economic integration and international competitiveness. Transport infrastructure networks serve as key enablers of Private Sector growth.

Such a public investment in the transport infrastructure will create immediate job opportunities for the short and medium term. Long term job sustainability will be secured through economic multiplier effects brought about by the improved infrastructural base.

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The investment in this sector will also promote growth in transport and related service industries, such as transport in all its facets, such as ship repairs, dry ports and accommodation facilities along transport corridors, to name but a few.

In addition to the direct Budget interventions in hardware, Government is addressing the softer issues, like bureaucratic procedures or red tape to improve the country's business climate. Measures are instituted to promote consumer protection, competition and trade facilitations, market access and many others.

Housing and sanitation is another focus in this Budget. The focus is to ensure availability of serviced land, low-cost houses for low-income earners as well as urban and rural sanitation infrastructure.

Through this programme, 875 houses will be built in 2011/2012, 750 in 2012/2013 and 900 houses in 2013/2014. The implementation of this programme is expected to generate about 33 063 new direct and indirect jobs over the medium term.

Further, the recapitalisation of the National Housing Enterprise will contribute to the housing construction targets as set out in Vision 2030 and the National Development Plan. Again, this is a public works programme through which immediate jobs are created, but through which the standard of living of the poor section of our society is improved at the same time.

Household debt is addressed through monetary policy intervention. The Bank of Namibia has consistently reduced the repo interest rate over the past few years, which now stands at 6%. This translates in lower borrowing costs for households. Furthermore, the credit bill that is included in the Financial Institutions and Market Bill will extend protection to households and individuals against abusive practices by businesses when they acquire credit.

The largest additional amount under the Budget is earmarked for investments in the Education Sector. The Honourable Minister of Education will elaborate during his introduction of his Vote. For now it is

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important to say that these additional funds are aimed at improving the outcomes of the educational system, in general, and more specifically, enhance tertiary and vocational education. With this approach we anticipate to close the existing skills gap and achieve our objectives in developing a knowledge-based economy.

Concerning the call for an increase in social safety nets, the Right Honourable Prime Minister has provided detailed information on our generous social safety nets.

Namibia is among only three sub-Saharan African countries which provide for social grants to their senior citizens. We also provide grants for orphans and vulnerable children and people with disabilities. We have now added our veterans of the struggle to the recipients of these social grants.

In addition to social grants, the Government Medical Aid enables more Namibians to access medical services. Apart from this, it supports the health industries and enables doctors to settle in remote areas and provide services there, thereby taking health services closer to the rural communities.

At N\$3,4 billion, expenditures on welfare programmes are quite high and that leaves little flexibility for significant increases, especially the annual ones that are called for by some of the Opposition Members of Parliament. In spite of this, our Government has adjusted the various welfare grants regularly to safeguard against the erosion of their value as a result of inflation. In this Medium Term Expenditure Framework, therefore, we have focussed on expanding the coverage to reach all qualifying beneficiaries.

As to the Government's ability to utilise the proposed development expenditure, the implementation rate for Government spending has increased over recent years and in the 2009/2010 Financial Year, the execution rate stood at 98 percent of the total Budget. This shows that the Government's ability to administer projects and programmes is improving in line with increasing funds. Further, as indicated previously,

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Government remains seized with the issue of addressing the remaining bottlenecks in the implementation of capital projects.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, let me now respond to other issues raised during the General debate.

On Revenue Administration, I wish to assure the Honourable Members of the House that we are contemplating to implement a range of reforms to strengthen revenue collection and administration. These reforms include review of tax laws, development of new tax administration systems, improved communication with taxpayers and taxpayer education. I also announced earlier that we shall introduce some new taxes, the details of which are being finalised and will be communicated soon.

A question was raised on how many Government guarantees were called. This information is provided in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework books every year. However, I would like to report to the House that over the past three years, defaults on loans triggering guarantee calls amounted to N\$38.4 million, spread as follows:

- N\$27 million in 2008;
- N\$11.4 million in 2009; and
- No calls in 2010.

As can be seen, the guarantee calls have been brought down significantly by about 58% over the last three years.

A call was made for the channelling of all donor grants through the State Revenue Fund. It is correct that our laws require for all income to the State to be paid into the State Revenue Fund. Furthermore, development partners have committed themselves through the Paris Declaration to provide untied aid and to make use of countries' systems. In spite of this, however, many donors continue to provide aid outside of the countries' systems. We shall continue to engage all our development partners to live up to their commitments under the Paris Declaration.

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Concerning revenue projections for 2012/2013, the correct figure is 14% growth and not 25%, as quoted by one Honourable Member. The details of the revenue projections are contained in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework documents.

Concerning the worry expressed over the contingency funding, I need to inform the Honourable Members that the contingency provisions are an international standard item in the appropriation acts that cater for unforeseen circumstances. There are clear criteria for allocating contingency funds and since these funds are already appropriated as part of the Budget, there is no need to appropriate allocations again.

With regard to the call for the Ministry to hold management of State-Owned Enterprises accountable for their performance, I wish to clarify once again that oversight authority over different State-Owned Enterprises is vested in the respective portfolio Ministers, as provided for in the statutes governing the establishment and operations of these State-Owned Enterprises.

Further, I have previously indicated that all State-Owned Enterprises' managements would now be required to account for their performances in terms of performance agreements, which will be signed by the respective Boards and their portfolio Ministers. As oversight authorities for the State-Owned Enterprises under their Ministries, the respective Line Ministers have the responsibility to enforce these performance agreements and ensure that their Ministries' accountability reports also cover the operations of their respective State-Owned Enterprises.

As to whether Government protects infant industries, this issue is dealt with under the ambit of SACU. Further, in line with the SACU Treaty we have established the Competition Commission through an Act of Parliament, which is aimed to promote a competitive business environment in Namibia.

With regard to how Government sees the role of industrialisation in promoting accelerated growth, the Government, through the Ministry of Trade and Industry, is currently working on an Industrial Policy for

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Namibia for which funding is provided under the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. Further, efforts have been launched to develop a SACU wide industrial policy. Under this initiative, all Member States are to develop ambition papers on industrial development, which, in the case of Namibia, is being coordinated by the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

On how the Budget will support SME development and youth employment, the revised Tender Bill, which, as I have informed this House, is now with the legal drafters, provides amongst others for tender reservation for Small and Medium Enterprises and Youth Enterprises. Further, a special funding facility for Small and Medium Enterprise contractors has been established at the Development Bank of Namibia and this will earmark funding for Small and Medium Enterprises and youth contractor companies.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, given the increased allocation in this Medium Term Expenditure Framework to this sector, the argument that there is not enough in the Budget for crime prevention is incorrect. On average, the Department of Police will receive an annual increase of 52% over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. This will increase, in particular, funds allocated to combating of crime and border control.

Concerning funding for disaster management we have capitalised the National Emergency Disaster Fund to the amount of N\$120 million in the last Budget and an amount of N\$60 million is provided under this Medium Term Expenditure Framework. In addition, N\$100 million is availed through the Road Fund Administration for the rehabilitation of roads damaged by the floods, which brings the amount to a total of N\$280 million. The Emergency Management Bill, currently under formulation, will further strengthen Government's response to emergencies and disasters.

At this juncture, I wish to express our appreciation for the generous support so far received from local and international partners towards emergency relief to our people affected by the floods.

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On the request to engage the Opposition Members of Parliament on the Appropriation Bill prior to its tabling in this House, I wish to emphasise the point that I made several times before in this House, that through the Medium Term Expenditure Framework the public is well informed in advance of Government's expenditure plans. I once again urge those who wish to make an input into the Budget formulation to use the Medium Term Expenditure Framework to engage the respective Offices, Ministries and Agencies on their specific programmes in order that their proposals can be considered with time.

A lot of time and efforts are required to develop the programmes under the Budget. They cannot, therefore be redesigned on the Floor of Parliament. Besides, Medium Term Expenditure Framework programmes are formulated through an extensive consultative process between Offices, Ministries and Agencies and communities, of which the individual Members of Parliament are members. They are also based on National Development Plans which were formulated through equally consultative processes. It can, therefore, not be expected that after we have reached an agreement with the communities that this is what we are going to do in their areas and this is how we are going to programme our finances in order to give effect to this, that we should come to Parliament and embark on negotiations with Opposition Parties to reach a deal. That will be betrayal of the public.

HON MEMBER: Do not spoil your whole speech.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, a recent survey by the International Budget Partnership, an independent rating agent, ranked Namibia the second highest in the SADC Region, behind only South Africa, in terms of transparency of the Budget process.

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On the commitment of this Budget to youth empowerment, this comes through very clearly in the increased allocations to programmes aimed at providing skills to the youth, including the bursary scheme which will assist the youth to access tertiary education. Further, I have indicated that once the new Tender Bill is passed, tenders will be set aside for Youth Enterprises and funding will be earmarked to Youth Enterprises under the Development Bank of Namibia's bridging facility. The Youth Ministry and the Youth Council will have the obligation to verify youth ownership in the companies that will come forward to benefit from the tenders earmarked for youth contractors. Tender allocation will, however, have to be subject to the transparency as required by procurement laws. Successful Youth Enterprise development will, however, only be realised if, in addition to public tenders and funding, the youth will be provided with all-round support, including skills and management training and linkages of Youth Enterprises to the rest of the economy.

Therefore, while we are committed to support the programmes under the Vote of the Ministry of Youth, youth empowerment must be mainstreamed into the programmes of all Offices, Ministries and Agencies and Private Sector programmes. Only then will we be successful in our efforts to empower the youth. That notwithstanding, in terms of this MTEF, the Vote of the Ministry of Youth has grown significantly and consistently.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, in conclusion, I wish to inform this House that during the Committee Stage I will table an Amendment to the Appropriation Bill to cater for remuneration adjustment for Public Servants. Government is currently negotiating with workers representatives for workers remuneration adjustment during the course of this year. To allow for the implementation of the outcome of such negotiations, Cabinet has decided that an amount of N\$844 million be provided for in this Budget.

With these few remarks, Honourable Members, I appeal for your support of the 2011/2012 Appropriation Bill. I thank you.

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**WHITE PAPER: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
HON EKANDJO**

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

APPROPRIATION BILL

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

**CONSIDERATION: WHITE PAPER ON LOCAL
AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development move, that the White Paper be considered? The Honourable Minister has the Floor.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the promotion of our overall national economic development, guided by Vision 2030, the National Development Plan and other micro-economic policies and strategies, is a responsibility of all stakeholders in the country, including Regional and Local Government structures.

Economic growth is one of the most important ingredients of a strong and sustainable local government structure. In this regard, the Government of Namibia has over the past few years put in place various policies and strategies to promote local economic development initiatives throughout the country. Notable of these is the Local and Regional Economic Development White Paper approved by Cabinet in March 2009. The White Paper sets out an ambitious national and common agenda to serve

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as a guide and to be embraced by all initiatives pertaining to local and regional economic development. I am tabling this White Paper to seek adoption from this august House in order that the Paper is granted legitimacy for all stakeholders to embrace.

Based on the Local and Regional Economic Development White Paper, local economic development policies and strategies have been developed or are currently being developed in many Regional and Local Governments in Namibia. Local economic development needs to be understood as taking on increased dimensions and calling for reinforcement at our sub-national structures.

For the World Bank, local economic development is: *“To build up the economic capacity of a local area to improve its economic future and the quality of life for all. It is a process by which public, business and Non-Governmental sector partners work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation.”*

For the International Labour Organisation, local economic development is: *“Is a participatory process which encourages social dialogue and public-private partnership in a defined geographic area. Local economic development enables local stakeholders to jointly design and implement a development strategy which fully exploits local resources and capacities and makes best use of the area’s competitive advantages.”*

Economic development leads to economic growth, which translates into the creation of jobs and income and enhances living standards for members of our society. The focus of local economic development is strongly on a specific area, the usage of local resources and local competitive advantages and the participation of stakeholders.

The responsibility of local economic development by no means rests with the national, Regional or Local Governments, the policy-makers and administrative arms of Government at the sub-national levels shoulder the responsibility to mobilise and bring together the different stakeholders and to provide an environment of mutual trust for the stakeholders to act in unison. Participation of local stakeholders, specifically the financial sector, business sector and Non-Governmental Organisations and the joint

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RT HON ANGULA**

design of local development strategies are key elements of all local economic developments.

Government attaches great importance to the involvement of local stakeholders and the utilisation of local resources as a prerequisite to sustainable economic development. The National Development Plan 2 states in its Chapter 29, which is titled Regional and Local Government, that it is a strategy of the Government to “*enhance citizen and stakeholders’ participation and involvement in local economic development.*”

Government serves a driving force and provides the framework. It is expected that social groups play their part in conceiving programmes and projects and produce tangible and concrete results.

The White Paper aims at creating a common understanding of regional and local economic development as a concept and provides practical examples of initiatives which are drawn from local and international local economic development practices. While the White Paper does not prescribe any action to local players, it recognises that each area of development uniquely differs and that initiatives rest on the active involvement of local people and the responsiveness of public and private organisations. With this in mind, it is anticipated that the White Paper provides a framework for local and regional development and adds value to national development initiatives.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I now humbly move to table the White Paper on Local and Regional Economic Development before this august House for adoption and I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Firstly I want to commend and congratulate Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, the Minister of Regional and

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Local Government, Housing and Rural Development for tabling this very important paper with a white colour.

When I made my contribution to the Appropriation Bill last week, I asked a rhetorical question when I was talking about development equity, looking at the Development Budget, and asked who decides which projects are to be funded. I asked that question because I believe that the allocation for the Development Budget is done by sector Ministries, probably with minimum participation of the local people.

We are aware that there are Constituency Development Committees in every Constituency. These Constituency Development Committees are supposed to be the starting point in deciding the priorities of a particular constituency and also fitting into the priorities of a particular Region, so that when money is allocated for developing a constituency in a Region, that money meets the priorities of that particular Region. I believe, therefore, that this White Paper is a move in the right direction to ensure that the local people have input in the development efforts in their communities, their constituencies and their Regions.

Local development is very important. So far our development efforts have been targeted to things like infrastructure, roads, railways, airports, harbours, and telecommunication. We speak about Trans-Kalahari, Trans-Caprivi, the Walvis Bay Corridor and other things. These are backbones for general economic activity, but I think it is now high time that we speak about the household. How does a household benefit from the Development Budget? Improving the standard of living at household level is a big challenge and I believe that the local development initiative will enable the actual households to come up with projects, plans and proposals how to improve their living standards at the household or community level. I think that is very important and we are making a difference in the lives of individuals.

The third issue is the issue of recognising the local potential, the resources which are found in our communities that are not recognised as such, as resources. Tomorrow you are all invited by the local restaurant here to go and taste the local beans which are produced by peasants in our

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villages. Normally these beans were just used at household level, but technology has been found to tin them so that they become commercial products and that they are now commercialised will encourage the producers to produce more, because I believe that there will now be a market for such kind of products.

In many of our communities there are resources which we do not recognise as a resource, but if they are properly investigated they become a resource. We have seen a difference being made with regard to the community-based conservancies. Those communities, which had an opportunity to have a conservancy, are benefiting handsomely from that resource. Of course, we have to contend with human-animal conflicts, but those are the nature of things, however a difference is really being made by this concept of community-based conservancies.

We can look in agriculture; we can look in tourism, small mining and discover that communities can in fact develop what is amidst them, provided that they have support, access to finance, to technology and to markets. I am quite sure that communities will be able to benefit from that.

Therefore, I look forward that in a Constituency we will discover its growth point and along that growth point the community should now be able to develop itself, using the potential of that community. I think this is very important. We should, therefore, encourage public-private partnership and also Small and Medium Enterprises to exploit what is available in their communities, so that we can start to empower individuals, their households and their communities. Therefore, I support the White Paper on Local Community Development.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? I recognise Honourable Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. Likewise I would like to commend

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my Colleague and Comrade, the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, Comrade Jerry Ekandjo, for tabling the White Paper on Local and Regional Economic Development.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Article 1 of the Namibian Constitution does outline the establishment of the Namibian State. It does also outline the principles upon which this State is founded. Furthermore, some parts of the Preamble of the Constitution does also emphasise those principles and furthermore Chapter 12 of the Namibian Constitution exclusively deals with the issues related to regional and local governance in this country.

Comrade Minister, you are right in your motivation that the White Paper does outline the broad framework which we envisage the Local Authorities to operate in, which is quite commendable, but I think inasmuch as we are providing the broad policy framework, we must also accept the fact that some Local Authorities have been in existence prior to our Independence and some have been established post-Independence. Of course, at the policy and legislative level we have put in place relevant laws to assist those that are entrusted with the governance of Local Authorities to do their work, such as the Local Authorities Act of 1992, as amended.

What I am advocating is that it is high time that we need to look at the practical experience that we have attained, that we have observed how the Local Authorities have been functioning and are functioning, what are the shortcomings, what are the challenges. When I look at Local Authorities, one of the challenges that I think a Chamber like this august House and the Executive arm of the Namibian State should look at, is the income generating capacities of Local Authorities. A few of the Local Authorities have the capacity to generate income, to have a Budget, which Budget then could be utilised to provide the required services to the population, but there are quite a number of them, like the new ones that are coming up, that are hamstrung right from the word go in as far as the capacity to generate resources is concerned, which resources could now be utilised to manage and to provide even the basic infrastructures.

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On page 2, paragraph 2.1.4 of the White Paper adopts the following definition for the Local Authorities. It is quite a fitting definition but more an intellectual and academic definition and all-encompassing. For example, it says: *“Local economic development is a process by which actors within urban and rural areas work collectively with public, business and non-governmental sectors to create better conditions for economic growth, employment generation and community wealth in order to enhance the quality of life of all the community.”*

The issue here is that in those young, upcoming Local Authorities businesses are non-existent or very few which can contribute to the capacity of the Local Authority in terms of generating income.

The question is what is it that the Central Government, either through the Budget and through the activities of the Ministries, can do? There are quite a number of programmes that are implemented at the local level, no doubt about that, which programmes are meant to empower and to assist the local people, but the question is, what is the share of Central Government that is specifically devoted to be allocated to specific local authorities to supplement their Budget in order for them to do the work and to provide the services.

When we have to break the White Paper down to its nitty-gritty in the form of an action plan that will be used by the Local Authorities to implement certain things, we need to specify what the Central Government will allocate to identified upcoming Local Authorities. We cannot expect a Village Council to be in a position to generate income and if you do not do something, some of the Local Authorities will be de-proclaimed as villages and I do not think that is our intention.

The last point I want to make is on what we must do to assist the Local Authorities in terms of capacity development, human capacity in terms of the people that must plan and develop the towns. There must be a programme devoted to assisting the Local Authorities in that particular area. If you take Rundu as an example, the buildings are so close to the main road and, therefore, you have traffic congestion. We do not want to prescribe in all respect to the Local Authorities, but I think the Central

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Government has to lay down standards. After all, we are a unitary State and we would not like to see this town developed completely different from the rest of the towns. There must be some standards, the size of the streets and all these things.

Otherwise, Comrade Ekandjo, I want to commend you, I know it is quite a lot of work on the shoulders of your Ministry and also on all of us collectively as the Government of the day. I support the White Paper.

Thank you.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion on the White Paper? Honourable Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to briefly contribute to the White Paper on Local and Regional Economic Development.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, the economic development should be triggered off. It is like having a gun and then you shoot the bullet. The most important fact is that if we do not stimulate the Local and Regional Economic Development, we will not move. We have so many local products in the Regions which need to be added value so that they can become meaningful to the rest of the country. For example, you take things like wild melon pits where you can produce oil and other by-products. This could be oil for cooking, it could be oil for application on your skin and it could be used for medicinal purposes as well.

I think the White Paper on Local and Regional Development will stimulate the economy within the regions. I feel strongly that there is a

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need for us, particularly the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development to put resources and perhaps bring in other entities, like NDC's, incubation centres where the locals would create by-products. If you take mahangu or millet meal, we only have porridge and we inherited this way of cooking porridge from our ancestors. Other by-products like Oshima is no longer prepared in the traditional way, they prepare as if baking bread or cake. However, mahangu by-products could include things like *Onona*, the grainy stuff that we eat. Instead of buying Corn Flakes, why can we not buy mahangu flakes locally? We can do that. We can also make biscuits out of mahangu meal and many other by-products. You can make a drink from mahangu, not only *Oshikundu*, not only *Omalovu* but other types of drinks and we can package these.

I believe we can create some kind of economic stimulation within the regions so that people can see value. Another plant is the palm tree. We have *Ombike* or *Okanyome*, a traditional drink. Wherever you go in the world, each Nation has its traditional drink. Why do we not package that nicely and when tourists come over here we give them a treat. They buy a little bottle, nicely done and you sell them at a special price.

The clay from which we produce pots, we can train the people to do it much better than the traditional way and smoothen up the trade, so that the youngsters know how to do clay pottery and other products. I think it is just appropriate that we as a Government, particularly the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, perhaps in collaboration with the NDC and others, pump in a bit of money and create workshops so that we could stimulate the people's ideas.

The Prime Minister spoke about Constituency Development Committees. These members are very important and even when we are doing selection of these people, it should be people who have an understanding of how to develop this particular constituency connecting from one centre to next centre, so that when people are selling their produce, they have a road they can easily travel to the centres where they sell their by-products.

Lastly, I would like to appreciate the way the Ministry of Regional and

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Local Government, Housing and Rural Development brought about this White Paper, that indeed, if we make follow-ups after the training, we will be able to identify people, because once you trigger people's minds, they will give you the unexpected and even go beyond what you had in mind, because the people out there have the skills of perfecting those products.

Therefore, I would like to thank and appreciate what the Ministry has done. Comrade Jerry, you have my support. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I thank you for giving me the Floor. First of all, I rise to support the Local and Regional Economic Development White Paper. As previous speakers said, it is an important policy document that will ensure economic development in the rural and communal areas through the Local and Regional Economic Development Plan.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in my contribution I also want to show that economic development policies cannot take a silo-approach where they are treated as stand-alone policies and I want to use this opportunity to show how the sectors that we have identified in the Targeted Investment Programme for Employment and Economic Growth, are linking into the policy issues that we have created and are proposing for the local and regional economic development.

Let us start with agriculture. I think the Honourable Minister of Finance has shown that the TIPEEG programme aims at enhancing upstream and downstream development of agriculture. That is one to boost production, that is upstream, but we also want to enhance the ability for further value addition to raw material.

It does not take rocket science to imagine that a town or a village next to a large irrigation scheme can make it its business to take raw material,

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whether it is wheat or whether it is horticultural produce or whether it is livestock produce, and that that town or village can make it their business to add value to the raw material that is now sustainably produced by the scheme. It is not only the scheme that the TIPEEG programme is establishing; it is also storage facilities, so that produce can be delivered in high quality and sufficient quantities. As the Honourable Prime Minister said, we can now engage in the canning business, we can engage in milling, we can engage in manufacturing of cereal-based finished goods, like biscuits, cakes, bread.

That is in the agricultural sector, but again there is another link and that is transport. If small towns and villages are properly linked with each other and if they are also linked with places of production and markets, it becomes viable for entrepreneurs to set up in that village and create a factory or entrepreneurship to engage in value addition to raw materials. Therefore, transport infrastructure, obviously, is actually the catalyst and a prerequisite for entrepreneurship and for creating value chains at local and regional level. If you do not link local and regional places with markets where consumption is taking place and, on the other hand, with places of production, it will not become viable for our entrepreneurs to set up in small towns and villages. Again there is a very direct link between what TIPEEG is doing, namely establishing the backbone for economic development and what the local and regional development policy is foreseeing, and that is to further improve the ability of small entrepreneurs to set up in small towns.

The policy is specifically mentioning tourism as a viable sector to get engaged in. Equally, I think TIPEEG has the objective to increase tourist numbers and to make attractions more attractive, so that tourists are coming to Namibia. If we can diversify the tourism package that is for tourists to include villages, towns and regional attractions, obviously the tourists will spend longer times in Namibia, they will spend more money and again, it creates a very favourable niche for small entrepreneurs to set up their businesses in villages. I think the spin-offs, if businesses are settling in little towns and villages, those authorities will become self-sustaining authorities and will rely less on subsidies from Central Government. This is another policy element that is very crucial, that is for

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these small local and village authorities to become self-sustained through business activities.

Lastly, but not least, is housing and sanitation. TIPEEG has made housing and sanitation one of its four target sectors. Again it is a prerequisite for settling in a village that proper housing and proper sanitation are available. If you do not have that, you will not achieve the objectives of getting economic development into the local and regional villages. Again there is an integration and synergy between what TIPEEG wants to achieve and what this policy wants to achieve.

Lastly, I think it is absolutely crucial that we also mention the education sector in terms of this policy. If we want to set up businesses in local and regional places, if we want to create an environment that is favourable to set up business, if we want to make these Local Authorities self-sustained through businesses, we must give the youth and other groups training in entrepreneurship, in management, manufacturing skills, and management skills. Therefore, the training and education facet within an economic regional development plan cannot be under-emphasised.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I just want to conclude by showing that when we in Government developed TIPEEG and when we identified these target sectors, we looked at it from an integrated economic policy point of view so that we are not running the risk of developing a once-off strategy that is a stand-alone strategy. We want to make sure that this important strategy actually fits into the broad-based economic development. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Minister of Justice.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Speaker. I also rise to add my support to this very important document, but allow me to congratulate ourselves on this very important day in the history of mankind on which humanity managed to place a man in outer space in the person of Yuri Gagarin by the former

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Soviet Union. I think it is an achievement that we should celebrate and it is something that should not go unmarked, because humankind actually made great history by placing a man in outer space.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, it is very important for us to take note when a paper like this is brought to Parliament because it places before the public a document to be scrutinised and it creates awareness of the challenges prevailing in a given sector. It creates an opportunity for people to make comments and develop this White Paper into a policy paper, which will more likely crystallise into law. It makes it easier for the drafters when there is a White Paper to consult for guidance in order not to be at a loss as to what the Government is trying to achieve. You have to make a comparative study with laws of other countries, but you all are for certain guided by your policy-makers to find out what you are addressing and what is the challenges society is facing. It is in that context that I view it as very important and that all of us should emulate that example by way of a policy paper like this.

As Members of Parliament we come to Parliament on the ticket of our Parties and we should be clear on what are our Parties' policies on a given subject rather than leaving it to the academic and intellectual abilities of people who do not know the Party's stand. I think it is in that context that it is very important and we should continue emulating that as a guide or template. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, YOUTH AND CULTURE: May I ask a question? Comrade Deputy Minister, are you aware that some Political Parties have nothing to offer, they can only criticise and do not contribute anything to the White Paper?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes, that is why they come up with the same questions every year.

On the issue of capacity auditing, when we go to the community level and taking into account our past, one would find that there are constituencies

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where we did not even have secondary schools and the education in that area is such that even when you convene parents meetings, people do not see the necessity to attend. Because of the background they are coming from, they do not attach much importance to that and as a result, when you do capacity auditing, you would find that there is no single tertiary education product in that given village or that given community. There is no single engineer in that given community, there is no single doctor in that community, and there is no person who had the necessary exposure to serve as a role model to the youngsters. Probably there is a pastor and a nurse, but no other people whom the youngsters could say, *“I would like to be like the Minister of Finance, and I would like to be like the Honourable Member.”* There is nothing like that and when you do that capacity auditing, you would find there is actually no middleclass in that given Constituency.

I was talking about the Private Sector the other day. Who is actually there in that remote village in terms of the Private Sector? Who is actually going to develop that village? The resources might be there and it is important for us to start interrogating these issues. I also expect those who believe in an egalitarian society to support this kind of policy. If you start leaving people out, those who are left out will definitely one day rebel against those that have. I am not discovering America here; I am just saying what we already know.

When one looks at human resource development in that given area, there are people who are retiring, going to the village and they actually have the know-how. They are not that old and they need to be mobilised to continue rendering support, leadership and initiatives in those communities. It is important that once this document is approved, it becomes one of the tools in the developmental kit of the Regional Council or constituency Councillor, so that he has some kind of job description. (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: May I ask the Deputy Minister a question? Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Nambahu just mentioned the issue of people retiring and going to the village. Can he explain to me why should people

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go to the village when they retire? Is the village the place for old people and how will development take place if this is the place for old people?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: What I am trying to say is the person had gone out of the village and had more exposure than those people who remained there and he has much to contribute and plough back into the community. Somebody who would probably not like to be quoted said a man is not the one who fights until a certain hour, but one who fights throughout his life. That was the revolutionary Che Guevara who said that at some stage.

It is very important that this person is given the capacity, because people who retire at this age are sometimes still energetic and simply need to be mobilised to continue providing some kind of service to the community. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: May I ask Honourable Nambahu a question? Honourable Nambahu, you really touched on some people's nerves by proposing that once you retire you have to go to the village and help the villagers in the area where you grew up to bring them at a certain level because you seem like somebody who was sent to go and bring something back. I thought his is not going to be forced onto people, therefore is it not good that people should not fear, you are not saying they should be forced but it is voluntary. Honourable Ulenga is not comfortable to go back after retirement.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I do not want to personalise this issue to Honourable Ulenga, but it seems that when Honourable Ulenga goes back to *Ontanga* the people will not recognise him because he has not been there for some time.

The point I am trying to make is that we even have consultants coming here who have retired in their own countries, but they still come here and help us in one or the other way. By the time you retire you might not be

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that exhausted that you cannot continue making a contribution to the society's development. If those people can come from Europe and all over to come and help us here, why is it that we do not go and help the people where we come from? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask a question about retiring and going back to the village? Do you not think it is very important that we stay connected to our villages? Why should the connection only start when we retire? It should be there throughout.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes, I could not put it better and when it is said by somebody senior, it should be taken as a command by a wise man that we should go to the villages continuously and the people should not run away when they see us because they have not seen us for years.

In conclusion, this programme should be panel-beaten into a programme with outputs and results, so that it does not become a statement. Maybe one day it will crystallise and pyramid into a law forcing us to do certain things, maybe with some allocations and expertise from Central Government to go and create that capacity there. When you do the capacity auditing you could ask how many people in this community has information on how to tender, how many people in this community know how to apply for a loan or form a close corporation. When it comes to the Budget, I will make a contribution when it comes to the establishment of cooperatives because it is one area that we need to develop and make a proper contribution to help our people to get out of the poverty trap.

With these remarks, Comrade Ekandjo, I support the White Paper.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Kapia.

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HON KAPIA: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker. I rise to contribute and support the White Paper which deals with local and regional development, which is very important and fundamental to any society.

My Colleagues touched on many things and I want to say that this White Paper is responding, first of all, to the SWAPO Party political programme, to the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto and to NDP3, to the newly created vehicle, TIPEEG, and to Vision 2030.

I just want to say that our villages and towns should be planned with high standards, taking into account roads, buildings and even industrial areas and social places.

I also want us to have themes for our towns. We must identify what is the economic potential of a particular town and when a product is being produced in that town, it must be promoted, first of all, among the residents, the neighbours, and the whole country before it goes out of this country. By doing that, we are encouraging our people and our Nation to respect our locally produced products. We can only do that when we encourage manufacturing and support our local people producing these products. Our locally produced products should bear the flag of Namibia, because that is very important to our young children. When you buy a product bearing the national flag, they will not forget that product and they will be able to identify those products. We can do this through local and regional level before we come to the national level.

Therefore, I am very happy that this White Paper will be able to guide our leaders in the Regions, towns and villages to encourage and promote youth entrepreneurs, to encourage young people and women who are already conducting their informal businesses. This Policy will also encourage the Ministry of Trade and Industry to make the service available to all towns, so that our people can register their businesses, because many people in the villages are conducting businesses without being registered. I hope the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Finance, Social Security; the Equity Commission will put up centres in order to render the services which are needed for economic growth,

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because when our people need good standing certificates, they should not travel 60 or 100 kilometres to obtain it. They must not travel another 100 kilometres to get another good standing certificate from the Ministry of Finance, they must not travel a long distance to get an SME certificate from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, they must not travel a distance to get a certificate from the Equity Commission which says this is a relevant employer or not a relevant employer for them to be able to participate in local tenders.

I am saying this because our people are discouraged to participate in tenders because they cannot access some of these services in a nearby town or Regional Council office. This is one of the most essential services which need to be decentralised as a matter of urgency, so that we encourage our people to compete at local level when tenders are advertised. TIPEEG is one of the examples, for our people to benefit through these initiatives, they need to be serviced.

Therefore, this White Paper has a lot to offer to the economic growth of this country and an economy which starts at the grassroots level is a very strong economy, rather than a modern economy where a franchise comes from elsewhere and when they have pocketed enough money, they close and go.

I also want to ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, the Regional Councils and Local Authority Councils to support the initiative of community skills development centres which exist in some Regions, to go to all those towns and villages, because COSDECs are good examples where many young people and women can be trained in entrepreneur skills and also a semi-vocational to even a vocational qualified person. This is an appeal that this White Paper must concentrate on training of our communities towards business development.

With these few words I want to thank the Honourable Minister and I support the White Paper for economic development of our country.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Kazenambo.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, YOUTH AND CULTURE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise to support and add my voice to the Local and Regional Economic Development White Paper. It is very nicely written, very sweet and if you read the paper, you do not want to stop; you want to dance with joy and excitement.

Without exception all the previous speakers who spoke before me were also filled with joy and excitement while they were expressing their points and one felt like dancing. Nearly all the points were covered but I want to bring another angle to add to their inputs.

Economic issues are at the heart of our economic development, because we used to say the first phase of our liberation struggle was the political struggle to attain Independence and then we said we have entered the second phase of our struggle, which is economic reconstruction. Therefore, this White Paper tabled by Comrade Jerry Ekandjo, is a tool, a weapon which we must utilise in order to fight the scourge of unemployment, poverty and ignorance. It is a tool to unlock the doors of opportunities in the rural city, in the urban city, in the peripheral area, to add impetus to those power pillars of our economic development. These are very important economic guidelines; it gives indicators on how to formulate policies that may address issues of local economic development that may facilitate the free participation in the mainstream of our economy by many people in different settings of our country.

I will not deal with the specific critical economic sectors, such as tourism development, agriculture and the others; however, I want to look at the role of the Private Sector in local economic development. How do we use this White Paper to determine who are the mainstream players in the economic development? How are the banking sector, the agriculture processing sector, such as abattoirs and transport companies playing a critical role in the rural setting and what incentives are there? We are talking about local economic development, but I want to concentrate

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briefly on the incentives for private companies which are playing a critical role in facilitating local and regional economic development. What incentives are in place and what incentives can be built in to strengthen local economic development by formulating deliberate policies that will assist companies operating in those peripheral areas?

To illustrate what I am trying to say, one finds private entrepreneurs who risk their finances to develop new markets in remote areas, facing many challenges, but at times they are on their own. We need to put incentives in place for a bank to take its services to the rural areas or even to the peripheral urban areas. If a bank sees that there is a need for banking services in Greenwell Matongo in Windhoek or there is a need to set up shop in Gam, if a Parastatals sees there is a need for services in Ruacana or Hoachanas and are prepared to take that risk to take development to those areas, there should be special incentives to say thank you to those who are taking essential services to the remote areas of our country or to the peripheral risk areas.

We should put in place those mechanisms facilitated by this document, where Regional Councils and regional and local politicians will collaborate with the Private Sector to determine the essential services the communities need, the elderly, the vulnerable children, the youth and the women in rural settings. If the Private Sector could work with the Regional Councils, Local and Traditional authorities to deliver essential services, there should be incentives in place.

For example, we have a policy that says we should have a clinic or a health centre within a certain number of kilometres and we are taking essential services to the people. If there are built-in incentives for the Private Sector in a policy framework such as this one and at the risk of repeating what others have said on the role of the Ministry of Trade, I want to say that if I run a small abattoir somewhere or I am building a small lodge or cultural village somewhere, I should be given incentives to say that Kazenambo is building a small lodge in a remote area, therefore he must somehow be assisted. If I am developing a local resource, for example, processing stones, cutting them into bricks to be used by the locals in construction of houses, I should be given incentives.

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We have areas which are endowed with natural resources, but the local communities lack equipment. In that area they can set up a proper crusher, creating local jobs and supplying essential materials for the construction of schools and even expand production to export. We have realised that the South is endowed with natural stones which are very critical in the construction sector. There should be clearly defined incentives to assist those companies and the locals will build nice houses and jobs will be created in the process. This is why I am saying that the Private Sector has a role to play in essential, critical sectors. With these words, I support the document. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Justice.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. I rise to commend Comrade Jerry Ekandjo for tabling this historic document. I am calling it historic because I think it is for the first time in a long time – reminding Members that I am one of the few still around founding mothers of the House – which we have received a document of this kind in the National Assembly. The White Paper, as someone mentioned, creates issues in the minds of people, not only us here, to visualise what should happen in the Regions, in the Local Authorities and also those to whom we have entrusted the responsibility of running these institutions.

For some time, Comrade Deputy Speaker, we have been grappling with the leadership at both local and regional levels, wondering what is it that they can do in a setting of a unitary State where they are also asking themselves at those levels, “*can we generate money, can we have our own Budgets in a setting of this kind?*”

At Central Government level we continue to hold onto this notion that it is one country, it is a unitary State, and how can the people out there have the power to call for taxes in order to generate income? I think this question should find room in our deliberations, as to when is it that the Regional

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Governments or the Local Authorities have the powers to initiate income-generating measures without breaking this constitutional norm of a unitary State. We may see that as one way of holding the State together, one Namibia, one Nation, but on the other hand it may also create a handicap for those who become so helpless in the face of that inability.

Honourable Deputy Speaker we still have very important institutions that are supposed to create order and relationships. We have towns that are doing very well economically. Ongwediva is doing well because of the economic activities taking place there and it can be taken as a model example for others to emulate and give impetus to those Local Authorities which are unable to generate economic activities. What is it that made Ongwediva so powerful commercially? Is it the capacity of the leadership or is it the environment? The environment cannot create itself; the environment must be created by individuals.

Whose fault is it that certain Local Authorities are not in a position to do what others are doing? Is it the manner we elect those leaders or what is it? These are some of the questions we need to pose for the purpose of making those institutions truly sustainable. For how long can the Central Government subsidise the Local Authorities? Why should they continue to be in existence if they cannot generate income by themselves? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask a question? You are trying to make a comparison between what Ongwediva has been able to do and why others cannot do likewise. Would you agree with me that the set-up of Ongwediva is slightly different from many other upcoming towns socially? In Ongwediva you have teachers, administrators, nurses, business people and the like, people with employment, people who pay their water, electricity, assessment rates and the rest. When you compare it, for example, to Oshakati with all its squatters, people who are unable to pay Municipal rates, the income is slightly different. I want you to take that comparison into account. Do you not think that is what might have made Ongwediva to be different, apart from having foresighted leadership?

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HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you for the argument; it is not really a question. The setting in Ongwediva is comparable to some known towns in Namibia. Let us take a town like Outapi. Outapi has a secondary school, a hospital, banking facilities, but how different is it from Ongwediva? I do not see the difference. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Minister made a comparison between Outapi and Ongwediva, but I think the economic set-up of Outapi is not comparable to that of Ongwediva in many aspects. Outapi is very small and we know that many of the nurses and teachers are not staying in town, they commute to town from their villages and they hardly contribute to the services in town. That should not be a reason for Outapi and other towns not to perform, but it is just a fact that there are constraints to development and growth of the town. Ongwediva is a different set-up altogether.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Comrade can be right, I am not saying they are completely the same, but when you look at it on face value, they are more or less of the same status.

I want to move on to a point of recent history of the nineties. I remember very well how unpopular certain leaders in Ongwediva had become. There were leaders who said, come hell or high waters, you are going to move from here to there because this is a designated place of a, b, c. Many of our leaders do not have that courage to face the reality of life. They said, this is a town, we have planned it in such a way that here is a commercial space, residential space, informal spaces and whatever else. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, YOUTH AND CULTURE: To add to the point, although she said it all, take Okakarara for example. When we attained Independence, Okakarara was a town, demarcated in the town style with a special location called Pamue with tarred roads and everything. Go to Okakarara today and before you

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even go into main Okakarara, go to Pamue which used to be a white-only residential area and you will see. Somewhere, somehow we should look into what is there in Ongwediva.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Comrade Kazenambo. I once asked, I do not know whether it was Comrade Uutoni or somebody else, I said, “*when are you going to recognise the name Auguste Taanyanda in Ongwediva*”, because without that name and the name of Erastus Uutoni we cannot be talking about Ongwediva the way it is today. He and the late Comrade worked tirelessly to the dismay to the residents of Ongwediva. They were demonstrating, they were protesting, but the two were on course and they turned Ongwediva into an Oasis in the North.

Therefore, this White Paper is a very, very useful tool, a very good document. However, it is as good as we are taking it seriously and everybody concerned will take it seriously, to realise that the towns we are creating in the country cannot be run on a different model. This is a civil kind of arrangement; it is not a village in the traditional sense of a village. It is a modern set-up which should follow modern characteristics of doing things. We cannot create *kraals* in town, saying, “*Where do you want us to take our donkeys?*” We want to attract investment, but which investor would come to a place where you give way to a donkey or a goat? Therefore, the leadership entrusted with this responsibility must be made aware of the expectations. What is it that we expect? We expect order in terms of settlement, in terms of planning, in terms of behaviour, cleanliness and the likes. All that must come together when we talk about our towns. Without it Ongwediva will continue to be the only place we can talk about with pride.

Comrade Ekandjo, I know you are very energetic and you have a good team. We will support you provided there is enforcement somewhere. We must demand, the Nation must demand and the residents must demand certain things to be done in a certain way. If not, we will table White Papers, we will make laws and we will do nothing.

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Comrade Minister, I am saying this not because I want to denigrate this document, it is very important, but I want to encourage you and the Comrades running these institutions to know that there is a lot that we as a Nation expect them to do so that tomorrow they are like Ongwediva. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I give the Floor to the next speaker, Honourable Minister of Justice, I do agree – and I am referring to Ongwediva – that the type of leadership can really turn things around. I am one of those people who believe that Ongwediva was turned around because of the type of leadership you had and have and also the people. Unity is strength. I give the Floor to Honourable Bezuidenhoudt.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Honourable Deputy Speaker, the document that we have before us is a very important direction-showing document. As a White Paper the Honourable Minister would expect some input so that he takes it up into a policy document to be developed. If I am incorrect with regards to the term of “*white paper*”, I would apologise in advance.

The White Paper is a prelude to a policy. One must support any initiative that is positive and that is answering very specific challenges of our livelihood, of our Government, of our State and this is one of those ones, again with the provision that it is implementable and it is being enforced.

When I look at things, I always try to think outside the box, try to be innovative, apply innovative thinking and in this instance there is no exception to my personal rule and that is why I want to make recommendations which, can improve on the document as it stands so that we incorporate issues that I perceive to be lacking.

The document should take the Nation’s mind from believing that I must be employed to thinking that I can be an employment creator. If we have all these little economic developments in every area and in every town that will also assist the organisation of certain areas, because people are

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looking for jobs and they are putting pressure on infrastructure like water and housing and then we can have equitable development in all centres of the country.

The suggestions under possible initiatives are examples and it can be expanded. On page 7 of the document where it spells out the role of Government, it says: “*The role of Government includes the drafting of proposals for implementation.*” My concern is not with the drafting, but my concern is that our people sometimes have very good ideas, but they lack the ability to write proper business plans, coupled with financial plans, with cash flow projections, to submit a document of value to a possible financier and when I turn around and look for somebody to assist me, I must first fork out N\$1,000 and sometimes N\$10,000. There are people, who come up with very good proposals, but sometimes proposals are written, given to consultants who disappear and our people get despondent, because they must pay consultants who have the know-how, only to be disappointed.

I think when putting this document into operation, you need to put guidelines on where these people can get the assistance. If there is a service under the Ministry of Trade and Industry which can be decentralised to assist, it will be welcomed.

The fourth bullet reads: “*Identifying opportunities for capacity-building of trainee artisans as a priority.*” When it comes to capacity-building it must address a very specific need at various levels. For example, many of our Local Authorities grapple with basic bookkeeping that makes it very difficult or close to impossible sometimes for the Auditor-General to get a grip on the bookkeeping and accounting of various authorities and that would be an identified opportunity for capacity-building. We should also have the right standard of employment so that people with the relevant skills can assist their Local Authorities to be able to give presentable documentation and bookkeeping for auditors to be able to give a true picture of what is happening in that Local Authority. Then we will not get too many qualified audit reports at that level and it goes hand-in-hand with what the Minister has said that sometimes it needs to be a very firm but

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fair leadership to drive policy objectives, so that we reach what we set out to do.

The bullet thereafter reads: “*Improving communication among stakeholders*” and that sometimes poses a challenge in that CDC’s meet and talk and then some important stakeholder is excluded. There must be a way for information to be spread equally amongst all stakeholders. The knowledge of what is going on will drive local economic development or will be a building block to economic development. If a person knows that I will be putting up a plant for baked beans here, then he or she will not plan to do the same at the same spot and then later there are fights about whose idea was first.

The hijacking of business ideas is also a big concern among people. An entrepreneur should have a place to lodge his or her idea and get some type of copyright for a period of three or six months. I will develop a policy plan for somebody and tell him that it is not viable, but three months later I just change the names here and there and implement his idea. That should also be discouraged or protected. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask a question? Does the Honourable Member know that there are also people stealing ideas about formation of Political Parties that the other one was first and then they are coming up.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: That is in a different domain of discussion. If one does a survey to establish how many Namibians’ fingers were genuinely burnt by trusting other people, I think one would be surprised. If we adopt the White Paper with the view of having a policy, we should think of all these things, not to make a document where nobody can move, but at least give basic guarantees or protection so that the policy can eventually be successfully implemented.

On page 8 the paragraph states about “*the Private Sector development policy which is being drafted, which combines industrialisation policy,*

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trade and small business development policy” and I think this White Paper should find a way of linking with those policies, so that there is a linkage between policy on that level and the development policy, so that all policies and actions speak the same language, which is to develop the Local Authorities, local economics, so that the people remain in their areas and not come to Windhoek and only on retirement return to the village. I must also confess, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I do not have a village; I would want somebody to give me a village where I can retire.

On the same page there is a promise that this document will have an influence on Amendments of the Local Authorities Act, which is good in the sense that we can now define the capacities that we want, that at least the amended Act should indicate a direction to Local Authorities, that when they employ people, they must at least have a minimum requirement. If we do not do that, people can pretend to be doctors and when they do brain surgery, it will be a disaster. Everyone in life has a specific skill and if we need to do town planning, we should stipulate that requirement somewhere in the regulations. We should have the capacities stipulated for our Local Authorities not to be in the dark about what type of skills they should actually recruit. When they recruit people they miss the capacities and when that person is on the payroll, it is very difficult to get rid of him and there. This creates problems and unnecessary challenges for the Local Authority. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House adjourns until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2011.04.13 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
13 APRIL 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

TABLING: ANNUAL REPORTS

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: I lay upon the Table,

- Annual Report of Namibia Press Agency (NAMPA) for the year 2010.
 - Annual Report of Telecom Namibia for the year 2009; and
 - Annual Report of Namibia Post and Telecom Holdings (Ltd) for the year 2009.
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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Reports? Any other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Katjavivi.

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 01, 02, 04 and 30 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90(c) of the Standing Rules and Orders not be interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Message from the Head of State? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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: It is moved that I leave the Chair. Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair. Professor Katjavivi.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. I put **Vote 01 – “PRESIDENT”, N\$288,313,000** for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to motivate Vote 01, Office of the President. Since the tabling of the national Budget by our able Minister of Finance, Comrade Nandjila Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila in March this year, Members of this august House have been exercising their democratic rights, as representatives of the Namibian people, to debate, and analyse the Appropriation Bill.

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

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, Honourable Members, to present to this august House my motivation for the funds allocated to Vote 01 of the Office of the President for the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

The Ministry of Finance tabled a number of volumes in this august House detailing the Budget. I also laid on the table the 2009/2010 Annual Report of the Office of the President. It is, therefore, not necessary for me to bore you with a long motivation.

On the 21st of March this year our Nation celebrated twenty-one years of tranquillity, peace and progress. The principal function of our President is to ensure peace; unity; stability; tolerance; hard work; promote national reconciliation; cherish the motto of One Namibia One Nation; encourage 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.

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

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, allow me to express solidarity with our citizens who are affected by the floods in the north and north eastern part of our country. It is said that charity begins at home. I therefore, leave it to the Right Honourable Prime Minister to make proposals as to how we can collectively assist flood victims in our capacity as national leaders.

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Our President when declaring an emergency situation said that as a caring SWAPO Party Government, everything possible should be done to assist our people who are affected by the floods. I, therefore, wish to commend our SWAPO Party Government for taking prompt action with a view to alleviating the suffering of our citizens who are affected by the floods. I also commend countries, institutions and individuals who have made generous contributions to the flood victims.

Vote 01 has been allocated an amount of N\$288,313,000. This amount is broken down as follows: N\$171,423,000 for operational expenses and N\$116,898,000 for Development.

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 to my senior Colleague, the Honourable Minister of Finance and indeed the entire staff of that Ministry for their understanding, including the National Planning Commission. 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 sister, Honourable Minister.

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. In addition, the common law as well as customary law, as recognised under Article 66 of the Namibian Constitution, 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 for our country. I am happy to say that Namibia continues to enjoy respect and prestige globally.

We continue to maintain friendly relations both at bilateral and multilateral levels. Allow me, therefore, to say thank you for the efforts

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of our President who has been at the forefront in achieving this objective.

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 civic organisations 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.

In addition, the President also engaged our citizens, from the political leaders, to Traditional Leaders, and from Regional and Local Authority Councillors to individual citizens on many issues of national interest. All these efforts are aimed at consolidating peace, harmony and stability in our country. I therefore, congratulate our President for being ranked the fifth best performing Head of State on the African Continent.

Honourable Deputy 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 by monitoring and evaluating the implementation of Government policies and programmes; 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

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of peace, stability and good governance in our country.

The activities involved under this programme include the hosting of ceremonial functions, the official opening of statutory bodies, receiving and commissioning of Ambassadors and High Commissioners, undertaking State and Official Visits to other countries in order to promote bilateral relations, commercial trade and investment, as well as to sign treaties, agreements and conventions with other countries and 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 Deputy Chairperson, a total amount of N\$60,790,000 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 the State acts in 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

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delivery, regular review of policies and promotion of national unity and harmony in our country.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, a total amount of N\$21,370,000 is requested under this Programme.

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 (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.

In this regard, 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. In some cases, prompt and swift arrest of dangerous criminals by the police is done with intelligence information provided by the service.

Honourable Members, Namibia is part of the globalised world. Events which affect peace and stability in one corner of the globe can easily have a spill-over effect in our country.

The threat of terrorism is one example. It is for this reason that we need to render financial and material support to our Intelligence Service so that we can effectively deal with terrorism.

Honourable Members will agree with me that the nature of the work of this institution does not allow me to elaborate further.

Under this Programme, an amount of N\$180,558,000 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

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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 (Act 18 of 2004).

Under this Programme, an amount of N\$15,006,000 has been requested. Out of this total, an amount of N\$6,500,000 has been earmarked for development purposes.

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, Cabinet Secretariat serves as the repository of the records, minutes and related documents of the Cabinet.

Under this programme, an amount of N\$10,589,000 is requested.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, with these remarks, I respectfully urge all the Honourable Members of this august House to support and approve the total allocation of N\$288,313,000 in respect of Vote 01. I must also maybe add here, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, that there will be an Amendment at a later stage to provide for the increment in the Civil Servants salaries to this Vote. Therefore, this amount is not final, the Honourable Minister of Finance will be in a position to present an Amendment to all the Votes, but for now I so move and I thank you

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, Honourable Dr Kawana.

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RT HON ANGULA

Vote 02 – “OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER”, N\$267,782,000 is put for Introduction.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

The vision and mission of the Office of Prime Minister is to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of the Public Service of Namibia.

Efficiency is achieved through timely delivery of public service. Timely delivery of public service could only be achieved if Public Servants are competent in their performance, time-bound in their actions and optimal with time on task.

Effectiveness, on the other hand, implies customer satisfaction, quality and friendly service delivery.

Accountability in service delivery ensures that Public Servants are indeed servants of the people. Respect, patience and friendliness are the virtues of an accountable Public Servant. In its mission to achieve efficiency, effectiveness and accountability the Office of Prime Minister delivers a variety of programmes and performs specified functions in the Public Sector. In short, the Office of Prime Minister can be described as the heartbeat of the Public Service. In this regard the Office of Prime Minister provides political and administrative service to the Executive Branch. It coordinates the administrative functions of the Public Sector, delivers services to Offices, Ministries and Agencies and implements special programmes to meet public needs and contingencies. These functions are accomplished through a number of programmes.

The Office of Prime Minister implements the following programmes:

- Cabinet and Parliamentary Functions
- The Public Service Management and Administration

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- E-Governance in the Public Sector
- Performance Management in the Public Sector
- Capacity Development
- Disaster Management
- Oversight over State Owned-Enterprises and
- Special Projects

The Cabinet and Parliamentary Functions are performed by the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. Through the Prime Minister's Bureau the work of the Cabinet is being co-ordinated and the legislative programmes of Parliament are managed. An amount of NS37,357 ,00 is allocated to this function.

The Public Service Management and Improvement Functions are performed by the Public Service Commission; the Department of Public Service Management; the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM); and the Performance Management System. A total amount of NS154,097,000 is allocated to this function.

The Disaster Recovery and Emergency Management Service is aimed at efficient and effective risk management, disaster recovery and mitigation. Namibia is a country of fragile environment. The country is prone to both droughts and floods. It is imperative, therefore, that a National Emergency and Disaster Fund is established. This Fund is boosted with NS20 million annually in order to grow it solidly. A Bill to establish a statutory body to be responsible for disaster reduction and management shall be brought to this eminent House in due course for your consideration.

A number of Special Programmes are funded through the Office of Prime Minister and the Office of Deputy Prime Minister. These include:

- The San Social Inclusion Programme: N\$3,907,000;
- The Disability Advocacy Unit: NS862,000;
- Development of Economic Empowerment Framework:
- NS700,000;
- Public Office Bearers Remuneration Commission

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- NS1,818,000;
- National Alliance for Improved Nutrition: NS200,000; and
- State Owned-Enterprises Governance Council: NS6,503,000.

The Development Budget of the Office of Prime Minister for 2011/2012 totals NS40,520,000. This Budget shall cover the expenditures for the construction of NIPAM; renovation of the Old State House and construction or renovations of various offices or warehouses of the Disaster and Risk Management Department.

In conclusion, Honourable Members of Parliament and gallant sons and daughters of the SWAPO Party, it is now my distinct honour to request you to approve the Budget of the Office of Prime Minister for 2011/2012 as will be amended. This will enable us to promote efficiency, effectiveness and accountability in the Public Service of our Patrimony. I thank you for your attention.

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

I put **Vote 04 – “AUDITOR-GENERAL”, N\$88,165,000** for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to motivate Vote 04, of the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General performs important constitutional functions as provided for under Article 127(2) of the Namibian Constitution and the State Finance Act (Act 31 of 1991).

Any country which subscribes to the values of accountability has legislation which entitles the Nation to know how the taxpayer’s 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

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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 and statutory mandate. It is also an established fact that the Office of the Auditor-General is a professional and technical office.

In order to achieve the abovementioned objectives, the Office of the Auditor-General has set itself a number of targets during the 2011/2012 Financial Year. 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 one hundred and forty-seven financial audits during 2011/2012 Financial Year.

Honourable Deputy 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. This will assist to address the problem of backlog.

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:

- Finalise 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;

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- Improve the quality of Reports, and
- Maintain client satisfaction of audited Reports.

An amount of N\$4,090,000 is required for this programme.

The second Programme involves financial auditing. To this end, the Office of the Auditor-General will:

- Strive to obtain outstanding financial statements from clients which stood at 141 at 31 March 2010 and to decrease this envisaged backlog;
- 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 120 asset inspections throughout the country per year in order to safeguard public assets. In addition, 147 financial audit Reports will be finalised.

This programme will require an amount of N\$21,044,000.

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;

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- Complete 80 percent of 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\$63,026,000.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the total allocation requested for Vote 04, amounts to N\$88,160,000, which is subject to Amendment.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I am pleased to inform this august House that as an effort to promote the country, the Auditor-General has hosted 23 Auditor-Generals of Africa who are members of AFROSAI-E from 4 to 8 April 2011 and 54 Auditor-Generals of the Commonwealth from 11 to 13 April 2011.

The Auditor-General of Namibia is the founding Chairperson of AFROSAI-E which he has served for six years from January 2005 to December 2010. As a member of the Commonwealth, the Auditor-General hosted and chaired the 21st Commonwealth Auditor-Generals Conference here in Windhoek. The Commonwealth Auditors-General has contributed about £44,600 to be spent in Namibia.

With these few remarks, I humbly request this august House to approve the requested amount of N\$88,160,000 in respect of the Office of the Auditor-General. I so move and I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Thank you very much, Honourable Dr Kawana. I put **Vote 30 – ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION”, N\$62 546 000** for Introduction.

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, thank you for granting me this opportunity to introduce the Budget of the Anti-Corruption Commission for the Financial Year 2011/2012 to this august House.

As the Honourable Members would recall, 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 (Act 8 of 2003). These functions in terms of Section 3 of the Anti-Corruption Act are:

- a) To receive or initiate and investigate allegations of corrupt practices;
- b) To consider whether investigation is needed in relation to an allegation and, if so, whether the investigation must be carried out by the Commission or whether the matter should be referred to any other appropriate authority for investigation or action;
- c) To consult, cooperate and exchange information with appropriate bodies or authorities, including authorities or bodies of other countries that are authorised to conduct inquiries or investigations in relation to corrupt practices;
- d) To assemble evidence obtained in the course of its functions and to furnish –
 - i) to any other appropriate authority; or
 - ii) to the prosecuting authority or other suitable authority of another country, upon a formal request, evidence which may be admissible in the prosecution of a person for a criminal offence or which may otherwise be relevant to the functions of that authority;

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- e) to investigate any conduct of a person employed by a public body or private body which, in the opinion of the Commission, may be connected with or conducive to corrupt practices, and to report thereon to an appropriate authority with the public body or private body;
- f) to take measures for the prevention of corruption in public bodies and private bodies, including measures for –
 - i) examining the practices, systems and procedures of public bodies and private bodies to facilitate the discovery of corrupt practices and securing the revision of practices, systems or procedures which may be prone or conducive to corrupt practices;
 - ii) Advising public bodies and private bodies on ways of preventing corrupt practices and on changes of practices, systems and procedures compatible with the effective performance of their duties and which are necessary to reduce the likelihood of the occurrence of corrupt practices;
 - iii) Educating the public and disseminating information on the evil and dangers of corruption, including through the publication and distribution of brochures and pamphlets or the holding of public conferences;
 - iv) Enlisting and fostering public confidence and support in combating corruption;
- g) To disseminate information to the public about the functions of the Commission; and
- h) To do anything else that the Commission is required or authorised to do under the Anti-Corruption Act or any other law or which is necessary or expedient to do for achieving the purpose of the said Act.

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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

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

- Investigation of allegations of corruption; and
- Establish and implement measures to prevent corruption.

With regard to the two programmes the Budget allocations were N\$22,072,000 and N\$14,714,000, respectively, thus a total Budget allocation of N\$36,786,000.

Acting within the last Financial Year's allocation, the Commission managed to effectively investigate a substantial number of the 294 reports of alleged corrupt practices received by the Commission. Also during this period the Commission referred 56 cases to the Prosecutor-General with a 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. However, in virtually all instances the matters were only referred after preliminary inquiries had been conducted to establish whether the allegations of corruption could be substantiated or not.

It is pleasing to be able to report that during the 2010/2011 Financial Year there has been a further reduction in the number of non-mandate related complaints lodged with the Commission. This can be attributed to actions taken by the Commission against the culprits and the public education campaigns conducted by the Commission countrywide.

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In compliance with the requirement in its empowering legislation that it should educate the public on corruption and on its functions and provide for measures to prevent or curb corruption, the Commission during the 2010/2011 Financial Year –

- Continued to increase its anti-corruption sensitisation and media campaigns. As part of these outreach campaigns the Commission, amongst others;
- Engaged local radio stations to broadcast anti-corruption adverts in various indigenous languages;
- Developed anti-corruption publications in Braille;
- Developed 50,000 anti-corruption booklets for distribution to schools countrywide;
- Celebrated the International Anti-Corruption Day in Otjiwarongo with a march against corruption, which was supported by regional and local authorities as well as members of the public;
- Held various seminars, amongst others two church leaders' seminars, one in the Khomas Region and the other in the Oshana Region, to enlist the support of the church leaders in the fight against corruption and in instilling moral and ethical values in their respective communities;
- Conducted an urban corruption perception survey to solicit the public's opinion on corruption related matters. It is believed that the data so collected will assist the Commission to better plan its anti-corruption strategies and programmes that are to be implemented;
- Attended the Ongwediva and Eenhana Trade Fairs and the Windhoek Show. The ACC managed to have questionnaires completed at these events to determine the effectiveness of its sensitisation and educational campaigns.

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With regard to capacity building, the Commission managed to recruit ten additional staff members during the 2010/2011 Financial Year. These additional staff members will assist to provide for a better service delivery to the public.

The Anti-Corruption Commission also continues to enjoy national and international support. On the international front, the Commission upon invitation attended and participated in quite a number of conferences. These international forums provided a platform to exchange experiences and best practices with regard to, amongst others, the investigation and prevention of corruption. The Anti-Corruption Commission's representation at these international conferences is a clear testimony that the international community recognises Namibia's efforts in the fight against corruption.

Honourable Members, although the Anti-Corruption Commission is recognised both domestically and internationally as the leading authority in the fight against corruption in Namibia, it is as a young institution plagued by numerous challenges such as –

- Insufficient human resources capacity that hampers optimal service delivery to its stakeholders;
- A headquarters with inadequate facilities that makes it problematic to securely house exhibits and archive case files; and
- The lack of regional offices that hampers the productivity of especially the ACC Investigative Unit.

The Anti-Corruption Commission needs the Government's support to effectively and efficiently fight the scourge of corruption. Adequate funding is needed to place the Commission in a position to effectively and efficiently combat corruption.

The proposed allocation for the 2011/12 Financial Year is N\$62,546,000. The allocation is to be divided between the two programmes in the Medium Term Plan of Vote 30, namely –

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- Investigation of allegations of corrupt practices; and
- Establish and implement measures to prevent corruption

In respect of the first programme an amount of N\$37,528,000 is to be allocated in respect of the 2011/2012 Financial Year and in respect of the second programme an amount of N\$25,018,000 is to be allocated.

The total allocation proposed is N\$62,546,000. If allocated it would with regard to Programme 1 enable the Commission:

- To continue with skills development of its investigators so as to ensure proper discharge of the Commission's statutory investigative and other functions;
- To continue conducting specialised investigations that requires the expertise of forensic auditors or other experts. These investigations are very costly and requires sufficient funding;
- To further decentralise its services through the establishment of further regional offices;
- To provide for its own headquarters with adequate facilities for its investigative unit that will ensure enhanced service delivery to the public. Facilities such as proper interview and exhibit rooms and adequate and proper storage facilities; and

With regard to Programme 2, it would enable the Commission:

- To initiate the development of a National Anti-Corruption Strategy;
- To promote the implementation of corruption inhibiting systems, procedures and practices at public and private institutions;
- To continue to increase public awareness on corruption so as to facilitate good governance and an economically stable environment;

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- to provide for a countrywide corruption perception survey, the outcome of which is believed will greatly assist the Commission in its future planning;
- To, provide for its own headquarters with adequate facilities for its public education unit. Facilities such as—
 - Proper 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;
 - A library with 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.

Honourable Members, in view of this Introductory Statement on Vote 30, I request this august House to approve the expenditure of N\$62,546,000 as set out in the Schedule of the Appropriation Bill for 2011 in respect of the Anti-Corruption Commission. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Right Honourable Prime Minister. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMES:

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Progress reported and leave given to sit again granted.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:45
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:22 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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

**RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION: WHITE PAPER ON
LOCAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the House adjourned yesterday, the 12th of April 2011, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, that the White Paper be considered. Honourable Bezuidenhoudt had the Floor.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Yesterday when I ended I was at the Amendment of the Local Authorities Bill, as suggested in the White Paper. I also recommended to the Minister that this Bill must include guidelines, so that capacities required by Local Authorities are defined in order that they recruit the right calibre of people to assist our Local Authorities to run their affairs.

The second item in the Bill I would want to recommend to the Minister is to clearly define the different roles of Council and the administration.

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Experience has shown that there is a lot of meddling in each other's affairs. When this White Paper is implemented it should be clear what the boundaries of each component of Local Authority are.

On page 14 of the White Paper there is a suggestion to attract outside business and resources, which means to invite investors from another Local Authority or from another Region. Previously there was also information and consultation on these things and a combination thereof will bring a lot of similar ideas. Every Region wants to have an agricultural project or similar projects and that can sometimes create a bit of conflict between Regions. Therefore, the Minister should also try to circumvent that or how that could be managed in practice.

Yesterday I dealt with the intellectual property, that the business plans of people have a reasonable chance of being protected, so that the idea does not get copied in a very short space of time by another entrepreneur.

Point 4.2.1.2 on page 15 deals with computerised information and monitoring systems. This is in line with the vision of transforming Namibia into a knowledge-based society. On that one I would say that an excellent communication network was developed in this country where information can be sent to and throw from long distances in a couple seconds. Business ideas can be put in a central place where entrepreneurs can access on how to write business plans or to see what Regions are promoting, so that people do not need to travel up and down or use couriers to send documents.

The Minister of Information has indicated to this House that the West African Cable System has reached Swakopmund. Although the system requires major investment, the benefit would be that Internet and communication costs in the country will drop drastically. That will enable entrepreneurs to have Internet access so that local and regional economic development can be enhanced also through what we have in this country, our communication system.

Lastly, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I only wish to highlight three or four

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items which I want to share with the Minister for inclusion into this White Paper.

For each and every Local and Regional Authority there needs to be some type of open, transparent SWOT analysis for us to know what is the strength and weaknesses of the Authority, what are the opportunities and what are the threats, so that we can proactively work out a success rate of various types of industries, so that there is reasonable chance of success in local economic development.

When it comes to the processing of agricultural products to replace imported products, we should support and enhance the institutions testing the food, so that we get good quality products on the market so that people do not perceive Namibian products as being inferior. There is a psychological campaign in this country, where people firmly believe that Namibian products are sub-standard and we will not get our people to buy local products to enhance the development of the Regions. The National Standards Institute should probably also play their roles to define standards.

Lastly, for the White Paper to be transformed into a policy would need a very firm and a very fair leadership during the implementation phase and it needs to be clearly understood by all Local and Regional Authorities as well as Central Government. With these few words, I thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise primarily because I became concerned when Honourable Tommy Nambahu was speaking on this White Paper and emphasised the point that in order for us in this Honourable House to assist our communities in the Regions and villages where we came from, we should not retire and remain here in the

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capital. That concerned me very much, because in my case I am always in touch with the village where I was born and I will remain in touch and do everything possible to make a contribution together with our people in the village and through that, to contribute to the well-being of the whole of Namibia. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Being in touch with the village, is that a form of contract worker mentality or what is it?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: It is obviously better than that. I also want to say that as far as I know, this is probably not the first attempt to engage our people in the rural areas to become active in matters that relate to their lives and to make them aware of their responsibilities. I recall that the Policy on Decentralisation enumerated what the people in the rural areas needed in order for them to contribute and the issue of the Constituency Development Committees that the Right Honourable Prime Minister mentioned yesterday is clearly outlined in the Decentralisation Policy, as is also the Regional Development Committees and Regional Councils. Once everything has now come from the various Constituencies, it is sent to the Director-General of the National Planning Commission for Budget allocations. In all the Ministries where I have been, that is the way we have been looking at this.

At times it seems as if the regional Budget is made up here at Headquarters, but that has not been my experience. Normally our people are made to participate. However, they will be strengthened in their efforts if we as national leaders could assist them and I hope we do. I would want to see who is not in touch with his roots.

This White Paper, which will become a policy, is perhaps the first that goes into the small, minute details of what people should actually do as far as the economic requirements are concerned and I think that needs to be supported in all respects.

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I said I will be brief, but I only wanted to emphasise the point that we should not lose touch with our villages where we came from. I thank you.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. This White Paper is a very good document, but my only fear is that those responsible for the implementation are again going to divide the poor communities into political groups and those who are going to benefit will only be loyal SWAPO supporters. As usual they will divide people along political lines and the White Paper will not serve its purpose, because it will serve only sections of the society. (Intervention)

HON MWANINGANGE: Honourable Moongo, you have various business entities yourself and your labourers who are members of your Party have electricity, using water points and roads, which are services rendered to the people irrespective of political affiliation. Therefore, if you want to make speak to the White Paper, please do tell the truth, do not inject politics.

HON MOONGO: Some officials even order the members of SWAPO not to buy from certain shops and that is my worry. Some people are good at plotting and not at planning to implement the White Paper. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Is it not true, Honourable Moongo, that if it were the case that members of the public would only support the businesses of the people who are members of their own Party, that Uukumwe would be bankrupt by now?

HON MOONGO: I was saying that the leaders are good at plotting and not at good planning and implementation of the paper. The document is

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good and it is supposed to serve the poor communities, but I am seriously worried. (Intervention)

HON NYAMU: On a Point of Information. Not a long time ago a senior Member of one of the Political Parties, here present in this House, held a public meeting at a village Onamulunga where he made a call or a declaration that supporters of that particular Party – and that Party knows itself, I do not want to mention it – should not support the businesses belonging to Opposition Parties, should not even give them water, a Fascist declaration, only known to have been made against the Jews in Germany. Are the SWAPO Members now repudiating what their senior official said?

HON MOONGO: Yesterday some Members were praising Ongwediva that it is an excellent town, which is true, but all the poor people were forced out of Ongwediva. There are no poorest of the poor in Ongwediva, they are very far at Omatando where there is no water. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: May I ask a question? You said clearly that it is good that Ongwediva was developed, but then you turn around to blame the Party which developed Ongwediva. Are you sure that everybody who is well-to-do and living in Ongwediva is a Member of the SWAPO Party, that you do not have any member in Ongwediva at all? Do you want to admit that you do not have any members in anyone of the prosperous towns at all?

HON MOONGO: What I am advocating is that Ongwediva town should be for all people, rich and poor. It should not only be for rich people, it has to accommodate also the poor people. Now the poor people are very far in Omatando, there is no water, nothing was prepared for them to go and live there. (Intervention)

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:

Honourable Deputy Speaker, may I ask my student a question? My student, are you aware that where the Uukumwe chains currently are were once villages of poor people and why did you build there?

HON MOONGO: I built Uukumwe chains during the time of the previous administration and not during the time of SWAPO's administration. SWAPO tried to close it and even now they are trying to close it. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. May I ask the Honourable Member just a small question? Will the Honourable Member tell us how many boreholes were supplied by the previous DTA Government to all 13 Regions?

HON MOONGO: That question is not supposed to be directed at me as I was at the front that time, I was not here. I was at the front, liberating Namibia, therefore the question is misdirected.

The few poor people still living in Ongwediva, like Kanisius, Kakuwa and Kataura, are shedding tears because they are forced to demolish the little buildings they have to pave the way for rich people. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,

SPORT AND CULTURE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Moongo, you said that your business has been built during that time. Apparently you are alleging that SWAPO is closing down your business and can you substantiate that? Is there any way that a legitimate business can be closed by somebody and you do not challenge that in a Court of law? Can you substantiate that, that SWAPO closed down one of your businesses or was it maybe the floods?

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the Debate since yesterday was very good up until Honourable ... (Interjection)

HON MOONGO: Control them. They are talking about individual businesses. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The White Paper is not on Ongwediva, neither is it on Uukumwe. Stick to the content of the White Paper, please.

HON MOONGO: Maybe I will be controlled, but yesterday the others talked freely about Ongwediva. The people I have mentioned are in tears, namely Kanisius, Kakuya and Kataura and even Kwima was asked to pay N\$120 000 in order to renovate and the others were ordered to demolish their small buildings. That is why I am saying we are not happy with some of the members. (Intervention)

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: May I ask a tiny question to His Royal Highness, Honourable Moongo? I am very keen to know who these people the Honourable Member is mentioning are. Are they members of the Opposition Party, since he was saying that SWAPO is only looking after its own people?

HON MOONGO: The previous Government closed two of my business and now the current Government is again trying to close some of them and now they are happy that my businesses are flooded. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member has a habit of acting when he takes the Floor. As he gets carried away he makes serious allegations and when such allegations are left like that, they go in the media, they are picked up and people tend to be misled by believing this. The Honourable Member

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spoke about the Government trying to close his business and as far as I am concerned, Government does not close anybody's business except those that are operating businesses illegally. If the Honourable Member has some activities and operations among his businesses that are unlicensed, that is a different issue, but for the Honourable Member to stand up in this Honourable House and make such a serious allegation as if this Government is targeting him because he is a member of the DTA is very unfortunate and I think the Honourable Member must not try to mislead the public. He has taken an oath to serve this country and one does not serve the country through insinuations and unfounded allegations.

HON MOONGO: I would like to conclude by appealing to the implementers and the Ruling Party, SWAPO, to give a chance to every citizen of this country so that business can flourish. However, if they are plotting all the time and even plotting within SWAPO... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please speak to the White Paper.

HON MOONGO: Therefore, I appeal to them not to plot all the time. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Dingara.

HON DINGARA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Yesterday I was happy and excited during the Debate on the White Paper. Today I am no longer happy. The reason why I am not happy is that I thought the topics which touch the lives of all the Namibian people would be discussed by this House, because it forces the Members of this House to truly think about the people in the remote areas. The way this White Paper was crafted forces the minds of people to think of where they come

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from, to think about where you have visited while you were a politician. It reminds you of the poor.

However, today I am not happy because this topic which concerns our electorate is taken very lightly, while the people voted for us to be serious about their lives. I am sure my belief is the same as that of many of you that all the people on earth want to be rich, but those who are not rich now did not choose to be poor. Even if we as Members of Parliament did not make them all rich, it is our assignment to improve their standard of living and apart from the Budget Debate, this topic is one of the most valuable Debates in this House as we can speak about the Local Authorities, the Regional Councils and their issues of economic planning.

When I read the White Paper I was convinced that it is a very important paper for all the Namibian people. I do not know whether this White Paper has been discussed before, but I strongly feel that the topics appearing in this Paper need to be brought to this House every year so that Members of this House can make their contributions from what they have seen while at home.

I also do not like the name “White Paper” and I would want us to remove it so that it reflects only the content, which is “*Regional and Local Economic Development*,” because when the white people speak on the White Paper you would see it is not a good paper and when black people speak on the White Paper, then it is again a problem.

We used to experience problems in the country, issues with the Local Authorities. There was one Councillor in Aranos who was working for the Government and he was supposed to take leave to attend to issues of the Local Authority. Aranos was planning many things and this Councillor had to attend many meetings. At the end of the year when this Councillor applied for leave to go home, all his leave had been exhausted for Local Authority issues. I feel we need to look into the possibility for those Councillors to make a contribution, as Local Authority meetings are also official duties.

When I was reading this document, I was thinking that if we want to

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develop the country at grassroots level, one problem to be taken care of is the issue of cattle herding. As a child I was also looking after cattle.

During that time you looked after cattle for two or three days per week and the other two days you attend school and I am still observing the same trend today, that kids are not attending school because they are looking after the cattle. Maybe as a country we must look for a solution, so that all children are given that opportunity to attend school. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? You are mentioning children looking after cattle. Is there anything in the White Paper relating to that? Secondly, do you know that the Honourable Member who was talking about Ongwediva is a headman, a businessman, a Member of Parliament? Is he not a rich person in that area, compared to those he was naming here?

HON DINGARA: I will leave those questions to Honourable Ekandjo. Comrade Deputy Speaker, what I want to emphasise is that this House needs to find a solution. The communities have to identify the areas where their cattle graze and then the Government can fence-off that whole area. The kids can then take the cattle early in the morning to that fence-off area, close the gate and attend school and in the afternoon again collect them to be milked. That is one solution, but if there are better solutions, they should be mentioned so that a solution is found, because while we are developing we need to consider everybody, including those who are deprived from attending school just because the family has a lot of cattle. It is not the Government which has caused this problem, but I think our responsibility as a Government is to look for a solution and see how we can solve that problem.

Lastly, I want to congratulate Honourable Ekandjo for the tabling of this White Paper. I did not want to go in detail because I do not differ with the views expressed in the Paper. I want him to consult the people at the

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grassroots level in the villages. A village in the South differs from a village where I come from, because where I come from a village is not a Local Authority. In the South the villages are Local Authorities.

Honourable Ekandjo, allow the people there to make a contribution and share their ideas and I think that this Paper should come here every year so that we can review it and remind ourselves and speak about the people at the grassroots. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Swartz.

HON SWARTZ: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the august House. I rise to support the document of the Minister of Local Government. I only want to make a small contribution.

I am sure that the implementation of the White Paper will reduce the migration to bigger towns. If we develop the rural areas the people can participate in development projects. The communities can take ownership and become self-reliant at the end of the day. It is for them to create economic growth and employment for themselves.

I also want our municipalities and villages in future to make lists of people who have skills. For example, if I get a tender and I must go to Okahao, I must at least accommodate five or ten percent of the local people to be part of that project, so that they earn an income.

The White Paper brings the Government closer to the communities through decentralisation. It will also help to reduce poverty in rural areas and all over the country. When we implement this Paper, there must be good communication and cooperation with residents in the different Regions and also with the stakeholders to make implementation possible on the ground. There is a lack of information within the rural communities. People must get information on time to know where they can participate in the development projects in the Regions.

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As the Honourable Minister of Justice said yesterday, Ongwediva is an excellently managed municipality and the municipalities should pay exposure visits to other municipalities in order to learn from others. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Erastus Uutoni.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Let me also make my humble contribution on the White Paper as introduced by the Honourable Minister Jerry Ekandjo.

This is a very important White Paper on Local Economic Development. Its purpose is to explore the opportunities, potential and challenges in the given Regions or Local Authorities to identify the potential in terms of tourism, economic development, culture and many others.

As I said, this is a very important Paper when it comes to local economic development to stimulate the economy of Regions; however there are a number of things I have observed that needs to be improved. One is that most of the Regional Councils and Local Authorities have local economic development strategic plans which are confined to individual Regional Councils or Local Authorities in a given Region. They are not linked to one another.

If we take the Karas Region as an example, they have their own strategic plan for the whole Region, Keetmanshoop has their own local economic development strategic plan, but these two plans are not linked to one another and this is a problem. If they could be linked to one another, the planning could be improved in the future.

Secondly, each authority has a Local Economic Development Committee that has to plan the economy of a given Region or Local Authority, but the majority of members of these Committees need to be capacitated, because

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when they meet they do not discuss critical issues and maybe capacity-building workshops can be organised for the Committee members.

There is a need to establish platforms for all stakeholders in the Regions. As Honourable Swartz has just indicated, there is a lack of information. Business people do not know about the town planning scheme of a given town and when they want to apply for a given plot, they do not know for which ones to apply. These Local Economic Development Strategic Plans are only known to the Councillors, the officer concerned and that causes a problem, therefore information is vital. Therefore, a platform needs to be set up in the Region and also in Local Authorities for people to know exactly what is the town planning scheme, what is rezoning all about. That is very important.

Another issue that I have also observed is the lack of information centres. If you go to Okakarara today, would you find an information centre? These centres need to be established in all towns. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, YOUTH AND CULTURE: Listening to what Honourable Uutoni has said so far, I now know why Ongwediva is successful. Congratulations.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much. I have also noticed that towns do not have what we call a marketing establishment set-up to promote the economy of a given Region or town. Now the media becomes problematic, they only concentrate on whom is in the room with Mr Uutoni, but there is a lot that the media needs to expose, to come up with what we call a town profile for a given period of time, from 2011 to 2014. Only then the Nation would know there is potential in terms of resources somewhere in this town. That is not exposed. When you call them, they say you want to promote yourself, but we want to expose what is in that Region, what is in that town. Many of the towns are doing very well but they are not exposed and this is a problem when it comes to local economic development. You cannot achieve this without the media.

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Therefore, the marketing officers in the given regions and towns should work vigorously and campaign, but the problem is that they are sometimes being turned away by the media. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask my Colleague a tiny question? Comrade Uutoni, are you saying that the media, particularly the national media like the NBC and New Era that are there to promote Government programmes, are not visible and when they do come, they are late, report differently, giving little attention to the importance in order to educate the community? Is that what you are saying?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: You are correct; they look at who is talking. (Intervention)

HON WITBOOI: Honourable Uutoni, may I ask a question? You mentioned a very important point about the media. As I am standing here I am still waiting for the NBC-TV to screen the very good programme we had in Gibeon on the 6th of March. They were there, they got S&T. The NBC was there, but up to now I am still waiting. I even wrote a letter and spoke to the Deputy Minister, but I am still waiting. We in the Hardap Region are neglected by the NBC and it seems as if nothing is going on in Gibeon or in Aranos. Honourable Minister, I am very serious about the NBC coverage. The NBC-TV only covers certain people and they neglect some of the places.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: What I am emphasising is that the media should cover the economic development in the towns as it is very important. (Intervention)

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HON NYAMU: In respect of the role of the media in this country, particularly the public outfit called the NBC. Some people do not want to call it N, which stands for Namibia, but the SWAPO Broadcasting Corporation. I am surprised that some members of the Ruling Party also have reservation about the role the NBC plays in this country. Do you know that the NBC appears to be an authority unto itself, with no oversight by the Minister or whoever? Do you know that the NBC have literally made laws which were not passed by this House on how to deal with Opposition Parties when it comes to elections? Do you know that the NBC has a formula which states that you will be allocated time in accordance to the seats you have in Parliament? Was that law passed by this Parliament? Some Parties have never taken part in any election before, yet according to the NBC they have to be allocated less time. That is SWAPO-NBC in this country. Do you know that there is an animal called the NBC which is a law unto itself?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Yes. Honourable Deputy Speaker, we are now off the topic. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: May I ask my Colleague a question? Comrade Utoni, are you aware that during the Okahandja by-election the Opposition Parties attacked the NBC because they were only three people at their rally? Are you aware that in Keetmanshoop some of the speakers refused to go and address the people, they were in the hotels? How can they be covered?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I am aware of all those happenings and maybe they need to improve on that.

I want to revert back to my topic of local economic development. I just want to say that I did not single out the NBC, I said media. If you single out one entity that is your business, but when I say media, they know what

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they are supposed to do. Maybe the situation will improve now that they are going to have five channels.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I was talking about a proper planning scheme for a given town, which is very important. If a town or Region has a proper planning scheme it will develop very fast. I am urging that when this White Paper is approved, we want the towns to come up with proper town planning schemes. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Can I ask a question? If they want to go home, they must go home and leave us to work. Some of us were not elected by you people here, stop harassing us. You came here on your own, we came here on our own, we go back home on our own, you go back home on your own, so stop the nonsense. On a Point of Information. You are mentioning a very important issue of planning. In some towns and villages, the members of the Constituency Development Committees get elected by hook or crook and once they are members, they do not participate in the planning. If you come to a village and ask them for the planning scheme, when you had meetings, they did not participate. When some of them see that a Councillor is from this Party, then they deliberately do not participate and their whole term passes. This is not fair to the communities and development.

HON SHIXWAMENI: On a Point of Order. The last speaker who asked a question said “*nonsense.*” He said it is nonsense to say whatever. I think everybody heard it, and the Honourable Member needs to withdraw it. I am just putting it for the Record that if the Honourable Deputy Speaker does not ask the Honourable Member to withdraw, it would set a precedent that everybody would be able to say it is nonsense or lies and one would not be able to retract those words.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand Parliamentary language could be verbal or body language. Was he responding to body language?

HON SHIXWAMENI: He said it.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: What was he reacting on? I want to get the background.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, to be honest, when I stood here I did not refer to that side. I can agree that I should withdraw the word “nonsense” and I withdraw it, but I did not refer to the other side.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Kazenambo talked about some of the Community Development Committees and I have already said that improvement needs to be done in terms of capacity. The Ministry needs to organise workshops for these people to properly plan their specific Local Authorities or Regions.

One of the Honourable Members has mentioned decentralisation. To me, decentralisation is a gate to development. The other thing I have also observed that sometimes would not auger well in the local economic development in the Regions and Local Authorities, but especially Regions, is that when a contractor is awarded to construct a gravel road in a Region, some of these contractors do not want to listen to the Local Development Committee members or to Councillors, they say they are experts and we cannot tell them anything. Yet, these people who have been there for quite a long time, know... (Intervention)

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HON KAPIA: On a Point of Information. Comrade Uutoni, you came to a very good point, but it is seriously disturbing that a company is awarded a tender and they put the machine to pump the refuse from a secondary school in the centre of the oshana. Currently that oshana is full of water and the Eheke Secondary school is suffering, because the contractors ignored the advice given. This is a classic example of the situation that those who are awarded tenders must work with the Councillors. Apparently the Councillors do not have a say, these people were awarded tenders from Windhoek and they do not listen to advice. This is a serious situation.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Honourable Kapia, I think you have just cited one of the examples. Contractors want to be untouchable; they do not listen to advice by the local people. The local people are telling them that *when you construct a culvert or a bridge, do not make it too low because the amount of water that flows from that side is so much*. Then they say they are experts, they know everything and at the end of the day that culvert is under water. It is important that the contractors should listen to the people who know the area, more especially the Councillors and the Development Committee members. Of course, we know you are well-trained, you have the expertise, but where do people get information when they do research? You cannot succeed with research without getting that information from local people, never.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, yesterday and today people were praising the community of Ongwediva for what they have done, although they need to do more. The community of that town has worked very hard to get where they are. A leader cannot succeed without people; it is the people who make things happen. This happened as a result of a mindset change, it was not an easy process and there were many problems. When people were told to listen to what needs to be done in future in terms of development, it was difficult, but when the leadership engaged the community members, they listened. It is a mindset change. The Ongwediva people are appreciating what they have achieved themselves, it is their own mindset and they are happy

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now. When you tell them we want to develop this and this, they do not hesitate, they are happy, except Honourable Moongo. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: May I ask Honourable Uutoni a question? I listened carefully and you were saying that the town of Ongwediva has made tremendous strides, it has developed because of hard work by your Colleagues and the community and everybody made an input. I think this town could have gone much further were it not for one man who is sitting in this House who has retarded the development. Would you agree with me?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: You are correct. I think you will remember the last time when I was posing a question here. (Intervention)

HON NYAMU: On a Point of Information. I reluctantly rise to make a comment on Ongwediva, which I have known from my youth and I have a house in Ongwediva. I do not want to accept distortions, that what is happening in Ongwediva is a miracle introduced by one or two or three men or women. I want to give you information on what I think has contributed to the uniqueness of Ongwediva and please listen carefully. One of the phenomena of Ongwediva is that it has been the centre for education and learning. It is the oldest town in the North apart from Ondangwa. Most people who became teachers or pastors went through Ongwediva and when they went through Ongwediva, they never migrated back to where they came from, they settled in Ongwediva. That includes me. People in Ongwediva and the surrounding areas are, therefore, comparatively speaking, very well informed, compared to other towns and villages. This historic factor explains some of the achievements which have been attained in Ongwediva.

Secondly, as this is very important, Ongwediva is a point of convergence for several ethnic groups. It is not located in one specific ethnic with

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whatever prejudice there may be. I am giving you the uniqueness of Ongwediva. The people in Ongwediva have learned to mix. There you find the Kwanyamas, the Ndongas and the Kwambis and each one considers themselves as Ongwediva, not as Kwanyamas, Ndonga or Kwambi. It is unique and you cannot compare it to Outapi. It is very important that we find out the phenomenon of Ongwediva, it is going to be helpful for us to understand certain dynamics.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: I am closing now; I do not want to go too deeply into that because we are talking about local economic development.

Lastly, Honourable Moongo said Government is closing his businesses. Yet we want to develop the economy of the Regions and the towns. It is not true. Last time I mentioned here that it is Honourable Moongo with his Uukumwe who is derailing the development of the towns, because he does not follow the town plan scheme. As I am talking to you, I say, media please stand up, pick up this information, tell the Nation. It is only the Windhoek Observer that has picked this up, not the rest of the media. Maybe this time they are going to pick it up. Go and take a picture of Uukumwe which has fenced in the UNAM Faculty of Engineering in Ongwediva.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate is adjourned. The Honourable Members are invited to go and taste Ekunde dinner in the restaurant. With this, the House is adjourned until tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:49 UNTIL 2011.04.14 AT 14:30