

**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 &amp; 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 &amp; Forestry)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Information &amp; 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 &amp; Social Welfare)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Lands &amp; Resettlement)</i>
Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>

Mr C Namoloh *(Defence)*  
Mr B Esau *(Fisheries and Marine Resources)*  
Mr I Katali *(Mines and Energy)*  
Mr K Kazenambo *(Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture)*

## **DEPUTY MINISTERS**

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

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

## **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 Ulanga *(Chief Whip and Party Leader)*

### **DTA OF NAMIBIA**

Mr K Kaura *(Party Leader)*

Mr P Moongo *(Chief Whip)*

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

Mr K Riruako *(Party Leader)*

Mr A Tjihuike *(Chief Whip)*

### **RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (RDP)**

Mr S Bezuidenhoudt

Mr Hidipo Hamutenya *(Party Leader)*

Ms A Limbo

Mr H 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 Uutoni	<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 ATjongarero	

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
14 APRIL 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

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**ORAL QUESTION**

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to put an Oral Question to the Prime Minister.

In the aftermath of the sad tragedy that occurred at Oshigambo High School recently, I would like to put the following questions:

1. Why were the students and soldiers not equipped with life vests when crossing rivers?
  2. What measures have been taken by your Office to prevent a repetition of such kind of tragedy and what measures have been taken to protect people and units operating in similar situations and to ensure that life vests are handed out and worn by all others operating similarly so that loss of life owing to drowning is limited?
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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me thank the Honourable Ulenga for his Oral Question. I know at one time or another he was a student of Oshigambo High School, though he left

14 April 2011

**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION  
RT HON ANGULA**

without a Certificate. At least when I was there I left with a Certificate.

It is true that there was a tragic occurrence at Oshigambo High School last Friday, the school which belongs to the Evangelical Church in Namibia, ELCIN. This school is divided by a river. The girls' hostel is on the eastern side; on the western side is the boys' hostel, the kitchen and the classrooms. Because of the high water in the river the scholars were finding it difficult to reach the classrooms. Therefore, it was decided to supply them with two boats. The boats were operated by a platoon of the Engineering Battalion of the Namibian Defence Force.

That fateful morning of Friday last week, the boat started ferrying these learners across the river, but at one point when one of the boats was loaded and started crossing the river, heavy rains fell. These children have never travelled in a water-borne craft and when the heavy rains started falling, they were more concerned about their uniforms getting wet, so they stood up in the boat and as the boat moved, they all slid to one side of the boat and the boat capsized. There were more than ten people on the boat. Unfortunately, the pilot of the boat did not have a life jacket and he is the one who, in a situation like that, is supposed to save others and apparently he also did not know how to swim properly. That is what happened.

The other boat saw that there was a problem, it offloaded the learners and went back to rescue the others. It is the other boat which was able to rescue the other children and the commander of the platoon was able to swim from the other side to help with the rescue. Otherwise it could have been a bigger tragedy.

In normal circumstances this would probably not have happened, but because of rain and the way people behave in rain, it happened. I agree with you that it would have been better if everybody had a life jacket. For now we said the use of the boats should be stopped and nobody should make use of those boats unless they have life jackets. The school has been suspended for two weeks while they are finding an alternative way of transporting the girls from their hostel to the classrooms. Thank you.

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**RESPONSE TO ORAL QUESTION  
RT HON ANGULA**

**HON ULENGA:** I think the Prime Minister did not get to the end of my question. I know that last year we have passed a Budget here which included money for the Emergency Unit. You did not say whether there are any preventative measures taken and to correct the Prime Minister, I definitely did leave with a certificate.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** I want to congratulate Honourable Ulenga for leaving Oshigambo School with a certificate. You are correct that there are many other people who are being transported by these water-borne crafts in other parts of the floods there and I think we have learnt a lesson the hard way. We are not going to allow these water-borne craft to be operated without people wearing life jackets. In fact, a citizen actually donated life vests for this purpose and we have learnt the hard way.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Any further Notices of Questions? Notices of Motions?

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**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI:** Honourable Speaker, I move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 01, 02, 04, 09, 23, 26, 39 and 30 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90(c) of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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

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

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**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.

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:**

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, Votes 01, 02, 04 and 30 had been introduced.

**Vote 26 – “NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION”, N\$276,677,000 is put for Introduction.**

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the whole House Committee, I rise to motivate Vote 26, National Planning Commission (NPC). In terms of Article 129 of the Namibian Constitution, the main constitutional functions of the Commission are to

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**HON DR KAWANA**

plan the priorities and direction of national development. The NPC also coordinates development assistance to Government with social partners. Against this background, the National Planning Commission coordinates all Government Capital Projects and is entrusted with the responsibility of official national statistics. In this regard, the National Planning Commission plays an important function in the economic planning of our country.

The National Planning Commission is busy implementing its daunting tasks as enshrined in its Strategic Plan and NDP3, which are geared to ensure the attainment of Vision 2030 objectives. The tasks are, inter alia, to:

- Enhance, Coordinate, Monitor and Evaluate National Development;
- Establish new development partnerships, Mobilise and coordinate external resources; and
- Collect, coordinate and supervise official statistics.

In line with its legal mandate and in accordance with NDP3, the NPC will implement nine major programmes during the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

The first programme involves integrated result based planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Both the mid-term and final review of the NDP2 implementation identified poor coordination and integration within and amongst institutions, and the lack of an effective monitoring, reporting and evaluation system, as some of the constraints to achieving and tracking results. An integrated result-based planning approach was introduced to help link planning and implementation to the desired results

This approach needs further consolidation through the establishment of the monitoring, reporting and evaluation system, adjustment of the planning manual, capacity development, periodic reviews of NDP3 and formulation of results-based NDP4. Against this background, during the 2011/2012 Financial Year, NPC will conduct a final review of NDP3 and

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**HON DR KAWANA**

formulate NDP4.

An amount of N\$7,500,000 is requested for this programme.

The second programme involves research and policy analysis. This programme facilitates the building of relevant policy research and economic analytical skills to be able to fulfil the mandates and responsibilities for undertaking economic policy research for the purpose of directing the course of national development.

An amount of N\$2,500,000 is requested for this programme.

The third programme involves human resources planning. The National Planning Commission's responsibility, in addition to other areas, covers national human resources planning which entails human resources development and utilisation. From the point of view of the Private as well as the Public Sector, Government should ensure that education and training institutions turn out graduates with appropriate skills, including competency in literacy, numeracy and communication as well as a sound work ethic. It is, therefore, necessary to formulate a national human resources plan and work out a human resources model for all sub-sectors of the economy.

The main activities involve the formulation of the National Human Resources Plan with an associated model to track the supply, demand and utilisation of human resources; annual collection of human resources development and utilisation data, and providing guidance on appropriate strategies to address the human resources gaps. This activity is co-funded by the African Development Bank.

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

The fourth programme involves research on poverty. In order to develop realistic policies for poverty alleviation, it is essential to understand the nature of poverty in the specific setting of the country. Activities aiming at reducing poverty through developing rural areas also require proper coordination and harmonisation. Other activities involve coordination of

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sectoral and donor funded poverty reduction initiatives.

The Feasibility Study project aims to fund detailed studies of strategic industrial projects that have the potential in contributing to economic growth, creating new employment opportunities and improving livelihoods in the fields such as tourism, hospitality, manufacturing, agriculture, fisheries etc.

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

The fifth programme involves population planning. In recognition of the crucial role population issues play in development, integration of population factors in development planning and consistent monitoring is central to sustainable development.

The main activities under this programme include strengthening capacity for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in programme implementation and formulation of NDP4 and monitoring the implementation of strategies aiming at increasing life expectancy.

An amount of N\$1,450,000 is requested for this programme.

The sixth programme involves official development assistance mobilisation, management and utilisation. This programme mobilises donor resources as well as preparing for and conducting Governmental Negotiations and Consultations with Development Partners.

The current focus is on the NPC Capacity Development Programme that will assist staff members via technical assistance and training in key areas where skills need to be enhanced, developing the Prototype Database into a fully fledged operational Official Development Assistance Policy Database, carrying out a functional analysis and introducing the Database to Donors and Line Ministries, as well as conducting sector discussions in at least two social sectors in order to improve donor coordination.

Another area to focus on is the process of negotiations, consultations and reviews with Development Cooperating Partners with the aim of

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**HON DR KAWANA**

reviewing progress and soliciting additional resources.

Resources are required to coordinate and manage Official Development Assistance better and to train staff in specific areas such as aid effectiveness and management as well as database management.

Resources are also required for the ongoing implementation of the GRN-Civic Organization Partnership Policy and finalisation of the Draft Policy on Volunteerism. The National Planning Commission will also need to participate in various Forums, high-level meetings and Committees on Development Cooperation issues to provide inputs and to ensure that development concerns are taken on board. The GRN will participate in the 2011 Survey of the Paris Declaration. The NPC will also be coordinating the preparation of this exercise with line Ministries, civil society organisations, parliamentarians and donors.

An amount of N\$7,439,000 is requested for this programme.

The seventh programme involves the GRN-Civic organisation partnership policy. Under this programme the main activity is to help operationalise the GRN-Civic Organisations Partnership Policy; prepare draft legislation, regulations and guidelines to provide the legal and operational framework for the partnerships; promote Government-Civic Organisations mobilising funding for NGOs and assist with capacity building. Furthermore, the aim is to engage civil society to implement projects or programmes identified by Government as a priority and to assist them to apply for donor funding.

The GRN-Civic Organizations Partnership Policy (GRN-COPP) was approved by Cabinet in 2005 and launched in 2006. The Advisory Committee on the Implementation of the GRN-Civic Organisations Partnership Policy was established with the primary role of cooperating with civic organizations, especially on socio-economic issues.

An amount of N\$27,890,000 is requested for this programme.

The eighth programme involves statistics production and integrated

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information management. Most of the statistical activities under this programme are ongoing. These include the following:-

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the 2010/2011 Financial Year was the last year under the National Statistical Plan 3. As a procedure, the preceding five years will be subjected to a rigorous terminal review whose results will feed into the formulation of the next five year National Statistical Plan 4.

The main activity of the Geographical Information System (GIS) will include the completion of census mapping, and thereafter collection of administrative data for the purpose of producing the Statistical Abstract. Other activities will include the development of sample frameworks using dwelling units and provision of information and maps to users.

The main activity of the 2011 Population and Housing Census will be data collection, which will be done in August 2011. The Central Bureau of Statistics will continue with regular production which includes National Accounts, Namibia Consumer Price Index and Trade Statistics.

An amount of N\$192,057,000 is requested for this programme.

The ninth programme involves commission-wide coordination and support services. This programme renders support services to the National Planning Commission. Its main activities include Planning, Resource mobilisation, Statistics, Managerial oversight, and maintaining and safe keeping of computerised information system.

An amount of N\$21,841,000 is requested for this programme.

In conclusion and subject to amendment, I request this august House to consider and approve the Budget of N\$276,677,000 to finance the nine programmes of the National Planning Commission under Vote 26. I so move and I thank you.

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**HON NGHIMTINA**

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

**Vote 23 – “WORKS”, N\$535,098,000** is put for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, please allow me to take this opportunity to introduce to this august House Vote 23 for the Department of Works for the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

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

As reported to this august House last year, the Department of Works is struggling in the provision of services because of the crucial vacancies in both technical and professional positions due to the fact that such personnel continue defecting to Parastatals and Private Sectors for better remuneration packages and working conditions. To address the issue of salaries for professionals, the Ministry is currently conducting a comprehensive study inclusive for all Government engineering related positions in this regard and will submit findings to the relevant authorities for consideration. We are hopeful that the situation may improve by next year.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, let me highlight some of the activities, which the Ministry has undertaken to bring about improvement in the service delivery.

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**HON NGHIMTINA**

During the 2010/2011 Financial Year, the Department of Works successfully managed a variety of ongoing capital construction projects on behalf of line Ministries worth in excess of N\$750,000,000. However, the rate of implementation of capital projects could be improved and efforts to address this are underway.

To address the causes of delays affecting the implementation of capital construction projects, the Ministry finalised the development of the typical construction project cycle. A presentation was done at the meeting of Permanent Secretaries last year and early this year and their inputs have been incorporated. The document is now waiting to be submitted to Cabinet. Once approved, it will be used by all involved stakeholders as a guideline in terms of timeframes for construction projects delivery.

The provision of Government office accommodation using the BOT system and the PPP method of procurement has not been realised yet because the PPP policy regulated this practice is being investigated as directed by Cabinet.

Furthermore, the database for SMEs was compiled and forwarded to the Ministry of Trade and Industry who in return is offering training to SMEs on tendering procedures and project management throughout the country.

Similarly, bills to establish a Namibian Planning and Construction Industry Council and the Amendment Bill on the Architects and Quantity Surveyors were both tabled in the National Assembly last year, but were referred back for clarification. This verification exercise was done and the two bills are now waiting to be tabled in the National Assembly again.

The sale of non-assigned Government houses is maintaining its momentum with an average of 11 Deeds of Sale currently being finalised on a monthly basis. During the 2010/2011 Financial Year; 75 houses were sold and N\$10,646,000 was netted during this specific period. To date, 1080 offers to sell were made to sitting tenants of which 124 offers are still pending acceptance or approval at financial institutions. In total 934 houses were sold countrywide, while 24 Deeds of Sale are still in a process of being registered at the Deeds Office. An amount of

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N\$183,681,000 was generated since the implementation of the Scheme.

Our efforts for revenue collection in terms of outstanding rentals and Municipal bills left behind by some tenants who occupied some houses and flats as per legal advice from the Attorney-General's Office are ongoing.

With regard to individuals who passed away and left unsettled bills, the Ministry requested the Ministry of Finance (Treasury) to waive the debts. The Ministry has also instructed all Local Authorities to suspend the services of those in debt exceeding N\$1,500.00. We have also put measures regarding outstanding rentals in place. In terms of these measures, tenants are compelled to settle their bills before purchasing the properties; otherwise they will not be allowed to do so.

On the housing alienation scheme, the subdivision of erven is causing delay in the selling of Government houses. To solve this problem, the Ministry has obtained Tender Board exemption and appointed consultants to do the subdivision a process that can take 12 to 18 months to be finalised because of the procedures.

The maintenance of Government properties remains a challenge due to the ever-increasing cost of building material on account of annual price escalation and inflation, while Budget resources available remain limited. To properly maintain Government assets valued at N\$24 billion requires an annual maintenance provision of at least N\$480 million. This calculation is based on a generally accepted international norm that the expenditure for maintenance on an average property should be 2% of the replacement value for such a property, although it may vary from property to property it can be between 1.5% to 6%, depending on the complex of the property.

Funds appropriated on the Operational Budget for the Sub-Vote 05-Maintenance over the past few years have not changed much per annum on average from N\$140 million to N\$142 million, meanwhile plus minus only N\$42 million are allocated for maintenance activities.

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The actual amount available for maintenance activities for the past couple of years is still as low as 0.20% or N\$42 million instead of 2% - N\$480 million of the total asset value of N\$24 billion, which is grossly inadequate.

The creation of maintenance units by Offices, Ministries and Agencies is nearing completion as 83% of the Offices, Ministries and Agencies have already completed this exercise. In addition, most of their structures have been approved by the Public Service Commission.

In view of the Technical and Maintenance Services already decentralised to the thirteen Regions, the Ministry has now entered into the delegation phase for a period of two to three years and is responsible for monitoring, evaluating, budgeting, recruitment and training until the devolution phase.

The Department continues to re-align its newly created staff establishments in the regions by transferring redundant staff to other offices and line ministries requiring their expertise.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members, the Division Information Technology is rendering ICT services such as network services, database development services, technical support services as well as end-user support services to the Ministry of Works and Transport's head office and regional offices. An amount of N\$9,045,000 has been allocated to support these services during 2010/2011.

Last year I informed this House that the Ministry has embarked upon three projects to improve efficiency, namely the development of a Ministerial Website, the upgrading of IT network at the Head Office, the development of a Fixed Asset Management System (FAMS) and that plans are underway to also incorporate the customisation of a Capital Project Management module into the system.

With regard to IT, significant progress has been achieved. The Ministry has since then equipped its IT workforce with the necessary skills. The redesigning of the Ministry website and that of the Weather Bureau has

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been completed and are being viewed by different stakeholders (Departments, Directorates, Divisions of the Ministry and top management) to have their inputs and suggestions before it is finally hosted at Office of the Prime Minister. The maintenance responsibilities of the website will be rendered by Ministerial IT staff once it is hosted.

This will be an advantage to the Ministry, as it will save on annual hosting and maintenance fees.

The upgrading (installation, and implementation of the Domain Controller, Administration, Microsoft Exchange and ISA servers) of the server room was also successfully completed. The establishment of a reliable Asset Register has been completed at Head Office and the process of data collection of Government assets is ongoing with specific reference to the yearly development of building facilities that are added to the Asset Register. All outdated switches at Head Office, Walvis Bay and Lüderitz Maritime offices were replaced with modern series switches. The Domain Controller server of the Khomas Maintenance Regional Office has also been replaced. All 1,632 (1,104 for Regional Offices and 528 for Headquarters) ICT equipment purchased for the Ministry of Work and Transport Head Office and regional offices during 2010/2011 were distributed, installed and linked to the Ministry's Head Office where possible. Outdated network points were replaced and operating systems on client personal computers were also replaced with the latest Windows 7. The feasibility study for the cabling of Maintenance Regional Offices was conducted in all 13 Regions, pending approval for the linkage of the aforementioned offices to Regional Councils. As a result of the above, the end-users requests have reduced tremendously.

The renovation and upgrading of the existing Government Stores in Katima Mulilo have been completed and will open its doors to Ministries between April and May 2011.

At this juncture allow me to introduce the total Budget requirements for the Department of Works for the 2011/2012 Financial Year, which amounts to N\$535,988,000. From this amount, N\$426,741,000, which represents 79.75% of the total Budget, will go into operational activities.

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**HON NGHIMTINA**

The remaining N\$108,357,000, which represents 20.25% of the total Budget, will be spent on capital related investments.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me now to come to the individual programmes for which the allocation of N\$535,098,000 will be utilised.

The purpose of the Cultural Activities programme is to construct an Independence Memorial Museum that will allow all Namibian people and tourists visiting the building to be both educated and inspired by the schematic arrangement of historical displays demonstrating both the history and rising of the Namibian nation. Construction work commenced during the 2009/2010 Financial Year. Progress is currently 50% and the entire project with a construction period of 25 months is scheduled to be completed on 30 September 2011. For this activity, I request an amount of N\$29,400,000 under this programme.

The purpose of the Construction of Ministerial Facilities programme is to improve working conditions for Ministerial staff members and to enable the Ministry to operate more efficiently from both central and regional levels as part of the Ministry's decentralisation exercise. Over and above the additional phases to the Ministerial headquarters, the programme includes the construction of two new maintenance regional offices at Eenhana and Opuwo, as well as the provision of 14 new sub-offices in order to bring services closer to the customer. For these activities, I request an amount of N\$16,599,000 under this programme.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the purpose of this Public Works and Public Property Asset Management programme is to ensure sustainable and reliable property management, maintenance and rehabilitation of existing Government properties and related infrastructure to the best possible standards depending on the availability of funds and priorities set by the Government. Included in the amount required for this programme, an amount of N\$108 million will be used for the financing of the rental of office accommodation for Offices/Ministries/Agencies to ensure that

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Government institutions have reasonable and adequate facilities to operate from, hence enhancing productivity.

Before the Ministry of Defence implement the demining process it is required first to identify the borderline between the two countries. Provision has also been made for an amount of N\$4 million to continue with the existing rehabilitation exercise of the borderline fence and patrol road between Namibia and Botswana, as well as to conduct a feasibility study on the rehabilitation of the Namibia-Zambia borderline.

The programme further includes the purchasing of land for development, property assessment studies as well as the development of an Asset Register and a Property Management System.

Photo-voltaic and electrical installation are provided and refurbished in existing Government schools and clinics in remote areas in, amongst others, in the Caprivi, Kunene and Oshana Regions. The rehabilitation of infrastructures and upgrading of special installations for example boilers, cooling plants, lifts, sewer and generators installations are attended to.

The service, maintenance and/or overhaul of water and electrical generator systems as well as the design, upgrading and/or rehabilitation of existing oxidation ponds is also part of this programme in order to cater for municipal services in remote areas and to prevent surface and underground water pollution. For these activities, I request an amount of N\$441,191,000.

The Waste, Pollution and Urban Environment programme is to improve the living conditions in rural areas in all thirteen Regions by providing sound environment management to Government facilities at far off places where municipal services are not provided by any local authority.

The main activities of this programme is to address shortcomings at existing oxidation ponds and sewer systems and allow raw water to be treated to a safe standard, compliant with the Water Act (Act 54 of 1956). For these activities, I request an amount of N\$1,900,000 under this programme.

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The purpose of the Capital Project Completion programme is to successfully plan, supervise, monitor and finally hand over completed capital construction projects to Line Ministries with an average of 400 projects running concurrently during any given Financial Year. The programme also involves regulating, co-ordinating and initiating building quality and technical standards as well administer and regulate the Act on professional bodies involved in the construction industry. It is the intention of the Ministry to revive the drawing office in the Directorate Capital Project Management that has been dormant for the past couple of years due to severe staff shortages.

This will allow the Department of Works to again handle smaller projects by own staff in-house, resulting in cost and time savings to Line Ministries. For these activities, I request an amount of N\$14,434,000.

The Provision of Services to the Government is to facilitate the provision of standard stock supplies to Ministries and provide printing services to all Government institutions. The Central Government Stores in Windhoek as well as other Stores in the country will need to be stocked. For this activity, I request an amount of N\$22,050,000 under this programme.

The purpose of the Affordable and Accessible ICT Services programme is to develop affordable and accessible ICT services and to establish and maintain network services to the thirteen regions. For this activity, I request an amount of N\$9,524,000.

In the light of the programmes outlined above, I now humbly request this august House to approve the total expenditure of N\$535,098,000 for the Department of Works, Vote 23.

Honourable Chairperson and the august House, I herewith conclude the Budget Speech for 2011/2012 for the Department of Works and I thank you all for your attention

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

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

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**  
**COMMITTEE:**    **Vote 09 – “MINISTRY OF FINANCE”,**  
**N\$3,656,065,000** is put for Introduction.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have the greatest honour to present the details of the proposed Budget for Vote 09: Ministry of Finance. Before I proceed, I would like to thank all Honourable Members who had very kind words for the teams at the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission for the good work on preparing the Budget documents. Thank you very much!

I rise today to seek for your support to approve the proposed Budget for Vote 09. Your approval will enable the Ministry of Finance to execute its constitutional mandate and to carry out its functions.

The mandate of the Ministry of Finance encompasses public finance management, management of Government assets and liabilities and financial sector development. In this regard, we design and administer fiscal and financial policies that ensure macro-economic stability, capital markets development and sustainable socio-economic development. We also have some mandates to present the country in international fora relating to economic development.

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The Ministry of Finance is further entrusted with the stewardship of the financial sector. In this regard, the Ministry formulates and implements policies aimed at unleashing the potential of the financial sector in the economy as well as regulatory oversight over the sector.

We have lived up to our mission and vision of being a dynamic and reputable institution, excelling in fiscal and financial management. Namibia has been accredited regionally and internationally for sound macroeconomic stability and fiscal prudence. We are ranked as the second highest country in the SADC Region with the most transparent Budget process. This is an achievement to be treasured and maintained.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, before I delve into the salient programmes for the Vote, allow me to reflect briefly on the core principles underpinning the 2011/2012 Appropriation Bill. Our approach for the 2011/2012 – 2013/2014 Medium Term Expenditure Framework is to address, in a focused and prioritised manner, the persistent socio-economic challenges facing our country both in the medium-term and the long-term.

In the medium-term, significant emphasis will be given to job-creation in its multi-faceted dimensions, boosting production and investing in growth-enhancing infrastructure. The magnitude of fiscal expansion is the greatest in the medium-term in order to amplify the impact of fiscal multipliers in the economy. Hence, our focused approach on the priority sectors of the economy in which growth and job-creation potential is the greatest. Government will also implement fiscal and other legislative reforms aimed at improving state revenue, skills development and overall investment climate.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the 2011/2012 Budget adopts a targeted approach to make a significant dent on unemployment and poverty on the one hand, and invest in prospects for a better tomorrow, on the other hand. At the same time, the Budget is a demonstration of our consistent policy commitment towards investment in human capital development and the provision of social services.

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As the global economy recovers, it is now a matter of strategic national policy choice that our fiscal policy is increasingly attuned, more than ever before, to responding to our domestic challenges among, which unemployment and poverty are the most acute.

Fiscal policy interventions should not only be limited to countering external shocks. Fiscal policy measures should increasingly be directed at addressing domestic development challenges and competitiveness.

Over the long-term, our investment today and reform agenda will pay dividends. As the economy assumes a broad-based growth trajectory, we have to rein in significant fiscal expansion in order to strengthen the fiscal space in favour of long-term sustainability of fiscal outcomes. We have not adjudicated our commitment to macroeconomic stability and fiscal prudence.

Honourable Deputy Chair, allow me to highlight some of the main achievements for Vote 09 during the last two years. In terms of our Ministerial targets, we have achieved all our targets during 2009/2010 Fiscal year.

The Total revenue outturn for 2009/2010 amounted N\$24.0 billion, about 2.5% higher than 23.4% collected in 2008/2009. The Revenue forecast improved from 93.3% in 2008/2009 to 97.9 % in 2009/2010, thereby achieving the Ministerial target of 95% revenue forecast accuracy.

Total expenditure amounted to 31.1% of the GDP in 2009/2010, which is below the 40% target. The expenditure outturn for 2010/2011 is estimated at 31.2% of the GDP as Government undertook expansionary fiscal policy to cushion the economy from the impact of the global economic and financial crisis.

Our expenditure control target requires that total expenditure variance be maintained within 2% of budgeted expenditure. During 2009/2010, the total expenditure variance amounted to only 0.6% on overall Budget ceilings. This outcome is a result of returns from our investment in

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financial infrastructure and Integrated Financial Management System, in particular.

The Budget deficit for 2009/2010 amounted to 1.1% of the GDP. This ratio is estimated to have increased to 5.7% of the GDP by 2010/2011 due to countercyclical fiscal policy elucidated above. The deficit outturn remained well below the 7% target.

Honourable Deputy Chair, the Budget for Ministry of Finance caters for, among others, Central Government debt repayment obligations. Over the last three years, total Central Government debt remained below the target of 30% of the GDP, despite significant fiscal expansion undertaken since 2008/2009 Fiscal Year. The total Central Government debt outturn for 2009/2010 amounted to 14.8% of the GDP and it is estimated to reach 20.1% of the GDP by 2010/2011. Government debt has recorded an average of 16.9% of the GDP over the period 2007/2008-2009/2010. The Government guarantees are capped at 10% of the GDP, and over the past three years, it recorded an average of 4.2% of the GDP.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, regarding the Medium Term Expenditure Framework Programmes, the Ministry is requesting a total amount of N\$3,696,605,000 for the 2011/2012 Fiscal Year. This comprises of N\$3,572,040,000 for the Operational Budget and N\$84,025,000 for the Development Budget. The Operational Budget includes N\$40 million Budget support contribution from the European Union in support of the Public Finance Management Programme and related activities. At this juncture I would like to express my gratitude to the European Union for having followed our request to give grant assistance through our systems within the Budget instead of following the old route of project financing. We are very pleased with the cooperation we have from the European Union. The proposed allocation for the MTEF amounts to N\$10.5 billion.

The requested amount will support continuation and improvement of activities of the seven programmes for Vote 09 during the current MTEF period.

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Honourable Members, I now seize this opportunity to present the details of the Vote 09 programmes, activities and amounts requested for your consideration and support.

The Economic Policy Advice programme provides economic policy advice to Government and facilitates availability of timely and accurate fiscal and financial statistics. In essence, macro-economic and fiscal policy advice aimed at maintaining macro-economic stability, accelerating economic growth and addressing socio-economic challenges.

The main programme activities for the MTEF comprise formulation of macro-economic and fiscal policies, monitoring and assessing the impacts of regional and international economy, production of Government Finance Statistics (GFS), and undertaking research and special studies. Outputs from this programme form an important input into the Budget process. These outputs entail the production of macro-economic and fiscal policy frameworks for the MTEFs, research papers and statistical reports. During the MTEF, we also intend to further invest in an Integrated Macro-economic modelling tool and related skills development in order to further improve our economic and fiscal forecasting capacity.

The Ministry is working closely with Financial Sector Charter Council in order to fast-track the operationalisation of the Charter and its undertakings on the transformation of the Financial Sector. We are also in the process of finalising a Financial Sector Strategy together with the Bank of Namibia and NAMFISA to further strengthen advancement of financial inclusion and broad-based participation objectives. These efforts are further complemented by the drive to roll-out financial literacy activities countrywide.

This programme further caters for the implementation of our commitment to the SADC Finance and Investment Protocol (FIP) which we as a country ratified during 2010. In this regard, we are setting up institutional and monitoring mechanisms for tracking progress on the obligations under the Protocol. At the same time, the Ministry is working together with the Ministry of Trade and Industry to develop a comprehensive set of policy instruments aimed at industrial development within the context of the new

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SACU Vision and Mission. We are further taking initiatives to revive engagements on monetary policy issues among members of the Common Monetary Area (CMA). A total allocation of N\$5.2 million is requested for this programme.

The Revenue Management programme aims at optimising revenue collection for the State and efficient tax and duties administration.

Honourable Members, during the ensuing MTEF, the activities for enhancing overall tax administration and revenue collection will receive priority attention. This focused attention should be seen in the context of downside risks to revenue. Global economic recovery is proceeding slowly in some of our main markets. Closer at home, we are still to overcome shocks to revenue from taxes on international trade under the ambit of SACU.

There has been varying misconceptions perpetuated in the media about the prospects of future SACU revenues on the back of emerging recovery among the SACU economies. The SACU Common Revenue Pool is projected to recover during the last two years of the MTEF. However, the SACU Revenue Sharing Formula is up for review. The negotiation process is yet to start. Future outturns from this revenue stream will depend on the outcome of the negotiations among SACU Member States.

In this context, Honourable Members, we plan to undertake specific interventions under this programme aimed at enhancing our future revenue prospects. Specific tax policy reforms aimed at deepening and broadening the revenue base and improving the contribution of tax policy to overall development objectives will be undertaken. We will introduce alternative sources of revenue, the details of which will be tabled before this august House in due course. We intend to improve the skills capacity and organisational structure of the Receiver of Revenue in order to render the intended outputs and to deliver better services to the taxpaying public.

Other activities under this programme entail law enforcement and public education, trade facilitation and negotiations and infrastructure development. Through these targeted activities, we expect to realise

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improved revenue collection, strengthened outreach and increased compliance. A total allocation of N\$412,980,000 is proposed for this programme.

Honourable Deputy Chair, Public Expenditure Management ensures that public expenditure delivers results and value for money. It focuses on ensuring that the utilisation of public resources meets the needs of the public in an effective, efficient and equitable manner. It entails expenditure planning, approval, monitoring and control.

In executing this programme, we plan to undertake the following activities:

Expenditure planning and control through efficient utilisation and maintenance of the Integrated Financial Management System to facilitate smooth public financial operations and to ensure that Government spending is within the approved ceilings. This year, we have implemented an Electronic Funds Transfer System which will reduce the cost of Government financial transactions and risk of fraud by reducing use of cheque payments. Accounting and reporting on expenditure in terms of the programme-Budget system will be piloted during this Financial Year. We intend to roll out this innovation to all Budget Votes during the MTEF period. Honourable Members, this programme attracts donor Budget support because our systems are found to meet international Budget support criteria. Last year, we undertook Public Expenditure Review in the General Education Sector with the support of the EU. We wholeheartedly thank our development partners. The results of the review will prove crucial for education reform in general, and better targeting of funds in particular. During the ensuing MTEF, we intend to roll-out Public Expenditure Review to all Budget Votes.

Other planned activities under this programme are the contingency provision, and honouring our international obligations and managing subscription fees. The total allocation to this programme is N\$293,998,000.

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The Procurement Programme covers the administration of the Government procurement system in accordance with the Tender Board Act. The main activities entail provision of secretarial services and institutional and capacity development for the Tender Board Secretariat. We have responded to public calls for the reform and streamlining of public procurement rules. The Tender Board Bill is in its final stages of drafting and it will be tabled before this august House during the course of the year as announced in the Minister's Budget statement. As expected, this critical intervention would promote local economic development by optimising participation of Namibian companies, SMEs and formerly disadvantaged groups, especially the youth, in the public tender system. The Bill also aims at ensuring that all procurement systems in the public sector are following standardised criteria in respect of transparency, governance and accountability. The programme will be funded by an allocation of N\$6,003,000.

The purpose of the Assets and Liabilities Management programme is to manage risks associated with short and long-term Government borrowing or lending and to administer the State Finance Act and Treasury Instructions. The programme also covers the effective use and safeguarding management of Government assets.

There are four main activities under this programme, namely:

Debt Management, which encompasses overall management and debt repayment obligations for Central Government. We have adopted a risk-based management of our assets and liabilities. As such, we are undertaking review of the Sovereign Debt Management Strategy, taking into consideration market risks and liquidity provisions. A new borrowing plan has been developed to cater for our borrowings needs during the MTEF and beyond, as announced by the Minister. The Minister has launched an investor and market relationship programme which will bridge information gaps and maintain an interactive relationship with the market.

The second main activity is the management of Government assets by regulating the use, custody and the disposal of Government assets in

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accordance with Treasury Instructions. In this regard, we are developing a comprehensive asset register and asset management policy together with the Ministry of Works and Transport.

The third main activity is the transfer of subsidies to State-Owned Enterprises to enable them to carry out their functions within their mandate. Honourable Chair, I should emphasise that State-Owned Enterprises are entrusted with the provision of critical public utilities such as energy, water, transport and telecommunication. They are also required to provide for indispensable, growth-enabling infrastructure. In this regard, State-Owned Enterprises continue to play a critical role in our economy. In order to promote efficiency and hold State-Owned Enterprise managers and boards accountable for the State subsidies provided, Government has since 2010 instituted subsidy agreements which shall apply to each State-Owned Enterprise receiving direct Budget support. State-Owned Enterprises are also required to develop business plans as a basis for the targeting of subsidies to specific programmes.

Honourable Chair, the sustainability of the operation of Air Namibia has attracted a lot of public interest. We concur that this matter merits close scrutiny. I am pleased to inform this august House that we have contracted a group of IATA experts to develop and cost a Business Plan and Turn-Around Strategy for Air Namibia. The final report has been submitted and will be shared with all relevant stakeholders, including Cabinet, for further scrutiny and adoption.

The fourth related activity under this programme is the monitoring of State-Owned Enterprise performance for which each State-Owned Enterprise is expected to sign a performance agreement with its line Ministry. On Vote 09 part of, the performance agreements for State-Owned Enterprises under our mandate have been concluded by March 2011. We encourage all other remaining Votes to follow suit.

With these interventions, we expect to better manage our fixed and financial assets, improve capital market development and enhanced performance and accountability by State-Owned Enterprises.

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A total allocation of N\$1,370,801,000 is proposed for this programme.

The purpose of the Medical and Statutory Pension Scheme programme is to assist the Public Service Employees Medical Aid Scheme members and their dependants in meeting medical expenses. The main activities of the programme include administration and claims payments and managing the pension funds of Judges and those of Political Office Bearers. We seek to provide access to, and maintain provision of affordable health care to the broader majority of public servants and timely processing of payments.

The total allocation for this programme is N\$1,178,196,000.

Honourable Members, I should mention that total allocation to this programme amounts to about 43 percent of Budget Vote 09 during the MTEF. For the 2011/2012 Budget, it amounts to about 33%. When debt servicing costs and transfers to State-Owned Enterprises are added, the percentages increase to about 65% and 71%, respectively.

The Coordination and Support Services programme provides administrative support to the Vote's programmes and to ensure proper financial management, optimal deployment of resources, capacity building and acquisition and maintenance of IT resources.

A total allocation of N\$304,853,000 is proposed for this programme.

In conclusion, Honourable Chair, Honourable Members, Vote 9 is entrusted with the responsibility of managing public finances on behalf of Government and the people of Namibia. We remain committed to the principles of prudent macro-economic management, efficiency in management of State assets and adherence to fiscal discipline.

With these remarks I now move that this Honourable House considers and approves an amount of N\$3,656,065,000. All the amounts that I have quoted are subject to the proposed Amendment that will be tabled. I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much, Deputy Minister of Finance. I believe the Minister of Finance wants to take the Floor. You have the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise to move an Amendment to the Appropriation Bill that I tabled on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2011 in order to provide for additional resources for the improvement of the remuneration of Public Servants, as I have indicated in my response to the Budget Debate.

The Amendment will increase the total amount sought for appropriation in respect of the 2011/2012 Financial Year to N\$36,713,197,341. With this increase in expenditure, the Budget deficit increases to 10.7% of the GDP and total debt increases to 28.3% of the GDP. I, therefore move, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole Committee, that in the said Appropriation Bill, substitute the Schedule for the Schedule as indicated in this Amendment in order to distribute the additional amounts to the respective Votes and to increase the total appropriation amount to the said amount. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Chairperson.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Will the Honourable Minister please table the Amendment. Any discussion on the amendment? Any objection? The Schedule is amended and is, therefore, adopted.

I now put **Vote 29 – MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY”, N\$318,351,000** for Introduction.

**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

**TECHNOLOGY:** Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable. Members, the country's Budget discussions are, in my view, one of the most important events on the Parliamentary calendar. This is the time we account to the public on the activities of the Government institutions that we are overseeing. The Budget presentations and discussions give the public insight into our past performance and planned activities and indicate whether the funds allocated to Government institutions had been used to address priorities, such as improving the quality of life of all our citizens.

It is, therefore, with a sense of satisfaction that I present Vote 29, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology to this august House. I shall highlight achievements during the past Financial Year, while also informing this august House and the Nation of the Ministry's priorities for the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

In the year under review, Parliament approved a Budget of N\$251,487,000 for my Ministry. Of this amount, a total of N\$170,309,000 was earmarked for operational expenses for the Ministry and State-Owned Enterprises under its mandate, while N\$81,178,000 was allocated for development projects in the Ministry and its State-Owned Enterprises.

In our quest to take ICT to the people, my Ministry continues to support the establishment of Multi-Purpose Community Centres, with Groot-Aub (Windhoek Rural) and Okuryangava (Tobias Hainyeko Constituency) in Khomas Region benefitting during the review period. This brings the total of Multi-Purpose Community Centres in the country to twenty.

This august House may recall that in 2006 a Motion on the creation of Parliamentary Access Centres was adopted. The Ministry of ICT was

assigned to spearhead this project. A broad-based Multi-Sectoral Steering Committee chaired by my Ministry and deputised by the National Assembly, proposed the amendment of the concept from Parliamentary Access Centres to Multi-Sectoral Community Centres. This concept was

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subsequently endorsed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs.

The Steering Committee resolved to earmark two Regions to pilot the Multi-Purpose Community Centres and identified the Omaheke and Omusati Regions based on the existing infrastructure. An amount of N\$1,913,000 has been allocated for this.

With regard to ICT policy matters, the Communications Act, Act 8 of 2009 has been passed and published in November 2009. Its implementation remains a high priority for the Ministry and an NCC Transformation Project Team of experts has been set up to drive the process. The priority focus is the completion of essential regulations to facilitate full implementation of the Act, which in turn creates a new regulatory authority, namely, Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) to ensure effective regulation of the ICT industry. This team is hard at work and as a result the first set of regulations has been completed and is due to be certified by Ministry of Justice for publication in the Government Gazette. The Act is expected to be fully implemented in the second quarter of this year.

The Office of the Prime Minister transferred the responsibility for the development of the Electronic Transaction and Communications Bill to my Ministry and we jointly concluded a final round of stakeholders' consultations on the draft Bill. The Bill will enable, facilitate and promote electronic transactions and communications by creating legal certainty and public trust in respect of e-signatures and e-writing. It will further regulate e-transactions and provide for the legal recognition of such transactions in Namibian Courts. It further aims to protect the public, consumers and clients from the illegal and unauthorised use of information systems and electronic data. This will thus give statutory recognition to cybercrime in Namibia. Cabinet in principle approved the Bill which will now be

scrutinised by the Cabinet Committee on Legislation before tabling in Parliament.

The Government signed a project agreement with the Government of India

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for the establishment of a Pan African E-Network that provides specialist e-health; quality tertiary level e-education and VVIP direct connectivity to Namibia. Significant progress has been achieved with project implementation and the e-education centre is fully set-up and ready to provide quality e-learning to prospective Namibian students. The e-health centre at the Windhoek Central Hospital has been equipped with VSAT connectivity and the virtual doctor's rooms as well as a continuous medical training studio are nearing completion.

On the film development front, three short films were locally produced and they were launched on 8 April 2011. A total of 57 students were trained on various aspects of filmmaking, including practical attachments. The Namibia Film Commission, in conjunction with the Filmmakers Association of Namibia, hosted the Namibia Film Awards during November 2010 where the best locally produced films were recognised. The Namibia Film Commission entered into a Public-Private Partnership with the German Development Service to promote and market Namibia at international film festivals and market the country as a preferred film shooting destination.

According to the latest press freedom statistics, Namibia is ranked number one in Africa. Namibia rose to the top against renowned former press freedom leaders on the continent, like neighbouring South Africa. The country was ahead of second-place Ghana, and has emerged thirty-first in the world. This indeed shows that Namibia has an open society in which information sharing has taken centre-stage, while the general relationship between the media and Government has also improved.

The excellent ranking that Namibia achieved in press freedom can be traced back to the observance of the Bill of Rights enshrined in the Namibian Constitution under Chapter 3 and various international treaties on freedom of the media that binds Namibia in terms of Article 144 of the Namibian Constitution. The Media Ombudsman in Namibia has been appointed in terms of the constitution of the Editors Forum of Namibia. The establishment of the Media Ombudsman and the self-regulatory mechanism are in themselves an important milestone for Namibia.

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The Ministry produces two publications, that is, the Government Information Bulletin and the Namibia Review. Both publications, distributed nation-wide, aim to inform the citizenry about Government programmes and activities.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia has adopted the Decentralisation Policy to bring services closer to the people. The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology is currently busy decentralising its Print Media and Audiovisual Production functions. In this connection, in February this year, I addressed Regional Governors on the Ministry's decentralisation exercise, where I indicated the handing over of the functions by July 2011.

The Ministry completed its institutional establishment processes with the adoption of its Strategic Plan for 2009 to 2014 as well as the approval of a new organisational structure in April 2010. The Ministry received N\$15 million for the construction of its Head Office and Regional Offices. The funds were applied to complete the documentation phase of the project.

Management plans in line with the Strategic Plan are being finalised with the assistance of the Office of the Prime Minister.

Progress made by the State-Owned Enterprises and agencies under the Ministry are reflected hereunder:

MTC has significantly invested in the upgrading of its network along the main roads, availing coverage on the national road network as well as to those arteries joining the network from various small towns and villages. This investment has enabled the citizens and visitors to remain connected and be able to communicate wherever they may find themselves in Namibia.

Following the recent Regional and Local Authority elections, MTC engaged Governors and Regional Councils to indicate their priorities in terms of coverage for which it envisages spending N\$800 million over the next two years.

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In order to make mobile telecommunications services more affordable, the mobile termination rates among operators were regulated. I am happy to announce to this august House that the interconnection rates among the mobile operators have been redressed and a uniform rate across the board was introduced. The extension of the benefits of lower interconnection rates to the end-user/public was achieved last month when new regulations on off-net and on-net calls were promulgated in the Government Gazette. The regulation essentially requires all telecom operators to charge the same rates for calls within their own networks and calls to other networks.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, the mandate of the NBC is to inform, educate and entertain. It is thus necessary to upgrade its transmitter network to effectively execute this mandate. The Corporation has 56 transmitter stations with different power rating antennae systems. A huge investment into the transmitter grid has been made over the years. The national coverage of this network was 96 percent for FM radio services and 66 percent for television.

These coverage percentages increased to 98 percent for FM Radio and 68 percent for Television with the completion of the Okongo and Kamanjab masts.

NBC studios were upgraded with state-of-the-art computer hardware and software, to ensure partial compliance with the migration from analogue to digital broadcasting. The *'look-and-feel'* image of the television screen was improved and was widely commended by the viewers.

It is the Government's wish to see NBC generate as much revenue as possible. Therefore, the Corporation's two main revenue streams, being levies on television licenses and advertisement, will have to be strengthened and diversified.

In view of the international requirement to migrate to digital transmission by 2015, the NBC's strategy is to maintain the current antennae infrastructure and replace analogue transmitters to enable digital broadcasting.

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Digitalisation will bring the following benefits, amongst others:

- Optimal utilization of scarce frequency spectrum to allow for more television channels;
- Capacity to transmit multiple channels without requiring further investment in capital equipment;
- Better coverage as the system is electronically monitored for coverage; and very importantly;
- Capacity to electronically monitor viewer-ship and compliance with payment of TV licenses

NAMPA achieved a milestone in June 2010 with the introduction of the first fulltime multi-media news service by a national media institution in Namibia. This service features local and international real-time breaking news, including news photos, sports and entertainment, which is available on a mobile phone, at [mobi.nampa.org](http://mobi.nampa.org).

Apart from its Head Office in Windhoek, NAMPA currently operates from six regional offices, that is, from Opuwo, Ongwediva, Rundu, Keetmanshoop, Gobabis and Swakopmund.

NAMPA's Tsumeb and Katima Mulilo offices are currently not staffed due to the lack of funds to employ additional regional reporters. NAMPA's countrywide coverage could improve if the Agency had offices in all thirteen Regions; this will satisfy the demand for stories from the Regions and rural areas.

The New Era newspaper has entered a new phase of growth during the year just ended. This necessitated catering for a wider readership, including the youth. In line with this evolution, the paper has been undergoing a positive change of image, content and re-branding.

Readership of the newspaper has increased by 25 percent over the past year and advertising revenue continue to grow by more than 20 percent year on year. In pursuance of its mandate, the New Era Publications Corporation has established the widest newspaper distribution network in Namibia, covering 68 towns and villages and selling through 367 vendors.

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A marginal growth in advertising has been recorded in respect of the Southern Times newspaper (NamZim Papers), the joint venture project between Namibia and Zimbabwe, while newspaper's website has been activated and made more attractive for online advertising. The Southern Times is available in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe and has correspondents in Malawi, and Mozambique. In the current Financial Year, the newspaper plans to expand into Angola and Mozambique through the introduction of a Portuguese section in the newspaper. Toward this end, an international consultant has been identified to assist with the expansion process.

Honourable Deputy Chair, postal services remain one of the primary means of communication for person to person and business to person. The expansion of the postal network makes it easier for communication to take place.

In addition, the ongoing expansion of postal and other services is facilitating financial inclusion of all Namibians by taking financial services like investments, savings, and insurance closer to the outlying communities.

It is therefore pleasing to note that in the past year alone the following new Post Offices offering banking services were opened:

- Okondjatu Post Office in the Otjozondjupa Region;
- Epukiro Post Office in the Omaheke Region;
- Sesfontein Post Office in the Kunene Region; and
- Ongha Post Office in the Oshana Region

NamPost Savings Bank continues to make significant contributions to the Government's ideals of ensuring that all Namibians have access to financial services. During the reporting period, 67,000 new SmartCard holders were registered, bringing the total number of SmartCards issued to more than 350,000.

SADC, through the Southern Africa Postal Operators Association (SAPOA), developed a strategic plan which, among other things, strives to

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define the postal offerings to SADC citizens. In this context, the Namibian and Botswana Governments committed themselves to cooperate and collaborate in the development and delivery of postal services between the two countries to the benefit of their citizens. I am pleased to inform this august House to note that, mail delivery between Gaborone and Windhoek has improved from 7 days to 3 days as a consequence of direct mail delivery between the two countries.

During the year 2010, NamPost formed a Joint Venture with Deutsche Post and DHL to form the International Mail Processing Centre (IMPC) in Windhoek. This type of facility is the first of its kind in Africa of which the primary focus is improving the efficiency of European mail distribution in Africa and creating additional revenue to enhance shareholder value. It is pleasing to note that the IMPC has, from its establishment in March 2010 and within a relative short period of time, recorded a profit of N\$445,000 during its first year of operation.

To enable Namibia to have access to international telecommunications connectivity systems, the West African Cable System (WACS) project is in an advanced stage.

All the necessary regulatory and governmental approval obtained to land the system, including the Seabed & Seashore Utilization Agreement that was signed off by His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba. The WACS landing station in Swakopmund has been completed.

During the second week of January 2011, the cable laying ship arrived at the coastal town of Swakopmund to commence with cable works at the site. My counterpart in Botswana, Honourable Frank Ramsden and myself officiated at the landing ceremony of the WACS on 8 February 2011.

If everything goes according to plan, WACS will be up and running by 2012.

This cable system will usher in several benefits, namely:

- Provide us with independence regarding international connectivity;

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- Provide us with faster and better connectivity to Europe and the rest of the world;
- Provide ample capacity that will serve our country's international connectivity needs for many years to come; and
- Lower the costs of ICT services.

In terms of cross-border terrestrial connectivity, Namibia and Botswana have solid cross-border connections via fibre optic networks. In line with the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communication and Meteorology that calls, among other things, for the enhancement of interconnectivity in the Region and globally, I am delighted to inform this august House that Namibia has well-established optic fibre connections to South Africa through Neotel South Africa, Zambia through Zesco, Botswana through Botswana Telecom and Angola up to Ondjiva.

In upgrading its network and services, Telecom Namibia completed the Internet Protocol/ Multi-Protocol Label Switch (IP/MPLS) project during the year under review. This upgraded network facilitated improved commercial services, especially Multi-Protocol Label Switch/Virtual Private Networks that are provided to corporate customers. Telecom Namibia has further secured relevant contracts to connect Langer Heinrich Mine as well as Ohorongo Cement by direct fibre cable routes to Telecom Namibia's IP/MPLS backbone transport network.

To improve rural connectivity, Telecom Namibia further added 17 new WiMAX base stations to the following places: Eersterus, Adrianopel, Wilheben, Eliesenheim, Omandumba, Doreen, Blumfelde, Ohorongo, Emmabrunn, Grootfontein, Ruacana, Outapi, Lusese, Kamuchonga, Katwitwi, Bergquelle and Onguari.

Another three sites namely, Summerdown, Steinhausen and Mbela have been installed and are currently in the testing phase.

As part of the 2010 FIFA World Cup requirements, Telecom Namibia was instrumental to connecting all border posts to the broadband MPLS

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network. In view of this development, eight rural border posts without any local or backbone network were connected by means of WiMAX base stations. WiMAX was therefore installed at Ruacana, Outapi, Katwitwi, Kamuchonga and Lusese.

In order to bring broadband infrastructure to the main tourism areas of Sesriem and Sossusvlei, the Hardap West Project was launched in the middle of 2010.

This project will connect Sesriem by an aerial fibre backbone network to Nudaus towards Maltahöhe and provide broadband infrastructure to Solitaire, Sesriem and Rooiberg. Currently, the new fibre cable has been installed. The Sesriem site, as well as the 3 WiMAX stations are expected to be completed this Financial Year.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, this now brings me to our requirements for the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

I shall not elaborate on the Ministry's accountability report, as the complete report, indicating the targets that the Ministry has achieved, as well as those not achieved, is contained in the Government's Accountability Report.

In this new Financial Year, Parliament is requested to approve a Budget of N\$318,314,000 for the Ministry. Of this amount, N\$200,748,000 is earmarked for operational expenses and N\$115,735,000 for capital projects.

As per our Medium Term Expenditure Framework the Ministry will undertake and implement the following programmes:

Programme One will enhance the free flow of information and to ensure that the media is accessible to all Namibians. This programme has an allocation of N\$134,416,000. The Ministry will continue to make Cabinet decisions known to the general public through media briefings and ensure effective liaison with media practitioners to cover media

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releases for Office, Ministries and Agencies on government related activities.

Similarly, the Ministry's capital project on Education, Audiovisual Network Consolidation for support to Multi-Purpose Community Centres will be further enhanced with additional equipment and possibility of internet connections at the existing Multi-Purpose Community Centres.

The New Era Newspaper plans to increase its presence in the regions by opening three new offices in Keetmanshoop, Rundu and Katima Mulilo. The objective is to cover issues pertaining to the regions more effectively, to act as a catalyst for growth in the regions and to increase New Era's readership and future incomes.

Programme Two is to improve the understanding of Government programmes and policies. An amount of N\$21,091,000 has been allocated for this programme.

The Ministry aims to achieve the above objective by collecting and disseminating updated information materials and hosting of regular media briefings

The Ministry will continue to produce the Government Information Bulletin and the Namibia Review; both publications aim to inform the citizenry about Government programmes and activities. The coordination of media liaison in Government and SADC activities will be strengthened following the approval of the new structure and filling of requisite posts.

The Ministry will continue to assume responsibilities for its functions pertaining to national events, such as Independence celebrations, Heroes Day and other national activities, State visits, as well as international commemorations. Community meetings and outreach activities will be enhanced through the increase of staff at the regional offices.

As part of the Copyright & Neighbouring Rights Protection Act, (Act 6 of 2004) implementation, organised activities pertaining to Intellectual Property Rights will feature strongly. The amendment of the legislation,

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in line with international standards and technological advancements, will be completed this Financial Year.

Programme Three will ensure access to Information, Education and Communication through national campaigns. An amount of N\$13,375,000 has been allocated for this programme.

In March 2011, Cabinet took note of and approved the launch of the “*Nationhood and National Pride Campaign*” at national level. This initiative will address social evils like vandalism, sanitation, crime and violence, amongst others, in order to instil a sense of pride and ‘*Namibianess*’ amongst the citizenry.

The Ministry, together with the Ministry of Education and other national stakeholders, are anticipating the launching and roll-out of the ‘*Nationhood National Pride Campaign*’ during the first quarter of the 2011/2012 Financial Year. Honourable Members and the public are invited and encouraged to participate in the launch of this campaign by His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba on 27 April 2011.

New Era is investing in distribution assets (vehicles and human capital) to ensure early delivery of the newspaper in the regions.

To ensure that the media sector benefits the Namibian economy Programme Four has an allocation of N\$134,662,000.

The Namibia Film Commission will provide funding for the production of five short local films and continue to provide training in various areas of filmmaking. These films will be distributed and marketed at international film festivals, thereby introducing Namibian films to the international community.

The finalisation and introduction of an incentive scheme for film makers will be completed during this Financial Year to attract and increase the volume of international film makers into the country. This has potential to increase revenue generated and create employment opportunities.

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In line with the SADC approved standard DVB-T2 the NBC, in conjunction with other stakeholders, will be the major driving institution for the digital broadcasting switch-over from analogue to digital broadcasting by December 2013 according to the SADC Roadmap. The digitalisation process will be implemented in two phases, i.e. phase one 2011-2013 covering North South and Central areas and phase two 2013-2015 the rest of the country. The estimated cost for the roll-out programme, which is not provided for in this year's Budget, is around N\$340 million.

NAMPA will continue to improve its news coverage of the country, to broaden its subscription base and to embark on income-generating projects in line with its approved business plan.

Programme Five has an allocation of N\$12,940,000 and focuses on *"Increasing the beneficial use of information communication technology"*.

The broadcasting policy will be reviewed to align the same with the digital broadcasting process. As part of the implementation of the Communications Act of 2009 critical ICT institutions will be established and made operational such as the Universal Service Fund and a Domain Name Association (na). The operationalisation and launching of the e-health and e-education centres of the Pan-African e-Network Project will be completed during the first quarter of this Financial Year.

Under this programme, the Namibian Communication Commission/ Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia will upgrade its Automatic Frequency Management software systems and establish additional remote sites at Mariental and Windhoek to improve the triangular configuration for High Frequency management sites according to International Telecommunications Union specifications. The other High Frequency sites are at Keetmanshoop, Oshivelo and Walvis Bay.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in light of the above, I humbly wish to submit Vote 29 to the tune of N\$316,483,000 for the 2011/2012 Financial Year for your endorsement and approval. I thank you.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 01**  
**RT HON ANGULA**

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

I now put **VOTE 01 – “OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT”** for Discussion.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to thank Honourable Kawana, the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney-General for introducing this very important Vote. In his introduction of this Vote he, among others, stated as follows: *“The principal function of our President is to ensure peace, unity, stability, tolerance, hard work, promote national reconciliation and the motto of, One Namibia One Nation, among others.”*

Honourable Members will agree with me that under the leadership of the President there has been peace, unity, stability and tolerance. One of the magazines in this country had the audacity to grade our President and they had the audacity to give a grade of D and to make some uncomplimentary comment against the President. They were able to do that because Namibia is enjoying peace, stability and Namibia is enjoying press freedom, which they are misusing.

These types of media practitioners are suffering from the pathology called ingratitude. They are not grateful that they have peace, stability, national reconciliation. Namibia is a shining torch of peace, stability and press freedom, but they have the audacity to give a grade D to our President. This pathology of ingratitude must be condemned in the strongest terms because it has the potential to destabilise our country and when the country is destabilised, even those who are abusing freedom of the press will be the first ones to suffer because they will not be able to exercise their freedom by insulting the Head of State.

I stand up to totally condemn them and to support Vote 01. Thank you.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 01  
HON MOONGO**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Right Honourable Prime Minister, I thank you. I call on Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney-General said on page 3 that the President invited political and Traditional Leaders for consultations and it is true. I salute the President for that. However, when will an invitation be extended to the victims of the liberation struggle to visit the President's Office? If we talk of true reconciliation, when will the ex-detainees be invited to visit the President? Would that not be a true healing? (Intervention)

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Member, you are drifting away from what we have to deal with, you are being too general.

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**HON MOONGO:** I am quoting from page 3 of the speech and some of the events mentioned there are true, but it needs to be extended to those who have not yet visited the President. We want to heal the wounds.

When will the families of those who died in the liberation struggle also benefit from the cake? I support Vote 01 and I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank Honourable Moongo. Honourable Ueitele.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 01  
HON UEITELE**

**HON UEITELE:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 01 of the Office of the President and also to make a short contribution.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my contribution is based on page 2 of the Budget speech of the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney-General. Paragraph 2 reads as follows: *“I, therefore, leave it to the Right Honourable Prime Minister to make a proposal as to how we can collectively assist the flood victims in our capacity as national leaders.”*

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I support the Minister of Presidential Affairs on the issue of assisting the flood victims in the north and north-eastern parts of our country. Let me also congratulate His Excellency of the Republic of Namibia for declaring a state of emergency and also the SWAPO Party Government for doing everything possible to assist our people who are affected by the floods.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, after the devastating floods in the north and north-eastern parts of our country for the past three years now, I thought that we as legislators must come up with a plan which we call Plan B. The current floods continue to destroy traditional homes, roads, bridges and crops in many communities. We must work hard as legislators to introduce innovative ways to our rural communities who become homeless, especially during the time of floods.

Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I earlier mentioned Plan B. I just thought that the problem with the floods in the north and

north-eastern parts of our country can be solved once we channel the water from neighbouring Angola into dams. (Intervention)

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**HON MOONGO:** On a Point of Order. The issue of floods falls under the Vote of the Prime Minister.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 01  
HON SHIXWAMENI**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I concur with Honourable Moongo; I think that is a matter which falls under the Office of the Prime Minister. However, can I ask the Honourable Member to conclude?

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**HON UEITELE:** Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I wanted to make a proposal to the Office of the President or the Office of the Prime Minister. It will be costly to build these dams, but in the long run it will alleviate the situation in the flooded areas. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I call on Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have a few questions and a comment to make. Of course, I welcome the appropriation for the Office of the President and I would want to congratulate him for the initiative of inviting the leaders of various Political Parties and community organisations to his office. It is an initiative that needs to be commended by all of us and we should urge the President to continue to maintain peace and stability. I hope the President will continue to unite all the people of Namibia, irrespective of their ethnic group, irrespective of their tribe and irrespective of their political and ideological affiliation. We need to encourage him to continue on this good path that he has embarked upon.

One of the questions I want to ask is for the Minister of Presidential Affairs to enlighten the Namibian population as to what exactly happened to the Presidential Economic Advisory Council, because it is not mentioned anywhere. I know during the Founding Father's term it was launched with a fanfare and it was basically a good idea, but I do not know whether it has suddenly disappeared.

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HON NAHOLO**

In the Accountability Report of the Office of the President it is mentioned that twelve undeveloped erven were expropriated during the previous Financial Year and it is also mentioned that a further four are going to be repossessed and paid for during the current Financial Year. These are the exact terms that are being used, “*expropriation, and repossession of four undeveloped private plots or erven.*” My question is are there plans to develop these erven which are going to be expropriated since they are adjacent to State House or are they just being expropriated without being developed?

My last question is on the fourth programme, namely the Office of the Founding President. What will happen if the old Statesman, respected as he is – and in Africa they say you are not supposed to mention those things, but all of us are destined to leave this world one good day – what would happen if he is no more in the world? Will that Office continue functioning or what exactly is going to happen?

Lastly, on a lighter note, I would like to ask the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs whether it is not abuse of a pensioner to still use the old man. Why do we not leave him to retire to his farm? He has served the Nation, we are all grateful to him, but to leave him from attending functions and all these kinds of things. I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Honourable Naholo.

**HON NAHOLO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I rise to give my thoughts on the allocation to the Office of the President, Vote 01. First I would like to agree with the Right Honourable Prime Minister that the country is enjoying peace, stability, etcetera. However, I still feel strongly that the Office of the President is faced with serious challenges. We are talking of floods, flood victims in those areas and they are expecting the President to come and visit them. Schools have been closed, people are displaced from their houses and they now live like refugees in their own

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HON NAHOLO**

country. The President will be expected to see his own people wherever they are, especially those affected by the floods.

What is more disturbing, as was mentioned here, these floods have been recurring for the past three years now and nothing has been done. The first year nothing was done, the second year nothing was done and we are only left to treat the symptoms and we do not find preventative measures. The roads and bridges in those areas are a disaster. Look at the road between Oshakati and Omungwelumbe; there is nothing that you can call a road or a bridge. Money is being pocketed by individuals and you want people to believe that you are developing the country.

On top of that, while we are claiming that we have peace in this country, there are conflicts between our Traditional Authorities. There are discords between ethnic groups of this country, but the Office of the President has failed even to mediate in these conflicts. Let me give you a classic example. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** I agree that the Honourable Member has the right to express himself on issues, but I have a problem with the way he is doing it in two respects. Firstly, the issue of transport infrastructure resorts under the Vote of the Ministry of Transport. The issue of emergency management resorts under the Vote of the Office of the Prime Minister. The issue of Traditional Authorities resorts under the Vote of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development and he knows that structures were established in terms of our laws that deal with some of the issues he wants to blame the President for. I do not know exactly what the Honourable Member is trying to achieve. I think the Honourable Member can express his views without violating the procedures and spoil the spirit of the discussions in the House.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 01  
HON NAHOLO**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The objection by the Minister of Finance is quite reasonable. Could you make your point without actually developing it into an argument which is far beyond the Vote of the Office of the President? Please confine yourself to the immediate Vote and let us make progress.

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**HON NAHOLO:** The point I was making is that the President is the overall boss of this country and where the Ministers fail to do their duty the President should step in. Am I right or not? (Intervention)

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I do not think that is fair. There are Ministries that are directly responsible. The President, indeed, is the Head of State but he does not need to cater for all the various functions of State. That is why I am saying confine yourself to the Office of the President.

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**HON NAHOLO:** Let me confine myself to the Office of the President. Another serious challenge facing the Office of the President is that the Nation is still patiently waiting for the President to release the Reports of Presidential Commissions of Inquiry. Where are those Reports?

This Vote needs more funds for State visits and other functions. We must bear in mind that food security is currently being exacerbated by heavy rains, coupled with heavy flooding in the north and north-eastern Regions of the country.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, there is a need on the part of the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs to shed more light.... (Intervention)

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 01  
HON NAHOLO**

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** On a Point of Information. I want to reiterate what the Minister of Finance has said. The Honourable Member on the other side of the isle needs to be reminded that the issue of food security is catered for under the Ministry of Agriculture.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Can I please remind all Members, we have allocated ten minutes per intervention and the Honourable Member should conclude, please.

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**HON NAHOLO:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I was saying that there is a need on the part of the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs to shed more light as to what are the specific types of development projects the Office of the President has accomplished in the previous Financial Year and also what are the current development plans?

We see President Pohamba on television during official visits, wearing a cloth hat with SWAPO Party colours and the Namibian flag. Does the President do this at the expense of all Namibians or is this part of your manifesto or a Cabinet resolution for the Head of State to wear party colours on State missions? (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Honourable Naholo needs to know that there is no way that the President wears the SWAPO colours on official missions, but if he

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HON NAHOLO**

is going to address SWAPO supporters, he wears SWAPO colours because he is the SWAPO President. Unfortunately you ran away, thinking that you are going to destroy SWAPO, but you failed.

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**HON NAHOLO:** Honourable Iilonga, they say talk is cheap when the story is good. I am of the opinion that the President is not living up to his promise.

I do not have a problem with regard to the amount requested for the Office of Founding President, because much has already been said in favour or against the Motion to create such an office in a small country like Namibia. My only fear is that very, very soon there will be Budget allocations for maintenance, service delivery and ceremonial functions for another retired President. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** On a Point of Information. Firstly, Former Presidents around the world are treated in the same manner and you must be prepared that if Namibia has Former Presidents in future, there will be a repetition, no doubt about that.

Secondly, with the regard to the obsession with anti-Nujoma antics, the reality is that this very same Parliament passed a law, conferring on the President to be the Founding President and the Father of the Namibian Nation and it has cost implications. Swallow that, it is democracy, it was done here. Thirdly, these properties remain Government and State properties, just like this Parliament where we are sitting remains Government property.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Can I ask the Honourable Member please to conclude because you are over your time.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 01  
HON DR KAWANA**

**HON NAHOLO:** I asked a pertinent question, that come 2015 there will be another retired President. Are we going to create an office for him or was this notion only for the first President of the Republic? I need an answer from the Minister. Thank you very much.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. I will ask the Honourable Minister to reply to the questions.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First, I would like to thank all Honourable Members who have contributed positively or otherwise. I would like to thank my senior leader, the *Right Honourable Prime Minister* for the very kind words and I agree wholeheartedly to what he has stated.

*Honourable Moongo*, 99.9% of victims of the liberation struggle are SWAPO Party Members to the best of my knowledge and from time to time they are addressed by the President on national level, regional level and district level and, therefore, it is not necessary for all of them to come to State House to see the President.

As for the other category of our citizens, we have not received such a request to be the best of my knowledge and, indeed, as I said, it is our policy which was initiated by the leadership of the SWAPO Party and some of the former SWAPO Party leaders who are now on the other side of the House will confirm that it was a resolution formally adopted in Luanda before the leadership came back home in 1989 to adopt the Policy of National Reconciliation, so much so that today, 21 years after Independence, they do not talk of this or that group. We are all Namibians and our focused mission is to make sure we address the socio-economic needs of our Nation and to build our Nation so that Namibia can be among the winning nations of the world. That is our vision.

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HON DR KAWANA**

*Honourable Ueitele*, thank you very much. Indeed, the Vote of the Right Honourable Prime Minister is still coming and, in fact, I also had in mind the idea of the relevant Parliamentary Committee to go and visit the area affected by the floods to express their support to the victims on behalf of the Nation. That is what I had in mind and I hope the relevant Committee will adopt that approach to get first-hand information and to come and report back to the House.

*Honourable Shixwameni*, the Presidential Economic Advisory Council is still alive. It was inaugurated, in fact new appoints were made by His Excellency the President some time ago at the Hotel Safari.

Some of these erven mentioned by you are being consolidated into one erf called State House Ground and the owners were adequately paid and in fact, there were negotiations between the owners of those erven and the State and those owners are satisfied with the compensation that they received.

There was a question on the Office of the Founding Father and the Colleagues have responded that these are State properties. In terms of the Former Presidents Act that was passed in this august House, every former President is entitled to an office and that we will do by Act of Parliament and those properties remain State property.

Whether we are abusing our Founding President, I do not think so, because as the Founding Father he still has a role to play in this country and that is why some of us support what he is doing not only within the country but also outside. From time to time he is involved with other former Heads of State to make sure there is peace and stability on the African continent and I feel all of us should support that role.

*Honourable Naholo*, I am really disappointed by some of the remarks made by you as they were most unfortunate. I am now in a dilemma, I do not know whether that is really the policy of the RDP or whether the Honourable Member is expressing his views in his personal capacity, but let me take the Honourable Member back to those days when some of the

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HON DR KAWANA**

leaders of RDP were our leaders within the SWAPO Party.

Honourable Naholo, you may recall that some of those leaders who left SWAPO Party were first leaders in the SWAPO Party, they occupied very critical portfolios within the SWAPO Party, from Polit Bureau, Central Committee, heads of certain departments. They used to head very critical key projects within the Party. In fact, some of them were referred to as *the* SWAPO Party as individuals, but when they left, they turned around and they condemned what they put forward in the SWAPO Party, be it within the Polit Bureau, Central Committee, those departments, those Committees that they assisted to develop the SWAPO Party to the level where we are today and that is most unfortunate as that should not have been the case. If the policy of the SWAPO Party now is no longer the policy they support, maybe they are supporting capitalism and that could have been the reason for leaving and creating something which is different in terms of ideology from the SWAPO Party. That could have been the case and we do not have a quarrel with that if now they shun socialism and embrace capitalism, which is a different ideology. I do not have a problem with that. However, I do have a problem if they say they left the SWAPO Party because it lost direction while most of those policies were initiated by them.

It reminds me of the story of a young man who injured his right eye. He went to see a doctor and the doctor said he has to operate on the eye and he was rushed to an operating theatre. (Intervention)

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Can I request the Minister of Presidential Affairs to respond to specific questions so that we do not have a dialogue.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** I am responding to some of the remarks, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. When this young man was rushed to the operating table, instead of operating on his right eye, the specialist

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 01  
HON DR KAWANA**

mistakenly operated on the healthy left eye and as a result that left eye became blind and after the operation the doctor said, *“my dear young man, I have bad news as well as good news, which one do you want to hear first?”* The young man said he wanted to hear the bad news first and the doctor said, *“I am sorry, I operated on the wrong eye and it has lost vision.”* He asked, what the good news is, the good news is that there is no longer a need to operate your right eye because it has also gone blind.

When you are the Opposition, you should not be blind like this young man, all the time just oppose and oppose. I think we should change the title of the Opposition, to say Minority Parties. I am not saying you should not criticise. That is part of your duty, but please, criticise constructively. Do not condemn like what we heard with some of the leaders of the RDP who condemned the Budget. However there were also many positive contributions on the Budget from the senior leadership of the RDP. Therefore, there are these two ways: either it is an outright rejection or constructive criticism with alternatives. We will appreciate that.

Indeed, I was a very happy and proud person when some of the leaders of the RDP took the Floor to contribute to the Budget and there was even applause from this side of the House, although they criticised the Budget. That is part of our democracy. I think we have to live within the letter and spirit of this approach. I thank you very much.

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 01 and I also listened carefully to the response which was given by the Minister of Presidential Affairs, more particularly when the Minister of Presidential Affairs advised Members of Parliament to make an effort to visit the flood-affected area and to report back to this House.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I really feel that now that the worst is over, instead of utilising funds to send a delegation to assess the situation, which has been assessed by so many people, maybe the Parliament could donate those funds to assist the

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HON ULENGA / HON NUJOMA**

affected people. I thank you very much.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Minister, thank you very much. We will consult after our formal meetings. What you are saying is very much in line with the thinking of the House. However, I do not want to dwell on that, I want to move on. Honourable Ulenga.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I support this Vote, but in the light of what was said by the Minister of Environment and Tourism, I just wanted to say that, indeed, the Committee dealing with security issues has considered the option of going to the flooded areas, but we decided that we may be standing in the way of the people who are doing the rescue work and that is why we decided not to go there. I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs.

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Comrade Deputy Chairperson, as a matter of procedure, once the Minister has responded it will be problematic to again give the Floor to the other Honourable Members.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I am absolutely in your hands. I do not want to suppress anybody if they want to bring a particular point forward. Next time I will ensure that I exhaust the list before we move on. Any objection to Vote 01? Agreed to.

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

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 02  
HON MWANINGANGE / HON SHIXWAMENI**

**HON MWANINGANGE:** Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I would like to make a short contribution to Vote 02 on page 4, the last paragraph on the Disaster Recovery and Emergency Management Services. Before that I would like to refer to emergency management as a whole before disasters occur.

It has been the experience, especially with floods in our country, that the response usually comes a bit late, especially the deployment of means of prevention. However, the Prime Minister elaborated in his Vote on recovery. It is important that the recovery should also be properly scrutinised in order to rescue the situation in the long-term. Here I am, for example, referring to the destruction of infrastructures, such as roads, bridges, schools and clinics. One finds that funds are allocated but the reconstruction of the infrastructure is of inferior quality, resulting in the same infrastructure again being destroyed when the floods reoccur. As a result, Comrade Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, the Regional Emergency Management Units usually want to respond swiftly and inform where the weaknesses.

In supporting this Vote, we would want more efficient and timely monitoring, unlike any other normal response to any planning. This needs proper coordination for the Emergency Service to recover and when it recovers, to remain a permanent recovery. It is likely that the floods will reoccur due to climatic change globally. I support the Vote and the utilisation of these resources. Thank you very much.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** I do not have a problem with the Vote and I support it, particularly when it comes to the Emergency Management Unit. I think we need to be more proactive in dealing with emergencies and be able to anticipate some of them, because I am sure NASA has the technology to detect the flow of water from Angola into the Cuvelai system. I however support the efforts that the Prime Minister's Office is

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

making in terms of bringing to the House an Emergency Policy so that the national leaders are able to have a look at it.

The second point I want to raise is the vacancies in the Public Service since the Public Service Commission falls under the Prime Minister's Office. Most of the Ministries and Agencies complain about vacancies not being filled and they blame the Public Service Commission for taking so long that they end up with money not being spent. I would want the Prime Minister to explain to this House why the process is taking so long that people who were supposed to be employed in one Financial Year, end up only being recruited in the next Financial Year. I see that there are many vacancies on the establishments of Government and if we are complaining about unemployment in this country while there are thousands of vacancies, something needs to be done so that these vacancies be filled.

Another issue I want to deal with is the requirements for even entry points, namely the requirement of a degree, sometimes a Master's Degree and then you must have five or ten years experience, while we know that many of our people did not have the chance to gain that experience. The result is that those ones, who have been in the system, continue to move from one position to another in search of greener pastures and in need of bigger salaries. We probably need to reconsider our total recruitment system to make sure that we give an opportunity to those university and polytechnic graduates to enter the system. Maybe one could waive some of these requirements relating to experience so that these young people can also get into the system to basically start working.

My last issue is on the allocation for the Disability Advocacy Unit. Having spoken to several people with disabilities, I do not know whether this allocation is only for advocacy or whether it is for the programmes that they run in the Prime Minister's Office. I feel that the allocation is too small and it could probably be reconsidered. The same applies to the National Alliance for Improvement in Nutrition. I must admit that I do not have the details of what this entity is doing at the current moment, but once again I think the allocation there is too small and an improvement needs to be considered in future Budget. This is quite an important unit

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HON MOONGO / HON MAKGONE**

because it deals with the nutrition of our people in the country, particularly the poor and the young people in our communities. We need to work out a master framework to improve nutrition in our country. With those few remarks, I support the Vote.

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

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support the Vote of the Prime Minister although some of us have been crying since three years ago for a marshal plan to deal with the floods and to prevent more suffering by the people, but it has been taken very lightly. I hope those technicians who have now been sent there will start doing something right now, otherwise if we delay, the floods will come again.

I want to thank the donors who offered assistance to the victims of the flood and did their best. I would wish they would continue doing that although the distribution was not correctly done. This year the extent of the flood was such that some of the people could not be accommodated in tents and those people who were helping their neighbours were not given any assistance. I appeal to the Prime Minister to see to it that even those who are accommodated by their neighbours must also be given flood assistance. With this, I support the Vote.

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**HON MAKGONE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 02 and my contribution will be on NIPAM. This is a very important institution and very needed and its impact is stated in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework as:  
*“It will be the strategic vehicle to heighten efficiency and effectiveness of the Public Service, provision of competence-based training to public servants, thereby increase and improve service delivery.”*

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HON IILONGA**

I do not know how many of us watched the programme Open File on Sunday evening, which left much to be desired. The programme showed clips of our Public Service institutions and our people were interviewed. I do not know what excuses those who are supposed to serve these people have, but I want to give credit to the Inspector-General who was also interviewed, because he acknowledged that there are problems and he even mentioned possible solutions and what they are trying to do. According to me that is what a leader should do. A leader should not deny that people on the ground are suffering, because we are not always there.

As leaders we have to listen to our people otherwise we will not achieve the desired change. We should not deny things happening on the ground. If the supervisors are the ones defending those who should give services, it means no change is needed, it is business as usual.

I assume that the curriculum of this institution has already been developed, but I want to know whether our people will have a chance to influence the curriculum development, because they are the ones who feel the need.

I want to end my contribution with a Chinese proverb: *“When strong winds come, others build walls to protect them, while others build windmills.”* You protect yourself but find yourself alone within the walls. Others are building windmills and provide energy, water and life. I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Iilonga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 02 – Office of the Prime Minister.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 02  
HON MBUMBA**

I want to thank all the national, regional and international agencies which came to our aid during the floods. Comrade Prime Minister, please give our heartfelt thanks to them.

Secondly, I rise to thank the SWAPO Party Government, especially the negotiation team of the Government and the two unions, NAPWU and NANTU, for negotiating in good faith, leading to an Amendment of the Appropriation Bill. We really want to tell the workers of this country that the SWAPO Party Government and the unions are on their side.

Thirdly, and lastly, we realise the importance of NIPAM, but Comrade Prime Minister, let us use NIPAM to train our Civil Servants, our Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Members of Parliament, so that we know how to handle the business people. We are speaking about tripartite but we are not trained. The Permanent Secretaries are trained and you just choose what fits them, but it is better that NIPAM as an institution inculcates skills and knowhow, so that we do away with this issue that we do not have technical knowhow.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support Vote 02, Office of the Prime Minister and I have a few comments to make.

On page 5 – the San Social Inclusion Programme: In the United States the American Indians and in other countries such as Australia, people who can trace that they have a drop of blood of the original people are proud, even bordering on arrogance that nobody will ever chuck them out of that society and, therefore, we always say – and the President and the Prime Minister loves to say this – that we are a caring community, a caring Nation and a caring Government. I propose that in the future we continue

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HON NAMBAHU**

to increase the amount allocate to this programme. These are the owners of the land, whether we like it or not.

The Disability Advocacy Unit: I have for the last seven or ten years been a patron of the Association of the Visually Impaired and, therefore, all these people who truly need support from their families, their neighbours, their Government, need to be supported. I know of Civil Servants who are already working in the Government and they are counted as Civil Servants and paid as Civil Servants, but we still need some funds to facilitate this Association and other things.

Some people like to divide and destroy, because they cannot divide and rule. I do not know how many times the Prime Minister has been to the flooded areas, at least twice if not more, and people are asking, "*why is the President not there?*" What is the duty of the second-in-command in any organisation? The President was there, but on all these occasions the Government has put all the resources, functions and facilities in place. It created a centre there to coordinate; all the helicopters we have in this country are based there to help the sick, the disabled, those who were unable to help themselves. What else do you demand from your Government? What is it you want to see?

Therefore, whatever the Prime Minister, Ministers and Deputy Ministers do is done under the instructions of one person elected by the majority of the Namibian people to be in charge of the affairs of this State called Namibia. Therefore, no division, no divide and rule, no divide and destroy. Thank you very much.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also want to support Vote 02 and say a few things.

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HON NAMBAHU**

In the first place, I would like to congratulate the Government on the implementation of the NIPAM programme, which is long overdue. Some people have misgivings, saying we can train somewhere else, but we must remember that during the liberation struggle we were not content with sending our combatants to Cuba or the Soviet Union for training, we had our own Hainyeko there. How could we have an army without a training camp of its own? Therefore, this is the right thing to do, as sometimes other people train according to their needs and not necessarily according to yours. Therefore, if you do not have a training institution, it is equal to having an army without a training camp of its own.

There is also a paragraph that I would like to cut out and paste on the door of each and every Civil Servant. It reads as follows: *“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 and task.”* If this could be cut and pasted on the door of each and every Civil Servant, I would be the happiest man in this country, because if we want to be a winning Nation and want to compete with other nations, this is what we must do.

We sometimes complain that others are doing well, but look at the Chinese, they are hardworking and even the Americans are hardworking. We have to concentrate on consequences for those who are not doing their jobs. Really, if we want to be a winning Nation, we need to have that culture of working hard and there must be consequences for those who are not doing their work. Even in Afrikaans you have word *“gevolge”*.

With regard to the floods, what remains to be done is just to work on a long-term solution as we are doing excellent with what is at hand. I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Dingara.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 02**  
**HON DINGARA**

**HON DINGARA:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Before I make my contribution, I want to comment on the contribution by Honourable Shixwameni on this Vote.

Honourable Shixwameni was advising the Office of the Prime Minister to remove experience from entry positions in the Public Service and I wanted to make a correction to that one, because I have been working in the Government as a human resource practitioner for more than seventeen years and all the positions in the Government have an entry level and then promotion up to the highest position. Not all the entry positions in the Public Service require any number of years of experience, it only requires qualifications. Experience is only required from the first promotion, the second promotion and upwards. Promotion positions are advertised in the media, while entry positions are advertised internally in the Ministries. (Interjections). I want somebody to prove me wrong.

All the entry positions in the Government only require qualifications, whether Grade 10, Grade 12 or a three-year tertiary education. However, the moment you want to fill a higher position than entry post, then the person is required to have a number of years of experience. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** May I ask Honourable Dingara a question? You are making a very valid point that the entry posts do not require experience, yet you are saying they are being advertised within the Ministries. If the advertisement is within the Ministry, who is it that should apply within the Ministry? Should it not be the other way around, that the promotional posts are advertised within the Ministry because those who are in the Ministry are the ones who can be promoted and the entry posts be advertised externally as those who should enter are from the public? Should that not be the case?

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**HON DINGARA:** Thank you very much, I will explain that one. What actually happens is that the entire Public Service is one entity; it is not like NamPower and NamPost which are two different organisations. If you are in the position of Chief Clerk in the Ministry of Works and the next

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HON //GAROËB**

promotional post of Control Officer is advertised at the National Planning Commission, all the Public Servants are eligible to apply. I agree with Honourable Minister Katali on the entry posts. What happens is that when they advertise within the Ministry, the advertisement does not say that only people from the Ministry will be recruited. The notice is placed within the Ministry and any person from outside can apply for any entry post in the Public Service. It is not always advertised in the newspapers, it is advertised by notice at the Ministry, but any person who sees that advert and meets the requirements may apply.

The point that I wanted to make is that all entry posts in the Public Service do not require experience. You will not find such a circular in the Public Service; it is only minimum requirements which are required.

Comrade Chair, I wanted to congratulate the Office of the Prime Minister that, together with the two unions, NAPWU and NANTU, they have managed to get N\$800 million over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. When I was negotiating for Government, we did not manage to get N\$800 million. This is one of the highest amounts that I have seen. Congratulations, Comrade Prime Minister, and the two unions for their hard work and making sure that the interests of the Public Servants are looked after. Thank you very much.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable Chief //Garoëb.

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**HON //GAROËB:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, I am rising to support Vote 02 of the Office of the Prime Minister.

Honourable Members, we are very concerned about the flood situation in the north and north-east of our country and we learnt with so much gratitude about the Disaster Management Unit of the Right Honourable Prime Minister's Office which now started with food aid to the flood victims.

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HON LIMBO**

We also applaud NamPower's Board of Directors and the management for their generous donation of N\$3 million to the University of Namibia, Faculty of Engineering and IT at Ongwediva yesterday. We fervently believe that other institutions and individuals will also follow suit. We believe that the time has come, Honourable Deputy Chair, that we look for more permanent ways to curb the annual devastating flood problems.

The Chinese have a very good saying, that *it is better to teach a hungry person how to catch fish than to give him fish every day*. I believe the time has come to call on all national and international engineers to help us devise a permanent solution to this devastating disaster.

We, therefore, urge our Government to do everything in its power to solve this problem and I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I call on Honourable Limbo.

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**HON LIMBO:** Honourable Deputy Chairman of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise to support the Vote of the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Being a former Public Servant, I know what was happening in our offices. Many of our people think twice before going to these public offices because of the attitude of the personnel. Therefore, I just want to congratulate the Right Honourable Prime Minister for establishing NIPAM, because I believe that by sending our people to this institution their attitudes can be changed.

I also feel we should have short courses at intervals for people to learn that going into a public office is not going into your house. You are there for the people and you are paid by the people, not paid by yourself. This reminds me of a song in Zambia which was called "BA PHIRI BANA MBERA". The meaning of this is that Mr Phiri will come to the office, hang his jacket and then disappear. I never used to do that. I just want to congratulate the Right Honourable Prime Minister and to say that our Civil Servants have to start changing, because in the morning you will

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HON KAVETUNA**

find everybody in the offices, but after ten there is nobody. Many of them have businesses on the side and they tend to leave their offices, attend to their businesses and only return ten to five. I hope this is going to change and without wasting time, I just want to say I support the Vote. I thank you very much.

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

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**HON KAVETUNA:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have a few issues which I would like to mention on this Vote.

First of all, I would like to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for tabling this Vote. The San Social Inclusion Programme is a good programme which is upgrading the livelihood of the San people, however I would request that we put more emphasis on the issue of education, specifically in primary school and very important, not in isolation but with integration. Let us get people out of Tsumkwe, let us get them out of the other constituencies and bring them into contact with other people, so that these young children can grow up as One Namibia, One Nation.

The Improved Nutrition Programme, as Honourable Shixwameni has said, is very essential and we need to allocate more money, because we need to know whether *omaere* is healthy, we are not malnourished, overfed or underfed and we have a healthy Nation.

Lastly is on the issue of service delivery. The Performance Management System will assist us in this Government. There are people that are taking their employment in the Government as granted. People will tell you that everything in Government takes long, but why does it have to take long if there are people employed for that? For instance, a person who was employed at Home Affairs and now has her own company, goes to Home Affairs and after one hour her visa is ready, but when poor Kavetuna goes

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HON NUJOMA**

there, she must wait up to a month for a visa. I do not think salary is really an issue, people are complaining that they are underpaid, but it is just an issue of lack of passion, lack of commitment, lack of patriotism to this Government. I would like to call upon the Prime Minister to encourage the people by giving awards for best performance in the various Ministries, so that we can encourage our people to deliver service and value for money. Thank you very much.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chair of the Whole House Committee. I rise to give my unconditional support to Vote 02 – Office of the Prime Minister. I just want to comment on the flood situation in the north and I am happy that our traditional partners have responded favourably, for example the Russian Federation, the United States of America and also other countries in the SADC Region, particularly Botswana. Botswana has always responded. They say when your house is on fire, you rely on the neighbours and we must really congratulate the people of Botswana and its Government for the support they have rendered to us.

I would also make use of the opportunity to thank the Emergency Management Unit of the Office of the Prime Minister and the local Red Cross. They have done a great job.

Today I received a call from one of our Consul-Generals and he was asking me about how the situation is developing, he is so worried. I said the situation is now under control, but it will never be totally under control because of the threat of airborne diseases and mosquitoes and malaria. (Intervention)

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**HON NAHOLO:** On a Point of Information. Firstly, I want to thank the Honourable Minister for highlighting countries that have come to our

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**RT HON N ANGULA**

rescue, but the problem is that when they take this assistance to the masses, they claim that this is from the SWAPO Government, instead of telling the Nation the truth, that this is support we received from our friends. That is just a point of correction.

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** It is not even worth responding to, it is utter nonsense. What I wanted to mention is that the Consul General phoned me today and I told him that the situation is now under control and he said, "*I am worried, I will see what I can do*" and immediately he phoned me again and said that he has wired about five thousand US Dollars from his own pocket. That is Dr Henry Cheng, our Consul General in Hong Kong. I would like to ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to maybe respond to him and to express our sincere thanks on behalf of the people of Namibia for the efforts of the individual and also the other individuals and businesses in Namibia. Maybe Parliament will also come up with something. Those are efforts that need to be appreciated.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I have overheard the Honourable Member using un-Parliamentary language. Can I ask you to withdraw the word? (Interjections). "Not make sense?" Not "nonsense?" I call upon the Honourable Prime Minister to respond.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to thank all the Members who participated and those who supported the Vote in silence.

The issues which have been raised are basically four or five: floods, NIPAM, filling of posts in the Public Service, and service delivery. If I happen not to touch on exactly what you meant, just bear with me.

You will recall that the first disaster happened between Karasburg and Ariamsvlei. There were heavy rains, the railway and the road was washed

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**RT HON N ANGULA**

away and Government committed N\$30 million for repairs. I am quite sure none of us could have expected the disaster to happen there. I am talking about anticipation as some of the Colleagues said sometimes we respond very late. I am trying to say that sometimes it is not easy to anticipate what is going to happen.

About two, or three weeks ago we thought we were not going to have heavy floods, we were only dealing with the Zambezi system in the Zambezi flood plain. Then two things happened: Heavy rains fell in the Angola catchment area and heavy rains fell in Namibia. Some of the flooding was simply caused by heavy rains within Namibia itself, not because there was a flood. That kind of thing cannot really be anticipated. Then as heavy rains were pouring into Namibia, somebody from the village of Honourable Naholo went with a black cow to *Evale*. It is a tradition that when they do not have rain, they take a black cow to *Evale*, then the rain will come. These floods come from exactly that area; that is why it is called the Cuvelai system. It rained so hard in that area and then the water started to flow down into Namibia.

Government declared an emergency and allocated N\$30 million to deal with this emergency. What happened is that because of the heavy rains already in the area, complemented by the flood, the whole area became a lake. When I hear Colleagues saying that we should channel this water into a certain direction, I am asking, channel where?

For example, Ondangwa is not part of the Cuvelai system, but Ondangwa is flooded and there are serious problems, because those with the means get sand somewhere and put sand bags in front of their houses and then the water flows to the houses of those who have no means. Now there is a serious class struggle there. The poor ones are saying that the rich ones are sending water to us and there is a serious problem. I do not know whether you read the SMSs, sometimes you see those complaints.

The terrain of this Cuvelai water course is such that if there are heavy rains and floods, literally the whole area gets flooded. If you have time and go there, you will see this. There are a series of oshanas, if you move from the East from Engela; there is an oshana which is full. Another five

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RT HON N ANGULA**

kilometres there is another oshana, it is full. Another five kilometres to Ohaingu, you will find one of the biggest oshanas. From there you go to another five kilometres to Ongenga, and find another oshana. It will be very difficult to channel this water, but perhaps there is a way of doing it. Perhaps it can be done around towns, but otherwise it is going to be very difficult.

For now we are just trying to respond to the immediate needs of the people and we are happy that there has been a generous response from the Private Sector, from individuals and from foreign Governments, as Honourable Nujoma has just mentioned and we are grateful for that. There was a gentleman here from the Philippines and when he saw the photos in the newspapers, he rushed to my office and said, "*Since you are managing this disaster, five thousand from my pocket.*" You could see how people were really supporting.

Somebody said that when we receive these donations we claim that they came from SWAPO. No, we make sure that when we receive these donations the media witness it. The media is there for a good reason, for people to see that this support comes from other people, not necessarily from the Namibian Government.

Government initially committed N\$30 million and the big challenge we have now is actually how to reach the people, because some of the roads have been washed away. The road from Oshakati to Omungwelume has been repaired, we can go there, but the big challenge is the road between Endola and Oshakati and also some other roads. We have been using air transport, thanks to the Namibian Police and Namibian Defence Force, but air transport is very expensive.

The challenge we have now is to rehabilitate the roads so that at least some areas are accessible by road. The management in Oshakati are overwhelmed. The Governor of Ohangwena is calling for a helicopter, at the same time the Governor of Oshana is doing the same, the Governor of Omusati is doing the same and the Governor of Caprivi is doing the same and management becomes impossible. The idea is to rehabilitate the damaged roads so that we can access people by road. That is why the

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 02**  
**RT HON ANGULA**

Honourable Minister of Finance was saying that the Road Fund, to which N\$100 million have been allocated, has been instructed to immediately release N\$30 million to rehabilitate the roads, especially in the Cuvelai water system.

For the Zambezi flood plains, last year we were forced to order a big pontoon. A big pontoon was constructed specifically for that area to deal with this situation and I hope that it is doing a good job to reach the people there, supported by *Mukoros* and *Kuyomboka*. The only problem is that in the Cuvelai Basin you cannot use these *Mukoros* because here it is deep, there it is shallow. It is not a proper water course. Therefore, we have to reopen the roads and that is a big challenge.

Regarding the long term, we can come up with measures to save the highly populated areas and some key roads should be properly built. I have a big problem with the bridges, that when you have a heavy volume of water and the water wants to pass, the bridge is so small and the water starts going somewhere else, flooding the people's houses. That is what is happening.

It is now up to this House to join others in making your contribution. I pledge N\$1,000 myself. (Interjection). Yes, the leader is saying N\$10,000 from the RDP. Comrade Ueitele, we designate you to receive the donations.

About the floods, we are responding and the real challenge will be the post-flood situation. This year there will be no harvest in the whole of the Cuvelai Basin because the fields are flooded. People had high hopes because the germination was good, but unfortunately at the end of the season there was too much water, which means that we will have to support those people with food. I am not quite sure how we are going to support them to reconstruct their houses. That is another challenge. However, for now we are trying to respond to the emergencies of snakebites, of people who need antiretroviral drugs or women who have to give birth and the like and thanks to the Namibian Defence Forces and the Police we are able to do the best we can do. That is with regard to the floods.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 02  
RT HON ANGULA**

On Public Service delivery, I have not seen the programme Honourable Naholo was talking about, but I can tell you a story. Somebody came to me last week, one of the UNAM students, she went to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and she went to the third floor. Apparently they are not supposed to go to the third floor, she was chased from there and she went to another floor where she found a lady on the telephone, *“I told you to slaughter that cock and send it here.”* It is somebody calling the village because she wants a chicken and the customers are there. This person said: *“Is this what we fought for? I was ashamed when I went there to hear this person talking on the telephone about a chicken to be slaughtered in the village to be sent to this person in Windhoek while the people are waiting there.”* That shows you the level of service delivery.

We came up with a Service Charter with certain values, certain ethos of the Public Service, but still the Public Servants are not responding positively. Sometimes I feel this is perhaps cultural. If you go to my village and you go to a headman’s house, you will wait there for three days without anybody attending to you. Perhaps these things are a result of our traditions there, the way we mistreat people. However, those people are not elected people; they are not paid by the public. Perhaps we should take it from there, when you are in office and you become a chief and people are supposed to worship you.

Our Public Service really leaves a lot to be desired. In the meantime we will do the best, at least to give some ethos and ethical values to Public Servants, but supervision is also important. Sometimes our people work without being supervised properly and without supervision, people supervise themselves. That is why they have the audacity to use a Government telephone to order a chicken from a village during working hours. This is the level of service we are giving to our people and they deserve better. That is why I am saying efficiency and effectiveness are the keys to better Public Service.

On the filling of the posts, we are carrying out a survey to try to find out how many posts in the Public Service are not filled and find the reasons why they are not filled. We have tried many things, even to delegate some

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 02  
RT HON ANGULA**

responsibilities to the Ministries to fill certain types of posts and to report to the Public Service Commission. Sometimes people blame the Public Service Commission and it is not really them, they come in at the very end. Things are done in the Ministries and the Ministries make recommendations to the Public Service Commission. The delay is not really with the Public Service Commission, the delay is actually with our own Ministries. Sometimes they advertise, they advertise again, they interview and sometimes they cancel the interviews. All sorts of things are happening there in our own Ministries and we are not quite sure how to deal with this.

However, we are not giving up, we are introducing the Performance Management System and the Performance Management System implies that a particular Office, Ministry or Agency of the Government must have a strategic plan. That strategic plan must have milestones, that during the first quarter of the year we would have done a, b, c, d. In addition to that there are performance contracts to be entered into, so that people are actually evaluated on their promises on the basis of the milestones they have set themselves to achieve. If they did not achieve them, at least you can now take action and perhaps that will help.

That time when I was the Minister of Education we had something called performance appraisals. Then these performance appraisals failed. Why? Because people threatened each other with witchcraft. If you appraise me negatively, I am going to take action. (Interjections). Yes, it happened. You are threatened that you might not reach your home today, your car will overturn and you know that we have these prejudices; people from this area are good at something. In my area of Onyaanya they will say *Aambuga* the ones east of Ondonga are the ones and people east of Ondonga think the Kavango's are the ones and the Kavango's will say the Caprivians are the ones. They ended up threatening each other with witchcraft and the system collapsed.

If the Public Service, which is going to administer a Budget of N\$36 billion is not operational, the whole country will never operate, not at all. We are so critical to the life of the whole country, including the Private Sector. These people come to us for a licence for this and that and

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 02  
RT HON ANGULA**

they are not getting it and nothing happens. If people call the Police and the Police do not show up, their properties are being damaged. If people go to hospitals and they are not treated, you know what will happen. If children go to school and there are no teachers there, you know the consequences. We are a very critical institution in the life of this Nation and I hope that we are going to work hard to make sure that we build our Nation and improve the lives of our people. That should be our commitment. I thank you.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Of course I support Vote 02, I just want the Right Honourable Prime Minister to clarify one thing and I hope I heard correctly, that for the sake of our brothers and sisters, our citizens, who are suffering because of the flood in the north and north-east, that Honourable Members must make a contribution of N\$1,000 each, which will be N\$78,000 all in all. I just wanted to know whether that is exactly what he meant, so that tomorrow we do so and it would be beautiful if it could be announced that we as Members of this House are also making a contribution.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** No, what I said is that I am prepared to donate N\$1,000. Each one of you will decide what you are going to donate. Thank you.

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

I put **Vote 04** – “**AUDITOR-GENERAL**” for Discussion.

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

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

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 30  
HON MOONGO / HON JANKOWSKI**

**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the amount allocated to this Vote is not sufficient if they want to decentralise their offices countrywide. I also want to know whether the Anti-Corruption Commission can investigate if a case has been with the Courts for seven years. Is this not also a type of corruption which needs a remedy? With this I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Jankowski.

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**HON JANKOWSKI:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would like to make my contribution to Vote 30.

Firstly, I must applaud the Government of the day, the Cabinet and in particular the President for the efforts to keep corruption constantly on the agenda of the Parliament for discussion. The mere fact that we show willingness to discuss the subject matter at the legislative level of the Government is encouraging. If we accept the legislative process in this House is the starting point of our fight against corruption, then there is a serious need to understand the various forms in which corruption manifests itself in order for us to provide adequate and appropriate funding for the institution and people entrusted to face this challenge head-on.

We must nurture and develop our capacity to fight corruption at all fronts, firstly through effective legislation, by providing administrative support to the laws in so far as we must deal indiscriminately with all suspect cases of corruption, by providing the institution, like the Anti-Corruption Commission, with the required capacity, funding, infrastructure, support institutions, like special Courts, and extensive programmes in order to reduce the turn-around time of investigation of cases by dealing with the root causes of corruption, which are poor social upbringing, poverty, unemployment, greed and lack of national pride and identity. With these few words, I thank you.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 30**

**HON NYAMU**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Nyamu.

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**HON NYAMU:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I join the first speaker who has supported this Bill. I want to commend the Government for efforts to stamp out corruption. The result of this fight will not be known until it is known. As we are speaking, we are in the midst of the battle, we may win or lose. The prospects for losing this battle are obvious. Corruption destroys nations, small and big. Corruption in Africa has kept nations stagnant for decades. Some of them had opportunities to develop, but because of corrupt practices, they have remained stagnant.

I do not want to mention African nations by names in order to avoid being misunderstood, but there are those African countries which were at the peak of Independence ahead of many countries in Asia in terms of development, but if you make a comparison of those countries with those Asian countries today, you would see a vast difference, we have remained behind and one of the factors contributing to other slow developments or no development at all, is corruption.

In Africa researchers have found that corruption normally shows its ugly head ten years after independence. Make your own calculations particularly in respect of our own country, dear Namibia. How long has it taken Namibia to become corrupt? I assume that none of us here will deny the fact that we are seriously affected by corruption. Why round about ten years ago, historians will ponder to find an absolute answer but it is around that time and you will agree that Namibia, until about five, seven years ago was not listed as one of the corrupt nations of the continent, but now we have qualified fully to be called a corrupt state. This is a serious problem for citizens of this country, some of whom are not corrupt, to be accused of coming from a corrupt State.

Corruption is such a formidable force that we should not use it as a tool for political fights, because corruption affects those in power and those outside Governments. Just as it is the case that Government has some

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 30  
HON NYAMU**

corrupt people and others who are not corrupt, it would be an exaggeration to make absolute statements that the SWAPO Government is corrupt. It does not reflect the truth, the truth is that there may be some corrupt elements and others who are not corrupt and there are also corrupt people outside the Government and even in our Political Parties. We see in our own small Political Parties that corruption is showing its ugly head.

Therefore, this is one policy we can unite ourselves in, to fight corruption together. The RDP, fortunately or unfortunately, has declared this year a year to fight corruption and we do not think we can make a dent by ourselves, we cannot fool ourselves, and we need every citizen of this country to support the concept of the fight to the end against corruption.

When I read some parts of the Prime Minister's statement, I discovered that he has highlighted some of the shortcomings which affect the operations of the Anti-Corruption Commission. He mentioned insufficient human resource capacity, lack of regional offices. Yes, those are some of the physical shortcomings which had been identified, but I think there is one detriment to fight corruption which he has not mentioned and that is that the anti-corruption struggle, especially by African standards, is sometimes undermined by those in authority by corrupting the Anti-Corruption Commissions themselves. It has been done in many African countries. I am not saying this because I think our Anti-Corruption Commission has been corrupted. No, I am just mentioning this to raise awareness of the possibility that we should not allow anybody to corrupt the Anti-Corruption Commission.

One problem I have encountered and I think many citizens have encountered, and this probably is a problem to do with the laws which established the Anti-Corruption Commission and maybe the Attorney-General can provide explanations: Why is it that certain issues brought to the attention of the Anti-Corruption Commission are dismissed on the basis that the alleged crime has occurred before the Anti-Corruption Commission was established. In other words, apparently there are some crimes in this country which have limitations and those who have been found guilty of these crimes are going scot free because the Anti-Corruption Commission was not in existence, but the same does not apply

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 30  
HON NAHOLO**

to other crimes. If you commit murder and after thirty years the law finds out, you will answer to the law.

Honourable Attorney-General, there is a need to see how we can improve on those stipulations of the law which prevent the Anti-Corruption Commission to investigate corrupt practices which had taken place before its existence. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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

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**HON NAHOLO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I stood up to support Vote 30. I want to speak the language that you will understand. My senior has already spoken about corruption and we must speak about it, when we see it. We must arrest it, when we hear about its movement, we must apprehend it and put it behind bars. We should not shy away from talking about it as it destroys nations. If we shy away from talking about corruption here in Namibia, it will eat up the whole fabric of our society.

Therefore, I really want to confirm once again that I support Vote 30, the Anti-Corruption Commission. There are however certain issues that I want to highlight. As we all know, the Anti-Corruption Commission was established in 2003 as an independent and impartial body with statutory mandate to combat corruption, do investigation, prevention and education. The Anti-Corruption Commission is only accountable to the Namibian people through Parliament; however the Anti-Corruption Commission only came into force in 2005 and became operational at the beginning of 2006 when President Pohamba came to power with the pledge that he would make fighting corruption a priority.

President Pohamba promised that he would ensure that the Presidential Commission of Inquiry Reports would be made public during his term of office. To date none of these ± sixteen Reports have seen the light. Moreover, even the recent Report on the GIPF is shrouded in secrecy to

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HON NAHOLO**

such an extent that even the Cabinet has not seen it. If you have seen it, you can tell this House. (Intervention)

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

I recall the Honourable Member made a similar statement earlier in the discussion. It is almost like a repetition. Is that in order? Unless if you want to make a particular reference, this is too general because you spoke about this. Can I request you at this late hour to wind up?

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**HON NAHOLO:** Yes, I was referring to the GIPF and what happened there is corruption, is it not? Why should we cover up corruption wherever it is happening? In my opening statement I said we must arrest it. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND  
FORESTRY:**

On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member who wants to show this House and the people out there that he is so courageous must be reminded that before he left the Union he was supposed to attend a May Day in Omitara. He took that May Day to Oniingo where the railway was constructed and misappropriated money, which he did not repay up to today. Why is he now talking as if he is a champion of anti-corruption if he is the one who is corrupt? Please bring back that money.

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**HON NAHOLO:** I think the Colleague is again misleading. I do not know why you keep on talking about things you do not know. I came to hear this nonsense when I came to Parliament, but why did you fail to report this matter to the Anti-Corruption Commission? I am ready to face them so that the Nation knows the truth. Did he have to wait for six years until I came to Parliament to hallucinate and talk nonsense just because he wants to mislead the nation? Secondly, I want to ask the Honourable Member... (Intervention)

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 30  
HON NAHOLO**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Order! You are not permitted to point fingers and engage in a dialogue. I insist that we must respect our Rules and I also want you to withdraw the word. We do not use those words in this House and then I am going to request you to proceed and conclude. First withdrawal and then you proceed.

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**HON NAHOLO:** I withdraw the un-parliamentary words I have used, but I really think we are a bit selective, because certain people are allowed to use these words and get away with it.

Anyway, Honourable Members, I am now addressing myself to the speech of the Prime Minister. With regard to the public education on corruption, as highlighted on page 6 of the Right Honourable Prime Minister's speech yesterday, the Anti-Corruption Commission does not really raise its voice to educate the Nation that curbing corruption involves being courageous to expose the culprits, regardless of whoever they might be. The question would again arise whether the Anti-Corruption Commission itself is courageous enough to deal with corrupt, but well-connected political elite in our society. The highest the Anti-Corruption Commission was able to go was to catch a Director or Deputy Director of a State-Owned Enterprise and a Deputy Director in a SWAPO-led Government Ministry. Thus far it seems there is not a single case where the Anti-Corruption Commission has dealt with a political high-profile corrupt individual. Today the public's perception is that Anti-Corruption Commission is only busy chasing after Town and Village Councillors, office clerks and Government drivers, but I fully understand where the problem there. Therefore, I suggest that the graft buster should become an independent entity, having its own separate Budget, because dependence on the Prime Minister's Office makes it very difficult for the Anti-Corruption Commission to bite the hand that feeds it.

Secondly, it is high time that the Anti-Corruption Commission Act provides legal protection to the Director and Deputy Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission. In the same vein, there is also a need to protect whistle-blowers. (Intervention)

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 30  
HON DR KAWANA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member is making a very wild allegation. That kind of shotgun approach to very sensitive questions like this leaves this on record. Unless the Honourable Member could give us an example of somebody who was spared by the Anti-Corruption Commission simply because that person is a politician or high-profile politician, the Honourable Member should withdraw that. You must at least substantiate and give examples of who was spared because the person has a high-profile. Otherwise the Honourable Member is not making a true statement.

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**HON NAHOLO:** Secondly, it is high time that the Anti-Corruption Commission Act provides legal protection to the Director and Deputy Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission. In the same vein, there is also a need to protect whistle-blowers by the Act as they are likely to fall victim to the suspected perpetrators. I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Kawana.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 30 and, indeed, it was not my intention to take the Floor, but I am forced to correct some misconceptions, particularly by the previous speaker.

Firstly, it is not true that the Presidential Commission Reports were not submitted to Cabinet. For the record, all of them without exception were indeed submitted to Cabinet and it was even during the time when some of the leaders of the Party of the Honourable Member were Members of Cabinet. They are aware of those Reports; they were in Cabinet, contrary to his statement.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 30  
HON NAMBAHU**

Secondly, the recommendations of most of those Reports were taken up by relevant institutions and implemented.

Thirdly, it is also not correct to say that none of those Reports were submitted to this august House. That is really misleading the House, some of them were tabled. Of course, I can appreciate that the Honourable Member by that time was not a Member of Parliament, but to say that none of those Reports were submitted here is not correct. I myself, speaking as the Minister of Presidential Affairs, did indeed submit some of those Reports in this august House.

Lastly, it is also not correct to say that none of the politicians were investigated by the Anti-Corruption Commission. I do not want to mention names, but indeed, some Cabinet Ministers were investigated and cleared. Therefore, it is not correct to say none of the political figures were investigated by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

To respond to Honourable Nyamu, the law is correct to say it has no retroactive application, because in terms of our Constitution a criminal act cannot be applied retrospectively. That is prohibited by the Constitution. However, those cases can still be considered by other agencies, such as the Police. Indeed, in some cases they were referred by the Anti-Corruption Commission to those relevant institutions which took up the cases. That was just to clarify that point.

With these few remarks, I would once again support Vote 30 and I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Nambahu.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chair. I also did not intend to take the Floor, but I would like to make a few remarks.

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RT HON ANGULA**

I would like to support this Vote and especially urge that all efforts should be made to bring about the national strategy to combat corruption, so that people know what to do and how to do it.

When we make statements we must be very accurate and also acknowledge the efforts being done. During our amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act, when we lifted the ceiling of the fines from N\$300 upwards, one of the aspects we were actually dealing with was the protection of whistle-blowers and that came out very prominently. It is a bit of an untruth to say that mechanisms have not been put in place. The Court building we are building now has facilities where the person testifying will not be visible to the general public. All these things are being done to protect these people and also the witnesses who are endangered and vulnerable. Even a traumatised rape victim does not want to be seen by everybody in open Court. I know these things were done without the knowledge of the Honourable Members, but if you follow what is being done, it would be adding to your credibility if you acknowledge some of these achievements.

It would also not auger well if you sound as if you have an issue with the Head of State and hammer on that. The campaign is over and this is not the platform to score political points with your voters. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you. I now call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to respond to some of the specific questions.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you very much. Firstly, I would like to draw the attention of *Honourable Moongo* to the Amendment which was moved here by the Honourable Minister of Finance. The Anti-Corruption Commission Vote receives N\$63 406 576. In the same breath I should also answer *Honourable Peter Naholo*. Vote 30 and Vote 02 are two different Votes and I am only presenting this Vote here because the Anti-Corruption Act is actually overseen by the Office of the Prime

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 30  
RT HON ANGULA**

Minister, but the Vote is independent from the Vote of the Prime Minister. Be assured about that one.

*Honourable Jankowski*, do not allow yourself to be intimidated. If you are making a statement, make it with conviction. It is your right to say what you want to say and I take note of what you said and I think the Colleagues from the Anti-Corruption Commission have also taken note that we are supporting them.

*Honourable Nyamu*, the reason why we only legislated for the Anti-Corruption Commission thirteen years after Independence was in anticipation of the things you are talking about, that sometimes along the way we become greedy, uncertain of our own future and we try to cut corners and the Anti-Corruption Commission is there to prevent that. What we have to do is only to support the institution.

Actually the Anti-Corruption Commission does not move around sniffing, it is us who should report to them. If we see corruption somewhere and we do not report it, the Anti-Corruption Commission cannot investigate because they are not aware of those things. Therefore, we must report to them and I am happy that the Honourable Deputy Minister of Justice said there are elements of protection for whistle-blowers. Perhaps that is not enough, but I think that is why the people of the Anti-Corruption Commission want an independent building so that they can protect their sources.

*Honourable Moongo*, in my statement I said that they have investigated and sent something like 56 cases to the Prosecutor-General. They are not prosecuting, they are only investigating. They also have the right to prosecute with the agreement of the Prosecutor-General, but thus far they have referred the cases to the Prosecutor-General for prosecution. (Interjection). Yes, we know the wheels of law are sometimes very slow.

*Honourable Naholo*, perhaps I should explain this GIPF issue as there seems to be misunderstanding about this. We are a country ruled by laws. The forensic audit into the companies which were not able to pay back the money to the GIPF was meant to unearth information on exactly what has

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RT HON ANGULA**

happened and it has done so. The next step is to follow the due process of law. You cannot have two parallel systems that you release a Report and of course, you are happy because they started to report in the newspapers and then people are being tried in public. You cannot do that. If you opt for due process of law, you should follow it and give people a fair trial. That is the only reason why this Report is not being made public now. However, once cases are taken to Court and people are charged publicly, this Report will be made public. We are only trying to protect the integrity of the due process of law. There is nothing to hide. Please do not make politics out of this one.

With those few words, I am happy that we are all against corruption and I hope that when we condemn corruption we really mean it. Let us support the institution, let us by all means try to keep our society clean so that the resources of our country are shared equitably. That is the best way to build a resilient society. If you are corrupt today, it will follow you to your grave ten years from now. People will say you were *chopping*, I also want a *chop*, it is our time to eat, this kind of mentality. We should not allow that. Therefore, we should support our institution and keep our society clean. Thank you for your support.

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

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMED:**

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Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 09:00.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 22:16 UNTIL 2011.04.15 AT 09:00**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
15 APRIL 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

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**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI:** I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 06, 07, 08, 09, 13, 23, 26 and 29 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 12:30. I so Move.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please table the Motion. Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 08  
HON NAMOLOH**

**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.

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:**

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, Votes 09, 23, 26 and 29 had been introduced and Votes 01, 02, 04 and 30 had been agreed to.

**Vote 08 “DEFENCE” – N\$3,263,740,646** is put for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, it is my honour to present Vote 08 for the 2011/2012 Financial Year to this august House and to have an opportunity to discuss matters related to national and international defence and security. First, let me thank Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Minister of Finance and her team, for presenting and particularly by addressing unemployment in our country through the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG).

I praise the Budget presented by the Honourable Minister of Finance because it is addressing some of the social problems that confront our country.

The international security situation remains generally unstable. Old tensions and conflicts prevail in the Korean Peninsula, Asia and the Middle East and unwarranted suffering and death because of war continue in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Tension between the Koreas is unpredictable and could lead to a major conflagration if not handled carefully. The security situation in the continent, especially in the Maghreb Region, is equally unpredictable and presents another security

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dynamic. The Region has been hit by unprecedented uprisings different from the accustomed coup d'états. The unrest that started as peaceful protests by the people in some North African countries turned violent and has resulted in regime changes in Tunisia and Egypt as well as an armed rebellion in Libya, which in turn resulted in intense fighting in many cities between pro and anti-Gaddafi forces and the imposition of the UN-Security Council-approved no-fly zone over Libya. As a result, Eastern, Northern and Western Africa are now facing instability, from Somalia, Egypt to the Cote d'Ivoire. This is a situation that could not have been contemplated last year when we were discussing the national Budget and is a wakeup call for the rest of Africa to be prepared for all eventualities.

The SADC Region remains relatively peaceful, but is not immune to similar turbulences as seen in North Africa and the Middle East. The unstable security situation in the Maghreb Region diversely affects the whole of Africa.

The unstable situations in the DRC and Madagascar still need our urgent attention to collectively solve.

Namibia continues to enjoy peace and stability, which we should not take for granted.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, although internal security is not my direct responsibility, I want to point out that we are living in a rapidly changing and unpredictable world where the future cannot be predicted with certainty. If allowed to linger, internal strife can cause large-scale instability in the country. Therefore, we need to act swiftly on any manifestations of internal strife by creating socio-economic conditions that would accommodate all our people and promote peace and stability in our country. In this way, we will create sufficient space to direct our efforts and resources to national development instead of conflicts.

However, given the uncertainties in which we live, we need the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) to guarantee peace and stability in the country.

Defence forces the world over are expensive to maintain, but investing in

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our Defence Force is the price we have to pay for the maintenance of peace and stability in the country. Therefore, Namibia should be prepared to sacrifice resources for defence.

It is needless to say that the NDF has a constitutional obligation as stipulated in Chapter 15; Article 118 of the Namibian Constitution to defend the people, the territory and national interests of Namibia to the best of its abilities. We have that responsibility for which we have to be adequately prepared to face any eventualities any time.

Our people need to understand that this is the role of their Defence Force and to fulfil this role, the Defence Force should be prepared with necessary capability through regular training and rehearsal and equipped with appropriate equipment and infrastructure for the defence of our motherland. For this to happen, the Nation has to spend money on its Defence Force to secure the future.

Apart from its primary and constitutional mission of defending the people, the territory and national interests of Namibia, the second important role of the NDF is to assist civil communities and civil powers in case of emergencies and to bring peace to all parts of the world where there is none. Our Defence Force has participated in UN and AU missions since 1993 up to now.

The NDF continues to play an important role in UN and AU Peace Keeping Missions. Our Military Observers and Staff Officers continue to serve in UN Missions in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Sudan.

Last year (2010) the NDF was prepared to send a contingent to Chad under MINURCAT, but while our contingent's equipment were already in the Port of Douala, Cameroon, that mission was called off because of Chad's decision not to have UN troops deployed in that country any longer.

It is a challenge to run a Defence Force and to address that challenge the Ministry of Defence has produced policies and administrative documents to streamline its functions and enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the

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use of resources. Among these documents is the National Defence Policy, which was tabled in this august House last year and the implementation of the Ministry of Defence Strategic Plan.

The Ministry of Defence Strategic Plan is based on four pillars, which are aimed, among others, to enhance operational excellence through efficient business processes and capability building by improving the quality of human resources and infrastructures development. To achieve these objectives, the Ministry of Defence carries out the following programmes: Operations, International Deployment and Construction and Research & Development.

During the previous Financial Year, the Ministry of Defence received funding for its budgeted programmes and was spent as follows:

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Allocated Budget</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Operations	2,143,525,000	2,139,592,000	3,933,000
International Deployment	34,887,000	36,041,000	(1,154,000)
Construction & Research & Development	420,000,000	419,425,000	575,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,593,412,000</b>	<b>2,595,058,000</b>	<b>3,354,000</b>

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the services provided by the Namibian Defence Force under the Operations Programme consist of activities mainly aimed at defending the country by fighting a war if need be, assist the citizens in case of emergencies and to keep peace within and outside our borders. The Ministry of Defence inputs into operations include policy guidelines, provision of resources such as human and material, health, acquisition of equipment, recruitment and training of personnel.

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These inputs are transformed into outputs, which amongst others include the production of a well-trained and equipped force that will deliver excellent defence service to the nation.

The Operations Programme for this Financial Year will mainly include the following activities:

- Recruitment and Training
- Aid to Civil Authorities and Communities
- Terms and Conditions of Service Improvement
- Improvement of living standards of personnel
- Health Matters
- Transportation
- Acquisition of Weaponry and Equipment
- Renovation of infrastructure and other services

Training remains one of the top peacetime priorities of the NDF for both new and old soldiers. During the 2010/2011 Financial Year, the Ministry of Defence carried out two simultaneous recruitment exercises; the regular recruitment at the Military School at Okahandja, which graduated nine hundred and ninety-six recruits and the Special Project at Oluno Military Base for the Children of the Liberation Struggle and vulnerable children, which graduated one thousand and five recruits. Altogether two thousand and one new soldiers were recruited in the NDF last year.

The Ministry of Defence adhered to the Government call to accommodate some of the Children of the Liberation Struggle thereby doubling the number of recruits into the NDF in 2010.

During this Financial Year-2011/2012, the Ministry of Defence plans to recruit 1,000 young Namibians between the ages of 18–25 years old, of which 500 will be Children of the Liberation Struggle including those from marginalised communities.

Apart from physical and intellectual training of our troops, we need also to modernise our training institutions and build specialised ones. Already, we

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are in the process of building a Command and Staff College at Okahandja and improve the current Military School at Osona, Army Battle School at Oshivelo, establishing the Air Force Flying School at Grootfontein Air Base and consolidating the Technical Training Centres for the Air Force and Army in Windhoek and Grootfontein.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members in fulfilling their secondary role of assisting civil authorities in case of natural or synthetic disasters, members of the NDF are always ready to assist the citizens whenever required. The NDF will continue to work together with other national emergency relief agencies and the Directorate of Emergency Management in the Office of the Prime Minister in the provision of necessary assistance to communities affected by disasters, such as floods, droughts and other calamities.

We will continue to assist the Ministry of Health and Social Services with national vaccination campaigns and other campaigns against the outbreak diseases.

The NDF emergency support is not confined to the above-mentioned institutions, but is available to all Government departments, local authorities and communities. Therefore, I want to reassure this august House that the NDF remains ready to render assistance to our citizens anytime as the need arise.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I am happy because there is a common understanding in the House about the plight of our men and women in uniform regarding the need to improve their living conditions, as was reported last year by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security.

I would also like to inform you that we are doing everything in our domain to make sure that our soldiers are provided with decent living conditions, which include remuneration, feeding, accommodation and dressing. Yesterday there was a conflict between soldiers in Burkina Faso because of living conditions and we want to avert such things.

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When I was responding to questions posed by Honourable Moongo in February this year regarding the living conditions and the renovation of military bases, I informed this august House that *the Ministry of Defence is aware that many military bases of the then occupational forces of apartheid South African Regime are old. We also know that these bases were not constructed as permanent infrastructures but were prefabricated ones.*

*The Ministry is already addressing this challenge because we cannot afford to expose our soldiers to a health risk situation permanently. Where the accommodation facilities are becoming uninhabitable, efforts are being made to put up prefabricated accommodation facilities at various old bases.*

The Ministry of Defence cannot fulfil its roles and functions without fit and healthy personnel. The Directorate of Defence Health Services ensures that military personnel receive comprehensive, efficient and quality medical services by providing them with preventative, curative and rehabilitative patient care in accordance with the principles of Primary Health Care (PHC) and develops new military health strategies for the future. Collaboration and coordination are done with the Ministry of Health and Social Services and other stakeholders in health care delivery for our personnel. To address the health needs of NDF members, especially HIV/AIDS within the Force, the Ministry of Defence prepared an HIV/AIDS Sectoral Policy that I have tabled before this august House for discussion and approval.

A feasibility study for the construction of a military hospital in Windhoek was successfully completed and soon its construction will commence.

We will continue to pay special attention to the development of our Defence Health Services through the training of medical personnel and the procurement of appropriate medical equipment.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, our country is large and sparsely populated. This means that to perform its functions effectively, the Ministry of Defence ranks transport as one of its top priorities. In case of

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war or emergency relief operations, both road and air transportation will be a major requirement. The NDF needs air transport for fast troop mobility and deployment throughout the country. Air transport will also be needed for quick reaction, search, and rescue. We are acquiring some aircraft for the Namibian Air Force. Transportation at sea is also a defence necessity. Therefore, acquisition of vessels and boats is being undertaken in order to protect our marine resources and coastline. Since January to March 2011 piracy incidents recorded are 142 against 67 last year over the same period. It is happening close to us in the Gulf of Guinea, Nigeria and also in Tanzania, therefore we have to invest in the protection of our coast. The Namibian Navy needs to have adequate capacity to protect our shores and to fight piracy, which is one of the contemporary security threats.

Apart from the procurement of Air and Naval assets, the Ministry of Defence would acquire and upgrade appropriate weapon systems for its Army, which is the backbone of the Defence Force. We also have to make sure that suitable vehicles are acquired for ground transportation of troops. Other materials and supplies must also be acquired in order to increase the operational efficiency of the Defence Force, because if they are ill-equipped, they cannot fulfil their roles as expected by the Nation. The training of NDF soldiers to become competent enough to operate the weaponry and equipment in their possession is equally important, so that soldiers are capable of handling such modern weapons and equipment effectively under any circumstances.

Last year, I informed this august House that the Ministry of Defence has completed a feasibility study for the commercialisation of Defence Farms. I am pleased to report that our farming unit, Agridour, which is a subsidiary of August 26 Holding Company (Pty) Ltd, is up and running. We expect it to increase agricultural production to contribute to the feeding of our troops and the nation at large. These farms are now being run as commercial bases and no longer Ministry of Defence ones.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the amount requested for allocation to the Operations Programme for the 2011/2012 Financial Year is

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N\$2,581,507,000, and I request the support of this august House on this allocation.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson last year I reported that the Namibian Defence Force continues to participate in Peace Support Operations under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union in Liberia (UNMIL), Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI), Sudan (UNMIS) and Sudan (UNAMID-Darfur). In total eighteen Namibian Military Observers and Staff Officers are currently serving on UN/AU Peace Support Operations, while ten are on standby. Peace Support Operations have become a permanent feature in the activities of the Namibian Defence Force. Our experience in this field has shown us that troops need to be well prepared and equipped in order to undertake these missions professionally.

In the SADC Region, Namibia continues to be engaged with its neighbours through the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee and the bilateral Joint Commissions on Defence and Security. These engagements, in which Government Ministries and Offices entrusted with the defence and security of our country participate, are useful for confidence building and the promotion of mutual understanding with our neighbours.

The Joint Commissions are among the main contributing factors to the peaceful environment in the SADC Region because they help to prevent mistrust and suspicion among Member States. This year, Namibia will host Botswana and travel to Angola, South Africa and Zambia. The Ministry of Defence will also reach out to other SADC countries that have no joint Commissions on Defence and security with Namibia, especially those with maritime borders in order to cooperate and learn from each other on how to counter the threat of piracy.

The Ministry of Defence promotes good relations with other Governments by deploying Military Advisors or Attachés to Namibia's diplomatic missions abroad. Currently, Namibia has Military Advisors or Attachés in the following countries and international bodies: Angola, Brazil, People's Republic of China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Federal Republic of

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HON NAMOLOH**

Germany, the Russian Federation, Republic of South Africa, the United Nations, African Union (Ethiopia) and Zimbabwe.

Foreign Military Experts: The Namibian Defence Force is relatively young and still needs foreign military experts to assist with the development of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Defence Health Services.

As of now, we have experts from Brazil, India, China, Ukraine, Germany and Zimbabwe.

The amount requested for allocation to the International Deployment Programme for the 2011/2012 Financial Year is N\$60,810,000 and I request the support of this august House on this allocation.

Honourable Members, provision of decent housing and improving the conditions of service of NDF Members is one of the Ministry's top priorities. To achieve this, the Ministry of Defence will not only build accommodation facilities, but will also construct storage infrastructures for equipment and supplies. The construction of new bases at Oluno, Walvis Bay, Karibib, Keetmanshoop, Gobabis and the renovation of existing infrastructures will continue this Financial Year.

One area of great importance to the NDF is Research and Development. To keep pace with military technological advancements, the NDF will continue with research on armaments and military equipment in order to ensure that our forces are well equipped with modern equipment at all times.

Our Defence Industry, spearheaded by the August 26 Holding Company (Pty) Ltd, is growing steadily. We are working towards improvement of the structures and management processes of the August 26 Group so that it can make the desired impact on the local economy and contribute to national development. The Ministry expects August 26 companies to lead in defence research and innovation.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the amount requested for the allocation to the

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HON NAMOLOH**

Construction, Research and Development Programme is N\$484,046,000. Please, I need this august House to support this allocation.

To conclude, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members, the 2011/2012 National Budget is an indication that in Namibia we all cherish peace and security as a prerequisite for stability and development. That is why the main thrust of this year's national

Budget is on employment creation and economic growth. By creating employment, especially for our youth, we are creating the necessary conditions for social security and harmony, which are necessary for the development of our country.

The amount allocated to the Defence Vote is also an indication of the value the country attaches to its defence. In this unpredictable world, the country needs to have a well taken care of, well-trained and well-equipped Defence Force, with a permanent capacity to carry out military operations at national and international levels.

Therefore, we are going to utilise the allocated funds to properly prepare for the defence of the country and for any emergency relief and peace support operations as the need arises.

We will continue to engage our neighbouring countries in order to maintain peace in the SADC Region and work together with other African countries to ensure stability of the continent.

I now have the honour to request the Honourable Members to support and approve the allocation of N\$3,126,363,000 to fund the afore-mentioned programmes of the Ministry of Defence during the 2011/2012 Financial Year. I thank you very much.

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

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 06  
HON MBUMBA**

I put **Vote 06 – “POLICE”, N\$2,175,549,278** for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Honourable Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me, as I rise to present and motivate Vote 06: Namibian Police Force, to first and foremost congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, the most noteworthy student I ever had, her Deputy Minister and staff, both of the Ministry of Finance and of the National Planning Commission, for their bold commitment to directly target the unemployment in our country through provision of resources to projects and programmes where greatest impact is anticipated. I would like to mention in the same breath that these anticipated outcomes are only possible in an environment where peace and political stability prevail.

In this regard, the Namibian Police Force is mandated, by Article 115 of our Constitution, to secure the internal security of Namibia and to maintain law and order, to ensure that our country, our citizens and visitors are safe. In line with this constitutional mandate, the powers, duties and procedures, are defined in the Police Act (Act 19 of 1990, as amended). These statutory functions of the Force include:

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

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, during the past Financial Year we proudly celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Namibian Police Force. We have not only successfully integrated the erstwhile opposing forces prior to Independence in a formidable Namibian Police Force, but we have also learnt during this integration, to harness and optimise creative tension and positive energy generated by diversity. We have learnt tolerance and we

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HON MBUMBA**

are willing to share this lessons with the society and further learn from the society as we are executing our constitutional obligation of maintaining security.

This spirit is certainly reflected in the whole governance structure of our country and it is no coincidence that Namibia was ranked as number one in terms of media freedom, out of fifty three countries in Africa. Namibia was also ranked among the top three countries as the preferred tourist destination on the continent. Our President was ranked among the top five leaders on the continent. I know there are some Honourable Members, who do not want to hear that, but we did not create it, we are quoting what other people think about us and the leadership of this country.

The Ministry regard the Police Force as important contributor to those achievements and in the effort to reposition Namibia for next higher level achievements we have chartered the path to be followed by the Namibian Police Force in the period 2011 to 2014. This comprehensive Plan, soon to be officially launched covers:

- Administration of our Human and Financial Resources;
- Visible Policing;
- Crime Prevention;
- Detection and Investigation of Crime;
- Crime intelligence;
- Traffic Management Security Service and
- Protection of Life and Property

We have already started to implement the Electronic Policing Project and once finalised during the course of the current Financial Year, it will take the Force to new heights of information communication technology applications in policing.

We continue to maintain excellent cooperation with all our neighbouring countries. It goes without saying that without the ongoing mutual assistance, understanding and cooperation, it would be very difficult to fight crime if not impossible, especially cross border and transnational organised crime. We maintain Joint Permanent Commissions with

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HON MBUMBA**

Angola, Botswana, South-Africa and Zambia. All security related threats are openly discussed and joint programmes of action designed during these meetings at Ministerial level.

The Namibian Police Force (NAMPOL) during the change-over from Commonwealth Drill to Russian Drill method was supported by experts from the Angolan Police and the Russian Federation Government as part of the ongoing cooperation. Further training of our officers in other areas of competence is ongoing in South-Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Angola.

This cooperation with the neighbouring states is further more consolidated through SADC Security Organs. Namibia remains a Member of SADC Standby Force Brigade.

In support of the International Community's effort in maintaining peace, stability, and economic development around the globe, Namibia as a signatory to the United Nations Charter has participated in a number of Peace Support Operations, under the auspices of the UN and/or African Union, by sending individual Police Officers for deployments, since the year 2000.

The Namibian Police Force have previously participated and are still participating into a number of Peacekeeping Missions around the globe, in countries such as East Timor (UNTAET, UNMIT) 7, Liberia (UNMIL) 4, Southern Sudan (UNMIS, UNAMID) 15 of which 5 are women, Darfur 37 of which 34 are women and New York 1.

The Namibian Police Force deserves our collective national support. The unequivocal demonstration of such support by this august House will undoubtedly motivate the entire Nation to rally behind the Police, which is a prerequisite in our national endeavours to reduce the rising levels of crime, allay the fear on crime and maintain peace and stability.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members the Namibian Police Force has budgeted to recruit at least one thousand new intakes every year, whilst taking into consideration the balance restructuring of the Force in the context of

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 06  
HON MBUMBA**

gender and regional representation. There are still some communities not so willing to join the Force, but yet when their houses or properties are touched, they complain. We want a full reflection of the national character of Namibia in the Police Force. Just apply and if you have the qualifications, you will be accepted.

The allocation of sufficient financial and human resources to the Police will therefore, guarantee the sustainability of the pillars of our cherished democracy that we are all obliged to jealously guard, defend and protect. This, on the other hand, will enhance the competitiveness of our country in areas of economic development within the context of SADC, African Continent and Globally.

The total allocation of this Vote is N\$2,175,549,278, comprising of N\$1,924,189,278 for the Operational Budget and N\$251,360,000 for the Development Budget.

The above translate into 65% on personnel expenditure, 24% on goods and other services, and the only 11% is left for development for which we earmarked to improve the Force office and housing accommodation. During the Independence celebrations I visited Ongwediva and I visited Omundaungilo and when we looked at those officers who are serving there and their accommodation and office, we must appreciate that these were done by the community, but we as a Government must do more to ensure that at least when a person is giving orders, he is giving those orders from an office and from a table where he can keep his books and records, and not from something which I cannot call an office.

The levels of sophistication of criminals as well as increasingly complex factors that motivate people to commit crime require a highly trained and motivated force with high levels of integrity.

The crimes to be investigated are complex and we need to provide sufficiently trained and equipped human resources that are commensurately remunerated. Furthermore, we have started to take advantage of advances in Information Communication Technology whilst ensuring systems integration and integrity.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 06  
HON MBUMBA**

Honourable Deputy Chairperson and the Honourable Members of the Whole House Committee, here is the breakdown of Vote 06, according to the Programmes of the Namibian Police Force.

The intention of the Combating of Crime programme is to ensure community safety and crime reduction.

The main activities under this programme include, *inter alia*, to:

- Review and improve crime prevention activities of the Namibian Police Force, including the development of a Crime Combating Strategy for priority crimes;
- Operationalise the Prevention of Organised Crime Division of the Force;
- Participate in regional bilateral and multilateral and international policing activities; and
- Recruit new members and appoint serving members to fill the large number of vacancies in the Force.

In the meantime, the Force continues to battle a variety of crimes.

An amount of N\$1,403,626,000 is required for this programme. This amount includes also the N\$251,360,000 for the Development Budget.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the main underlying principle of this Border Control programme is to:

- Safeguard the country's national borders; and
- Prevent cross-border crimes, including – but not limited to - illegal immigration and passage of contraband goods along the national borders.

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HON MBUMBA**

For this programme, an amount of N\$479,757,000 is required.

The main purpose of the Protection Services programme is to:

- Provide protection to the national leaders, both in Namibia and or while abroad; and
- To safeguard their offices, ministries, agencies and other national strategic installations

The programme also extends similar services to prominent foreign personalities while visiting Namibia. An amount of N\$239,103,000 is required for this programme.

To enforce road traffic legislation in general and, especially to minimise carnage resulting from motorway traffic accidents during the Financial Year, an amount of N\$25,093,000 is required.

The purpose of the Forensic Science Services programme is to apply all the aspects of natural science to solving crimes as well as finding scientific solutions to problems, not to guess, but to use scientific methods to identify the real culprits who committed crimes, so that there is no doubt as to who is guilty and who is innocent. The latter covers a large range of complex scientific skills required in several areas, such as:

- Document examination;
- Human genetics;
- Analytical chemistry;
- Blood stain pattern;
- Arson investigation and
- Explosives analyses

The National Forensic Science Institute (NFSI) was purposely transferred to the Namibian Police Force to complement the latter's investigative capacity. However, much still remains to be done to provide adequate human, financial and technical capacity to this Institution.

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HON MBUMBA**

An amount of N\$27,970,000 is required for this programme.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, the following are the Capital Projects covered under this year's Budget:

- a) Police Stations at Aminuis and Post 10 in the Eiseb Block in Omaheke Region;
- b) Caprivi Police Regional Headquarters;
- c) Hardap Police Regional Headquarters;
- d) Omusati Police Regional Headquarters;
- e) New Oshikoto Police Regional Headquarters at Omuthiya;
- f) Omuvelo waKasamane Border Post and
- g) Onandjaba Police Station at Okalongo in Omusati Region;
- h) B-Class Police Station in Windhoek, in the Wanaheda area – where the current station accounts for almost half of the crimes recorded in the whole of Namibia; and
- i) An A-Class Police Station at Helao Nafidi at Oshikango in Ohangwena Region.

These are just a few of the projects planned for the NDP3 period, to provide adequate responses to policing needs in our country.

In summary, I am requesting this august House, to approve the Budget allocation for Vote 06 for the following programmes and amounts:

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 07  
HON NUJOMA**

<b>Programmes for Vote 06</b>	<b>Amount per Programme</b>
Combating of Crime	1,152,266 000
Border Control	479,757,000
Protection Services	239,103,000
Traffic Control	25,093,278
Forensic Science Services	27,970,000
Development Budget	251,360,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,175,549,278</b>

I now humbly submit this to you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and to all Honourable Members for your kind consideration and final approval. I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I put **Vote 07** – “**FOREIGN AFFAIRS**”, **N\$550,614,556** is put for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. It is my privilege to rise in this august House to motivate the Budget for Vote 07 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 2011/2012. Allow me to join the Colleagues who spoke before me in congratulating the Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, for her excellent presentation of a forward-looking and innovative Budget.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is Namibia’s window to the world and derives its mandate from the provisions of Article 96 of the Namibian Constitution. The Ministry also has a national mandate to inform, coordinate and advise Government on issues of regional, continental and international nature.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of Parliament, let me take you through the

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 07  
HON NUJOMA**

Ministry's Budget request for the Financial Year 2011/2012. I will provide information on a multiplicity of issues and programmes of engagement for this Financial Year throughout this presentation.

An amount of N\$545,645,000 is requested for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 2011/2012 Financial Year. A breakdown of the amount is as follows:

The amount of N\$151,050,000 will be for the Development Budget and the remaining N\$394,595,000 is earmarked for the operational expenses of the Ministry and the Missions abroad. The funds allocated for the Development Budget will be used as follows:

150 million will be for the purchasing and maintenance of our diplomatic properties abroad, while N\$1,050,000 will be for the maintenance of headquarters building and the replacement of its elevators.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the breakdown of the amount requested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its programmes will be as follows:

Funds to the tune of N\$47,469,000 are allocated for Programme 1 in the 2011/2012 Financial Year. These funds will be utilised to promote Namibia as a politically stable and peaceful investor, friendly and reliable trading partner which is seeking the cooperation from its partners around the world. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to strengthen and consolidate international relations at bilateral front. In this regard, many bilateral and interstate agreements were initiated and signed during the last Financial Year.

Our Diplomatic Missions are playing a vital role in mobilising economic and technical cooperation. Last year I informed this august House that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was planning to open Missions in Geneva, Switzerland and Tokyo, Japan in the 2010/2011 Financial Year. I am happy to report that these plans were realised. The Missions are up and running. I have no doubt that by establishing Missions in these two countries we will be able to enhance relations in a number of areas. The

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HON NUJOMA**

Mission in Geneva is geared towards managing our multilateral relations to the UN Office in Geneva and other international organisation, such as the World Trade Organisation and the International Labour Organisation.

Economic and political cooperation with other countries is vital for the realisation of our national development plans, Vision 2010 and the Millennium Development Goals. During the past Financial Year our country was honoured to host a number of high-level visitors, on which I will elaborate a little bit later. I, however, wish to state that these visits presented opportunities to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, a number of visits has been scheduled to take place during 2011/2012 Financial Year. We expect that His Excellency the President will host various Heads of State and Government on State or official visits. It is also envisaged that His Excellency President Pohamba will pay visits during this year to a number of countries and arrangements are being made to finalise these visits. His Excellency the President will also co-chair the Namibia/South Africa Bi-annual Commission in South Africa later this year.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, the Programme of Bilateral Affairs in the Ministry is organising and coordinating Joint Commissions of cooperation with other countries. These Joint Commissions of cooperation serve as an opportunity for consolidating and building upon existing bilateral achievements between Namibia and other countries. They, therefore, address the most pressing needs in areas of priority as set out in our development goals and vision.

This past year we had Joint Commissions of Cooperation with the Republic of Zambia, the Russian Federation, the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

During the 2011/2012 Financial Year, however, we expect to hold ten Joint Commissions with the Republics of Congo, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, Indonesia, Angola, the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Republic of Brazil and

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the Russia Federation. We, therefore, look forward to a positive cooperation of all the line Offices, Ministries and Agencies to ensure that these Joint Commissions yield the necessary results.

The Ministry, together with our Diplomatic Missions abroad, has been instrumental during the past year in facilitating the signing of agreements and memoranda of understanding in a number of areas and with many different countries. These have covered sectors such as trade, agriculture, education, health and consular matters, to mention but a few.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has signed Memoranda of Understanding to hold regular consultative meetings towards the furtherance of bilateral relations at ministerial level with a number of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of other countries. In the last Financial Year, diplomatic consultations were conducted with the People's Republic of Angola, Botswana and the Peoples Republic of China. I have also signed two Memoranda of Understanding on Diplomatic Consultations with the Republic of Cuba and the Kingdom of Spain.

Following my appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2010, many of my counterparts invited me to visit their respective countries. Last year I visited the Republic of Cuba, Angola, Zimbabwe, the Kingdom of Spain, the Republic of Portugal, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Peoples Republic of China and tangible benefits are already accruing from these visits. I plan to engage a number of my counterparts in the Financial Year to come here and hope that this interaction will enhance our exchanges and consolidate our relations. Likewise, many of my counterparts visited and more will visit Namibia in this Financial Year.

Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, an amount of N453,704,000 is requested for the Multilateral Affairs programme to be utilised in carrying out our obligations at multilateral levels. The Ministry remains deeply engaged in programmes of the organisations to which Namibia is a member, such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Southern African Customs Union (SACU), the African Union, the United Nations, the

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Commonwealth, the Group of 77 and China and the Non-Aligned Movement. In the same vein, Namibia follows developments at the European Union and other international organisations for the benefit of our people.

At the regional level Namibia is currently the chair of SADC until August 2011. The Chairmanship continues to need cross-sectoral budgeting. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is one of the facilitating agents of this activity and is also required to participate in most of these meetings. In addition, there will be a SADC Extraordinary Summit and a session of the Interstate Politics and Diplomacy Committee, including the Ministerial Council of the Organ, better known as the MCO, during the course of this year.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, at the continental level Namibia will participate in the 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly scheduled to take place in Malabo in Equatorial Guinea, to be preceded by the Executive Council. Namibia is a member of the AU Peace and Security Council and the AU Committee of Ten on the Reform of the United Nations and will as such be required to undertake assignments related to these memberships.

At the international level, several meetings and conferences are scheduled for the year. As a member of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN, Namibia will participate at the ECOSOC Substantive Session for 2011 in Geneva.

The 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly and Subsidiary Meetings, such as the High Level Plenary Meetings and the General Debate are scheduled around September 2011. The Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting will take place in Perth, Australia, during October 2011. Namibia is a member of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group which requires substantial participation in the activities of this organ. Attendance of these meetings as well as Namibia's membership contributions require sufficient budgeting in order for Namibia to live up to its national, regional, continental and international obligations.

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HON NUJOMA**

I wish to call upon various institutions in Namibia to take full advantage of Namibia's membership to such international bodies. Our country and its people stand to benefit in so many ways, such as scholarships, training opportunities, employment and technical assistance, to mention but a few.

I am confident that the financial resources allocated will enable the Ministry to represent the country internationally and to participate in the statutory and non-statutory summits, meetings and conferences.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, an amount of N\$28,681,000 is requested for the Protocol and Consular Affairs programme.

The Programme of Protocol is charged with the responsibility to provide protocol services to both Namibian and foreign dignitaries. It also administers the extension of privileges and immunities to Diplomatic Corps as well as to personnel seconded to the Republic of Namibia under bilateral agreements.

The Department also facilitates responsibility carried out by His Excellency the President, His Excellency the Founding President, the Right Honourable Prime Minister and provides protocol services to conferences taking place in Namibia to which these dignitaries are invited.

During the past Financial Year the Department facilitated the hosting of a number of high-level visitors, among them the Heads of State of Burundi, Zambia, South Africa and Finland. It also facilitated the official visit by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana, the Russian Federation and the French Republic. The Department further facilitated the SACU Summit in Windhoek during April 2010 as well as the SADC Summit in Windhoek during August 2010.

As I indicated earlier, His Excellency the President will host Heads of State and Government from various countries during the course of this year. Protocol officials will be expected to accompany His Excellency the President to a number of statutory and non-statutory meetings of regional and international organisations. They will also be expected to provide

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support on protocol and organisational matters during national events.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, an amount of N\$450,791,000 is earmarked for Namibian Missions abroad. The objective of our Diplomatic Missions abroad include the protection of interest of the Republic of Namibia and its nationals within the limits permitted by the Framework of the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations and to promote good relations with both the countries and the international organisations of their accreditation.

In pursuit of the policy of economic diplomacy, our Missions promote trade and attract foreign direct investment through, among others, participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions. Funds appropriated for this programme will be utilised to enhance the function of the twenty-six Namibian Diplomatic Missions and two Consular Posts, to buy and lease offices and staff accommodation, to pay allowances and salaries for home-based and locally recruited staff as well as the payment of school fees, medical costs and maintenance of Government properties, such as buildings, vehicles and equipment.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, there is indeed a lot of work to be done. The requested funds will go a long way in allowing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to carry out its mandate effectively and efficiently. I welcome the announcement of the 8 percent improvement in the conditions of service for Public Servants made by the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

I thank, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and the Honourable Members for your continued support of the Ministry's work and your support for this Budget of Vote 07.

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

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 13  
HON DR KAMWI**

**Vote 13 – “HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES”, N\$3,423,041,341** is put for Introduction.

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**MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. At the onset, permit me to reiterate my continued gratitude to the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Deputy Minister and the Director-General of the National Planning Commission and their staff for consideration made in the allocation of the requested funds to address pressing needs of the Health Sector. The allocation is the second highest and thus indicates the SWAPO Party Government’s ongoing commitment in prioritising the Health Sector.

Honourable Chairperson, the Budget Debate is taking place at a most difficult time when the country is experiencing floods, increasing fuel and food prices. All these calamities have a negative impact on the development of the country and in particular, on the Health Sector. The current flooding in the north and north-east of the country is hampering service delivery in that some clinics are inaccessible and outreach services cannot be carried out. Accessibility to these clinics and outreach points are by air, courtesy of the Namibian Defence Force and the Ministry of Safety and Security. We acknowledge with thanks the support from these two most valuable institutions.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services commenced its implementation of its Five Year Strategic Plan for 2009 to 2013, which is aligned to the National Development Plan 3, which is the vehicle for the implementation of the Government strategies for achieving Vision 2030.

During the 2010/2011 Financial Year, the Ministry had its milestones, opportunities and challenges in the delivery of health and social services. We have declared this year, the Year of Fostering Change for Accelerated Delivery of Quality Health Services.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable

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HON DR KAMWI**

Members important milestones have been achieved during the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

I have the honour to inform Honourable Members that we are making progress in the training of medical doctors, registered nurses and enrolled nurses who graduated for the period 2006 to 2010, as an example. We trained a total of 63 medical officers during the course of these years, a total of 68 medical interns, a total of 625 registered nurses and a total number of 1,486 enrolled nurses.

With regard to other professionals within the Health Sector, ten Namibian pharmacists graduated and commenced with internships. The training network of the Ministry is providing further training to radiography assistants, environmental health assistants and pharmacist assistants, while the University of Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia are providing courses on Medicine and Biomedical and Environmental Public Health Science.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the Ministry regards the implementation of capital projects, especially for the construction of health facilities, as crucial in our effort to make health and social services accessible to all citizens of this country. During the reporting period, the Ministry implemented a number of capital projects which included concept designs and feasibility studies, renovations, maintenance, construction and upgrading of health facilities.

Five new clinics were constructed and completed. These include Elombe, Corridor, Okongwe and Mburu-Uru, while there has been ongoing construction of six more new clinics, which are Mpora, Erago, Onamunama, Omakange, Hedimbi and Oshalongo during the past Financial Year.

Twelve existing clinics are being upgraded and renovated and these are Otuari, Ombombo, Olupandu, Epoko, Omutundungu, Onangolo, Otjituuu, Omatako, Schuckmannsburg, Eluwa and Ekamba.

In partnership with our development partners, the President's Emergency

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HON DR KAMWI**

Fund for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, eight new CDC clinics providing antiretroviral therapy services were constructed at Engela, Tsumeb, Otjiwarongo, Okongo Hospitals, Ongha, Katutura and Kuisebmond Health Centres as well as at Epako and Kasheshe Clinics.

With regard to hospitals, renovations or construction of components of the following hospitals: Windhoek Central, Oshakati, Omaruru, Outjo, Katima Mulilo, St Mary and Keetmanshoop Hospitals had been completed. The maternity ward at Windhoek Central Hospital has been renovated and renovated and upgraded to a modern state-of-the-art ward which includes, amongst others, private cubicle and the completion of the renovation is anticipated to be during the course of May 2011.

With regard to Katutura Intermediate Hospital, the process of lift installation is continuing and the anticipated completion date is set for the end of May 2011.

The Onandjokwe Hospital is also undergoing a major upgrading and funded jointly by two Governments, that is the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Finnish Government through the Finnish Evangelical Church. Furthermore, a district hospital being constructed at Omuthiya with the assistance of the Government of the Republic of China is nearing completion during the course of the year.

Honourable Members I am equally pleased to report that the Cardiac Unit is now fully functional with its own specialist and cardiologists and cardio-thoracic surgeons for both adults and paediatrics. The Ministry will continue to support the training in bio-medics and related specialities of the Unit. We are also proud that in the private health sector a cardiac unit opened its doors at the Roman Catholic Hospital and we thus have two cardiac units in the country. This is a major achievement for a developing country within a period of twenty-one years of being an Independent Republic.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, whilst I spoke with pride on the many

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HON DR KAMWI**

achievements thus far, admittedly there remain challenges which many of you in this august House and the general public have been quite vocal about. These include, amongst others, patient care and work ethics in general.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, we are working around the clock to address some of these challenges. We believe that these challenges are not insurmountable. The majority of our health professionals, in particular our medical doctors, pharmacists and nurses, are hard at work.

Namibia experienced outbreaks of several diseases during the reporting period, which included meningococcal meningitis, measles and H1N1. I am proud to report that we contained all these outbreaks without any external assistance.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members I now have the honour and privilege to present before you Vote 13 for 2011/2012 for your consideration and approval. An amount of N\$3,423,341,000 has been allocated to the Ministry of Health and Social Services. This Budget consists of the Operational Budget, amounting to a sum of N\$2,758,280,000 and a Development Budget amounting to a sum of N\$574,407,000. This allocation translates to 9.3 percent of total estimated expenditure of Government for the Financial Year 2011/2012. I hasten to add that the ratio between operational and developmental Budgets is heavily skewed. Ideally, more resources should be allocated to capital projects for the upgrading, renovation and construction of new health facilities. We are working towards equitable distribution over time, but these structural challenges cannot be addressed singlehandedly.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, let me outline individual programmes for which this money will be utilised.

The Tertiary Health Care Programme deals with the provision of specialised clinical and diagnostic services for patients referred from regional and district hospitals. The activities under the programme are described on page 145 of the 2011/2012 to 2013/2014 Medium Term

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HON DR KAMWI**

Expenditure Framework. The cost for operational activities under this programme amounts to N\$887,793,000.

The upgrading and renovation of Katutura, Oshakati and Rundu Intermediate Hospitals, Windhoek Central, maternity ward at Windhoek Central Hospital and the Central Medical Stores are allocated a sum of N\$166,007,000.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the Regional and District Health Services Programme objective is to promote, protect and improve the health of families, especially women and children. The activities under this programme are described on page 146 of the 2011/2012 to 2013/2014 Medium Term Expenditure Framework. For this programme to be realised, a sum of N\$1,799,063,000 is allocated for operational expenditure.

For the upgrading, renovation and construction of clinics, health centres and district hospitals, regional management offices and regional training centres, a sum of N\$401,400,000 is allocated.

The Disease Control Programme objective is designed to manage and direct policy development, strategic planning, resource mobilisation, coordination, facilitation, monitoring and evaluation of the national response across all sectors to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria. The activities under the programme are described on page 146 of the 2011/2012 to 2013/2014 Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

The funds required for the operational activities under this programme is N\$45,390,000.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Sir, Honourable Members, the Social Development Programme has two main objectives, namely, to provide benefits and services that help people meet their socio-economic needs and to provide support and relief services to families and individuals with special welfare needs, particularly the vulnerable and those living with disability. The activities under this programme are described on page 146 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

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HON DR KAMWI**

The funds for the operational activities under this programme is N\$25,961,000. The Development Budget for this programme has been allocated an amount of N\$7 million for the upgrading of the Etegameno Rehabilitation Centre.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, on the development partners' contributions, our development partners continue committing resources through various mechanisms, such as bilateral and multilateral agreements and project agreements towards programmes in the health sector which are funded outside the State Revenue Fund. The funds committed by the development partners are targeted towards the prevention of communicable diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria, development of physical infrastructure, human resource development, strengthening of our systems management mechanisms and family health services. These contributions will, therefore, continue to make a significant contribution to the development of the health and welfare sector. In this regard, I wish to acknowledge with thanks the immense financial support from the Government of the United States of America through the President's Emergency Programme for AIDS Relief. Funding from PEPFAR allowed us to put thousands of Namibians on Anti-Retroviral Treatment, recruit more health personnel, renovate and build CDC clinics and other health facilities.

Similarly, we are also grateful for the substantial resources received from the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria. Furthermore, I wish to acknowledge with thanks the immense support received from the United Nations partners, in particular the World Health Organisation, the UN agency which serves as technical advisor to the Ministry on public health related matters. UNICEF, UNFPA and UNAIDS deserve special mention for their ongoing support on child health, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. Similarly, my appreciation goes to all our bilateral partners, namely, the Republic of Cuba, the Peoples Republic of China and Spain, for ongoing financial and technical support in various projects.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, I also wish to thank members of my team, the Honourable Deputy Minister, Petrina Haingura, the Permanent Secretary and the entire staff at the Ministry of

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HON KAVETUNA**

Health and Social Services for tireless efforts towards the realisation and the provision of an integrated, affordable, accessible, quality health and social welfare service that is response to the needs of the Namibian population.

I now have the honour and privilege to ask you, Honourable Members, to approve and support a sum in the amount of N\$3,423,041,000 for Vote 13. I so Move and thank you very much.

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

**Vote 26 – “NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION”** is put for Discussion.

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**HON KAVETUNA:** Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support this Vote, especially the programme that involves Human Resource Planning. I believe that Namibia has the capacity to produce professionals of her own and to make sure that these people are working specifically for the Namibian Government.

If one currently looks at the statistics of professionals in various Departments, especially Veterinary Services, 95% of the doctors are foreigners and we should ensure that we have trained Namibians to occupy these positions in the long-term. Therefore, I think the N\$2.5 million allocated to this programme is inadequate although it is a good start and next time it should be increased even N\$20 million in order to make sure that all the needed careers in various Ministries are identified, a massive number of young people are trained in order for them to return and work for this country.

With this humble opinion I would like to support the Vote.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 26  
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Von Wietersheim.

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**HON VON WIETERSHEIM:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I would like to raise a few issues and to commend the National Planning Commission on the initial words of the presentation where it is mentioned that they are going to implement an Integrated Result-based Planning Approach, admitting that both the mid-term and final review of NDP2 implementation identified poor coordination and integration within and amongst the institutions, a lack of effective monitoring, reporting and evaluation system. I think this is what we need. It was mentioned by one of our Honourable Colleagues that there is no use trying to present everything in a bright and beautiful light if there are problems. Rather identify them, talk about them and correct them. This is what I really want to commend the National Planning Commission for.

This has a special bearing on two particular issues. The one concerns the human resources development and utilisation, where it is identified that in the view of the Private Sector, as well as Government should ensure that education and training institutions turn out graduates with appropriate skills. Again we have this word “*skills*”, which is not considered as very important by some Honourable Members, skills including competency in literacy, numeracy, communication and sound work ethics. I think it is now important to think of what we had before and that is to actually implement this and in this case, of course, the Ministry of Education is tasked and I want to look at two of the aims there:

*“Efforts are geared towards providing demand-driven education programmes.”* We hear that we are among the top eight countries in the world that spend the highest share of public expenditure on education, but still we have such an unbelievable number of school-leavers who are not employable and I am glad that the National Planning Commission identifies as their objectives. We have to equip youth with skills required by the labour market, not anything, and we have to assist youth to make a smooth transition from high school to productive skilled employment and further learning for those who are able and capable to do that.

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HON DR KAWANA**

One of the challenges mentioned is, “*breaking the bottleneck of inadequate output at senior secondary level.*” That is very important and I would advise there that there should be a redirection of not looking at output and probably output at senior secondary level, but to redirect to have an earlier output towards vocational training. That is as far as human resources are concerned and I am glad that resources are spent there I am not sure whether these resources are sufficient.

The other one that I find very important and can only support is the feasibility study projects aiming to fund detailed studies of strategic industrial projects that have the potential in contributing to economic growth, creating new employment opportunities and improving livelihoods in the fields such as tourism, hospitality, manufacturing, agriculture and fisheries. I think these concerns at this time in our development are hitting the nail on the top in trying to address the challenges we are facing at the moment. Thank you very much.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Any further discussion? Can I ask the Honourable Minister to respond to some of the issues raised?

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me first take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank the Honourable Members of this House on both sides who have supported this important Vote and also to express my appreciation and gratitude to the Honourable Members who have contributed. It is correct that we have to focus on human resources training as this is very important, but with regard to the amount allocated, the programme just has to undertake research so that we can tell the Government, the private sector where we need more human resource training. Then that training will be done by the respective training institutions. That is really the purpose and it is not for this particular programme to do the training, but rather to do research.

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HON DR KAWANA**

*Honourable Von Wietersheim*, thank you very much. Indeed, we are very committed to ensuring that there is an integrated result-based approach in our planning process and also demand-driven education. This is very important if you were to achieve Vision 2030 together with what *Honourable Kavetuna* pointed out, namely human resource training, because it is important that if we were to achieve Vision 2030, we need to know upfront within a given year how many engineers, lawyers, doctors, architects and so forth we need to train. This is the approach we are going to adopt from now on so that at least the industries, the Government and the NGOs are alerted to some of these demands, so that come 2030 we have at least achieved our objectives or we will be able to tell whether we are going to achieve or not. During the implementation we will also be able to determine the challenges that we face as a nation.

With these few remarks, once again, Honourable Members, thank you very much.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Any objection? Honourable Ulega.

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**HON ULENGA:** No objection from my side, Chairperson, just a question that was raised by the response of the Minister. Yesterday when the Minister spoke he indicated that later this year there will be a census. Has the National Planning Commission already started to recruit the people who are going to conduct the census and are you going to make use of Government officials or are you going to recruit from the public?

Seeing that you are talking about the issue of expertise, can the Minister perhaps now or even later on another occasion indicate to this House how many of the various professions, namely doctors, teachers, engineers and

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 26  
HON SHIXWAMENI**

are so on, who are currently working in the country are foreigners and how many are of local stock? I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** I have two small issues. One is on page 3 of the Minister's speech, the issue of donor funding. According to the Accra Agenda for Action and the Paris Declaration, donors have initially agreed that they will channel the money through the State Revenue Fund and not outside the Budget of Governments, but I see that there is still a lot of money that is not channelled through the State, but given on the sideline. I would really like to urge that if there is an agreement on the part of the international community that the International Community stick to these agreements. They should have confidence in national Governments that are doing well and channel the money through the State Revenue Fund.

I feel it is also our responsibility as Parliamentarians to ensure that we do lobby in accordance with this declaration, that we lobby the donors that they trust our Government and they should be able to channel this funding through the State Revenue Fund so that we are able to monitor, because it is difficult for Parliament to monitor the funds that are given outside the State Revenue Fund.

Therefore, I would like to support the effort of training the manpower in the National Planning Commission to ensure that our negotiators are able to negotiate that the funds are channelled through the State Revenue Fund.

The other issue on page 4 is the GRN-Civic Organisation Partnership Policy. If you look at the agenda of the National Assembly, I have moved a Motion to discuss the issue of NGO and State relationship and it is better late than never. Though adopted in 2005 and gathering dust, I

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HON DR KAWANA**

think somebody has picked up that particular aspect and I welcome it very highly. However, I welcome it with the hope that it is not only going to help them in sourcing donor funds, but that our State indeed should be able to assist them in giving them funds for the implementation of particular projects, because civic organisations or NGOs, as they are called, can be key partners, particularly the churches. I really welcome this particular move that there is a Budget to cement that relationship between the NGOs and civic organisations and encourage the National Planning Commission to strengthen the relationship between Government and civic organisations. I rest my case and support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** I ask the Minister to respond to those specific questions.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I would like to thank Honourable Ulenga for his support. Regarding the census, I can confirm that preparations are underway to make sure that the census is held this year. Normally the recruitment involves a combination of people who are already within the Civil Service with the requisite experience as well as outsiders. The recruitment process will be transparent, as has been the case in the past. I can assure the Honourable Member that that process will continue.

Regarding the number of foreign doctors, engineers and other professionals, I think the Honourable Member would bear with me and ask me a question during the normal Question Time, so that I can engage my colleagues from the relevant institutions to be able to give a response. However, we definitely have quite a number of foreign doctors, particularly from Cuba, who are assisting us in our hospitals, as well as nurses from a number of countries who are also assisting us.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 26  
HON DR KAWANA**

I have noticed that ideologically the CoD is moving closer to the left and I was very impressed when the Honourable Member was bashing capitalism. At least we are on the same wavelength for the first time when it comes to that matter. (Interjections) (Intervention)

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Could I ask the House that we stick to the business before us? I would ask the Minister to conclude his response to the specific questions, no dialogue.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Honourable Deputy Chair, I was saying the CoD is moving to the left and that is an indication that the Honourable Member wants to come back home, and obviously the call by our President is that those who left and want to come back home are welcome.

I would concur with the Honourable Member who said we are victims of capitalism, as he put it last week, and indeed, I wholeheartedly agree with him. I will just explain why we are victims of capitalism.

Currently we are training many nurses in Namibia and, indeed, on the African continent as a whole, yet these people are relocating to the north, meaning that we are subsidising capitalism with our own Budgets. We cannot run away from that consequence. The same goes for medical doctors. We train many medical doctors and some of our nationals relocate to the United States and as a result we are at a disadvantage and yet we trained them with our own public resources and we are really at the mercy of capitalism. On that score I wholeheartedly concur with you and the other time my dear brother from the All People's Party was bashing capitalism, with which I wholeheartedly concur and if he wants to come back home, he is also welcome to do so.

Regarding donor funding and channelling resources through the State, I

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 26  
HON ULENGA**

wholeheartedly concur with Honourable Shixwameni. Indeed, I am pleased to hear that as a Nation we need to lobby so that these resources are channelled through the State Finance Fund, so that we account properly for such resources.

As Honourable Shixwameni said, currently we have a partnership with the churches when it comes to education and health. For information, all health personnel in church hospitals and clinics are paid hundred percent by the State. The upgrading of infrastructure of those institutions are funded ninety-five percent by the State and we want to regularise that now by way of legislation. Otherwise, we are on the same wavelength and once again I would like to thank the Honourable Members for supporting Vote 26. I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** I call upon Honourable Ulenga.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, thank you and through you, I would like to thank the Honourable Minister. I can assure him that there is definitely some amount of common ground when it comes to some of the issues. If you noticed, this is the first year perhaps in many years that I have made positive remarks with regard to the Minister's Budget. In the old days when he used to build State House, I used to reject it out of hand.

Anyhow, on the question of being at the mercy of capitalism, I would like to respectfully differ with the Minister. I think, indeed, Comrade Minister, I do not think that we are hundred percent at the mercy of capitalism and I do not think that there is nothing that we can do about our people going to the USA. I recently listened to President Obama, demanding that everybody educated with US money, whoever it is from whatever part of the world, must relocate to the USA. Others are demanding that those who are trained with their money must be there and

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HON ULENGA**

I think we must make serious efforts, especially from the National Planning Commission and from the Government as a whole, to make sure that the people that we have trained come home, those who trained at home stay at home and even those who are from foreign lands, be made to stay here, especially in solidarity with other like thinking institutions. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** On a Point of Order. Honourable Ulenga, during the Second Reading Debate I said we need to have a fifteen years education plan to train our people, but now you are speaking as if this is your idea. Everyone who is given money by this Government must only be allowed to leave after ten years. It is not only you who said it; we have already said it here.

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**HON ULENGA:** I was just about to conclude when I was interrupted by the Honourable Member. (Intervention)

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**HON AMATHILA:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the practice hitherto used to be that you exhaust people on your list and upon exhaustion of that list, you invite the Minister to respond. It has never allowed people to come back and Debate again, because there are certain risks. The risk of dialogue becomes greater; the risk of time becomes greater. Let us stick to the practice.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Amathila, thank you very much and I can assure you I made it very clear and I think I am speaking English. Yesterday we said the same thing, let us be more economical with words,

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**HON ULENGA**

let us not try to introduce extra little agendas. I am not impressed by that and I am trying to be as fair as humanly possible. Honourable Ulenga, please, in one word just conclude.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Chairperson, I really have great sympathy with what you are saying, I know I do not impress you too much. (Intervention)

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** No, I object to that. I did not direct my comment to any particular individual. Honourable Member, I am simply saying I am not impressed by extra comments and I am referring to everybody here. I am not singling out any person, including you. Please, you have the Floor.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I withdraw unreservedly.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** No, I am not asking for withdrawal, just conclude.

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**HON ULENGA:** With all due respect, just to come back to the issue, I sometimes also forget, but as much as I can remember, this is the only time in Parliament that Members can speak after the Minister has responded. As far as I can remember the practice that is the only time that we can speak. With all due respect, Comrade Chairperson, this is indeed how it should be done, that the Minister responds and we still come back, unless you want to change the rules now. The Rules say so and the

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HON IILONGA**

practice allows it. That is how we have done it. Is it because it is Friday that you want to go home?

I was about to conclude by telling my Comrade that talking about coming back home, indeed I am home. I am home, I am in Namibia, I show a lot of cooperation with all the Political Parties here, including SWAPO, so there is no better home than that and I am quite comfortable. The President is my President because he is the Namibian President, not because he is the SWAPO President, so I am very comfortable with that. Thank you Chairperson.

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

I do not think we have any doubts in terms of Rules. If the Honourable Members want to raise an additional point after the Minister has actually provided a response, they can do that, but I am simply appealing to all Members to stick to the actual issue before us. Any objection? Agreed to.

**Vote 23 – “DEPARTMENT OF WORKS”,** is put for Discussion.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND  
FORESTRY:**

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 23 – Works and I start with the Division: Maintenance.

My thanks go to the Minister for the decentralisation of the maintenance to the 13 Regions, however I do not know whether this decentralisation is only for the Regions or also for the individual Ministries, because they are not doing maintenance. Maybe information is not well transferred to the Ministries. Please inform them that they are responsible to maintain their office buildings. I support Vote 23.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 23  
HON SHIXWAMENI**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE: Honourable Shixwameni.**

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have three small points to raise on this particular Budget and, of course, I must say this Budget is of great importance to the country and the whole Nation and thus deserves very close scrutiny because all the “*tenderpreneurs*” to eat from the chunk of this particular Vote and we need to make sure that when work is awarded, the work that is done is indeed work of quality. It has been mentioned in the North, with the roads that are washed away, that they are Black Economic

Empowerment roads and bridges are given to pals that do shabby jobs and at the end of the day the State and the Nation have to pay for all these things.

On page 3 the Minister mentioned the Government Housing Alienation Scheme. Some time it was reported that a couple of Ministers and senior Government officials have benefited handsomely from this particular scheme. I would like to urge the Minister that when alienating houses, at least to sell the houses at close, if not at market related prices, because the prices that I saw in that magazine at which houses were sold, were far below the market value of those houses. While giving consideration that people have lived in these houses for quite a long time, I think we still have a responsibility to at least to bring the prices of these houses at market related prices so that the State and the Nation can benefit from it.

This scheme has been going on since 1998 and I would also like to know from the Minister why it is taking such a long time to alienate the houses and if the process within the Government set-up is so cumbersome, why not put the houses on public tender so that people who want to acquire a house could also be able to acquire it?

On the Independence Memorial Museum, I see that the structure is about to be completed and you have explained what the purpose of this

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

Independence Memorial Museum is going to be, but I would like to again caution against the distortion of history. I think we need to record history as it happened, acknowledging all role-players and I hope that once the Independence Memorial Museum is done, that all those who have contributed, irrespective of whatever they are doing now, their contribution shall be reflected and shall be acknowledged.

The other day at the memorial service of the late Moses Katjiuongua we listened to the eulogy that was being read there and I was surprised to learn of many of the things that have happened which he was involved in with his SWAPO counterparts whilst he was SWANU president. I think we need to capture that; we need to capture the history of the struggle inside the country, the Trade Unions' struggle inside the country.

Yes, people fought inside this country, the struggle was not only fought outside. (Interjection). I think the Minister is confused. Recognise the history of the struggle of the Unions, the personalities that were involved, the history of the struggle, of the people that were involved and I hope that we will be able to capture all these moments and display them there so that future generations would be able to see and acknowledge that indeed people rose up and contributed to the independence struggle of this country.

On page 6, construction of ministerial facilities, I see mention of the current building at Brendan Simbwaye Square. The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement has moved out to their own Ministerial facilities and in the Budget I see the Ministry of Trade and Industry is also going to move out. Of course, I know the history of the building, that it used to be the SWAPO Headquarters and there was a trade-in with Stocks & Stocks to develop the property and that is how SWAPO Headquarters relocated to its current facility, but my question is, if everybody is moving out of that building, to whom does the building belong and who is going to utilise the building or is it now a completely private building? I thank you and I support the Vote.

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HON UTONI**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Shixwameni. Honourable Utoni.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My question is more specifically on the maintenance of Government houses. It is mentioned here on page 4 of the Budget that, “*the maintenance of Government properties remains a challenge due to ever-increasing costs of building material on account of annual price escalation and inflation.*” It is indicated that the N\$24 billion requires an annual maintenance provision of at least N\$480 million. However, our own people have developed this I-do-not-care attitude. People are occupying Government properties and here I want to refer to the flats at Ausspännplatz, which would not attract anyone of us here. Those premises are dirty; people have written on the walls, water pipes are leaking, etcetera. I do not know what the agreement between the Ministry and the tenants entails, but if those people break even a toilet pot or window, they expect the Ministry to do the repairs. Why can those tenants not be asked to replace whatever he or she has damaged? I have seen in some other agreements that if you damage something in that house you are renting, you are required to repair it. If this is not contained in the agreement with the Ministry, we request that it should be included, that a person who occupies a Government property should repair what he or she has damaged. The environment at the place I have mentioned is not conducive to the upbringing of our children. How do you expect that child to clean a Government flat that he or she is going to occupy in future?

I am appealing to the Minister to look into the situation as it is very bad. It does not make us proud that this is a Government property. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thank you. Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO / HON NAMBAHU**

**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, I am happy that the Ministry of Works has received an increment and as I know the Minister, he will take action. However, as a new Minister he should be careful not to select only SWAPO Members for the job. He must know that all Namibians are equal before the law and I would want all the old administration houses to be sold to those who have stayed there for a long period. I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Nambahu.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also want to register my support for this very important Vote and I have only two or three remarks.

I have seen in the Minister's speech mention of training of SMEs on tendering procedures and project management. I know that maybe they will share that responsibility with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, but I feel that this is an exercise that should receive prominence for the exposure of our people.

Many people here were involved in an ideological Debate relating to exclusion. Sooner or later a person who has been excluded will revolt against those that have; therefore we have to equip our disadvantaged people to acquire this knowledge in order to be able to participate in the tendering process to benefit from this. We should give prominence to the type of training, identifying the people involved and how to approach them. Maybe the media and other institutions could be involved in outreach programmes. We used to talk about a classless society, exploitation of man by man and if we still subscribe to that theory, we should really support this kind of approach.

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**HON NAMBAHU**

Mention is also made in the Minister's speech of a comprehensive study on salaries for professionals. That exercise should really be encouraged in order to retain the necessary skills within Government, because year-in, year-out people are leaving the profession due to their remuneration not being commensurate to their skills.

We have engineers supervising our projects, such as the construction of roads and I asked someone why is it that they are building such a small bridge, where was the person who was supposed to supervise, because the bridge is not situated at the main watercourse? The person who has the professional skills is supposed to know, but I was told that the colleagues who got the tenders feel that building a bridge of that magnitude would consume too much of the profits. At the end of the day society again has to pay. These are the kind of talks going around and I think we should listen and find out whether that is true or only somebody making baseless comments.

The other aspect is the maintenance of Government houses. Comrade Minister, many Ministers have come and gone. They have tried without much improvement. I have visited Magistrates on my familiarisation visits and in the old dispensation a Magistrate was a very important person in society, but when you enter that house, there is a bucket here, a bucket here, catching water dripping from the ceiling. One leaves that house thinking very little of that person. We need to do more in this area. I know you are overwhelmed, all the Ministries are demanding your services, but I think a revolution needs to take place in the renovation of Government houses and when I look at my Budget this year, I am not sure we will be able to do much because what I have seen out there is terrible and I do not know how we are going to solve the problem.

I also want to touch on the allocation of Government houses. I joined the Public Service around 1996 and I left my application with the Housing Committee in the Ministry. However, there are things going on in that Ministry that I do not want to mention publicly and it is good that you are aware and investigating what is happening there. Someone who is at the end of the queue is given a house while you have been in that queue for so long. One does not know what is required to actually be approved by

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HON KAPIA**

these colleagues. This is something that is widespread, it is something that is known, it is condemned but unfortunately that is obtaining and I do not know what we have to do. If you talk to the Civil Servants, they are very disappointed.

On the alienation of Government houses, I do not know why the private sector finds it very much profitable to build all these flats and Government cannot do it. If a person is going to work in Outapi temporarily, why is it that he has to own a house there? Then if you transfer him from Outapi to Katima Mulilo, do you expect him to own another house there? Why do we not just build like the other people are building and Government benefits from this? I think we need a revolution in that area as well. With those remarks, I support the Vote.

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

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**HON KAPIA:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Many of my comments were taken up by Comrade Utoni and Comrade Nambahu, however just to say that I do not know whether it is the Ministry of Works, the National Assembly or National Council who should budget for accommodation of Members of Parliament who are coming from outside the Khomas Region. If you look at the situation of Members of Parliament who are from outside the Region, we must really do something to do justice. We should have some houses reserved for Members of Parliament who are either appointed by the President or elected to become Members of Parliament, particularly National Council Members who cannot own a house here because they have their constituencies in the Regions.

I want to support Comrade Nambahu that we must have houses around the country for all employees who are transferred from one place to another.

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**HON GOWASES**

They can rent these houses at a market-related price and I do not know what the problem for us to maintain that programme is.

Lastly I only want to appeal to the Minister that if the assets register is not yet up to date, that it should receive priority in the Ministry. It will inform Government how much it owns and it will also contribute to the book value of the assets of the State, not only the ones in towns, but even on the farms and the farms itself. One could engage young people from the National Service to conduct a survey in order that we have a database of all the Government properties so that we avoid what Honourable Utoni mentioned of a property which is fenced off within the campus of the University of Namibia in Ongwediva. Nobody knows whether that is private or Government property and there are many other properties which were owned by the former interim government occupied by individuals and someone wonders whether they are really the owners.

With this I wish the Minister good health to shape up that Ministry which is the key to the smooth running of the Government machinery. Without the Ministry of Works the machinery of the State cannot move.

The last point is the categorisation of professionals in the Ministry so that they are remunerated accordingly. We should keep the engineers in the Government, otherwise they come for two months or three years and off they go and we have to continue hiring private civil engineering companies to do the work which was supposed to be done by Government employees. Thank you very much, I support the Vote.

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

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**HON GOWASES:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I once again rise as a servant of the people and humbly submit my contribution to Vote 23.

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HON GOWASES**

Honourable Erkki Nghimtina, the Minister of Works and Transport, has stated in his speech, that “*to properly maintain Government assets valued at N\$24 billion requires an annual maintenance provision of at least N\$48 million.*”

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in the light of this statement, I wish to pose the following question: What was the total Budget allocation to the Ministry of Works and Transport for the Financial Year 2009/2010? I believe that it was according to international acceptable norms, but as an educator I have observed that many of our schools are in a state. We as teachers have to embark on fundraising projects to maintain school infrastructure. We have called on the Ministry of Works on maintenance related issues and they just do not turn up.

Currently a Katutura primary school is painting their school with funds that they have raised by themselves and labour is paid from school development funds. If sufficient money was budgeted for, why is that school burdened with maintenance? (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** I am sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member, but may I ask her a question? Honourable Member, the Nation would like to know what happened to the merger between RP and RDP.

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**HON GOWASES:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members another point is about consultants. I have noted on page 139 under Vote 10 – Education, that N\$64 million are allocated for the replacement of roofing at Eengendjo Senior Secondary School and it show under activities completed during 2010/2011 that a consultant was appointed by the Ministry of Works and Transport to do documentation for Phase 3. The amount spent for this activity is N\$4.1 million. The actual work is to be done with N\$5.5 million and the rest is budgeted for retention. Why did this consultant receive so much money for just a roof replacement?

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HON ULENGA**

On page 194 I observe, in contrast, Eldorado Senior School Hostel and classrooms, the funds allocated are N\$4.2 million in comparison to N\$16 million for a roof and the actual spending up to date shows no consultant payments for secondary school.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Nghimtina also requests N\$60 million for construction of ministerial facilities. Now it is N\$16 million for two new Regional Offices and fourteen new sub-offices at Opuwo and Eenhana, while the same amount is for replacement of a roof of a school.

The Honourable Minister has stated that his Ministry has obtained Tender Board exemption for appointment of consultants. Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, when we look at the N\$4.1 million payment to a consultant for a small project in the North, it is alarming to see how much money moves to individuals or companies or organisation. N\$4.1 million can build hundreds of low-cost houses for the masses that voted us into this house. Therefore, I call on this House to repeal the appointment of consultants by any Ministry and that all should go through the Tender Board to ensure pricing.

I support the submission of Vote 23 in principle, I shall however mention that the funds allocated should be utilised to the benefit of the Namibian people and not end up in the pockets of a consultant. I thank you.

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

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, thank you very much. Fortunately some of the issues that I wanted to raise have been mentioned by several of the speakers who spoke before me, so I will be brief this time around.

At first I thought that the 75 houses the Minister is referring to on page 3 was supposed to have been sold all over the country, but later down in the

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HON ULENGA**

paragraph he is talking about 934 houses, which seems to mean that the 75 houses were sold only in Windhoek alone. If that is the case, I am really shocked to see that from 75 houses you got only N\$10 million. The Honourable Minister can correct me if these houses were sold all over the country, because I am sure a house in Eenhana will not cost the same as a house in Windhoek. However, if the Minister really means that 75 houses were sold at N\$10 million in Windhoek, then he needs to explain how the pricing was done.

The other item I want to find out about is why the Ministry should be responsible for municipal bills? Why do the tenants not do direct business with the municipalities involved? It seems that the Ministry is saddled with municipal bills when people move from the houses belonging to the Public Service.

Another issue that I would like to raise before I sit down concerns Programme 4 as raised by the Minister on page 7 of his speech, namely waste, pollution and urban environment. I appreciate the fact that the Ministry puts money aside to deal with environmental factors, especially the living conditions of Government employees in rural areas and also to make sure that the underground water does not get polluted unnecessarily. However, my question to the Minister is, how do you deal with the situation right now when you have some of the places in the country completely under water, including these sewerage ponds? With the situation right now I wonder what you would be able to do with N\$1,900,000. Again here I see that we still work according to the Water Act of 1956. Do you not think this Act will be very much outdated? Is it not time that we bring perhaps a more updated version of the Act? This law is far older than I am and I am already 60 years.

Lastly, Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I am very pleased that the Minister eventually intends to revive the Directorate of Capital Projects Management that apparently has been dormant for the last few years due to severe staff shortage. I am saying this because I have noticed that in various places Government asks people to go and work on various projects, including schools, hostels and other public buildings and these are built without any concern for any standards whatsoever. We have

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**HON //GAROËB**

seen several examples of this as we go from school to school and Region to Region inspecting these buildings. Actually, there is sometimes even more cooperation between the people from the Ministry or from consultancies who come to do work at various schools with the people themselves on the ground who are going to occupy and make use of these buildings. I hope now that you are going to get N\$14,5 million for this directorate, you would be able to correct, for example, the hostel at the secondary school at Opuwo. There is, for example, a whole hostel that was built and they are not able to use the machinery since they were installed about three years ago. With those few remarks, I definitely support the Vote and I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Chief Garoëb.

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**HON //GAROËB:** Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, I am rising to support Vote 23 – Ministry of Works.

Coming to road construction and maintenance, those of us who visited some African States and other Third World countries may, with due respect, recall that people in most of these countries are driving alongside the main roads because main roads are inaccessible due to potholes. If one looks at the numerous kilometres of constructed tarmac roads and beautiful gravel roads, one cannot do otherwise than to applaud the Honourable Minister and his staff.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** What you have referred to so far falls under Transport. I just want you to be aware of that. Can I advise that you speak next week, Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, when we are going to consider Transport?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 23**  
**HON ISAACKS**

**HON //GAROËB:** I rest my case and support the Vote.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I just want to make some comments on the Vote under discussion.

Under the alienation of houses one would love to see, as indicated on page 3, how many houses have been sold and at what amount. One would also want to see how many houses in which area or which town.

As one of the Colleagues has already mentioned, the process is too slow and we also want to see the programme being rolled out to other areas and not only in Windhoek and towns.

As we all know, villages cannot generate much money and the Ministry of Works has properties in some villages which are just standing there and the roofing is being stolen. Why can the Ministry of Works not transfer these assets to the local Village Councils and by so doing I believe they could generate some funds.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, wherever one goes the Government buildings look very bad. The roofs of some have been blown off, the doors are wide open and at some the tenants do not even replace a windowpane and this is a very serious issue that needs to be addressed by the Ministry.

With these few remarks, I support the Vote and I thank you.

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

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**HON KAVETUNA**

**HON KAVETUNA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I actually only stood up to add my voice to Programme 3 of the Ministry of Works, the Maintenance Department *per se*. I take cognisance that the maintenance has been decentralised but it is still a dog without teeth, because in most of the Regions you would find that when these people are called, they come without any equipment to assist that school or hospital. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Honourable Kavetuna, you say the work has been decentralised, but here we have eight bulbs which are not functioning. Where is the maintenance team? Are they waiting for Works to come and replace those bulbs or is the team here sleeping on duty?

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**HON KAVETUNA:** I cannot answer that question. I think they were here but one needs a special ladder in order to reach there. I think it is very essential for us to equip these people on the ground with a toolbox. They come empty-handed, they are told that a tap is leaking, and then they say they will fetch the toolbox. After that they stay away for five months and meanwhile the water is continuously leaking, which is adding to the water bill of various Ministries, causing the services to be cut off.

When one walks around in town at midnight, coming from wherever, you would see that the lights of most Government buildings are burning. Is it possible to have a device that would switch off all the lights at five.

I am aware that the Ministry does not have sufficient Works Inspectors and Honourable Ben Ulenga just mentioned a school in Opuwo. People did some work there, they were paid, and problems are being experienced there. Many institutions experience this problem because there is nobody to certify that everything has been done according to standard. Maybe the Ministry could involve the management of the institution where the maintenance work is being done, so that they can also have an input to certify that we are satisfied with the service that has been delivered. In most cases these people are contracted in Windhoek, they go to Okakarara

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 23  
HON BEZUIDENHOUDT / HON AMATHILA**

and start building without even showing the school what is supposed to be done, so that the school can certify that they are happy with what was done. That cooperation needs to be enhanced because the inspectors are very few in the country. I think the N\$400 million allocated is sufficient and it needs to be used for that purpose and I support the Vote. Thank you.

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

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**HON BEZUIDENHOUDT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I just want to wish the Minister good luck. It is a tough assignment with many challenges and many customers are demanding service.

The Ministry has highlighted in his statement the ICT services and indicated the various technologies currently being used, especially Windows 7, which is a good operating system, but equally the Ministry of Local Government and Housing has decided to go the Open Source software route and that has saved a lot of money over the years in terms of licence fees for the Ministry. I think this Minister could also look at what the Ministry of Local Government has done and see whether they can emulate that. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Amathila.

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**HON AMATHILA:** Honourable Deputy Chair, I want to congratulate the Ministry and as indicated by Honourable Bezuidenhoudt, it is quite a tough Ministry and we wish him all the luck.

Talking about housing, I think a lot of damages to the Government houses occur when the houses are abandoned for an indefinite time, when birds

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 23**  
**HON DINGARA**

and cats and street kids move in. Honourable Minister, Members of Parliament, especially those referred to as backbenchers, have for the past six or eight months been running around, operating from their individual homes because they simply do not have accommodation as a result of the renovations taking place here, yet our President has moved from his former offices to the new offices over there. Why was it not possible to consider the plight of those Members of Parliament who simply do not have offices to utilise the facility nearby here? Not that they are aspiring to become presidents, it is only that it is such a difficult situation to move with your office in your briefcase the time. Now there is consideration to house them at the MVA offices and the other time they were supposed to be housed somewhere else. What is the problem that they cannot be accommodated in all these houses nearby here? Thank you?

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Dingara.

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**HON DINGARA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, I want to congratulate the Ministry of Works on one of the new buildings which the Ministry has constructed, the Ndiyona District Police Station. (Interjections). If it is not the Ministry of Works, that congratulation goes to the other Ministry.

When we as Members of Parliament went on an outreach programme, we visited a school in Okanguati in the Kunene Region. When one enters the school it is clean and well-kept, but when I saw the hostel, I was feeling so bad, because when you enter you find the shower this side and that side are the beds where the kids sleep. We were informed that the water from that shower has been running since the year before last. When the kids take a shower, they do not have to open the tap, they just shower and go. The tap cannot be closed; therefore they only close the main water supply during holidays. I was feeling so bad, because now we must pay for water which is running all the time. That was disappointing. I do not think it would cost such a lot just to replace that tap.

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HON HAINGURA**

Renovations were done at a certain school in the same region three months before we arrived there and the door handles were missing and the doors were already in pieces. Upon enquiring what has happened, they said the quality of the door handles was so poor and it was pointed out to the builder, but they were shown that it was specified as such on the tender.

What I am trying to say is that I think someone is not checking the specifications on tenders. I want to believe that the tender document stipulates all the specification, but maybe when the tenders are approved, they do not compare what was specified with the stipulations in the tender. Every contractor tenders as low as possible because the lowest tender will be taken, therefore everybody is going for the cheapest products so that they can win the tender. I feel that when tenders are submitted, the specifications in the tender must be checked carefully with the submitted document.

With that, I support this N\$480 million for the Ministry. I thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL  
SERVICES:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I only want to comment on two issues.

Firstly is the delay with the compilation of project tenders. When you ask for a clinic to be built, you will be told about feasibility studies and tender procedures and there is always a delay before the actual construction starts. Once I asked an official about this delay and then I learnt that we have only one quantity surveyor who has to approve all the plans for the whole country and it is a woman, for that matter. It is impossible for one person to perform this task and the Minister should try to increase this number so that we can speed up the process.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 23**  
**HON ULENGA**

Secondly, I want to congratulate the Minister for decentralising maintenance, this has been a thorn in the flesh of everyone. At any clinic you visit they say we are waiting even for a bulb and I hope those who are supposed to monitor are doing so. (Intervention)

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** I am terribly sorry to interrupt the Honourable Deputy Minister, but as the Honourable Minister of Works has just said it is a woman, does it imply that is the reason why things are so slow or what does it mean? Could you perhaps find out, because I am a bit disturbed that it is said it is a woman.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** No, she is a competent lady but she is overworked. I want to support Vote 23 because all of us dependent on this Vote. Thank you, Comrade Minister.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Ulenga.

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**HON ULENGA:** Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I am just reminded by a Colleague here to put this specific question to the Minister. What is the policy and attitude as far as the Ministry is concerned about buildings constructed with asbestos materials? We have noticed that there are still quite a number of buildings which are constructed from asbestos and as far as I am concerned, this type of building material was outlawed long ago. Is it still in use with the Ministry and what is going to be done about that? Thank you, Chairperson.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I call on the Minister to respond.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 23**  
**HON NGHIMTINA**

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am very happy that the Deputy Minister has supported the Vote and also talked about the Division of Maintenance which was decentralised to the Regions. Our people there were supposed to take care of all those possible and they only invited us to the Regions to attend to bigger problems or challenges. They were supposed to attend to all these issues of hinges, doors and windows. It was mentioned here that they do not have tools, but they do have. However, as Honourable Utoni has said, our people have a do-not-care attitude. The toolbox can be there but maybe the tools are not well taken care of. We also have that attitude by people in the headquarters of the Regions who are not in the offices and are only running up and down. When people want services, they are told that the person is not there. Maybe the method of the Honourable Minister of Education of making surprise visits to the offices should be followed and action needs to be taken.

The Ministries have a policy on maintenance. They are supposed to attend to small issues in their Ministries and approach the Ministry of Works and Transport for bigger problems.

*Honourable Shixwameni* mentioned quality work not being done. I can say it is fifty-fifty. You may find work which was done properly, while you would find that are some who are doing this. If you visit some areas the managers are not there, it is only the workers doing their work and we have to look into this issue.

Everybody has supported this Vote, but said we should shape up the Ministry of Works and Transport and I think I understand what you are saying. *Honourable Nambahu* said the Ministry should be revolutionalised, which means we have to improve on what is required to be done.

On the Housing Alienation Scheme, the Cabinet took a decision that the tenants of the houses be given the first option to buy as the Government is spending a lot of money on the maintenance of the Government houses. The do-not-care attitude has been there all along and Government decided

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HON NGHIMTINA**

to sell the houses to the tenants and it definitely reduced the burden on the maintenance of the properties of the Government. The civil servants can also buy or build their own houses with a hundred percent housing loan. One could say that those who are lowly paid cannot make use of that, but honestly speaking, the scheme is there whereby somebody can take a loan and buy a house, which is paid off over twenty years.

A question was posed as to why the houses are not being sold at market-related prices. The houses are evaluated and everybody is talking about the dilapidated houses. How can you make it expensive if it is dilapidated? We are not going to renovate the house for that particular tenant so that he can buy it; he has to buy it as is. What is also important is that there should be agreements between the Government and the tenant and we also have a stock list of what is in the house, so that if anything is broken, the tenant has the responsibility to repair. That is what we are going to do now because it is already contained in the Maintenance Policy.

It has been mentioned that the scheme is taking too much time, but there are processes to be followed. The tenant is being given the offer to buy the house, but he has to follow the processes of acquiring funds from the bank, because the Government is not providing you with money any longer, the Government is selling that house to you and you have to go to the bank and the bank has to agree.

It was said that history has to be recorded in the Independence Memorial Museum, but what I want to say is that that resorts under the Minister of Culture. We are only constructing the museum and the Ministry of Culture will do the rest.

With regard to the Ministries vacating Brendan Simbwaye Square, once we have a requirement from another Ministry or any Government institution, we will use it and it will not stand idle.

*Honourable Amathila* raised a question on the old State House, but a decision was already taken by Cabinet that that House will belong to the Prime Minister. This is done because in other countries the Prime

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**HON NGHIMTINA**

Ministers and Foreign Ministers have big compounds to receive guests and, therefore, it was assigned to the Prime Minister and at the moment some minor renovations are done.

Coming to the maintenance of Government properties, which are worth N\$24 billion, and that the Budget should always be 2% of the value of the properties, which was supposed to be N\$480 million while most of the time we are only getting N\$40 million, this is a challenge because we have competing priorities and the Minister of Finance cannot provide everything. She is not the only one generating money, but all of us are doing it together. She is only collecting what we can offer in this country of ours. However, it is important that once we get the money we have to attend to that.

*Honourable Moongo*, thank you very much for your support. You said we should be careful not only to consider SWAPO Members, but as long as we respect the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia and do everything in the spirit of nationhood, we can go together. However, do not sabotage. Namibia is a country for all of us and we need to have the attitude that everything is ours and everything is for all the Namibians and the future generation as well.

*Honourable Nambahu*, I thank you for your support and also for the support of the SMEs. Yes, we are training them and we have programme with the Polytechnic of Namibia, assisted by the GTZ, while training is also being done by the Ministry of Trade and Industry. We do not want to call them SMEs all the time, similar to Black Economic Empowerment. If you are empowered, you should not remain with Black Economic Empowerment. If you are empowered once, then you become The Pukewitz of this country. You cannot be empowered all the time. You should grow up.

The salaries of professionals are a challenge not only in our Ministry but in the whole Government. We are drafting a programme for Cabinet approval that would suggest salaries for the professionals and also that they be paid a certain percentage of value of the contract. Currently the private sector is only getting 10% of that contract, but we want to reduce it

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**HON NGHIMTINA**

so that we pay them something. If it is approved the problem will probably be minimised.

As I said, maintenance of Government properties is a big problem, mostly for the tenants and even for the Government institutions and Ministries.

We are dealing with all the schools, all the clinics. Even though the Ministries are budgeting for the construction work in their Ministries, the Ministry of Works and Transport is responsible for the approval of designs and planning according to the standards. We are now going to look into Project Cycles so that we can shorten the time. We want to look into that, as I also reported in my statement, so that we can speed up because the process is very slow and frustrating.

*Honourable Kapia* mentioned housing for the Members of Parliament. In other countries they have villages for Ministers and that could be very helpful. You might be a Member of Parliament for only one term, which is five years, and it will be very difficult for you to get a bank loan for a house. However, it is a very good idea that we have villages for Members of Parliament and Ministers and we should pursue that.

We are doing well in the Ministry with regard to asset management and we are being assisted by the Ministry of Finance, as reported yesterday by the Deputy Minister of Finance.

*Honourable Gowases*, you said there was sufficient Budget in 2009/2010, which I doubt, because I said it was only N\$40 or N\$42 million.

It is good that we have a social responsibility towards the schools of our children and make donations for its maintenance. I am proud to say that I constructed Edundja Secondary School without asking money from the Government. If you are assisting your kids you are definitely doing well, no problem.

We have to pay for the services by consultants. We cannot say that we cannot pay. What if they do not deliver the service? However, soon all this will be something of the past.

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HON NGHIMTINA**

You mentioned N\$16 million for construction of two offices and other sub-offices while the roofing of Eldorado is N\$60 million. We will have to look into that matter as I do not know how big the school is and my officials are here, they can take it up.

You are saying there should be no Tender Board exemption for some works to be done. I am telling you nothing will be happening in this country of ours, because if you have to go on tender for even small issues, we will not make progress. If the amount involved is less than a certain amount, you may give exemption. However, if you have to wait for the Tender Board, I am telling you that nothing will be done in this country of ours.

*Honourable Ulenga*, I have already told you that the houses are dilapidated, the doors and hinges are gone, the toilet pots are broken and you cannot come and say they should pay N\$2 million while once it is valued, it is only N\$100,000 or N\$300,000.

Before a house can be allocated to somebody we have to pay off the Municipal debt, but we are following the one who was there. Once a bill stands at N\$1,500 and the person is not paying, the services are automatically suspended.

The issue of waste and pollution in the rural areas is important because some areas do not have municipalities and we are taking care of that. In case of a disaster such as the floods, what can one do?

The Water Act of 1956 is old, but you should direct this one to the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

When it comes to the Directorate of Capital Projects which was dormant for so long, we are already seized with that matter and it is going to be opened very soon so that we can improve on that without going outside the Ministry.

We also have to look at the services at the secondary school in Opuwo and my officials have taken note.

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HON NGHIMTINA**

*Honourable //Garoëb*, thank you very much for your comments and I am waiting for a question on the 21<sup>st</sup>, this coming Thursday.

*Honourable Isaacks*, thank you for your support. You want us to stipulate how many houses were sold in Katima and elsewhere. We do have that information in the office. You said the process is slow and I have talked about it, but it is very important that you are saying there are some Government houses in villages which could be transferred to the Village Councils. They were probably built in the previous dispensation when we had the Bantustans, but we have to try to do something, either to transfer them to the Village Councils or even use it for the Government.

*Comrade Kavetuna*, I have responded to your comments about officials not being in the office. The way the Minister of Education tried to show his muscles one day was very good. You are saying that nobody is certifying that work was done, but there are consultants who have to ensure that the work is being done.

*Honourable Bezuidenhout*, thank you very much for your comments and support and I think we will look at what Honourable Ekandjo is doing with ICT questions.

*Honourable Amathila* asked why the houses are being left unattended. The problem is only that once the houses are being transferred to other Ministries, there is a delay in occupying those houses. We have given them the key, but there is a delay in occupying the houses.

*Honourable Dingara*, thank you very much for your comments. We can also look at that school you mentioned in Okanguati. Most of the times the specifications in tenders are very clear, but because they want to make a quick buck, they do not buy quality materials.

*Honourable Haingura* said the construction of Government buildings is too slow. As I said, there are processes to be followed and that is why we want to come up with a project cycle to say that planning could be done in one year, the documentation in another year, construction another year.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 09**  
**HON AMATHILA**

It is taking time, you can only budget today and then tomorrow people have to certify that everything proposed is correct. You should only be patient in doing what you are doing and do it correctly.

*Honourable Ulenga*, I do not think that the Government itself is building with asbestos any longer, but we will look into that and see what the law says. However, asbestos is definitely not good, it is not being used in other countries as well. Thank you very much, I need my money now.

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

**Vote 09 – “FINANCE”** is put for Discussion.

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**HON AMATHILA:** Honourable Deputy Chair, in support on this particular Vote, I would like to make a reference to paragraph 4 on page 2 of the Deputy Minister’s statement which reads: *“Namibia has been accredited regionally and internationally for sound macro-economic stability and fiscal prudence. We are ranked as the second-highest country in the SADC Region with the most transparent Budget process.”* This gives us all cause to celebrate and to thank the Minister for that achievement. Congratulations to you and your staff.

Comrade Minister, there are two or three issues that I felt I should raise with you, the first being on page 10, procurement programmes. The Tender Board seems to be a continuous point of reference in discussions during Budget time and off-Budget time and in this particular paragraph 35 you said that the review of the Tender Board Act is in the making and that it will be brought to this House about August this year. Honourable Minister, you should really zero into the possibility of bringing this review to this House, because sometimes your Ministry is criticised for the work of the Tender Board and sometimes we discover that the problem is not with the Tender Board but with other Ministries. It would appear to me that by bringing the review of the Tender Board Act to this House will

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**HON AMATHILA**

help us to iron out all the misunderstandings and smoothen out the implementation of all these projects, so that we can create jobs as fast as possible.

The other item is on page 11 which talks of the asset register. We had a chance to talk to the Ministry of Works and again the question of asset register is still a problem. We were told by the Ministry of Works that this is something that is being digitalised and put on the computer because the whole system is manual at the moment. The discussion on the previous Vote has brought out this particular question-mark on houses of Government because the question of asset management seems to be a bit of a problem.

Under this bullet, Honourable Minister, you indicated that you are developing a comprehensive asset register and asset management policy together with the Ministry of Works and Transport. The sooner the matter comes to the House it would help us to smooth out and to live by the credit that we have received as a nation as being the most efficient in the region and also being an outstanding performer.

The other thing that I thought I should mention is on page 12, Programme of Medical and Statutory Pension Scheme. This is partly a question and partly also my wish. Some of us, Honourable Minister, are in possession of a medical aid card from Government and it so happens that you go to a doctor or hospital and they tell you that they do not accept Government medical cards. It is a very serious matter, because I ask myself that if my medical aid as a Member of Parliament cannot be accepted by a doctor or a hospital, what about the ordinary man in the street who does not have this particular facility? I have been trying to find out the reason.

At the time of Independence we found that our Government orders to provide fuel to Government vehicles were not recognised or accepted by garage owners and at that time it was a question that we failed to pay our bills to those companies and as a result, the very same citizens that we were serving, started questioning our credibility by not rendering services to Government. It would appear to me and all Members in the House and outside that this Medical Aid is so important to all of us and it is being

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HON MUSHELENGA**

questioned by practitioners and hospitals, it is really up to us to work hard in order to beef up the credibility of these cards. Otherwise there is no point in having a card which is only accepted in Government hospitals.

On that note, Honourable Minister and your team, I would like to say thank you very much and congratulate you for a job well done. Thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much Honourable Deputy Chair of the Whole House Committee. I want to address myself to two issues, one which was slightly alluded to by Honourable Ben Amathila, namely the question of tenders and the other issue relates to revenue collection.

With regard to the issue of tenders, I have said some time ago in this august House, is a question of the delay that is caused by the process of awarding tenders, resulting in money going back to the Treasury. As you all know, I have served in the Parliamentary Committees in the last term and there have been complaints from particularly schools that when the Budget has been approved for the construction of classrooms, by the time the tender process is finalised, it is almost towards the end of the financial year and usually the money would go back to Treasury.

On the issue of revenue collection, perhaps the Ministry should look into training of salary officers from all Ministries and other institutions, especially for employees who earn income from two different sources, like those on Boards of companies, etcetera. Usually these persons at the end of the Financial Year find they have to pay a lot of money, something the respective salary officers could have avoided. For example, perhaps one is in a category of less than N\$100,000, but because you serve on the

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HON IILONGA**

Board of another company and that money is added, your category will go over the N\$100,000 income. When this person serves in a board, they will just pay him the money and not tax it, taking into account his salary he is getting from his employment to ensure that he is put in the correct category. Even where he is employed they do not care whether he is receiving additional income and they just tax him on his salary. At the end of the day people experience problems to repay to the Inland Revenue, but if we could train our salary officers in all institutions, both public and private, to become with an effective mechanism of collect the correct amount of revenue, they would not experiences those problems. It is always difficult to pay back.

As we are sitting here in this august House, all of us will be in trouble because we are not paying the correct amount of tax on our vehicles. I, for one, have asked to be provided with the correct amount because we are still paying the old tax and we are going to have a problem at the end of the day, but if we have an effective mechanism for revenue collection, people will not experience problem by having to pay a lot of money. Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Government is a business like any other business, but we are treating Government as if it is not a business on its own. Why are the tenderers the ones determining the price and the quality of the materials used is poor. A business would never allow the one who works for them to determine the price. They are the ones to say the work has to be done at this price and their price is lower and the quality is high. Our officials run businesses and they will never allow that to happen to their business. Therefore, if a project costs N\$3 million, we must find out what is the total expenditure.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, if you go to the North or those places called reserves, we are told the Councillor's office cost N\$5 million and you are asking yourself, what cost N\$5 million? The quality is not even

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**HON ULENGA**

the same as that of my house which I built with my own money. Something needs to be done here and I suggest that an impartial person should go to the suppliers to determine the prices. One finds that cement sold for Government work is triple the price, but it is the same I bought for N\$60, N\$70.

We have the example of toilets in Omusati which cannot even flush, but when that money was given there they said they would complete so many toilets. Then it is simple mathematics, you just have to divide the money given by the number of toilets and you would see that is not the value of that toilet.

Comrade Minister, on the issue of Medical Aid, and Honourable Amathila mentioned everything I wanted to say, but let us have a Medical Aid of the Government to work in the Government and we continue to have a revolving fund so that it not said our Medical Aid cannot afford to pay.

Lastly, a very important financial instrument of the Government is Treasury bonds, but we do not advertise it. People do not know that you can invest money through this instrument. Please let us make an effort to make this instrument known to all our people so that they can invest and in the long run, if it is not yet done, let us put this facility into what I regard as the only Namibian bank, NamPost. We must get our people to invest in bonds. I am doing it and I know it is the best. I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**  
**COMMITTEE:** Honourable Ulenga.

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**HON ULENGA:** Comrade Deputy Chairperson, as usual I will be brief. I have only a few questions and I think it is in order if I also use the Minister's answering speech as a reference. I see that the Deputy Minister is also talking about the issue that both the two previous speakers mentioned, the fact that Namibia is second when it comes to transparent budgeting. I want to join those who have congratulated the Minister and

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HON ULENGA**

the country as such, it is good enough to be number two. I know that many countries can never even aspire to come to number ten. However, I just want to know, why is it that we have left out that makes us number two? Is there a master computer that we lack as a Government?

The second issue that I want to touch on – Ilonga would say it has already been stolen by others, but I will want to mention it, namely this Medical Aid story. I go to hospitals; I am told that my Medical Aid can only pay 30%. (Interjections). I have gone on several occasions to the facilities in Cape Town and also in Namibia and I it has not been able to pay 95%.

Recently I went to buy a specific medication at one of the pharmacies and they said they are only paying 30%. That is what they told me and I actually had to take only a fraction of my medicine because I decided to make some enquiries and I went to other pharmacies. This does happen sometimes, it has happened to me and as you know my condition, I really depend very much on medication. Why is it that our Medical Aid scheme cannot meet some of these requirements? Of course, I am aware that this Medical Aid scheme covers only a very small fraction of the population, so what are the other people doing out there who are not covered by any Medical Aid scheme?

The other issue that I want to touch on, is that I want to say that I really like that the Budget makes good provision for job creation, although we will have to see how it works out in practice. However, one thing that puts me in doubt is that the Minister only expects this House to rubberstamp the Budget. What I mean is this, the Minister says that she had so much consultations with so many other people and it can, therefore, not be expected that after they 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 Parliament and embark on negotiations with Opposition Parties to reach a deal. In the first place, I do not think Opposition Parties are asking Government to reach a deal, I think it is just fair to expose the House of Parliament that passes the law and the Minister can consult any other people from outside, it is on this House to say yes, we agree to that law, including everybody who is elected to this House.

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HON NAMOLOH**

To my surprise I see the Minister indicated that she is going to introduce an Amendment to change the figures, because the Minister has realised that this House indeed has the right and the power to introduce Amendments. This seems to be a contradiction to what you said, Minister, and I am sure the Deputy will also be able to explain it because it comes from both your mouths.

For now those are the issues, I will rise again but for now I rest my case.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Honourable Namoloh.

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would also want to congratulate the Minister and the Deputy Minister and their staff for having achieved such a high score.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I would like to make comments and although some have already been mentioned, I would still like to emphasise them.

For twenty-one years our revenue collection has been in arrears and we have invested a lot of money to computerise the Ministry of Finance, yet the same mistakes are repeated. We continue to pay penalties year after year. You receive a notice that you owe money, but what is the computer doing? Is it the people in the Ministry who are incompetent because they have computers? It seems the people are very incompetent and who do not care. They do not do their job and at the end of the day you must pay whether you like it or not. I think this matter must be addressed very seriously. You were not aware and when they inform you very late, penalties are already added. I will accept if I was informed and I failed to pay that I must be penalised, but I was not aware and at the same time I am being penalised. This is very unfair and I think the Ministry should look into this matter, because this Budget is also for the salaries of the

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**HON NAMOLOH**

people who work in the Ministry. For twenty-one years we had the same thing and I think this should be addressed.

I was a Civil Servant and I retired. The pension I receive from the GIPF is being taxed at 35%. It is a pension which I worked for all those years and then it is being taxed. Why? Is it poverty creation or poverty reduction? I think it is poverty creation. I could accept if it is taxed at a nominal rate, but not 35%. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** Let us change the law.

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Yes, I think the law should be changed otherwise it is hurting us.

Somebody mentioned vehicles and we are now debtors. I did not want to owe anyone any money, but now my Government made me a debtor and I must all of a sudden pay a lot of money. It is not of my making, it is the making of my Government and this should be looked at. When we changed from Camry's to Volvo's we were still being taxed on the Camry's and then all of a sudden we owe them money because they made a mistake to tax us on the Volvos. It is true, go and find out that every day you are being penalised and we think they are competent. It is not in hundreds, it is in tens of thousands. (Interjections). It is true.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, somebody also mentioned the procurement and the Tender Board. In this country we can talk as much as we can but it is tender Mafia and if we do not address this Mafia system, we will never, never overcome this problem. The tender goes to the company and it is a chain. You talk of poor quality, but it is poor quality because it has to cater for all of us who have an interest in that company which has won the tender. (Intervention)

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 09  
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Will the Honourable Member accept a question? Now that he is saying that the tendering system in Government is actually a tender Mafia and considering that the procurement is not done under the Tender Board, but under the Ministry itself, does the tender Mafia also apply to the procurement under Defence which he administers himself as Minister of Defence or is it only the one that is done at the Tender Board? Can he help us there, where he as the Minister is individually accountable for the procurement there, to deal with that Mafia?

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** We do not complain of poor quality work done, what I have in mind here is poor quality in the construction of schools. What I am saying is that people tender and give each other opportunities to benefit, so that the money is divided among us and then the quality of work is poor. I am not attacking the Minister, I am talking about the system we have been complaining about all along. We should not take it personally. It is not personal, it is the system. That is why you see the prices are inflated.

I will support the Budget if some of these things are attended to. I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Honourable Ncube.

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, for giving me the Floor. First and foremost, my sincere gratitude and appreciation go to Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and Honourable Calle Schlettwein. You need to be commended for the professional and foresighted way in which you managed and allocated resources at your disposal. I also have to admit that I am quite impressed and learning from the good leadership of the Honourable Minister of Finance by delegating

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HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

to her deputies. That is a very commendable gesture and this shows the attributes that you have as a woman of a better world and you need to be applauded for that.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my comments will be on page 8 of the Deputy Minister's statement and it is on Programme 2, especially the issue of tax exemption on medical mobility devices. Honourable Minister, the Government policy is very clear on articles of this nature, however companies who are dealing in these mobility and medical devices continue unabatedly to make people pay tax on these devices while the Government is very much clear that these devices should be exempted from tax. People who are not aware of this are constantly falling victim to these high prices. This is a monopoly because these companies offering these services are very rare in our country and it seems they are ignoring the Government policy about the exemption of tax on these devices.

I would like to recommend that the Ministry of Finance looks into this matter and remedy the situation as well as raising awareness in order to educate the public about this because the prices are already exorbitant and when you have to pay tax it is unfair.

The other issue which I also want to bring to the attention of the Comrade Minister is the Medical Aid Scheme of Government employees, which was already mentioned, which needs to be revised in terms of the allocation to mobility and medical devices. The Medical Aid only contributes a very small portion to the cost of these devices, which is also done only with the permission of the Public Service Commission. This means that a person in need of these services has to wait for a long period of time before permission is granted and still ends up paying a huge amount of money. I do not know whether the electrical scooters and wheelchairs are being taken as luxuries, but to be honest, this is not a luxury; it is a very big need because it makes the lives of people easier and to be mobile.

Honourable Minister, I would like to request you to look into this matter because these amounts are too high and it is unaffordable to the ordinary people on the streets. Thank you very much.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 09  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Honourable Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chair. Out the outset I want to register my strongest support for this Vote and I will try to be very brief but I may repeat a few things which have been said by others before me.

On page 8 the Honourable Deputy Minister is informing us of the effort to deepen and broaden our revenue base, which I think is a good thing. I want to share with you some information that exists in some other countries.

In some countries the size of the informal sector is bigger than the formal sector and simply because mechanisms have not been put in place to tax the informal sector, needed funds escape the Public Sector because there is no collection mechanism that has been put in place. A year ago I met somebody in a village who has gambling machines and the person was proud to be making between N\$14,000 and N\$15,000 per month, but he does not know anything about paying tax. That is one example but there might be others where people who have not been brought into the tax net and we may have to investigate. Of course, this machine may have changed many hands and in the end it went to a person who is not licensed and, therefore, he is not paying tax.

In my village where I come from, anybody who owns a shebeen or a cuca shop is paying a certain amount to our headman. Everybody is paying. If that is done in an ordinary rural village, we may also have to embark upon a system to try to collect what may be due to the State. It may be worthwhile to investigate whether it is possible or not and it is for those communities that some of the subsidised or even free public services are rendered by the State and I think those who have the capacity to pay must be made to contribute to the State coffers.

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HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

On page 9 expenditure planning and control is mentioned and in bullet 1 the contingency provision is being mentioned. I only want to say that one Honourable Member of this House, when contributing to this Budget, was trying to enquire whether the Ministry of Finance is not illegally introducing a contingency provision in the Budget. If we want to go by the old method of having additional Budgets every year and take into account the time we spend in this House to defend the Budget, how much time will we be spending here? Honourable Minister, I think the contingency provision is definitely the best if we consider time.

On pages 11 and 12 it deals with Air Namibia. I only want to say that we hear about a new plane that has been acquired by Air Namibia, but the service is very bad. It has nothing to do with the Minister, but it is just the management of Air Namibia. I do not think those people care a dent about customer care. It is not only on domestic flights, even on the flights to Ghana it is horrible.

I do not want it to seem to look like that we are criticising the Ministry of Finance. In paragraph 38, the first bullet, I want to support what General Namoloh was saying. We most probably need to amend the laws as it is really very bad. When the Government owes you something and later discovers that they owe you, they will send you that money no matter how long they have been keeping it, but once you realise that you owe them and it was their mistake, they add interest; I do not think it is fair. We should honestly be blamed, the law passed through this Honourable House and I think we have to commit ourselves to that law being amended as it is just not fair at all. I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Honourable Von Wietersheim.

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**HON VON WIETERSHEIM:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I join Honourable Ben Amathila already in applauding for the second-best ranking for the most transparent Budget process, but I am also joining Honourable Ben Ulenga in his notion about the

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 09  
HON MOONGO**

rubberstamping of the Budget. It is something which will not go away and which we definitely have to address in future to make the Budget a product of the National Assembly as a whole.

I would like to join Honourable Namoloh on the efficiency question and service of some Public Servants in the Ministry of Finance and I would like to mention two aspects. The one is the forms that are sent out for the value added tax payments, import VAT as well as normal VAT payments, where there are draconian penalties if payments are late. At that time I was still connected to business and we ascribed it to the coming Christmas season, but up to now those forms are sometimes sent out on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month, which is the day which the import VAT has to be paid and the form has to be filled. Now they are sent out, stamped in Windhoek on the 20<sup>th</sup> and you are supposed all over the country to deliver that form filled out with the payment at the Revenue Office.

The other one, and the Honourable Deputy Minister is already aware of this question, is VAT repayments. There are repayments due to business people, which are sometimes outstanding for months and even for years. I think that is a very serious issue; it has already injured businesses because of cash flow problems because they are not getting back their VAT payments. This is all I am going to say about this; otherwise I wholeheartedly support the Budget. Thank you.

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

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**HON MOONGO:** I am happy that many of my issues were already mentioned, therefore I only want to congratulate the Minister and I know it is difficult when you sit on that side because you cannot express your opinion freely like we do. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of

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**HON KAVETUNA**

Clarification. Honourable Deputy Chair, Article 40 of the Constitution on Duties and Functions of the Cabinet states that, “*the members of the Cabinet shall have the following functions: (c) to formulate, explain and assess for the National Assembly the Budget for the State and its economic development plans and to report to the National Assembly thereon.*” I am saying this because the previous Honourable Member said that the National Assembly is a rubberstamp, meaning that the formulation of the Budget must be brought here. That is my understanding. In fact, it is not a rubberstamp; the Honourable Member has a right to debate here and to move Amendments.

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**HON MOONGO:** I said I know it is difficult for a Member on that side to speak freely from the heart and today is a historic day that many Members there spoke from the heart. It is true, it is double taxation and the poor people cannot afford a lawyer to defend them. I only want to appeal to the Minister to overhaul the system. I am happy that an increment is given to the Public Servants and I want the salaries of the Members of Parliament also to be considered as they are paid less than Deputy Directors of certain companies.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**  
**COMMITTEE:** I now call upon Honourable Kavetuna.

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**HON KAVETUNA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support this very important Vote and specifically to comment on the Medical Aid.

I would like to commend the Minister, her Deputy and the entire Ministry for having kept the contribution to the medical aid so very low. You will not find this anywhere in the world. However, it is high time that we consider an increase in the contribution because what we are contributing currently is peanuts.

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HON DR KAWANA**

Honourable Chairperson, during emergencies one needs prompt, efficient and lifesaving care. When you have an accident between Okahandja and Otjiwarongo, you have to add to the burden on the State hospitals which are already overloaded with a lot of patients. Why can we not look at alternatives? I know there is a company called, Prosperity, where we pay an additional amount, but still we cannot be treated in emergencies. Maybe the Ministry has to enter into negotiations with a company with a human face in order to lessen the burden on the State hospitals and that people with Medical Aids are treated at private hospitals.

In the same vein, I would like to commend the Medi Park in Ongwediva which announced that from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April all Government employees with Medical Aid of the Government will be treated at Medi Park. Why can these capitalist hospitals around Windhoek not do the same and also try to assist the Namibian people. I support the Vote, but please, Comrade Minister, increase the contribution to the Medical Aid.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 09 and to address the issue of the Tender Board. Maybe there is a misunderstanding by the Colleagues who are not in the Executive. The composition of the Tender Board is representative of all Offices, Ministries and Agencies and therefore, the blame should not be laid at the door of the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Finance is just providing the logistical secretarial services and I would like to commend the Minister of Finance, her Deputy and the entire staff particularly on the initiative for the reform of the Tender Board, whereby provision will be made in the law for tenders by women and the youth. We are saying we have entered our second revolution, meaning the economic struggle, and I would want this reform not only to empower and enrich individuals but that there should be broad-based participation in the economic resources

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**HON NYAMU**

of this country. I hope that women and youth organisations will put their act together and tender as institutions. I would also want to see an avenue for Regional Councils to tender, so that at least the resources of this country will be distributed evenly within our regions.

Therefore, we have to ensure that we address the socio-economic welfare of broad-based institutions before we enrich individuals. With these few words, I support Vote 09. Thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Minister. Honourable Nyamu.

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**HON NYAMU:** In sympathy with the Deputy Chairperson, I will try to be as brief as humanly possible. I have only two or three issues. One is in respect of Members of Parliament, Cabinet Members, Public Service members, etcetera. I do not know whether this is the proper context in which I want to raise this issue, it could have been with the President or the Prime Minister's submission, but it is the question of travel addiction.

I am raising this issue in respect of this acclaimed credit we have received for good management in Africa, but I think here in this country our officials and Ministers are addicted to travelling. (Interjections). I am not saying that Ministers should not travel, I was a Minister myself and I also travelled. I am only saying that there should be a balance, because some of the issues which prompt us to travel are not worth the money wasted. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? I see some empty chairs over there, where are those Members?

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**HON NYAMU**

**HON NYAMU:** Thank you for the question, I mentioned also Members of Parliament.

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Why do you travel, what work do you have? You are travelling to do what?

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**HON NYAMU:** I said where the importance of the issue requires that a Minister travels, they should do so, but when a Minister just goes to repair a broken window at a school or hospital, it is not acceptable.

I am sure if we calculate every minute and hour throughout the year that a Namibian Minister spends on a plane or travelling long distances by vehicle, we would find that we are wasting millions, if not billions, on travelling alone, let alone accommodation, S&T, etcetera, and that is a fact.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** May I just make an observation? I find it a bit difficult to entertain this intervention because it does not really relate accurately to the point and I am very happy that the Honourable Member himself also hesitated to raise the point. May I ask you to move on to the real issue that is linked to the Vote in question?

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**HON NYAMU:** I am glad that the House has listened to me carefully about travelling and I now move to another issue which Honourable Member before me has raised, namely Medical Aid. So many Members have spoken about this issue, but what the new Members of Parliament, especially the latecomers like myself are receiving amounts to humiliation. (Intervention)

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**HON NAMBAHU**

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Correction. All the Honourable Member who have been here since 2010 are not latecomers.

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**HON NYAMU:** I am not trying to be selfish, I am raising an issue which I think is fundamental. We are not provided with Medical Aid cards, we are carrying letters. It reminds of the early sixties when we went into exile and we did not have passports and were travelling with a letter and the immigration would tell you to wait, the others must go first. Now I am carrying a letter in my own country when I go to hospital instead of a medical card and it is humiliating and unacceptable. People tell you to go and make a photocopy of your letter, "*why is it that you are carrying a letter and others are carrying a Medical Aid Card?*" It is unacceptable and I am told they are still printing cards, but that excuse is unacceptable.

The third point I want to raise is an issue the farmers are crying about, the long time it takes to process tax returns. Farmers do not have access to capital and when they submit their tax returns, they need a quick response but the Ministry is failing to provide efficient service in this respect. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson. I did not speak during the general debate and it is just befitting that I congratulate the Minister, the Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and staff for a very well-elaborated Budget which befits the international trend of economy. I have only two issues to raise.

The first one is on the Financial Sector Charter. The colleagues made presentations all over here, they tried to impress us that they are really

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**HON NAMBAHU**

reforming, however this process is dragging on and on. Something needs to be done to put this Charter into operation. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Nambahu, what happened to Honourable Nyamu's medical aid? He was a Member of Cabinet and he was entitled to retain that card. What happened to it?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** I think Honourable Kaiyamo said we must keep these documents when this zigzagging takes place.

Another issue is on the revenue collection offices. I do not know whether it is known that most of the revenue is collected by the magistrate's offices and it involves a lot of our people to balance the books, do the banking, comply with Treasury rules, for which they are not necessarily trained. In the areas where revenue offices have been erected there was no proper handing over and people are still flocking to the magistrate's offices to go and pay their taxes. The colleagues at the revenue collection offices are probably having it easy because the proper handing over and awareness campaigns do not take place. I can tell you that in big towns like Oshakati people are collecting millions and I feel a proper handing over should take place and the public should know when these offices are opened so that they pay their taxes at the proper places. We have been doing this agency work for a long time and I think now the proper Ministry must take over. I support the Vote.

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

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 09**  
**HON NEHOVA / HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

**HON NEHOVA** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, firstly I want to congratulate the Ministry for preparing the Budget. Secondly I want to put a question and I needed to be guided, whether to the Ministry or to this House.

Honourable Chairperson, when I left the Government I withdrew my pension and invested it at another financial institution. When I withdrew my pension it was properly taxed, however I am again being taxed when I receive my pension. I do not understand the logic, when I was in the Government I paid taxes, when I left my pension was taxed and now while I am receiving my pension it is still being taxed. I asked this question to some people in the Ministry of Finance and I was told that that is what the law says. I want to be explained why we have this double taxing, actually taxing four times. Is that really fair to somebody who is on pension to be taxed that way? Thank you, I support Vote 09.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. I call on Honourable Ndaitwah.

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would also like to thank the Deputy Minister for introducing this Vote and the Minister and the entire Ministry for the whole Budget and I support Vote 09.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I think my point is an issue of interest to the general public, particularly the Constituency to whom I have a direct responsibility, namely the Tourism Industry. There is a question circulating within the industry and maybe this is the platform where it has to be explained to them to understand exactly what is happening and that is on the question of tax refunds. In fact, when I had an interaction with the industry yesterday it was brought to my attention that the tax refund cheque is made out in Namibian Dollars and it is given when they are leaving the country, therefore they find it difficult to make use of that

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

cheque. They said that when they do not want to accept that cheque and give their banking details, they never get that money. Maybe it can be explained how the system works so that the operators could make their visitors understand the system.

I have listened to Honourable Kawana on the need for a broad-based economic emancipation and we all know that the Government tenders are very important. I, therefore, want to congratulate the Minister that they have now put the process in motion to reform the Tender Board Act, because as things stand now, it does not promote broad-based economic emancipation because it seems that it is concentrating on a few and that is very unfortunate and maybe that is the Minister is taking that route. I know exactly what I am talking about because, for example, construction work is still going on at my office and it has come to light that when the people are not there, they are attending to other tenders. Why is the same person awarded two tenders at the same time? I hope this situation will be addressed by the reform measures, because it is similar to the Italian Mafia where one person has three tenders at the same time and that is really unacceptable and it cannot promote broad economic emancipation.

Therefore, like the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney General, I would really want the new Tender Board Act to make it difficult for one person to be given two tenders at the same time, so that many people could benefit as much as possible.

Honourable Deputy Minister, these experts from IATA are really welcomed by the Tourism Industry. Especially now that Air Namibia is planning to fly direct from Ghana to Namibia it will bring the British to Namibia. (Intervention)

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**HON DINGARA:** May I ask a question? On the last topic of the tenders, do you mean that while you are busy working on a tender of N\$50,000 you will not qualify to tender for one amounting to N\$2 million? That would mean that big companies will not tender for small projects and wait for the big ones, because if they get this one, they may be excluded from the big one.

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**HON KAZENAMBO**

**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** That would be good if it prevents someone from tendering twice. The point I am making is that no company or group should be given more than one tender at a time, so that the resources can be distributed in a balanced way.

Comrade Deputy Minister, the new turnaround strategy is very much welcomed by the industry, more especially when the industry learned that Air Namibia is now planning not to fly to Accra via Johannesburg and vice versa, but rather to fly Accra-Windhoek-Johannesburg and then Windhoek-Accra and back to Johannesburg, because the tourists do not want too many stopovers. If they fly from London to Accra and then to Windhoek, they will stay longer in Namibia. Therefore, this is a welcome move and the industry is looking forward to it being finalised. I thank you.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. We keep repeating ourselves every year at the risk of appearing to be monotonous and I feel the Parliamentary Committees must find a way to evaluate how the respective Ministries have addressed issues raised in the previous Budget. We seem to be repeating what was said previous years and the situation remains the same.

I want to repeat what I have addressed since I came to this House and is on page 11, state-owned enterprises. I know previous speakers have spoken on this, but I want to make suggestion. I want to know for how long we are going to continue to subsidise non-functioning State-Owned Enterprises which are consuming millions and millions, but there is no change. Every year when the Budget comes, you will hear that either there are reforms being done or there a new body has been contracted for a

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**HON KAZENAMBO**

turnaround strategy. However, while they have a turnaround strategy the subsidy increases with every Budget. I do not know, I am at a loss. Really, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable House, this is a plea.

I have also realised that maybe it is a problem within the set-up, because if I am the gentleman or the lady who is running a state-owned enterprise related to any Ministry, I am sitting there and I know that the person who is going to be grilled in Parliament, who is held accountable, is not me, I care less. That is the attitude that we find there. These colleagues are running these institutions on high salaries, some being paid one million or more per annum, driving big cars, living in big houses in rich residential Areas, but their Companies are bankrupt and these colleagues do not appear anywhere, the people who have to appear before Parliamentary Committees are the Permanent Secretaries and the person who comes to Parliament to face the public is the Minister. When are we going to stop these subsidies?

If these institutions are subsidised it means that either they are not doing their job. They ought to be closed down because they are consuming and becoming parasites and the Minister and the parliamentarians come here and defend these parasites forever and we accuse one another. (Interjection). It is Air Namibia and many others. Also the question of one person serving on ten Boards, their concern is only the remuneration and not service. (Intervention)

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

I am listening to you with great interest, but I would have thought that if we go by the system of our Government, that sort of advice should initially be communicated to Cabinet, to review, overhaul activities of the Parastatals? For us to jump into determining which Parastatals should be retained, which ones should be abolished, I do not think that is the best way and my advice is simply that we keep the proposal, but let us take them to a different forum to be tabled here. I am simply saying this in the interest of time as well. I am not trying to suppress Members when expressing their views, but I am still saying how

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**HON MWANINGANGE**

helpful could be such a suggestion. You have the opportunity to bring it to the attention of the line Ministry and for the line Ministry to confer further and then to take it up at the Cabinet level and eventually it will come here. I am simply raising this point in view of the time at our disposal. I hope I will have your support and cooperation. Please continue, but on that point my advice is that it should be taken up initially somewhere different before it comes here. The Minister will obviously respond, but I am concerned about the time at our disposal.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** I sympathise with the Chairperson considering the time he has been sitting there, but while I am sympathising with that, we need to be advised because if you raise an issue, then it is the wrong platform or there are time constraints. If you raise it in the Central Committee it is not the right platform. If you take it to another platform, you are told that because of time constraints you should raise it at another platform. I do not know now which platform is the correct one. I am taking the advice of my senior and I sympathise with him, but at least my point was taken and many of the Members of this House are also seated at those platforms where you will be told there are time constraints. I wanted to say something on the Tender Board, but let me sit down because I will be advised to take it to another platform.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. I am most grateful to the Honourable Member for his understanding. Honourable Mwaningange.

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**HON MWANINGANGE:** Thank you, Deputy Chair of the Whole House Committee. I want to make a short contribution but very important one and again to congratulate Comrade Saara, her Deputy and her team.

On page 7 there is mention of an activity to overhaul tax administration and revenue collection, which is very important for this country. The

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**HON ULENGA**

collection is done at the various revenue offices where everybody has to complete a form and comply with procedures. I have observed elderly people, especially those who are about to reach their eighties, struggling to complete these very complicated forms. They are also expected to complete and submit these forms timely. An elderly, maybe disabled, pensioner finds that he has not complied because as a result of age the capacity to do these things becomes so difficult. Can we as a Government not have an arrangement for those old people who still have to pay? I accept that if I am on retirement I must contribute to the revenue, but the technical arrangements become very cumbersome for those elderly people.

At banks there are facilities for senior offices, but in our Government offices an old person has to struggle to comply and then he is told that you were late, you did not complete the form properly. I want us to have sympathy with those people and I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**  
**COMMITTEE:** Honourable Ulenga.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, thank you for bearing with me. I should start by thanking the comrade for raising this issue. You know, Dr Kawana earlier said that we are at the mercy of capitalism and this is really one instance that we are at the mercy of capitalism. Some people call us as being useless, we are not doing anything. We sit here from 09:00 until sunset, trying to do our work and some people just sign a document and they are getting paid more than N\$100,000 per month. This is one instance where I do not like this marriage, but anyhow, you have said enough, I do not have to get into it too much. I actually wonder why some Ministers that side do not leave their Ministries and lead some of the parastatals, because the people under them in parastatals are paid double their salaries. (Interjections). I still have an issue with what you get. (Interjection)

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HON ULENGA**

**HON MEMBER:** You were here, you were sitting this side.

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**HON ULENGA:** I am still on the same side, we are all Government officials, are we not?

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I have seen in what state some of the roads are and I know that the Minister does not really deal directly with this issue, but you are saying in your speech that in addition N\$100 million is availed. You talked about the Emergency Disaster Fund and then the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and then the Road Fund Administration. It is money that is put aside for the rehabilitation of roads. I understand that even three kilometres of road can cost N\$100 million and here you put aside N\$280 million for the rehabilitation of those thousands of kilometres of roads that I have seen almost washed away. Will this money be enough or do you intend bringing an amendment later to correct this situation?

That having been said, the last issue that I know you will not like very much. I see that you have promised to bring an amendment to the House whereby 8%, if I am not wrong, will be given to public servants. Does this include Members of Parliament as well? By the way, are you waiting for us to go on strike before you do anything about the MPs salaries? Now that we are here just to rubberstamp, are you waiting for us to strike, especially with the Members of Parliament transport allowances, because the price of petrol and diesel has increased tremendously these last few years. Thank you very much, I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** I call on the Honourable Deputy Minister to respond.

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**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chair of the Whole House Committee. In fact, I thought that it will be plain sailing, but now it is the Vote which got the most questions and I am pleased, because we are in Parliament and we can raise issues of concern.

Comrade Deputy Chair, there were eighteen interventions and I will go through them one by one, but some concerns are the same and I hope I will cover them.

*Honourable Ben Amathila* raised the issue of the rating and we appreciate that it is recognised and we try to keep it up.

One big issue that was raised by many Members was the procurement system and the Tender Board review and related matters and maybe I must pause here to explain what the review is trying to achieve and what the system is about, because I think it needs some explanation.

Firstly, the review has three main elements that address recognised weaknesses in the current system. The first element and probably the most talked about is its ability to empower our people and to optimise economic gain in the domestic economy. In order to address that we are proposing provisions which would empower the Minister to, by regulation, create different categories of service providers and different categories of services to be provided and for these service providers and the services to be provided, a specific set of rules or criteria which the bidding process is then subjected to. With that system we will have enough tools in the toolbox to make sure that, for example, a catering tender would fall into a category where, say, youth contractors are preferred or even in some cases where that service is set aside for tenderers falling in that category and with that you place the activity into the domestic economy, but you still preserve the transparency of a bidding process, because it is not to do away with the bidding process. It is just to make specific rules for a specific service to be provider by specific service providers. That is the first element through which we are trying to improve our ability to empower our people and optimise the gain for our economy.

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Secondly, we are proposing to make provisions applicable to the whole public sector. The Minister is empowered to standardise guidelines and rules and make sure that those rules are also adhered to by Local Authorities, Regional Authorities and State-Owned Enterprises, so that we have the full benefit of public resources coming to most possible extent back into our economy and that our own people are the first beneficiaries of these resources. That is the second important provision.

The third provision concerns governance and transparency. The criticism is that we have a problem of *“Tenderpreneurship”*, we have tender Mafia. I have heard all these words and they all speak to not trusting the transparency and the accountability of the tender process. What we are proposing in the review is that the tender or procurement system will be placed in a more autonomous setting than it is now and it is not to be with the Ministry of Finance exclusively. It will be a different setting where there is more independence. We will provide that the procurement institution will have enough capacity to do proper adjudication and proper development of specifications, so that we are not at risk because of our own weakness to be caught by these *“Tenderpreneurs.”* Then there is a strong provision where the Minister can investigate, inspect and ask for reports of the outcome of the procurement system. That is the third aspect that the tender review system will come forward with. I think you will have time when the proposed Bill comes to discuss it and see whether we have improved, but I am convinced that we will improve.

Comrade Deputy Chair, in the current system where we talk about delays and what one can do to improve it, I think the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport has helped us there already, because maybe the major part of the system is the preparation of documentation, the preparation of feasibility studies, resulting in eventual bills of quantity for construction projects. It is an elaborate and very technical process which takes time. It takes time to appoint consultants, it takes time to prepare this documentation, but I think the Minister promised that we will have a new review process that tries to reduce significantly the turnaround time for project development.

The current Tender Board does basically only two things: It publishes the

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tender and at the end of the process awards the tender. I can inform the House that the Tender Board sits every week and it deals with all the matters that are before it, so there is no run-over of issues in the Tender Board.

*Honourable Kawana* also informed that it is actually not the Ministry of Finance who is running the Tender Board, it is all the accounting officers of all Offices, Ministries and Agencies plus members representing the private sector who are sitting on the Tender Board and they do, as I said, the actual awarding. The adjudication of tender documents is done by line Ministries because for instance, the Ministry of Health would have the necessary expertise to judge whether a service rendered to a hospital is proper or not. The Ministry of Defence could not do that, nor could the Ministry of Finance. That is the process and I think it should remain like that; the actual adjudication should be done by the receiver of the services because you have to also build into the system the ability to control the quality of services that you have received.

The Tender Board Act review talks to the ability to ensure proper services and the provisions that we can take recourse to if service providers are not rendering services are also an aspect that will be covered in the new Tender Board Act.

I hope that has covered some of the issues, but there are others which are problematic and I can mention one. We had a system through which we wanted to empower and those are a set of preferences that we gave to Namibians to benefit from the procurement system. What happened, too often in our opinion, is that these Namibians were just a person and a cell phone in a small room and they got a tender to cater for the purchase of millions worth of services or goods. What they did is they grabbed preference, but the whole service was actually rendered by a South African or a foreign company. The total economic gain of the contract went into a foreign economy and we only sat with the profits that the one person and the cell phone got. I think that is “Tenderpreneurship” and it needs to be addressed.

Let me now go to the Medical Aid. This was one of the big topics that was

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discussed and again just some general comments. The first comment is that I think your member's contribution is in the order of N\$65 a month and in return the Medical Aid pays 95% of the cost in terms of medication and in terms of a tariff that is agreed for hospitalisation. If you take that, there is no Medical Aid in this whole country that comes even close to the benefit ratio that you get. Therefore, the statement that what you get in return is humiliating is, unfortunately, very far-fetched, it is far from the truth.

Secondly, we have made some investigations into the queries of late payment and we found that PSEMAS almost always pays within thirty days for local services, which is not true for other Medical Aids. For services rendered outside Namibia, that is in South Africa or so, over 80% of the payments are done within forty days and the rest takes longer. Therefore, I think the service rendering ability of the Medical Aid service is not too bad; in fact it is excellent in my opinion if you compare it to other Medical Aids.

There were a number of questions on what are the actual benefits. For medicines the Medical Aid pays 95% of the cost, but the tariff structure also distinguishes between generic medicines and branded medication. For all those branded medication where there is an equivalent generic on the market, the tariff is pegged against the generic medicine price, but if you have a prescription from your doctor that you must take the branded medicine, then the Medical Aid still pays 95% of the branded medicine.

The same goes for hospitalisation. The tariff is pegged just above the State Hospital tariff. If that service is not possible there, in the opinion of your medical practitioner, he can state that and a request for referral is then brought to the Ministry of Health which decides whether that service cannot be rendered safely in our hospital, then you may use a private hospital and then the medical aid pays 95% of that cost.

The same applies to specialised equipment where the tariff, I agree, is at the moment pretty low. If there are special cases for special treatment of whatever nature which are not covered in the normal tariff structure, the procedure is that you request through your medical practitioner for a

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referral procedure and that will then be judged by a group of doctors in the Ministry of Health whether a referral is actually justified or not. If it is not justified, it will be turned down and you are back to the normal tariff. Where it is justified, then it is agreed and the medical aid pays 95% of whatever cost.

I think the benefit structure of the Government Medical Aid Scheme is actually very good. I agree that some of the referral procedures are lengthy and they are not always very easy, but what we can suggest is that we go to the administrator and see that they educate the beneficiaries of the Medical Aid Scheme so that everybody is in the know what to do in what case. I think there we are maybe falling short and I detected it from the questions and we can offer to improve that.

Let me now move to the issue with regard to revenue collection, although I think the issue was not so much revenue collection, it was paying tax or not paying tax. Again a little bit of information: If the tax issue has regards to the PAYE tax, the tax that your employer deducts and collects on behalf of the Receiver and pays over to the Receiver, I think the answer to the question whether two employers can come together and combine the deductions is that it is not possible, because the PAYE legislation is written in such a way that it is that very one employer who has the responsibility to collect that tax of each employee and pay it directly over to the Receiver. That is to be reconciled is when you return your assessment. There you have to indicate what taxes you have paid for the one employer and you will get a certificate from each employer to indicate what your total liability was and what your payment was and you then have the responsibility as individual taxpayer to reconcile that and inform the Receiver whether you are still liable to pay something or whether there is a refund. That is the technical answer to that.

There is, however, an element of concern which we have also picked up and that is that the pay officers in the individual Offices, Ministries and Agencies do not have the necessary ability to correctly calculate the deductions of each of their employees and I can inform you that we in the Ministry of Finance have now taken the initiative for Political Office-Bearers at least, to see what the deductions on the payroll are, what is it

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that you should actually pay and we will then inform your pay officers what the correct deduction should be, so that we do not have problems of paying or waiting too long for refunds. We want to take the initiative and help to solve this problem.

*Honourable Ilonga* has referred to procurement and I think I have dealt with it, except for the proposal that the price should be determined up front. I think there are a number of ways how the bidding process can be used. The legislation gives us a number of opportunities, but unfortunately it never says you can determine the price you want and whoever gives that price I take. A bidding process is a process where you actually want to test the Private Sector, who gives you the best price for the service or the commodity you want to buy. That is why you go out there and say I want to buy one kilo of brown bread every day and then you get the different offers for that commodity and you pick the best offer. That is the principle of an open bidding process. There are other ways how to sell and buy and that is an auction with a floor price. You can also do that, the Act allows for that. You can say I want to sell this old car of mine, but I think the value is still N\$30,000, so I will not accept any bid below N\$30,000. That is possible, we can do that.

I take the point that there is some profiteering in the tender business. It is an interesting aspect where we came across a situation where three tenderers bid for the same item. Two of them would draw up bids that are not expensive and the three of them then say, let us not compete against each other, we give to the most expensive and we share the spoils. That is unfortunately happening, we are aware of that and it needs to be stopped.

*Honourable Ulenga*, thank you for mentioning the transparency rating. You asked what was it that made us number two. The rating had many criteria, but the one big thing that they had an issue with is that we do not have an additional Budget or a mid-term review where there is a possibility to discuss what we have achieved. We have taken cognisance of that criticism and we shall discuss how we are going to bridge that and how we are going to make information on the performance of the Budget available during the course of the year instead of only reporting at the end of the year.

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There was a question on the rubberstamping of the Budget and I want to more or less repeat what the Honourable Minister said in answer. What we are saying is that the Budget is not developed in a dark room where only the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission sit and then we throw it open there, it is not. It is actually a consultative process, starting with Constituency Committees in the regions out there where we hope your Party is represented, where priorities are set and where a funding plan for NDP is developed, that we call the Budget or the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

The process the Minister referred to culminates into the Budget that is then tabled in this House and we were assuming that your delegates who are sitting in these Committees, be it at Constituency level, be it at regional level or at national level, will have your mandate to say yes or no to whatever is proposed. At the end of the process the whole of the Budget is compiled by all Ministries, Offices and Agencies bringing the results of their consultations to the Ministry of Finance which then compiles the Budget within the macroeconomic framework and within the fiscal framework which we consider is our mandate to determine. Therefore, there is no argument that we here rubberstamp the Budget, it is following a consultative process and mind you, the rating agent found that as a strong point in its rating, that it is upfront consultative process that in the end determines.

The second point that one obviously has to recognise is that the National Assembly can amend the Budget. It is even so that the Council can review and make recommendations to the Budget and then it comes back here. Therefore, I do not think it is a once-off process and nothing else can be done.

Thirdly, one must also recognise that it is in fact the Executive's prerogative and mandate to give effect to the promises and policies that we have taken out to the electorate on which we must deliver. I think it is that which makes us, the Executive or the Ruling Party, responsible for delivering. If the Opposition Parties have the desire to also get their points in, I think the situation is that either they must get into power or they must get their influence in the local and regional committees

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strengthened so that their inputs are taken up. We must have a basic understanding of how the system works, but I think in Namibia and our democratic culture we do not want to deny anybody the opportunity to make a good point and I think we have a proven record that we are good listeners and we will take up good suggestions when they come.

*Honourable Nehova* had a question about revenue collection, that there are still some errors in deductions and I have touched on that and how that could be corrected.

The question on whether pensions should be taxed was also mentioned. The system works as follows: When you are working and you save money to get a pension after your productive life, the tax system is generous because it allows you to deduct what you contribute to a pension fund from your taxable income, meaning that you do not pay tax on that income that you use for saving for your pension. When you are then pensioned, the tax system is again very generous because it says one-third of your savings is still tax free, but now at this point that you get your monthly pension, only that part will then be taxed as taxable income. Therefore, it is not a matter of being taxed twice or four times. Honourable Nehova, you said you are taxed four times. In your case you have chosen to take your total savings out of the pension fund and put it somewhere else. The choice is now yours what to do with the money. If you invest it or use it in a way that the income is taxable, that is your choice. It is not the tax system to be blamed, it is your choice. You had the choice to remain in the pension fund and only be taxed on two-thirds, but if you took it out in total and used it in a way where it is totally taxable, then that is your choice. Therefore, I think it is not correct to say that you are taxed four times when you receive your pension, there must be a misunderstanding. (Interjection). I can just repeat, the law does not say that, the law says you can deduct from your taxable income all your contributions to a pension fund or annuity fund or an education fund. When you go on pension, a third of that saving is tax free if you remain in that pension fund and the other two-thirds that are used to pay a monthly pension. That monthly pension is then taxable. It is a misunderstanding to say the law says something else, it is not.

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*The Honourable Minister of Defence* had something to say about benefits to Ministers for cars and the taxation of that benefit. I think again what is relevant here from a tax point of view, a car that is given to an office-bearer is considered to be taxable benefit that carries a certain value and that value attracts a certain tax and that is how the system works. Whether that is a good benefit scheme or not is not for the taxman to decide or the Ministry of Finance to decide.

We have discussed the procurement matters but there was also one aspect of poor quality and I think the poor quality is again a matter that is better addressed by that entity that receives the service or commodity. There must be some quality control or quality inspection before we accept the goods that the service provider has given. It is no longer a matter for the Tender Board or the bidding process that does that, it is you who receive the goods that you bought to make sure that it is actually what you wanted to buy. If it is of lower quality, it is up to you to say that is not what I want, take it back, bring me the right one.

*Honourable Ncube*, thank you very much for commending us for good teamwork. I appreciate it very much that I get opportunity from my Minister to also contribute to this Debate, and I thank the Honourable Minister for that.

Tax exemption for medical equipment: I think you are talking about VAT exemption. It is true that the Receiver of Revenue has the capacity to inspect whether you, the buyer, will get a price that is tax exclusive. It is difficult, but I think there is a general comment that one can make and that is that when we tried to relieve pressure on basic food prices and tax

exempted these commodities. It took in most cases not more than two months and the prices were up to where it was before the tax exemption. I think one must conclude that exempting items from VAT may be not the best way to influence prices because it induces profiteering. People in our capitalist world jump at the opportunity and say I can just as well pocket that 15%. You are right, it is a weakness that we have to look at and see how we can better relieve pressure on commodities that are absolutely necessary, especially in the Health Sector. Some of these mobility devices

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currently attract a very low tariff and if it is motivated as a special case, I think through the referral process you can get what you actually need, but we are aware of the low tariff and they are at the moment under consideration as we do from time to time when we review all tariffs that we have on PSEMAS.

*Honourable Iyambo* wanted to know how we can rope in the informal sector. That is a very complex question, because on the one hand one has to appreciate that the informal sector is probably representing the poorest section of the population and will it then be justifiable to impose heavy taxes on a section that is already struggling? That is a principle that we would not think is a wise approach. If there are individuals that are actually pretty wealthy and they still act in the informal sector, one can consider that as a tax avoidance scheme and see how one would catch them and we will be very grateful if you can report those instances to us so that we can follow up to catch them. I think you are right, we also have some indications that the informal sector is growing and one needs to make sure that the policy framework within which we develop our economy also gives attention to making it easy for entrepreneurs to move from the informal to the formal sector without too much pain. That transition is an important transition we have to work towards.

You also asked how we are going to deepen and broaden and make sure that all pay what is due. I think we agree with that. In the review we have provisions that will plug loopholes that are exploited. We see that we sometimes incentivise poor performing companies. All that is trying to is to deepen the tax base and improve collection. Broadening is introducing new taxes, like the environmental tax that the Honourable Minister has talked about. We are looking into the non-renewable resources and whether we get our fair share back from those assets that belong to all of us, so some possible taxes are considered in that area.

The principle is that on the one hand we are expanding the expenditure to stimulate development, but that, of course, must be matched with the necessary resources that we use to fund those expenditures. A diversified, meaning a broadened, tax base surely is a matter that is very important from a policy point of view.

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There was a question whether the contingency provision is legal or not. The contingency provision is a programme covered under the Ministry of Finance, so this House appropriates the amount for the contingency. I think the uncertainty is about what happens with contingency funds thereafter. The system is a very transparent one. All payments out of the contingency fund are done on presentation of invoices to the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Finance makes the payment. All payments are then audited by the Auditor-General to see whether that very payment in fact was justified and an approved contingency and the Minister has approved payment from the contingencies. It is not a matter that the contingency is requested and then lock, stock and barrel of the money goes to whomever. In the event where the recipient is a Parastatal, then it is done by phased transfer payments and Parastatals are held accountable for the actual and eventual payment. The point to be made is that it is totally regularised, there is no need to regularise it in any other way, and it is within the rules and the Finance Act and Treasure Instructions.

Air Namibia was mentioned by a number of speakers, Air Namibia is one of our State-Owned Enterprises that is continuously in trouble. I think we must realise that Air Namibia is a very small airline and that is not a very good thing to be in today's airline business. Secondly, it competes directly with the largest lines and it again has to compete with a very aggressive South African Airways just next-door. The principle question we have to ask is whether the economic gain of an own airline justifies a continued subsidy or should we just get the service done by someone outside and, therefore, forfeit our direct access and our sovereignty about an airline. Those were the terms of reference that the consultants got. They have come back with a report saying that yes, the economic gain is still positive in spite of the subsidies, but they have identified a number of issues where Air Namibia can improve. A whole set of issues, so-called soft issues, were the reliability of the airline, the pricing structure of the airline, the booking system of the airline, the financial management of the airline all show serious or varying difficulties. Therefore if we want to keep Air Namibia, they must be addressed.

Secondly, the airline has aging equipment. If we want to be more efficient we must see how we can improve service deliveries *via* modern

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equipment. That has a price tag and thirdly, there are other relevant infrastructures that need to be looked at if we want to solve some of Air Namibia's problems. I am using the example of the flight to and from Accra. If we want to develop the concept of being a sub-hub to Johannesburg, where Windhoek is fed through a system of regional flights that go to Windhoek and you connect from Windhoek to other regional destinations, then Hosea Kutako Airport must have proper transit facilities and we must have more check-in counters and conveyor belts to deal with the luggage load and we must have a facility where aeroplanes can be pushed back so that we have space for more aircraft parking in front of the building. There are a number of issues that are influencing Air Namibia's performance that must also be addressed.

As I have informed you that comprehensive report is with us, we will now send it to the stakeholders, discuss it and ultimately we will have a decision whether to carry on or whether to go into a different direction. I think we are handling it responsibly, we know that Air Namibia is a problem and that there are some issues that are justifiably called a problem, but I think we are doing it in a responsible way, because it is not just an easy decision to say we do not want Air Namibia. One consequence is a direct impact on tourism. The South Africans are currently as we sit here busy to attack our service providers and agents in Germany, which is our most important European market, to coerce them into not flying Air

Namibia but taking the tourists rather on South African Airways to South Africa and then, if they so wish, back to Namibia. We will lose that direct access to the German market. There are a number of serious considerations before we take a decision of yes or no for Air Namibia.

*Honourable Von Wietersheim*, thank you for recognising our performance about the rating. I think I have tried to answer the rubberstamping issue that you have also raised.

The question about VAT refunds and weaknesses in the VAT administration, I think I must acknowledge that there are delays in VAT refunds and we are very much aware that that has caused, and is still

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causing, cash-flow problems within businesses, especially small businesses that we actually want to help. That is acknowledged and in our tax review we will surely look into that. We currently have contingency provisions in place that will accelerate the handling of those refund issues.

*Honourable Moongo*, I am very happy that you have comfort in all of us being frank here.

*Honourable Kavetuna*, you have asked about PSEMAS and made a recommendation that we increase the contribution. I think I must also inform you that the Public Service Medical Aid scheme is not administered in terms of a fund where contributions finance trends. It is a condition of service for Civil Servants and your contribution is not a very important issue in running and funding the medical aid. I think you have seen that it costs just over a billion a year to run the fund, but it is not a matter where we have to strive for profitability. In fact, it is a matter that is subject to negotiations with a recognised union because it is a service benefit.

*Honourable Kawana*, thank you very much for the advice you have given in terms of the Tender Board.

*Honourable Nyamu* mentioned subsistence allowances for travel and I think maybe the Honourable Member has read in the paper in which the Right Honourable Prime Minister made a statement. The correct place to go to is the Office of the Prime Minister as he made a statement addressing the issue.

*Honourable Nambahu*, for now the Financial Sector Charter is operational, the council is in place, but as the Honourable Minister said in her statement, we are also unhappy with the rate of implementation and how they are performing. We will now have to consider how we will accelerate our policy framework that gives effect to empowerment, inclusion and to bringing about ownership in the Financial Sector and to bring about more affordable and more accessible services of the Financial Sector. We will do that by putting pressure on the Council itself, but we will, of course, also consider the tools in the toolbox to speed up that

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process.

*Honourable Ndaitwah*, tax refunds to tourists. I think it is a principle that if I go to Germany and I want a tax refund; I am paid in Euro, not in Namibian Dollar. You get your tax refund in the currency where you have bought your item. It would be an undue risk for the Namibian economy to pay out tax refunds to tourists in whatever currency the tourist wishes. That is the clear answer to it; I think they must be happy with the Namibian Dollar refunds that they get. In fact, we go a step further, we pay into their accounts where they are and we then take the foreign exchange risk when that the transfer payment is made. Where I do take the point is, if the delays are too long, then it becomes a problem, but on the currency issue, unfortunately it would not be possible to say we will issue cheques in whatever currency. We can only issue cheques in the legal tender of the country, which is the Namibian Dollar.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**

**COMMITTEE:** Can I say that the Deputy Minister has really responded to so many questions and I am beginning to realise that many people are not actually listening carefully. I would suggest that you conclude as rapidly as you can.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** I received many questions and I must answer all of them, but I will try to relieve you, Honourable Chair, I know you have been in the Chair since 09:00 and maybe nature is calling, so I will speed up.

Honourable Ndaitwah, I have talked about the IATA reports on Namibia and we will get it soon in another form.

*Honourable Kazenambo* raised a principle point of State-Owned Enterprises. Allow me, Honourable Deputy Chair, to also make a general statement. I think not all State-Owned Enterprises are created to make

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profits and to be paying dividends to the shareholder. I think the principle of state-owned enterprises is that they were created to deliver more affordable and better service to the country. There are a number of them that will never make profit, like the university for instance. I do not think it is a typical institution that must be forced to make profits, they must just run a good service and I think the way to go is in fact what we are trying to do and that is to enforce performance agreements and performance targets that they must deliver and if these targets are not adhered to, then the consequence must be a painful one. Honourable Kazenambo, maybe the salaries of those CEOs or general managers would be an appropriate target for consequences of non-performance, because that is what makes them jump, if I can put it that way, and the idea is to have performance agreements with the institutions but also have performance agreements between the board and the CEO and in that category we can cover the consequences that should happen. The general notion that there are many mishaps in state-owned enterprises without a consequence is a serious one and needs to be addressed.

*Honourable Mwaningange*, I think you asked assistance for the elderly and people who find it difficult to stand in queues. We try to have an environment which is catering for that, but I think it will be asking too much to change a tax system to cover that. I think there are other means we have to look at. You must make the office more pleasant, you must maybe have staff there to help these people, but to change the system would be a little bit too much.

*Honourable Ulenga*, I think you repeated the State-Owned Enterprise question and one specific one on the Road Fund. We have provided N\$350 million for the Road Fund Authority. N\$100 million would go to rehabilitation of roads, but you must not forget that the main income of the Road Fund Authority is the fuel levy. They still have the flexibility within their prioritising of projects to divert some money that they earn on the fuel levy to address urgent needs for repair. The answer is that we think we are covered with that kind of flexibility.

Comrade Deputy Chair, I have maybe taken too long, but I thank you.

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HON KAIYAMO**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Very comprehensive detail to do justice to the various questions that were posed. Any objection? Agreed to.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Honourable Deputy Chair, I would like to appeal to the House that we must also think of others, otherwise we will be behaving like capitalists. The Chairperson has been sitting there since 09:00 and I want to support the Vote and ask the House to support Vote 29 and to allow us to go home.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I am grateful to the Honourable Member, but the number of people listed to speak is very few. If we stick to that I can manage. We have gone so far and I really congratulate you. Let people with burning issues mention them as briefly as possible so that we can conclude our work for the day.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** On a Point of Order. Honestly, let us also be fair to one another. We are elected leaders and while I have sympathy, we were elected to Parliament and we are not addressing these matters for our own sake, we are addressing these matters for the sake of the people who elected us.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 29**  
**HON WITBOOI**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Member, instead of debating, let us get on with the job. Honourable Witbooi.

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**HON WITBOOI:** I support Vote 29 and I want to make some comments. I have noted that the New Era newspaper plans to open new offices in Keetmanshoop, Rundu and Katima Mulilo to cover issues related to the Regions more effectively. It is also pleasing to note that the post office banking services have been extended to four new places. We are greatly thankful for all these commendable efforts aimed at contributing to Vision 2030.

Honourable Members, if Namibia has to become part of the information society, we need to have changes in our approach to information technology. For that there must be a starting point. Therefore, we need to introduce ICT at primary schools or even pre-primary schools or even at the kindergarten level. I remember at a rally of the SWAPO Party in Okahandja during 2010 when the Founding Father of our Nation, Dr Sam Nujoma, recommended that computer literacy be introduced at kindergarten level. Therefore, why not promote and bring into reality the wise counselling of our great leader? In this regard, we should join efforts with the different Ministries, such as the Ministry of Finance, ICT, Mines and Energy and Education to ensure that every Namibian child has access to computer classes at primary level.

On page 5 it is mentioned that the mandate of the NBC is to inform, educate and to entertain, but in many Regions, such as the Hardap Region, there is no access to the NBC offices and these communities are receiving very limited services from our national broadcaster. For instance, the Hardap Region is served from the NBC office in Keetmanshoop; therefore it happens that very important programmes and events are not covered, not only on NBC but even on the radio and other services.

Honourable Minister, it is now twenty years and we need NBC offices in all the Regions which do not have these services. I support the Vote.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 29  
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE / HON SWARTZ**

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

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I will be very brief and I would just like to congratulate the Minister for the good Budget that he has tabled. Honourable Minister, you have very good programmes and you need to be commended for that. I would also like to appreciate the sign language during the news, but I see that the Parliamentary Report is still not being covered in sign language and I am sure that the people who are speaking this language are completely excluded from the Debates in Parliament while they are very keen to hear what is going on in this august House. It would be appreciated if the Honourable Minister could look into this.

I see that there are also programmes on information and I have heard that the New Era wants to introduce Braille in the New Era, which is a very commendable gesture and we would like that to happen in the very near future. I support the Vote and I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Honourable Swartz.

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**HON SWARTZ:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chair of the Whole House Committee. My first question is based on page 3. I want to ask the Minister to elaborate on the e-health centre at Windhoek Central Hospital. In my mind I see that in future we have hospitals with ICT programmes which are connected to the Regions and rural areas. For instance, the system will show that there is no medicine in Omusati and it will not be necessary for the staff to write or to phone, but that the medicines will be on time wherever in Namibia.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 29**  
**HON ULENGA**

I also want to bring to the Minister's attention the coverage by MTC on the road between Keetmanshoop and Grünau. Thirty kilometres after Keetmanshoop there is almost no reception and if an accident happens an ambulance cannot be called. The radio coverage is also not clear in Warmbad. That is all I wanted to say and I support the Vote. I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**  
**COMMITTEE:** Honourable Ulenga.

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson. Again I will be as brief as possible, but I wanted to remind the House that it is not good that we drop some of these usages that we have done in the past, for example with regard to the sympathy expressed with regard to the Chair sitting there all the time. In the past the Chair has been relieved by the Deputy Whip of the Ruling Party, so why can that not happen today? It is just a friendly reminder to the Colleagues of what happened in the past.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I want to say to the Minister that it is really commendable that the post offices are running this smartcard business, helping out many elderly people. I think there is a large constituency out there that is making use of these services. However, I tend to disagree with the statement on the extension of the post offices. I really think that if especially in the densely populated areas we still have to go long distances to collect mail, why is there not a more decentralised system, for example either at every parish or village level and that mail is delivered there. I am also surprised to hear that place like Okondjatu is only now getting a post office. Okondjatu is such a central place for many farmers. Therefore Minister, I think you should not be commended, I think you should really extend much more rapidly.

The last question is about these things that I see here. It does not mean that we are appearing live on the NBC. If not, what are they really for? Are they just to look at ourselves? I thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 29  
HON BEZUIDENHOUDT**

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

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**HON BEZUIDENHOUDT:** Honourable Deputy Chair, I know we are tired but I think we need to do justice to this very important Vote 29. I see the Ministry of ICT as *the* enabler and as *the* driver and as the heart of the knowledge-based society that we want to create in this country as part of Vision 2030. The beneficiaries of the usage of ICT and the deployment thereof are a leveller. It is the Government, it is the citizens, it is the country and when it comes to the Government, I can point out virtually all Ministries that can benefit from the use of ICT, namely Education, Health, Home Affairs, Justice, Safety and Security, Environment. It is highlighted in their statements that indeed they are using that in various ways and that must be commended that we are going that route. I would suggest that the Ministry of ICT remains the enabler, like the Ministry of Works creating the office and giving it to the end-user and still keep maintenance responsibility thereof. I think the Ministry of ICT should do the same, it should be the place where Government decisions on systems or services are made and then given to the end-user to use the service, but the technical capability must remain in the Ministry of ICT. Failing to do that would be a scattered ICT sector or services within the Government, then standards on how certain things needs to be done in terms of specific protocols varies, but if you have a team under one Ministry, one authority, then these things can be managed centrally.

I just want to offer my support and I think the Standing Committee on ICT, although it is an oversight Committee, is also very understanding and very supportive of the Ministry and the ideas of the Ministry. I would also suggest that we look at the structure of ICT in Government, meaning that what is done by the Office of the Prime Minister is done by the Ministry of ICT and then certain bits are done by other Ministries. Maybe these things could be consolidated for improved service delivery.

ICT as an industry offers the Government and the citizens a great opportunity to manage things better. Complex things can be managed in a

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 29  
HON NAMOLOH**

simple way provided we have optimum use of our systems with the necessary security in place. I do not want to run away from the security protocols that need to be there.

There are two things that the Ministry can look at in future and that is a policy on E-waste, how redundant computers in big numbers should be disposed of because there are harmful to the environment and there are ways that these things can be dealt with, as well as cyber crime and cyber attacks. The Private Sector does it on their systems, but I think as a country we should also look at that and it is not to say that we are not doing so. I am saying that the Ministry of Defence in the United States gets attacked every now and then and they have the best security systems that money can buy, but still there are people who try to crash the system and we should not lower our guard.

All the programs that the Ministry is doing, digitalisation, State-Owned Enterprises management, Media Ombudsperson, are self-regulatory. That is commendable as well as our rating in terms of media freedom.

Programme 3 is to ensure access to information and I want to know from the Minister whether there are plans to have a Bill introduced on access to information.

With these few words, I totally support the Ministry's Vote 29 and I wish them well. Thank you very much.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Namoloh.

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Much of what I was going to say has been mentioned. The Honourable Member also mentioned cyber crime and e-waste, which is very important. When you look at how many computers

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 29**  
**HON KAZENAMBO**

we have received in this country, how would we dispose of those which are redundant?

My Colleague here once said that people say we like to talk; we repeat what we have said two or three years ago because the status quo remains. Some of us have stated before that we live at places where there is a church, a hospital, schools and police station without any network. Some of us use UNITEL which is the Angola network because we are near the border. However, it seems MTC is unsympathetic as people in areas like Edundja and Odibo signed a petition to MTC, because they have not responded to that after twenty-one years. When there was a flood there we could not communicate. I used to leave my house and go outside to get network, but now it is water everywhere. I think it is high time that this issue is attended to. I support the Vote.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you. What I wanted to say has already been mentioned by the Comrade. The area of the Otjozondjupa Region, from Tsumkwe gate to Gam and to the border, is a vast area, inhabited by poor people who have no transport. When you go there, you feel like crying. The network operates only in the evening and you find people are on the road, trying to connect to the network to send messages. Please, Honourable Minister, it is a serious issue. Initially we were told that there is no transformer at the Omatako Hospital and now there is one. We were told that once there is a transformer, MTC will come and provide service. There is no regular service in the Omatako area, no telephones. For the last two months we were told that Telecom asked the Traditional Authority to identify areas in Kano-vlei, Omatako, Mangetti Dune, for it to launch a special telecommunication system. The Traditional Leaders welcomed that and up to now nothing has been done.

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HON NAHOLO**

The reason why I am crying is that in vast area tourists and community members have motor accidents. A few weeks ago a patient died at the gate where one passes on the way to Tsumkwe. The poor lady came there, she waited there the whole day, there was no communication to call Grootfontein Hospital or Clinic to come at the gate and the person died on the spot. If people have cell phones or a telephone booth, they could call the ambulance, poor as they are. We are crying and asking the Government to talk to this MTC and Telecom to erect towers there.

In conclusion, I have observed that when you travel in the commercial areas you have towers and network, but when you go to the communal areas, even the densely populated ones, including Odibo and Ongenga, people have to rely on the neighbouring networks. Corridor will rely on the Botswana network, in the South they will rely on the South African network, but virtually all the commercial farms have access to the network. Why the disparity? One would expect it to depend on the size of the population or remoteness, but most commercial farms are covered.

I congratulate you on your services, because most of the Trans-Caprivi Highway up to Rundu and Nkurenkuru is covered, but please, we are begging for some people who can afford a cell phone of N\$300 from their old-age pension to communicate and call ambulances. For emergencies telecommunication is a powerful tool. I support the Vote.

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

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**HON NAHOLO:** Thank you, Deputy Chair, Honourable Members. I stood up to support Vote 29. Vote 29, like any other Vote, is very important in the sense that we are talking about information and we all agree that information is power. Therefore, I would request Parliament to come to the assistance of the Minister and release funds without hesitation to be spent on the promotion of access to information, freedom of speech

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 29  
HON NAHOLO**

and expression and also the print and electronic media.

If one looks at the Budgets of the past years, taxpayers' money was utilised to censor information, to control information and even to ban newspapers, such as the *Namibian*. As of today the NBC phone-in programmes are no more there. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? You said *The Namibian* was banned. Was State money used to ban the *Namibian*? To ban it is to prevent it from appearing on the street. Was that done?

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**HON NAHOLO:** No, the Honourable Member did not follow very well. We are living in a democratic system where the flow of information should be allowed to freely pass from one source to the other without curbing it, without controlling it, because by doing that you are touching the democratic freedom of the Namibian people to express themselves as they wish, because we are living in a free country and by stopping the NBC phone-in programmes.... (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I would have thought that the Honourable Member would first have sought information before speaking on that. If I say that I do not buy your newspaper, it does not mean that I forbid you to print. Whenever the Government has information, the *Namibian* is invited to the press conferences, but the Government is not buying the newspaper. I do not buy the *Observer*, I do not buy the *Informanté*, and I do not buy the *Namibian*. If I do not buy it, does it mean I forbid them to print anything? Do not mislead, because what the Government did was not to buy. Not to buy does not mean to

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 29  
HON NAHOLO**

ban it. The *Namibian* has free access, they can print anything, they attend press conferences. If I do not buy from your shop, you can still sell anything. Do not come and make propaganda here.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Please be more specific and let us come to the point. The moment you become general, you attract unnecessary interaction.

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**HON NAHOLO:** Honourable Deputy Chair, I am dealing with information, information which should be allowed to flow freely from one source to the other. I do not mind about Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, he has shown that he is a bad student. (Intervention)

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**HON MWANINGANGE:** On a Point of Order. You are generalising, you are not even referring to any of the programmes. Where is the *Namibian* mentioned?

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Members, let us make progress. Take the floor and be more specific and conclude, please.

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**HON NAHOLO:** I was just about to conclude. The problem is that when you speak the truth, the people are reacting. I am representing the Namibian people, I am not here on my own and I am not speaking to you, I am speaking to the Nation. What I am saying is that information in this country is not free anymore. (Intervention)

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 29**  
**HON UTONI**

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Honourable Deputy Chair, are we in the Committee Stage? If we are in the Committee Stage we are supposed to be specific. If you wanted to speak in general, you should have done that in the Debate which we have concluded.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Members of this august House, let me put it to you that after the Presiding Member called the attention to the conduct of the Member who persists in irrelevance or in repeating arguments, he or she may direct the Member to discontinue his or her speech. I am desisting from doing that. That is why I am finally saying to you I am appealing to you, Honourable Member, come to the point and do not generalise.

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**HON NAHOLO:** Honourable Chair, how do I come to the point if I am being interrupted? I have been sitting here this whole morning listening to people participating in the Debates and all of them were given a chance to narrate experiences of what they have seen on each and every item that was discussed this morning. Why should I not generalise if others were allowed to speak about what they saw in Opuwo and other places? Why did you speak about issues in Opuwo and you did not speak on the pages here?

What I am saying is that information is being strangled here in Namibia.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I am now stopping you from continuing. I give the Floor to Honourable Uutoni.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 29  
HON UUTONI**

Committee. I rise to support Vote 29 for the wonderful work the Ministry of ICT has done. I went through the pages, more especially Programme 4

on page 13, paragraph 2, where they are talking about the introduction of digital broadcasting according to SADC standards, which is good. On page 9 they are talking about the WAX, the station that has been set up in Swakopmund in collaboration with Botswana.

I also heard on the news a few days ago that the Director General of NBC was talking about five channels to be introduced according to their plan and this will be a very good thing.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, if you watch NBC News, it is structured in such a way that first you watch the local news and then secondly the international news. If you follow the international news, the pictures that are selected make you to believe that it is exactly what the situation is, but if you analyse further it was not the proper picture. The other news media covering the situation in Libya and Syria, they just show pictures favouring the rebels and you are made to believe that Gaddafi is in the wrong. When Gaddafi was visited by the delegation from the AU, they just showed a small portion of Gaddafi's supporters, while he was surrounded by a big crowd of supporters. If you were not there, you will be made to believe that there is something wrong with that leader. It is because the news is edited in the interest of those people who want to benefit from situation in those countries.

Honourable Minister, what I am trying to say here, you are talking about the digital line from Swakopmund and the five channels and I do not know whether you are now planning to have something for Africa or SADC that also covers the interest of Africa. Maybe you could have somebody in Libya or Tunisia to cover events and compete, because it is now a question of competition. I want us Africans to also establish our own news cable network, to focus on the political and economic situation in Africa and tell African stories. Now we are being bombarded by Aljazeera, Sky News and CNN, but they are just reporting in the interest of those countries. (Intervention)

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 29**  
**HON DR KAWANA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** May I ask a question? Currently the BBC has a programme, Focus on Africa, and CNN has the Voice of Africa. Do you want us to have our own African channel so that we focus on the poverty in America and Britain, the brutality of their police? Is that what you are saying?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Hundred percent. Our channels should also cover the USA so that our children will understand the situation in Europe and America. It is only their children who know the situation in Africa, of poverty or whatever. What I am trying to propose here is that the Minister, through SADC, could take the initiative and the Government could assist the Ministry to set up a cable network for news in Africa. African countries have been independent since 1960 when some of us were not even born, but up to now we do not have such a thing. I thank you.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to add my voice to support the Vote under discussion

First I would like to appeal to the Honourable Minister that in my capacity as Chairperson of the national leaders assigned to the Omaheke Region to please consider the network coverage in that area, particularly south, east and north of Gobabis, which is a vast area where the network is very bad for both MTC and radio networks. I appeal to you to do something in Omaheke Region.

Of course, there are other issues which I have raised with you which I do

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 29  
HON DR KAWANA**

not want to raise here as you concurred with me. Equally, you may recall that last year I appealed to you to also consider a radio network, and to some extent also MTC, in the area of Onesi, Ruacana and Otamanzi area. The network is very bad in that area and the reception of radio network is almost zero.

I concur with my Colleague, Honourable Erastus Uutoni that we need to increase the documentaries on African countries, particularly focusing on our struggle for Independence on the African continent. Equally I would like to see the history relating to the slave trade, so that those who are champions of human rights today are shown what they did to the African continent for three hundred years, so that we as Africans show that we were also victims. We also need to have a historical documentary of the genocide particularly our own country among the Herero and Nama communities and other communities in Namibia. We want to know that history. You must show those not only close to 26 August, but we need to see them from time to time so that we know. As we say in the SWAPO Party, we have to know where we came from, where we are and where we are going and to me that is very important.

I also want to challenge – because it is on record, the remarks of Honourable Naholo. I heard him saying that some time in the past there was even a Budget which was dedicated to censor information. That is really scandalous, to say the least. This country is rated number one on the African continent when it comes to press freedom and the Colleagues even feed wrong information to tarnish the good name of this Nation and when I say the good name of this Nation, it includes Members of all Political Parties and even church leaders. Please, there must be a limit. I know you belong to the Opposition, but that does not mean you have to tarnish the good name of your country, the good name of your Nation. That is scandalous and I rest my case.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE: Honourable Nghimtina.**

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 29  
HON NGHIMTINA / HON DR N IYAMBO**

**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to support Vote 29 and I am repeating what I have said before, that I want to see our NBC showing the activities taking place in the thirteen regions of our country in terms of development, in terms of economic activities, in terms of business, on a daily basis to allow the Nation to know what is happening in Caprivi Region on a particular day, in the Karas Region, etcetera. This will help the people to understand and to comprehend what is happening there, to be sympathetic to what is there if you want to assist. That is being done in other countries and that will be important for Members of Parliament as you will know what exactly is taking place where and we can compare which Region is moving fast, which one is slow, so that we can channel the resources correctly to the Regions. I support Vote 29.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am going to be very brief. I wholeheartedly support Vote 29 and I think the Honourable Minister is doing a good job.

One Member already said that his or her region is not covered hundred percent and what we need to do is to allocate sufficient funds to this Ministry for cameras and personnel to be deployed in each and every region. He is not doing that because there are not enough funds. We have to be responsible, I am not saying he should get funds out of the blue, the resources are limited. The fact that he is not covering every Region on a daily basis is simply as a result of lack of funds. I support the Vote.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable Muheua.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 29  
HON MUHEUA / HON AMATHILA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am rising to take one minute to give my support to Vote 29 and to show how impressed I am by how the Ministry of ICT and our Government has embraced ICT. Hence we see this beautiful equipment around in the House. Although I am not in support of the high S&T for travel by the Ministers, I am sure that one could continue to participate in the House by using tele-conferencing should such facilities be available. I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Amathila.

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**HON AMATHILA:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I was fighting your battle in order to allow you some time to go and stretch your legs, but it did not work out.

I support Vote 29 and I would like to touch on only one aspect, namely the NBC. I had the privilege of having been there as Minister and I am surprised to see that some of the things which I thought have already been addressed are still under discussion.

The first question that I have on the statement of the Minister is on page 4. The second paragraph reads: “*According to the latest press freedom statistics, Namibia is ranked number one in Africa.*” The question is, by whom? To be ranked number one, depending on whom, is quite an achievement and we have to pride ourselves having achieved that in spite of people who believe differently.

Honourable Colleagues, the NBC is one of the tools we have to provide communication between ourselves as citizens and also to promote the projects that we are trying to discuss here, but it is definitely one of our institutions which is poorly funded. Until such time that we realise that the NBC cannot raise its own money like other broadcasting corporations in South Africa and other places where they have big populations and big

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 29**  
**HON AMATHILA**

business entities, we will be talking about these things over and over without success.

The question of extending the networks of the NBC all over the country has been with us for more than fifteen years. The question of pooling the resources of Nampa and New Era into sort of regional agencies in order to provide regional reports to the NBC from time to time, so that at least we appreciate each other's cultures and problems has been with us for also quite some time but apparently not realised.

I remember that as Minister I travelled to Tsumkwe, Renosterkop and places in the South where we thought we have to make funds available in order to promote communication, because we argued at the time that if you allow your Nation to depend on foreign broadcasting, especially at those border areas, you may allow instability to grow because they will be fed information which is not relevant to their development. Therefore, the NBC has to be provided with funds in order to serve our people with our information and information generated from the country and it is just a question of Budget, because it was believed the NBC must raise their own funds, which is not possible.

Honourable Minister, the other day I was interviewed by the NBC and when I tried to get a copy of that interview, they demanded that I have to pay for it. I was the source of this information and I am actually supposed to be the copyright holder of this particular statement, but they demanded that I should pay for my information that I provided them. I think that is not very helpful because the NBC is really the depository archives of most of the things that happen here, that will become so important to this history of this country. I can just imagine that if you go to the NBC to do research, they will still demand that you have to pay for those facilities. I think in the future the Minister should possibly argue the case to make it possible for people who have given information to the NBC not to pay for that information.

Honourable Minister, you have done very well in providing senior citizens a discount on their licences, which is very helpful, but I think given the number of people who have access to television, could you consider, after

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 29**  
**HON DR ANKAMA**

consultation with your Colleagues in the Cabinet, to abolish these licence fees for senior citizens? It is a small fee but I am sure it will make a difference to both of the people. I know the Minister of Finance will possibly not take it well, but it is just part of the effort that we look after the senior citizens. Most of the time we are saying the country belongs to the youth, we must do this and that for the youth, but nobody seems to be talking about those senior citizens. If you reach my age, you start feeling that you also need attention and I am not asking it for myself. You start feeling the need not to forget those senior citizens. It is because of them that we are sitting here; it is for them that we have liberated this country and most of them have not benefited much from the process that we have achieved. Let us always keep in mind those senior citizens and help them where we can and maybe in the next Budget we could attempt that the N\$60 for a licence is abolished. I support Vote 29.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I eventually got the chance to say what I want to say.

The reason why I stood up is to refer to page 5, point 2 on the speech of the Minister and I would want to underline the primary mandate of the NBC, namely to inform, educate and entertain. What is basically happening with the NBC now is that it does not carry out its mandate. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** Selective morality.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Definitely selective morality, yes. What I want to see is that the funds we allocate are used for the purpose intended. I understand the NBC is thinking of introducing five additional programmes. I do not have any clue what type of programmes these are, but we as a Nation want to be informed by our national broadcaster that there are these programmes

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coming up. Is there any possibility for us to influence the type of programmes that are coming now?

In terms of informing the Nation, you always find that the NBC comes last as compared to other broadcasters, TV 1 for example. If you invite them, they will not come, yet it is a national broadcaster, or they might come very late and then they also do not show what was being said at a particular occasion. A national broadcaster is there to inform, educate and to entertain, but I think the main problem lies with the Editors, that is my guess. If one would have given me an opportunity, that power, I would have fired the Editors on the spot because they are not doing the right thing. Eventually all that has been captured by the camera people goes to the Editors and either these people do not look at it at all, or they deliberately cut out those whom they do not like. I think there is a problem.

Many activities are taking place on a daily basis within our Ministries and the NBC should have been there to inform the Nation that there is progress, there is movement, there are activities, the Government is doing something, however they fail to do that. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** May I ask a question? Honourable Chief, are you aware that on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February there was a programme which was very important for especially the northern Regions, where Namibia and Angola embarked on the first joint immunisation of cattle, but are you aware that these people never turned up and that the Governor of Ohangwena has informed them of the programme. It is because Iilonga was going to address the people.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Honourable Iilonga, I would think that is the truth. The selective morality that I alluded to in the beginning is true. If I have to ask people in this Parliament to stand up whose stories were neglected or discarded,

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everybody would stand up and only a few would remain sitting. Are we saying we have the right people at the national broadcaster?

I know our Ministries are hard at work; they have ongoing activities on a daily basis but which are not shown to the Nation. Perhaps we need a dedicated channel, maybe sponsored by the Ministries, just to inform and educate the Nation, because we want people to know which social programmes are in existence and what activities are undertaken for the benefit of the Nation, also giving general information that would assist people. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Do you not think that it would be proper if Members of Parliament one day meet with the Board of the NBC and the management to discuss this issue? The feeling in this House is that the NBC is politically used to cover only certain people. The NBC is not the property of an individual, it belongs to the State. If we want we can boycott it here and it will not get a cent. The NBC must not be used as a political tool of some politicians, it should be fair to all. The NBC wastes time, they go and cover events, receive S&T and the people here at the headquarters cut what must not be shown. I think we should meet the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors are approved by the Cabinet, we are elected, they are not elected and the management are employed but it is the State, it is us who run the show. Do you not think it is time that we meet the Board of Directors?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** I fully agree with you, we should bring them over. If they do not understand their mandate, then we should educate them here to understand that.

Maybe we also need to advise the NBC Board to rotate the Editors. They could be put in a rotation pool for two years and check who are the ones doing their work competently. Maybe we should also look at the creation of a dedication channel, although I do not know at this point in time how

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we are going to fund that channel, but my concern is that the Nation should be informed accurately, they should be educated accurately and entertained in a manner that is proper. Other than that, I support this Vote and I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Can I ask the Minister to respond to some of the specific questions?

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to thank all the Honourable Members for having shown interest in the affairs of the Ministry of ICT and in particular that of NBC.

*Honourable Witbooi*, you raised a very pertinent question on the need to introduce computers in schools, particularly in the pre-primary schools. That is indeed a great necessity and it something that I have been discussing with my Colleague, the Minister of Education. We are working together to realise that project.

Another issue you raised is the need to have an NBC bureau in the Hardap Region. The very same question was raised in respect of Omaheke and Omusati Regions and, indeed, the reason why we cannot at this stage have NBC bureaus in those regions is financial constraints. It is our wish to establish a permanent footprint of the NBC in those Regions.

*Comrade Ncube*, thank you for your support. You wanted to know why the Parliamentary Report is not covered by sign language and if that is the case, we need to look into that. We have discussed the need to introduce Braille in the New Era and it is just a question of putting the logistics in place because in this case we are excluding our visually impaired brothers and sisters.

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*Honourable Swartz* enquired about the e-health that we are about to introduce at the Central Hospital. We have two programmes, namely E-health at the Central Hospital and E-learning, because we want to have our main hospitals linked to the Regions so that they can see when medicines are depleted in the rural clinics so that supplies can be sent immediately. If the Minister were here, he would appreciate that good idea, but E-learning is to facilitate the learning process where our university and colleges will receive lectures from India through a satellite link. That will also apply to our hospitals to enable our doctors and nurses to consult their counterparts in India on medical issues. This is a very important development that would really benefit our country greatly.

You mentioned that there is no network coverage between Keetmanshoop and Grünau and we take note of that, likewise the absence of radio coverage in Warmbad.

*Honourable Ulenga*, I thank you for supporting the Smartcard initiative that helps pensioners to access their pension money in the rural areas. You were not impressed by the number of post offices we have just established because you alleged that there are quite a number of places around the country where people have to travel long distances to collect their money. This is true and we are planning to establish post offices all over the country to enable our people to access postal services in their neighbourhoods. I think you are aware of the UN decision that applies to all services, that we should provide services within a distance of at least five kilometres, whether it is roads, hospitals or schools, to enable the population to live a decent life.

*Honourable Bezuidenhoudt*, you have shown your skills you have picked up in your previous employment, but I think it would have been better if you stayed there instead of sitting here and wasting a lot of time. Yes, ICT has transformed our lives and it is needed in all facets of our lives, whether in business, agriculture and we need to apply ICT in all these sectors so that we can take Namibia to further heights. I cannot agree more with what you have said. Of course, with regard to the facilitation of ICT facilities under one roof, we have the Ministry of ICT which is supposed to do the coordination and to set the standards and we are in the

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process of achieving that. We are responsible for policy, coordination and setting standards and we are in the process of reaching that stage of coordinating all the activities of ICT in all the Ministries.

Of course, ICT is a cross-cutting matter, every Office, Ministry or Agency should use ICT in order to enhance their performance, in order to better their administration, but there must be coordination to ensure that we use the same type of technology in the whole country and we are moving towards that.

On cyber crime, I have talked about the introduction of the Electronic Transactions Bill. Apart from the Communication Bill which provides for the intercepting centre, we are also going to introduce a Bill that will deal with cyber crime, the Electronic Transactions Bill, that recognises E-signatures, E-writing, E-agreements that are made to expedite business transactions. This will make cyber crimes recognised in our national Courts. At the moment we do not have a competent Court and this Bill will empower us to try a person successfully, especially on crimes relating to cloning of credit cards.

*Honourable Namoloh*, pollution that emanate from ICT products is indeed a threat. Even cell phone materials are not degradable, they do not disintegrate. If you bury them in the ground, they remain intact and they are toxic. They can pollute the environment and that is why we should have a policy that prevents dumping, that prescribes how to dispose of these materials successfully. Maybe the Ministry of Environment should come with a draft policy that prohibits this kind of material from being dumped in our country.

*Honourable Kazenambo*, it is regrettable to hear that somebody died in a road accident as a result of lack of communication in that this person could not get help. Maybe we need to avoid these kinds of accidents from happening so often. Again, we are taking note and we will see what we can do.

You mentioned that commercial farms are covered by the network while the adjacent rural areas are not. I need to find out if something of that

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nature exists. The provision of coverage in whatever form should be inclusive and we will look into this.

*Honourable Naholo*, Honourable Kawana has answered you because what is happening in this country is done everywhere. Namibia is an open book; everybody is reading us from cover to cover. If what you are saying is true, then we would not have received this recognition. What you are saying does not hold any water at all.

*Honourable Utoni*, on the possibility of the NBC creating more channels will emanate from the introduction of digital broadcasting. Once we digitalise we will be able to economise on the utilisation of spectrum. That will enable us to free more spectrums that could be used for more channels.

You mentioned that international news seems not to be giving a clear picture of events and I would like to say that the international news is always short, unless we can extend the broadcasting material owned by one power. If you show the AU delegation meeting Gaddafi, then you cannot show the other one, because you cannot show the whole spectrum of the situation, you can only show one part. I do not know whether that implies that the NBC is biased, but the point I want to make is that it is very short, maybe three seconds, as it is very expensive.

You also mentioned the importance of setting up an African news cable. We have discussed this need with some of our Colleagues in the Region and, of course, we should appreciate our leaders who established a regional newspaper, so that we at least have a newspaper to reflect the regional information coverage. We have discussed this and maybe we just need to put it to our leaders at the AU level, so that we see how we can come up with this. Even Brazil has this international channel, India, China and Russia has it and if you watch Russia's television, you get a clear picture as to what is happening in the world.

*Dr Kawana*, thank you very much, you are also worried about the lack of coverage in the area of Gobabis. We take note of the need to extend the radio network to Otamanzi and Onesi and the inclusion of African news.

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We have been doing that also in the New Era, although nobody acknowledged that. New Era is always carrying a very informative documentary on our heroes.

You want documentaries on slavery and genocide. We have been doing this in the run-up to our main calendar events and this will be very educating to our young people.

*Honourable Nghimtina*, I thank you for supporting Vote 29. I think everything you mentioned was positive and I also thank Honourable Iyambo who has hit the nail on the head on why we are not able to provide coverage here and coverage there. There is only one central point from where the constraint emanates.

*Honourable Muheua* I thank you, for supporting the Ministry of ICT and I take note of your concern. *Honourable Amathila*, thank you very much. You reminded us of some of the things which have been persisting since your days as Minister of Information and the reason is that funds have not been forthcoming.

*Honourable Dr Ankama*, thank you very much, you were much critical about your presentation and we take note. Yes, I have also experienced that NBC comes late and when they cover the event, they do not broadcast it. I do not know why, but I will take up this issue with the NBC management. Thank you very much.

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

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMED:**

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Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House is adjourned until Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> of April at 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2011.04.18 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
18 APRIL 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Katjavivi.

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**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI:** I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 05, 06, 07, 08, 10 and 13 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. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION  
BILL**

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

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HON NGHIDINWA**

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

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**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.

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:**

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported Friday, 14 April 2011, Votes 06, 07 and 13 had been introduced and Vote 01, 02, 04, 09, 23, 26 and 30 had been agreed to.

**Vote 05 – “HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION”, N\$243 623 726** is put for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the whole House Committee, Honourable Members,

Today I rise to introduce Vote 5 of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and to inform this august House on the stage of implementing programmes which were budgeted for 2010/2011 Financial Year and equally, to motivate the funds allocated to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration under Vote 5 for the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

Before I introduce Vote 5 of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, let me take a few minutes to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, with her dedicated team for the job well done. We are all aware that she tabled a

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massive Budget of N\$38 billion which includes over N\$14 billion meant to create over 186,000 jobs. It is also a Budget with a huge allocation to education, health and other key sectors of our economy, which is consistent with the provisions of the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto since our Independence in 1990.

To me, this is by all accounts commendable, for which I feel obliged to commend His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba for appointing a mother as Minister of Finance. It is clear that our Mother of Finance has delivered this progressive Budget with particular maternal instincts in the maternity ward of Namibia. Thank you my daughter Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, you have done it again. Comrade Minister, truly, you have spoken soundly and passionately to the aspirations of many Namibians, rich and poor, rural and urban. You have also addressed the plight of students, nurses, soldiers, Police, youth, Local Authorities and Regional Councils as well as the Private Sector. It is thus with pleasure that I wish to support the notion that this Budget is a pro-poor and pro-growth Budget. My wish and expectation is that every aspect of this Budget must be implemented in order to benefit all our people. Once more congratulations, Comrade Minister, you have done the women of Namibia proud with your sterling performance as Minister of Finance.

Honourable Members, our programmes and all our efforts are geared towards achieving our NDP III and Vision 2030 as outlined in the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto of 2009 as per the following programmes of the Ministry:

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

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, it is now my distinct honour

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and privilege to share with you the summary of achievements of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and introduce the requested allocations for each of the following programmes under the Ministry's Vote:

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

I have informed this august House during the last Financial Year that the Ministry has established Sub-Regional/Constituency Offices in various constituencies. This was done within the framework of the National Decentralisation Policy to bring the most needed services closer to the masses, especially those that live in the far remote areas. I am confident to report today that so far 20 Sub-Regional Offices on top of already 13 Regional Offices were opened.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, due to the fact that the Ministry is experiencing late registration of births at all offices across the country, the Ministry, with the assistance of other stake holders such as the Ministry of Health and Social Services and UNICEF, has embarked upon a project to decentralise the registration of newly born babies at hospital with maternity ward facilities. To this effect 23,590 babies have been registered and issued with birth certificates from the following hospitals: Eenhana, Engela, Gobabis, Katima Mulilo, Katutura State Hospital, Keetmanshoop, Onandjokwe, Oshakati, Oshikuku, Opuwo, Otjiwarongo, Outapi, Rundu, Tsandi and Swakopmund. This project is gaining momentum and will be extended further to other hospitals depending on the availability of financial and human resources.

The wishes and aspiration of the Ministry is to establish Sub-Regional

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Offices in all constituencies but our hands are tight when it comes to the means to do so. I hope that the Honourable Members will do justice to the Ministry to support the requested amount of money to enable us to further extend our activities to all corners of Namibia.

The Ministry is in the process of automating birth, marriage and death records. Currently, 7,225,931 birth records have been automated. This figure includes old records dating back to 1895. This project is going on well despite the fact that the number of data typists who were hired on contract by the Ministry are diminishing continuously, because they are taking up permanent employment in Government and the Private Sector.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, let me reiterate my call of last year to request people to come and collect their identity cards from the centres where they have applied. The Ministry has reduced the waiting period of identity cards and it does not take that long to be printed and be dispatched to the Regional Offices, hence I encourage the public to come and collect their IDs from offices where they have applied. Our shelves at the Regional and Sub-Regional Offices are full of uncollected identity cards and we might run out of space due to this reason. However, I am pleased to note that some of the Regional Councillors are assisting with the distribution of these uncollected identity cards and I wish to request those Regional Councillors who have not yet joined hands with us on this venture, to do so soonest. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration wants to engage other stakeholders to assist in the distribution of piled-up identity cards to their owners. The discussions between our Ministry and these entities are underway.

For the above mentioned programme to function well, I wish to request this august House to approve an amount of **N\$117,608,000** only.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the Immigration Control, Aliens Control, Passports and Citizenship programme is responsible for the efficient, smooth and regulated movement of persons entering and exiting the country. The programme is also responsible for the issuance of permits to facilitate investment flow for economic growth in the country. On the

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other hand, it issues passports and other travel documents as well as granting Namibian citizenships to foreign nationals.

The Border Control Division regulates the movement of persons entering and exiting the country and operates the ports of entry/exit as well as managing deportations of illegal immigrants. The Division manages and administers the conduct of the Regional Immigration Tribunals, the body that handles lawful deportation of illegal immigrants. The Division also provides secretarial services to the Immigration Tribunal, including transporting and escorting illegal immigrants to their countries of origin. During the previous Financial Year, 3,196 illegal immigrants were arrested and deported or issued with 48-hours notice to leave the country.

Last year, I informed this very Chamber that the Ministry is in the process of computerising its border and entry points. This programme is still ongoing and the following border posts and entry points have been computerised: Hosea Kutako International and Eros Airports, Ariamsvlei, Katwitwi, Mohembo, Ngoma, Noordoewer, Oranjemund, Oshikango, Trans Kalahari and Wenela border posts, Walvis Bay and Lüderitz Ports of Entry. The system is connected to other systems and it is able to shed alert signals on unwelcomed or blacklisted persons. Once all the border posts and entry points are fully computerised, there will be no room for any visitor to enter or leave Namibia unnoticed by the Immigration officials.

I must also use this opportunity to inform this august House that the Ministry has deployed an Immigration Attaché to Pretoria in South Africa and Ondjiva in Angola. During this Financial Year, we intend to deploy an Immigration Attaché to Cape Town in South Africa in order to reduce the distance from Cape Town to Pretoria and minimise the number of clients at the Pretoria office.

The Aliens Control, Passports and Citizenship Division is mandated to process residence permits, employment permits, visas and citizenship to foreign nationals and other important permits necessary for the entry of tourists and acquisition of the scarce skills required in our job market. In addition, the Division is also responsible for the issuance of passports and

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other travel documents as well as conferring Namibian citizenships to foreign nationals who meet the requirements as outlined in the Citizenship Act 14 of 1990. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is committed to improve the function of processing work permits, visas and other important permits necessary for the entry of tourists and acquisition of the scarce skills required in our job market. The Ministry is aware of the outcry of the Namibian nationals on the employment of non-Namibians. We are busy working out the ratio to all non-Namibians who are employed in the country. Therefore, we are working together with the Ministries of Trade and Industry and Labour and Social Welfare to set up conditions regarding the employment of non-Namibians in order to address the issue of the high unemployment rate and other challenges facing our country. The automation process of permits and visas is underway. During the last Financial Year, the following permits were issued to foreign nationals:

Employment Permits	-	2,917
Student Permits	-	5,838
Temporary Residence Permits	-	3,518
Permanent Residence Permits	-	84
Visas (work/business, study and holiday)	-	27,322
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>39,679</b>

Honourable Deputy Speaker, as reported last year, the new passport system has been installed and is functioning well. We are still able to process passports within the timeframe of ten working days. As I indicated last year, unscrupulous elements are working tirelessly to forge our passports in order to advance their criminal activities abroad. We must remain vigilant and alert the Ministry on these types of activities. During the last Financial Year, the Ministry has issued the following travel documents:

Diplomatic passports	-	154
Official passports	-	294
Maxi Passport	-	1
Ordinary passports	-	49,050
Travel documents for stateless persons	-	22

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Emergency Travelling Certificates	-	1,969
<b>Grand total</b>	-	<b>51,490</b>

As a constitutional mandate, the Ministry continues to confer Namibian citizenship to foreign nationals who meet the requirements as stipulated in the Namibian Citizenship Act (Act 14 of 1990). As a result, the following categories of citizenship were granted to foreign nationals:

Descent	-	635
Registration	-	132
Naturalisation	-	555
Marriage	-	77
<b>Grand total</b>	-	<b>1,399</b>

Last year I informed this august House on a number of stateless persons who have been residents of this country since 1930 – 1977. These categories of persons came from our neighbouring countries of South Africa, Angola, Zambia and Botswana. These residents are not in possession of any national documents to enable them to have access to social grants and other amenities. These people regard Namibia as their only country and have indicated to the Ministry that they do not have any intention of going back to their countries of origin. The Ministry, after consulting Cabinet, has decided to grant them Namibian citizenship by naturalisation. To date, about 90% or 555 of those who are granted citizenship by naturalisation are these people.

I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of **N\$121,551,000** for this programme.

The Refugee Administration Directorate provides protection and support to all refugees and asylum seekers in Namibia. It further coordinates and facilitates the voluntary repatriation exercises of refugees to their countries of origin. It also receives Namibian returnees mainly from Dukwe Refugee Settlement in Botswana and other places. This is done in terms of the Refugee Recognition and Control Act (Act 2 of 1999) and the obligation placed upon Namibia by International Conventions relating to the treatment of refugees and displaced persons. One of the important

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functions of this programme is also to facilitate refugees to obtain study and work permits.

Currently, there are 8,506 refugees and 1,328 asylum seekers at the Osire Refugee Settlement, which brings about the total number to 9,834. As reported last year, the majority of the refugees originated from Angola and the Great Lakes Region of the Democratic Republic of Congo; Burundi and Rwanda. The process of voluntary repatriation is ongoing until the end of 2011. Tripartite meetings were held in 2010 with the Governments of the Republics of Angola and Botswana, and the UNHCR, in order to address the refugee matters at the Osire Refugee Settlement and Namibian refugees at Dukwe in Botswana.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is of equal importance for me to keep this august House abreast on the number of Namibia returnees from Dukwe in the Republic of Botswana during the period under review. The Ministry, together with the assistance of UNHCR, has facilitated the return of 24 Namibian refugees from Botswana and they were integrated into their communities.

However, there are still 931 Namibians in Dukwe Refugee Camp in the Republic of Botswana. The Governments of the Republic of Namibia and Botswana together with the UNHCR will continue to promote the principle of voluntary repatriation of these people to come back home.

I now wish to request this august House to approve an amount of **NS4,465,000** for this programme.

Finally, the Honourable Members might be aware that the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration continues to generate revenue through administration fees of permits, visas, passports and miscellaneous items including consular fees collected by our Missions. To this effect, an amount of **NS45,757,084** has been generated during the period of April 2010 to March 2011.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, I now move that

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HON DR A IYAMBO**

an amount of N\$243,624,000 be allocated for Vote 05 of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and I thank you.

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

I put **Vote 10 – “EDUCATION”, N\$8,611,009,888** for Introduction.

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**HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, as I present Vote 10 I will concentrate mainly on issues that were available before the adjustment in terms of the salaries of Civil Servants.

The Ministry of Education team affirms that we will continue building on the firm foundation laid by our predecessors. We gratefully acknowledge the many pillars of strength that will enable us to develop a knowledge-based society. It is with admiration and respect that I commend previous ministers of education for a job done splendidly. We thank you, dear Colleagues.

Education is a joint national responsibility where we are all called upon to play our part. Namibia is doing superbly well - one can never go wrong by investing heavily in education. We should applaud ourselves and not have any reservations in allocating adequate resources to education. We extend our sincere gratitude for the continuing support and wise guidance of His Excellency the President. I also seize this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to my Colleagues in Cabinet and Parliament for their support throughout the last twelve months. I equally acknowledge the contributions of the Nation for their solid support and commitment to the continued transformation of education.

We began our journey with a “*listening campaign*” by visiting education establishments and communities in all thirteen Regions. We identified areas of strength and those that required urgent improvement. As a result

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the Ministry was able to address some of the most urgent needs such as the building of classrooms, acquisition of learning and support materials as well as the deployment of more teachers.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members of this august House, we have begun to develop a Strategic Plan for the Ministry of Education. The rudimentary stages involved wide consultations. Our consultation revealed and suggested that it is only through a persistent and focused hands-on approach, that we can continue making significant changes.

During the course of 2011 we will continue to elevate work ethics and accountability at all levels of the education sector. Despite the huge investments in education some persistent challenges remain. The teaching and learning outcomes still do not match the huge investment. The failure rates are too high and drop-out and repetition rates are not moving in the right direction. This alarming phenomenon applies to all levels from Grade 1 to Grade 12. One of the contributing factors is the overcrowdedness in many of our classrooms that have even reached numbers of close to 50 learners per classroom. This surely means we need continuous investment in providing more classrooms.

The absenteeism and lack of commitment of some of our teachers, professional staff and learners across the sector are deficiencies that cause us great concern. Self-esteem and self-worth, especially of teachers, and motivation are very low at many schools. We need to consciously acknowledge the valiant efforts of so many of our teachers who are doing an outstanding job.

Other challenges include the lack of parents' involvement in the education of their children and social and economic factors which negatively impact on educational support and achievement. Discipline and moral decay negatively affect output in our education system. The usage and abuse of alcohol and drugs and teenage pregnancy are ills of great concern. With respect to the pregnancy rates: in 2010 more than 1,400 learners dropped out of school because of pregnancy. Has the time not come for us as the lawmakers of this country to consider passing a law making the

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impregnation of learners by adults a punishable offence?

Another concern is the career path after secondary education. Here we find that the few learners who succeed in completing general education cannot all be absorbed in higher and vocational education institutions due to the limited capacity of these institutions. This calls for long term interventions and the further expansion of vocational and other tertiary institutions.

Of even greater concern is the large number of learners who drop out of the system from Grade 10 onwards and join the ranks of the unemployed. The Ministry of Education has to create opportunities and hope for these young people. A country without hope is a country without a future. The current high unemployment rate estimates that the highest component of 67% is made up of young bodies. These bodies need our urgent attention to secure our future.

To succeed at the helm of the Ministry of Education, any leader would need a strong, efficient and focussed team - a team that is agile, lean and responsive to deliver the core business of the Ministry of Education with the aim to ensure quality Education for All. Therefore my motto is that we must all, "*Deliver, deliver, and deliver*" at all times and with vigour. I do believe that, with such a team, the Ministry will deliver on its mandate. We vow that this year, the Ministry of Education will be characterised by Business Unusual. This means we are called upon to focus, to be creative, to sacrifice, to go the extra mile, to change our mind-set and to think outside the box.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, may I now look at the Budget Outlook for 2011/2012.

Allocation to Vote 10 - Education for 2011/2012 is N\$8,304,547,000. Included in this amount is N\$91,000,000 as support to ETSIP from our development partners, mainly the European Union. This year's allocation to Vote 10 represents an increase of 28.2% as compared to 2010/2011. This amount is shared among three competing expenditure areas:

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- Thirteen Regional Directorates of Education will receive N\$5,701,141 000 representing 68.7% of the total amount;
- Headquarters will receive N\$1,229,352,000 representing 15% of the total allocation; and the
- State Owned Enterprises will receive N\$1,374,054,000 or 16.6% of the total allocation to the education sector.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, before I delve in the intricacies of the allocation to Vote 10 allow me to express our gratitude to the Minister of Finance and her Deputy, the National Planning Commission Director-General and their staff. In the same vein, my gratitude and commendation go to my colleagues at the Ministry of Education for preparing the Budget.

Honourable Members, Vote 10 comprises of six programmes namely: General Education, Lifelong Learning, Tertiary Education, Vocational Education, Knowledge Creation and Innovation and the HIV/AIDS Management Unit.

General Education forms the foundation of all programmes as it caters for pre-primary, primary and secondary formal education. This programme receives the lion share of the Ministry of Education allocation of N\$6,327,189,000. The total allocation to this programme, therefore, accounts for 76.2% of our Budget. Funds are allocated to Head Office directorates under General Education such as Programme Quality Assurance (PQA), National Institute for Educational Development (NIED), National Examination and Assessment (DNEA) and Planning and Development (PAD). A large portion, N\$5,701,141,000 is allocated to the 13 Regions. An amount of N\$3,724,727,000 will cater for the salaries for 22,063 teachers, including heads of departments and principals who are responsible for the 607,992 learners taught in 1,677 schools. This part of the allocation also takes care of the 350 hostels of which 206 are Government hostels, 83 subsidised, 16 private and 45 community hostels.

Included in the salary allocation is an amount of N\$694,606,000 to

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address the:

- Shortfall on the remuneration Budget for pre-primary, primary and secondary teachers experienced in the previous Financial Years;
- Shortfall on implementation of teacher incentives (Bush Allowances) in 2010/2011;
- Appointment of new teachers due to the expansion of the curriculum including Life Skills and Library teachers and new schools.

Our education goals include access, equity, quality, democracy and efficiency. I would like to update the Honourable Members about the *progress* made and *challenges* in the implementation of the education goals the Ministry set for itself at Independence in 1990.

We would like to see all children (girls, boys, children with special needs, street children, children of nomadic parents, farm workers' children and children from impoverished communities) enrolled in schools.

Namibia has done extremely well by achieving the current net enrolment rate of 98.5% in primary in 2010. The challenge remains to improve this figure to 100%, by targeting the hard-to-reach children so that no Namibian child is left behind. This implies that we need to continue our efforts to reach the many children that are still not accessing education such as street kids and farm workers' children.

We continue to expand access to schooling through the building of additional fully furnished classrooms at a rate of 140 per year. However, the target was 400 schools per annum and we have a shortfall that now has to be addressed. For example, there are still 1,442 temporary structures used as classrooms or offices and we have to replace them with permanent structures. To address the backlog of classrooms across the thirteen Regions, the Ministry has to build at least 400 classrooms per year.

Equity has to do with fairness and gender parity. We are committed to

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provide equitable access to schooling for all children. Necessary legislation, policies and instruments are in place to ensure that all children including orphans, vulnerable and marginalised children as well as children with special needs attend school:

- A policy on Inclusive Education will be finalised soon;
- A register for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) was established;
- The Educational Management Information System (EMIS) statistics was improved to include a chapter on learners with disabilities.

As a result of the above improvements:

- A total of 197,000 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) have been recorded in the OVC register; and
- A total of 32,169 learners with disabilities are now recorded in the EMIS statistics.

Other progress made in providing equitable access to schooling include:

- Retention of female learners in schools,
- Provision of school feeding to 225,000 learners at a cost of approximately N\$50,000,000 in 2010/2011 Financial Year,
- Implementation of learning support programmes to assist all children to experience success in school and encourage them to attend and remain in school.

Despite all these efforts and programmes, we are very concerned about the close to 200,000 needy learners who are not yet benefiting from the school feeding programme due to limited resources. 23% of our schools still do not have basic sanitation or basic services such as running water and electricity. We also need to build more hostels to achieve equity,

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especially at primary level.

Other factors, such as socio-economic disparities, the geographical vastness of the country, and the diversity in culture and the shortage of qualified language teachers and printed materials in the African languages continue to challenge the provision of equitable access to schooling.

With the allocation to education we will ensure that our learners receive basic learning materials and basic meals and have access to effective teachers and education managers and good physical facilities.

Honourable Members, quality of education provision is influenced by many factors such as the skills, competence and professionalism of teachers and education managers, learning materials, the medium of instruction, the curriculum, language proficiency of teachers and learners, physical facilities as well as socio-economic, health, environmental and cultural issues in our society.

The Ministry has made the following progress during 2010/2011:

- The provision of textbooks to the value of N\$106 million, of which 900,000 textbooks were procured by Government and ETSIP and 700,000 textbooks by MCA-Namibia (N\$35 million).
- The implementation of the incentive system to recruit and retain teachers at rural schools costing government N\$129 million annually;
- The development and implementation of continuous professional development (CPD) programmes for teachers and managers at the cost of N\$20 million;
- The development of the five-year English Language Proficiency Programme (ELPP) aimed at improving the English competencies of all teachers. To date, the Ministry has spent N\$5 million; and
- The implementation of Standardized Achievement Tests for Grade

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5 and 7 to monitor the quality of learning in schools to the value of N\$5 million which was provided under ETSIP and utilised in 2010.

Another achievement worth mentioning is the assessment conducted amongst SADC countries in reading and mathematics by the Southern African Consortium of Monitoring Education Quality, SACMEQ. Out of fifteen countries Namibia gained the 9<sup>th</sup> position in 2007 compared to the previous 13<sup>th</sup> position in 2000.

However, the pass rate of our Grade 10 and 12 learners is still a concern. For example, the 2010 national examination results showed that only 51.2% (17,187) of the Grade 10 learners were able to proceed to Grade 11 in 2011 compared to 50.3% in 2009. It is clear that we need to pay more attention to the 49% of learners who cannot proceed to Grade 11. That is why concerted efforts were made to encourage learners to repeat Grade 10, join NAMCOL or any other institutions or embark on skills development courses.

The Grade 12 results also showed a similar pattern. Out of 19,917 learners who sat for 2010 examinations only 3,656 learners qualified for admission to tertiary institutions. These results have been fairly static for many years and the time has come for us as a country, including us, Members of Parliament, faith-based organisations, NGOs Private Sector, parents – all of us – to take this to a higher level. One of the concerns raised by the public is the separate announcement of Grade 12 results in December and January which are seen to disadvantage students at the ordinary level. We are working on a system to announce all results at the same time.

We will continue to improve physical facilities, build more laboratories and school libraries and procure textbooks and other instructional materials. We will also improve the relevance and quality of our school curriculum and the skills and competencies of our teachers and school managers. We will provide incentives to our teachers in rural areas and learning support programmes. We will adopt an aggressive approach to the integration of pre-primary education into formal education and monitoring the quality of teaching and learning through national assessments.

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During 2010/2011, the Ministry delegated some of its functions to the Regional Councils. Through decentralisation, the procurement of goods and services has significantly improved and is efficient. However, the timeous payment of teachers' salaries is still a problem. We continue to encourage and support the work of School Boards in order to promote parent and community participation in the management of schools.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the efficiency of the system is determined by the quality of its outputs and the efficient use of its resources. Accurate, reliable and timely expenditure information is vital to efficient use of resources. We want to ensure that funds are used for the intended purpose and in time. In this regard, the Ministry will introduce measures to reduce wastages in the utilisation of our resources.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members allow me to elaborate on the progress on other commitments in the 2010/2011 Financial Year

Last year I reported that the Ministry of Education will build the first Vision School in the Kavango Region during 2010. I am delighted to report that construction has started and that the school is expected to open its doors for learners in 2013.

Life Skills has been made a compulsory subject across the curriculum and full-time Life Skills teachers have been appointed.

The Ministry has begun with the curriculum development process to re-introduce technical subjects into formal education. A comprehensive plan was developed. The implementation of technical subjects will begin in 2013.

In 2010/2011 the Ministry of Education used N\$84 million as a response to immediate needs identified. In this respect, I would like to report that the funds have been committed and spent. We renovated hostels and schools in terms of blocked toilets, broken windows, leaking pipes and taps to the value of N\$23.9 million. We built 197 additional classrooms which benefit 6,895 learners in 11 Regions. 23 Additional ablution and

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administration facilities were built. A total of 11,741 desks, 23,481 chairs, 5,674 beds and 15,338 mattresses were acquired to benefit learners in all 13 Regions. It is estimated that 200 jobs were created in the process.

Allow me now to focus on the planned activities for 2011/2012 in the General Education programme. This programme intends to address the challenges that I highlighted earlier through the following actions:

- The Ministry has budgeted an amount N\$273,317,000 for construction of fully furnished classrooms and renovation of schools;
- We will adjust the continuous support of a subsidy for private schools and hostels from N\$7.50 per child to N\$ 12.00 per child;
- We will strengthen the School Feeding Programme, by allocating N\$53,000,000;
- We will implement the English Language Proficiency Programme;
- We will improve the quality of outcomes to reduce the repetition and drop-out rates;
- We will review the school curriculum to include technical and vocational subjects;
- We will continue with the procurement of textbooks and other instructional materials for N\$83,539,000 and school furniture for N\$34,000,000;
- We will continue improving the skills and competencies of our teachers and school managers through continuous professional development and training; and
- We will accelerate the integration of pre-primary education into formal education and closer cooperation with the Ministry of

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Gender Equality and Child Welfare to articulate the educational needs for the provision of Early Childhood Development and Care.

This year we were severely affected by the floods. Some of the main casualties were infrastructure and actual teaching and learning. In total 338 schools were affected, involving more than 127,860 learners. Many infrastructures were submerged and the cost of repair is, while still not known, likely to be quite high. We intend to change the school calendar and are recommending the construction of boarding schools. We have also made an appeal for teachers to teach during the school holidays. We appeal to learners, parents, teachers and the community to support the efforts to mitigate the effects of the floods.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, the second programme that I would like to address is Information, Adult and Lifelong Learning. This programme has three components Adult Education, Libraries and Namibia College of Opening Learning (NAMCOL). It is through this programme that Namibia is contributing towards the achievement of goal 5 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which focuses on increasing literacy levels to 90 percent by the year 2015.

In 2010/2011, there were 27,398 adults enrolled in literacy classes. The national literacy level in the country currently stands at 86%. The Regions which are still below the national literacy average are Otjozondjupa Region (83%), Omaheke Region (74%), Kavango Region (79%) and Kunene Region (58%). This is where we also find the most educationally marginalised communities. In this current Financial Year, we will intensify our efforts to ensure that we reach as many of the adult learners as possible.

Furthermore, the programme has continued to empower the adult learners through access to information and lifelong learning opportunities. A good example is the training of 360 adult learners in 2010/2011 in entrepreneurial and basic management skills.

Following the pilot of the “*Yes, I Can*” programme with the support of the Cuban Government, I am pleased to inform this House that, as from May

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2011, the Ministry of Education will expand the Cuban Literacy Programme to Kavango and Omaheke and Oshikoto where, as indicated earlier, we have the lowest literacy levels. Various legal framework instruments which were developed during 2010, such as the Lifelong Learning Policy, will be implemented during this Financial Year.

Access to information is essential to nation building. Information is a vehicle through which sustainable and economic development can be achieved. Through this sub-programme, a substantial number of Namibians have access to relevant and timely information resources that assist and support them in education, research, economic activities and to make informed decisions. This is done through 66 community libraries, the national library and Community Learning and Development Centres (CLDCs), 19 specialised Ministerial libraries and 394 school libraries. During 2010 these facilities, excluding school libraries were visited by a total of 592,138 people. Internet access, which is critical to achieving Vision 2030, is now available at 29 community libraries across various Regions. All these efforts are aimed at encouraging the culture of reading and information provision.

Furthermore, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the importance of the preservation of this country's information, especially our Nation's history and the unpublished documentary heritage. Well-preserved information supports education and research which in turn influence how we gain a competitive edge on innovation and knowledge creation.

In this regard, the Ministry continues to invest in the expansion of infrastructure to provide adequate points of information across the country. In 2011/2012, with the support of MCA, two Regional Study and Resource Centres will be constructed as from June at Oshakati (Oshana Region) and Helao Nafidi (Ohangwena Region) while in Gobabis

(Omaheke Region) construction will start in the 2012/2013 Financial Year. The total cost of the construction of these centres is estimated at N\$136,349,809.

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Honourable Members, as you are aware, the Namibia College of Open Learning (NAMCOL) is an alternative education through distance and open learning modes providing an opportunity to students and adults who have not completed their formal education. During 2010/2011, NAMCOL enrolled 29,000 learners in its programmes. The College has continued to diversify its programme offerings. In 2010 the College, enrolled an additional 1,091 students for tertiary and vocational programmes in fields such as Local Government, youth work, business management, early childhood development, community development and computer literacy, bringing its total enrolment to 32,091 in 2010. The enrolment for 2011 is 30,782 for general education and 1,072 for professional programmes.

Despite these increased enrolment, the College is faced with the challenge of not being able to employ its own teachers due to financial constraints. This results in sacrificing quality of tuition since teachers are part-time.

During this financial year, NAMCOL, in its efforts to create synergy across programmes, will work closely with the Namibia Training Authority (NTA) by introducing a bridging course which will offer vocational programmes for grade 10 school leavers to enable them access to vocational training institutions.

The total allocation to the Adult, Information and Lifelong Learning programme amounts to N\$245,112,000 for the 2011/2012 Financial Year – representing an increase of 47,4% compared to the 2010/2011 Financial Year. This includes N\$71,230,000 allocated to NAMCOL.

The daunting problem of unemployment should be considered a time bomb. Vocational education and training can play a pivotal role in national development and employment creation.

Investing heavily in vocational education has the potential to accelerate our pace towards the industrialisation of our country as envisaged in Vision 2030. The attainment of our goals for Vision 2030 depends on building an economy founded on high-level technical and vocational skills. This can only be achieved if we continue to build a strong, vibrant and responsive vocational education system to develop our human

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resources and employ them in all areas.

The main focus of Vocational Education and Training is to ensure that young people who choose the vocational route do so because they understand that Vocational Education and Training is a highway to success and not a cul-de-sac. For far too long, vocational learning has been seen as an alternative education for those who could not make it in General Education.

I want this august House to join me in a campaign to change the mind-sets of our people to see and accept vocational education and training as the basis for the development of an industrial and skilled labour force as well as a short route towards self-employment.

We need to increase the pace of the expansion and provision of vocational education and training. Different skills development and vocational training courses offered at Vocational and Training Centres (VTCs), Community Skills Development Centres (COSDECs) and Multi-purpose Youth Centres will need to expand extensively. Provision was made in the current financial year for such expansion to begin.

In recognition of the challenges facing our country to provide employment for the large number of youth roaming our streets, the Ministry has increased its allocation to Vocational and Training Sector by 39.12%. This brings the allocation to N\$261,776,000 compared to the N\$188,165,000 allocated in the previous Financial Year, making it the third largest programme in the Ministry of Education.

This allocation will benefit 9,500 trainees enrolled in the current year which represent an increase of 14.2 percent from previous year's enrolment of 8,319. Part of this allocation will be utilised to equip and staff the newly established VTCs at Eenhana in Ohangwena and Nakayale in Omusati which will start operating from April and July 2011, respectively. The Ministry through the NTA has started with the construction of a VTC at Gobabis in Omaheke and Keetmanshoop. Amounts of N\$1,500,000 and N\$2,500,000 have been respectively allocated to these projects during this Financial Year. The expected

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completion date is 2013.

In addition, the Namibian Government is also collaborating with the Government of Congo to rehabilitate the former Loudima Technical Secondary School into a vocational training centre. Once completed, it will facilitate the admission of both Congolese and Namibian students in a bilingual environment. The cost for 2011/2012 is N\$10 million.

With assistance from the Millennium Challenge Account, preparations for the establishment of the National Training Fund, Training Levy and the National Training Fund Council are being finalised and should be operational during this Financial Year. Further cooperation with the Private Sector is being consolidated through the establishment of Industry Skills Committees that advise on skills shortages and needs as well as the continuous review of the curriculum.

Vocational education and training worldwide faces numerous challenges and Namibia is not an exception. Firstly, the responsiveness of vocational education to the fast changing realities on the global arena has become a big challenge. Secondly, the lack of qualified and experienced vocational instructors with a strong industry background is hampering the expansion of this Sector. Thirdly, the shortage of physical facilities and lack of capacity of training providers is having an effect on the desired rate of expansion, hence the need to form partnerships with the employers and exploring “on-the-job training” as an option. All these challenges and extensive plans on how they could be tackled will be discussed once NTA has finalised the Expansion Plan during this Financial Year.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the higher education and training programme has the potential to produce a number of important economic and social benefits. Firstly, it produces the high level human capital required to manage the national economy. Secondly, and perhaps most importantly, it produces the human capital with the capacity for further production of human capital. The programme provides industry with technical support and partnership to spur research and development and innovation. In this role, the higher education institutions provide the high

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level knowledge that can be applied to facilitate the realisation of Vision 2030.

The programme aims to facilitate equitable access and enhance quality and relevance as well as responsiveness to the national economy. However, the severe shortage of student accommodation, the lack of adequate library and laboratory space as well as problems with student transport remain challenging.

The programme is the second largest in terms of allocation of funding. The previous allocation was N\$1,006,438,000. This allocation has increased by 40,2%, bringing the total allocation to N\$1,410,802,000 in 2011/2012.

During 2010/2011 Financial Year, UNAM received an allocation of N\$429,426,000 of which N\$273,926,000 were for operational and N\$155 500 000 capital projects. In the current Financial Year, UNAM will receive an allocation of N\$721,346,000 of which N\$541,846,000 are for operational and N\$179,500,000 capital projects. This translates to an increase of 97.8% and 15.4% respectively.

The main drivers for the increase in subsidy to UNAM are the School of Medicine with N\$145 million and the Faculty of Engineering with N\$57 million. These new entities are still under construction. The medical school was established in 2009 with 59 students. This year a total number of 147 students are enrolled. The Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology in Ongwediva opened its doors in 2009 with 42 students. The total enrolment currently stands at 171 for first, second and third year students. The overall enrolment at UNAM in the 2011 academic year is 15,100 students.

Honourable Members will recall that a request for the name change of Polytechnic to the University of Science and Technology is still under discussion. Cabinet has requested the Ministry to carry out a comprehensive study before such change can be considered. A study will be undertaken under the Council for Higher Education during the course of this year to inform the Ministry on the way forward.

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The Polytechnic of Namibia received additional funds in order to support its expansion of courses, infrastructure and personnel. In terms of the allocation to the Polytechnic of Namibia, there is an increase of 77.5% if compared to allocation in 2010/2011 which was N\$173,523,000. This year's allocation is N\$308,038,000. The increase is mainly as result of expanded programme offerings and re-imburement of fast-tracked infrastructures.

With regard to enrolment, the Polytechnic of Namibia has increased its enrolment from 11,531 in 2010 to 12,108 in 2011.

I reported last year that the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF) is undergoing restructuring with the assistance of the Millennium Challenge Account and this process is expected to be completed in the next Financial Year.

In this respect, I am pleased to report that Cabinet has approved the framework for the reform of Higher Education Financing and the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund. On the restructuring of the NSFAF, I can report that the process has already started. The focus areas are mainly to develop a transparent loan award process, establish an award and selection committee to include regional directors of education and the development of three products that would include pro-poor loans for disadvantaged students, priority area scholarships, and merit-based scholarships.

The allocation to the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund will be N\$296,631,000 in 2011/2012 Financial Year compared to N\$224,420,000 for 2010/2011 representing an increase of 32%. The total number of applications received for 2011/2012 were 11,100 of which 5,651 were approved for financial assistance. This is an increase of 20.77% from the previous year. Eighty percent of the 5 651 loans awarded are for students enrolled in local institutions with UNAM taking up the biggest share while twenty percent are for institutions outside Namibia.

My vision for the reform of this programme is to guarantee that there is equitable access to the tertiary education system that ensures that

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participation in tertiary education that is based on individual ability and study efforts.

The main focus of the reform is to ensure that the Ministry of Education offers targeted loans/grants to the Namibian student population that closely reflect the composition of our society as a whole. It is also to ensure that accurate database is put in place by the end of 2011.

In terms of 2011/2012 Financial Year, the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) is allocated N\$21,664,000 to manage the higher education system. This will be done through the development of a funding formula for Higher Education Institutions, improving quality assurance systems in Higher Education as well as the support to the merger of the four colleges of education with UNAM. The merger has brought numerous challenges such as the high cost of both operational and development to rehabilitate the infrastructures of the four colleges as per UNAM requirements and a possible shortage of teachers in three years to come. The Ministry is giving attention to the merger and, in the current academic year, all students doing the Bachelor of Education are 100 percent sponsored.

In terms of activities, the Council for Higher Education will focus mainly on finalising the funding formula for public institutions ensuring targeted resource allocation to priority fields of study. This will enable the Council to enter into performance agreements with Higher Education Institutions for accountability purposes.

The next programme is Knowledge Creation and Innovation which seeks to provide the promotion, coordination and development of research, science and technology in Namibia. This programme was allocated N\$14,031,000 in the 2010/2011 Financial Year which catered for its operational and development costs. This year the Ministry has allocated amount of N\$49,762,000 to this programme. This allocation represents 0.6 percent of the total allocation to the education sector.

We fully realise the important role that science and technology play in developing a knowledge-based economy and the investment required to

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develop new knowledge and innovation.

The main focus areas for the 2011/2012 Financial Year are the establishment of the National Commission for Research, Science and Technology and the National Research, Science and Technology Fund for which N\$15,000,000 has been set aside for operationalisation. N\$10,000,000 are set aside to finance the Research and Development Fund in order to create a critical mass of highly skilled Namibians in the science and technology fields.

In recognising the importance and role that Indigenous Knowledge Systems plays in socio-economic development, this programme in collaboration with the Multi-disciplinary Research Centre of the University of Namibia, conducted research in the Oshikoto and Caprivi Regions to collect data on Indigenous Knowledge Systems. This study is aimed at generating information in order to develop strategies and a national policy for the protection of indigenous knowledge as well as the integration of IKS into the codified system of knowledge.

The 2010 UNESCO report on science and technology has established that there is a global decline in interest in science and technology as career choice. In response, the Ministry has initiated several activities to promote science and technology. The main initiative in this regard is the National Science, Technology and Engineering Week of which the object is to expose learners, teachers and the society at large to the applications of science in society. Equally, Mathematics and Science computer based learning centres have been established in Khomas, Kunene, Karas, Oshana and the Caprivi to encourage the promotion of science and mathematics. The intention is to roll out the project to all thirteen Regions once adequate resources have been secured.

In terms of International Cooperation, the Ministry through this programme has signed collaborative agreements in the areas of science and technology with different countries and organisations. Some notable activities include: Joint research calls and research symposia, The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Radio Telescope Project with South Africa, High Energy Stereoscopic System, Regional Science Service Centre funded by

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Germany, Science Partnership for the Assessment of Complex Earth Systems Processes (SPACES) Project and collaborative engagement with the People's Republic of China in Space Science and Technology. An amount of N\$5,000,000 has been allocated to support this collaborative efforts.

The capital Budget will be used for the construction of Mathematics and Science Learning Laboratories in the Kunene and the Oshikoto Regions at a cost of N\$1,500,000. The construction of phase 1 of the National Biotechnology Research and Development Laboratory in Windhoek is budgeted at N\$10,000,000, whereas the improvement of the operations of the Olute Food Research Centre in Ondangwa is allocated N\$1,000,000.

**PROGRAMME 6:**

The HIV and AIDS Management Unit deals with the prevention and mitigation of the impact of HIV and AIDS in the education sector. During 2010/2011, the Ministry allocated N\$6,000,000 to support activities such as:

- Awareness Raising and Empowerment of both teachers and learners;
- Mainstreaming HIV and AIDS in policies and Programmes including the Curriculum;
- Strengthening Regulatory Framework;
- Meeting the needs of Orphans and Vulnerable Children; and
- Managing the response to HIV/AIDS.

In 2011/2012 Financial Year the allocation has increased to N\$9,906,000 to support programmes such as *My Future, My Choice* and *Window of Hope* which were previously funded by UNICEF and the Global Fund, respectively.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 10  
HON DR A IYAMBO**

The challenge facing this programme is the lack of adequate structure at both national and regional levels to effectively monitor the impact of HIV/AIDS activities at school level.

For the Ministry of Education to accomplish its goals of continuing to transform the education sector, we need to establish collaborative and strategic partnerships to fill the gaps technically, materially and financially.

Currently we have a number of projects and programmes assisting the Ministry to address common areas of national, regional and international concern. Some of the international obligations that we collaborate on include meeting the Millennium Development Goals, Education for Sustainable Development, Education for All and African Union Second Decade of Education as well as SADC Protocol on Education and Training.

We will continue to strengthen our bilateral and technical cooperation with other countries in areas such as scholarships, technical and financial assistance. Similarly, we will continue to consolidate our cooperation with local business and civil society organisations to ensure maximum benefit for improved teaching and learning outcomes. In our efforts to mobilise additional resources to support the sector we are prepared to explore possibilities of engaging Parastatals such as Government Institutions Pension Fund to financially support its members in the education of their children.

In this regard, I would like to acknowledge and thank all different partners and stakeholders, local and international, public and private, for the unwavering support given to the sector.

Allow me, in conclusion, to re-affirm that Education is a broad area that covers a wide range of activities in all our lives. Vote 10 is more than an Education Vote. It is a developmental Vote aimed at ensuring that the social, economic and political environment of our people is improved for the better.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13  
HON WITBOOI**

Vote 10 is the future and the Vote through which knowledge; skills and technical know-how are harnessed.

On this note, I request this august House to discuss and approve Vote 10 - Education to the tune of **N\$8,611,980,888**. I thank you.

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

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:05  
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:48 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Vote 13 – “HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES” is put for Discussion.

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**HON WITBOOI:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I wish to thank the Honourable Minister for the report on training of various health professionals, as indicated on page 4 of his report. At this stage I have two concerns regarding health service delivery. The training of registered nurses is a heart-warming activity, however looking at the number of registered nurses undergoing five years of training; it seems to be too few in comparison with the population growth countrywide. For example, I was part of a team visiting the Okalongo constituency where we met three registered nurses on a shift, which left us with the impression that the staff is not sufficient for a population of plus minus 53,000. Against this background I want to

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13  
HON KAIYAMO**

enquire whether there is a possibility that one of the six National Health Training Centres could be upgraded to also train registered nurses in order to complement the intake at UNAM. As a citizen visiting health institutions, as a client or a patient, the need on the ground is very high and it needs urgent consideration by the leaders.

My second concern is on the floods in the north and north-east, as referred to in your introductory remarks. I have seen in the Grade 6 curriculum that some emphasis is put on malaria as a killer disease and rightly so. My concern is that although there are floods in the malaria areas, there is no mention in your report on the multiplication of mosquitoes and subsequently, the prevention of malaria.

I have seen on the staff component that it is mainly the Health Inspectors who combat and control malaria. My question is whether you have enough staff, especially health inspectors, and resources to prevent any possible outbreak caused by this phenomenon.

Nurses are the backbone of the health system; however the functions of nurses are more geared towards curative and preventative services related to diseases. However, to prevent the diseases at the root cause in the community is the responsibility of mainly health inspectors.

Despite the concerns I have raised regarding the staff component, I want to commend the Minister of Health on the establishment of the Cardiac Units which was really long overdue.

In conclusion, I support the Budget request as put forward by the Minister. I thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND  
IMMIGRATION:** Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House

18 April 2011

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13  
HON MOONGO**

Committee, I would also like to congratulate the Minister for bringing to the Parliament Vote 13, the Vote which delivers services to the senior citizens free of charge.

I would also like to underline the fact that the Minister in his speech told this House that the church hospitals are being upgraded to be in line with our hospitals. I am happy that the Minister acknowledges the good work being done by the churches. Honourable Minister, keep up the good work.

Furthermore, I also notice that many clinics are being constructed to bring health services closer to the people and the people are very happy about this.

Thirdly, the Cardiac Unit in the Catholic Hospital is a very good sign of progress in Vote 13. The Ministry makes us as a Republic very proud.

Lastly, I would like to advise the Minister, in my capacity as the former Chairperson of the Committee on health, to continue with the good relationship between the Committee and the Ministry of Health. I noticed that this morning there is a conference of the Ministers of Health here in the capital, but the Committee on health was not invited. I support the Vote.

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

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, allow me to congratulate the Minister. I attended the opening of some excellent buildings in Oshakati meant for the expansion of the hospital and they are very impressive.

Allow me to put some questions to the Honourable Minister and although he will again shoot it down, I know he will bring improvements as he has done with other hospitals. It seems that with the floods the mosquitoes are

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13**  
**HON KAVETUNA**

everywhere and the mosquitoes at Amilema are so big that goats are being killed and even babies. Why do you now extend the term for the spraying for malaria? (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** On a Point of Information. Those big mosquitoes that you have seen do not spread malaria at all.

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**HON MOONGO:** I know that the malaria mosquito is not big like that, but it is now killing people. If you do not want to spray, it is killing goats, it is killing animals, and it is killing people. We want the Minister, if possible, to find a remedy.

Elderly people are complaining that their November and December pensions were not paid to them. (Interjections). Then I will wait for the Vote of the Ministry of Labour.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Kavetuna.

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**HON KAVETUNA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First I would like to congratulate the Minister for the many efforts to address issues related to health in this country. Above all I think there is a long way to go because there are still issues which need attention in the Ministry.

At any health institution the nurse is supposed to be the soother, the carer and someone who would comfort you when you are in pain, however we are observing that people are treated inhumanly and discriminated against at many facilities. It is very important that the Ministry should work on a plan to enhance the service delivery by nurses at various institutions.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

Another issue is on home-based caregivers. I know that the Minister has responded to questions on the payment of Community Counsellors, but the home-based caregivers are lessening the burden on hospitals and these needs to be recognised. A policy has been passed by the Ministry and I recommend that the policy be implemented so that these people are rewarded for what they are doing for the community.

Lastly I would like to align myself with the comments made by Honourable Witbooi that we have trained enough enrolled nurses. When the Committee on Human Resources had an outreach to the South, we saw that some clinics are even overstaffed with enrolled nurses. You need to create a nursing college at one of the existing training centres, either at Keetmanshoop or Windhoek, in order to start training registered nurses, because they can stand in for a doctor. They are more needed than enrolled nurses and it would be a good move if some of the health centres could be upgraded to nursing colleges. I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Nicky Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much. Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I would like to wholeheartedly support Vote 13, it has my unreserved support. I want to commend the Minister that last year he managed to graduate 22 doctors, 7 interns, 169 registered nurses and 253 enrolled nurses. If possible, I want the Minister to consider also the training of dentists and pharmacists, so that we can complement our own service drive.

You mentioned in your motivation that people move on to greener pastures and my question is: Have you not yet up to this time developed a policy whereby those who graduated with the assistance of the State are bonded, so that they serve the State until new ones have graduated? If you have done so, how does it work?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13  
HON UEITELE**

On page 8 you said: *“While I spoke with pride on the many achievements thus far, admittedly there remain challenges which many of you in this august House and in general public have been quite vocal about. These include, among others, patient care and work ethics in general.”* Honourable Kavetuna has already spoken about the attitude of nurses, but I seriously want to pose a question related to nurses and doctors, however this question could very well be to the Minister of Education, the Office of the Prime Minister and all of us as Ministers. What is the reason that the work ethics and commitment to work of the people in the Public Service are deteriorating from bad to worse? I am afraid that if we continue like this, it would be a disaster by 2030. It should not be necessary for the Minister of Education or the Minister of Health to trot all over the country to find teachers coming late to school or nurses reporting late on duty and so many others in our offices. I want to say that as long as the attitude in the Public Service is that you cannot hire and fire, we can forget, it is going to be bad. Why are our different people in the Private Sector and they are the same people? Honestly, we must consider changing the Public Service Act and the staff rules, that Government must hire and fire.

We have established NIPAM and we all are praising NIPAM here. People can attain knowledge at NIPAM but the attitude will not change and I have a problem with that. We must do something about the Public Servants. Thank you and I support Vote 13.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Ueitele.

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**HON UEITELE:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 13 and my contribution is based on page 9 where the Minister said that: *“I hasten to add that the ratio between operation and development Budget is heavily skewed. Ideally more resources should be allocated to the Capital Projects for upgrading, renovation and construction new health facilities. We are working towards equitable distribution over time, but this structural change cannot be addressed singlehandedly.”*

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13  
HON GOWASES**

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, different interventions in the social sector of health were made. Programmes to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS pandemic have been intensified and voluntary testing facilities countrywide are availed. National strategy to reduce incidences of maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality as well as measures to address risk of communicable diseases, such as cholera, malaria, polio and typhoid fever, are in place. However, infrastructural development remains a challenge in this sector. The current state of the State Hospital in Gobabis, Omaheke Region is in a very deteriorating situation and Honourable Minister, Honourable Members, I was informed that this hospital was apparently built on what used to be a dumping site and as a result, especially during this time of rain, the walls are cracking and the roofs are leaking. I want the Minister to investigate to see if there is a possibility to construct a new hospital, because that hospital caters for the whole of Omaheke Region.

Clinics and mortuaries need to be constructed in the areas of Buitepos, Chaka, Ben Hur, Plessisplaas, Eiseb Block, Epukiro Pos 3 and Leonardville and I also support the Minister that more funds are needed in order to do this. With this, I support Vote 13 of the Ministry of Health and I thank you.

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

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**HON GOWASES:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I want to commend Honourable Richard Kamwi, Minister of Health and Social Services and his competent staff on the mega achievements over the past few years. We have observed changes in our Health Sector.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, however, I also wish to highlight areas where a great deal of improvement is needed in the Ministry of Health and Social

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13  
HON GOWASES**

Services. I have seen a high rate of baby-dumping by teenage mothers. Does the Ministry have any programme to help teenage mothers to cop better with the raising of children? I would call on the Honourable Minister to develop a support programme for teenage mothers. Many are driven by poverty and lack of means to raise a child into the dumping or killing of infants.

We have also seen a number of cases reported in the local media of gross negligence by health personnel towards babies, such as the treatment of a child with spirits and subsequent burn wounds. What happened to these incompetent medical practitioners? (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT  
AND CULTURE:**

I am terribly sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member while she is on a very critical point, but could I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member of the RP, is it also not incompetent for an elected representative to fail to pronounce words and in doing so, fail to deliver the message?

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**HON GOWASES:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I see too much emphasis is given to the treatment of HIV/AIDS while other diseases are neglected. We have so many cancer patients who were productive citizens of this country who are in need of urgent, expensive treatment but they have to pay by themselves. One of our young boys from Rehoboth, eleven years old, is struggling to get enough money for a liver transplant and his very poor family has no funds to pay for the operation. Honourable Minister, what is your Ministry's stance on aid to this family? On page 13 of your statement it reads: "*The programme has an objective to provide support and social relief services to families with special welfare needs, the vulnerable and those living with disability.*" Does this boy not qualify according to this definition to receive full assistance to ensure his health as a bona fide member, a Namibian from a disadvantaged background?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13  
HON MWANINGANGE**

I support Vote 13 in principle; I believe that the funds required will enable the Honourable Minister to implement all relevant programmes to ensure a healthy Namibian Nation. I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Honourable Mwaningange.

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**HON MWANINGANGE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise, first of all, to congratulate and to thank the Minister of Health and Social Services and his team for their hard work to make a thorough analysis on allocation of resources to Vote 13 in this current Financial Year.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I would like once more to register my deep appreciation as a person who some time back served the communities in my Region and had the health programmes and development at heart. Therefore, my contribution is mainly based on page 5, facility planning and capital projects.

I appreciate the construction of clinics countrywide. Comrade Minister, you and your team have a great task to ensure that clinics are constructed in the Regions of our country, especially in the rural areas where the health sector needs to be promoted and promoted as far as the eradication of various diseases is concerned. I can identify some which are a great pleasure, as I have that time proposed their construction in those areas and also in the other Region where I was that time. We now have these primary health institutions there. Congratulations, Comrade.

Having said that, health care is being carried out by professionals, nurses and health officials, and it goes hand-in-hand with cleanliness and sanitation. The health professionals are doing a great job in the prevention or curative programme, but these facilities, to a certain extent, are not taking care of cleanliness and thus contradict the curative and prevention programme. Supervision is needed by the teams which visit the hospitals. They should be urged to make sure that the facilities are kept clean. I am

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13  
HON NGHIDINWA**

urging the senior supervisors of those facilities to keep those institutions very clean.

Three years ago I observed a very bad situation with the big stones at the new extension in the Oshakati Hospital. I am just giving an example of some of the things I have observed. I do not know whether those stones are there for decoration or they are there to stop soil erosion. Comrade Minister, you will remember the incident in which an official from the Prisons and Correctional Services was killed. His head was smashed by a psychiatric patient. I think those stones are not conducive to that area. One can see grass and shrubs are not growing between those big stones and it is in front when you are entering the hospital.

Otherwise I am so grateful that our Health Sector is going well countrywide compared to other countries. Namibia is advancing in many ways because of the good leadership through the Ministry. I congratulate the Minister and support the Vote.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:**

Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 13, the Vote for all of us wholeheartedly. I would also like to commend the Minister and his dedicated team for a job well done. Most of them were emphasised by the Honourable Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration, Comrade Kaiyamo and many people have also done so on several occasions through the newspapers. In March a gentleman called Van Schalkwyk from Rundu State Hospital mentioned that that hospital is now a shining example. Congratulations.

I want to base my contribution on the training of health professionals as mentioned on page 4. In this regard, I would like to touch on the practical orientation of student registered nurses, because the four years training in

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13**  
**HON RIRUAKO**

Registered Nurse Diploma, including midwifery, community nursing science, is too short practical-wise. If these people are not exposed to practical training, they face challenges when posted to Health Centres and Clinics. That is why I would like to advise the Minister that it is better to introduce a screening course after graduation as was the case before when we had a six months course. They had a summary of all these thick books and when they went back to their respective areas, they were always able to screen and attend to patients accordingly.

Secondly, I want to commend the Minister for the training network which is provided for radiography assistants, environmental health assistants and pharmacy assistants. In this regard I would want the Ministry to consider the training of Social Worker assistants because we are now experiencing social pathologies in our society and these problems need to be taken care of by Social Workers. These are, for instance, the dumping of babies, alcohol and drug abuse and other abnormal social behaviours. With these few words, I thank you and I support the Vote.

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

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I was travelling with the Honourable Minister of Health and I remember his comments to what I said to him. I thought that he was quite fair in setting certain norms which have not yet been performed.

Firstly, as Honourable Dr Iyambo as stated, the discipline especially in individual nursing houses is not yet what it should be. What happens is that they are absent from work on Saturday and Sunday without permission. We have come across that shortcoming several times. You have even started to go and inspect those areas yourself without prior notice.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13**  
**HON RIRUAKO**

As Honourable Dr Iyambo put it, if you cannot hire and fire, you cannot heal the wounds of the Nation. The persons will do what they want because they are so well protected, but they are taking care of patients who cannot help themselves. It happens everywhere and we cannot tolerate that. If we do not deal with this kind of behaviour, we will end up with all departments being in a mess. That is not applicable to you only as the Minister of Health, it is also applicable to the teachers in schools who do not respect their duties, whose performance is so poor, but they cannot be challenged.

I am mentioning this for one good reason. The Civil Servants are highly protected and they are undisciplined. I am saying that because this is what is happening. We cannot say anything to them, they can even tell their own Minister that they will take action against him and the Minister's hands are tied, he cannot do anything. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** On a Point of Information. I do share some of the sentiments that are expressed by the Honourable Chief and even Dr Iyambo, but unfortunately here I will differ from my Chief, just like we differed outside a while ago. I agree with you, but please let us not knock at the door of the Trade Union movement as a structure. Let us single out individual Members, because the Trade Union movement and the Trade Unions are institutions provided for by the laws of this country and they are bargaining with Government. Please, to paint a bad picture of the Trade Union movement is not fair. Some of them, at least those that I know, engage the proper channels and regulations.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** I do not think that I mentioned the Trade Unions. As a Minister you have come across individual Civil Servants and there is no excuse for that and, therefore, we are supposed to take action and come up with concrete decisions how we are going to take care of this problem. We gave you the power and you owe us something in due course and I am not addressing the Minister of Health alone. I would say that should go where it belongs. Let us call a spade a spade; we cannot tolerate this

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13  
HON IILONGA**

situation and all the time go around and around without solving anything. It is high time that we come up a decision on actions to be taken. We are being punished by so-called free speech, free movement and that you can do what you like without being interrupted. Let us face reality; we cannot talk about this Minister saying this and that Minister saying that without any kind of assistance from our House. Everyone must be disciplined, not just you as a Minister. Even your Civil Servants in your office must be disciplined according to the rules and the Constitution of this country. We cannot tolerate this situation forever and ever.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 13 and I want to refer to the training mentioned on page 4. We used to have a programme which made use of the old nurses, whom we are saying are hard workers because they had in-service training in the hospitals. We have a different situation with those who graduated from university. Mention is made of the number of nurses being trained, but should they come across an accident, they would change their course next year. However, I am thankful that we are starting to train some of our old nurses. Some of those who were assistant nurses have now become enrolled nurses and some of the enrolled nurses have become registered nurses. Thank you for that.

During the Second Reading I mentioned the fifteen years training programme so that we bond our doctors. We have now trained 22 doctors and 7 interns and should they be bonded, we will never have a problem of shortages.

The question put by Dr Iyambo is really valid. We cannot really blame the Public Service Act. During the colonial time we had the Public Service Act and we only changed the name from the Administrator-General to the Minister or to the Permanent Secretary, but they were doing their work because they were afraid of the boss. I do not want to generalise, but NIPAM must not only be a place for the academicians, it must be a place to change the work ethics and attitude to work, so that we

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13  
HON IILONGA**

will be in a position to instil patriotism. We want them to do as it is done in the Catholic Hospital and Rhino Park where it is clean.

Thirdly, I want to know whether as politicians we also qualify for exemption at the state hospitals or are we again excluded. It is always said politicians should be excluded or will we only qualify when we retire?

Lastly on the issue of private doctors: Many private doctors, if not all, are the ones delivering service to the State hospitals, however we are saying treatment in the State hospital is bad and good in the private hospitals.

Where do we get this idea? Let us change our Medical Aid which makes this hospital to be seen as the best. Let us have a revolving fund and have a place for those have Medical Aid to be in the State hospital rather than just a private hospital which is so expensive.

Comrade Minister, concerning the stones at Oshakati Hospital I would want to make a proposal. You will be charged millions to remove those stones which are there as decoration. I heard that the maintenance teams have been decentralised and we do not need a private contractor to do what I want to propose. We buy cement and decorate it so that we just see the top and put them in a straight line so that no one has access to it. To remove them would cost more than destroying that old dam in Ongwediva. The new dam costs us N\$12 million, but to destroy the old dam will cost us N\$13 million. That is my suggestion.

Comrade, I want to repeat, let NIPAM not only train academically, but change the attitudes of people. The Opposition Leaders too must be told because these are the people who tend to sabotage. I support the Vote.

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

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13  
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Thank you, for giving me the Floor to contribute to Vote 13, the Vote of the people, our Vote.

In the first place, I would like to commend the Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr Richard Kamwi, for his continuous efforts in an all-embracing manner to ensure that all Namibians have access to high quality services. This is, indeed, commendable, Honourable Minister and I would also like to thank you for teaming up with the President of the Republic of Namibia and the First Lady, Meme Pohamba, to launch a maternal health awareness campaign, which is the Roadmap for Accelerating the Reduction of Maternal and neonatal Mortality as well as Morbidity.

Honourable Minister, could you also shed light whether your Budget allocation is adequate to improve maternal health in our country, because we need to create a supportive environment for delivering maternal, newborn and child health services.

I have also observed that there are certain fields of study in the health sector, such as occupational therapists, orthodontists, which need to be included in the soon to be established School of Medicine.

I have few comments on the issue of social development mentioned on page 147 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and also on page 13 of your speech, Programme of Social Development. I am a bit disappointed, despite our good relationship we have and our consultations from time. The Ministry of Health and Social Services has made no mention of activities of the National Council on Disability, which currently resorts under the Ministry. This places the whole disability coordination under great jeopardy since the programmes are not representing the essential elements of disability correctly, which has all along had big challenges in diversity and coordination of activities of betterment of lives of persons with disabilities.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, there is not really equitable representation in fund

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13  
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

allocation for the National Disability Council. The expenditure of the Ministry estimated for the next Financial Year indicates that the National Council for Disability, which is promulgated by an Act of Parliament, is being funded through the Directorate of Social Welfare Services, and further it appears in essence that the provision of the said promulgation to avail it an opportunity to stand as a juristic entity is being ignored by the Ministry and I think perhaps the officials are failing the Minister in this regard.

I see the Etegameno Centre was identified by the Ministry of Health for funding with an estimated Budget of more than N\$7 million, while the National Disability Council was only allocated N\$4 million last year. This is supposed to be for physical start-ups, salaries of staff members and all expenses for representation for people with disabilities mandated by the Act. I, therefore, wish to bring to the attention of the Comrade Minister of Health that this is unfair and irregular to treat disability issues with neglect and under-funding. This makes us believe that disability issues are not taken seriously by the Ministry where views and rights of people with disabilities are not taken seriously to be given a reasonable Budget allocation.

The Budget is now focused on the Directorate of Social Services whereas there is an Act of Parliament and the Council was supposed to receive a far more leveraging and meaningful Budget allocation, since there many activities seeking attention in disability issues around the country. My recommendation to the Minister is to review this Budget allocation and motivation to adequate representation of the Council. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Ncube, may I ask a small question? I read in the newspaper the other day that one of the Magistrates abused a person with disability. Did the Council investigate this to find out whether that was true or not?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13  
HON NUJOMA**

**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Thank you, Right Honourable Prime Minister. That has not yet come to my attention, but I will investigate that with the other Council members.

Honourable Minister, I would recommend that you review the Budget allocation to the Council. The motivation of the Minister made no mention of the Disability Council which, in my view, is one of the successes of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. Thank you, I support the Vote.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I only rise to give my unconditional and unreserved support to the Vote of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. However, I also want to commend the Minister and his dedicated team for their tremendous efforts to improve the health service delivery in our country. I wanted to speak on page 8 where reference is made to work ethics and I think the previous Colleagues have covered that area, therefore I shall only mention a few things.

While I was growing up in Windhoek the State Hospital in Windhoek looked after a population of approximately a hundred people. I left the country, but when I came back I realised that this maybe this new State Hospital was built to cater for around 400 to 500 people. Of course, after Independence and with the rural-urban migration many people are coming to Windhoek looking for job opportunities and also the neighbouring countries are seeking health support services. This has put tremendous pressure on our health delivery system and I think the Minister has done very well. There is a need to consider in future Budgets maybe to expand the facilities, but currently the facilities are adequate. The only problems are the issues which have been raised by the previous speakers, for example the work ethics, particularly when it comes to cleanliness and

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 13  
HON LUCAS**

hygiene. The Minister has made many efforts but there is a need to improve on specifically the cleaning. As the Colleague said, when one looks at the other hospitals, such as Medi-Clinic and Rhino Park, one can see the difference. There was also mention of amendment of the Public Service rules for the Minister to ensure that the people do their job.

In the previous dispensation it was the mentality of the supervisors that every minute you must have a broom and a mop and once your boss sees you without those, you were in big trouble and you were fired.

Another issue I want to mention here is that I have been visiting the hospital when relatives and friends are sick and sometimes I go during the night, but you find the nurses sleeping. This is another serious concern and I want to give the Minister a few hints on what to do with regard to those who are sleeping on duty. Just the other day I heard that one of the air traffic controllers in the United States was found sleeping and they are instituting some measures. For people to sleep on duty is dangerous because patients do not receive adequate care.

The last issue I want to mention is that the private doctors should not devote too much time to their private practices and neglect our patients at the hospital. The Minister needs to look into that so that we pay adequate attention to the patients. Those are my few comments and I support the Vote. Thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 13 and I commend the Minister of Health and Social Services for taking a stand on the expansion of clinics to every corner of our country. However, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I would like to pose a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Despite the expansion of clinics, why are the personnel at clinics not working on

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weekends and after hours? I know attempts have been made to establish health centres in some constituencies, although not all, and residents are far away from the health centres and in the event that there is a serious emergency situation in a constituency which has a clinic which is only open until 17:00, the situation may arise that a person bitten by a snake or other dangerous insects may not survive. If it is a matter of lack of sufficient nurses ... (Intervention)

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**HON RIRUAKO:** May I ask a question? Do we have a mobile unit which can go where the doctors cannot reach? Do we have it or not?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you for the question, but I think the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services is more competent to respond to your concern. I am just sharing my own experience.

Honourable Minister, I was saying that if it is due to a shortage of nurses, can we not maybe make arrangements that somebody should be on standby afterhours to attend to serious emergency situations to cater for the unforeseen.

Another remark is on development partners. Their financial commitments are highly appreciated as they are doing a commendable job, particularly the PEPFAR and the Global Fund which assisted us immensely with treating people infected by communicable diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS. I know, Honourable Minister that the time will come when they would decide to pull out. Are there arrangements in place that when these development partners who are funding these programmes withdraw to ensure that there is continuity in the medical care? With these few concerns, I support Vote 13 and I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**  
**COMMITTEE:** Honourable Limbo, please.

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HON LIMBO**

**HON LIMBO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to also support Vote 13, but at the same time I would like to mention a few concerns I have when it comes to the Ministry of Health.

Firstly, quite a number of people spoke about ethics within our hospitals. Maybe we need to look at the type of managers at our hospitals, because you would find that the doctors and the nurses are the ones to manage the hospitals, but those people were not trained as managers, they were trained as doctors and nurses. In other countries you would find that hospitals are run by people specifically trained to manage hospitals and maybe we need to look into that.

One finds that some hospitals such as in my Region, Caprivi, are infested by cockroaches and in Caprivi we even have monkeys coming into the hospital, trying to share the little food with the patients. Some of the patients are very sick and when the time comes for them to eat, the monkeys have already taken their bread. I do not know how we are going to address that problem.

I also want to appeal to the Honourable Minister of Finance that next time we will need more funds for the Ministry of Health because I can see that the problems are accumulating. I am also concerned about the situation mentioned by Honourable Lucas, namely what would happen when the Global Fund and other development partners pull out. (Intervention)

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**HON UEITELE:** I want to ask a question. Are these monkeys now the responsibility of the Minister or that of Environment and Tourism?

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**HON LIMBO:** I think they are a protected species. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** On a Point of Information and advice. Through you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would like to advise the Honourable

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**HON KAZENAMBO**

Member and for them to take the advice to the constituencies, that in order to mitigate the problems caused by the monkeys, we should by all means avoid feeding them, because once you have fed them, they know they will get food there and they will return. If you do not feed them, they will not return. It is just advice to the Honourable Members and to take the advice to their constituencies.

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**HON LIMBO:** Honourable Deputy Chair, we have to prepare ourselves in case the international community withdraws. I know the Ministry of Health is doing very well when it comes to the HIV/AIDS programme and I would like to congratulate you and your entire staff component. Keep it up. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**  
**COMMITTEE:** Honourable Kazenambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I wholeheartedly support the Vote and I want to comment briefly on the issue of training and ethics.

I agree with what has been said about ethics by Honourable Dr Iyambo, Chief Riruako and other speakers, but I want to mention another element. The Government needs to design a programme to be linked to the curriculum where Communities are also trained by either influential people in the communities or Traditional Leaders because our attitude also leaves much to be desired and there should be a fair balance. I have observed nurses being insulted and sworn at. I have also observed the tremendous pressure put on these health officials by the members of the public and that is why I am saying that the Traditional Leaders, political leaders or influential people train the community members.

I have heard us here comparing our health facilities to Rhino Park and Medi Clinic. (Intervention)

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**HON KAZENAMBO**

**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** On a Point of Information. The nurses are trained in ethics and how to handle all situations. There is a subject called *Ethos* and that is why you may not see all the nurses responding to insults by patients, because they know that they are frustrated, they are not really physically sick, they might have social problems. All those things are well known by the nurses.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** I appreciate what my senior leader has said and I am definitely not blaming the nurses, I am talking about the community members. A nurse may, on the basis of her training, keep quiet, but that specific nurse by keeping quiet has not altered my attitude towards other nurses. (Intervention)

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**HON RIRUAKO:** On a Point of Order. The public or visitors to hospitals sometimes look at certain nurses and start proposing in front of other people there. It happens all the time and we are not here to hide the truth. That is where the problem started and this must be avoided. If you visit a patient, go to the patient and leave and if you want to propose to any nurse, ask her telephone number and go to her house.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I think the point you are making is very clear. Can I ask you respectfully to conclude?

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Yes, I will conclude. On the question of Rhino Park versus Katutura State Hospital and other centres, the members of the public need to be educated on how to respect Government properties, because our behaviour at Rhino Park is different because of those security guards there. The majority of the people of my colour do not have respect for something that is managed by people of their colour and something that is managed by Government, but at those facilities they do not throw

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HON DR KAMWI**

chewing gum there. However, the moment you go to something which belongs to the State and the managers are of your colour, even if they ask you politely not to do something, you open a barrage of attack: “*Who do you think you are? Do you think you are a white person? You are a poor person, I know you, do you think that you are educated or what?*” This type of language also places pressure on the health personnel.

It is even worse sometimes when a health officer recommends a certain medication to a person. Then it is said that every tablet at a Government hospital is a Panado. We have become experts on medication. Where we studied pharmaceuticals I do not know, but we are pharmacists and we interfere and say, “*Who is the nurse who treated you? No, I know that nurse, she is useless or that nurse is a relative of the people who are bewitching you, stop taking the medicine immediately*” and the person stops taking the medication. Then he is taken to a medical doctor and the regime is interfered with. These are some of issues. That is why I am saying that we need education. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Dear Colleague, can you see the photo on the right side? Is that a medical treatment or some kind of traditional medicine?

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** This is a medical *Sangoma*. I was saying that there should be training and with that I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. May I now ask the Minister to respond only to specific questions?

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me thank all those who commended what we are doing.

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HON DR KAMWI**

*Honourable Witbooi*, at Independence malaria was one of the top killers in this country. Indeed, to this end it still remains one of the priority diseases. At the time we were recording 400,000 cases and 1,500 deaths due to malaria on an annual basis, but as we speak, we are now recording something like ten deaths due to malaria on an annual basis. That is how far we have come and it is a great improvement.

*Comrade Kaiyamo*, we will do our best to spray for mosquitoes.

*Honourable Moongo*, the mosquito you spoke about is called *Culex Quinqefasciatus* and is not a vector for malaria, but is a vector elsewhere for dengue fever, and other diseases.

*Comrade Kavetuna*, we are working on this issue of work ethics, including some of the senior Colleagues in this Chamber. We established a Committee and my senior Colleague behind me is one of those working on it.

My mentor, *Dr Nicky Iyambo*, I was looking at Article 41 of the Constitution and it says “*All Ministers shall be accountable individually for the administration of their own Ministries and collectively for the administration of the work of the Cabinet both to the President and to Parliament.*” Most of my mentors and seniors have done a brilliant job, but somehow, as *Honourable Ilonga* has said, you came up with the Amendment to the Public Service Act because we were coming from those fellows who were torturing us. However, the Amendment somehow disempowered the Ministers. I always feel agitated when I travel in this country and see the challenges that we are facing in this country relating to some of the managers who are not doing their work and there is nothing we can do other than to shout and shout. We are but empty vessels at times, you are feeling hopeless. I do not know why we are failing while every year we are saying we must amend this Act. It is really failing us. In most cases there is no supervision and yes, I agree, because we are dealing with human beings in the Health Sector, we are in the spotlight, but as my senior said, truly speaking, we have a lack of work ethics across the board in this country, there are some who are failing us. Here I have

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HON DR KAMWI**

to say it is some nurses, by and large they are delivering and doing their best.

You are 99% correct on the issue of bonding and my Colleague here is dealing with that and we are discussing this, it is on course. Very soon we will be introducing the community service on top of bonding. They will be serving the years that Government sponsored them.

*Comrade Ueitele*, Gobabis Hospital is included in our programme.

*Honourable Gowases*, I think you should ask your question on baby dumping to some of my colleagues who will better be able to address it, but as to the boy of eleven years, my heart goes out to that young boy. Three years ago the Honourable Finance Minister as a mother approached me and informed me that she was going to put N\$10 million in her own Vote to cater for some of the cases that we are faced with in the public health facilities which cannot be attended to by our own medical specialists in the country. N\$10 million were provided for this specific area, medical cases that cannot be attended to by our medical doctors. Last year, 2010/2011, she again gave us another N\$10 million, but as I speak, we have only used N\$2 million. We still have that money.

We came up with a policy on how to use these funds and I am saying it is meant for the public and not for the Private Sector. The procedure is that the patient should be admitted in a State Hospital, in your case the St Mary's Hospital in Rehoboth. The principal medical doctor there is aware. I went on air more than three times, we had a press conference, we came up with circulars to all the 13 Health Directorates and the Directors went on air. This time around we had even informed the SWAPO Party Regional Coordinators to also assist us. Even today we spoke about it; the mother of this child was informed.

Honourable Diergaardt, the Constituency Councillor, was informed about this procedure and all we have been waiting for all along is for the parents of this child to admit him to St Mary's. The doctors will immediately transfer that boy to Windhoek Central Hospital and Dr Katjitaë, our specialist and his team will immediately attend to this child, transfer the

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child to Cape Town or Germany or anywhere where such a child can be treated. Dr Nicky Iyambo consulted me on this case and he can bear testimony, so can most of my seniors here. This fund is for all Namibians but not for the private sector. It is not there for private doctors, those with medical aid. Please, we will be too grateful if you can go and give this message to the parents and try and convince them. Do your best, the money is available.

*Comrade Mwaningange*, it seems one of the challenges we are facing is that it seems not we do not have a maintenance programme for Government to attend to some of the ills. I am aware of the stones at Oshakati Intermediate Hospital and we have discussed it on many occasions. My senior Colleagues and I will do our best to address this challenges.

*Honourable Nghidinwa*, we are looking into the curriculum related to the four years for registered nurses as something seems to be missing regarding the practical aspect and I think *Comrade Kavetuna* is also aware of this. It will soon be addressed, but it is not for the Ministry of Health only, we have been discussing this matter with the Ministry of Education. Registered nurses are taken care of by Education, whereas enrolled nurse training is done by the Ministry of Health and Social Services. We will still need more enrolled nurses and we are doing well in that regard.

*Honourable Riruako*, I can only say thank you for your support. I have spoken about the issue of hire and fire in this Chamber, I support it and I cannot say more. We are just waiting for the Amendment.

*Honourable Comrade Ilonga*, I cannot agree more with your proposals on bonding. Yes, we want to see NIPAM working but we are dealing with human beings.

You mentioned free medical services to the aged. This is entirely up to you. When you have money you can pay, but the service is free.

*Honourable Ncube*, I must be honest with you, last year I mentioned the

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HON DR KAMWI**

Council and I did not want to repeat the same statement, but as you rightly stated, you and I always consult. My Director is up there, they are listening and we will attend to your concerns. She quoted a Parliamentary promulgation that we cannot afford to ignore.

*Honourable Nujoma* also mentioned the issue of hire and fire. I will appreciate your suggestions on these nurses who sleep on duty and it is true, we have seen it. I read the SMSs and some people call us and what you are telling us is very true.

We have come up with the concept of private wards in all the district and intermediate hospitals, because we have realised that it is the same State doctors who serve in public institutions and in the afternoon they attend to their private practices. Then we felt, why do we not use them in the same State hospitals? We are going to upgrade the so-called private wards in the hospitals to be true private wards, such as the one existing now in Oshakati Hospital.

*Comrade Lempy*, I cannot agree more with you. Again it is an issue of some of the managers. This clinic in Robert Mugabe Avenue closing at lunch is purely a question of management; it has nothing to do with the Minister. I was asked about this and I said no, that is not for me. It is purely an administrative matter. I know there are about five nurses at Robert Mugabe Clinic and I was asked why three could not go on lunch while two remain and I said I do not know, ask the Director. I missed in the IT Budget that programme that is exposing and it is both public and private, they must continue on that one, because they know those ones sleeping on duty. We must not protect those who are not delivering, they must be exposed.

What happens in the Regions out there is that they do not work on public holidays or weekends, but there is always one who is on duty and their telephone numbers must be on the public board for everyone to see. Why it is done, I do not know.

I addressed the issue of public partners in my speech, but we have to remind ourselves as Honourable Members that the reason why I

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HON DR KAMWI**

introduced the 2010/2011 to 2015/2016 HIV National Strategic Framework Plan last year was in the event that the Global Fund and PEPFAR would pull out for one or other reason and you all approved it. That indicated to me that we would have to tighten our belts. When I was asked I said I do not see the SWAPO Party Government allowing a situation where we have spent so much on ART, which has proved without any reasonable doubt that it is working, and then one day we just drop it. It would be catastrophic, so Government will take care.

*Honourable Limbo* mentioned the cockroaches and monkeys at the hospital in Caprivi. Again it is a matter of management. On many occasions I asked: *why should Kamwi be called to respond to cockroaches which are dining with the patients in Katima Mulilo and Oshakati. What are the nursing manager and principal medical officer doing? They must be taken to task, because that is why they are there and they must respond.* As for the monkeys, we will have to discuss that, but I have always condemned the cockroaches, I do not want to see it.

*Honourable Kazenambo*, thank you very much, what you have said is true. I invite Honourable Members to come to Katutura on a Friday month-end. Come around 23:00, 24:00, 02:00, 03:00 and go and see what is happening there. Our nurses are being insulted by a drunkard who has been stabbed. You do not insult someone who is there to rescue you and the majority of them are men. I go there regularly and I invite the Honourable Members to go and witness what Honourable Kazenambo was saying.

I thank you all for approving our Budget.

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

**Vote 06 – “POLICE”** is put for Discussion.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 06  
HON MOONGO**

**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, first of all, I salute the Minister of Finance who really did her best to allocate such amount, but my concern is on the Regional Councillors who only invite kids from the liberation struggle to be enrolled. I do not have a problem with that, but then it should be half of them and half of those who were born inside the country. The law says all people are equal and you cannot be selective and employ only some people. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? While all the people are equal, are all the people here in Parliament?

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**HON MOONGO:** When the Police are advised to employ the children born outside, then they are supposed to employ equal numbers of those born outside and those born here. All are equal. (Intervention)

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**HON KAPIA:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the Honourable Member cannot be allowed to tell the Nation things that do not exist. This issue has been explained even in the Standing Committee. It has been explained how many kids from the liberation struggle have been recruited and how many young people born inside Namibia. There is no balance at all. When the Police were briefing us, they said they recruited 200 of those kids and more than 800 young people who attended school in Namibia. For an Honourable Member to come to this House and say the kids born in exile are the ones to be employed at the expense of those who were born in the country is not true as the figures do not tally, it is 200 and 800. With the last training which was concluded and the current one, the majority of the young people are those born in Namibia.

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**HON MOONGO:** He said what he wanted to say, but he did not listen to the Councillors who said that they have lists of those who were in exile

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HON KAZENAMBO**

and those who were born here must not come there. He mentioned the Standing Committee and I am aware of that, but we want to address the imbalances created by the Councillors who are supposed to be representative of all. They must treat all people equally before the law and not be selective. I support the Vote.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you very much. I rise to support the Vote wholeheartedly. Somehow this Vote has to be given more funds because of the nature of our environment, because of the vast nature of our country. To be honest, if you measure the input of these men and women in uniform who, by the nature of their work, are just like the members of the Defence Force, they do not know anything about democracy, it is order, and it is not negotiations.

In December when I was on leave, they were working 24 hours around the clock. These poor people are defenceless when it comes to their plight. They are protecting people but they are defenceless when it comes to their own plight. The rain is pouring but they come from a nearby tent at the roadblock, protecting us when we are celebrating, working 24 hours to respond to the call of duty. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** It is their duty.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Yes, it is their duty, just like it is my duty to be here but I expect to be paid a high salary. I have a car, I have everything, why can I not work like that if it is my duty? Why can I not sleep under a tree if it is my duty? It is utterances like these that are irritating. Yes, it is their duty, just like it is our duty.

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

When my cattle are stolen, the first people I call are the Police and the first complaint is that they arrived late, but how do they arrive late? These people's lives are put at risk, they dodge bullets and I am just saying, Honourable Minister of Finance, Cabinet and all of us, these men and women need moral support, material support and we need to consider infrastructure development at the places where they are working. I support the Vote.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support the Vote of the Police. In her response to the Budget, and this is also public knowledge, the Minister of Finance has reminded this Honourable House that Namibia is ranked number five in the best destination category. I may say the Namibian Police have added value to this category in which we find ourselves as a country and they need to be commended for the good work they are doing.

A classic example was last week when a couple from the United Kingdom came to Namibia for a honeymoon in Swakopmund and as they were coming from their dinner, they were the targets of thugs. The husband was fast to take the number plate with his cell phone and call the police and immediately the owner of the car was arrested. Comrade Minister the industry received this very well. The quick response by the Police when such incidents occur is what is making Namibia to be a destination for our tourists and for any visitor and this explains why there are so many international conferences taking place in Namibia, because people know they are safe and they will be taken care of whenever such things happen. I really want to commend the Police and urge them to continue. There might be some hiccups here and there, but that is a challenge for improvements to be made.

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HON DR N IYAMBO**

On page 5 of the motivation the Minister is informing this Honourable House of the Namibian Police participation in international peacekeeping missions. It is very interesting that the gender balance is becoming very positive in this particular case. For example, you said those who went to southern Sudan are fifteen, of which five are women, which is one-third. However, the most interesting one is Darfur, 37 of which 34 are women, which represents 92%. That is very interesting and it is a welcome move. Knowing where we are coming from, Comrade Minister, I just want to find out whether the Ministry has made an analysis to try to understand the dynamics of this big change and what differences you are sensing. If that is not done, I may not need an answer today, but I am really trying to understand how this whole thing happened and what the impact is. It is a very interesting case for research by those who are interested in gender and working towards women emancipation and equality between men and women. I support the Vote of the Police and I thank you.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 06 and I am congratulating the Minister and the Deputy Minister because this year it seems they have received some attention as far as funding is concerned, although we know it will never be enough. However, this is a very good start.

Honourable Minister, through the Deputy Chair, accommodation is one of the biggest problems in the Police Force and I thought that when Members of this august House go on missions they should pay particular attention to the welfare of these sons and daughters. I am saying so because the Parliamentary delegation that visited Erongo speaks highly of the success of the Police in the Erongo Region as far as the combating of crime is concerned. However, they have not exposed themselves to the terrible office accommodation where these Police Officers are working. Secondly, have they even ventured to expose themselves to the accommodation?

I am sure they will have a press conference, speaking about the accommodation of the Police, which is very bad. When I am saying very

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HON KAVETUNA**

bad, I am referring to the accommodation in towns, but when you go to the borders, Honourable Kazenambo said it all. During summertime they can definitely count the stars from inside their accommodation. During the rainy season they cannot sleep, because the whole place is under water.

Honourable Minister, on page 10 there is an impressive list of capital projects as far as Police Stations are concerned, namely an administration block, Caprivi Regional Headquarters, Hardap Regional Headquarters, Omusati Regional Headquarters, the new Police Regional Headquarters at Omuthiya, Omuvelo wa Kasamane Border Post, Okalongo Police Station, etcetera. I only hope that accommodation is part and parcel of these projects. If it is no, Honourable Minister and your able Deputy, do everything possible that in the next Financial Year accommodation is made part and parcel of these police stations that you are building. I have some knowledge about the one at Helao Nafidi, I know accommodation was part of that, but we have seen some Police Stations where accommodation was not budgeted for. My plea is that accommodation should be part and parcel of these projects and, of course, adequate transport for them to move around. I wholeheartedly support Vote 06.

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**HON KAVETUNA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I stood up to add my voice to Vote 06. Honourable Iyambo mentioned accommodation to be built for the staff, but the members of the Police Force cannot buy houses these days because their subsidy is insufficient for houses in Windhoek. There are those who qualify for N\$150,000 to N\$190,000 and there are no such houses in Windhoek and maybe their subsidies should be revised.

Another issue is on the Forensic Department. I remember that something was sent to Brazil and we are still waiting for the outcome in order for the case to be resolved and I think this is terrible situation that forensic investigations have to be done in South Africa. I was informed that there is an institution where it can be done, but when you are making enquiries, the only person to know this is Ludick, "*Ludick says the things are still in South Africa.*" When are we going to have another person also

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HON SIMATAA**

answerable, who also has the knowledge that Ludick has. I think it is high time that we start training these people in big numbers so that cases can be resolved speedily. In the Committee on Public Accounts we saw that the State is paying because cases are lost as a result of lack of evidence and training in this regard needs to be enhanced.

Another issue is the wastage in terms of transport within the Police Force which is very high. We mentioned in our Report that in 2009/2010 an amount of N\$9 million was spent on damaged vehicles. Is there any possibility that specific Police Officers be trained as drivers, as is done with ambulance drivers, because when every Tom, Dick and Harry is driving a vehicle, these will be the consequences. Maybe we could have some trained Police Officers who will have the driving skills, rather than allowing me who got my licence yesterday to drive. If I had the mandate, I would have requested that more money needs to be appropriated for this Ministry. It needs billions because the situation in which it currently finds itself is detrimental. I support the Vote wholeheartedly.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
AND COMMUNICATION:** Comrade Deputy Chair of the Whole House Committee, I am taking the Floor to submit my support for Vote 06 once again, because as I said last year, the Votes on Safety and Security and Defence need all our support because they guarantee the peace, safety and security of our country, which in turn enables development and for that matter orderly development, to take place.

I agree with Honourable Kazenambo that being in the Defence Force, being in the Police Force is an extraordinary, risky undertaking and the least we can do as leaders and Members of Parliament is to try and appreciate the sacrifices that our colleagues in uniform are required to make for our peace and security.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 06  
HON UEITELE**

My enquiry, Minister of Safety and Security, once again deals with border control on page 8. I know that there are quite a number of factors that impede the Border Control Unit to execute their functions quite effectively. One is sometimes inadequate personnel, the second one is that our border fences have not been rehabilitated, which make our borders thoroughfares. The other issue I have detected, particularly in the northern and north-east areas is the fact that in certain places our borders are not adequately cleared in such a way that they can facilitate easy access for the Border Control Unit when they are required to respond to urgent calls for assistance. I am not sure to what extent some of these inhibiting factors have been attended to in order to make the work of our policemen and women more bearable and I do not want to use the word “*enjoyable*” as I do not think one can enjoy police work. That is the specific enquiry I would like to pose to the Honourable Minister and on the basis of that enquiry, I once again advance my support for Vote 06 and if there is any Vote on the Floor of Parliament that needs to be increased, it is the Votes of Safety and Security and the Vote of Defence. I rest my case.

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

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**HON UEITELE:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chair of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote and also to sympathise with the Namibian Police. The Minister has mentioned that the Police Force deserves national and collective support and I agree with the Minister, but my concern is that after all the efforts and inputs by the Police to apprehend criminals, they are given very lenient sentences by Magistrates, which demoralises the communities which are assisting the Police. Maybe the Colleagues from Justice and the Police should consult each other so that a person is not apprehended today and after three weeks he is again on the streets. I just want to hear from the Minister whether something can be done in this regard. I want the criminals to get stiffer sentences after all the efforts by the Police. With this, I support the Vote and sympathise with the Police Force. Thank you very much.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 06**  
**HON GOWASES**

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

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**HON GOWASES:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Members, I agree with Honourable Nangolo Mbumba, Minister of Safety and Security, that the Namibian Police needs the entire Nation to rally behind them. I salute the Honourable Minister, his staff and the entire Namibian Police Force. The Namibian Police Force has proven to be a strong force. Thanks to our men and women in uniform the Heckmaier murder suspects are behind bars.

Many international drug traffickers who manage to cross other international borders and airports were apprehended in Namibia. The Namibian Police have gone beyond their duty to help the displaced Namibians in the flood-stricken areas of northern Namibia. Once again we have seen a brave policewoman carrying a disabled person on her back across the dangerous Oshanas to safety. She needs to be applauded for a job well done.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, there are still a number of areas that I wish to highlight. Honourable Minister of Safety and Security, we have experienced theft from our cars at the Parliament Building and the rape of a woman by a so-called pastor in the Parliament Garden. How safe are we as female Members of Parliament at a place where security is supposed to be very tight? Can we still work late in the evenings as lawmakers and know that we are safe?

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, we have experienced a very safe and peaceful festive season in 2010 because of the law enforcement measures taken by the police. I want to know from the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security why are these effective strategies only implemented during the festive season and holidays? We have seen de-bushing of riverbeds after the rape and murder of the late Magdalena Stoffels in 2010. The process seems to have been stopped. Are we only going to continue with this

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 06  
HON NAMABAHU**

activity when another girl is raped and killed? I call on the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security to continue with those activities and programmes that may ensure the safety and security of all Namibians, especially those women and children who fall prey to irresponsible men.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I have observed that there is still a very low literacy rate among some constables at some Police Stations. The danger in this is that many statements are recorded wrongly or in an unclear manner. This contributes to the fact that many cases not being settled in our courts or innocent people denied justice. How is the Ministry of Safety and Security going to go about to develop the literacy of those members in the Namibian Police Force?

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I support Vote 06 in principle and in good faith that the funds allocated will equally benefit all Namibians and that the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security will see to it that a human resource policy will be developed that will demonstrate a clear national will to include all Namibians into the recruitment process. I thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also want to give my wholehearted support to this Vote and I want to concur with the Honourable Members who said that if there is any Vote which needs more resources, it is this one.

I want to refer to two issues mentioned in the Minister's speech and one is on crime intelligence. Many criminals regard crime as an industry and their deeds are very well planned. If we do not strengthen crime intelligence, these people will always be one step ahead of us. One finds

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HON NAMBAHU**

persons who say, *“I have never worked in my life, but I have this and that”* and he is boasting.

I have spoken on the issue of a crime combating strategy time and again and I would like to call upon the Colleagues responsible that the development of strategies be accelerated and put in place and the various role players are supposed to give their inputs to this strategy. We will not be successful if we fight these people piecemeal and there is no comprehensive integrated strategy.

We as Members of Parliament have to familiarise ourselves on the strategies in place in terms of combating of crime. For example, we must visit the Drug Enforcement Unit and find out what drugs are presently available on the market and what these people have to confront. It is critical that we know of the sophisticated methods that these people are using. When I was appointed I tried to familiarise myself internally on what is happening before I started going around the country and I had to stop doing that because I was trying to do something that is not usually done. We sometimes do not understand what is happening in Government and we take it upon ourselves to understand things happening outside. I had to stop because I thought maybe I would be misunderstood, however it is not only the Members of the Committees that are supposed to familiarise themselves with the operations of the Police but for all of us.

I do not know how many of us have visited the Forensic Laboratory. I feel that even students and pupils must familiarise themselves with the Ministry and be exposed to the operations of the Ministry, not to mention politicians, because we may end up talking about things that we do not understand and as a result of that be shooting in the dark. We must make time to go to the Ministries and familiarise ourselves with what is happening and then we will be able to see whether the resources we are allocating are commensurate with the task at hand. I really think we must think out of the box and do that.

Namibia has been ranked as a tourist destination and it really hurts me to see a person visiting our country being targeted by petty criminals, grabbing their bags and those kinds of things. You see these people

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HON RIRUAKO**

grabbing the bags of our students between the Polytechnic and Central Business District especially at the time of payment of fees. It irritates me because this happens time and again. We must be able to identify where these people come from, what is the pattern, what is the age group, are they school drop-outs or what? Criminology can actually come into play and then we will be able to design strategies according to that.

My last point is on the building of Police Stations at Courts. Comrade Minister, I appeal that when these Courts are built, the people who are going to make use of them will be consulted as well, because these Courts have to be budgeted for and we might not be able to Budget for something we are not aware of. Nowadays Courts are designed with facilities that a person testifying is not seen and if that is not taken into account, the people who are going to operate there might find some shortcomings which we would have been in a position to avoid. Consultation is very much necessary if we want to get somewhere.

We are lagging behind in the field of forensic services. This kind of work is highly specialised and we are not getting people who are interested in this area. With these remarks, I thank you very much and I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Chief Riruako.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we have things to think about. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** Epango!

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**HON RIRUAKO:** I am not talking about Epango, they will rescue you even today. You mentioned what has happened in Aminuis. Someone was cut on his stomach and I had to call the Police to come and attend to

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**HON RIRUAKO**

that and they did not respond. This man who did this has not yet been arrested. This lack of transport or lack of action is not good. It happened in Aminuis, they are there, they heard about it. This man was still around until he decided to go back to the South where he comes from. The Police are not well-equipped, they do not have transport and those shortcomings will increase the criminal activities.

You are talking about Epango, but Epango are assisting the Police to their utmost. Even today there are the people who provide information to the Police. They are the people who are arresting instead of the Police. What is your reaction to that? I want to invite to the area to see how they operate. This is something to be proud of instead of saying “how about Epango?” For that matter, they must be equipped and the public must be informed accordingly and if you do not do that in your area where you come from, please equip yourselves from now onwards. (Intervention)

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**HON UEITELE:** May I please ask my Chief a small question? The Chief is reiterating the fact that Epango is assisting the Police, which is good thing, but does the Chief not think that the Traditional Leaders must also try to assist the Police to curb crimes in the areas where we do not have Police Stations?

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**HON RIRUAKO:** You can form your Epango despite Police Stations; they are not only in Epango. They are all over. I do not know why you post this question.

I want to know who are stealing docket. Is it done by thieves or the Police? Can you please give us a report on that? How can they disappear forever and how does it happen? For that matter, we are not well-equipped; anyone can get to the documents easily and get away with it. This is not the way we are supposed to keep our Police Stations. We appeal that this matter be taken care of and if anything should happen, they must equip themselves to the point whereby someone cannot pass by without being seen. One hears that someone has stolen cattle and after a week the docket is lost. Is that how we run out Police Stations?

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HON DR A IYAMBO**

We are here to rescue you and ourselves and we need cooperation at this moment to do things together and please, I plead with you as the Police representatives who are here, we cannot blame the Minister of Safety and Security as he does not have this insight. Those with the insight must provide the insight for us to re-adjust the security and to keep an eye on what is happening, without even the Police knowing what has been put there. I do not want to teach you how to do it, but these things are lost in the offices under your command. We can only keep our Nation and society together if we joint efforts. With these words, I support the Vote and I need your cooperation.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable Abraham Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to support Vote 06 of the Police and I would like to start with a sentence on page 5 which was already quoted by other Colleagues, that our Police Force deserves our collective national support.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I happened to join the police in some of their most difficult operations during the floods as they assisted the different schools that were affected by the floods. I would, first of all, like to say that I would like to take off my hat for the professionalism and attitude of those policemen and women, but I would like to say that I will always support the Honourable Minister when he is requesting more money for vehicles, particularly the Land Rovers and Land Cruisers because of the nature of the terrain under which they operate, because if other cars operate under those very difficult conditions they incur more maintenance costs. I want to again support the Police to get more money in future with respect to vehicles, particularly Land Cruisers and Land Rovers.

When we worked with the Police to reach schools that were flooded, I also noticed the shortage of life-saving equipment, which was also mentioned

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RT HON ANGULA**

by the Right Honourable Prime Minister this weekend, so that when they operate under these very difficult circumstances, they would be able to save themselves and also save lives. I, therefore, support the Ministry if they request more money for equipment to be used during floods.

I have also noticed that our Police Officers are highly trained in the area of mechanics as well as some divers and more money should be allocated for more training in respect to the diving aspect.

I just want to correct the Colleague from the RP that if records are being recorded wrongly by the Police, it does not mean that the Police are adding to the literacy rate. That is just wrong recording, but they are literate.

I have lately noticed that the Police are assisting us because there is so much violence at our schools, including the latest at Toivo Ya Toivo School in the Oshana Region as well as the stabbing to death of many learners, including those who died last year in the Ohangwena Region. I would like to propose that we will be very pleased to be assisted with exposure and to talk about a society that is free of crime and we would like to start with the schools.

Overall, Colleagues, I support this very important Vote and I thank you very much.

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

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to say the following on behalf of the Public Service of Namibia. Firstly, we appreciate the work of our Police under the able leadership of the Minister and Deputy Minister. Secondly, I particularly want to single out the Police Air Wing which has been assisting us during the flood disaster, as Honourable Iyambo has just mentioned. We really appreciate their work and if it was

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RT HON ANGULA**

not for them and the work of Namibian Air Force we could have lost many lives, especially people bitten by snakes and also mothers in labour. They really did a great job and they must be commended.

I also want to recognise the work being done by our police in the international policing operations. I know that many of them had been exposed to danger and trauma, sometimes hijacked and facing very difficult situations. We thank them for their effort to contribute to peace in those troubled areas.

Now I want to address myself to two important issues. Honourable Moongo, the Public Service of Namibia is an equal opportunity employer. The Public Service, in its recruitment, whether in the Public Service in general or in the uniform services, make sure that certain criteria are met, such as gender representation, regional balance, affirmative action or balanced restructuring of the Public Service. The youth born in exile are only singled out because of their special circumstances and it does not mean that they are the only ones being employed. The Public Service of Namibia is an equal opportunity employer. Take note of that. That is the policy of the Public Service of Namibia.

Secondly, Honourable Members, the Public Service of Namibia is making sure that the Public Service of Namibia is the employer of choice, meaning that the Public Service of Namibia strives to take care of the basic welfare of its employees. Of course, we work in different environments. If you are a policeman or woman, you are sometimes required to man a checkpoint between Okahandja and Otjiwarongo or anywhere else. Obviously, those are not conducive environments to work in but that is part of the job, but the Government will make sure that the basic needs are attended to. Therefore, there is no need for this Parliament to imply that members of the Police are being mistreated. There is no intention to do so because the policy of the Public Service of Namibia is to be an employer of choice.

I want to draw the attention of this House to one important issue and that is on page 42 of the development programmes where it deals with the development programmes of the Police. I am happy to note here that

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HON DINGARA**

during Medium Term Expenditure Framework period provision is made for construction of Police accommodation and housing at various centres and that N\$200 million have been allocated for that activity. During this Financial Year N\$31.5 million have been allocated for the construction of Police accommodation and houses at various centres. In 2012/2013, N\$61.1 million have been allocated and 2013/2014, N\$100 million have been allocated for that activity. That means Government is aware of the plight of the Police Officers regarding accommodation and Government has taken action to address that issue. Therefore, I would have expected the Colleagues from the Cabinet would have familiarised themselves with this document so that they could make informed statements.

I want to emphasise once again that the Public Service of Namibia strives to be an employer of choice and also it is an equal opportunity employer. Take note of that. Thank you.

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

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**HON DINGARA:** Thank you very much for the Floor. For one to know whether a country is corrupt or not will be known to you at arrival. Some of you know about the “*missing page*” in some countries. If the page is missing there is a problem. For us to avoid that situation in Namibia, while the Police Force are excluded from the right enjoyed by other Public Service employees. We have to speak about their conditions of service (Intervention)

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**HON RIRUAKO:** May I ask a question? What do you mean by “missing page” and if the missing page is not found, you are in a mess? Could you spell that out a bit?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 06  
HON DR ANKAMA**

**HON DINGARA:** For us to avoid such a situation in Namibia, why is the Police Force excluded from the Labour Act and the right to negotiate for their conditions of service? They are also excluded from paid overtime. Their salary remains the same whether the person works long hours, whether the person works on Sunday or a public holiday. What is also crucial is that I did not see the re-grading of the salary structure. Re-grading is different from salary adjustment and increments, it is to see whether the grading which was done in 1996 by WASCOM are still the correct grades. (Intervention)

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**HON RIRUAKO:** You say they are not paid overtime, but even if we worked overtime for several days it is not taken into account. Come to the point where you say if that is the case, can we adjust that or not? Are you afraid to say it?

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**HON DINGARA:** Let me conclude by saying that it would be good if we re-grade the salary structure of the Police, including the Defence Force and Prisons, to avoid the situation that we have seen occurring around the world, because they do not have the right to say it themselves. Thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Chief Ankama.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to support this very important Vote. Of course, more money is always needed and I hope there will be more money next time. However, let me concentrate on two very important issues and I will start with crime intelligence and crime prevention. Perhaps before I start I would like to give special thanks to the Police of Oshana. You have all heard about it in the media that the Oshana Police have been doing very well and must be applauded.

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**HON DR ANKAMA**

Crime prevention requires crime intelligence. I want to think in line with what is currently happening and I will perhaps be in a position to give more information, why quite a number of security guards are found all over. The question is what is the relationship between these security guards and the Police? I tend to think there is some kind of relationship, but I want to know if there is a strong bond between the Police and these entities and how they cooperate because they are always there guarding institutions of Government. (Intervention)

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**HON RIRUAKO:** On a Point of Order. Are you not a Member of our Committees? Why can you not differentiate between the security companies and the Police as there is a linkage between the two and the one cannot work without the other, they are combined.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you very much for the question, I will answer you tomorrow. My concern is the relationship between the Police and the security bodies that we have throughout the country. Sometimes we also have CCTV cameras and I do not know whether the security companies are regulated at the moment. If they are, how are they regulated and how accessible are they? If a crime has been committed at a particular place, do the Police have access to these cameras or who usually controls the access. It is just a matter of understanding the relationship and how we are working to harmonise the security issues.

The issue of crime prevention is very important and currently we are living in a different world, the world of Information Communication Technology. We talk about computers, software development and the likes. The Police Officers we are training these days should be Police that would be in a position to understand how ICT could be useful in preventing crimes or in detecting crimes as early as possible.

Nowadays you can detect crimes by sitting in an office, watching on a screen what is taking place at various institutions, whether at houses or Government buildings. I am just sort of interested in knowing the extent

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**HON MBUMBA**

to which we are using the available technology in our world and to what extent are we using Police in plainclothes? I am concerned about the extent to which we are using Police in plainclothes wherever crimes are occurring. What I am basically saying is that I would want the Police to concentrate more on the use of ICT and at the same time to strengthen ties between the Police Force and the security bodies, at the same time using Police in plainclothes. (Intervention)

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**HON MOONGO:** On a Point of Information. The plainclothes Police usually only report a threat to the Government, they do not report ordinary crimes.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I think we are drifting away from the topic. Could I ask Honourable Ankama to wind up, please?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, practically speaking, I want to know to what extent the Police have relations with the security companies and I would like to conclude by supporting this very important Vote and ask for more money, if possible, to improve their livelihood. I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I now ask the Minister to respond to some of the specific questions.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I think I want to quote from my statement because the concern was always whether we as Parliament support our Police Officers and I said: *“The Namibian Police Force deserves our collective National support. This unequivocal demonstration of such support by this august House will*

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HON MBUMBA**

*undoubtedly motivate the entire Nation to rally behind the police.*” We seem to be in agreement on that point.

There was an issue of balancing the Force. I said: “*The Namibian Police Force has budgeted to recruit at least 1 000 new intakes every year, taking into consideration the balanced restructuring of the Force in the context of gender and regional representation.*” This is a Force where you could be shot, why should you only recruit Mbumba 1, Mbumba 2, Mbumba 3? How silly can you be if that is the case?

*Honourable Chief Ankama*, we mentioned already that, “*furthermore we are starting to take advantage of advances in Information Communication Technology with ensuring system integration and integrity.*” We mentioned these things to you already, Honourable Members. Now for the hard work. I thank the **Right Honourable Prime Minister** for answering some of the questions and indicating the true nature of this society and the true nature of the Public Service of the Republic of Namibia and also on the issue of housing.

I know *Honourable Nicky Iyambo* is concerned, but this is not only an issue of housing, it concerns the entire infrastructure and I am pleased that even the new Minister of Education would like the Police to receive more funds. I thank you very much, but we as Members of Parliament must know of the limited resources available to any nation, even the biggest countries, the United States, Russia and China. They do not have the funds to do everything they would like to do that year and that is why you have programmes and activities – a step at a time. If the Honourable Minister of Education wants to give me one billion, I will salute him, but are you willing to do that? Not now.

It was said that when we build Police Stations, which also include Courts, we must indicate to each other. There are classifications of Police Stations. Class A means it includes all these facilities and I am sure you can negotiate with each other, but the documentation has already been done. There are Class B and Class C stations and all the new Police Stations being built include accommodation facilities.

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HON MBUMBA**

*Honourable Moongo*, my neighbour, almost my cousin, but he has disqualified himself, his brother is my cousin, but he is not my cousin because of the nature of some of statements he makes. Out of the 1,100 intake last year, only 49 were children of the liberation. We say we want a professional Police Force. How do you get a professional Police Force?

By recruiting some of the better students who at least have Grade 12 and then considering the communities such as the Tsumkwe and Kaoko areas to ensure that at least somebody, even with Grade 10, should be included to reflect the national character of our population. For the Honourable Member to say we only recruit the liberation children, how many of these children are there?

Security companies need clearance from the police before they are established. The National Police Force is superior to any other instrument securing a particular property or a particular house. They are registered and should there be any misbehaviour by the staff or the managers or the owners of those security companies. They are also considered to be part of the community policing and should communicate with the Police.

*Honourable Chief Riruako*, a Class C Police Station will be built at Aminuis. This is to facilitate the quick response you have mentioned and to coordinate with senior people.

This year we were authorised to purchase digital forensic data and evidential analysis capacity. We can now even analyse DNA. Currently we have 200 members who are undergoing training at the Patrick Iyambo College to be able to assist. It is not only one person there. If the Prime Minister is Nahas Angula, of course he is our leader in terms of Parliamentary issues, but if his name is mentioned, it does not mean that there are no other Ministers. Dr. Ludick has to be there because he established the unit, he is the Head but he is not alone. What we need to have is somebody at the deputy or assistant deputy level, so that when he is on a mission or at conferences, we have somebody else who can do some of these things. It is never good to have only one person.

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HON MBUMBA**

We have a concept of uniformed force, Defence number one, Police number two, Correctional Services number three. If these uniform people have to demonstrate for a better salary, you would never be able to manage your Government. I do not know why you want to make them union members. In the first place, every time there is a salary increment it covers everybody in the system. Today you will unionise the Prison Services, tomorrow the Police and then the Defence and what kind of system will you have? When the Police Officers start demonstrating, will you call General Namoloh to come and arrest us? What kind of confusion is this? I really do not want us as Members of Parliament to entertain such a concept.

I agree that we must treat our officers properly and re-grading is done all the time. We re-grade and improve and promote. I said recruit new members and appoint existing members to vacancies in the Force.

There was mention of corruption, that when you enter a country the immigration people are asking for a “missing page”. In any system there will always be problems, but we must respect those who are doing this job, that we do not have a system like in other countries where you can just predict that before you enter that country, somebody will ask you for a bottle of Coke, which means he is asking for a bribe. Anywhere you hear of a customs or immigration official doing that, we have ways to use detectives, people in plainclothes to identify that person and arrest or tell the parent Ministry to remove such a person from that post. There are many other recommendations, namely to rotate people, but all those things cost money and one cannot just rotate people for the sake of rotating; however there is a need to coordinate.

I am glad some people have mentioned the enormous responsibility and the enormous efforts being made by the pilots of the Ministry of Defence and the pilots of the Police. I have some names of my pilots, but I do not think it is fair to single them out. I am also glad that you identified certain Regions where either the Police commander in that Region or just the whole system is functioning much better. I get reports every morning, every week about what is happening and sometimes it is not pleasant to hear that a student has drowned. My background is teaching, not policing,

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HON MOONGO**

but this is the job I have now and for which I receive a salary. Therefore, we will do whatever is necessary to promote the welfare of our Police Officers in terms of salaries, in terms of accommodation, etcetera.

There was also mention of border clearing. We have a Cabinet committee that is empowered to organise our borders and we must do that. It is those stretches between border posts that have to be cleared so that we are able to travel there with cars on our own side. Our border with Botswana is better organised because of the involvement of the Ministries of Agriculture of the two countries to control diseases, but the other borders also need to be cleared.

I passed through Wenela Border Post on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. Which side is better? Those who have been there know our side is better, but if you go to Santa Clara and Oshikango, their side is almost a town. We want to emulate our neighbours, so that the control on our side is as effective as their side. Thank you very much for your support.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO:** I did not refer directly to the Ministry, I was informing the Ministry that Councillors in the Regions caused this confusing situation. The Ministry is supposed to call them order because they are saying the only ones to be recruited are the children born outside the country. I only wanted to correct that. I salute the Ministry for the work they are doing and I am usually the one appealing for better salaries. I am not blaming the Ministry and you will remain my cousin.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Honourable Nicky Iyambo.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 06**  
**HON DR N IYAMBO / HON MBUMBA**

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** I just want to clarify one issue in case of a misunderstanding. When I was speaking of the importance of accommodation for the Police, I did not mean that there is nothing provided in this Budget for Police accommodation, but I was simply speaking from practical experience, that some Police Stations have been constructed without accommodation and mistakes that have been made in the past should not be repeated. When somebody is doing hard work and knocks off, that person should at least have a place to rest.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** I want to thank the Honourable Dr N Iyambo and my cousin. I know you have experience as my predecessor and you have experience as a medical doctor and your advice is appreciated.

I left out something mentioned by Honourable Ndaitwah on Darfur. They needed female Police Officers to counsel and support the traumatised women in Darfur. Women have also performed better than their male counterparts in some of the tests, including driving skills, shooting skills, communication skills and their health status on average tends to be better than those of men.

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

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

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. When I read the statement by the Honourable Minister, I did not come across any programme for the training of the diplomats. Diplomacy is an art and as such it needs well-trained, well-equipped people with such skills to be able to manoeuvre in the diplomatic jungle. They should be equipped to be able to negotiate and if we do not prepare the diplomatic corps of our own, then I think we will be failing in our international performance. Honourable Minister, it is

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 07  
HON RIRUAKO**

very important that we train people to become real diplomats and not only to recruit people for the salaries and to earn in foreign currency. We need to do that. There are demanding issues in the international arena which will require very skilled diplomats. With these words, I support the Vote, Honourable Minister. Thank you very much.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** I am not interfering with other people's professions, but diplomacy is something which you are supposed to know before you become an ambassador and if they do not have that kind of qualification, they should not be sent anywhere. One has to be trained to become an ambassador. Any Minister is supposed to be a diplomat. If you deal with foreign people, you must have met the requirements of communication and if you do not, it is too bad.

We have to train our diplomats, we are not sending people for the sake of being my cousin or being my nephew, we send the people to canvas and to know what is going on there and to report back. If you do not have that kind of qualification, you cannot differentiate between bad and good. Protocol is something else, you are supposed to know about criminology, and you are supposed to know you are Cum Laude. If anything happens in your embassy, you are supposed to protect your embassy with your own capacity. If you cannot do that, why do you want us to send you anywhere else? You have disqualified yourself and for that matter, someone with knowledge of communication must be attached to an embassy anywhere in the world.

To become an ambassador you are supposed to know I can be sent anywhere else. You cannot say what you want, that you want to go and work the other side. Keep your control, keep your motive and perhaps Kazenambo has to learn about it. If you are not proving yourself here with us, why should you be sent abroad? (Intervention)

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Chief, I think you need to be more specific now.

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HON RIRUAKO**

**HON RIRUAKO:** If you want to be an ambassador, you must be seasoned and you have to know what your job entailed, what needs to be reported back and if you are an Attaché, you are supposed to report to the military department, not in the ordinary diplomatic way. You have to know who your enemy is wherever you are. I cannot keep on talking; you are supposed to know from now onwards that to be an ambassador is not because I have been with Foreign Affairs for many years. No, show us who are you, what is your performance. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** May I ask the Honourable Riruako question? Do you not think it is about time that you ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs to organise a seminar where you can address the ambassadors?

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**HON RIRUAKO:** That is the kind of qualification I would like you to possess. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask the Honourable Riruako a small question just for wisdom? Honourable Riruako, do you think that conscientious history is part of diplomacy?

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Conscientious history has been taken away from us by the Europeans and Americans when they implemented all our policies with the European Common Market. We ought to take over the conscientism and implement our focus and directions. Now they come back to us for what is termed the last stage of last stage of imperialism. That is the last stage of imperialism, to re-colonise us for the third time. They failed to do that, but we do not even understand. I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** I call upon Honourable Simataa, please.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 07**  
**HON SIMATAA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would also like to join Dr Namwandi in recommending to the Minister of Foreign Affairs to seriously consider inviting the Chief to offer a lecture to our ambassadors during their annual engagement. I found the lecture very interesting and I was trying very hard to follow.

My intervention is based on Joint Commissions and I am making this intervention based on my previous experience as a former Public Servant. I have realised, even when I was involved in some of these Joint Commissions, that there are times when we look at Joint Commissions as if they are two, three-years rituals where people meet, deliberate on issues, take very serious resolutions, but at the end of the day there, no concerned efforts are made to deliberately implement some of the very same resolutions. Having invested time, having invested financial resources and human resources to engage in these Commission, I personally feel that we need to do more to ensure that the outcomes of these Commissions are thoroughly and effectively followed. I know for a fact that this is not a problem of Foreign Affairs, because Foreign Affairs facilitates, it is the participating Line Ministries that are called upon to go the extra mile, not only to be serious before the Joint Commission, not only to be serious during the Joint Commission, but to follow up and develop a clearly stated action plan that would ensure that Line Ministries follow up on some of the outcomes of these Joint Commissions.

Comrade Minister, having reflected on the operations of these Joint Commissions, I want to ask a rhetoric question, namely whether there is anything we can do, spearheaded by Foreign Affairs, that will bring about effective implementation of some of the decisions emanating from these Joint Commissions. On that note, I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable Ueitele, please.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 07**  
**HON UEITELE / HON NYAMU**

**HON UEITELE:** Deputy Chair, I also rise to support the Honourable Minister's Budget. On page 4 the Minister said that the funds allocated for the Development Budget will be used as follows: N\$150 million will be for the purchasing and maintenance of diplomatic properties abroad. As a member of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security Standing Committee, I just wanted to congratulate the Minister because in most of the Missions abroad the staff were recommending the purchasing of properties, thus I congratulate the Minister. We know it is so expensive to purchase properties outside, but I believe that if we can do this each Financial Year, it would be in the interest of the country. Congratulations and thank you very much.

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

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**HON NYAMU:** Honourable Chairperson, I rise to join the crowd in congratulating the Minister and his staff for his submission. Foreign Ministries are money-consuming organisations in Governments and the returns are very difficult to measure, but we know that big and small nations throughout the world have diplomatic missions, therefore we too much have diplomatic missions in some countries of the world.

However, when I look at the figures on page 4 I felt that these are exorbitant figures and I do not know how the Ministry was able to come up with the specific figures, given the fact that property prices fluctuate from time to time.

On page 5 a lot of money is mentioned for what is called bilateral affairs. Bilateral affairs refer to visits and again I do not know how the Ministry was able to come up with these specific figures in advance. Of course, one has to plan, but how close do you come to the reality when it comes to these figures? How many Heads of State are going to come, how many officials will accompany them, etcetera? (Intervention)

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**HON NYAMU**

**HON RIRUAKO:** On a Point of Order. May I say this, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, we had twenty-one years in diplomacy and the example of where we have started and where we are now can teach us what kind of money we are supposed to allocate for that purpose. I have to say this amount is peanuts and you have been a Minister for many, many years and you have been in Cabinet when funds were allocated.

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**HON NYAMU:** In referring to the specific figures, it is a bit difficult for me to understand how those figures were reached. I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that Namibia is over-extending itself. Surely we need to promote our economic and security interests by maintaining relationships with other countries, but look around you here in Africa. There is no other country of our size with so many diplomatic missions abroad. Just look around you. We are almost behaving like super powers. The super powers are everywhere. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** On a Point of Information. I made a rough calculation and this amount of N\$150 million is a mere US\$21 million.

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**HON NYAMU:** As I stated earlier, the importance for us to have diplomatic missions is one thing, but to over-extend ourselves for a country with two million people, with over twenty missions abroad is almost unheard of. That is why I am saying we are over-extending ourselves and we have to pay for that. We could have used this money, even though it is only US\$20 million, for other development purposes. We should carefully select where to spend it. In some of the missions where we have the old or new missions, I very much doubt that we are going to accrue benefits from those relationships. I feel next time we should think twice when we are extending these embassies.

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HON NAMBAHU**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Nyamu a small question? Honourable Nyamu, do you know that SWAPO of Namibia had more missions, one of which you represented in Ethiopia?

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**HON NYAMU:** Thank you very much for reminding me of what I already know, but I do not think there is a comparison. Those missions were by-and-large funded by other donors and now we have to do so ourselves. (Intervention)

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable Nambahu, you have the Floor.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** I will not ask many questions this time, I will be very brief. I also want to support the Vote and pose two questions.

Comrade Nujoma, you might be aware that there are Friendship Organisations in these groups that actually play a very important role in strengthening solidarity between our country and others, but those outside the scope of Parliament are surviving on the pockets of their members only although they are fulfilling a very good purpose between ourselves and those countries where the solidarity groups exist. In some countries they are sponsored by their Governments and sometimes Comrades are calling us, asking why we are not doing this, but there is no support from anywhere. You know of the institution called ICAP in some countries which gets money from Government, but here it is left entirely to the members of those organisations to share the expenses. Is there nothing that could be done to also support these kinds of organisations? I thank you.

Other than that, I support the Vote and I would probably ask for more funds so that there are no Hardship Missions.

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HON NUJOMA**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Can I call upon the Minister to respond?

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much for your support, comments and questions. *Honourable Namoloh* asked whether there is a programme for training. I think our recruiting has been elevated to people with high qualifications, for example B-degrees in international relations, B-degrees in Law and one would normally recruit people with the necessary expertise and experience. We do however not in any way underestimate the importance of training. As you may recall in the beginning in 1990 all our diplomats were undergoing diplomatic training provided by Ambassador Debra who was specifically called in to come and train our people. Since then we have been sending our diplomatic corps to various training courses offered by friendly countries and many of our people of diplomatic corps cadres have taken advantage of these officers. As I am speaking today, we have various training courses in languages which are being offered. When I was in Portugal recently, I concluded an agreement for the training in the Portuguese languages. Recently we have been offered some courses in Australia and we are taking care of this. We are very conscious of the importance of training, intelligence and reporting, so that when they are in those countries they need to gather all the necessary information for us to be informed on what the developments in a particular country are and what the possible benefits which we can derive from that country are. Our missions abroad are also monitoring the developments in those countries with regard to exhibitions and trade fairs. In this way we get the necessary information. For example, last year we had the Expo in China and the Expo in Portugal where our missions have been participating. We budget for that so that we have the Commissioners-General who would normally coordinate the activities of all the Line Ministries, Offices and Agencies. That is how we are now benefiting from this international cooperation and solidarity.

We are involved with negotiations with so many countries who want to assist us. We now have NIPAM and when the cadres are ready, they can go for specific tailor-made courses at NIPAM and that is the institution we

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HON NUJOMA**

want to use. However, countries have already expressed interest to come here instead of sending so many students abroad, which is so costly. You only need one or two lecturers to come and present tailor-made lectures and that is why we were at the opening of NIPAM because we know already that our cadres from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can also benefit from there.

I agree with you, *Honourable Riruako*, that training and qualifications are very important. You would find that people from other countries are highly qualified and we need legally qualified people to deal with treaties and agreements. They also need to be trained in protocol related issues, how to treat foreign dignitaries when they arrive in your country and also to assist His Excellency the President, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, the Founding President and many of our Ministers who travel.

With regard to Joint Commission, so many countries have established Joint Commissions to further and consolidate the relations. They also review the agreements and protocols signed, and determine what progress has been made so far with these agreements, what are the shortcomings. The other purpose of the Joint Commissions is to look for new opportunities.

For example, when we were in Botswana the Joint Commission was discussing the possibility of establishing a rail link between Botswana and Namibia, a dry port and all those important things. It is true and very important that the Line Ministries must play a pivotal role, because the Ministry of Foreign Affairs normally informs, coordinates and advises, but the Line Ministries have to implement it. We have to remind them that there was an opportunity in Cuba. *Comrade Iyambo*, our students have been offered 200 scholarships, what did you do?" We try to keep the Ministers on their toes. For example, there was an opportunity for agriculture, which was offered by Italy, what did we do? We normally keep on reminding the Line Ministries. That is the purpose of Joint Commissions, they are very important. Countries which are reviewing, also feel the same. For example, Cuba is also reviewing their Joint Commission to see what the purpose is. Sometimes we spend too much money with very little returns.

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HON NUJOMA**

For example, South Africa has now proposed a bi-annual commission. Rather than have two meetings a year in Namibia and South Africa, we are proposing one meeting a year so that we review all the bilateral agreements and protocols to see what needs to be done.

*Honourable Nyamu*, I agree with you that it is difficult to measure the returns, but the most important is that Article 96 of our Constitution says: “*The State shall endeavour to ensure that in its international relations it adopts and maintains a policy of non-alignment, promotes international cooperation, peace and security, creates and maintains just and mutually beneficial relations among nations, fosters respect for international law and treaty obligations and encourages the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.*” Therefore, we need to invest in peace in order to get the dividends of peace. When your neighbour’s house is burning, you need to go and rescue him. I do not know whether it is the policy of the RDP that when your neighbour’s house is on fire, you add fuel to that house. Therefore, N\$150 million are not exorbitant. As Honourable Ilonga correctly stated, that is a mere US\$20 million to invest in those important considerations, like peaceful coexistence, respect for international law, etcetera. Therefore, I do not think that is too much and I think the 26 diplomatic missions and two consulates are commensurate with our population and our needs.

We are considering further expansion while taking into account, the returns, and benefits from establishing a diplomatic mission in a particular country.

For example, we recently established a diplomatic mission in Tokyo, because there were good considerations. It is unfortunate that that country had the tsunami and then the nuclear fallout after the destruction of their nuclear plant.

We have only budgeted N\$47 million for bilateral affairs and that is peanuts. That is to promote Namibia as a politically stable and peaceful, investor friendly and reliable trading partner. That is important as we have to compete for investment. Other countries are also offering the same, but if you sit at home and think manna will fall from heaven, forget

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HON DR KAWANA**

it, you have to go there and look for business opportunities.

*Comrade Nambahu*, the solidarity groups are important, we are also the products of international solidarity and we extend solidarity to other countries. A few months ago the Ministry of Youth and Sport attended the World Federation of Democratic Youth in South Africa. We have participated. Other countries have offered us tickets and even accommodation and meals and we have to extend that solidarity. In future we must host those types of activities because it brings all the youth together. I am happy that the SWAPO Youth League has organised an international meeting, the China-Africa Forum, which will take place in a few days' time. We need to engage each other so that our youth know what is happening in China and the developments taking place there. There are breathtaking developments in ICT, transport, economic infrastructure. We have to know what the other people are doing; otherwise we will remain isolated on an island. I thank you.

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

**Vote 08 – “DEFENCE”** is put for Discussion.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I will be brief. I rise to support Vote 08 and, indeed, to add my voice to commend our men and women in uniform who are doing an excellent job. We have proven our detractors wrong when they initially opposed the Defence Budget and today they are rescuing our people in the flooded areas as well as maintaining peace and stability in the world.

Today the world has been reduced to a parish. Events that are happening

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HON IILONGA**

as far as Japan have an effect on the rest of the world, including Namibia.

You may recall that the earthquake in Japan caused the high increase of the fuel price. The events in Libya caused the high price of fuel and also the detours by our Air Namibia to avoid the Libyan airspace. The events in Cote d'Ivoire caused an increase in coffee prices, therefore we have a direct interest to make sure that we contribute in our small way to the maintenance of peace and stability in the world by contributing to peacekeeping operations and to do so with equipment that would also protect our men and women in uniform. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support the Vote. I also congratulate the officers who have been promoted and implore you, Comrade Minister, to ensure that those who retire from our Defence Force are looked after so that tomorrow we will remain a proud nation as we are proud today because of the performance of our Defence Force. I support the Vote and I thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND  
FORESTRY:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 08 of the Defence Force and I have some questions.

The first question is on page 3, paragraph 8. During our time when we were fighting we had “Commissars” to motivate the morale of the soldiers. Our soldiers should be neutral when it comes to politics, but in order to make our men and women in uniform confident and patriotic towards this country, is it not time to have those “Commissariats?” We now have a chaplain, but the Chaplain deals with spiritual issues, that we have these people to inculcate high morale and patriotism towards the country.

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**HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

We now have kids leaving schools, they do not even know that there were Koevoets and SWATF, they think that everything was the same. Is it not time that we have those structures who would keep our soldiers united as one to defend the policy of One Namibia, One Nation?

Every year at Budget time I am talking about people going on retirement. Can we not have a programme for people on retirement to be called when the need arises? I do not want to call it reservists, but something of that nature.

The Honourable Minister already answered Honourable Moongo's question and I hope will not repeat that question. It is clear that under the SWAPO Government there is no such thing as discrimination.

Lastly I want to find out whether this is a Defence flag, because I am not really familiar with it. I support Vote 08.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**  
**COMMITTEE:** Honourable Ndaitwah.

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I support Vote 08 and I was requested to declare my interest. For the past twenty-one years Honourable Lempy Lucas never failed to contribute to this Vote. It is a tradition and as the Deputy Minister she allowed me to continue, so I have nothing to declare.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, ensuring the territorial integrity of any country is the basis for any nation's pride. Therefore, as it was said in the case of the Namibian Police, the Namibian Defence Force needs the collective support from all of us to enable them to achieve exactly what Comrade Kawana has said, both in times of peace and in times of war. In times of peace there are civil duties that they are doing too well, as we have seen during the floods and I congratulate them.

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, in his introduction to Vote 08 the Minister of Defence has informed us that the Defence industry, led by the August 26 Holding Company, is now seriously going into farming. I believe this is a very important component, more especially in the area of food security and it should be an encouragement to all Namibians in general when we see members of the Namibian Defence Force involved in these activities.

Looking at what is happening at one of the 26 August companies, more particularly the Windhoek Maschinenfabrik, we have hope and confidence that when this farming business starts, it will definitely contribute to food security.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, we know that the Ministry of Environment and Tourism is one of those Ministries benefiting from the MCA Namibia Project with American money and I am happy to inform this House that some of the heavy machinery and equipment we are now using in Etosha National Park which we have acquired through MCA Namibia were designed and manufactured at Windhoek Maschinenfabrik and they are doing very well. Our officials are very happy and they are very satisfied.

The only question I want to ask, Honourable Minister, is how the general public can make use of the products of these companies which are part of 26 August Holdings.

The second issue is on page 16 of the Honourable Minister's motivation, namely looking into the well-being of the women and men in uniform and this is generated from the Parliamentary Standing Committee. I think this is now underlying the effectiveness of our Parliament, that when Parliament talks, the Government listens and acts accordingly. This is really a good sign. I am happy that you talk about accommodation because that has been one of our calls and we were particularly concerned about the accommodation of the staff officers, because as we are taking care of the men and women in uniform, I believe we are also concerned about their families and that has to be part and parcel of the programme.

Finally, Honourable Minister, I still recall very well your response in this

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HON MUSHELENGA**

Honourable House last year in relation to gender equality, but besides that, I know the army and the Police have different responsibilities, but I still believe that what has been said by the Minister of Police in responding to some of the questions, one way or the other can also be used to see how you can speed up the process of gender mainstreaming in the Namibian Defence Force. I am aware of the policy, but policy without action may not be very much helpful. I support Vote 08.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Most of the things I wanted to say were mentioned by the previous speakers and I will only restrict myself to two issues.

It is encouraging to see the NDF venturing into other activities of social humanitarian nature, apart from just operating with guns. We have all seen this year how they have been assisting with the evacuation in the flood situation. Honourable Minister, I have previously learned and I have seen after most of the UN operations especially, that our officers who come back home are decorated for bravery while on those missions. I only wish to appeal that we extend the decorations to those who also excel in social and humanitarian operations. I really think a soldier who rescued eight school children from a river needs to be decorated, because it could have been a catastrophe.

Secondly, I was very pleased to see the operation at Uulunga wa Kolonde last year. We have all seen the capacity of our Defence Forces. Even other Honourable Members on the other side of the House who have been speaking about the Libyan situation would not dare. My only appeal is that perhaps we need to mobilise more of the public, maybe through our Regional Governors, so that our citizens, even when they hear Defence is

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**HON MOONGO**

given N\$3 billion, can appreciate the equipment that we have and to know that these equipments are really necessary. Thank you very much.

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

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, the Minister of Defence always made good presentations in this House and here I do not blame him, but maybe the Secretary of the Ministry and the lawyer did not advise him properly, because I know in his heart he is not like that. On page 7 under recruitment it is stated that they recruited only the liberation struggle kids and vulnerable kids, but when the Minister took the Oath, he said I will uphold, defend and protect the Constitution. What Constitution are you talking about? (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member has raised this issue previously under the Police and it was answered. There is what is called special projects and these children are recruited under a special programme. In no way is it a standard or practice of Government to exclude some people. It is just a special project, just like we have other special projects for the San community and other people (*onomenawina*).

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**HON MOONGO:** I only want to advise you that Article 95 says that everyone who took an Oath must ensure that the unemployed, the indigent, the incapacitated and the disadvantaged be treated equally and according to Article 10 all people are equal before the law. You took an Oath that you will uphold the law and here you contradict it by selecting only the liberation kids and the disadvantaged. What about other kids who qualify? I know he is not the one, I think it is the Permanent Secretary; I know his heart is not like that. He doubled the total. It says he adhered

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**HON MOONGO**

to the Government call to accommodate some of the children of the liberation struggle, thereby doubling the members to be recruited in 2010. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, may I offer to assist Honourable Moongo outside?

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**HON MOONGO:** Before this is implemented, I want him to also take care of those who are educated and who qualify for recruitment and not only the kids of the struggle and vulnerable kids.

I used to talk about those ordinary members of the Defence Force whose salaries are very low and the housing allowance of Defence members is peanuts and they cannot afford even a small house. Therefore they put up *kambashus* and end up getting drunk because everybody has a *kambashu*.

I was informed that whenever Defence members are sent on missions, they only choose their kith and kin and high officials because there is big money to be earned. Also, before a female member can be promoted she has to commit adultery. I do not want him to answer me; I want him first to investigate the matter. (Intervention)

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I am calling you to order. I honestly think you are trying to generalise as much as possible. You referred to adultery, is that something that you picked up in the Minister's statement? Can you actually substantiate that? Do you have evidence to prove to the extent that you are actually making a formal statement in Parliament? Do you have the evidence? If you do not have evidence, then you must withdraw.

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**HON KAAPANDA**

**HON MOONGO:** Before I answer that, I first wanted the Minister to investigate and then answer question, otherwise we are not being fair to what I have said here. I got this from the mouths of persons, not only one.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Your time is up now, but you are insisting that you have evidence to prove that?

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**HON MOONGO:** I heard it from the mouths of the members and not only one. However, I do not want it exposed here, but I want him to go and investigate.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Kaapanda.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 08, Ministry of Defence.

I am glad to note that the Ministry is taking appropriate measures with a view to improve the living conditions of our men and women in uniform. This is indeed a welcome development, because failure to do that can lead to serious consequences. The Honourable Members can recall just a week ago the revolt of an armed unit in Ouagadougou because of lack of payment of salaries. This can lead to serious consequences if the welfare of our soldiers is not taken care of and, of course, improving their living conditions can boost their morale to be able to perform their duties better.

Furthermore, I am also happy to note that the Ministry of Defence is also taking the health conditions of our men and women in uniform seriously. As it is stated in the Budget statement by the Honourable Minister, the

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**HON MBUMBA**

health services are very important for the personnel to ensure their good health to be able to perform and defend the security of the country. This is also another milestone for which we should congratulate and commend the Minister of Defence.

Further, I just want to mention off the cuff, emanating from the tragic incident that occurred at Oshigambo where a member of the Defence Force lost his life while attempting to rescue the school children. I think it would be in order for the Ministry of Defence to introduce a swimming course for the Defence Force so that we prevent such tragic occurrences. With this I support Vote 08.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much. I am merely rising to support the leading Ministry in the club of those Ministries faced with the safety, security and defence of the motherland and to mention two issues.

Firstly, I am impressed by you, Minister, having swapped your position with the Ministry of Health and agreed to be the last. Only a disciplined soldier can do that. We continue to learn from you in terms of examples, in terms of discipline. We are proud that right now all the uniformed services in Namibia are using one excellent drill system, the Russian drill. That is why you find when they are marching; all you civilians please come and look at us. Since you have not negotiated with the Russians to bring them here, we have not had access to reach them. As reciprocity we will offer to support you when you start your farming programmes.

Lastly I want to congratulate you for selecting one of the officers I have known for a long time, who is a good friend of mine and when you see him, greet him for me. His name is Denga. Thank you very much.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 08  
HON NGHIDINWA**

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

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:**

Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to join all the previous speakers who supported Vote 08 as my Ministry also belongs to that club of security. As the men and women from the Police, all the security sectors are doing a very important job for the security of the Nation and we have since 1990 enjoyed peace and security because of them.

We have a questionnaire for those nationals who apply to stay in Namibia have and they always say they want to come and stay in Namibia because it is one of the few countries in Africa where you can bring up your children in a conducive environment with guaranteed peace and stability. Some of them say they want to retire in Namibia as this is a place one can stay in peace. Thank you and congratulations for what you did.

My second point was taken by Honourable Ndaitwah on the issue of accommodation for the men and women in uniform. You need to seriously consider increasing the housing allowance and other conditions of service, but not through Unions, you can do it another way. They need decent houses for the future when they will retire and this will also promote good living conditions in the country, because they will not be joining the people on the streets.

Lastly I would like to thank and congratulate the Minister for promoting Mr Ndaitwah to Chief of Staff. I also thank the Ministry for always promoting gender equality. With those few words, thank you very much.

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

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 08  
HON NAMBAHU / HON RIRUAKO**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also want to register my traditional support to this very important Vote. I have been doing it year in, year out and nobody can expect us not to support our Defence with all the events happening elsewhere. I particularly want to refer to one point and one point only and that is the construction research and development programme.

When one sees all these Tomahawks raining down on a Third World countries and everything being used, it really makes one feels helpless as an African. We know that people are developing their Euro jets and all these types of things by joint research. How far are we as Africans from developing joint research and technology? With a Boeing, part of the wing is made in this country, the tyres and wheels are made in another country, but we Africans cannot talk about that because we will be militaristic. Nobody would want to hear us talking about something like that. If not us, maybe our children or their children will be able to do something. How far away are we from putting together something of that nature, even if the African Private Sector can contribute from their own pockets? I would really like to see 26 August cooperating with someone somewhere and have an African project similar to the Europeans developing their own jets and things like that. Otherwise it is just humiliating to see what is happening and we have nothing of a joint nature in that respect.

With those words I wholeheartedly support this Vote and if you need any donation from our pockets so that you do not have a deficit, just call on us.

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

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, how many people are speaking and how many of them are in Government? I am sorry to say this. I do not think we can have an independent country without a military force. We have taken an Oath to

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 08**  
**HON KAZENAMBO**

defend this country and where are we now? We have a country to defend for good or for bad and one is the other side, one is this side, how are you going to do that if you are divided on this issue? Let us air our views to know who is who. We are here to defend this country to the utmost and some have a background or history of defending this country. Why does my Colleague put your hand this way? I am talking about Honourable Namoloh, my co-prisoner. We were forbidden to come back to Namibia. Ask him, I am here. I am not here to talk about history, he knows and you know.

Defence budgeted for N\$3 billion but it is still peanuts. Once we are provoked by anyone, we are entitled to defend ourselves before anything happens. If other nations come to rescue us, they must find us defending ourselves and the leftovers are for those who are the next Government in power. We keep quiet the whole night, why are we silent? The time is now for us to open our mouths and to bring us together and to create a kind of conducive atmosphere and solve the issue once and for all. I thank Honourable Moongo that all the time you posed your questions. We are here to build this country for better or for worse and we have done that and we are determined to do it now. We are here to stay not to go away, open your mouth and challenge whatever you come across. I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Kazenambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 08, which I have traditionally supported since I have entered this House and which I will continue to do because I am personally associated to it. It is only due to circumstances that I am not one of them. (Interjection). No, I am ageing; I will be retiring in a few years time.

What I wanted to say in support of the Vote has been mentioned by

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 08  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

Honourable Kaapanda and that is with regard to the swimming course. When I heard of that tragedy that happened in Oshigambo, it took me down memory lane when in the jungles of Angola some comrades from other parts of the country who were not exposed to swimming had to cross those rivers in Angola with heavy loads of ammunition and guns. If the Ministry of Defence is already doing it, thank you, but if they are not doing it, please let us introduce swimming into our military training course because the enemy is changing. While we are expecting to face aggression by fellow human beings, we are now being confronted with an environmental enemy as a result of climate change. Therefore, I support my senior here on the issue of swimming.

My last point on this issue is that here I have a communication tool, a Motorola. This was initially military equipment, discovered by the US Army and eventually it became a civilian tool. August 26 is manufacturing armed military vehicles and at one point we had the Uri in Gobabis. I think these armed vehicles must at one point be commercialised and we must manufacture smaller 4x4 vehicles, such as Land Cruisers and Land Rovers, to be sold to farmers. With these few words I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable Nicky Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Comrade Minister you mentioned the need to establish a military hospital and that feasibility studies have already been done. I am sure you have expert advisors. I just want to say that you have to do everything possible to collaborate with the Minister of Health and Social Services so that young Namibian doctors be identified who would be interested in military medicine, which is a speciality in itself, so that at the point when this hospital is ready, you should be able to have Namibians manning that hospital.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 08  
HON NAMOLOH**

Military hospitals all over the world are not the same as the civilian hospitals. Anybody from anywhere can be recruited to run a civilian hospital, but not a military hospital and I hope that will be taken very seriously. You must work out a specific, limited, essential number of priorities that need to be in that hospital, but that, as a matter of principle, must be run by Namibians. I thought I should say that so that there is time enough for you to make preparations. Thank you very much.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. May I now call upon the Minister to respond?

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would like to thank all the Honourable Members who contributed to the Vote of the Ministry of Defence and supported the men and women in uniform who are day and night ready to defend our territorial integrity.

Many of the Honourable Members have spoken about a burning issue and that is the retirement of our officers. The Ministry of Defence takes care of the retired officers. They maintain their pension and, of course, we have created the Ministry of Veterans Affairs and everyone who retires, passes on to that Ministry. Besides their normal retirement pensions which they receive from the GIPF, we pass them over to the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, to be registered as veterans. The group of Eenhana have been attached to units all over the country and when they pass on, their units are responsible for providing funeral services and tombstones for their graves. As of now they are also responsible for their medical care. However, the rest of the officers who retire are passed on to the Minister of Veteran Affairs. That is the general answer to the questions.

The question was asked whether there is a reserve force for retired officers and it is provided for in the Act of Ministry of Defence, but it has not been activated and as time goes we may be able to do that although it is costly.

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HON NAMOLOH**

Many of the Honourable Members raised their concern on the welfare of the men and women in uniform and mention was made of the “Commissariat”, At this point we do not have a “Commissariat” in the Defence Force because we do not teach politics in the Defence Force as it is apolitical, but at all our training institutions these people are taught the Constitution, geography and the history of Namibia, for them to be proud of their country and what they have to do to defend the resources, which makes them to become more patriotic to the country and the Nation they have to defend and to understand why they have to sacrifice for Namibia. We have seen them in battle in Congo, Angola and the Katima crisis and they were all brave and I think they are doing well.

On recruitment I want to advise *Honourable Moongo* read page 7 carefully. There is a saying that you can talk to some people, they will hear you but not understand what you are saying and that is the problem. This is in writing, the Honourable Member has read it, he could see it in black and white but he only picked what he wants. In paragraph 6 on that page we say there are 996 recruits to military schools. This is the normal recruitment of those who passed their Grade 12 and 10. It was one thousand, but four fell out for whatever reason. These are not the children of the liberation struggle. However, then we also recruited 1,005 and 440 were children of the liberation struggle and the rest are children from disadvantaged communities and we had a special programme for those who cannot read and write. We had night classes at Oluno to teach them to read and write and afterwards they could read their account number, they could read their company number and they could even send SMSs on their mobiles. It is not that we recruit more children of the liberation struggle, we recruit across the board and I think you must understand now. You did not want to see the truth and you only picked one point.

This year we are recruiting one thousand. Five hundred will be those of the liberation struggle plus those from the marginalised communities and the other five hundred are those who have passed their Grade 12 and Grade 10. I think I have now made it clear to Honourable Moongo.

I have mentioned that we have embarked on farming and we have now commercialised it. We are selling cattle to Meatco and supplying some

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HON NAMOLOH**

other entities. Sometimes when we have festivities here in the Parliament Gardens, you are eating the meat from our farm.

*Honourable Ndaitwah*, you asked to what extent the general public is making use of the Defence industry. It is only now that we are doing things for the general public, but we are collaborating with other Ministries. The vehicles used by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration for their mobile units are vehicles modified at the Windhoek Maschinenfabrik. We are engaged in negotiations with the Ministry of Agriculture and they will be buying tractors from Brazil which will be assembled at Windhoek Maschinenfabrik. We are looking at manufacturing small vehicles later on, but our capacity is still small although we are expanding as there are other countries who want to cooperate to see what we can produce there, whether we can modify what we have and also whether we can manufacture new ones.

A commitment is made in the Development Budget for the construction and renovation of our bases in various places throughout the country and we are also in negotiations with the Ministry of Finance to acquire additional equipment to accelerate the building of accommodation and shelter for our Defence Force. Maybe we will be able to tell you next year what we have done.

*Honourable Mushelenga*, the decoration of officers is possible. Once somebody has performed an extraordinary feat, he or she will be awarded.

I also want to make it clear that when men and women are sent on international missions, they volunteer to go and serve. Why? Because everybody who goes on international missions must be subjected to a medical check-up and be found to be fit. The person who gave you that information is maybe somebody who is scared to go for the medical check-up and then creates those stories. There is no favouritism, people volunteer to go and they are not appointed. You must go and inform that person, it is on a voluntary basis, they have to go for a check-up and found to be fit. Those are the criteria, Honourable Moongo.

Housing allowances differ at certain levels. A private soldier cannot be

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HON NAMOLOH**

given a housing allowance if he lives in a base which is catered for by the State, but the others are given housing allowances. I do not say it is enough, even all of us here would want to be given a bigger housing allowance, but at least it caters for what they can afford. He cannot go and stay in a hotel, but he can find decent accommodation.

With regard to promotion, I do not have the statistics here, but I think since last year we made promotions across the board, which also includes females. You would find that there are now many female Colonels.

However, I told my Deputy to talk to them, because sometimes they do not want to be transferred to another unit where they have the opportunity to command. They say it is too far, they want to stay in Windhoek and in Windhoek they have no opportunities. We have a Gender Unit in the Ministry of Defence and it is functioning well.

Research and development, as I said, Honourable Nambahu, we are partners and 26 August Holding Company is quite a big company with many subsidiaries. I had a meeting with them and I said I want to see a mobile phone called Etosha. Maybe one day we will drop the iPhone and Motorola and use our local product, because our radios mounted in our vehicles and on the backpacks are made by Satcom.

As for African cooperation, our industries are in the infant stage and we do not want to be swallowed by those who are big. However, we are cooperating on certain aspects.

*Honourable Riruako*, I would want to thank you, I think I want you to accompany me to the Ministry of Finance to tell them that the Budget is too small for Defence. Thank you very much.

We are not happy about the Oshigambo incident and my Chief of Defence was there. I called him and asked why they deployed people who cannot swim. That is something that has now been sorted out. I asked why they did not deploy people from the Navy, but I think it is a lesson learnt. We will be able to give swimming classes, but next time we will deploy the Navy. In the Navy everybody knows how to swim.

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HON NAMOLOH**

*Dr Iyambo* mentioned military medicine. We have engaged people who will be able to help us. We already have offers for Military Doctors to be trained by Serbia. They are coming here for further discussions.

With this I would like to thank everyone.

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

Honourable Members, we have been informed that there will be a memorial service tomorrow, the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, of the late Chief Keharanjo Nguvauva that will take place in the Parliament Gardens from 14:00. I understand Minister Jerry Ekanjo has been assigned to that important task. However, the business of the House will continue as usual. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMED:**

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Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** On this note the House is adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 22:28 UNTIL 2011.04.19 AT 14:30**

## ADDENDUM

The Honourable Minister of Finance tabled an Amendment to the 2011/2012 Appropriation Bill on 14 April 2011 (Page 33 of this Volume - 133). The amounts tabled originally differ from the amounts motivated by the Honourable Ministers in their Motivation Speeches. The Amendment is as follows:

### Appropriation Bill for 2011/2012 Financial Year

Vote	Title	Original	Amended	Total
		Amount N\$	Amount N\$	Amount N\$
1	President	288,313,000	2,322,244	290,635,244
2	Prime Minister	267,782,000	4,981,757	272,763,757
3	National Assembly	127,008,000	2,780,047	129,788,047
4	Auditor-General	88,160,000	1,887,327	90,047,327
5	Home Affairs and Immigration	237,217,000	6,406,726	243,623,726
6	Police	2,069,555,000	105,994,278	217,554,927
7	Foreign Affairs	545,645,000	4,969,556	550,614,556
8	Defence	3,126,363,000	137,377,646	3,263,740,646
9	Finance	3,656,065,000	15,253,540	3,671,318,540
10	Education	8,304,547,000	307,433,888	8,611,980,888
11	National Council	51,285,000	3,242,921	54,527,921
12	Gender Equality and Child Welfare	550,013,000	4,690,100	554,703,100
13	Health and Social Services	3,332,615,000	90,426,341	3,423,041,341
14	Labour and Social Welfare	1,196,371,000	4,032,170	1,200,403,170
15	Mines and Energy	216,999,000	3,056,264	220,055,264
16	Justice	389,871,000	12,799,348	402,670,348
17	Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development	1,445,764,000	41,529,194	1,487,293,194
18	Environment and Tourism	791,561,000	7,291,824	798,852,824
19	Trade and Industries	558,052,000	2,880,811	560,932,811

20	Agriculture and, Water and Forestry	2,268,638,000	26,625,965	2,295,263,965
21	Prisons and Correctional Services	424,973,000	17,362,395	442,335,395
22	Fisheries and Marine Resources	238,885,000	5,295,641	244,180,641
23	Works	535,098,000	11,050,213	546,148,213
24	Transport	2,448,170,000	5,856,232	2,454,026,232
25	Lands and Resettlement	221,764,000	4,400,173	226,164,173
26	National Planning Commission	276,677,000	2,146,816	278,823,816
27	Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture	509,065,000	7,100,268	516,165,268
28	Electoral Commission	112,911,000	554,773	113,465,773
29	Information and Communication Technology	316,483,000	1,831,351	318,314,351
30	Anti-Corruption Commission	62,546,000	860,576	63,406,576
31	Veterans Affairs	1,210,804,000	1,556,956	1,212,360,956
	<b>Total</b>	<b>35,869,200,000</b>	<b>843,997,341</b>	<b>36,713,197,341</b>