

**LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

SPEAKER

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

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

Ms Loide Kasingo

THE CABINET

MINISTERS

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

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

Mr C Namoloh *(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
19 APRIL 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me use this opportunity to congratulate the SWAPO Party on its birthday, on the 19th of April.

Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Katjavivi.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 05, 10, 14, 18 and 31 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.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister of Justice.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. Comrades, today is a special day in the lifespan of the SWAPO Party. Today, we as a SWAPO Party family celebrate the 51st anniversary of the founding of our Party. It

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

is perhaps relevant to add at this historical point in time that very soon we shall become one of the oldest former liberation movements in Africa. In other words, we have crossed the milestone of half a century in unity and harmony. It signifies the difficult and torturous road we have traversed to pave the way for freedom and Independence, being enjoyed today by our people, irrespective of colour, political affiliation, sex or place of origin.

When SWAPO was founded on the 19th of April 1960 shortly after the Old Location Massacre of 1959, our people were oppressed and lived under the inhumane system of apartheid colonialism which was characterised by the migrant labour system, forced removals, the division of the country into Bantustans and its administration along ethnic lines, expropriation of our natural resources, racial discrimination in the market place and the inferior education system.

It is against this background that SWAPO launched a bitter and protracted liberation struggle which lasted nearly three decades. The aim of the liberation struggle and the sacrifices made were for the total liberation of Namibia, which was obtained on the 21st of March 1990.

We pause today on SWAPO's 51st birthday to pay homage to all the gallant sons and daughters of Namibia who sacrificed their lives during the liberation struggle.

We must remember that a Political Party such as ours remains an important agency in a modern society in the articulation of society's aspirations, developmental goals and the training ground for future political leaders. Core amongst the economic priority list of the SWAPO Party are now the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment. Improvement of our education system, provision of clean water, especially in rural areas, affordable housing and sanitation remain on the top of the agenda of our Party.

As we celebrate our 51st birthday, we cannot be oblivious to the human calamity brought by the unprecedented floods in the Kunene, Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Kavango and Caprivi Regions.

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

The SWAPO Party leadership and membership commend the efforts of its Government to assist those affected by the floods and appeal to all the citizens of our country to cooperate and to continue rendering the necessary support in this national endeavour.

Finally, to the entire membership of the SWAPO Party, to our friends, supporters and sympathisers, a happy 51st anniversary and many more years of hard work ahead as we march towards Vision 2030 and beyond. We shall on the 1st of May celebrate both Workers Day and the 51st birthday of the SWAPO Party during that weekend. Happy birthday SWAPO and its wings and affiliate organisations. Long live the SWAPO Party!

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise Honourable Nyamu of the RDP.

HON NYAMU: Honourable Deputy Speaker, first of all I want to congratulate the Colleagues on the other side on the birthday of their Party. In the context of this birthday and the colours in the House, I want to Move, that this House, next week, the 27th of April, debates the issue of Party colours in the National Assembly and come up with proper guidelines for the future. I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you are Out of Order because you are supposed to table a proper Motion. I recognise Honourable Ben Ulenga of CoD.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity. I really believe it is a solemn occasion; therefore I would like to convey my felicitations to the Ruling Party, the SWAPO Party on its 51st birthday. We all know what role was played by this organisation when it was a movement in the liberation of this country. Congratulations.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON ULENGA**

However, Comrade Deputy Speaker, I really believe it is an abuse of the platform for the Minister to be asked to speak on a Ministerial Statement but then to speak as an official of SWAPO. We all have these kinds of structures and we never abuse this House. Therefore, I think this should perhaps be the last time we do it that way. I will attend your party if you invite me outside, but I think it is just inappropriate in this House. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think your congratulations were correct, but it is not in my power to say what the Minister of Justice has done is wrong and that is why I was proposing that Honourable Nyamu should Move a Motion.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Let me also wish the SWAPO Party Comrades a happy birthday, but I also wish to underline the fact that when we have birthdays of this nature and use Ministerial Statements to put history in context, we should not forget the oldest and the first liberation movement in this country. Thank you very much.

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

COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL

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

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

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 14
HON NGATJIZEKO**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is moved that I leave the Chair. Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair. Professor Katjavivi.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, 18 April 2011, Votes 05 and 10 had been introduced and Vote 01, 02, 04, 06, 07, 08, 09, 13, 23, 26 and 30 had been agreed to.

Vote 14 – LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE”, N\$1,200,403,170 is put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I stand before this august House to motivate Budget Vote 14 of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare for the period 2011/2012. For this Financial Year, my Ministry is requesting an amount of N\$1,196,371,000 slightly up by N\$56,189,000 from the previous Financial Year’s Budget. N\$1,163,955,000 will go to the Operational Budget, while N\$32,416,000 is for the Development Budget of the Ministry.

Let me first salute the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Director-General of National Planning Commission for generating an improved and pro-employment creation national Budget. This is vividly shown in the money allocated to the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG). I wish to assure the Minister of Finance, the Director-General of National Planning Commission that my Ministry shall rally behind the full implementation of TIPEEG.

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Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I wish to reiterate the overall mandate of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, which is to provide services to the Namibian people on improvement of labour, employment and social welfare matters to the Namibian people. Through this broad mandate, my Ministry continues to be a responsible administrator and enforcer of: the Labour Act, the Affirmative Action Employment Act; the National Pension Act; Social Security Act and the Employees Compensation Act and the Employment Policy 1997. Furthermore my Ministry continues to represent Namibia at the International Labour Organisation, the African Union and the Southern African Development Cooperation on matters pertaining to labour, employment and social welfare. It is noteworthy that Namibia serves this year as the chair of the SADC Ministers of Labour and Employment and of the Bureau of the African Union Labour and Social Affairs Commission.

Let me now give this august House highlights on some major developments undertaken by my Ministry during the 2010/2011 Financial Year within the context of our broad mandate.

The major activities under labour market services which preoccupied my Ministry during the last Financial Year were: the provision of the labour market information to Government and to the public; the provision of occupational and vocational guidance services to especially the youth population in the country; the registration and placement of job seekers; the rendering of canvassing services to prospective employers in order for them to get suitable workers from the labour market.

I am pleased to announce that my Ministry was able to release the results of Namibia Labour Force Survey conducted in 2008. The survey results revealed among others the unemployment situation in Namibia, which unacceptably stands at 51.2%.

While my Ministry was on daily basis registering jobseekers, we were also able to place some of them in public and private sectors. During the last Financial Year, my employment officers registered 7,500 jobseekers and were able to find 1,052 jobs out of this number.

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On the placement side, my Ministry could only find a few jobs; because employers were reluctant to come forth with vacancies or employment opportunities. I am pleased however, to note that this situation will soon change with the promulgation of the Employment Service Act, soon to be approved by this House with some small amendments adopted by the National Council. I wish to thank this august House and that of the National Council for passing such an important law.

My Ministry has concluded that the implementation of the 1997 National Employment Policy has serious weaknesses and that there is a need for a review. My Ministry has already started the review process of the Employment Policy. We are doing it with the technical assistance from the International Labour Organisation. Since this Policy is a crosscutting issue, my Ministry is conducting the review with the full involvement of all stakeholders including Government institutions.

Another major activity was the conducting of career guidance and exposure of labour market information to students in secondary schools. The employment officers and vocational councillors jointly visit secondary schools in almost all the thirteen Regions to conduct orientation talks with students. The objective of these talks is to make students aware of what is available in the labour market after graduation and also to assist them to make informed decisions on their future careers. The orientation talks programme has however not been working as well. This Ministry encountered quite a number of challenges from some school principals who do not wish to accommodate this very important programme in their school diaries. It is important to emphasise that the orientation talk programmes help students to make the right choice for their future while they are in school, in other words, to prepare these students, especially students who are not likely to gain entrance to Universities, Colleges and Vocational Training Institutions.

My Ministry is also seized with the responsibility of ensuring that the policy and legal framework for the labour productivity in Namibia is put in place. While slow progress has been made in this regard, we have established an institutional framework that shall ensure that the policy and or legislation are developed. I, therefore, wish to register my commitments

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that in my next Budget motivation statement of 2012/2013, I shall give a good progress reporting on this matter.

I will table another crucial Bill in the future in this august House, which will establish an Employment Creation Commission during this Financial Year. This legislation will strengthen the coordination of national employment creation strategies and programmes.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the major activity under the Labour Services programme is the enforcement of the 2007 Labour Act through labour inspections and the enforcement of occupational health and safety standards at workplaces. The Labour Inspectors as well as Factory Inspectors ensure industrial peace and harmonious labour relations by regularly visiting work places.

Apart from labour inspections, the Inspectors also attend to labour complaints as they are reported to our labour offices throughout the country. I must emphasise, however, that my Ministry is heavily understaffed in this regard. Currently, my Ministry only employs 41 labour inspectors and 10 factory inspectors responsible for the whole country. Many workplaces remain uninspected and as a result, workers in some of those workplaces lack protection.

Therefore, progress made thus far is that 887 labour inspections and 408 safety and health inspections at workplaces were conducted throughout the country. We have also registered 3,000 labour complaints of which 2,344 were resolved amicably, while 377 were pending with labour inspectors for further investigation and 279 were referred to the Labour Commissioner for arbitration. My labour inspectors held 232 tripartite meetings across the country to promote sound labour relations in the country. Through conciliation efforts, labour inspectors were able to recover N\$1,584,023,69 from employers owed to some employees.

In the promotion of harmonious industrial relations and dispute resolution, during the last Financial Year, a total number of 2,444 labour cases were

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received by the office of the Labour Commissioner. The statistics indicate that 659 cases or 27% of the total cases received countrywide were still pending resolution. However, 1,615 labour cases were successfully resolved. 892 or 55% of resolved cases were resolved in favour of the applicants while 259 or 16% were resolved in favour of the respondents. This represents 66% of the total number of disputes registered countrywide during this period.

I am pleased to inform this House that the majority of cases were resolved through conciliation with 899 or 56% of the resolved cases as opposed to 421 or 26% of the cases resolved through arbitration. These structures are testimony to the competencies and skills of our conciliators and arbitrators throughout the country.

Unfortunately, 272 of the cases, representing 11% of the total cases received countrywide had to be dismissed for a combination of reasons, predominantly failure to attend conciliation or arbitration proceedings by the applicants.

A total of 65 of the cases received, representing 3%, were withdrawn by the applicants for various reasons, which include voluntary settlement before conciliation.

The figures above do not only depict a picture of sporadic labour disputes in our country but equally demonstrate that the new process for resolving labour disputes is working more effectively and steadily compared to the now defunct District Labour Courts which we had since 1992. Contrary to the pessimists and our detractors, the process of conciliation and arbitration is working well in Namibia.

Since the implementation of the new Labour Act (Act 11 of 2007) in November 2008, the labour relations situation in Namibia has improved steadily. My Ministry has seen consistent efforts by both employers and trade unions consulting and engaging each other on labour related issues that affect workplace relationship. This is an encouragement to us not only because these important players in our economy are capable of talking to each other, but most importantly they are able to reach amicable

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solutions to labour matters.

During the period under review, my Ministry received 5 applications for registration of trade unions, of which 3 were not approved and 2 were still under consideration. In addition, 2 applications for registration of employer's organisations were received. One was approved and the other was declined.

Due to globalisation and the global financial economic crunch, many companies in Namibia were affected, and as a result many employers had to re-organise, re-strategise and re-focus their operations. Retrenchments were unfortunately rampant during the review period and statistics indicate that the numbers of retrenchments continue unabated as the country gradually emerges from this unprecedented turning point in economic and labour history.

Generally, although almost every sector was affected by the economic downturn, there are those sectors which were hard hit and it was in these sectors that large-scale retrenchments took place. Mining, fishing, agriculture and hospitality, to mention but a few, were some of the sectors that experienced plummeting profits, thereby resulting in the downsizing of their operations.

My Ministry has, therefore, recorded a number of retrenchment notices during the reporting period. Large-scale retrenchments occurred in Windhoek where 95 employees were retrenched at once by a single employer, followed by Rundu, which recorded 20 retrenchments also by a single company

In total, 4,276 employees were retrenched by various employers during the period under review. This number excludes notices of retrenchments filed with the Labour Commissioner that did not specify the total numbers of employees affected

An important mandate of my Ministry is the administration of National Pension Act (Act 10 of 1992) through which the social grant payout to the

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old aged (including funeral benefits) and disabled people are overseen by my Ministry. We all agree that social grants are an important ingredient of the Namibia's Poverty Reduction Strategy. The Government reviews this programme on a continuous basis for possible improvements. There is, however, no provision made in this Budget to increase the basic social grant from its current figure of N\$500 per month, since it was just increased from N\$450 in the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

It is gratifying to report that to date, Government pays social grants to 161,845 registered persons, through my Ministry, of whom 137,692 are senior citizens or elderly persons and 24,153 are persons living with disabilities. During the last Financial Year, a total number of 4,485 elderly citizens benefited from the Funeral Benefits Programme under the social grant scheme.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the Office of the Employment Equity Commission oversees the implementation of the Affirmative Action Employment Act (Act 29 of 1998) whose core objectives are to achieve equity and equality and to eliminate barriers in the workplace so that no person shall be denied employment opportunities for reasons unrelated to ability.

Furthermore, the Act seeks to ensure progress toward a more representative workforce that is reflective of the demographics of Namibia at all levels of employment by eradicating the inequities left behind by the discriminatory policies of the apartheid dispensation. The national programme of Affirmative Action continues to move forward despite challenges and slow pace of progress. Overall, the analysis of latest figures revealed the following trends:

A total of 159,733 employees across economic sectors were recorded during the last Financial Year period. The representation of the previously racially disadvantaged persons (blacks) in the Executive Directors' positions remained at 27,5% and the proportion of the previously racially disadvantaged women rose from 6,2% to 8,2%. The proportion on non-Namibians in Executive Director positions dropped from 13,5% to 10% last Financial Year period.

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Previously racially advantaged persons comprised 58,8% of all Executive Directors and 42,5% of all senior managers during the last Financial Year period. Overall, 63,2% of all managers, that is to say, middle and senior managers as well as Executive Directors combined are black. However, persons with disabilities accounted only for 0,7% at the management level and for 0,5% of the total workforce and are thus grossly under-represented.

There are some relevant employers who are not giving their willing cooperation to the office of the Employment Equity Commission and thus fail to comply with the provisions of the Affirmative Action Employment Act, (Act 29 of 1998). As a result, over 200 relevant employers already appeared before the Courts and were convicted for affirmative action related offences. I should emphasise that it is absolutely incomprehensible that employers need to be pushed by the Courts in order to perform their civic duty and to comply with the law as well as to extend equity to their fellow citizens who thus far are not able to fully enjoy equal employment opportunities.

Be that as it may, the Commission will do whatever is necessary to ensure that employers comply with the affirmative action law. The Commission is also appreciative of those employers who go the extra mile in furtherance of the Affirmative Action and employment equity objectives. Their cooperation and commitment to the cause of Affirmative Action should not be overshadowed by those whose good faith is questionable.

My Ministry has been representing Namibia at international, continental and regional forums dealing with labour, employment and social protection matters. My Ministry participated last year in the ILO conference which adopted the Recommendation 200 of HIV and AIDS at the workplace (*and the world of work*) and also the Decent Work Country Programme which my Ministry has signed on behalf of Namibia and the ILO during the Conference. We have also participated in the meeting of the African Union Commission on Labour and Social Affairs which discussed issues relating to employment promotion in Africa and social protection floor. On the SADC front, my Ministry hosted the 5th Session

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of SADC meeting of Ministers responsible for Labour and Employment and Social Partners.

Let me motivate the figures for the year 2011/2012:

For this Financial Year and in order for my Ministry to provide scientific labour market information and to ensure that appropriate employment policies and legislations are put in place and implemented, an amount of N\$61,059,000 is required. Of this amount, N\$32,416,000 is earmarked for the construction of labour offices in the Regions while N\$4,200,000 is allocated for the Development Fund established in terms of the Social Security Act.

In order to ensure the full implementation of the 2007 Labour Act, it is required that labour inspectors conduct regular labour inspections at workplaces and investigate labour malpractices throughout the country. For this mandate, my Ministry requires an amount of N\$38,351,000. Of this amount, N\$7,264,000 is earmarked for Social Security Commission claims, workmen's salaries and administration fees to Social Security Commission.

My Ministry, through the Office of the Labour Commissioner, is mandated to resolve labour disputes, promote the orderly bargaining process, monitor and control industrial actions, promote the principles of tripartism, and accelerate and enhance dispute resolution mechanism. For the fulfilment of this mandate, an amount of N\$24,898,000 is requested.

The mandate under the Social Welfare Service programme is for Government to contribute to the social and economic upliftment of Namibians with the aim to reduce poverty through the granting of social safety nets to elderly persons and people living with disability. For this purpose an amount of N\$1,058,747,000 is requested. Of this allocation, N\$1,004,944,000 is earmarked for the social grants to old-age pensioners as well as those living in old-age homes in this country.

My Ministry is mandated to ensure the full implementation of the Affirmative Action Employment Act (Act 29 of 1998) through the

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

Employment Equity Commission. The objective of this Act is to achieve equity and equality and to guide employers to eliminate employment barriers in the workplace so that no person shall be denied employment opportunities for reasons unrelated to ability. Furthermore, the Act seeks to ensure an equitable and representative workforce that is diverse in its composition and reflective of the demographics of Namibia at all levels of employment. For this mandate to be realised, an amount of N\$13,316,000 is required.

In summary, my Ministry implements 5 programmes, namely Labour Market Information, Labour Services, Industrial Relations, Social Welfare and the Employment Equity Commission for which I am asking this august House to consider and approve N\$1,196,371,000. I thank you

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

Vote 18 – “ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM”, N\$798,852,824 is put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee; I am honoured to introduce Vote 18 of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism today as we celebrate the SWAPO Party’s birthday. I would, therefore use this opportunity to congratulate the rank and file of the SWAPO Party and to ask them all to continue committing themselves to hard work and to ensure that the people of Namibia enjoy the fruits, as their blood waters our freedom.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to share with this august House the Budget for Vote 18 of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for the 2011/2012 Financial Year and the achievements of 2010/2011 as well as prospects for this sector for the period ahead.

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The mandate of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism derives directly from Article 95(1) of the Namibia Constitution, which states that the *State will ensure “the maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and the utilisation of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future”*. As more than 65% of Namibians depend directly on the natural resource base for their livelihoods, it is critical that this mandate be executed diligently for the present and future development of Namibia. The primary role of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism is associated with the maintenance of the ecosystem and conservation of biodiversity.

Protected areas are vital tools for conserving Namibia’s essential biodiversity. By managing our protected areas properly, we will leave the non-renewable assets and the unlimited potential they possess to future generations. Protected areas and wildlife also attract hundreds of thousands of tourists to Namibia. The international fascination with Namibian parks is growing annually and, as more visitors arrive, they generate employment and stimulate development throughout the country.

During 2010/2011 Financial Year, a new coastal park, the Dorob National Park, was proclaimed and gazetted in December 2010. The fact that the Government of the Republic of Namibia declared this last section of the Namibian coastline as a national park during the International Year of Biodiversity, underlines the country’s role and commitment towards global, regional and national conservation and sustainable development. The national protected area network now covers 140,394 square kilometres, which constitute 17% of the land surface.

Namibia is well known for conservation successes of key endangered species in the world, such as black rhinoceros and cheetahs. During the past Financial Year, the Ministry organised and facilitated a workshop on the current security threats to rhinos and elephants posed by poaching in other Southern African countries. Seventy-one security experts and stakeholders from Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and representative of international organisations attended the workshop.

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Communities are involved in conservation to expand conservation beyond State protected areas and also to allow benefits from conservation to flow to those who are living with wildlife. To this end, the Ministry has undertaken a long-term programme of restocking conservancies with wildlife species that historically occurred in those areas. During the 2010/2011 Financial Year, the Ministry trans-located 772 heads of game, including black rhinoceros to ten conservancies from State protected areas.

A total of 641 heads of game were also trans-located to 41 beneficiaries, under the Wildlife Breeding Stock Loan Scheme, between 2008 and 2010. Species trans-located include oryx, springbok, eland and zebra.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the Community-Based Natural Resource Management Programme has brought great success in conservation and tourism in Namibia. Under that programme, conservancies are established as local community-based institutions for managing natural resources. By law, communities that form conservancies gain management rights over wildlife and tourism. They are able to use these management rights to develop economic opportunities such as eco-tourism and hunting.

During the 2010/2011 Financial Year, 5 new conservancies were registered and gazetted, namely Otjombinde and Omuramba Ua Mbinda in the Omaheke Region, Orupupa and Otjitenda in the Kunene Region and Bamunu in the Caprivi Region. This brought the number of conservancies in Namibia to 64. Currently 260,000 people who constitute 13% of the population reside in Conservancies.

While these opportunities bring income and employment to communities in some of the poorest areas of the country, the income gained by conservancies provide an incentive for continued appropriate management of wildlife and other natural resources as communities wish to maintain that income flow in the future. Conservancies bring additional opportunities for communities to manage wildlife and tourism alongside their normal activities of livestock management and crop production.

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However, managing wildlife has challenges. Market access for wildlife producers and human wildlife conflicts remain formidable challenges. Living with wildlife often carries a cost. With increased wildlife populations and expanded ranges into communal and freehold-farming areas, frequent conflicts between people and wild animal are experienced, particularly from elephants and predators. This has resulted in livestock and crop losses, damage to water installations and in some instances, loss of human lives.

During the 2010/2011 Financial Year, the Ministry has developed measures and guidelines for implementation of the Policy on Human-Wildlife Conflict Management. These measures and guidelines identified mitigation, protection and preventive measures that we are now implementing together with communities, Line Ministries, Regional Councils and other stakeholders to reduce or minimise human-wildlife conflicts. We have also embarked upon the construction of electrified game and predators-proof fence around the Etosha and Mahangu National Parks where most of these conflicts are experienced. More efforts are still to be done in order to implement all measures and strategies. However, these efforts will require substantial funding.

Payment under the Human-Wildlife Conflict Self Reliance Scheme has started in accordance with National Policy on Human-Wildlife Conflict Management. Last year, each conservancy was given an amount of N\$60,000 from the Game Products Trust Fund as a start-up capital for the Scheme.

In an attempt to promote broader participation in the wildlife industry and to enhance equitable and sustainable utilization of wildlife, the Ministry has conducted 3 information sessions to explain issues pertaining to wildlife utilisation permits. Emerging farmers were encouraged to attend. In total, 18 farmers attended, of which only 5 are emerging farmers. The Ministry is currently working on the automation of this system to facilitate the issuing of permits and to improve recordkeeping.

During the 2010/2011 Financial Year, an auction of live game was conducted and an amount of N\$7,170,000 was realised. This money was

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deposited in the Game Products Trust Fund, to be used exclusively towards wildlife conservation and development programmes aimed at harmonising the co-existence of people with wildlife, and thus securing a future for wildlife outside of and within protected areas in Namibia.

As Honourable Members are aware, the Millennium Challenge Account Namibia (MCA-N) Compact is providing a grant of US\$304.5 million for facilitating tourism growth in Namibia. This tourism project is consistent with Namibia's national development strategies. Its stated objective is "*to grow the Namibian Tourism Industry with explicit targeting of income streams to conservancy households*".

One of the key strategies of this project is to assist the Ministry to strengthen the infrastructure and management capacity of Etosha National Park through a number of interventions. In this regard I am pleased to inform that, with this MCA-N support, the following results were achieved during the year under review.

- a) A project plan for reclassifying the road from Galton gate to Okaukuejo from a Restricted Use to an Open Access Tourism Zone was completed and approved.
- b) Vehicles and equipment to the value of N\$23 million were procured for road maintenance and game capture.
- c) A housing needs analysis, a preferred site survey and an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) were undertaken as the first step towards the much needed construction and maintenance of housing for Etosha staff.
- d) A National Policy for Staff Housing in Protected Areas was approved.
- e) The development of a positioning strategy for marketing Namibia as a tourism destination in North America was completed.

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- f) The development, in conjunction with NTB, of a state of the art website for facilitating marketing and tourism reservations for all stakeholders in the Tourism industry in Namibia was completed.
- g) Conservancy Development Support Grant Fund and a Conservancy Development Support Services were launched.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members the 2010 Soccer World Cup that took place in South Africa has raised some expectations to boost the Tourism Industry in the Region. However, the World Cup had a slightly negative impact on tourist arrivals as discerning tourists may have decided to defer their visit to a later season when things have returned to normal. As a result, our preliminary figures for 2010/2011 show that foreign arrival has decreased by 2.76%. According to the World Tourism Organisation, this multi speed recovery, which is expected to be much faster in most emerging markets, is a reflection of a broader economic situation that is set to dominate trends in 2011 and in the foreseeable future. This is expected to be more favourable for this Sub-region due to the publicity generated by the World Cup held in South Africa in 2010.

The direct contribution of Travel & Tourism to Gross Domestic Product is expected to be N\$3.8 billion in 2011 or 4.7% of GDP. This primarily reflects the economic activity generated by industries such as hotels, travel agents, airlines and other passenger transportation services, restaurants and leisure industries directly supported by tourists. The total contribution of Travel & Tourism to the GDP is expected to be N\$16.2 billion in 2011 or 19.9% of the GDP. It is forecasted to rise by 8.8% per year to NS37.9 billion by 2021.

Travel and tourism is expected to create 32,000 jobs directly in 2011 which is 7.4% of total employment. This includes employment by hotels, travel agents, airlines and other passenger transportation services, restaurants and leisure industries directly supported by tourists.

Visitor exports are a key component of the direct contribution of travel and tourism. Namibia is expected to attract 1,046,000 international tourist

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arrivals in 2011, generating N\$5.5 billion in visitor exports. By 2021, international tourist arrivals are forecast to total 1,724,000, an increase of 5.1% per year, generating expenditure of N\$10.2 billion. Travel and tourism is expected to attract capital investment of N\$2.5 billion rising by 5.6% per year to N\$4.3 billion.

During the Financial Year under review the Namibian Tourism Sector had the following international recognitions:

- a) Namibia was ranked number 5 in the top 10 best value destinations category for 2011, by Lonely Planet, one of the globally known travel guidebooks;
- b) The World Travel and Tourism Council's Tourism for Tomorrow nominated the Namibian Conservancy Sector among the top 3 for an Award in the category of Benefit Sharing;
- c) The Namibia Conservancy Tourism Sector Website has received a platinum Award from the National Geographic Traveller Magazine;
- d) The Namib Naukluft National Park was ranked number one in the world's ten Best Parks and Reserves category;
- e) Sossusvlei was ranked number 10 in the Nature's Most Spectacular Attractions category;
- f) Windhoek was ranked number 1 in the Best Cosmopolitan Africa category.

In order to broaden the base for benefits from tourism, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism has been assisting communities and entrepreneurs financially and technically to enter the tourism sector. Subsequently tourist information centres in Sorris-Sorris, /Khob /Naub and /Huab conservancies are constructed. With the financial support from the Spanish Government work has started for the construction of a joint venture lodge in the Uukwaluudhi Conservancy. Two community lodges at Tsintsabis and in Aminuis and a guesthouse in Mariental are under

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construction. In addition, contractors have been appointed to commence with the construction of 2 community lodges at Ngoma in Caprivi and Ohungu Conservancy in Omatjete as well as 3 community guesthouses in Katutura, Otjiwarongo and Ongwediva. Those facilities are expected to create an initial combination of 100 direct permanent jobs.

Although the country may not have benefited from the World Cup to the extent anticipated, tourist numbers started to increase after this event and the trend is expected to continue. We believe that our traditional tourists have decided to avoid the Region altogether during the noise and cluster of this event. We also believe that the marketing we have done during the event will pay off in the coming 2 years, as it is in the nature of tourists to book trips 18 months in advance.

The Ministry, together with the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, sponsored cultural troupe, Bullet Ja Kaoko to represent Namibia at the World Cup – when the Brave Warriors could not make it. This troupe remained in South Africa almost for the entire duration of the World Cup and has generated great interest from those who were visiting South Africa and it is one of those groups that also put Namibia in the picture during the World Cup, thus increasing the number of people after the World Cup.

In the area of casino and gambling, the Ministry is making efforts to strengthen the gambling and lotteries legal framework. The existing Casino and Gambling Housing Act will be repealed this Financial Year, to be replaced by the Gaming and Entertainment Act, to address the shortcomings identified in the Damaseb Report. The Lotteries Act will also be reviewed to enable the National Lotteries to be operational and to take care of the challenges posed by technology. Gambling activities have generated an income of N\$16 million for the State for the 2010/2011 Financial Year. More revenue will be generated from gambling activities once the new law is in place.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, climate change poses serious challenges and has profound effect on the developmental goals of Namibia. Global warming has resulted in severe

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droughts, devastating floods, loss of soil productivity, sea level rises and ocean acidification among others. These impacts are capable to compromise food security and threaten economic growth and development in Namibia.

According to recent research findings, Namibia is expected to lose about 6% of Gross Domestic Products annually due to climate change on its natural resources sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries and nature-based tourism. Thus, climate change must remain a national priority. There should be urgency for climate change adaptation measures to be put in place to mitigate the effects of climate change on our people especially the rural base that has to face these challenges on a day-to-day basis. The Ministry has finalised the National Policy on Climate Change for Namibia. Once approved by Cabinet, the Policy will provide a framework through which Government and partners can respond to the multiple challenges posed by climate change at all levels.

The Ministry is also managing an Africa Adaptation Project (AAP) being funded by the Government of Japan to the tune of N\$21 million Namibian Dollars. The goal of this project is to build the foundation for a national approach to climate change adaptation in Namibia.

This project is expected to address climate change risks by building long-term human and institutional capacities toward a climate resilient society focussing particularly on pilot activities aimed at assisting communities to develop strategies, action plans and response measures for adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change.

The Ministry is also managing the Country Pilot Partnership (CPP) for Integrated Sustainable Land Management Project. This project seeks to address land degradation using an integrated cross-sectoral approach to enable Namibia reach its Millennium Development Goal (MDG) No. 7: “*Environmental Sustainability*”. The project focuses on climate change adaptation, improved community management of grazing land, improved land use planning and integrated sustainable land management. The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) through the UNDP funds this project.

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As chief negotiator for the African group, Namibia through the Ministry of Environment and Tourism played a crucial role in negotiations relating to the international regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD). I am happy to inform this Honourable House that under our leadership an international legally-binding protocol, the Nagoya Protocol, was adopted on the 29th of October 2010 at the Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Ministry is now working on the Bill on Access to Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge for Namibia, to enable the operationalisation of the protocol. The first public awareness-raising workshop on the protocol, attended by Traditional Leaders and other stakeholders, took place in Ondangwa, March this year.

In the drive for poverty alleviation through value addition to natural products, an Innovative Grant Mechanism was initiated. The mechanism aims to provide financial support to communities to engage in business activities in sustainable use of land and its resources to ensure social and economic benefits from natural products. Since its inception, the programme has successfully assisted 17 communities with financial support to start businesses or food security projects in assorted quarters, such as making honey, peanut butter, jam, juice, and guinea fowl production, indigenous tree nurseries, paper recycling as well primary educational projects.

Through the same approach the Ministry promotes the cultivation of organic horticultural products such as devil's claw, ornamental nursery and marama beans. Further support to alternative enterprise development includes evaporative coolers for small-scale meat selling.

Through the Integrated Community-based Ecosystem Management (ICEMA) project, conservancy offices, craft and tourism centres were built. The Ministry is now busy completing construction of Kongola and Sorris-Sorris hubs for a one stop-shop for conservancies' information and also to serve as enterprising nodes for their products.

Through the Country Pilot Partnership Programme, the Ministry has

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introduced and piloted various activities related to the integrated sustainable land management at 40 sites nationwide. Equally important is the training of 1,200 community and conservancy members in skills relating to enterprise development and financial management. As part of capacity building, during the period under review, the Ministry has provided grants to 11 students who are pursuing their studies at the Masters and PhD levels in the area of land management and conservation. This brings the total number to 14 young people who benefitted from this programme.

Namibia continues to participate in the international negotiations on climate change. The much anticipated 15th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP15) that took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2009 was a failure, thus, making COP16 that took place in Cancun, Mexico 2010 to be a confidence-building session. Notwithstanding the consensus reached at COP16 as represented by the Cancun Declaration, not much has been achieved.

Major issues, such as emission reduction, adaptation fund and technology transfer, are not yet agreed upon, thus raising fear as to what will happen after 2012 when the Kyoto Protocol comes to an end, should COP17 planned to take place in Durban, South Africa, from the 28th of November to the 8th of December 2011 failed to agree on those major issues. I plan to bring detailed information to this House on the subject of climate change soon.

With the development Budget allocation of N\$99,700,000 during 2010/2011, the Ministry has completed the following infrastructure development: 3 new offices at Naute Dam, Kahenge and Zais, the 1st phase of the Ministry's Head Office, 12 staff houses constructed or renovated at Daan Viljoen, Okatjikona, Outjo, Keetmanshoop, Ariamsvlei, Ubusis, Uis, Ongwediva and Möwe Bay. Two main tourist roads in the Namib Naukluft Park and fencing of 14 kilometres of the Etosha National Park (ENP) northern boundary, 10 kilometres at Karros breeding camp, 18 kilometres at Mahangu National Park and 50 kilometres at Waterberg National Park have been rehabilitated. The construction of fence at Etosha National Park is ongoing until the whole Etosha boundary is

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completed.

Allow me now to present to this august House the Budgetary allocation for the 2011/2012 Financial Year. The Ministry has been allocated a total amount of N\$798,852,824. This amount consists of N\$428,857,824 for the Operational Budget and N\$369,995,000 for the Development Budget.

This year overall allocation represents an increase of 56% on the allocations of the previous Financial Year. The Ministry expresses its appreciation for the favourable consideration to this sector. The Ministry has been identified as one of the strategic Ministries with the potential to help achieve the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG). The Ministry is committed to TIPEEG and undertakes to provide positive feedback to this House next year this time.

The Budget contained in our Medium Term Framework consists of eight programmes and the following major activities are to be undertaken.

The N\$189,774,000 under the Wildlife And Protected Area Management Programme will be used for construction of 80 kilometres of Etosha National Park northern boundary electrified game and predators proof fence; the implementation of the management plans developed for Ai-Ais Richtersveld Trans-Frontier Conservancy Areas (TFCA) and to fast-track the implementation of bilateral agreements regarding the Iona-Skeleton Coast Park and the Ai-Ais Richtersveld TFCA. Funds under this Programme will also be used to strengthen efforts to establish a world class trans-frontier tourism and conservation area known as the Kavango-Zambezi Trans-frontier Conservation Area (KAZA-TFCA) where financial contribution from partner countries, Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, are to be made available to fund core activities and projects aimed at uplifting the rural communities living in the KAZA area. With tourism development in Trans-frontier areas many jobs are expected to be created.

The Ministry will under the Protection and Management of Key Species and Natural Resources Programme continue to improve the efficiency of protecting and managing key species and natural resources.

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The N\$53,249,000 will be used to implement the management plans developed for the following rare species: roan, sable, tsessebe, puku oribi, lechwe, wild dogs, to name but a few. Funds will also be used to develop and maintain the camps for rare species to ensure breeding success, and also to implement the National Policy on Human-Wildlife Conflict Management. Funds will also be used to trans-locate 182 heads of game to the Republic of Cuba.

N\$19,684,000 will be used to expand services to new conservancies and community-based tourism enterprise development. The Ministry will concentrate on new product development, for example commercial trade in medicinal plants like devil's claw while protecting indigenous knowledge. Additional income for the communities and jobs will be generated from this Programme.

Under this Regulation of Environmental Protection and Sustainable Resource Management Programme the Ministry will continue to improve its contribution to the State Revenue and improve the understanding of the value of the assets that the Ministry is responsible for and the costs of maintaining them. N\$40,439,000 will be used to improve the institutional capacity in environmental assessment and monitoring compliance and to finalise the Environmental Impact Mitigation Strategy.

N\$354,907,000 will be used to provide support to tourism enterprise development and to conduct tourism research and statistics. A subsidy of N\$70,000,000 goes to the Namibia Tourism Board for the development of an innovative tourism marketing strategy. A grant of N\$266,530,000 goes to Namibia Wildlife Resorts for redevelopment of Gross Barmen, Hobas Camp, Torra Bay, Popa Falls and Hardap Resort. These projects will create direct and indirect permanent jobs.

N\$2,000,000 will be used for the operation and management of Gambling, Casino and Lotteries Boards activities and in particular putting appropriate monitoring and surveillance systems in place. The Ministry will formulate a strategy to promote responsible gambling, so that this form of entertainment does not become a social problem.

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PROGRAMME 7:

Under the Administration, Coordination and Investments Programme N\$138,799,824 is requested for the development and maintenance of infrastructure in the Conservation areas and National Parks, in particular rehabilitation of tourist roads in the Namib Naukluft and Etosha National Parks, construction of offices and staff accommodation.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members tourism remains one of the strategic sectors of our economy. Our sector programmes will lead to continued growth in the Tourism industry, employment creation, increased revenues to the State, community participation and the increase in ownership of tourism enterprises on communal land. Our enhanced regulatory and planning framework, better monitoring of tourism development, service delivery and development at regional and local levels further supports this.

However, we recognise that tourism, with its great potential for rural development and poverty alleviation, is entirely dependent and based on a well-managed environment. We will use all the resources available to address all the environmental challenges that Namibia is facing.

The Ministry faces a serious challenge in executing its mandate with the existing staffing structure. A new structure was developed and was granted principle approval by Cabinet Committee on Public Service on the 14th of February 2011. However, the Public Service Commission and Treasury have yet to pronounce itself on this matter. We hope they will understand our situation, because failure to do that will place us in a difficult situation to implement our programmes. The early approval of the new structure will greatly enhance the performance of the Ministry.

I once again, thank the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Honourable Director-General of the National Planning Commission and their staff for the confidence in our ability to deliver and, therefore, allocating N\$798,852,824 to Vote 18 and we will make sure we will not disappoint you.

I would, therefore, like to ask the Honourable Members of the House to

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support the Budget Vote for Ministry of Environment and Tourism as presented. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Minister for the Motivation. **Vote 31 – “VETERANS AFFAIRS”, N\$1,212,360,956** is put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise to introduce the Vote of my Ministry, your Vote.

In the first instance, I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, her Deputy, the Director-General of the National Planning Commission and their competent officials for a well-balanced Budget which will go a long way to address many needs of the Namibian people. On behalf of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, I unreservedly support the Budget tabled in this House a few weeks ago.

The total amount being sought by my Ministry is N\$1,212,360,956. The Budget of Vote 31 has increased with 342% from the previous Financial Year: An amount of N\$1,556,956 for Personnel Expenditure was added: For this I am immensely grateful.

Since its inception in 2006, and as per the order of the President issued in terms of Article 32, Sub-article (3)(g) of the Namibian Constitution, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs is mandated to initiate, promote and implement projects and programmes which address the socio-economic needs of the veterans, including keeping and preserving the history of the national liberation struggle.

The process of integrating the veterans into the overall economic

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mainstream of the country is a daunting task. For instance, it is not possible to attend to the need of all veterans in a short time.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs has two main objectives, being:

- Integration of veterans into socio-economic mainstream;
- Ensure that the history of the liberation struggle is kept alive.

The two objectives will be realised by implementing the respective programmes:

The Veterans Welfare Development Programme is allocated an amount of N\$1,186,588.

The objective of this programme is to coordinate the designing, monitoring and evaluation of activities that are aimed at improving the welfare of veterans. Once implemented, the programme will lead to the improvement of service delivery to veterans and, hence, improving their quality of life as an outcome. The activities are:

The Identification and Registration of Veterans activity is designed to register all veterans and dependants of deceased veterans in order to produce a national veteran's register and to have profiles of veterans. Subsequently the Ministry has also introduced a few new sub-activities under this main activity.

The Impact Assessment on Assistance given to Registered Veterans activity will be carried out over 2 years while the exercise will confirm the number of registered veterans in the country and whether or not they are still alive. The Ministry will also be able to find out the number of dependants of deceased veterans who are now over the years of being dependants. This activity is calculated to cost N\$3,910,000.

The Ministry is currently printing cards for registered veterans costing

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N\$5,685,000.

We are to draft new Bills and reviewing existing laws and regulations, to ensure that all those who contributed to the liberation struggle are covered. Implementation of these activities will enable the Government to design appropriate interventions for veterans and ensure that the plight of veterans is addressed. An amount of N\$2,000,000 is needed for this activity.

The Ministry will continue to pay a monthly subvention of N\$2,000 non-taxable, to unemployed and retired veterans of the national liberation struggle as a way of integrating them into the mainstream of the economy. This amount will be increased by N\$200 as subsidies to some utilities for the same categories of veterans, with effect from 1 April 2011 as approved by Cabinet. An amount of N\$196,000,000 is requested.

Under the provision of psycho-social needs to registered veterans of the liberation struggle we aim at medical assistance that address the physical and psychological needs of veterans, such as purchasing of prosthetic and mobility aids for disabled veterans and cover medical treatment of injured veterans at Government institutions and facilities as well as the counselling of veterans that are traumatised by the effect of the war of national liberation struggle. An amount of N\$5,850,000 is needed to fulfil these tasks.

As approved by Cabinet in October 2010, the Ministry is hereby requesting an amount of N\$1,000,000,000 to be paid to 20,000 veterans during the 2011/2012 Financial Year as a token of appreciation for their contribution to the National Liberation Struggle. The payment of this benefit to veterans will be implemented over a period of 3 Financial Years.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson in line with the Third National Development Plan as a tool for implementing Vision 2030, which advocates for investing in people through education and skills development, the purpose of the Educational and Training Grant is aimed at providing financial support to veterans and dependants of veterans who

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wish to further their studies or obtain vocational skills at institutions of higher learning in Namibia to enable them to compete in the labour markets and secure employment. This will ultimately result in the improvement of their living conditions. A total amount of N\$1,250,000 is required to fund the education for the veterans and their dependants. May I hasten to add that this activity will not compete with what the Ministry of Education is doing? As a matter of fact, the choice of the candidates is made jointly in order to target the skills needed and that have been identified by industry and accepted by the Ministry of Education.

The purpose of the Funeral Grant is to ensure that all deceased veterans of the liberation struggle are buried in a respectable and dignified manner. The Funeral Grant will cover for any or all of the following services or cost: preparation of the body; mortuary fees; coffin; wreath; gravesite; transport of casket within the borders of Namibia; cremation fees (including urn); columbarium/niche and tombstone. The N\$20,000 will be used for each burial, of which N\$10,000 is earmarked for the purchasing and erection of the tombstone and the rest is for other services. N\$700,000 is needed to provide this type of service to the deceased veterans.

These following programmes will ensure that veterans are taken up in the economic mainstream of the country:

Planned feasibility studies for the 2011/2012 Financial Year include, but are not limited to Veterans Retirement Village, Veterans Gap Housing and Resettlement Programmes. The Ministry requires N\$1 million to be able to carry out its activities.

For construction of veterans houses for eligible veterans throughout the country, in the 2011/2012 Financial Year, an amount of N\$3,323,000 is needed.

Under this acquisition of offices programme Ministry of Veterans Affairs acquires and renovates buildings to serve as offices in the Regions, as new office constructions are time consuming and much more expensive. For the 2011/2012 Financial Year my Ministry requires N\$1 Million to be

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able to carry out its activities.

The Ministry's resettlement Crop Production Programme will start in the 2011/2012 Financial Year and this programme will support the resettled veterans in terms of training, acquiring implements and infrastructure. The Ministry requires N\$888,000 to be able to carry out these activities.

The poultry farming programme for veterans in Oshikoto is planned to kick off in the 2011/2012 Financial Year with the possibility of incorporating the Okatope poultry farm into this programme. The Ministry requires the amount of N\$975,000 for this project.

The Ministry of Veteran Affairs acquired a plot and the feasibility studies were done for the establishment of a brick-making project for Veterans in Ondangwa. The programme will kick off in 2011/2012 Financial Year with the intention of incorporating the Namibia Bricks Enterprise (NBE) into this programme. An amount of N\$1 million is requested for this project.

Having obtained a plot and feasibility studies done, the programme is planned to kick off in 2011/2012 Financial Year by building a bakery in Eenhana. An amount of N\$1 million is requested for this project.

Land was acquired and feasibility studies done for the establishment of a recreational facility that incorporates the wellness aspects and psycho-social services to veterans at Etaka in Omusati Region and Wlotskasbaken in Erongo Region. An amount of N\$255,000 is required for this project.

A call from the Ministry to veterans to apply for project funding was made during the 2010/2011 Fiscal Year. Veterans responded overwhelmingly to this call by submitting over 600 applications. For the 2011/2012 Financial Year my Ministry requires N\$5 million to be able to carry out its activities.

For the 2011/2012 Financial Year my Ministry requires N\$5 Million under the MTEF ceiling for this resettlement programme for veterans programme.

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The Liberation Struggle Heritage Programme is allocated the amount of N\$6,131,000. The main objectives of this programme are as follows:

To ensure that the history of the national liberation struggle is kept alive for the present and future generations to know and appreciate the purpose of the struggle and those who contributed to it. Keeping the liberation struggle history alive will be done through researching, documenting, storing and preserving the information and or materials of the liberation struggle. The project will also include the identification of specific areas where monuments, buildings or any marks has any connection with the liberation struggle can be erected and/or preserved as stipulated in section three of the Veterans Act of 2008. Activities of this programme include:

- Acquiring historic material of the liberation struggle through negotiations;
- Identify sites or places where the activities of the war of liberation struggle took place in order to erect monuments or mark of any kind;
- Establish an electronic and manual archiving system where information of the liberation struggle and documents can be stored and training of those to work on this system; and
- Preservation, erection or construction of monuments or landmarks at the identified places where the activities of the war of liberation struggle took place.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in summary, the amount of N\$1,212,360,956 is requested to enable my Ministry to carry out its Mandate, to be divided as follows:

PROGRAMMES:

Veterans Welfare Development	1,188,113,817
Liberation Struggle Heritage	24,247,139
TOTAL	1,212,360,956

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HON WITBOOI**

With the background given of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs and its needs, I move and I thank you.

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

Vote 05 – “HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION” is put for Discussion.

HON WITBOOI: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise to congratulate the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration for having reduced the processing time of Namibian identity documents so that applicants do not have to spend a lot of money travelling to find out whether their documents are ready as well as undergoing a great amount of stress with the long queues that used to be the order of the day. However, there is still a challenge that applicants do not collect their documents, with the result that they accumulate in the offices of the Ministry, as we witnessed from the television coverage of this situation and also in the Minister’s motivation speech. In that regard, I would like to echo the call by the Minister for Regional Councillors to lend a helping hand to address this situation.

Furthermore, Honourable Members, we are equally facing the problem that some people are still using the old South West Africa identity documents 21 years after Independence. Such a state of affairs cannot be tolerated. We should have acquired our own national documents by now. My question is: What measures does the Ministry have in place to address this situation?

Honourable Members, another issue I would like to address is the marriages-of-convenience that foreigners enter into with Namibian citizens. By so doing they acquire Namibian citizenship, after which they

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HON BEUKES**

divorce the Namibian spouses and bring in the original spouses who too become Namibian citizens. I commend the Minister for moving an Amendment to Article 4 of the Namibian Constitution to address this issue. The Amendment came into effect on the 7th of May 2010. My question is, can the Honourable Minister inform the House as to whether her Ministry has started implementing the constitutional amendment, since the Ministry does not need to amend the Citizenship Act to implement the constitutional provision. I consider the implementation of the amended constitutional provision as a matter of urgency to save our citizens from the sharks that are thirsty to acquire our citizenship through the loophole of quick marriages.

With that I support the Vote, Honourable Minister and I thank you.

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

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

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, the efforts of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration are starting to yield positive results, as the issuing of national documents had increased considerably and many people who previously did not have such documents have received theirs. This includes the remote areas where people were struggling to get, for example, identity cards. Your effort to bring services to the people in all corners of the country is wholeheartedly supported.

The process of registration of births is also now expedited as this can be done at hospitals. Therefore, the Budget allocation for such intended and expanded efforts will be money well spent.

Honourable Minister, your Ministry is also involved in cross-border exercises. The intended deployment of an Immigration Attaché to Cape Town in South Africa will spare many of our nationals to travel all the

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HON NYAMU

way to Pretoria to sort out problems they might encounter while in South Africa. I, therefore, support the requested amount for the new Financial Year for the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and I thank you.

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

HON NYAMU: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, this Ministry is extremely important in that it deals with very important issues, such as national documents and issues related to immigration control. I want to thank the Minister and her Deputy from the outset for a glimmer of hope in that Ministry. There is slow improvement and obviously I would like to see more efforts made to provide quick and efficient service delivery.

I have visited the Ministry on many occasions as an ordinary citizen and one thing which struck me is that the staff members at the Ministry are not very friendly. I must hasten to add that the same goes for the staff at the Ministry which I was heading, something which I did not know when I was the Minister, that my staff members were not that polite towards customers. It is nice to be in the Government and then outside, as you will now see the reality.

This Ministry, apart from the grim faces of the staff – maybe due to pressure, does not have sufficient space, because files are piled on top of each other all over the place. No doubt applications for visas often get lost or misplaced, as has happened to me several times. One important task of this Ministry is that it has a bearing on the economic activities of this country. Our Home Affairs is responsible for granting Work Permits and Visas. Believe me or not, we are very slow in providing services in those respects. If you ask Trade and Industry, they will say it is Home Affairs and if you go to Home Affairs, they will say it is Trade and Industry. In some African countries you will get a response within days, if not hours, but in our case applications can last up to four or six months and you do not hear anything. This is affecting the investment environment of our country. Some African countries provide visas and work permits for people who have not yet established companies and we

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HON NYAMU

are losing out as there is competition on where foreign investors will go. I do not know whether we are xenophobic at the level of economics or nationalists, I do not know what to call it, but what is happening is that we really do not want foreigners here. Maybe it is our laws, but these laws need to be modified as we are lagging behind. The world is opening up to foreign investors.

We are claiming that foreigners are going to steal our jobs, but in most cases these jobs do not even exist, it is in our imagination. We assume that every foreigner who comes here is stealing a job from a Namibian, but in most cases those jobs do not exist. First we must create those jobs before we can protect them. Foreign investors want peace of mind and they do not want to go to Immigration every week to beg for work permits or visas.

I must also say that the way we classify that these jobs are available in Namibia does not accord with the needs of investors. For example, if I was an investor and I go to America to invest, I would prefer to take my own secretary, because I have full confidence in that personal secretary. We may have secretaries here, but the investors would want a secretary which they have full confidence in. I am just giving this as a demonstration of what investors require, it does not need to be a secretary, even other personnel, but we say these people are available here. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I would like to ask the Honourable Member a small question in regard to the point that he just made. On that point that you are making that investors would want to bring along their own staff on the basis of trust and you used the example of a secretary, are you aware that in a Diplomatic Mission, which is considered to be a State within a State where things are supposed to be confidential, we are given quotas of which staff we can bring with us and which ones we must hire from that country. If that is the case that on issues of such confidentiality you are required to hire local staff, what would justify that an investor should bring along his secretary from another country?

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HON DR NAMWANDI

HON NYAMU: Thank you very much, but I have made my point. I propose that we urge our Government to speed up the timeframe for response to applications, maybe up to three weeks and not more. This is hurting us; we are shooting ourselves in the foot.

Finally – and I know somebody will jump up – I propose that this Ministry be reunited with the Police, because I see no justification for them to be separated from the Police. Their jobs are related. Secondly, it will help us reduce the bloated Government and the Ministry of Finance will be happy to have fewer Ministries than what we have now in a small country like ours. In the beginning it was justifiable because we had to give the Comrades something, but twenty years after Independence it is no longer a justification for jobs-for-Comrades. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, for the opportunity to contribute to Vote 05, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Minister, her Deputy Minister, her Permanent Secretary, her Deputy Permanent Secretary and some of the employees who are making ends meet in that Ministry to keep the Ministry above water – underlying “*some*”. I am saying “*some*” because some employees are letting the Minister down, the Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and the Deputy Permanent Secretary due to unethical behaviours.

We are living in a global village; we cannot afford to do things which make the Nation and the whole country the laughing stock in the international community. I am saying this because I have a constituency where private schools, public schools, higher education institutions are crying. What I am saying here is something that I have already brought to the attention of the Ministry and it seems nothing has changed. However, I believe somewhere; somehow somebody is applying the brakes to ensure that the Minister and the Deputy Minister fail and we will not allow that, because if the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration fails, the entire

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Nation fails.

We are talking of Vision 2030, a very ambitious vision for this Nation, but it is a vision that has to be achieved by men and women who are prepared to adopt the behaviours of the First World countries, as we want to be a First World country by 2030 and it requires hard work.

We have very good policies in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. For example, there is a policy which says if an employee wants a change of condition, the former employer has to give consent, but there are some employees in the Ministry who are bending the rules, for what reason nobody knows. You find some employees forging the signatures of the former employers and you find employees changing work just like shoes and nobody seems to notice that. We are not applying xenophobic attitudes here, but we are saying this is an independent Nation and we cannot afford that people come here and do what they want to do. Moreover, people who come to this country should come and transfer knowledge and skills to Namibian people and go back and if they are to change their employment, they should do that legally.

We are told that the Immigration Committee seems to have a problem with quorum and this trend should not be left unchecked. The Ministries and institutions represented in that Immigration Committee must recall those people and they must be replaced. Alternatively, the whole Committee must be dismantled and the Ministries and institutions should get together and perhaps form a Committee to ensure that the Namibian people and the international community are served efficiently, productively and effectively and that includes people who want service from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration.

We take note of progressive changes and the willingness of the Minister, the Deputy Minister and the Permanent Secretary to change, but those who are applying brakes must be discouraged. Therefore, I would want to support anybody who suggests that we amend the Public Service Act. People who are not performing must get out. We do not have to keep people for the sake of giving people jobs, we have so many people in the streets that are just unfortunate that they do not have a job, but yet people

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with jobs are playing around with their jobs. I think Christmas comes but once a year.

With this, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would like to support Vote 05.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I join the Secretary-General of SWAPO Party in saying happy birthday to the SWAPO Party members and the entire country under the Government led by the SWAPO Party.

I want to refer civil registration mentioned on page 4 and say thank you for the sub-regional offices which will help to implement the decentralisation policy by delivering those services to our people.

On page 5 it deals with the registration of births, which is now done in hospitals and resulted in 23,000 births being registered. My question is whether the Ministry can do away with the abridged birth certificate and just issue a full birth certificate, so that we do not again have to apply at other institutions. It takes too long as sometimes the fathers are the ones who do not want to be known. Is it not time that people just being given a full Birth Certificate with the name of the biological father?

Mention is made on page 7 of cooperation with Regional Councils. We need to have this cooperation in all Government operations so that the right hand knows what the left hand is doing. Congratulations to our Regional Councils which facilitate some of these important services to help the Ministry of Home Affairs.

I also want to congratulate you that you managed to computerise most of our entry points. This will enable us to make use of the machine readable

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HON UTONI**

passport system, although there are still those crooks who want to bypass the system. Maybe we need to strengthen the security features on our passports so that they find it difficult to forge our passports. This system will also alert the Ministry when blacklisted persons want to enter Namibia and this is very important.

The policy on work permits is clear, that people have to apply in their country and they have to be recommended. Somebody comes here as an engineer but then he is pushing a wheelbarrow and that cannot be allowed and we need to look into that.

On the issue of diplomatic passports I want to know what the procedure is to be followed for my spouse for example to get a diplomatic passport. I support Vote 05.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also want to make my contribution on Vote 05. I want to start at page 6, under civil registration.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I am so happy to learn that the Ministry has started the process of automation of birth, marriage and death certificates. That is a very good move because in the past many people suffered. I do not know if this automation process is going to be an answer to what I want to raise here.

In the past when you lost your birth certificate and you go to Home Affairs for a duplicate and you cannot remember the date of issue and the number on that birth certificate, they would ask you, "*do you not know any other person who was with you that day you got a birth certificate?*" The person would say, "*No, I cannot remember, it is about twenty years ago*", then they say there is nothing they can do and that is a problem.

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However, if this system will help the people to get duplicates, it is a good thing, but if not, then something needs to be done.

If your birth certificate was issued in Caprivi Region and then you happen to lose it in Khomas Region, then Home Affairs will refer you back to Caprivi while the costs involved doing so is so high. It is such a painful process. Honourable Minister, we should help our people not to travel those long distances.

I remember when we were registering the ex-combatants, they asked us to make a recommendation and then we sent them to Home Affairs in Oshakati. However, when those officers looked at that information, they said no, that person should be referred to the Region where he or she has received that birth certificate. If there is no change, Honourable Minister, we need to do something.

I also want to mention something with regard to border control and I want to focus on the division which manages the movement of people who are entering the country and if I am not mistaken, that is the same division managing the regional immigration tribunals and maybe that is the same committee the Honourable Deputy Minister of Education was talking about. The process at the regional immigration tribunals is cumbersome. It delays the process of deporting people from Namibia to their respective countries. I do not know whether they do not have quorums or what the problem is.

I want to cite an example. If somebody from Angola or Zambia overstayed in Namibia for one day, that person is arrested and taken into Police custody. That person has to remain there and the Police have to sustain that person with food, water and electricity. When one enquires why this person cannot just be told to go back to his or her country, they say no, the regional immigration tribunal first has to meet and that would take months, yet that person is in custody. When the person appears in Court and is fined N\$500, N\$1,000 or N\$2,000, that particular person can no longer afford that fine and has to remain in custody, which is costing us a lot. Why can we not do something about that specific problem? I would propose that the regulations governing those bodies need to be revisited so that we can make some changes, otherwise we will just keep these

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HON MUSHELENGA**

immigrants in custody. There are many immigrants in our cells at the moment and we should try to do something in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and other stakeholders, so that we can reduce that cost to sustain the immigrants. Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I thank you and I support the Vote.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, I should perhaps start addressing my comrades by saying the word “congratulations” is written all over the faces of those who belong to the SWAPO Party on the occasion of its 51st birthday.

I want to address a few aspects and first start with issues related to immigration, obviously differing from Honourable Nyamu. I have observed that we do have some people who were granted work visas but who are performing jobs that our people can do. The problem is that when they apply, they say that they are coming to do a certain type of work and on that basis the immigration board grants work visas.

However, once they are here they start doing something else. I was thinking that perhaps it is time that we have immigration inspectors, the same as the labour inspectors who do spot checks on working conditions, so that they follow up on these people who were granted work permits to see if they are really doing the types of jobs for which they were given permission. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: That is witch-hunting.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: We just want proper regulations in the country, it is not witch-hunting.

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HON ULENGA**

I want to support what Honourable Namwandi said, that some of the officials are failing the Ministry, and the Minister, Deputy Minister and Permanent Secretary in particular. I was surprised when I travelled last year and we arrived a bit late and the Immigration Officer has left, knowing that there was a flight coming. I was wondering that if this is the type of attitude that our Immigration Officers have, do we not run the risk of illegal immigrants entering just because they know our Immigration Officers cannot wait. We will end up with people coming by private plane and entering the country. In fact, when I was Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economics, I was told that there is a place where private planes land and people wondered whether they are cleared by immigration.

I am happy to note that the Ministry has rolled out the registration of births to hospitals, but this process of registration is a bit cumbersome, especially if someone dies at home in a village and I have experienced it myself. I do not know why churches cannot be authorised to issue birth and death certificates because they are more accessible to the people. I am talking about established churches, not those mushrooming every day. Even at Home Affairs we need to make the process a bit more efficient and customer friendly. You can imagine someone whose close relative has passed on, having to wait in a long queue, which is just not a conducive environment for a grieving person and it is something that we need to look at. With this, I support the Vote unconditionally.

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

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support Vote 05 and in supporting it, allow me just to make a few remarks. I listened to the motivation speech of the Minister and I really wish to believe what she is stating, because if that is really the truth, then I think many problems will be solved in this Ministry. I would like to congratulate her. However, they say the proof of the pudding is in the eating and we will really have to see on the ground whether the changes

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the Minister is talking about have been effected.

Recently when I travelled to Kenya, I casually picked up a newspaper at the airport and the front page talked about a Kenyan woman who was travelling from somewhere in South America and was arrested at the Nairobi Airport. They said in the report that she was carrying a Namibian passport although she was Kenyan and she was arrested with drugs. I was with some Colleagues who are also present in this House and we were wondering how people can be travelling with your country's passport. I wonder whether the Minister knows about this particular incident and what kind of measures the Minister is taking to take control of this kind of situation.

One hears that there are bribes taking place in the Ministry or otherwise how can complete foreigners get access to Namibian passports? I know that the Minister is most probably the most effective Minister ever to be posted into this Ministry, so what I am going to say should not reflect badly on the Ministry. Others have already said that there are some elements that are letting the Minister and Deputy Minister down and I tend to agree. I think this is perhaps one of the slowest Ministries and it does not pay to be unfriendly. Especially in this Ministry you do not stop any crime by having an unfriendly face. That kind of work is done by specialised persons, Police, agents and so forth. Therefore to be inefficient, to be unfriendly at the airport does not help the country at all. You are only hurting the country, not helping the people and this is the message that should go out to the Immigration Officials.

I know that these officials sometimes work night hours and it is like a bush kind of Ministry, not a Ministry which works from eight to five, but still this is one of the direct windows that we have as a country to the world. Minister, please, pick up your whip and clap it and tell everybody to put on even a false smile. Even if you suspect that person is carrying drugs, smile at him because you know somebody is going to arrest him.
(Intervention)

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HON ULENGA**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, before you move on to the next point, the point you raised of the Namibian passport found with a Kenyan citizen is extremely important. Did you and those Colleagues who were with you in Nairobi communicate that information to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration that you have come across something as sensitive as that? We as lawmakers do have responsibilities as well to instantly communicate that sort of information, so that the Ministry is alert at all times and that the necessary steps could be taken. I know you have asked the question, but I wonder whether you would like to elaborate on what steps you have taken as Parliamentarians who happened to be in Nairobi at that particular point in time.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Deputy Chair. As I said, this is a true story and I was not alone, we actually talked about it a little bit there, what steps could be taken and what we concluded there was that actually the Kenyan authorities would not leave it at that. If they arrest somebody with a Namibian passport, they would definitely communicate it. I also suspect that this was actually communicated to the Minister, because we did talk about it at the airport but I did not go to see the Minister myself because there must be some ways of doing this kind of thing. If I failed in my duty, well, here I am talking about it, you can just tell me that I should have gone to the Minister directly, but I did not speak to the Minister myself.

On the question of xenophobia, I think it goes to the question of friendliness. As I said, individual Namibian citizens do not need to look angry with regard to foreigners in order to stop them coming to our country. We only need to put a system into operation that ensures that the right people come and the wrong people disappear. I have talked to a number of people in this country and Namibians are getting a reputation of being unfriendly and that we do not need. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. I agree with Honourable

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HON ULENGA**

Ben Ulenga on the issue of xenophobia, but I really think there is a need for education. We lived in foreign countries, we appreciate their generosity, but honestly, some of them take our people for granted and if a person is mistreating you in one or form or another, you will respond. That is why I am saying the point that you are raising is very critical and maybe we must have a call centre where experiences like these will be recorded, because if the people are being mistreated and it cannot be followed up, it will become worse. Some people are mistreating us, taking jobs from our people, harassing them at restaurants. If you go to a restaurant, you are treated like a dog and others like kings and it is natural that you will react. My point is that there should be a call centre. Really, maybe our brothers and sisters have discovered that we are poor, they are literally arrogant and I am sorry to say it.

HON ULENGA: I agree with the Honourable Member, but the most effective way of dealing with *persona non grata* or suspicious people is, of course, to let the professionals deal with this.

We have a lot of friends all over the world, but last time when I asked the Minister about some statistics, I mentioned China and Germany. These are our sister countries, very close to us and I want the Minister to give us the figures, because somebody came to my office recently and said, “*Mr Ulenga, why do you not ask in the House why should a chief bricklayer or a chief plumber get a work permit, do we not have chief bricklayers or chief plumbers in Namibia?*” He said he is from a company which is getting people in just on the basis of them being registered as chief bricklayers. What is it when we talk about experts in certain fields? Is it really what we mean or do we mean something else?

The last point is on the issue of birth and death certificates. The Minister is talking about computerisation, but could the Minister indicate percentage-wise how many of our births get caught by the Minister’s web? I thank you.

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HON KATALI**

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 05 and also to congratulate the Minister, Deputy Minister and the staff for the progress and improvements on the practice in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration.

Both the Minister and the Deputy Minister know that I consult them at times because there were instances where I needed to. That indicates that if you are a Minister running a Ministry and there are people coming to you with issues from the Regions and you are able to solve those issues in no time, that there is a problem. If a Minister can solve that problem so easily, why was it so difficult for an official to do that? Honourable Minister, Deputy Minister, just realise that when people come to you, it is because there could be some problems that need to be addressed with the people involved.

My concern is on the issue of work permits. There is a saying that these foreigners are coming to take our jobs and it is true in some instances, but I think we also need to be realistic. There are some skills which we do not have in Namibia and we are saying foreigners must come and teach our people those skills. In the diamond industry the cutting and polishing requires very specialised skills and at this stage our Namibians are not able to do the cutting and polishing, they need to be trained, but unfortunately the people who need to train them are foreigners. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Katali, many of those who contributed before you said that the people we must allow are supposed to bring skills and if we refuse, then that is a problem. We are saying the person who should be allowed is the one who can impart skills. I think I heard you saying that those are the people whom we refuse to enter, but all of us said we want those people with special skills and they must train the Namibian people.

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HON MAAMBERUA**

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Yes, that is what I am saying. The problem with those who are training our diamond cutters is not with their first entry, it is with the extension of the three-month permit. After the three months have expired, the person is applying for extension and that is where the problem arises as it takes another three months to process the application. That means the person is in the country illegally, training the people and waiting a year or more for the extension. Once that person is found, he is deported and our people who have to be trained are left stranded. I want to advise that we really zoom into what type of professionals we need.

The issue should not be that we say everybody applying is taking our employment, but maybe we need to go to the cutting and polishing factories to see what specialised skills are given to our Namibians. Some of them are people with disabilities, but they are suffering because we take too long to process the extension of work permits. We need to take some of these things very seriously, however you are doing a good job. Thank you very much, I support the Vote.

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

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, I wish to register my appreciation for the noticeable improvements in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. I, however, have a question that can equally apply to the Ministry of Safety and Security and the Ministry of Health and this is not a new innovation on my part, it is actually a standard which was set in Government, namely this is to have customer care centres and also customer care charters and suggestion boxes. In respect I wish to know from the Minister whether there are customer care charters in place at all the offices of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and if so, how long do these Customer Care Charters stipulate that a customer of the Ministry has to wait before he or she is served.

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HON MAAMBERUA**

If I come to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration today, how many minutes would it take before I am served and if I am not served within that time, what reward do I get from the Ministry or what steps are taken against the staff of the department or the section that does not serve me within that stipulated time? I believe that you were supposed to have customer care centres in the various offices of the Ministry. Customer care centres are where you make your customers comfortable. Obviously, we do not expect that the public at large will not have to stand in long queues, but I would think that people to be served at the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration are seated. It is done at the Ministry of Finance, at all the Revenue and Custom offices you do not stand in queues, you are seated. Can that also not happen at the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration? If not yet, what is the time that you are given yourself to start seating people so that they do not stand in queues. We know that we are serving senior citizens in this country and it is just in order if we have our customers seated, particularly in those Ministries I have mentioned, including the Police and the Ministry of Health. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Now that you are making this point of seating customers, could it be applied to our Post Offices and all the other institutions? I have seen that Post Offices and the Private Sector also do not seat people, let alone provide toilets. What do you say about that?

HON MAAMBERUA: In fact, the Right Honourable Prime Minister will hear me out that what I am talking about is not a new innovation; it is a practice which should apply across all the Ministries, Offices and Agencies across the Namibian country.

Another issue I would like to be educated about, given the nature of the Ministry of Home Affairs, is suggestion boxes. If there are any suggestion boxes, do you publish the results of those suggestion boxes on a monthly basis so that we can see what we have suggested is actually being taken care of and the results thereof are actually published, so that we develop confidence in the Ministry?

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HON KAVETUNA**

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

HON KAVETUNA: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I wholeheartedly support this very important Vote and I want to recognise that there have really been improvements at the Ministry, specifically in reception where all the documentation is being done. However, more efforts need to be made in order for us to address the backlog.

With regard to the queues in Home Affairs, someone who watched the Open File programme could see that these queues are there on a daily basis and I have realised that it is due to the lack of an enquiry desk where one can ask whether your passport is ready. When you want to collect your passport, you have to queue, only to be told to return next week as it is not yet ready. If there was somebody at an enquiry desk to inform people that it is not ready, the queues could be reduced.

Another problem at Home Affairs is that you have to go from passport enquiries and queue at the cashier. After paying, you have to join another queue to have your photo printed.

I received my identity document at school when mobile teams were visiting the schools and not everybody had to go to Home Affairs to get an ID. I know that they are going to the remote areas, but Windhoek has a massive number of people who are turning eighteen years and some of them could not vote during the last election because they did not have identity documents. It would be prudent for the staff of the Ministry to move out of the office and also carry out these exercises at the universities and high schools.

One finds foreigners selling sweets and cakes in all the remote areas of our country in small shops that Namibians were supposed to run. What kind of visa did this person get to enter this country? Is it to set up a cuca shop in Okatana to sell something that a Namibian could have sold? What kind of visa did that person get to enter Namibia? I think it is not fair because the Namibian people are supposed to make a living out of fat

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HON NAMOLOH**

cakes and somebody at Omafo is selling fat cakes to Namibian people. I wholeheartedly support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Firstly, I would like to support the Minister and Deputy Minister for a job well done.

I also want to add my voice to those who have spoken before me on the Immigration Officials. The Immigration Officials are the first people one comes across when entering any country and normally the Immigration Officials of many countries are impolite. In many parts of the world, Africa, Asia, Europe and America, I was treated impolitely by Immigration Officials. When you enter some countries as a black person, you are already a criminal and you are already sentenced and I do not want our officials to imitate what is happening in other countries. We would want them to be very polite and smile, as Honourable Ulenga has said. Especially at the northern borders of our country our neighbours are not received very well by our Immigration Officials. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask a question? You said you were not treated well, but are you now treated better at Frankfurt or Heathrow with your diplomatic passport which indicates you are an Honourable Minister? We need to reciprocate, that if you smile, I will smile and if you pull your face, I will pull my face. This is how I was treated yesterday by our neighbour South Africa at the airport. The area where people must be smiling is in tourism, but one is even insulted on the plane. How do you equate those two?

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HON NAMOLOH**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I have a long list here and I would like to allow each Member to have an opportunity to participate. If you are going to be asking questions like this, I think we will be here until 23:00.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I was just saying that we cannot imitate what others are doing, we have our own rules, our own protocols, our own customs and we need to be Namibian and not reflect what others are doing. We have discussed this issue in our Joint Commission that this is what is happening at our borders. I do not have to mention countries, but there are many countries where we are mistreated, but we want to appeal to our Immigration Officials that they must be polite to all the people who are coming to our country and especially in the northern parts. I feel the Immigration Officials need to be trained on how to treat people and how to receive people.

There is something which is torturing some of us who have lived abroad. When I left this country I had no pass, I had no Identification Document, I had nothing. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information. This politeness and friendliness by Immigration Officers we want to introduce is unheard of. I have never met an Immigration Officer who is polite and friendly. Their faces are grim, “passport” and then you are given your passport and you move. Let us make a difference between Protocol Officers and Immigration Officers. Ours should not be the exception to the rule, they must be professional, they should not insult anybody, but to say they must be polite and friendly, they are not there to negotiate anything with anybody. You either come in with a proper passport and a visa, if required, and if you do not have it, it cannot be negotiated there and then.

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HON NAMOLOH

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I am not asking them to be Foreign Affairs Protocol Officers, but in a normal society you do not teach your people to be rude. Even soldiers, who go to war, respect the rules of engagement in combat where they risk their lives and immigration officials should also behave and not shout and insult people and pull faces. When I left this country I had no pass, I had no Identification Document. (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: I would like to pose a question to the Minister. Honourable Minister, do you not think that perhaps an unfortunate misconception or misunderstanding has emerged, because it is one thing to keep strict rules and they must be as watertight as possible, but it is another thing to do them with politeness. Even when Saddam Hussein was hanged, there was decorum, he was not pushed about. I have gone through the South African airports before South Africa got Independence. If a person just wants to carry out a search, you can just be gentle and do a search, not pushing about. It definitely does not help you; you must do your work with professionalism.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: It is exactly what I have already said, that we should be polite. If they take you to prison in Britain, they say, “*Do you mind if I open the door, Sir, do you mind if I close the door, Sir?*” He does not push you in, he is polite, “*Do you mind if I close the door, Sir*” and he closes the door of the jail.

Honourable Minister, the repatriation form has become like a legal document in Namibia. When I came back I had nothing to prove that I am from Namibia, because when I left I had no Identification Document. Twenty-one years after Independence even our children are asked, “*Where is your repatriation form?*” It is being demanded especially there in the rural areas and this issue should be looked into. There are other ways a person can be identified.

In the northern rural areas we are tossed around, “*bring this document*” and tomorrow when you bring it, you have to bring another one. It seems

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HON BEZUIDENHOUT**

as if the people are not really trained to deal with these issues. When you bring the form then you have to bring somebody who can testify to it.

Honourable Minister, at some places the immigration officers can be compromised and they should not stay a long time. Oshikango is very volatile and if you keep them there for too long, I think they will be compromised. I support Vote 05.

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

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I do support the Ministry. This is the Ministry that really needs our moral as well as financial support to be able to do things right with a firm hand. I think the basic challenge with immigration officials is proper knowledge that the person knows what must be done. In the absence of that, people become unsure and that is where the unfriendliness comes in. Coupled to that is a lack of managerial or supervisory support. There must be a system where the supervisors know what the frontline or the production officers are doing. I want to ask the Minister to look into those areas to improve services.

Home Affairs and Immigration, just like a financial institution, is process driven. You receive this, you must do this and the next step that and then you come to the end-product and in the absence of the expected outcome, you would come to the conclusion that there is a need for process re-engineering to make sure that the process that you want to be followed is followed by all officials and if the process is correct, then is the supervision managers.

Coming to the collection of Identification Documents, I would like to support what has been said about the collection of Identification Documents. People have acquired Identification Documents, they do not collect it and then they blame the Ministry for not delivering.

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I also need clarity on page 6 of the Minister's statement where it says the Ministry is in the process of automating birth, marriage and death records.

Is it a process of automation or is it a process of digitalisation? I just want clarity on that process.

The way I understand work permits and visas is that as an individual I declare that the information above is correct and that is why I need this permit or visa. When it is discovered that I applied for a visa to give engineering services and it turns out in reality that I am now a wheelbarrow pusher, then that visa must be withdrawn immediately because I have made a false statement at the point of entry and then it must be reported forthwith. I do not have a visa because I lied in the first instance to obtain this document and when I am caught out, I must not complain at international bodies.

The Minister has given impressive information on border control and I would like to say that this system at all border posts may give us the opportunity to focus on the real people and processes and to let the genuine visitors through and only focus on those alert systems. If we can fine tune the system to that effect, we can catch all types of criminals who want to use Namibia as a transit place for criminal activities.

The Namibian Police must also be congratulated because they have caught people who tried to test our system and who did not succeed. It shows that our Police intelligence and immigration systems are working.

On page 10 the statement deals with the new passport system and unscrupulous elements trying to forge our passports. The only way forward within the means of the Ministry of Home Affairs is to look at biometric passports which can easily go through border control systems, which gives you the assurance that the carrier of that passport is the owner of that passport based on his iris compilation or his thumb print, which are unique features in every human being. Coupled to that, to issue a passport on that basis makes it very safe and it is not a pipedream, it is a reality because this morning we were informed by the Office of the Prime Minister's Department of IT Management that Namibia has the best and most comprehensive biometric database of its citizens in this world.

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HON KAPIA**

Honourable Minister, when it comes to citizenship, I know we are very careful and want to make sure that we give citizenship to the right people. I must say that sometimes it is also the interpretation of what the law says.

We have read in the papers that prospective citizens become so frustrated that they approach the Courts and their legal teams lay out everything according to the law, according to Government policy and then the Courts decide Home Affairs is in the wrong and this person must be given citizenship forthwith. Those embarrassing situations can be avoided if there is a better understanding of the rules and what needs to be done and both on the attitude of Civil Servants and the amendment of Acts we need to have a NIPAM intervention to address these issues. On that note, I support Vote 05 of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration.

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

HON KAPIA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, many of my points were already taken up by the previous speakers and I just want to request the Minister and Deputy Minister to find a way to put deadlines for computerising most of the national documents. If it needs the assistance of this House to get additional funding, the Minister should call on us. We cannot continue with computerising every year but that process is not realised. We must budget, buy the computers, we must train young people on how to enter all this information and six months down the line this process must be completed so that we will be able to solve many of the problems currently facing the Ministry. It is a matter of having a deadline to computerise the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. I will support the exercise a 100%, but I just want it to be accelerated.

The decentralisation of some of these services to the 107 Constituencies is very important, particularly the issuing of birth and death certificates. When we talk of decentralisation, it is not that we want these functions to resort under the Regional Councils, but we just want the Ministry of

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HON MOONGO**

Home Affairs and Immigration to be accessible to the people. If it is a matter of limited resources, this Parliament can appropriate and approve funds to be used. Were it not for the floods, we could have used the emergency funds specifically to decentralise birth and death registration to the Constituency level, so that our people no longer need to walk long distances. With these few words, Comrade Minister, Deputy Minister, you have my full support for Vote 05.

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

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, I thank the Minister for the promises made in her statement. All the years many Ministers who were in that Ministry made promises and promises and up to now the queues are still very long. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Member, may I ask a question? You do not want Minister and after Minister to keep on doing things systematically, yet when you campaign you promise people every year you are going to win.

HON MOONGO: It is just a pity that the Ruling Party is stealing all the time and then we have to go to Court every year, but it is tricky as it seems there are syndicates. You asked for it and you got it. (Intervention)

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND
FORESTRY:** On a Point of Order. For the decorum of this House, the Honourable Member cannot say that SWAPO is stealing. Ask the Honourable Member to prove what he has said or to withdraw.

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HON MOONGO**

HON MOONGO: There are cases which are *sub judice*. It can be proven later on, nobody knows. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I knew when you stood up that you are going to make a profound statement on the Vote of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. Could you come to that point now?

HON MOONGO: I would like to continue, but let them stop asking nonsensical questions. (Interjections) Withdraw what? There is a case and nobody knows whether SWAPO will come out freely. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You are putting the Chair in a very awkward position.

HON MOONGO: Not me, them!

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Could you continue and wind up what you wanted to say?

HON MOONGO: I want to speak on the Vote, but please control them. I would like to say that I support the idea of decentralisation of this Ministry because we have long queues countrywide and we are tired of this. The churches are also issuing marriage certificates and the Traditional Authorities are issuing death certificates free of charge and my question is whether they were trained and whether they are remunerated or whether the service is free. Will they be punished if they make mistakes? I feel the churches and the Traditional Authorities have to be paid and everybody who is delivering a service. You do not need to get it free of

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HON MANOMBE-NCUBE / HON KAAPANDA**

charge. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, be specific. I can rule some of the Honourable Members Out of Order for being too general and as much as I would like to respect you, I should also like to respect the House. We are governed by Rules. Honourable Ncube.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister and the Deputy Minister for the efforts that they have put into this Ministry. I only have one burning question. When we as Namibians travel to the Commonwealth countries, particularly the United Kingdom, we are subjected to so many questions and bad treatment while they have freedom of movement when they come to Namibia. They are treating us as if we are beggars or criminals. What does it mean being a Member of the Commonwealth and not needing a visa to go to the UK, but when you are there, you are subjected to a lot of questions? Thank you, Honourable Minister.

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

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am going to be very brief. I support Vote 05 and I would also like to acknowledge with appreciation the progress which has been recorded in that very important Ministry. However, I wish to ask the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration regarding the media report that there were a number of asylum seekers going to Canada with Namibian passports. I do not know whether the

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HON SHIFETA**

Ministry has picked up that information and if at all they have, what measures are taken to bring this state of affairs under control?

Lastly I would like to point out that two weeks ago I visited our border post at Noordoewer where construction work is currently going on and as a result the public toilets are closed. On that specific day I met a lady who has just crossed the border into Namibia and she wanted to use this facility but it was closed. There was not even a notice apologising for the inconvenience, these toilets are closed and no alternative arrangement was made. After talking to the lady I went inside to see if I could get help for her. Yes, I did get help from one of the Immigration Officials who assisted the lady and I think under these circumstances there must be alternative arrangements in order to assist our visitors to the country. With this I would like to once again underline my support for Vote 05.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I stand to support Vote 05 and I have only a few points.

One is that I tend to agree with those who said that the first impression a visitor gets of a country is at the entry point and that impression remains with that person. We are also here to promote tourism and if we say a person should call again and you are not visitor friendly, it has a very negative impact on our tourism at the end of the day. The person should see you smiling, friendly, polite and humble and, therefore, we need to work on that aspect.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has critical service points dealing with passports and identity documents, but I think in our Civil Service we lack work ethics. When you visit a place where you are supposed to receive service, you find people doing their own thing, not

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paying attention to the client requiring services. Work ethics is a general problem; it is not only confined to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. However, at our entry points we need to really work on that and we should not emulate others who harass us. It does not mean that we have to relax our rules. We have rules but we can always be friendly and humble towards visitors so that tomorrow they call again. With this, I support Vote 05.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. I would not ask the Minister to respond to some of the specific questions raised.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, for your support to Vote 05. I am going to answer some questions and I will start with *Honourable Witbooi*. In 2007 and 2008 we had a programme of registering all the disadvantaged groups, including Ovaherero, through the programme of Honourable Deputy Prime Minister Libertine Amathila, that time. She requested us and our first mobile unit went to those specific people, but we learned that most of these people were issued with wrong identity documents by the previous Government. They were even given wrong names, such as Van Vuuren and Van Tonder. These names were automated in the identity document system and now we want them to change their names and ages, which is a difficult task. Most of them do not know their date of birth and we are trying to send them to medical doctors to determine their age to correct their identity documents.

The automation of marriages, births and deaths which we started with last year will reduce the marriages of convenience, because then we have them on the system. However, this includes Namibians who are having marriages of convenience. A person marries in Walvis Bay this year and next year he marries somebody in Rundu. We have come across this when the people want death certificates. The Ministry of Home Affairs is a

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challenging Ministry, but we are trying our level best to address these problems through amendment of the laws.

We wanted to revise the Citizenship Act, but we were advised by the Attorney-General and the Minister of Justice that there are certain regulations that we can follow. However, we have started implementing the Amendment to the Constitution as it was amended here in this august House.

Honourable Deputy Minister Beukes, thank you for your support. *Honourable Nyamu*, thank you for your support, but Rome was not built in one day; we are trying our level best to address all those problems you have mentioned. If you visit Home Affairs you would find there are new arrangements at the counters and the queues are managed very well.

There is also a big improvement with visas and work permits. These are granted to genuine investors for a period of up to 24 months. We want to reduce the three-month work visas because it is problematic to control those people who are coming after three months to extend their visas.

When I visited the Immigration Selection Board two weeks ago, they promised that they have done away with many things which prevent us to move faster on the issuance of work permits and work visas.

A few days ago there was mention of the professors at UNAM. We granted them up to 24 or 36 months according to the agreement between the institution and themselves.

The unification of the two Ministries is the prerogative of His Excellency the President; it is not our work, Honourable Minister of Safety and Security.

Honourable Dr Namwandi, thank you for your support and the information you shared with us, but many people who tried to forge signatures are in the hands of the Police and the Anti-Corruption Commission and we are dealing with them.

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The amendment of the Public Service Act is an issue for all of us, not only the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. Bureaucracy causes delays in disciplinary action against staff members.

Honourable Ilonga, I thank you for your support. We have introduced the registration of babies in hospitals to reduce the long queues and to avoid late registration, which is a problem for the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, because you do not know whether these people are really Namibian nationals or non-Namibian national who came at a later stage. We know the history of Namibia and that most of the people in the northern areas were not issued with birth certificates and we just started after Independence.

We have already done away with the abridged birth certificate since 2008 and we introduced the full birth certificate. We are now in the process of developing a birth certificate with features that cannot be forged.

On the automation of the about 7 million birth certificates, I think it is clear that because we included all the records dating back from 1895, it will take a while. People want to know about their forefathers and fathers and the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration needs to provide that information.

The automation at border control posts is an ongoing programme where we have lines from Telecom. Where we do not have lines we are still waiting for those lines and then we will computerise the system.

Our passports have hidden features which are known to the staff members of the Ministry of Home Affairs and it is only when you are trained that you will distinguish between the forged and the genuine passport of Namibia, but I am not going to tell you what it is.

With regard to the work visas to non-technical foreigners, I think this is under control. We are working closely with the Ministry of Trade and Industry who is the Registrar of Companies so that we get more information on who are the people needed in a specific company.

Diplomatic passports for our spouses, the diplomatic passports resort

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under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we are only processing them. If we want them to be given diplomatic passports, we should apply at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and they will recommend to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration for issuance.

Honourable Ithana, thank you very much. I have already responded on the automation of birth certificates, but if you lose your birth certificate, you can just tell us your name and date of birth, especially for those birth records which have been automated already. Presently the people are suffering as most of the time the information is with us at headquarters and they are in the queues, but at least we can get their information and send it back to the regional offices until the day we have concluded the automation.

There are two Committees in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, the first one is the Immigration Selection Board, which is dealing with the approval of work visas, work permits, permanent residence, temporary residence, etcetera, and members of this Board are drawn from Line Ministries. The Ministry of Labour is there to know who are the employees to be employed in our labour market; Ministry of Education, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Safety and Security, Office of the President and the Ministry of Justice are also Members of the Immigration selection Board.

The problem of illegal immigrants spending time in jail will be reduced when we soon decentralise the Tribunal Committee to regional level. We wrote letters to all Governors to give us these Committees so that they can start their work. If each Region has a Committee where the Safety and Security and Immigration officers are represented, it will be better handled than it is being done now.

Honourable Mushelenga, thank you very much. I already mentioned who are the members of the Immigration Selection Board. I spent one day in that Committee and they are really doing well. They are judging who the person is to be given this and that and which applicant should be rejected on the merits of the applicants.

The churches are stakeholders, we are getting all the information we

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need from them and they are not excluded. To tell the truth, they are mini Home Affairs in their congregations. We can even recall that when the people came into the country, all these repatriation forms were dealt with by the CCN and that is why we are respecting them up to now.

Honourable Ulenga, thank you very much for your advice. The issue of the Kenyan woman was already communicated to us through the immigration channels. The good news is that all those officials in the Ministries who are detected that they collaborated with criminals in order to forge documents are in the hands of the Anti-Corruption Commission and Comrade Mbumba's Ministry.

The offices of the Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and mine, have an open-door policy for those who wish to come and give us information on criminal activities with our national documents. We plead with you to inform us.

When it comes to people who want to stay in the country as citizens, the South Africans and the Germans are the leading nationals, not the Chinese, not at all. They want to acquire land, they want to retire here and we will soon bring you those statistics. The Chinese are only leading in work visas because they just work here and go. Not many of them want to acquire land or have permanent residence, only a few of them.

The highest percentage of registered births is in the central and the southern Regions, but the more remote areas in the northern parts are now reaching about 75% and I believe with all the Sub-Regional offices and the registration of babies in hospitals we will soon reach our target percentage. However, do not forget that as babies are born, people are dying and people are reaching the age of 16 years every day, monthly and on a yearly basis.

Honourable Katali, I think I have already answered your question because we want to move away from three-month work visas. It is only that from six months to one year work permits you need to provide us with a Police clearance from your country of origin and sometimes it takes time or Police clearance from within this country if you have been here for a

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certain time. This is done for us to control criminal activities within the country.

Honourable Maamberua, thank you for your good advice on customer care centres, customer care charters and suggestion boxes. We do have a customer care charter, but in some Regions, as here at Head Office, we do not have enough space for seating arrangements. They are there, we advise them to let the elderly and sick people to be served, but when you have big offices like in Mariental and others with decent facilities, there are sitting arrangements.

Honourable Kavetuna, we have just established an information desk at the Head Office, but we have come to realise that when there are many customers, these staff members leave the information desk to assist. We try to advise them to remain there so that they can respond to queries so that people do not stand in queues where they do not belong.

Outreach is an ongoing programme even here in Windhoek. Last year we visited Grade 10 and Grade 12 learners. I think we have been doing it since 2006 and they are registered and when they are issued with identity documents, the staff members take it to the school and call them to collect it there.

On foreign nationals who are competing with Namibians in the informal sector, I have already mentioned that this is under discussion with stakeholder Ministries which are registering their ventures, but do not forget that we have also signed some protocols on free movement in trade. We exempted most SADC countries from visas and they are coming here freely. It is not easy to control them, but when the Immigration Officers get them without work permits, they are arrested.

Honourable Namoloh is not here and I am not going to answer his question, I will respond tomorrow when we meet.

Honourable Bezuidenhout mentioned the professionalism of our Immigration Officers. We are planning to have a training centre for Immigration Officers, because these people receive an orientation course for two weeks and then sent to the borders. We realised the training needs

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and we are trying to discuss with our neighbouring countries, such as South Africa, so that we can have a team at that centre for our people to be trained.

I already mentioned that our passport has hidden features and that is why people are arrested in any country outside Namibia. Our security agents are on alert on that matter. Soon we are also going to introduce the new e-passport with biometric features.

Honourable Kapia, identity document automation was already completed in 2008. As we are here that system is working very well. You cannot forge an identity document; we are going to catch you.

The passport system was completed in 2009 from handwritten passports to machine-readable passports. The automation mentioned in my motivation speech started last year and we know how many Regions we have and where we started, but there is a due date for us to complete the exercise.

The decentralisation of Birth Registration to all Regional Councils has already been done by my predecessor. What happened? All the Rwandans and others got birth certificates and it had to be taken back. When I came to the Ministry in 2005, the function has already returned to the Ministry. That is why we introduced Sub-Regional offices in all Constituencies, but it will take time to cover all 107 Constituencies and it depends on resources.

Honourable Moongo, the queues have really been reduced except for peak times, such as during holidays when the Ministry is receiving almost one thousand applications for passports per day, because our people apply a day or two before they want to travel. That is why the Ministry pleads with fellow Namibians to learn to plan their holidays on time, not only during November and December.

Honourable Manombe-Ncube mentioned that Commonwealth countries are maltreating our people. Even though there are agreements, it might be their regulations and rules that make them do so. This matter has been discussed between us and last time they even wanted to do away with visa requirements for Namibians and we said if they do so, we will reciprocate.

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Honourable Kaapanda, we are aware of the people who migrated to Canada. I thank you for the information regarding the toilets.

Honourable Shifeta, I also mentioned that the Ministry is planning to have a training centre to get rid of these bad attitudes by the Immigration Officers. I thank you very much.

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

Vote 10 – “EDUCATION” is put for Discussion.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I was on the verge of passing my opportunity to speak on this Vote, the Vote that I call the people’s Vote, but since you invited me, I have no other choice than to accept the invitation.

I want to commend the Honourable Minister of Education, his Deputy, his Permanent Secretary and all the staff members for their tireless efforts in turning around the performance of our education system. Keep up the good work.

Comrade Minister, I could not agree more to what you are saying on page 1 in terms of your focus to continue to elevate work ethics and accountability, but I am sure you have heard many speakers mentioning the lack of work ethics and accountability in the Public Service and I would like to acknowledge that that is going to be a tall order, because work ethics, not only in the Ministry of Education but across the entire Public Service, is an issue that we need to work on, because if we succeed to improve the work ethics, in there lies the answer, in my view, to the current lethargic, often sporadic, unsustainable and to a large extent, inequitable performance of the education system.

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HON SIMATAA**

Even when I was in the sector I was at pains, and I still continue to endure those pains, to see some of our teachers neglecting their sacred responsibilities, to the extent that their children do not attend schools where they are Principals and Heads of Department. They take their children to schools they perceive to be performing better, yet they are also teachers. And what do they do? They continue providing substandard education to other people's children. Comrade Minister and Deputy Minister this is the behaviour that really requires us to turn around the current situation that we are confronted with, because in my view it is simply blatantly unfair.

My second comment is on absenteeism, once again not confined to the Ministry of Education. Absenteeism is rampant across the entire Public Service. In my view, it is illegitimate absenteeism which is in a way legitimised by doctors' certificates, which is a very unethical conduct on the part of doctors and I am pleading with this House to find the right antidote to this problem. The doctors that are involved in issuing certificates even when Simataa is very healthy need to be exposed and shamed. I do not see Honourable Dr Kamwi here, but I am sure Dr Nicky Iyambo can tell me whether we can go to the extent of revoking their licences, because they are shaming the profession. That is my concern, because this tendency is suffocating the productivity across the Public Service and it needs our undivided attention.

Finally, on page 3, paragraph 3, is the lack of parental involvement. Parents in Namibia, including some of us here in this Chamber, are quick and show no remorse to lambast the education system when it is not delivering, yet we seem to relegate the education of our children to teachers and I have a problem with that.

During the years I have been in the Education Sector, there were literally only two occasions when you saw parents at school. One is when we are rushing out of breath to register our children for admission and when we do not get places and NBC is there, then we abuse the floor of the NBC and lambast the Ministry of Education. The second occasion is when our children are presenting us with school reports that say "*you are not progressing to the next grade.*" Those are the only two occasions when

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HON KAZENAMBO**

you see all of us as parents being concerned about the education of our children. By the way, when the results are very poor, all of us all of a sudden develop expertise in education from nowhere, yet we have been very unconcerned during the whole year. This is a tendency we need to address. I know when we were still around we tried to do that and I do not know whether you have reflected on what we did and what did not work in order for you to be able to say what else can we do. However, I was pleased to have seen on television a few days ago that a friendly organisation took a decision to donate money in trying to get our parents involved in the education of our children. Education is not a once-off event, it is a process and on that note I really provide my unreserved support to the people's Vote and I am done.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. In the interest of transparency, I want Members to be aware; we have very close to thirty Members who want to participate in the Debate. Honourable Kazenambo.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote on Education and support the Minister, the Deputy Minister and the entire staff component.

I would like to address myself to the issue of loan assistance to students and the children of the liberation struggle, among others, and my intention here is not to discriminate against other children of Namibia, because as a matter of fact, if you take the children at tertiary institutions at the moment, UNAM, the Polytechnic of Namibia, the International University of Management and other institutions, surely the number of the children of the liberation struggle will be minute. I am addressing this issue because, unfortunately, there is a growing stigmatisation in this country against the children of the liberation struggle. This is a serious concern.

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HON SWARTZ**

I have personally addressed these children and I have told them that they are not more special than others, they are just like all the others and, therefore, it is unfortunate that there is a tendency of stigmatising or literally instigating hatred against these children, which is not fair. This also manifests itself at the Ministry of Education, not by the Minister as the political head and not by the Deputy Minister and not by all officials, but there are some officials who are really not helpful to the plight of these children. Please let us appreciate the background of these children. If there are bad elements in society, there are also bad elements everywhere, so they should not be victims of circumstances. History has already made them what they are and unfortunately we cannot reverse it. They did not choose to be born in exile, they did not choose to be born in those circumstances, therefore let us stop the tendency of being anti-children of the liberation struggle. They are being discriminated against with study loans. Immediately they appear there, "*we are children of the liberation struggle*", I do not want to use that word, but some unscrupulous elements there have developed a tendency of being anti-children of the liberation struggle. Please, I plead for fairness and for justice.

Honourable Minister, Honourable Deputy Minister and staff, I am appealing to you to assist these people. (Interjection) You are obsessed, you are culprit number one who hate these people. If you have a problem with SWAPO, do not transfer it to these kids. That is my appeal, they are just normal human beings. I support the Vote.

HON SWARTZ: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members. Honourable Minister of Education, I only want to make a few remarks on the Vote and the first is that we need qualified teachers in our rural areas. For example, at one place we have one teacher responsible to teach a subject to Grade 4 and 5 simultaneously. We need qualified teachers in our rural areas and as the Honourable Member has said, we need parents' involvement.

The Grade 10 and 12 results will always be a big concern because parents

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HON NYAMU

are not involved. The parents are not committed, the children are not committed and something must be done for us to achieve very good results at the end of the day.

On page 9 school boards are mentioned. Some parents serving on school boards do not understand their function and sometimes they do not receive training. Each and every year the new members must undergo training so that they know what the responsibilities of school board members are, because if they do not have enough knowledge and skills, the principal will manipulate them.

My next comment is on vandalism, the breaking of windows and toilets. Each and every year the Government needs to do a lot of renovations and I want to know what measures are in place to ensure that the children and staff stop this vandalism in the hostels and schools, so that the Government does not have to spend a lot of money on renovations and rather build classrooms. I support the Vote.

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

HON NYAMU: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson, I will be extremely brief. I just want to put on record my appreciation for the new team on the job. This is a case of a youthful team, maybe proving to the rest of us that they have energy, enthusiasm and skills to do the job and should they succeed, they would have provided a precedent for the rest of us to allow the new generation to take over. It is time for them to carry the torch. I, therefore, commend Dr Iyambo and Comrade Namwandi for the excellent job they are doing and I place myself and my Party at their disposal in an effort to assist them wherever and whenever our assistance is required for them to succeed. What we need in Namibia is proper education more than anything else. We can talk of providing assistance to communities who live in poverty, but without education these measures will amount to mere painkillers and not a solution to the problem. Small nations in particular

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need to have people with skills. If you look at Singapore and I am told, Rwanda, small countries in Asia and in Africa, they are able to compete simply because their populations are highly educated and trained. Namibia must also strive to be one of those small countries in the world with a skilled, innovative population.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson I just want to pose one small question to the Minister. During my stay in Zimbabwe I found that at every high school they have a psychiatrist or Social Worker who provides advice and support to learners and teachers alike. Would the Minister also strive to provide every school with such a professional, especially at high schools? Do we already have such a plan in the pipeline? I thank you.

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

HON DINGARA: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I stand to support the Vote of the Ministry of Education on the basis of the leadership provision by the two Doctors. Maybe we need to thank His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba for what he has seen in these two Colleagues, which we did not see. What is important in any organisation is leadership. One of the big achievements by Dr Abraham Iyambo and Dr Namwandi since they were appointed is to unite all the Namibian people and no one is now opposing education, everybody is just supporting. That is a success and that is true leadership and that is what President Pohamba has seen, which we did not and now it has been revealed. It is also a sign to us that for a person to perform in education, you can be a Doctor in fishing and other things.

Quality leadership counts most and I want to congratulate them. I also want to say that all the Namibian people are fully supporting these two Comrades together with the entire Ministry. Do not look back, proceed at the same pace. What we have seen from you is that we can even add other Ministries and you will pull them and succeed. The leadership prevailing in the Ministry of Education is highly appreciated by this Nation. With

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HON UEITELE**

those few words, I fully support the Vote of Education. Thank you.

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

HON UEITELE: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I will also try to be very brief.

Honourable Members, despite the efforts made by the Ministry of Education and the current Budget allocated to the Ministry of Education, there is still more to be done to improve the state of education in our country. Having been a stakeholder in education for the past three years, I have realised that the Ministry of Education is faced with challenges that need our collective approach. These challenges encompass the teaching, learning and sleeping environment of our learners. For example, at some of the schools there are no mattresses, no beds, unhygienic toilet facilities and I think this goes to the Ministry of Works and Transport because the Maintenance Department of that Ministry is also failing the education system. The toilets are blocked, the electric wires are exposed and the Department of Maintenance must pull up their socks to assist the Ministry of Education.

Honourable Minister, the shortage of teachers in specialist fields remains a challenge and that results in unqualified teachers teaching in these fields. For example, a teacher is specialised in Mathematics and because of a lack of teachers at a certain school, the teacher will then be forced to teach History and we can definitely not expect results from the learners.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, there is a need to introduce special classes in all the 13 Regions for learners who have difficulties in learning. If in each and every school we have special classes and teachers who would take care of these learners, it would also contribute to the pass rate of our learners, because these learners are forced to go up to Grade 12, whereby they would fail.

As I said earlier, education remains the backbone of our economy.

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HON UEITELE**

Effective and efficient mechanisms to improve the performance of our schools as well as the whole education fraternity ought to be in place. I, therefore, recommend that the staff establishment in Inspectorates to perform duties in their assigned circuits. We have vast distances in our Regions while a Region is only assigned with two inspectors that must supervise the schools. These Inspectors are not based in their circuits, some Inspectors are travelling 250 kilometres to supervise schools and I would recommend that the Inspectors be based in their circuits in order for them to monitor and supervise the schools.

It is also worth mentioning that with the capable and able leadership of Dr Abraham Iyambo and his Deputy, Dr Namwandi, the Ministry made relentless efforts to acquire learning materials, for example textbooks, timeously. However, some of the schools are facing late procurement of learning materials by companies contracted to deliver the goods. As a result, learners are without books for up to three months. Either the contracted companies or the ones who are keeping the books in the storerooms are delaying the process.

Another challenge is parental involvement. Some of the school boards are operating on an *ad hoc* basis, because some principals are only using the school boards to sign cheques, just to do those things which are in favour of the Principal. I feel the school boards need training workshops and refresher courses in order for them to be aware of their mandate.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Chair, whilst recognising the efforts by the Government towards the BEE concept in the allocation of tenders with little or no supervision, this will result in contractors offering poor quality of work, more especially with the renovation and construction of buildings. We have Inspectors in the Ministry of Works and also Inspectors within the Ministry of Education, but all these Inspectors are failing to supervise the contractors. As a result the contractors are doing sub-standard work and it is only the managers and supervisors who can help us, but these are the people who at the end of day criticise Government and the Ministry. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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HON DR KAWANA / HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

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

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy
Chairperson. I join my Colleagues in commending the Minister and the
entire team and I have only one remark.

I have been inundated with queries in my capacity as a national leader on
the policy at UNAM. The Ministry says that with x-number of points in
six subjects you qualify to go to UNAM. Then UNAM comes with its
own policy and says they only recognise five subjects. What is the
Ministry going to do regarding this matter, because as a result of that a
number of children are excluded? I appeal to the Ministry to look into this
matter.

I appreciate the assistance I got in my capacity as patron of one of the
schools in the most remote area – no roads, no electricity, but together
with the parents, the school board, teachers and learners that school goes
up to Grade 10. That school was the worst performing school in the
whole constituency and today it is the best. We as leaders should also
assist in education as patrons. I thank you.

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

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: I thank you, Honourable Deputy
Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to take this
opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Education, Dr Abraham
Iyambo, and his Deputy, Dr David Namwandi, for the concerted efforts
they have put in place to redress the numerous problems facing our
education.

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HON ULENGA**

I go straight to page 3, teenage pregnancies. Honourable Minister, I cannot agree more with you on this issue of punishing the perpetrators who are impregnating children. I agree that these men who are attracted to school children deserve to be punished, but I also wonder whether the policy on learner pregnancy is not contributing to this. However, I do not have a problem with it, but I would like to recommend that the Ministry promotes sex education, targeting adolescent girls and boys, on the benefits of abstinence, the risk of engaging in sexual activities at a young age, to educate them on the free and informed choice in respect of sexual matters. Perhaps the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education should cooperate in terms of having nurses at schools in order to expose children to information and the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases and early pregnancies.

I am also happy that the Ministry is adequately addressing the issue of gender parity in terms of giving education to boy and girl child.

Honourable Minister, I would like to highlight the accessibility and physical environment and information for children with physical disabilities, hearing impairment as well as visual impairment. I do not know whether the Minister is aware that sometimes the children are the ones teaching the teachers to read Braille and to talk sign language with them. I would like to recommend that this be included in the teachers' training. Thank you very much; I support the Vote with this humble contribution.

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

HON ULENGA: Deputy Chairperson, I join those Colleagues who have voiced their appreciation of the efforts going on right now with regard to our education. For a long time there has been an atmosphere of despondency in the Nation. I do not really want to be pessimistic, I have spoken to the Minister and my spirits with regard to this Vote are very high. Of course, we know that we have not gone far yet, I think it is very

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HON ULENGA**

important that the Nation continues to support things which are being done right and this is not a question of just two people or a Minister, it is a question of Government because decisions are not made by individuals, it is made by teams. Therefore, on this particular one, like we have been saying all the time, please Right Honourable Prime Minister, because you are the highest now here, put even more money into education and let us all support those elements which are taking us ahead as far as education is concerned.

We stand behind these two people and their whole team and the Government on bettering education in the country. Where we need to criticise we will definitely not hesitate. We have done it in the past. As a Committee we have travelled through the Regions and I see that pre-primary education has been introduced in many schools. My only advice I give to the Minister and the Government is to accelerate the process and to make sure that the little money we have is used to establish these early learning institutions and many others which are going to be supportive in accelerating the speed we need to put into learning.

I have this issue with free education. I think many people in the country have now come to the conclusion that those guys who wrote the Constitution have deceived them because they said they were going to provide free education and on many occasions you find people saying they only went up to Grade 7 because their parents did not have any money for them to go further. I am saying this is what we hear from people.

I am very glad that the Prime Minister is here and I see that Honourable Nangolo Mbumba is also here and perhaps several other Doctors, including the Minister of Education. I went to a school during colonial times and the only thing that I paid is my hike to school and sometimes the school even transported us with their own truck. I did not pay a cent and I know many of you who were educated abroad, other people, the public of those countries were responsible to pay for your education.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I know that when Honourable Ulenga went to Oshigambo the Finnish taxpayers paid for him.

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HON ULENGA**

HON ULENGA: It is built into the public system.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: However, in Namibia children make a contribution to the school fund, which is not a bad idea. We should not teach our people to get free things all the time; they must make a small contribution.

HON ULENGA: Not on education.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The actual cost of education per child is about N\$15,000 per year, perhaps even more. Paying N\$200 or N\$20 for a school fund is not to the cost of education and you should know that.

HON ULENGA: You know, Right Honourable Prime Minister, I am really not in the mood to disagree on this Vote, but unfortunately I have to disagree with you. I am not saying people should not pay for education, I am saying the system of paying should not be on the individual, it should be built into the social system. It is not to say that education is not paid for, it is paid for in other ways. When I say I did not pay, it does not mean that my education did not cost anything. You know what I am saying. Let it not come back to the individual where a child has to leave school because they do not have money. We must build a system which will carry the individual. This is what I am saying and you know exactly what I am talking about.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, there are so many people who have set up community crèches and pre-primary schools. I would like to hear the Minister's plan with regard to this because these were set up in the absence of formal pre-primary classes at schools. Are you going to build them in, are you going to integrate them, are you going to continue to give support to those identified in various villages?

There is something that perhaps we may think is not important, but it has been eating me. We have been visiting schools and one feature that is

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HON MAKGONE**

coming up in the country is that white children of white Namibian parents have apparently emigrated. What is going on? Are we continuing to teach our children to lead separate lives and what kind of effect is this going to have on our society?

Minister, I see that you are talking about very reasonable things. Please, libraries and laboratories are in disarray. Focus on them. I hear that you are talking about facilities, but unfortunately when I went through the whole speech, I did not see a single mention of laboratories. Let us put our money where our mouths are and now really stand up and take off in education. Support libraries and laboratories. For now I rest my case and I support this Vote.

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

HON MAKGONE: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 10. Firstly, I want to say that transformation is evident in education and this transformation is coming through transformation in leadership and I hope that the schools on their part will also start to transform and come up with instructional leadership, because it is only through instructional leadership that we will go for quality.

I have a comment on the motivation speech. The construction and renovation of classrooms is a very welcome move, but then we should look at whether the contractors are using substandard materials or whether it is poor workmanship because there is a problem. Perhaps the people responsible for inspection during and after construction do not have the necessary skills.

The other point is on more resources to church and community schools and hostels. This is a very welcome move because I worked in a church school and I hope that the secretaries are now taken care of, because you are a principal and also a secretary. You have to force the teachers to sit

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down and type their question papers despite all their other work.

Another issue is on the service providers, NamPower and NamWater and the money paid to them as a result of wastage at our schools, especially the hostels. At the Catholic school where I worked, there was an automatic system whereby ten minutes before the learners would wake up at five the taps will be opened, they can use water until a certain time and then it will be closed, which means when the learners are not at the hostel, then everything is closed, there will be no wastage of water as a result of leaking taps and all that. Perhaps the Ministry could look into that.

I want to know whether the Education Forums in the Regions are functioning because it would help a lot if they could be activated to work with the school boards.

I feel there is a gap between tertiary education and the labour markets. Our students are graduating, but it is said that they do not fit within the labour market and we have to determine what is missing in the curriculum to overcome this problem. I thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Minister, I am very happy and proud to have used the traditional way of upbringing, so much that you are able to do what you are doing now. You were afraid of *Oshimwati* and you decided to remain studying and today everybody can see the fruits. I thank you and congratulate you and your Deputy for the good work you are doing.

You talked about quality education in your motivation and I believe that is the key. Now that we have captured close to a 100% enrolment rate, the challenge is quality and I am happy that you are looking at this very

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carefully.

My question I am going to ask is really in the public interest, because it is one that has been raised by people I encountered in the public and it is also related to quality education. Could you explain to the Nation whether it is true that when it comes to the entry to institutions of higher learning, the points required for one to enter a college as a teacher are among the lowest and if that is the case, what is the rationale, because the people are saying that should that be the case, those who have to teach others are those who themselves did not perform well. That is a concern within the community.

Another point relating to quality education, and I think the teacher there has touched on it, is that in your motivation you talked about skills for managers and I think it would be very useful for the public to know that the managers will be trained to manage schools and that would give time to the teachers to do the teaching work, because it is argued that currently the teachers are too much involved in administration, preparing reports to the extent that they do not have enough time to prepare for their teaching. Thus, developing the skills of the managers would mean administration is taken care of and the teachers can only concentrate on teaching.

Another question which is also coming up is about UNAM. Does UNAM have Affirmative Action in favour of Namibians when they are sending people out for skills development?

Another question is on adult education. I saw that in some Regions we are doing well, in others not so well, but what is good is that all the Regions are above 50% literacy. I just want to know whether we stand a chance to achieve 100% literacy by 2030. I support Vote 10, I support Education and I support the work the Ministry of Education is doing under your leadership and your able Deputy Minister. I thank you.

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

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HON MAAMBERUA

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Deputy Chair, thank you very much. I have spoken at length on some of these issues before and I can afford to be brief.

The first issue that I want to bring to the attention of the Minister is the question of school hostels. Last weekend I travelled to the North and as I was in the area of Onyati, somewhere between Ondangwa and Omuthiya, very early in the morning... (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: To do what?

HON MAAMBERUA: You ask to do what, but today you are celebrating your 51st anniversary and earlier on somebody there talked about the floods in the North and I would have hoped that you would have used this occasion to donate to the flood victims as we did last time. That has not happened, maybe you are going to do it later, but for now that is what I went to do and also to assess the situation for myself as a responsible national leader.

As I travelled very early in the morning from around 05:30, I could see children in school uniforms walking towards some village schools. I stopped and asked them what the distance to their schools is and some were talking about five, six, eight kilometres. My conclusion was that perhaps and most probably many of those schools do not have hostels. That is why even small kids of 7 or 8 years are walking that distance to go to school. It has been reported in the media that some of the schools have been closed as a result of fear of snakes and many other dangers and I ascribe that to lack of hostels in that part of the country and perhaps in many other areas of Namibia schools do not have hostels. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Maamberua a question? Are you aware that that area of Onyati one of the schools a couple of years ago had a 100% pass rate in Grade 10, despite the fact that children walk to school?

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HON MAAMBERUA**

HON MAAMBERUA: I am equally aware that many children walking to schools encountered terrible things on their way to school.

Coming back to free higher education, we have already demonstrated that it is actually doable and it is affordable. Last year I demonstrated that if we were to add an additional N\$50 million, UNAM could have abolished the tertiary fees at the University. An additional N\$70 to N\$80 million to the Polytechnic would abolish the fees of students at that institution. Alternatively, can the Ministry as a national policy identify certain focal areas, such as engineering, medicine, maybe accounting, which are national priorities for development purposes and which are also reflected in the Vision 2030? Vision 2030 envisages that by year 2030 we should have 2,000 Chartered Accountants. Currently there are probably less than 500 Chartered Accountants and if we do not focus on that area in both the Polytechnic and the University of Namibia, how are we going to achieve the 2,000 Chartered Accounts by 2030? The same argument and the same logic go for engineers, etcetera. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Information on the assertion made by Honourable Maamberua that it would require an allocation of only an additional N\$50 million to UNAM to enable them to provide free tertiary education to Namibian youth. I would like to contest that amount on the basis that the value of the Government's scholarships per annum is in excess of N\$200 million. That is how much we give to students to pay for tertiary education. It is not possible to say in order for them to go free of charge; you give only N\$50 million, which is less than what we give them to pay. That in itself is already incorrect. I am saying, if we want to make that argument, we have to make it on the basis of correct information; otherwise you make the public believe that we are actually not giving these kids free tertiary education because of N\$50 million only, which is not correct.

HON MAAMBERUA: That was my statement last year. As it stands now, that is in the annual report of the Polytechnic for the year 2008, the student fees stood at N\$83 million. If we give that N\$83 million, then the

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HON MAAMBERUA**

students will not have to pay that. That is the additional amount I am talking about. (Interjections) I am not talking about the fees required from a student to graduate; I am talking about the annual fees paid by the students. That year it was N\$60 million and if that additional amount was paid to that institution, that is the fees of the University collected in that particular year. You can take the annual reports of both the University and the Polytechnic and find out what are the fees paid by students apart from the Government subvention. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Maamberua is a Professor at the University. I expected him to do better. He was supposed to say the students' fees at the University on average are N\$70,000, but if you are in the Faculty of Medicine, it is likely to be N\$25,000. If you are in the Faculty of Engineering, it is likely to be somewhere between N\$20,000 and N\$25,000. If you are now say the average fee is about N\$70,000 and multiply it by the number of enrolled students, then one can listen to you, but the fact is that your economy cannot afford it, that is all.

HON MAAMBERUA: The fact is, if you look at the annual Budget of the University, the student fees are affordable and there can be an additional allocation. Similarly for the Polytechnic, the fees coming from students in their Budget are affordable and that can be done. You can take the annual statements of the Polytechnic and that of the university, these things are affordable and those are the figures that I have noted.

The last issue is that if we are to build and achieve a knowledge-based society, then we should have special and specific additional allocations for research purposes to these institutions and that should actually be encouraged through the Ministry of Education. The global allocation to these institutions without specifying what those amounts are supposed to achieve will not take us very far. Thank you very much.

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

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HON MOONGO / HON BEUKES**

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much. I was impressed when I read the speech by the two Doctors. The English is well-polished, but when I went home to my village, I found that the same Ministry gave a pre-primary school one bag of cement to build a classroom and four sheets of corrugated iron. I was impressed that the Ministry is now led by qualified Doctors, but they do not even know that one cannot build a classroom with one bag of cement. It is embarrassing. Now that they have enough funds they have to change this attitude. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: The Honourable Member is Out of Order. I suspect he is referring to the Ministry of Gender, not the Ministry of Education.

HON MOONGO: All children in Namibia will have access to schooling – such well-polished English. The pre-primary teachers are not being paid and now that you have an increased Budget, I want the pre-primary teachers to be paid and take those sheets back to your Ministry. Thank you very much.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, Honourable Minister and Deputy Minister of Education, allow me to use this opportunity to contribute to Vote 10.

As you rightly indicated, this Government through its previous Ministers of Education laid a firm foundation for the education system. Twenty years down the line we have to revisit all our efforts of what is working and what needs to be improved. Your strategy of a hands-on approach is

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very commendable as this has resulted in tangible efforts in starting to address crucial and urgent needs and challenges your Ministry is facing, such as building additional classrooms during the holiday period and the envisaged acquisition of learning support materials to address the lack of sufficient textbooks in our schools.

Different factors affecting the delivery of quality education were highlighted and I just mention a few, such as teacher, learner, professional staff absenteeism, lack of parental involvement and the high dropout or pushed-out rate of learners which is so apparent at Grade 10 level.

Access to education has increased since Independence. As rightly mentioned by the Honourable Minister, certain sectors of society remain a matter of concern, such as the children of farm workers and the impoverished who, contrary to our policies, are still denied in some cases access to schools because of their inability to pay school or hostel fees.

Another factor worth mentioning is the promotion and strengthening of our cultural heritage through our mother-tongues and the provision of qualified African language teachers and printed learning support materials in our languages.

The efforts of reintroducing vocational subjects in schools and the increased Budget allocation for that is a step in the right direction.

In conclusion, Honourable Minister, thank you for a Budget which is attempting to address various pertinent needs identified by the Minister of Education. Your efforts thus far, I believe, do not go unnoticed and the commitment of funds in the Budget allocation is aimed at addressing issues which inhibit the provision of quality education. The Budget allocation will never be adequate, but Honourable Minister, Honourable Deputy Minister and the staff, the targets which will be achieved will surely become stepping stones for reaching greater heights in our aim to provide quality education to the Nation and in establishing a knowledge-based society by 2030.

I, therefore, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, want to support Vote 10.

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HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

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

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the Honourable Minister has, in my opinion, very succinctly and adequately identified the challenges facing us, so I am not going to repeat them and the rest of the page has been covered by others. I want to concentrate on two core sentences in his presentation.

“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”, which I can only wholeheartedly agree with. The Minister stated: “49% of Grade 10 learners in 2010 were not able to proceed to Grade 11, while of the 19,917 Grade 12 learners, only 3,656 qualified for admission to tertiary institutions. That leaves us with approximately 32,000 unqualified and unemployed young people annually.”

Looking at the Vote for vocational education and training, first I wish to commend to the Minister for reintroducing, apart from the pre-primary education, the technical subjects in schools. I think this will prepare the students for possible vocational training and education in future. Looking at the vocational training Vote, it is said that this allocation, which has already been increased by 39.12%, will benefit 9,500 trainees enrolled in the current year and if we look at the figure which I mentioned just now of 32,000 annually, I am aware of the additional vocational training centres that are going to be introduced, but concurring with Honourable Ben Ulenga, we should do this faster and with much more financing of the Education Ministry, even if it is already receiving the biggest chunk.

Honourable Minister, I wish to commend you for looking at the establishment of the Industry Skills Committee because that also answers the challenge that was raised by Honourable Makgone. The partnership which is mentioned in your statement with employers, exploring on-the-job training is also an option. I think these are most important considerations which should be put into practice as soon as possible.

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HON DR ANKAMA**

I have also seen the lack of qualified and experienced vocational instructors with a strong industry background which may be hampering the expansion of this development and I hope that the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration will be sympathetic to allow these people to come in and transfer their skills to those people to be trained.

I am also again concurring with my Honourable Colleague here in being very optimistic about what is presented here for us today. As they say in speeches that are being printed, like this one, we are going to check the action on delivery and then talk again next year.

Congratulations, Honourable Minister.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you very much. Yes, commendations to Dr Iyambo and Dr Namwandi, respectively, for the good work and that you started to facelift the plight of education. I want to start off with unemployed teachers and I have seen them on the streets, there are many of them. It is perhaps high time that we should start putting the numbers together to determine how many of them are there.

I would basically like to start on the promotion of teachers. We spoke about ethics and absenteeism, as well as lack of commitment. The promotion of teachers should be based on their skills and they should be assessed on production. At the end of Grade 10 or 12, you should be able to assess the teachers on how many learners were able to pass, how many As, Bs and Cs have they produced and not just because they have been in the system for too long. Sometimes the promotion of teachers is done somewhere locally. I have seen a lot of in-fighting on the promotion of teachers and we usually promote teachers who are useless. Promote them based on their performance, the number of As and Bs they have produced.

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HON DR ANKAMA**

I would also like to touch slightly on tertiary education. I was reliably informed, and I tend to agree, that there are specific lecturers at institutions such as UNAM who are deliberately failing students to advance to the next level. If the pass mark is 50, they would put the learner at 49 or 48 and I understand it is a continuing process. This should be investigated just to probe whether this is indeed true or not. It looks like a number of students are being dropped deliberately.

Also the students support services from the Ministry should be looked at seriously and the procurement system, not only necessarily for the Ministry of Education but other Ministries as well, should be directed to benefit the communities. The Minister mentioned the beds that are being made locally, but maize-meal, mahangu-meal and the likes should also be procured locally so that we use our money for our people.

In the past when we attended school there used to be what they called hand craft, where learners used to produce. Why can the vocational training centres and all other training institutions not produce for the communities? Let them produce and then the community buys. The institutions will then pick up financially and they will also sharpen up the skills of these learners. Once they have graduated, they do not necessarily have to go and look for jobs, they can create jobs for themselves and others.

Lastly I would like to touch on the issue regarding absenteeism and tardiness. If a teacher comes to school late, deduct some money from his or her salary. If he or she is late three times per week, deduct N\$100 or N\$300. Then you will see them complaining that, "*you are taking my money*" and you will say, "*Yes, you are taking our time.*" That is the only way. We should treat them the way they are treating learners. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask a question? Honourable Chief, should that only apply to the teachers or what about the Members here? Some are only

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HON LIMBO**

here only two minutes and then they go. Can that suggestion also apply here?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: When I addressed staff members at the Government Garage last Friday, I said that if somebody comes late every day, simply deduct money. For every day they come late you do the same. (Intervention)

HON ULENGA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Ankama, you are really now talking and coming to the point, but I think you did not understand the question put to you by Comrade Iilonga. What about Ministers who are rarely here, like those empty chairs? I see the others are not here, but I am dealing with Ministers.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: What we are saying is that these are high offices, they have great responsibilities and they must be required somewhere else, but we have a tendency where somebody's duty is that specific work and every time you come to the office, you find this person's jacket there. "*Where is the person?*" Apparently every day the person is sick, if they are not sick they are in the toilet. If the person is working in the toilet, then the toilet should pay that person, not the Government. What I am saying is that we should deduct the money from people who do not come to work. I thank you and I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. May I call upon Honourable Limbo, please?

HON LIMBO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to join those who congratulated Dr Iyambo and Dr Namwandi and the entire team of Education for the work well done. I just want to say that yes, they have been doing a wonderful

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HON LIMBO**

job, but there are still a few people who are letting them down. For example, you find many teachers in the Regions commute to schools and by the time they reach the school it would be very late and the kids are there without a teacher. You also find them in the shops at month-end while the learners are left alone. This is a serious situation.

Before Independence and immediately after Independence Caprivi had a very good pass rate, but the situation deteriorated because some of our teachers and inspectors are not serious. This is the reality whether you like it or not. Those are the people who are going to let the Minister down, because the leaders at national level are making all efforts but there at the grassroots level some of the people are putting the gears in reverse. (Interjection) I can take you to one of the schools, you will be shocked, Right Honourable Prime Minister.

Honourable Swartz mentioned the scenario where one teacher has to teach two grades simultaneously, and these are Grades 1 and 2. With Grade 1 you really need to put in great efforts for this child to be able to learn, but if the teacher is on a topic for Grade 1 and then to Grade 2, this child will at the end of the day not know what was said. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question? Do you know that multi-grade teaching is an accepted practice in small rural schools and some of us actually went through that system?

HON LIMBO: Honourable Prime Minister, it might be an accepted practice, but if I take you to this school and the teacher I am referring to, you will believe what I am saying. I am not trying to discredit the person, but there is nothing going on there. I am referring to a specific school which is very close to my village and I know what I am talking about. Whether it is accepted or not these children are being left behind while other kids are progressing.

I do not want to waste time, as I said already, I support Vote 10 and more funds need to be given if ever it is found one day. Thank you very much.

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HON MUSHELENGA**

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to address myself to the issue of quality education, first starting with the appointment of teachers.

There is a new trend of school boards appointing teachers. While this may be working in urban centres, I have a problem with school boards appointing teachers in rural areas, knowing the composition of these school boards. You cannot interview a person for a job which you yourself are not familiar with. In urban centres it works differently. For example, I remember when I was serving on Committees, we found at one school here where at least members of the school board know what they expect from teachers to teach their children, that he was given a question paper of the previous year for the grade that he wants to teach, but he failed and he could not be appointed. However, in the rural areas the principals are manipulating the school boards to appoint teachers who are not really the best candidates.

Another issue is the bush allowance. I have mixed feeling about this bush allowance for teachers to go to rural areas. Teaching is the only occupation in Namibia where people do not get promoted if they have proved themselves capable, but only when they improve their education qualifications are they promoted to the next level. It is one thing to say we are paying a bush allowance to attract teachers with qualifications, but I want this at least to be linked to performance because it does not help us to pay bush allowance to teachers just because they are qualified in terms of education, yet the pass rate is not improving. I want the Ministry to link the bush allowance to performance rather than simply to qualifications, because some teachers are really doing very well. Maybe it is time that we think of professional grading as happens in other Ministries.

Just recently there was an award ceremony where a principal of a school, who was also teaching, had the best pass rate. At times he attained a

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HON MUSHELENGA**

100% pass rate in Mathematics. One would not want to lose such a teacher. Of course, they would go for greener pastures when the opportunities arise, but we would want these teachers to teach and be compensated and be considered in terms of grading.

I also want the schools to have the concept of guest teachers at their schools. When I was a high school learner the Ministry used to send some subject advisors who would come and present a lesson for a day or so and it was really helpful because sometimes some of these people would revise a lesson and it served as an eye-opener to even learners that we knew were not doing well. That is why tertiary institutions have this concept of inviting guest lecturers who are experts in certain fields to come and present a lecture for a day. I think our schools should also look at that concept of guest teachers, either using their own resources from the Ministry, especially subject advisors, or even Members of Parliament. I do know of ones who would do this successfully.

The other issue I want to talk about is not really related to quality teaching but to classrooms. I know the Ministry was given N\$80 million from the Contingency Fund. Some schools have been in existence for a long time and Honourable Kawana talked about a school of which he has been a patron. I was the patron of one school before I was even a Member of Parliament. These kids were taught under a tree and I campaigned for funds and I got about N\$50,000 to build classrooms, but it was not enough. I thought that when the Ministry establishes a school they would at least have a plan that at least within the next 2 years classrooms will be constructed. I am talking of more than 8 years that a school was established and no classrooms were built, which is an undesirable state of affairs.

I want to address tertiary education. There is this merger of the College of Education with the University of Namibia and we are told that lecturers who were at the college would be required to have minimum qualifications to teach at the university. I do not know how the university has implemented this in practice, because I, for one, am not in support of people taking shortcuts to enter the academic community. People who have been lecturing at the colleges are not academics in the real sense of

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HON SCHLETTWEIN

the word, because an academic is someone who does research, who produces academic papers and not just to stand in front of students. That is more or less like a teacher. I have a problem with such people being wheel-chaired into an academic community given their track record and their qualifications. I think because these people currently are Civil Servants, all of them should apply in order to enter the university, so that they are interviewed just like any other person and only to enter the academic community if they are qualified. Otherwise they should be redeployed elsewhere in the Civil Service. With these few words, I support the Vote.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, thank you for giving me the Floor. I join other speakers in congratulating Honourable Dr Iyambo and Honourable Dr Namwandi for their enthusiasm. I think it is inspiring to see how two political leaders tackle a very difficult job.

Comrade Deputy Chair, I want to be brief, I have three principle points. The first talks to financing. We have two huge problems with Education. One is the amount of money that they need and the second one is the quality of spending and when I compare Namibia's performance in education with neighbouring countries, we find ourselves in a very nasty corner of the graph. We are the second-highest spender per capita, but we are also the second-lowest performer in terms of outcome. I think the challenge, as the Honourable Minister very rightly acknowledges in his speech on page 2, is that the return on our investment or the outcomes are far from what the taxpayer and the Nation legitimately can expect. Therefore, the big challenge is that yes, we have to fund education better because we are a people-centred Government, we are a people-centred Party, our biggest asset is our people, so we should not save money on our people, but we must always make sure that we get the bang for the buck.

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HON SCHLETTWEIN

I am very happy that the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education have jointly engaged in an expenditure review programme where we looked at whether the buck actually finds the target it is intended for and I think we are aware that that is not always the case. A number of speakers indicated that and a simple example is illustrating the point:

In the Region where we spend the highest *per capita*, the passing rate is the second-lowest of all the Regions. In the Region where the spending *per capita* is the lowest, the passing rate is the highest. So, there is no correlation between how much money we throw at the problem and what the outcome is. That is an indication that the quality of spending is at least equally as big a problem than the amount that we have.

I think the problem in quality of spending is both in terms of quality and in terms of ... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Schlettwein a question? Are you aware that in those Regions where the *per capita* spending is low it is because there are not so many children in hostels, which one Honourable Member here is admitting that he wants to change the culture there and put people in hostels?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Right Honourable Prime Minister, you are right, but I think the statistics that I have seen talk to spending at school and not other related spending, but I do agree that there are Regions that are more expensive to get the same outcome. That point is taken.

As I said, I think the disparities are both in quality and equitability of spending, but I think I rest my point here.

The second point I want to make is related to an outcome of a big study that was done with regard to European education systems, the so-called PESA Study and one of the serious findings they had, and it is not rocket science, is related to language proficiency. You can only understand

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HON SHIFETA**

Mathematics as well as you can handle the language it is taught in. If I look at the Minister's speech and I see that for the English proficiency programme there is only N\$5 million in the Budget, then I am extremely worried because I think, to put it simple, you can sit on a soft chair in front of a teak table and you can sit on a shiny toilet, if you cannot speak English, you will never learn Mathematics. So, we must make sure that we spend the money where the impact is the biggest and I, for one, plead with the Ministry to give more attention to English proficiency for teachers, because you can only communicate, teach and make pupils understand as well as you yourself speak the language.

The last point is nowhere in the speech that it is still an important point which we have made on a number of occasions and that is the omission of sports in the curricula. I think the old saying that a healthy mind is housed in a healthy body is very, very true. Sport is one of the things that teach children about fair play, about teamwork, about socialising. It brings parents to the schools, it brings the school into the centre of a community but we are not taking it seriously and I think we have made a mistake to exclude sports from the formal teaching of kids. I want to appeal to the Ministry to consider whether sports or physical education cannot be reintroduced as a formal subject that is to be taught. I think we are seeing the consequences of that. We had Frank Fredericks, he came and he is gone. Look at soccer and rugby, look at anything that we are doing. We are not doing so well now and we were so proud about our achievements that we had on the sport fields of this world. Sport is a very important ingredient in the education of a child. With that last point I rest my case and I support the Vote.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,
SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have four points. One is that I think the Ministry should consider supplementary examinations for Grade 10 and 12. I am saying so because a learner who failed, for instance, only English and got 29 or 30 points, has to go to NAMCOL a whole year and waste that whole year. Even those learners who achieved at least 20 points can go for supplementary examination on two subjects in January

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HON SHIFETA**

and they can still go to institutions of higher learning, rather than attending NAMCOL for a whole year just because they failed one or two subjects. I think we should consider introducing that supplementary examination.

The Minister talked about the intake capacity of tertiary institutions, which is a very welcome move, because we need to have vocational training centres in all Regions and have to increase their intake capacity so that learners who could not make it in Grade 10 are accommodated. If a person opted for technical education and there is no way to coerce that person to do Grade 12 alone, that person can do this technical course concurrently with doing Grade 12. That person can do two subjects this year, another in the second year and another two in the third year. That would encourage young people to opt for technical education.

One of the contributing factors to the failure rate is discipline and what contributes to the lack of discipline amongst young people is the environment in which they find themselves. The environment is not conducive to the learning process, especially if you compare the results of a school in a remote area and a school here in the city. The schools in rural areas perform far better than schools in the urban areas where one would think they have many facilities and qualified teachers. There are so many contributing factors in the urban areas because it is so polluted, with so many shebeens and bars and students are roaming around, while in the rural areas the environment is clean and it is quiet. Therefore, we have to see how we can address this point of discipline and also school management. Our approach should be that how do we make our environment clean and we have to apply some rules which are applicable to the communities themselves, that if you want our children to learn, the environment should be conducive. The learners do not have shebeens; they do not have cuca shops. It is the parents who allow them to go to cuca shops. With these few remarks I support Vote 10.

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

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HON LUCAS / HON IILONGA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much for the Floor, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have a remark to make and an appeal to the Minister.

I rise to support Vote 10 and to congratulate the Minister and his Deputy for their commitment and dedication to hard work, as per the SWAPO Party Government principle. As they always say, education is a passport to a decent living, Honourable Minister and your Deputy, your appointment to this very important Ministry has brought hope in the lives of many young Namibians and your familiarisation tour to the Regions has made a discovery of teachers who were trained in Zimbabwe.

Honourable Minister I would like to make a serious appeal for that matter. The issue of Regional Directors of Education needs to be addressed seriously and I suggest that these Directors be rotated in different Regions in order to test their leadership abilities and enhance their supervisory role. I am requesting this because experience has shown that Directors who have stayed in one Region for a long period, instead of becoming part of the solution, have become part of the problem. This is a serious appeal I am making to the Minister of Education and I hope my plea will enjoy favourable consideration by the relevant institution. With these few remarks I support Vote 10 and I thank you.

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

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND
FORESTRY:** Comrade Deputy Chair, I rise to support Vote 10 and salutations have already been made by all those who spoke before me.

As we are sitting here, I am the 22nd person to participate and only 11 Comrades mentioned literacy in passing. No one else said anything about NAMCOL. I want to thank the Ministry for the programme mentioned on page 11, namely Adult Education, because the Region most affected is my Region, Kunene. I want to give my full support to the leaders assigned so that we encourage our elderly to attend those literacy programmes.

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HON IILONGA**

Then I want to deal with the Namibia College of Open Learning mentioned on page 12. The NTA has introduced a bridging course to enable the NAMCOL adult learners to have access to vocational training centres or institutions of higher learning. Comrade Chair, it is time that Namibians realise the efforts we made to bring ourselves where we are now, but our achievements as Members of Parliament are not recognised. It is not even measured that this is a bridging course which can enable me to go to university. We never used to calculate with calculators and I can calculate faster than the one with a calculator. It is time that our achievements are recognised. We make laws here, we debate laws, and we find loopholes. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I just want to ask a small question. The Budget of Education is N\$8.6 billion and if we round it up, it is N\$9 billion. How many millions are those?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: That is simple, you must just know how many millions in one billion and you have the answer.

When people say old-age is a problem in the schools, I say it is not true because in 1969 when I was in junior school in Nakayale, we were so lucky to have elderly people to look after us and discipline had nothing to do with age. If that were so, the Honourable Member here would not be disciplined, because age means I am older than her. The Minister could even have been my child but I respect them. Please, Honourable Minister, we are not reinventing the wheel here. We found 11 ethnic education sectors here and it was not easy. Make sure that next year the outcome is different, and then we will continue to say you are doing good work. Thank you very much.

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

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HON KAPIA**

HON KAPIA: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, I want to thank and congratulate the Minister and Deputy Minister of Education and to appeal that the Grade 12 examination results be made available in December so that the students have ample time to register at the university or Polytechnic. There is always a crisis with the registration at the institutions and this year it was worse. People are running around, some have to come to Windhoek and then back to the Regions and the time was too short because the learners obtained their results very close to the time of registration.

I want to touch on vocational training centres and say that they are not really up to standard. You cannot compare a graduate from Okakarara or Valombola with a graduate from NIMT, they are totally different but they have learned the same plumbing or motor mechanics. When you give the person a task at your home, you again have to hire another person to redo what this one did. Comrade Minister, I know you are pushing primary and secondary education very hard, but can you please devote some of your energies to the vocational training centres to shape them?

I also want to thank you for your continuous support to the Community Skills Development Centres and I want you to give more attention in terms of resources and to the manner they can be channelled through NTA and other institutions. These COSDECs can help where NAMCOL does not have centres, particularly in ICT programmes, because everybody in this country needs to understand ICT, which is very important and key to development. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? I heard so much about COSDEC and I do not doubt its effectiveness, but I want to know, how many COSDEC centres are there and why they are so limited? I have not heard about others, except the one in Ondangwa. Are there other COSDEC centres and where are they and why are they not in all the Regions of the country?

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HON KAPIA: The COSDECs are community initiatives, supported by Government and the private sector. There are currently 7 centres throughout the country and outreach programmes to other areas. They are in Tsumeb, Rundu, Ondangwa, Otjiwarongo, Swakopmund, Opuwo, Omaruru, Keetmanshoop, and Gobabis. These ones are really as a result of the efforts made by the communities of these given areas who identified a place and requested to have a centre there. I urge the Ministry to continue its support and commitment to the Namibian people to visit these COSDEC centres and emulate the example and establish these centres in their respective villages and towns. Then they will be assisted by the Foundation. It is really community centres that provide training programmes and different modules of vocational training. The idea is to promote entrepreneurial skills among the communities and to encourage our communities who have talents and skills to acquire certificates in order to participate in the mainstream of the Namibian economy.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I want to thank the Honourable Minister for visiting the schools, but I really want to urge the Ministry to do away with circuit inspectors, because the Minister now has to inspect schools, which is supposed to be the work of the circuit inspectors. What are they doing? What the Minister found at the schools was supposed to be known to the circuit inspectors. Also most of the principals and teachers need to be shaken and identified whether they should be demoted to be ordinary teachers or be transferred from one school to another and to test them whether they are capable of running and managing schools. Thank you very much.

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

HON KAVETUNA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I wholeheartedly support this Vote, which is a very important Vote because the basis of our existence is within education.

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Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I have three issues that I would like to raise, the first one being on pre-primary education. I know that the Ministry would like to address the issue of pre-primary education, but the schools do not have the capacity to accommodate every little child who is to be prepared for school. At some places you would see only two schools have classes for pre-primary and I would like to suggest that within this Budget we should capacitate the community pre-primary schools and also formalise the curriculum.

The second issue is on private schools. Last year I raised the same issue when I was contributing to the Budget, but unfortunately I was wrongly understood. What I was saying is not about the money, because when people are sending their children to private schools, it is an issue of choice and that you are prepared to pay for that. What I was trying to ask is that if a school is teaching children Satanism in this country, are we going to allow it? Who is monitoring what the private schools are teaching the children? There are schools here in Windhoek where you would find that the children from Grade 1 up to Grade 7 are taught the same things. Every grade, the book is the same. Who is inspecting these schools? There needs to be someone inspecting these schools so that we can regulate them. You can ask me about that school, I will show it to you tomorrow.

My last point is on teenage pregnancy. I saw that the Minister talked about that and punishment, but what I am trying to find out is that while the policy allows the girl to attend school while pregnant, who is responsible to look after that girl, because pregnancy can have many complications? Who will play the role of nurse when anything happens at school? Is the burden again on the teacher or is there any provision in this Budget that where there is a pregnant girl, there will be a nurse on standby. Otherwise it can become a big issue that lives are lost at school because there was nobody to assist. When you are implementing policies of this nature, you must make sure that there is provision for emergencies and to prevent situations that we cannot take control of. I thank you very much and I support the Vote.

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HON NAMBAHU**

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I also want to support the efforts and the commitment of the Comrades, but I only have two issues. One of them is on the training and orientation of the School boards. I see these people naming schools and hostels after people that they do not have any information about, simply because this person has a business, hence we are going to name this block after him. When this person after some years passes on, are you going to say, "*I named this block after Tommy Nambahu because he had a business?*" When one suggests that they name the school after a hero, it is said that person will not be in a position to contribute. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask Honourable Nambahu a question? Honourable Nambahu, are you aware that the schools are so creative these days and I saw even the Polytechnic is following the same trend now that they ask you to be the patron, not because they love you, but they want you to raise funds for them. They name a classroom after you, they want to come and inaugurate it so that you can give something to the school. That demonstrates that the schools need extra support than what they get from the Government. That is why they have the school fees which the Honourable Member, president-in-waiting, does not want. This is an economic issue.

HON MAAMBERUA: On a Point of Information. The president-in-waiting is not against school development funds, as purported by the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: The point I am trying to make is that it should not be based on economic considerations; you must be in a position to explain to the kids that this person was maybe a hero during the liberation struggle. (Intervention)

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HON NAMBAHU

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: On a Point of Information. I think what the Right Honourable Prime Minister has said is correct. I have experience, there are so many blocks named after me and some businessmen. We met there and the businessman, because he had the means, he bought all the bricks and construction materials to build a new block and the one I was given was in bad shape, no paint, nothing. This was done just for me to paint it and that one to construct a new block.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I can imagine that the various schools up and down the Republic of Namibia are hearing the news and they are going to be approaching all Members of Parliament.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I would like to have a school named after someone for his heroic deeds, but at the moment there is nothing in that direction.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Honourable Nambahu, I am really trying to follow what you are saying. At one time I was approached by a school that wanted to name their school after me and I said I have no objection, but can you explain to me in writing why you want to name that school after me and then I will look at it and understand it because it must have a meaning. They never came back up to now.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: That is actually my point. If they cannot even do that, then they cannot explain to the kids why it is done and some direction should really go into this.

Lastly, I want the two Comrades to look at producing rounded students, a multi-faceted person who is not developed in a holistic approach. I have attended some of the school parades in the morning and nothing takes place in terms of orientation. The kids are told, you are going to that

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class, you are going to that block and that is it. We are what we are not by accident, there were people who made it a point that you are orientated in this and maybe this is the example the other Colleagues were talking about, of a Psychologist or Social Worker, someone telling you about the news in the world, someone taking care of you in terms of physical education, sports-wise, so that you are an integrated and well-rounded individual. I would like our education to also look at that aspect.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: May I ask the Honourable Minister to respond to some of the specific questions.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First I would like to thank the Honourable Members for their very clear support, for their wealth of advice, the comments made and the questions posed.

The Honourable Deputy Minister was listening very carefully, a few of the members of the management and experts of the Ministry of Education are here to assist us as well and so many educationalists are present in this Chamber. Before I proceed, I would like to again humble myself with a sense of respect to recognise again the splendid work done by the Right Honourable Prime Minister as our first Minister of Education as well as Honourable Mutorwa and Honourable Mbumba and all the Deputy Ministers and Permanent Secretaries for a splendid job they have done in education, a mammoth task indeed. Our task is that now we have passed on the baton and it is a baton to run with responsibly and firmly and, of course, always remembering what the Colleagues have done when they laid a firm foundation.

Our task is to continue where they have ended, of course doing it differently because of different times and different circumstances, but continuing in their footsteps. We will not be able to fit in their shoes unless we put some sand or papers in there, but I always want the Nation to recognise those initial steps for us to establish our education in a free

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Namibia.

I also want to say that we, irrespective of our political orientations, must own education. That must be number two when we are dealing with education.

For now I would like to answer your questions and I would like, as a sign of respect, not to downplay any Member of Parliament, to say that you were all very clear in your presentations and I would like to answer on your questions or comments.

For the last 12 months the Deputy Minister and I have visited the Regions. You have seen us but there were so many times you have not seen us. We are in direct contact with learners, we are talking to them on a daily basis, the teachers, school principals and parents and we can claim we have at least 1% of what is really happening on the ground and we will get closer to 100% as time goes on.

I am starting with the 4 questions by *Honourable Simataa* on the work ethics, accountability, absenteeism as well as the lack of parental involvement. With respect to the work ethics, we must get this right, but the majority of our teachers, school principals and inspectors are wonderful people doing an excellent job under difficult circumstances and many of them love the calling of education. We must continue applauding those and tell them they are doing a wonderful job. There should always be a sense of saying many of you are doing a wonderful job. That is what the Right Honourable Prime Minister was saying over the weekend at that prize-giving ceremony, we must continue because many of our teachers just need to be assisted. However, we must continue elevating the work ethics of some of our school principals who are letting down the Namibian child and who are really not fit to be school principals. I am not saying it to you here, I have been saying it to those who are known that they are not doing well directly in their faces.

The same goes for our teachers. Many of our teachers, young and old, are doing a wonderful job, but then there are the 1% who are maybe tarnishing the image and it is where we need to concentrate our efforts and

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energy to assist them as Members of Parliament. If education fails we should always say that the National Assembly has failed the Namibian child, not Iyambo, not David. That is why I am so happy to see that the Colleagues are so serious and incisive in asking questions and making comments.

The majority of Inspectors are professionals doing an excellent job, but some are letting us down and those we want to encourage improving their work ethics. The same thing is with accountability which is a problem across the Public Service, but not all of them. It is our responsibility to inculcate that accountability and what we mean exactly, because sometimes we know the word "*accountability*" but we do not say what exactly we mean by accountability.

On the issue of absenteeism, learners are sending me SMSs to tell me that they have not been taught for the last two weeks. Sometimes you want to argue, I go to the village and face some school principals and you find the school principal because I have all the information from a child. Some school principals just cry because I tell them I have the information and when you ask them what happened, they try to defend and when I call the majority of the learners in front of the school principal, the learners will say, "*we have not been taught for the last two weeks.*" Absenteeism at our schools is a reality and we must never say it is not true. It is true when you go and see what is happening on the ground. However, 90% of the teachers are always there. It is the responsibility of the Members of Parliament to inculcate those values we are seeing as a problem.

With respect to the question of doctor's certificates and whether we are working together, yes, we have the situation that you find somebody always has a doctor's certificate and we want to ask the doctors what is really happening.

The lack of parental involvement is true. Parents are the primary teachers and are supposed to be involved. It is true that they mainly come there at the beginning of the year when they drop the children. We say it is for the parents to inculcate values of discipline, but your responsibility as teachers is to teach because the responsibility of the teacher is to make

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sure that the child passes that subject, but in terms of the values, those are for the parents. We the parents should also play our responsibilities and it is our responsibility wherever we are, be it the churches, be it at a business, to encourage the parents to play their part. Many parents are saying it is for them to bring the child to school and the teacher takes charge from there, but we are saying assist also.

We are saying too many of the parents should look at the textbooks and what the children are writing and many of our parents do not understand what is written, what is Mathematics of Grade 10. Many parents have not gone to Grade 1, how do we expect them to supervise? We have to inculcate the values of discipline and hard work in our children and the teachers should teach and teach well. I thank you, my brother Simataa, for what you have just said.

Honourable Kazenambo sent me a note that I should answer him in his absence. He said that the children of the liberation struggle are discriminated against or there is a stigmatisation. There is the issue of natural justice and when the country became free, one of the first issues we wanted to rectify is the injustices and we can also perpetuate not that injustice. If there are specific cases where a child of the liberation struggle was discriminated against, I would like to know exactly what that discrimination was about. I want concrete evidence.

If you look at our children who have been given scholarships to study in Cuba, Russia and South Africa, the majority of them are children of the liberation struggle. We should also say that those who were in the country are also part of those in Cuba and Russia. Many of the children are missing out in terms of these loans as the information is not shared with them. Many of the children in the Kunene Region are not getting these loans; many of them in the Omaheke Region are not because of the lack of information. The application for a loan is supposed to be made around August, September and many of these children are coming only now. The Ministry is saying that they were supposed to have done it in August or September, but some of them are orphans, some of them are from vulnerable houses, some of them have passed Grade 12 with close to 100% in their subjects, meaning that they qualify. Their only sin is that

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they have not applied in time. We now have a small group that we are working on so that we have exemptions for those who really qualify.

However, if there is evidence of discrimination, stigmatisation, let that be given to us.

Honourable Swartz mentioned qualified teachers in rural areas. We do not want to say qualified, good teachers for rural areas or good teachers for the urban areas, but the good teachers for the whole country. I agree with the Honourable Member that what we need are qualified teachers, good teachers. The country needs these teachers but for both the rural and urban areas.

With respect to the school boards, many people have referred to the school boards. School boards are very important because it is where we are accommodating the community, the parents. It is true that many of the members of the school boards are doing a good job, but there are some school board members who are perpetrating ills in society. They are the ones who are discriminating. A school board in the Karas Region would not want a teacher from the Caprivi Region, they would say this one was not born in Tses; this one was born in Katima Mulilo. We have been condemning that and saying it should not be. However, it is not correct that school boards appoint teachers, school boards recommend the appointment of teachers and when we are appointing teachers, it is not only the school board recommending, it is a process. The Inspectors make recommendations and then the board also assists. It is true that we need induction of these school boards and we are now in the process of reviewing some of the powers of the school boards because some of them are abusing the powers given to them.

With respect to the former *Comrade Nyamu*, now from the RDP, thank you very much for your support and that you pledged to work hard in education. I want to tell the Colleagues from the RDP that education is a common responsibility, that when we go out there we do not talk about SWAPO did this, we say the country and the Namibian child needs the following. That is the language we want, the non-divisive in the area of education because it is our common responsibility. I will not attend your

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rallies but I will be listening to what you would be saying.

For us to be competitive like Singapore we need more skilled humanresources and that is why we are investing so heavily in education. There was a question whether we have Social Workers in Education or not. We do not have Social Workers, but we call them Counsellors. Social workers are part of Health and they do the same thing in terms of counselling. As a result of the problems of indiscipline, poverty and the problems of violence we experience at schools, we agree there is a need for counselling and I agree with the former Comrade.

Honourable Dingara, I thank you very much for your support. You said we need to be united around education. We the politicians can either be the breakers or the builders of a Nation and we want to work together in the area of education and that it has nothing to do with Namwandi or Iyambo, but that is something of the Nation, but we do not want anybody to be seen as pulling us down. If we make a mistake, we want you to come to us, facing us and saying that here you are doing wrong and if we are doing well, you say we are doing well. We are appealing to the Nation and to the politicians that we are there to build the country and we need the support of the politicians to be united around education, because politicians and the communities can either build or destroy what we are doing. What we want is for you to continue assisting and supporting us and advising us, telling us in our faces, "*Here you are wrong, here you correct.*"

Honourable Ueitele, you talked about the issue of mattresses and beds. You will see in the Budget that we have quite a lot for furniture, etcetera, because it is true that many of the learners still do not have chairs. We have to accept that is normal, we are a developing country; we must continue adjusting and become more of a developed country with time. The blocked toilets and maintenance, what we need to do is to maintain our schools more. In the North there may be a problem because many of the schools are submerged and that means that a lot of cracks and a lot of renovation will be required. If we allow these cracks to continue, it is going to be more costly in the long run and that is why we are now establishing an Engineering Unit in the Ministry so that we maintain the

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schools continuously. This thing of maintenance when the school is cracking up completely is quite costly and we are setting up an Engineering Unit.

On the special classes, we are making the University of Namibia the College of Education and there is a programme on special education and we have given the mandate to the University of Namibia just to work on that. The teachers who are teaching are qualified to teach fast learners and slow learners and as a teacher you are supposed to teach both the fast and the slow learners. However, those who have shortcomings here and there will be attended to in what we refer to as special classes. *On how do we assist them*, at times there are also special examinations for children who have difficulties in terms of learning.

As I said earlier on, some of the Inspectors are doing a superb job and last week I was addressing the Inspectors in no uncertain terms in Otjiwarongo, saying that many schools are not performing, many principals are not performing because they look down on the School Inspectors and the Inspectors should not just go and say hallo to the school principal but to literally inspect and demonstrate to the teacher if she is not doing well. The Inspectors have given their commitment that they are going to work very hard.

With regard to textbooks, if you go to some schools they would say they do not have textbooks and if you ask them to open the storeroom, you find the textbooks in there or you find the textbooks just thrown along there.

I was at one school last week and I was asking the school principal, "*What is this, there is no audit of which textbooks should be where.*" Last year we had N\$106 million, we bought textbooks and this year we have N\$83 million plus N\$33 million and we just hope that the publishers will have the capacity to deliver on time. We do not have so many publishers; we have to wait in a queue. You can put in the order now, but we do not have the capacity to produce those textbooks locally. However, the Government and the Parliament should be congratulated, the money is available and I do not want the issue of textbooks to be an excuse, it is more an issue of management. Some schools and also some Regions,

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including the Khomas Region have an oversupply of textbooks. In our storeroom here I found more than 4,000 textbooks and when I asked, they said they had an oversupply. When I asked why they did not give it to other Regions they said *no, it is meant for our Region*. Therefore, what Honourable Schlettwein said about the actual planning and way of running things is true and we need to look into this issue.

I am not really in the business of saying we do not have textbooks, but we have promised the Nation for the last few years that by 2013 Namibian children will not be sharing textbooks. At the moment about five children are sharing one textbook, but at one school in the Kavango Region I found 50 children sharing one textbook while the textbooks are in the storeroom, which amounts to irresponsibility. However, the good thing is that the learners will tell me to come and I will go there and say the textbooks are here.

With regard to the tenders given to small and medium enterprises, there are some of these small and medium enterprises who are doing a good job. Even though you give the tender to the bigger companies, the people who are doing the job are these small and medium enterprises and they become middlemen. Now with the building of classrooms we have deliberately decided that not even a big company or a foreign company should be given any tender to build a classroom and those classrooms which were built in the shortest time were built by small Namibian companies. All we need is just quality assurance through the Ministry of Works Inspectors to make sure that the quality is maintained. I believe in the empowerment of those small Namibian companies, they must be empowered and be assisted and we only have to make sure that there is always quality assurance.

Dr Kawana, if you go to the university the standard should be the same, they should not lower the standard, but what is happening is that for you to pass you need a minimum of 23 points, but the points required to enter university is not determined by the Ministry, it is determined by the universities. We are discussing that with the University and Polytechnic of Namibia.

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With respect to the school that Honourable Kawana helped to improve, that school is just impressive and what you have invested in that school is great and we are now going to change a lot of things through this Budget and I would like to thank you very much indeed.

Honourable Manombe-Ncube, teenage pregnancy is a serious problem. Last year 1,400 children dropped out of school because of pregnancy. Some of those were impregnated by teachers. Some of them are parents who are supposed to assist them because they travelled from other places looking for schools and these parents, business people and builders have impregnated those kids. Our policy has been more on the teachers, but now we are saying we must protect the Namibian child, it cannot be left to a policy, it must be a law. If you as a teacher impregnate a child of fourteen years old, you should be punished. At the moment it is a joke, if a child is impregnated at school, the teacher will just move away from that school to another school and we want to make a law and that is what David and Abraham have been saying.

With respect to the issue of sex education, we now have a subject called Life Skills which discusses those issues. We also have reproductive health as part as the curriculum which deals with sex education.

I discussed the issue of access in terms of inclusive education earlier on and through the University of Namibia we are going to have sign language included as part of the curriculum. This issue of inclusive education is very serious and we have already started working on that. We are keen to work closely with you, Honourable Member, to take care of the needs of all members of our society.

Honourable Ulenga, the President of CoD, thank you very much indeed for your support. That is exactly what we need; we need Members of Parliament to talk about this unifying sector. When we talk about it, we should not even hide our emotions, we should say we need change here and this is our contribution. I thank you very much.

I agree with Honourable Ulenga when he says we should hurry up with the pre-primary sector and I think much has been done to now start with

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pre-primary. That is why for the last few years we built classrooms for pre-primary and I want to say that if there is one danger in terms of not improving our education, if we do not accelerate the pre-primary level, we will never get right the primary as well as the secondary. Many of our children do not know how to read and write and they grow up without knowing how to read and write. It is very important that we hurry up with pre-primary. We have a lot of money this time to build more classrooms and to train more teachers at that level. We need the best teachers at the pre-primary level.

On the issue of free education, the question was whether there is free education or not. This is an issue on which we, Members of Parliament, must speak the same language. Firstly, we do not request parents to contribute to the building of a classroom, that is in the Budget and that is free. The same applies to the payment of teachers; the parents do not contribute to that. As Parliament we have looked at the school development fund, saying that at the primary level we are supposed to pay only N\$250 per year and at secondary, N\$500. That is where the abuse has come in. It is not because of Parliament or the Government, but that is how the schools and the different people have now abused the system. One finds at certain schools that before a child can write examinations, that person should pay and if they are going to go somewhere, they have to pay a big amount and you find that that child is paying more than N\$2,500 per month. We have specific schools which are doing that and that is why people are getting worried. We have decided to look carefully at this and have a study done. We will be announcing very soon what is really happening and which are these schools. Just hold your breath on that one, we are working on that.

There are bad things happening, but the strategy that was put there, building of a school, paying of teachers, buying textbooks, a wonderful strategy and then assist in terms of the school development fund if a window is broken. That was a wonderful strategy. The tragedy is the abuse by many people.

The issue of kindergartens I will leave to my Colleague, the Minister of Gender and Child Welfare. The Ministry of Education deals with the

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children from at least 5 years old, while from 0 to around 4 years is more for the Ministry of Gender. I agree with Honourable Ulenga that early childhood development is very important and we must start there if we want to build an excellent education system.

The issue of white children and black children should not happen. The Deputy Minister and I have gone to certain schools and said this school looks too black; this school looks too white because there is not even a black child there. I think the time has come after 21 years to even impose something and say we do not want this. Some people still have that mentality and I agree with you that this issue of white and black should not exist after 21 years.

I agree that we need to build more libraries if we want to promote a reading culture in the country, because many Namibians do not read. I think it was the first Prime Minister who said, if you want your money to be safe, put it in the middle of a book, because Namibians never read, the money will be safe.

We cannot have scientists if we do not have laboratories at an early stage and many of these kids are dropping out at the university because they never had a laboratory at secondary school and I agree with you, Honourable Ulenga, there is a need for that and there is money for Laboratories.

Honourable Makgone, I thank you very much for your support. One finds taps at some schools leaking and the electricity on and I agree with you on the wastage. The Education Forums are there and some of them are working, some not and we need to revive them. The intention with the school boards was a wise idea, but some of them are working while others are just not working.

Honourable Ndaitwah, thank you very much indeed. You might have heard that the Honourable Minister said she is happy that I am here and I want to reveal the secret to what she said. When I was at school just before Independence when she was coming back, I was offered to go and do a PhD and I said I do not want to stay, people are going home, I want

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to go and enjoy myself. She called me at the airport, she said, “*my son, you are going to stay and stay put here.*” When I came back, she said, “*yes, I told you*” and then she was saying she wants to beat me with *Onghandeka*. I thank you very much, Mom. That is what happened.

On the quality of education I think we should contextualise. Many people are just saying we want quality, quality and when you ask what quality is, there is not a specific thing of quality. Quality means because you have textbooks, it means because you have a good infrastructure, it is the whole environment and then we have to build this environment to have this quality.

On the issue that the standard of teachers coming from the College of Education is lower, the university will upgrade and improve those who are going to lecture. You do not fire them; you build up their capacity gradually.

Teachers have complained that they are doing a lot of administrative work instead of teaching. We have decided to reduce the administrative work of teachers in order that they concentrate more on teaching, but we cannot remove administrative work completely because it is part of the job description of a teacher. At school you have the principal doing one part, but you also have the heads of department and the teachers and they should share.

Adult Education is doing well in terms of literacy in the country. 86% of Namibians know how to read and write and I think we are doing well. We just need to improve so that we can say a 100% of Namibians know how to read and write.

Honourable Maamberua from the oldest Political Party, I thank you very much indeed. I saw you on television last night and I am happy that you recall what happened at Onyati. There are some controversies regarding hostels, we do not seem to speak the same language as Members of Parliament. I am very clear on where we stand with hostels, but I may have some reservations of my own in terms of hostels. We have money

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for hostels and I will express myself at an appropriate time on the issue of hostels.

As for free higher education, I spoke earlier on about primary and secondary education, the Constitution, our guiding document, is very clear in terms of primary education and children up to the age of sixteen, free and compulsory education. The Constitution is very, very silent in terms of higher education, whether it should be free or not free. That is left to us. With respect to the higher education that the Ministry of Finance just mentioned, I think we should appreciate what the Government is doing. This year we are giving the university more than N\$700 million as part of their Capital Budget and part of their operational Budget. The same is with the Polytechnic, more than N\$300 million. We have N\$296 million for loans to students.

The fees that are being paid differ. People are paying more at the Polytechnic than at the university. They set those fees. We have had extensive consultations with the Vice-Chancellor of the University and the Director and we questioned what is happening, because parents and the learners are complaining that it has become unaffordable. The reality is that for some of the children it has become unaffordable, but in terms of whether our higher education in Namibia is more expensive in the Region is not true. Our higher education in terms of the fees is the cheapest compared to South Africa, Botswana, and other countries and let me give an example:

If you are studying Accounting, at UNAM the fee per annum is around N\$11,000, whereas at Rhodes University it is 26,000, at Stellenbosch University it is 21,000, at Botswana University 17,000, Zambia 16,000, in Pretoria 21,000, in the Free State 21,000, at Wits University, 29,000. If you look at Arts, Economics, Accounting, Science, Agriculture, the University of Namibia and the Polytechnic become cheaper, but of course, we do not want to compare our economy with the Botswana economy, but what we are saying is not true, some learners have come crying that they cannot afford, they are dropping out because it is not affordable. We are saying, what more can we do? We are giving these loans, what more can we do? Can our economy cope with such a big Budget? However, as a

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country we should not dismiss it completely, we should continue the dialogue to see what is possible, but much has been done in terms of infrastructure, operations as well as in terms of scholarships.

With respect to the issue of some key fields, yes, I was saying that engineering here in Namibia is more expensive than Arts if you go to the University or the Polytechnic.

Then you were asking what role we have after giving this money to the university and the Polytechnic. That is a weakness that we have found. When the Right Honourable Prime Minister gave us Mr Mocks Shivute to work with the National Council of Education, one of the immediate responsibilities is to look also at these funding formulas, the allocation of resources and before we give them more resources, we want the university and the Polytechnic to explain how they have utilised what was allocated.

Honourable Moongo, thank you very much indeed for your support. There is always confusion between what is pre-primary and what is pre-school. Pre-primary are teachers paid by the Ministry of Education, whereas the pre-school is crèches and kindergartens for children 1 to 4. Historically these people were not given salaries; it was more the parents who used to assist. Those looking after those children are now saying, *“We now have skills and all of you who are talking went under us and you cannot say we are not qualified, can we earn an income? You are giving an allowance to those who are teaching adults, why do you not give an allowance who are sitting with these little ones?”* Therefore, we are having discussions with our Colleagues from the Ministry of Gender. Your concern is well noted and it is part of our discussion.

Honourable Beukes, thank you very much indeed. I want to say, Honourable Members, that I was informed that there are so many street kids in the country and I was disputing. Just go to many of the shops and you find these kids. I went there myself and asked those kids, *“why are you here?”* *“No, I am looking for food; I do not go to school.”* I went to another shop and found the same. I asked them what they were doing there and they said, *“I am selling these sweets.”* Why? *“No, my uncle told me to sell these sweets.”* The reality is that we have too many of the

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street kids not attending school and those of the farm labourers. I have discussed this with the Minister of Gender to see what we can do, we need to clean up. You find them playing snooker there in Katutura and maybe the time has come for a clean-up and to assist the parents, otherwise it is going to be a tragedy for many of these kids who are not attending school.

Honourable Von Wietersheim, I mentioned that we are worried that out of the 51% of the unemployment rate, 6,7% are young people around 18 to 22 years. Those are the kids that need to attend vocational training centres or go back to school. That is why I talked about a time-bomb. We are reintroducing technical subjects and we are working on that.

On the issue of expanding vocational training, our concern was why we have less money for vocational training while we want to create more jobs and I agree with you that we need to fast-track the development of vocational training centres. We are identifying places all over the country, working on the COSDECs and building more on that. This time we are going to open one in Eenhana as well as the one in Omaheke. The problem is that we do not have enough lecturers. We are saying we need at least 45 lecturers all over the country and we have spoken to other countries, including the Germans and Zimbabwe and we have now found a few lecturers. The country does not have enough qualified lecturers for these vocational training centres. We can say we want to build it, but we also want to build the capacity of the instructors.

I agree with on-the-job-training, we have discussed with the Vice-Chancellor of the University, the Vice-Chancellor of IUM and the Rector. We called them and we said we need to prepare the on-the-job-training programme and the internship, because we have an internship for the Public Service but we do not have internship in the Private Sector. Many of these learners want to go to a certain company to gain experience but we do not have an arrangement. We have now given it to the university, the Polytechnic and the IUM to work on a plan which we want to present to Cabinet during the course of this year.

Dr Ankama, I want to reveal his real name, many people will think it is not a real name. His real name is *Honourable Ndosha*, that is how we

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knew him as youngsters. You were asking why there are so many unemployed teachers. I have also asked myself that question. When you go to some schools, there is no teacher for this, no teacher for that, but there are unemployed teachers. However, we only want the good teachers.

On the issue of promotion of teachers when they are performing well, I take that point, we need teachers to perform, not teachers only to be employed, to be motivated, inspired and do the job as a wonderful calling. We will investigate the issue of the students at UNAM being failed deliberately and who is failing whom. I agree that procurement must be local and we must use more Namibian products.

Honourable Limbo, I thank you very much for your comments. You said some Inspectors are not serious and as I have said, we spoke to them last week and we expressed our concern on some of the Inspectors.

The *Right Honourable Prime Minister* has explained well the issue of multi-grading and I am sure that as you are going to many of the schools you are going to hear this complaint and I want you Colleagues to be able to say what is happening. The multi-grading is where you find one teacher teaching Grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 in one classroom, one teacher at the same time. That is because you have only four kids in Grade 4 and you cannot have a whole classroom for only four kids. You may find you have only 2 in Grade 5, therefore you find that teacher teaching the Grade 2 in that corner, Grade 3 in that corner. This is a universal phenomenon; the only difference is that you want qualified teachers who understand how to do it. It is a problem but it is because of the number learners at a specific time. Honourable Limbo, I understand your concern, but it is not really confusion as you said, it is more the reality and the problem is that we do not have qualified teachers for that type of work and we are working on that.

Honourable Mushelenga, thank you very much indeed. You referred to the school boards and I have already addressed that. The bush allowance is an incentive which was meant for teachers who are teaching in the deepest rural areas. It was found during a discussion with NANTU that

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many of the teachers were unwilling to go to the rural areas because there is no accommodation and they are not from there and the children there were suffering. They said, can we have a certain incentive and then an incentive was negotiated and it was called the bush allowance. However, let me hasten to say that looking after our teachers must never, ever become secondary. The condition of teachers must never, never become secondary. If you want better education, you had better look after the conditions of the teachers. They should be well looked after. We discussed the bush allowance, it is quite costly and we are challenging the teachers who are given this bush allowance to improve their performance. If you go to many countries, such as Finland, the incentive to teachers is a bonus.

The concept of guest teachers is a good one, but I want to add what the Prime Minister has been saying ten years ago. Some of you Colleagues are accountants, business people and scientists and now that they are going to teach during the holidays in the flood-stricken areas, I want some of you to volunteer and go and assist some of these schools, as long as you understand the curriculum. I want the politicians to take this up and assist the schools by being guest lecturers.

The merger is creating some problems, as the Prime Minister mentioned last night. The cost for the merger is quite high, because those who are now coming from those colleges would need an increment as they are now lecturers at the university level. There is also a danger of having a shortage of teachers within the next four years. This year we wanted about 400 teachers to go to university, but because of the cost and other problems, we only got around 100 applicants. Some of them were saying it is too expensive and that is why I am saying the cost of these people who are going to study education at university, the tuition fees and everything is going to be covered 100% in the Budget, to be able to have teachers, otherwise within 4 years Namibia will have a critical shortage of teachers.

Honourable Schlettwein, the issue of huge money and the very poor outcome is a problem. The Budget is big, but our performance in terms of the pass rate, the drop-out rate, the repetition is ugly. The value for

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money has been the question. The Ministry of Finance last year called in experts from the European Union and their Report really indicates what Honourable Schlettwein is saying, that the efficiency rate of education is very bad and that is what we as Members of Parliament need to look at and ask what we can do now. There is nothing wrong with a policy, it is more the utilisation of these resources and I hope that Report will be presented to Cabinet at an appropriate time for us to discuss and take it from there.

There are some schools that were given too much money, but less in terms of the number of output and the return on investment has not been good at some of those places.

I mentioned in my motivation that we are now going to concentrate on the English proficiency. At some schools I found teachers teaching English in Afrikaans, teaching English in Oshiwambo. It is not our language but we want quality education, so the proficiency in English is very important and the problem is with the teachers. However, I want us to applaud ourselves; many of these youngsters speak the most wonderful English, better than the Queen's English, although not all of them.

On the omission of sport subjects, I hope my Colleague Kazenambo and I can regroup and talk more about it. I am also very concerned, being a sport person myself. After school kids are just going home, no energy, nothing and I agree we need to look at the sport in schools.

Honourable Shifeta, thank you very much indeed. Supplementary examinations literally mean that if you fail Grade 10 you should be given a second chance to see whether you pass. It is a good idea, but what is the cost of printing more papers for that supplementary examination? We first need to have an analysis. This is also the view of NANTU and one of the issues we want to discuss at the national conference will be the supplementary examinations.

As I said earlier on, discipline is very bad, many schools have shebeens too close to the schools. At one point one learner sent me a message to come to their school. Then I decided to call the learner and I was told that

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at the end of the month the principal first goes to the shebeen, runs the shebeen until 09:00. Then I went there hunting and on that day the principal went to school first, so I failed. I still want to go back to that school. The issue of discipline is a problem, kids are stabbing each other with knives, and they are beating the teachers. Some school principals said they had to run away because the learners wanted to beat them up. It is our responsibility as political leaders, churches and traditional leaders to see what we can about the decay of the moral values.

Honourable Lempy Lucas mentioned the teachers trained in Zimbabwe. We have discussed this issue several times, but the problem apparently of those teachers trained in Zimbabwe was that when they went there, some were trained purely to teach Mathematics, some were trained purely to teach Science, whereas the requirement in schools is that they want somebody who is trained to teach both Science and Mathematics and that is why some of them are not being taken. We have a programme to invite all teachers who were trained in Zimbabwe and other countries to find out the reality, because we need these teachers as we have a shortage. The teachers who are teaching at NAMCOL are the teachers who are teaching at our own schools and many of them rush from the secondary school to teach at NAMCOL in the afternoon. Hence, both NAMCOL and the secondary schools are suffering and very soon we are going call all those who were trained in Zimbabwe, Cuba and other countries to see what is happening.

I want to commend the majority of our Regional Directors. Some experts who came here were saying to me that if these Regional Directors were to compete internationally, Namibia's Regional Directors would beat the majority of Directors, these are professional, and these people are experts.

If you sit down with our Regional Directors, I am so proud of them. There are maybe some of them, who have stayed at some places too long, but I want to applaud our Directors of Education, they are doing a great job and there are around 4 of them, and I am sure the Prime Minister will know who I am referring to, who would make you very proud.

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On the question whether we could rotate them and the same goes for the question whether we could rotate school principals, if a principal is doing badly here you would only transfer the problem and the school will suffer. The communities are asking why we do not remove this principal, but we are saying we will be transferring the problem. With respect to the Directors of Education, I take my hat off, those people are very committed. However, if there is one who is of particular concern to Honourable Lucas, we can consult as you might have a point that you want to put forward.

Honourable Ilonga, NAMCOL is doing well, NAMCOL is healthy and I am sure many of the senior members of society should be very proud. Many of the young learners who went to NAMCOL to repeat through that process are doing well. We just need to encourage the NAMCOL teachers to do a wonderful job.

Thank you, *Comrade Kapia*, thank you very much. You wanted to know why the Grade 12 results are not announced in December. We are working on that because previously we used to announce some results for the O-level in December and other results in the middle of January, meaning that for the results in December you can register and get scholarships. Those who get their results in January are at a disadvantage and the majority of them are mainly from the rural areas. The time has come for us to announce the results closer to each other. Our Director of Examinations is here and I am sure he is happy that you want the results at the same time.

With regard to the Okakarara and Valombola Training Centres that are not performing well, after we adjourn for the June holiday my Deputy Minister and I are going to all these vocational training centres to acquaint ourselves with what is happening and I am sure we will get a better picture.

The Inspectors are doing well, we cannot do away with them, but we have now spoken to them to increase their work.

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Honourable Kavetuna, I became worried when you mentioned the teaching of “*Satanism*”. I only want to say that I am also a Christian, but I think there are some disturbances at some schools and we want to work on that and we want your support. We do not want schools to be disturbed, let the church be arranged at an appropriate time and I will pronounce myself on that during the course of the year. We are reviewing the policy on pregnancies, as I said earlier on.

Comrade Nambahu, there are two schools of thought about the naming of schools after people. There are those who are saying I do not want a school to be named after me while I am alive and many leaders in the world had that problem. I studied in Cuba together with Nambahu and Fidel Castro that time had that difficulty. However, sometimes you cannot refuse the name of the masses; the masses would say we want the name Kawana. Therefore, we leave that to individuals. If you agree with it, they can do so, there is nothing wrong.

The last question was on the assembly. The schools have assembly in the mornings, mainly to pray, but of course, you can also say something about the values, etcetera.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I want to say that Education is our Vote, there must be ownership, we should not have any political inclination on education, let us say it is the education of a Namibian child and let us say that we assist school principals and teachers so that a Namibian child can be proud to be at school and be proud that much has been done. We have only taken the baton and continue with education. I thank you very much.

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

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 23:16 UNTIL 2011.04.20 AT 14:30

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

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

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

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 14, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27 and 31 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.

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

COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL

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

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

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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.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, 19 April 2011, Votes 014, 18 and 31 had been introduced and Vote 01, 02, 04, 05 to 010, 13, 23, 26 and 30 had been agreed to.

Vote 15 – “MINES AND ENERGY”, N\$220,055,264 is put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House, Honourable Members.

As the custodian of Namibia’s rich endowment of mineral, geological and energy resources it is my honour and privilege to present to this august House Vote 15 of the Ministry of Mines and Energy. Our Ministry promotes and regulates the development and sustainable utilisation of these resources for the benefit of all Namibians.

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

- That the output of mineral and energy production is optimized for the benefit of Namibia;
- That mineral and energy production benefits the entire Nation;

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- That the Nation is provided with an adequate supply of energy;
- That the negative impact of mineral and energy resource exploitation on the environment is minimized; and
- That the understanding of the geo-environment is enhanced.

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

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, with this in mind, it is my pleasure to table our Ministry's Budget proposal according to the programmes outlined in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. Let me address the programmes as follows:

In looking at the optimisation of the output of mineral and energy production, you will see that Mining still contributed about 15% to the GDP in the last Financial Year and export earnings were more than 50% of the National figure. We are proud of these achievements and are motivated to do more with the current Budget allocation.

Mining royalties, mining license and claim application fees contributed towards State revenue to the tune of N\$813.8 million.

The Mining Sector informed us that advanced projects (those either committed or under construction) are estimated at N\$24 billion while exploration expenditure on new deposits totalled N\$1.4 billion with 73% spending on nuclear fuel minerals licences. Employment in the

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minerals industry increased from an estimate of 5,447 by the end of 2009 to 7,136 at the end of 2010 in the services to the industry.

The Ohorongo Cement Plant with a capacity to produce 700,000 tons of cement annually is producing cement sufficient to cover the country's needs and the rest of the cement will be exported to Angola, Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of Congo, amongst other export destinations. The new project will have major positive impacts on Government's stated objectives of skills transfer, training, creating three hundred direct and two hundred indirect job opportunities as well as increased revenue to the State coffers in terms of taxes and royalties.

The Ministry's priority this year is to finalise the Minerals Bill and Minerals Policy Review in order to include recent developments in the mining industry and participation of the State Mining Company – Epangelo Mining (Pty) Ltd, to fully partake in the exploration and mineral development. To capitalise the operations of the Epangelo Mining Company, the Ministry budgeted N\$5 million and Cabinet recently approved a submission to declare uranium, copper, gold, zinc and coal as strategic minerals with a view of allowing the exclusive exploration and mining of these minerals by the State Mining Company, so that the Namibian citizens can fully reap the benefits arising from the rich endowment of our mineral resources.

The Ministry has also started the process of developing the Namibia Nuclear Fuel Cycle Policy with the assistance of the Finnish Government. We are committed to improving efficiency and accelerating service delivery and transparency in the sector. In an endeavour towards achieving stated objectives, the Ministry recently hosted a one-day information sharing workshop at Safari Hotel with mining industry stakeholders to discuss challenges, such as reporting, licences, health, safety, and small-scale mining issues. The Business Process Reengineering Report (BPR) on the reduction of backlog in the processing of Exclusive Prospecting Licenses, Mining Licences and Claims Applications was presented to the industry for their input. I can proudly report that the backlog in the processing of the applications has been considerably reduced.

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Two more small-scale mining feasibility studies were conducted in the 2010/2011 Financial Year, in addition to the 7 that were conducted in 2009/2010. Seven out of the total of 9 were found feasible for small-scale mining implementation. Although the other 2 were also found to be technically feasible, the capital cost of implementing them is high and we envisage that the Epangelo Mining Company would take them up. All these projects are aimed at value addition, economic development and promotion of self-sustainability. Equipment and machinery for implementation of the cutting and polishing facility for dimension stones were procured.

During the last Financial Year, we increased the coverage of finalised geological maps to 50% of the country, geochemical sampling to 13% of the country, and high resolution airborne geophysical surveying to an almost complete coverage of 99%. The remaining 1% cannot be flown due to the proximity to international boundaries, and the survey is therefore complete. We will now take up the complex work of interpreting the data. We will also continue with the geological mapping programme this Financial Year. The interpretation of remote sensing data plays an important role in mapping and the Ministry will, therefore, go on with acquisition of these data.

It has been proven that exploration expenditure and availability of high-resolution geophysical data are directly correlated, and our data are essential for promoting Namibian mineral resources. Mapping and geophysics are also used for infrastructural development, mineral exploration and the search for underground water, which contribute to the sustainable development of our country.

In the 2010/2011 Financial Year, we issued 452 Exclusive Prospecting Licences, 273 Mining Claims and 4 Mining Licences. The figures for EPLs and Mining Claims include the renewals.

Langer Heinrich is producing about 3,000 tons of uranium per annum and plans are underway to increase production capacity, with the discovery of new reserves to the west of the mining licence. Two new mining licences issued for Valencia and Trekkopje uranium deposits a couple of years ago

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has not yet started with production. Three applications for mining licences have been lodged and are still awaiting the Minister's approval. These are in respect of Oshikoto Gold project near Otavi, Etango Uranium project near Arandis and the Husab uranium project near Rössing. At the planned production rate, Husab will be producing nearly twice as much as Rössing and the mine is expected to produce for more than 25 years. Other uranium projects at an advanced exploration stage are Omahola, near Swakopmund and Marenica near Spitzkoppe. Applications for the 2 mining licences have not yet been lodged.

An application for a new mining licence for marine phosphates, the first of its kind, has been lodged in the last Financial Year and it will be finalised in a month or so. Phosphates are mainly used as agricultural fertiliser and this could be good news for Namibia's agricultural sector as the mining company Marine Phosphates Namibia (Pty) Ltd might be in a position to supply the local markets in future.

The Skorpion Zinc mine is left with only about 5 years before closure. However the Skorpion Mining Company, which was recently taken over by an Indian outfit called Vendata, has found a new deposit now known as Gergurup. The deposit is on Rosh Pinah's exploration licence but the two companies have an agreement in terms of which they do joint exploration on their combined exploration ground.

The global diamond sector is making a strong come-back and diamond prices increased by approximately 40% in 2010 with 20% of that increase attributed to the quality and model of Namibian diamonds.

NAMDEB and De Beers' production has increased to healthy levels again, although most of the production, which is about 65%, is from offshore as onshore resources are naturally depleting. Therefore, employment levels may never go back to where they were before the economic crisis as offshore diamond mining is mostly capital intensive.

It is projected that rough diamond market price will rise again in 2011 due to increased demand from the USA and as buying increases in India and China, although this growth would be tempered by a reduction in the

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Japanese market, albeit by a small amount. Government is also at the verge of signing the new Shareholder Agreement with De Beers.

A large portion of this year's allocation will go towards activities geared primarily for the monitoring and regulation of the industry and promotion of growth, diversification and stability of our diamond industry.

An increased number of Inspectors are deployed in the field, in Lüderitz, Oranjemund and Swakopmund and on prospecting and mining vessels where they are the eyes and ears of the Government to minimise smuggling theft and other illicit activities. However, their mobility to the operations remains a challenge.

In an effort to optimise the output of mineral and energy production, we have budgeted an amount of N\$36,119,000.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, as soon as the TESEF is finalised, we envisage having the Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) charters for the electricity, petroleum and the Mining Sectors in place to ensure that mineral and energy production benefits previous disadvantage Namibians. I am happy to announce that the Mining Charter is at an advanced stage of completion and will be gazetted as soon as all the steps are conducted.

The Ministry is also mindful of some challenges such as BEE companies fronting and licensees selling out EPLs after they have been granted, as well as transactions involving our mineral resources involving phenomenal amounts being concluded without Ministerial approval, outside the borders of Namibia. This only benefits a few with no tangible financial benefits accruing to the State Revenue coffers. The Ministry has addressed this issue in consultation with all relevant stakeholders and the Chamber of Mines to design policies that ensure that the State derives benefits from such future transactions.

The Ministry will continue to award tenders for the wiring of schools, clinics, Police stations and other Government buildings in rural areas exclusively to small and medium enterprises (contractors) residing in those areas. These measures are meant to enhance our Black Economic

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Empowerment Initiative. An amount of N\$21,170,000 has been budgeted to ensure that Mineral and Energy production benefits the Nation.

Oil and gas exploration remains a critical element to achieve security of supply of energy to the Nation and we continue to focus on these activities. Exploration and supporting activities attract huge investments resulting in substantial revenue to the State. We expect petroleum exploration in Namibia to continue growing as the markets keep recovering from the global economic meltdown and the consequent reduction in exploration capital. Other oil and gas exploration activities are continuing on an offshore Namibia as planned and we remain hopeful for a discovery of petroleum in the future. The promotion and attraction of major oil companies into Namibia at international level remains our priority while encouraging local participations in the search for oil and gas resources.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, The energy sector has been doing very well during the past year, especially by ensuring that the Nation has been adequately supplied, including the continuous supply of electricity and petroleum products. However, Brent Crude oil jumped above the \$100 a barrel mark on 31 January 2011 for the first time since 2008, adding to the pressure on the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to pump more oil. The oil price rallied late last year after US quantitative easing and a weakened dollar stimulated buying across financial markets. It has also been driven by expectations of increased fuel demand as the world's economy recovers from the recession and most recently by concerns that political unrest in Egypt and Tunisia and now Libya could spread across the oil-producing Arab world. Traders initially feared that the North African unrest could affect this crude supply route, adding a risk premium on crude oil prices which is expected to remain in place for some time. These undercurrents filtered through to the local market, negatively impacting fuel prices and leading to significant under-recoveries on pump prices.

Our Ministry shall continue with rural electrification by providing village reticulation as well as connecting all wired localities to the main electricity grid in 12 Regions of the country. The budgeted amount for

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rural electrification has now been increased to N\$56 million and N\$64 million in the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 Financial Years respectively, benefiting 74 villages in the process. Currently, an amount of N\$100 million is budgeted for rural electrification; from which N\$6 million needs to be used for solar electrification of remote schools and other public institutions, whereas the remaining N\$94 million is needed for the grid-electrification project.

The Ministry's Solar Revolving Fund (SRF) administration was handed back to the Ministry in February 2010. The Fund offers subsidised micro-financing for our communities to acquire renewable energy technologies, such as solar home systems, solar water heaters and solar systems for pumping water. During the handover, the SRF received about 1,035 list of beneficiaries, with a loan book value amounting to N\$11,050,990. In addition, it has inherited about 1,201 backlog applications amounting to more than N\$27 million. This was due to the fact that the fund was extremely marketed, resulting in a fairly high influx of new applications, the majority of which are Solar Home Systems and Solar Water Pumps.

During the transition and implementation period, the fund did not issue any loans and this process will resume once all are in place, however it is continuing recovering money from all loan beneficiaries. I actually launched this programme this morning.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the negotiations through the Permanent Joint Technical Commission (PJTC) between Angola and Namibia to develop the Baynes Hydropower Scheme are progressing well. The Kunene Consortium was appointed to conduct a full feasibility study. The Ministry has engaged NamPower to investigate the possibility of constructing a Small Hydro Plant on the Orange River and progress on this is at an advanced stage. The Anixas diesel power plant in Walvis Bay will be completed and commissioned this year to contribute 22Mw to the electricity generation.

In the 2010/2011 Financial Year, I told this august House that NamPower was busy with the construction of a HVDC line (Caprivi Link) to

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interconnect Namibia to its northern neighbours. Today I am happy to inform you that 12th November 2010 marked a significant power milestone in the history of Namibia and the SADC region when the Caprivi Link Interconnector was officially inaugurated by His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia at Katima Mulilo in the presence of three Heads of State from Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

An amount of N\$194,020,000 is required for the provision of adequate supply of energy to the Nation.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members our Ministry further increased its activities in environmental geology and all major active mines, as well as 5 of the many abandoned mines in Namibia were monitored by the Geological Survey. Our Ministry developed strategies to mitigate adverse and negative impacts on human health, in particular for Berg Aukas.

The Ministry is conducting geochemical studies to provide information to stakeholders in a number of sectors, like for example exploration and agriculture, as well as to decision-makers. The target of the project is to depict the natural geochemical distribution of elements all over Namibia, to enable delineation of geochemical anomalies, which are exceptionally high or low concentrations of certain elements. This way, environmental baselines are also established for future monitoring of developments. To analyse the samples collected, the existing geochemical laboratories at the Geological Survey require constant technical upgrading, which includes specialised training of staff.

Uranium exploration continues to boom, especially in the sensitive areas of the Central Namib with a high density of biodiversity hotspots. As I have reported last year, our Ministry took the lead to conduct the first ever in the World Strategic Environmental, Economic and Social Assessment (SEA) for a mineral province, in that case our uranium province. Our Geological Survey, in cooperation with its sister Geological Survey of Germany, has completed this assessment during 2010/2011 and is now implementing the resulting Strategic Environmental Management Plan.

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This plan includes monitoring of a number of parameters, such as water and air quality and radiation, and will safeguard sustainable development according to international best practice. The Strategic Environmental Management Plan has the full buy-in of our stakeholder partners, such as for example the Erongo Regional Council, the Mining Industry, the local municipalities and other industries who cooperate with us in the monitoring and implementation. This has become even more important with the recent launch of the Dorob National Park, as many activities are now taking place within a protected conservation area.

The industry's environmental performance is significantly improving through the implementation of the Environmental Management Act, 2007. Regrettably, we have recorded 3 mine fatalities during the first quarter of 2011 and this has prompted the whole of the Namibian mining industry to review their Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) processes, to the extent of involving external assistance from third parties and the Ministry. We have set aside an amount of N\$10,756,000 to the minimisation of the negative impact mineral/energy resource exploitation on the environment.

Comprehensive knowledge of the geo-environment is required for proper land-use planning and management. The geological aspects of new infrastructure developments, existing and new waste disposal sites, and coastal zone changes, to name but a few are monitored on a regular basis. Our geophysicists have also contributed to the application for the extension of the Namibian continental shelf in accordance with the International Law of the Sea, which was submitted to the UN during the 2010/2011 Financial Year. Further projects include the co-management of the Benguela Current Commission, the influence of geological processes to climate changes, the utilisation of geological resources and biodiversity and the international cultural aspects of our natural heritage with respect to the World Heritage Convention and the United Nations International Year of Planet Earth. In particular, the Mineral and Oil Committee of the Benguela Current Commission is planning a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem, and my Ministry is a very active participant in the committee as well as in the planned project.

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Our Ministry has also been elected by representatives of all African Geological Surveys to represent the continent on the Steering Committee of the “*OneGeology*” project, a project under the International Year aiming at compiling a digital geological map of the world and making it internet-accessible. Continued active participation in the work of the UNESCO National Committee on the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Namibia has led to the identification of additional potential World Heritage Sites for Namibia, and, considering the excellent exposure of the geological outcrops, our Ministry is heavily involved in the drafting of the relevant dossiers for submission to UNESCO.

The potential for geo-tourism has been further promoted with work to establish the first “*Geo-Park*” in Africa under the UNESCO programme for geoparks. We at the Ministry are proud to be commended for such initiatives in the international forums. These activities are supporting the tourism sector, which is so important for the Namibian economy, while at the same time creating employment opportunities. Information on geological matters is continuously provided through the Ministry’s museum and library, which attract scientists, tourists, scholars and all other Namibians alike. We, therefore, fulfil our other role in earth science education.

An amount of N\$15,096,000 will cover efforts to enhance the understanding of the geo-environment.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the application of earth sciences in supporting wealth creation, quality of life, and laying the foundation for a sustainable future is of ever-increasing importance to civil society. Geological research data plays a crucial role in both geo-scientific research and its application, to achieve the goals, which are enshrined in NDP3 and Vision 2030.

I would further like to assure Members of this House that the funds I request for appropriation to our Ministry will be utilised prudently and assure that these funds will be used to improve the quality of life of our

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Nation.

I would also like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude the Minister of Finance, her Deputy Minister, Permanent Secretary and staff for a well-constructed Budget. Furthermore, I would like to thank companies in the mining and energy sectors who had been good corporate citizens. Lastly, I would like to commend the team of the Ministry for a job well done by managing to execute more than 90% of the Development Budget. I thank you.

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

Vote 21 – “CORRECTIONAL SERVICES”, N\$442,335,395 is put for Introduction.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. Allow me to reiterate the expression of my Minister, Honourable Nangolo Mbumba, during the Introduction of Vote 06 of the Ministry of Safety and Security. We are profoundly satisfied with the manner in which the Honourable Minister of Finance, her Deputy and the staff have directly targeted the social evil of unemployment through Budget allocations. One of the indicators of success of our collective effort to create employment should be the reduction in number of crimes committed and number of lawful detentions.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, at the outset, in introducing this Vote, I would like to mention that Vote 21, Namibian Correction Service, is the last echelon in the combat formation against crime. It is the critical point of a last bit of effort of society for sentenced individuals should be transformed in law-abiding citizens.

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The Namibian Correctional Service is requesting a total Budget of N\$442,335,395 of which N\$347,527,395 are for the Operational Budget and N\$94,880,000 are for the Development Budget.

Let me now deal with the progress made on the implementation of the Budget. Last year, as you may recall, I announced that the Namibian Correctional Services has one major programme and that is Prison Reform, whose activities are safe custody, competent staff, improved infrastructure and reintegration. In this light, I would briefly reflect on some achievements made in the implementation of the Budget.

Namibian Correctional Service has successfully managed to keep in custody persons who were removed from society because they became a threat to society or the public. We did not, therefore, experience any major security incidents such as escapes or riots at prison institutions countrywide.

Our shift towards a more professionalised and mission-driven Correctional Agency has been realised with the official launch and announcement of the Offender Risk Management Correctional Strategy by His Excellency the President when he officially opened the Elizabeth Nepembe Correctional Facility on the 3rd of March 2011. The Risk Management Correctional Strategy we have developed is currently being implemented at Windhoek Central Prison and Elizabeth Nepemba Correctional Facility and will be rolled out to Hardap Prison in the course of the current year.

The health of our offender population continues to receive our special attention. In this regard, we have fostered good working relationships with the Ministry of Health and Social Services, Centre for Disease Control, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Global Fund.

Through these working relationships, HIV/AIDS Councillors are placed in most of our correctional institutions. They routinely offer counselling and rapid testing services to offenders and staff. This programme has reduced the number of offenders being referred to public hospitals and clinics for testing. Improving the health status of offenders, and reducing the incidence of disease in correctional institutions benefits not only

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offenders, but also benefits the public. It is a well-known fact that the majority of people committed to prison eventually returns to the wider society. Therefore, any diseases contracted in prison or any medical conditions made worse by poor conditions of confinement become issues of public health for the wider community when offenders are released. So good prison health is good public health.

At this juncture, allow me, Honourable Members, to express our gratitude to these critical social partners for their continued assistance.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, as you may recall, I previously informed this august House that the Namibian Correctional Service has entered into an agreement with the Polytechnic of Namibia to jointly develop a Criminal Justice programme leading to a degree course in Criminal Justice (Correctional Management) and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Criminal Justice aiming at providing highly qualified graduates ready to become valuable criminal justice professionals.

I am therefore pleased to report that, the Bachelor of Arts degree course in Criminal Justice (Correctional Management) is performing very well. Currently there are 10 officers enrolled as first year students, 13 officers for the second year and 11 officers doing their last year.

I am also happy to announce to this august House that 2 of our officers have been awarded as best performing students for the first and second year, respectively, during the 2010 academic year.

We also have other officers enrolled at UNAM in professional studies as follows: 3 in Psychology, 2 in Social Work, and 1 in LLB.

Parallel to the above, the Namibian Correctional Service has also been conducting in-house training in various courses aimed at the effective implementation of the Offender Risk Management Correctional Strategy.

The construction of Elizabeth Nepembe Correctional Facility is completed, except the visitors' facility and staff accommodation (two

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houses). Elizabeth Nepembe Correctional Facility is the first correctional institution we have so far completed which conforms in design and structure to modern principles of correctional practice. The facility operates as a multi-level institution, comprising of 3 units with different security levels as follows:

- Minimum security unit;
- Medium security unit; and a
- Maximum security unit.

These different security levels reflect, *inter alia*, the degree of control and supervision required to maintain the good order of the institution and to protect staff, offenders and the public. Thus, offenders are placed in these units according to the level of security risk they represent.

The facility has an official holding capacity of 320 bed spaces. It is a reintegration focussed institution for younger offenders under 21 years of age who have some significant level of rehabilitation potential.

The conversion of the female section of the Windhoek Central Prison into programme offices and programme rooms was completed. The facility consists of 13 programme offices where all individual counselling is conducted; 9 programme rooms where all programme group training sessions are delivered, 2 classrooms where education classes are conducted. There are also a library and a security room.

Structural repairs and renovations of the Hardap Prison facility were completed at a cost of N\$10,050,000. The funds came from the Emergency Funds in the Office of the Prime Minister.

Initiatives undertaken to increase production at the Divundu Prison Farm include:

- A 20 hectares towable irrigation pivot was installed. This increased the land for crops under irrigation to 140 hectares;

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- A 33 hectare orchard plantation was established under drip irrigation;
- 10,000 fruit trees were procured and planted;
- A max-a-meal production plant was established;
- A 23,000 litre diesel tank was installed;
- A pump station was upgraded;
- An additional 147,000 litre potable water tank was installed.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the new Offender Risk Management Correctional Strategy is the cornerstone of our focus for concentrating on the safe and successful reintegration of offenders into the community. Safe integration of offenders has obvious end-savings in terms of avoiding increasing the cost of incarceration. The strategy is deployed to contain only those offenders who are the most intractable, uncooperative and dangerous to the public safety and to release as early as possible those offenders who have the potential to become law-abiding citizens. We want released offenders to become contributing members of society and not individuals who continue to create further social disorder and dysfunction.

As a very concrete step in achieving successful reintegration of offenders, the Namibian Correctional Service commissioned the consultant to design and develop the first 2 evidence-based rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, namely, "*Thinking and Living skills for Reintegration*": a programme for offenders to prepare for their release; and secondly, "*Managing My Substance Use*": a programme targeting alcohol and drug abuse. These programmes are now run at Windhoek Central Prison and Elizabeth Nepembe Correctional Facility. Although these are the first 2 programmes we have chosen to implement, further programmes to address offender needs will be introduced in due course.

Eighty Offenders are currently participating in the *Thinking and Living skills for Reintegration Programme* and 44 offenders are participating in the *Managing My Substance Use Programme*.

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Honourable Members, before I conclude my reporting, as you are all aware, the Namibian Correctional Service has a Food Production, Manufacturing and Service strategy. I would like to inform this august House that the Divundu Rehabilitation Centre continues to play a pivotal role in food production in this country. The Namibian Correctional Service has been able to achieve and sustain a level of self-sufficiency in food production, particularly in terms of maize and wheat. For many years now Divundu has been supplying our institutions with maize meal, and was able to create a significant surplus.

You will recall when my Minister was talking about the floods in the North, when he was saying we were also helping with our Air Wing to lift the flood victims to higher ground. At this juncture, I am also proud to announce that the Namibian Correctional Service has been able to make a contribution to the country by having donated an amount of 500 tonnes of maize to our emergency relief efforts in the previous Financial Year. This has only been possible due to the deliberate policy efforts by the Namibian Correctional Service to maximise production. This strategy has actually changed the status of the Namibian Correctional Service from being just a consuming institution to a productive one.

We are working on an establishment of a 700 hectare crop production farm at Karayi, which is located 9 kilometres from Nkurenkuru, and a feasibility study is registered with the National Planning Commission.

In addition, the pig farms at the Oluno Rehabilitation Centre and Hardap Prison are also contributing significantly to food security. The Oluno Rehabilitation Centre managed to restock its pig farm to a total of 900 pigs after experiencing an outbreak of an epidemic that resulted in a loss of 500 pigs.

A feasibility study has been completed for the establishment of an aquaculture farm at the Divundu Rehabilitation Centre.

In its ongoing effort to support the civilian authorities, the Namibian Correctional Service also donated 220 school desks and 215 to Rundu Primary School and has been repairing school furniture for many schools

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in the northern Regions. The Honourable Minister of Education can confirm this.

Cleaning work was done at various places of our 13 Regions including the Augustineum Secondary School, Khomasdal Primary School, Windhoek Central Hospital, Eros Save Our Souls (SOS), that is a school for orphans and Nakambale Cemetery at Olukonda.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I shall now explain the specific allocations for each activity of Vote 21: Namibian Correctional Service, as follows:

The total requested allocation for the Prison Reforms Programme amounts to N\$442,335,395. This amount is further allocated into its activities, that is, Safe Custody, Competent Staff, Improved Infrastructure and Reintegration as follows:

An amount of N\$333,748 395 is allocated to Safe Custody.

An amount of N\$13,000,000 is allocated for human resource development and recruitment.

N\$94,808,000 is allocated for the construction and renovation of correctional facilities and staff accommodation.

The following are highlights at sub-activity level:

Official Accommodation:	N\$3,628,000
Elizabeth Nepemba Correctional Facility	N\$1,127,000
Divundu Open Farm Rehabilitation Centre	N\$380,000
Scott Open Rehabilitation Farm Construction	N\$57,327,000
Omaruru Prison Construction	N\$1,539,000
Minor Renovations	N\$4,000,000
Ondangwa Remand Prison	N\$1,306,000
Southern Regional HQ Construction	N\$350,000
Outapi Remand Prison	N\$1,450,000
Windhoek Prison Unit Management Conversion	N\$4,928,000

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Hardap Prison Unit Management Conversion	N\$2,907,000
Swakopmund Prison Renovation	N\$6,608,000
Omaruru Prison Renovations and Expansion	N\$2,000,000
Offender Management System Installation	N\$4,354,000
Oluno Prison Unit Management Conversion	N\$907,000
Karayi Open Rehabilitation Farm Centre Construction	N\$254,000
Divundu Prison Unit Management Conversion	N\$907,000
Walvis Bay Prison Unit Management Conversion	N\$907,000

TOTAL: N\$94,808,000

An amount of N\$779,000 is allocated for the phased implementation of the Offender Risk Management Correctional Strategy at Hardap Prison and other reintegration activities and programmes.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I now have the pleasure of requesting this beloved august House to approve the sum of N\$442,335,395 for the Namibian Correctional Service and I thank you.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:00

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:36 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Vote 24 – “TRANSPORT”, N\$2,254,026,232 is put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I stand here today to present Vote 24 of the Department of Transport in the Ministry of Works and Transport.

Vote 24 makes provision for the development of efficient and effective

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transport infrastructure which promotes economic development and social upliftment.

In order to achieve the above, the Ministry is in a process of developing a Long-Term Transport Master Plan. The key objective thereto is to integrate and align currently fragmented modes of transport as well as position Namibia strategically in terms of regional economic integration. As part of on-going reforms, the Ministry is also gearing towards reviewing key sector policy documents, such as the White Paper on Transport. Furthermore an Inter-ministerial Committee of Technical Experts (ICTE) was appointed to explore measures to address the shortfall in funding in road infrastructure maintenance as directed by Cabinet.

It is the Ministry's considered opinion that, investing in the development of the transportation infrastructure has far reaching benefits that can trigger the creation of employment opportunities. Countries that are prospering in the 21st century are the ones that take cognisance of the positive impacts of well-developed and well-maintained transportation networks throughout their communities.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me to discuss the Ministry's achievements in the preceding Financial Year. I will start with the road sector. The following road construction projects were completed during 2010/2011 Financial Year.

The DR 3611 Oshikuku – Okalongo Road was upgraded to bitumen standard at the cost of N\$78,345 million. It runs from Oshikuku to Onandjamba in Okalongo Constituency with a length of 23 kilometres. The project was completed in August 2010.

The Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru-Elundu project is co-financed by Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and our Government. Phase 1 of the Rundu-Siko-Nkurenkuru covers 134 kilometres of road, at the cost of N\$345 million the project was completed in November 2010.

The construction of the TR 15/1 Tsumeb-Tsintsabis-Katwitwi Road up to

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the bitumen standard is divided into three sections A, B and C. Section A is 70 kilometres; it runs from Tsumeb to Tsintsabis. At a cost of N\$356,650,000 this section was completed in 2010.

The Rehabilitation of Okahandja-Karibib Project started with the rehabilitation of the most damaged section of 77 kilometres of the road to restore its service life with improved standards. The project is co-financed by the GRN and KfW German Technical Cooperation. The first section of the project was completed in February 2011. The construction cost is N\$298 million.

DR 3507: Ngoma – Muyako consists of the construction of a gravel road by labour-based methods with a length of 36.5 kilometres. The project was completed during the Financial Year 2010/2011 at a cost of N\$35,643,000.

The construction of the 22 kilometres gravel road DR3502: Kongola – Zambia border by labour-based methods was completed in 2010 at a cost of N\$ 19,158,000.

The 5 kilometres of gravel road TR 8/6 DR3516 Katima Mulilo – Kapano Quarantine Camp road at was also completed in 2010 at cost of N\$4,6 million.

The work comprised the construction of a 13 kilometres gravel road Tondoro (MR 110) – Kamupupu (DR 3427) by labour-based methods in Kavango Region was completed in February 2011 at a cost of N\$14,9 million.

The Epukiro –Eiseb –Gam project consists of the construction of 235 kilometres of gravel road at a cost of N\$97 million. The road was completed by July 2010.

The DR 3428: Rupara/Muveve to Gcangcu project consists of the construction of 15 kilometres gravel road and is completed with a cost of N\$ 12,8 million.

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The following bitumen road projects will be completed in the 2011/2012 Financial Year:

Phase 2 runs from Nkurenkuru-Kongo-Elundu and covers 236 kilometres of road. The cost of this phase is N\$1,042 billion and it is expected to be completed by November 2011.

However, this phase experienced a lot of delays for several reasons. Amongst them, is the long haulage distance, unavailability of suitable materials in the area, the scarcity of water in the area in the dry seasons as well as regular breakdowns of tipper trucks because of bad road conditions.

Section B of the TR 15/1 Tsumeb-Tsintsabis-Katwitwi Road project with 70 kilometres in length is under construction and the estimated completion date is July 2011. The project cost of this section is N\$309 422 000.

The second section of 35 kilometres to Karibib is under construction and will be completed by December 2011. The contract amount for this section is N\$116,762,000.

The upgrading to bitumen standards of the TR14/2: Gobabis-Otjinene road represents the first phase of the Gobabis/Otjinene/Grootfontein road. The road will form part of the Trans-Kalahari Highway extension to the northern part of the country and to southern Angola. The total cost for the construction is N\$381,171,000 and the total length is 154 kilometres. The project will be completed by November 2011.

This MR122 Okahao–Omakange project runs from Omakange in the Kunene Region to Okahao in Omusati Region, creating a link between the 2 Regions. The project comprises the construction of a bitumen road 83 kilometres long. The road will be completed in September 2011. The contract amount for construction is N\$336,340,000.

With co-financing from GRN, KfW German Technical Cooperation and EU the construction of the following labour based road projects are set for completion during the 2011/2012 Financial Year:

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The DR3660: MR92 to Omagongati (Omagongati–Ohakweenyanga) project involves the construction of a 15 kilometre gravel road from MR92 at Ohakweenyanga to Omagongati, in the Oshana Region. The project cost is N\$14,875,000.

The DR3610: Mangetti West phase 1 (Casablanca–Luwaya) project starts from TR1/11 at Casablanca to Luwaya. It is a 52-kilometre gravel road and is connecting Oshikoto and Kavango Regions. The construction will be completed by November 2011. The project cost is N\$52,756,000.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members Government's continued commitment towards poverty reduction in the rural areas is strong as can be seen by the magnitude of funds being provided for labour-based as well as other road development projects. The construction works for the following projects will start during the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

The MR125: Liselo–Linyanti–Kongola–Singalamwe Project includes the upgrading of MR125 to bitumen standard of the existing 210 kilometres gravel road. MR125 starts from TR8/6: Liselo-Linyanti-and join TR8/6 at Kongola. During the preceding Financial Year, at a cost of N\$66 million, 70 kilometres of road were improved through the application of a Low Volume Seal, nevertheless the improvement of the entire road to full bitumen standards will commence by July 2011. The estimate project cost is N\$795 million.

DR3642: Okahao–Outapi is funded by RFA and KfW at a cost of N\$53,1 million. The project involves the labour-based construction to gravel road standards 45 kilometres from Okahao to Outapi, in the Omusati Region.

The DR3668: Okalongo–Omuvelo Wa Kashamane Project encompasses the upgrading to bitumen standards of the existing 7 kilometre gravel road from Okalongo westwards and the construction to bitumen standards of a further 8 kilometres of road to the Wa Kashamane Gate Border Post. The project cost is N\$53 million.

MR120: Okatana–Endola–Onunho is financed by RFA at a cost of N\$122

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million. This project will upgrade 35 kilometres of rural access road to bitumen standards between Okatana – Endola – Onunho. The construction work is expected to start soon.

The DR3653: Oshikuku to Ekangolinene Project involves the construction of a gravel road from Oshikuku to Ekangolinene in the Omusati Region. The project length is 26 kilometres. The project cost is N\$33 million

The DR3524: Ngoma–Nakabolelwa Project involves the construction of a 23-kilometres gravel road between Ngoma and Nakabolelwa in the Caprivi Region. The project cost is N\$28,8 million

The DR3427: Kamupupu–Mbururu (20 kilometres); TR8/1: Tjova–Divayi (25 kilometres); TR8/4 (Kaisosi)–DR3401 (Cuma) (33 kilometres) road projects are located in the Kavango Region. The total estimate project cost is N\$87,6 million.

The DR3657: Oshapapa–Epumbu Project involves the construction of A 32-kilometres gravel road between Oshapapa and Epumbu. The project cost is N\$32,5 million

The DR3649: Onalulago–Epembe Project consists of A 46-kilometres gravel road. It is situated in the Oshikoto Region. The project is at the design stage and the construction work is expected to commence in September 2011. The project cost is N\$46 million

The DR3673: Omuthiya–Onanke project involves the construction of a 33-kilometres gravel road. The project is situated in the Oshikoto Region. The estimated project cost is N\$37,5 million.

The estimate cost DR3671: Onamutai–Ongwediva–Okatana (10 kilometres) and DR3672: Outapi–Okapalelona border post (25 kilometres) of the project is N\$28 million.

The DR3670 Eembahu–Oshiweda (33 kilometres). DR3670: Eembahu–Oshandi (7 kilometres) Project is in the Ohangwena Region. The estimated project cost is N\$51 million.

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The DR3674: Onayena – Omahenge project involves the construction of a 25-kilometres gravel road. The estimated construction cost is N\$29,3 million.

The DR3671 Okatana-Ongwediva–Onamutai Project consists of the construction of the 17 kilometres of gravel road at a cost of N\$19 million.

At an estimated cost of N\$45 million the construction of three bridges and other culverts at the District Road 2102 in the Ovitoto area will start during the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I now wish to share with you some achievements in the Railway Sub-sector:

Transportation of heavy and bulk cargo from Walvis Bay to Ondangwa and vice versa is now possible by rail transport. This alternative mode of transport led to the emergence of other economic activities in the northern population centres.

For the past year a total of one hundred thousand and two hundred metric tons of cargo were transported by rail to Ondangwa. It is anticipated that traffic volumes will increase by 30 to 40% per annum from 2012, once the Ondangwa to Oshikango railway line section is completed.

It only demonstrates that the Northern Railway Line Extension is not a “white elephant”. It is indeed a development patriotic Namibians should be proud of.

Likewise, 7,000 metric tons of coal was successfully transported from Walvis Bay to the Ohorongo factory. More than 153,000 metric tons of zinc ingots and 1,500 tons of lead concentrate were transported to the port for exports.

Major components of the Northern Railway Line Extension Phase II (Ondangwa to Oshikango railway line section) have been completed with the exception of 2 components. Last year I mentioned about the plan to

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complete this section by 2011, we are hard at work to complete it as stated.

The primary works on Upgrading and Rehabilitation of the Aus to Lüderitz railway line link are also completed. With the expected arrival of rails this year it is anticipated that this project may be completed by 2013.

The relaying works of the 10-kilometre railway line section between Okahandja and Windhoek has started. Once completed, the railway line from Windhoek to Walvis Bay would comply with the minimum SADC Standard of 18.5 ton axle loading specification.

To ensure that the structural integrity of the railway line network is not compromised, regular ongoing inspections and maintenance of the permanent way, drainage structures, bridges, etcetera, was carried out.

For proper railway line upgrading or rehabilitation, components such as rail, ballast stone, sleepers are needed. For this reason the Ministry facilitated the establishment of a concrete sleeper manufacturing factory in Tsumeb. It is anticipated that the factory will start producing sleepers as from mid-May this year. About 70 to 100 people will be employed.

On the development of new railway lines, a feasibility study on the Trans-Capri railway line link was completed in 2010. The proposal is to link the national railway line network to Cape Fria harbour as well as to interconnect with the Zambian rail system.

In 2010 the Governments of the Republics of Namibia and Botswana entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the development of the Trans-Kalahari Railway Line Link and port in Namibia. Processes are underway to facilitate the evaluation of the Expression of Interest submissions which was called for in 2010.

Thirteen thousand and two hundred metric tons of rails were ordered through public procurement processes. Six thousand four hundred and fifty-six metric tons of the total order was delivered in Walvis Bay by the 28 March 2011. The rails will be used for permanent way construction

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works on the Northern Railway line extension (Ondangwa to Oshikango) and for the upgrading of the Aus-Lüderitz railway line section.

For efficient rail transportation service provision, attention should not only be paid to railway line infrastructure but to the operational equipment as well. In 2008, an undertaking was made to revamp 18 locomotives which were more than 40 years in service. To date a total of 10 locomotives were revamped, of which 5 were revamped in 2010. Six locomotives are currently being worked on. Without doubt, this initiative resulted in increased traction power and capacity. On average 53 locomotives were kept active for operations with not less than the 1,000 scheduled and non-scheduled maintenance.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, although construction of new railway infrastructure should be supported; maintenance and rehabilitation of the aged and depreciated railway lines cannot be compromised. It is a “must” to ensure continued provision of rail transportation services to the Nation. Complete disintegration of aged railway line sections would be disastrous to the overall national economy. Timeous upgrading, rehabilitation and maintenance of our railway line network, would make it possible to achieve the basic demand criteria on railway line systems, which are; Reliability, Availability, Maintainability and Safety.

Moreover, to safeguard and extend the economic lifespan of our national road infrastructure, a well-functioning railway line network is a critical element in the equation.

The immediate and daunting challenge is the maintenance, upgrading and rehabilitation of our national railway line network infrastructure. The railway line link from Walvis Bay to Kranzberg to Tsumeb is indeed first on the agenda.

Changing climatic conditions will continue to haunt the Nation when rail transportation infrastructure is damaged by flood wash-aways. For example, the damage to the railway line in the southern part of the country, in February 2011, meant that rail services to that part and

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connecting to South Africa, had to be suspended, albeit for a short period.

The increase in mining and other economic activities demands a proportionate increase in rolling stock. Without adequate locomotives, wagons and tankers only limited rail service can be provided. Subsequently, cargo will be shifted to road, resulting severe damage to road infrastructure. The end-result is an increase in road maintenance costs. While human resources and skills shortages pose human development challenges, aging equipment would need to be replaced. Certainly, older equipment models become obsolete with spare parts being difficult to obtain.

To maintain the inherent sustainability of heavy haul, speed and safety, the Ministry anticipates increased spending on rail line rehabilitation and upgrading to increase axle loads, modernisation of equipment in order to improve delivery speed.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I will now refer to the successes of the Air Transport Infrastructure programmes:

The Eurocat X display system at Eros Airport was installed and the Site Acceptance was done on 18 February 2011. The Wide Area Multi Lateration was progressing very well. The Site Acceptance was also done on 18 February 2011.

The Directorate of Civil Aviation has enhanced its collection method for on-route and approach charges. The total amount collected during the previous 12 months is recorded at N\$48.5 million.

With the aim of providing an airport infrastructure per Region, the construction of Outapi aerodrome was executed. At a cost of N\$11,1 million a 1,9 kilometres gravel runway and other facilities were completed in November 2010.

Phase 1 of the construction of the hangar at a cost of N\$128 million is nearing completion while Phase 2 will cost about N\$80 million. Similarly, Government will be taking ownership of the Falcon 7X by October 2011.

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The Department of Aircraft Accident Investigations has a recorded notable reduction in aircraft accidents in Namibia during the past Financial Year. This reduction of accident occurrences was attributed to the safety recommendations generated by the investigators of the Directorate of Aircraft Accident Investigation.

The Directorate Aircraft Accident/Incident Investigations was audited by the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) in 2005. One of the findings was that, the Directorate must have their own hangar which only the investigators will have access to and this hangar must be out of bounds to the aviation industry. The hangar will be used to store wreckage of aircrafts and/or aircraft engines that were involved in accidents for investigation.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I now turn to the achievements of Meteorological Services for the past Financial Year.

The Meteorological Service carried out and continues to provide quantitative monitoring of the performance of the 2010/2011 rainy season as has been the case with all previous seasons, and disseminated the information to many user sectors in the country. While the season was broadly just on the normal profile during the first three months (October to December 2010), it enhanced quite considerably from the middle of January 2011 in terms of persistence of rainy events and intensity of the falls. These resulted in floods in many parts of the country that caused substantial damage to our rail and road infrastructure and further disturbed the livelihoods of our people and already fragile infrastructure and economy of our country. We are monitoring the weather systems on a 24-hour and 7 days basis and will continue to issue severe weather warnings and advisories on both the national television and radio stations.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, you would recall that Namibia experienced similar devastating floods in the year 2000. Cabinet then instructed my Ministry to extend meteorological services to all Regions of the country. The expansion and modernisation of the meteorological infrastructure that

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Government has put in place over the past few years and continues to improve on has been extremely helpful. I am delighted to inform that we have now expanded our surface observational network with the kind assistance of the Regional Councils, whose co-operation is greatly appreciated. Last year, 4 additional automatic weather stations were purchased, bringing the total number of automatic weather stations spread across the entire country to a reasonable figure of fifty one.

Since Automatic Weather Stations do have limitations, as do human beings, we have also started to build manned weather stations. The construction of the Rundu weather office commenced last year. Feasibility studies have been completed for the construction of manned meteorological offices in Opuwo, Tsumeb, Katima Mulilo, Mariental and Gobabis.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, monitoring of our atmospheric conditions and accurate weather predictions and warnings requires not only the surface observations. Upper air observations are very critical as most storms develop in the atmosphere. It is therefore, critical that the state of the atmosphere be constantly monitored for the earlier detection of hazardous weather systems. To overcome this, 4 upper air weather systems were bought and will soon be installed in Walvis Bay, Ondangwa, Keetmanshoop and Rundu to enhance the upper-air network.

On an unrelated matter, it gives me great pleasure to inform Honourable Members that Namibia successfully hosted the Extra Ordinary Session of the Commission for Basic Systems and its associated Technical Conference: End-to-End Service Delivery: *“From Observations to Services, the Way Users Need Them”* from 17 to 24 November 2010, in Windhoek, Namibia. The excellent co-operation amongst various Ministries and the support of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) contributed to the great success of this historic meeting and 190 participants from the member countries of the World Meteorological Organisation, a specialised agency of the United Nations on weather, climate and water and other high-ranking Government officials.

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In its accelerated training policy geared at addressing the critical skill shortage at the Division Meteorological Service, the Ministry provided financial assistance to 6 staff members who are now pursuing a diploma course at the Regional Institute of Meteorological Training and Research in Kenya, Nairobi. Three other Namibians are pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Meteorology at various institutions abroad with the sponsorship from the Governments of Namibia, China and the World Meteorological Organisation. The Ministry is further committed to provide financial assistance to those staff members who intend pursuing training in this field until such time that there are sufficient trained meteorological personnel capable of discharging their responsibilities to the benefit of all the users, sectors and the public at large.

In our quest to ensure adherence to the Quality Management System (QMS) that obligates States to put in place systems conforming to ICAO regulations, we have purchased state of the art weather forecasters work stations and upgraded the satellite data receiving system through the kind assistance of the European Union and its partners. The newly purchased systems vastly improved the capability of the National Meteorological Service to issue accurate aviation meteorological information and products complying with the standards and regulations of ICAO and WMO.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, finally, I would like to discuss the successes of Maritime and Inland Water Transport Infrastructure Development and Safety Programme.

The following achievements in the maritime sector were made during the year under review:

The Merchant Shipping Radio Installation Regulations were promulgated.
Zambezi River Landing Craft acquired/commissioned.

The First Draft of Small Vessels Regulations completed.

In addition, the following Bills have been revisited:

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- Merchant shipping Act Bill;
- Marine Pollution Prevention Bill; and the
- Proposed Maritime Authority Bill.

Allow me to come to the individual programs for which the allocation of N\$2,448,170,000 will be utilised.

The purpose of the Road Construction and Upgrading, Roads Rehabilitation, Maintenance and Management of the National Road Networks Programme is to keep and to improve the value of our national network assets. Roads, like any other physical asset, have a defined lifespan and must be renewed just in time in order to minimise costs and ensure appropriate level of service.

The allocation for this Financial Year will cover the construction and upgrading of the following roads:

Phase 2 runs from Nkurenkuru-Kongo-Elundu;
TR15/1 Tsumeb-Tsintsabis-Katwitwi Road;
Rehabilitation of Okahandja-Karibib;
TR14/2: Gobabis-Otjinene;
MR122 Okahao-Omakange

Another purpose of this programme is rehabilitating our most valuable asset, the roads. In this regard an allocation for the Financial Year will also cover the second section of 35 kilometres to Karibib. I, therefore, request the amount of N\$1,363,331,000 for this programme.

The Railway Infrastructure Development, Rehabilitation and Maintenance Programme focuses on the construction of new railway lines, maintenance, rehabilitation and upgrading of old ones to ensure goods and passenger services within and across the border.

The allocation for this programme will cover regular maintenance work, the purchase of 13,200 metric tons of rail, the upgrading of the Aus-Lüderitz as well as the construction of the Ondangwa-Oshikango Railway

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Line. I, therefore, request the amount of N\$466,596,000 for this programme.

The purpose of the Air Transport Infrastructure Programme is to ensure a safe, secure and efficient civil aviation infrastructure. Another purpose of this programme is to regulate transportation infrastructure and to investigate aircraft incidents and accidents as well as to contribute to the safety and well-being of the citizens.

The allocation for this Financial Year will cover the final completion of Phase 1 of 2 the Government Aircraft Hangar as well as commencement of the second phase, the final payment of the acquisition of the New Falcon 7X, completion of the Radar project, the maintenance of aircraft and helicopters and the construction of various Air Control Towers across the Country. I, therefore, request the amount of N\$404,588,000 for this programme.

The purpose of the Meteorological Infrastructure Development Programme is to upgrade meteorological infrastructure to ensure compliance with the World Meteorological Organisation Conventions as well as the SADC Protocol on Transport and Meteorology.

The allocation for this Financial Year will continue with the upgrading of Meteorological Services and acquisition of automated weather stations. Furthermore, it will also cover for the installation of systems for the monitoring and detection of hazardous weather, such as floods and severe storms. I, therefore, request the amount of N\$38,392,000 for this programme.

The Maritime and Inland Water Transport Infrastructure Development and Safety Programme assures safety of life and property at sea, protection of marine environment from pollution by ships through regular inspections and patrols, as well as promotion of national, regional and international maritime interests.

The allocation for this Financial Year will cover the acquisition and installation of the National Maritime Surveillance System, expand

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Namibia's Maritime Search and Rescue Sub-Centres at Walvis Bay, develop mooring points for anchoring of the river landing craft at designated stations alongside the Zambezi River, facilitate the extension of Walvis Bay Port limits and acquisition of a river dredger to deepen and maintain the Zambezi River with the view of ensuring safe passage of the river landing craft. I, therefore, request the amount N\$37,503,000 for this programme.

The Government Services Programme provides Government with reliable and safe road transport services. The allocation for this Financial Year covers the purchasing of pool vehicles to replace the depleting fleet, renting of cars, construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of Government garage nationwide, paying for fuel and maintenance of vehicles and for the usual personnel expenditure as well as for goods and other services. I, therefore, request the amount of N\$137,760,000 for this programme.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in light of the above outlined programmes, I humbly submit Vote 24 to the total amount of N\$2,448,170 000.

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

Vote 27 – “YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORTS AND CULTURE”, N\$509,605,000 is put for Introduction.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,
SPORTS AND CULTURE:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is my distinct honour to present to this august House, the Budget request for Vote 27: Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture for the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

First of all allow me to congratulate Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-

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Amadhila, Minister of Finance, and her entire team for having managed to allocate resources to programmes that will make a dent on unemployment and poverty.

This Ministry has been mandated to develop and empower the youth and to promote sports, culture and arts.

The proposed Budget allocation for this Ministry this Financial Year (2011/2012), amounts to N\$509,065,000.

This amount represents N\$427,714,000 for the Operational Budget; and N\$81,351,000 for the Development Budget

This proposed allocation represents an overall increase of 11% on the allocations of the previous Financial Year.

Honourable Members, I now seize this opportunity to present Vote 27 programmes, activities and amounts requested for your consideration and support.

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

The main activities under this Programme are as follows:

The Environmental Education Activity aims at creating awareness through workshops and training seminars. Youth acquire knowledge and skills in environmental education, conservancy and sustainable utilisation of natural resources.

The Youth Exchange Programme deals with the interactions amongst youth both locally and internationally to exchange best practices and to learn each other's culture and values.

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During 2010/2011 Financial Year, the youth gender activity focused on equality and rural development, gender and reproductive health, violence against young women, gender and economic empowerment and the girl-child.

The Ministry entered into a technical agreement with the Nigerian Government through the Nigerian High Commission in Namibia to acquire voluntary technical assistance from Nigeria. To this end, a group of 16 Nigerian volunteers arrived in Namibia to assist with vocational skills training for unemployed rural youth, in particular, and for other youth, in general. Their allowances will be paid for by the Nigerian Government, while the Ministry will provide accommodation and other necessities during their two-year contract in Namibia.

The knowledge and skills to be imparted to the youth will be used to empower them and give them access to employment opportunities.

The Youth Expo Activity aims at encouraging, motivating and instilling an entrepreneurial culture amongst our youth. As part of the National Youth Week, young entrepreneurs from 13 Regions will gather to exhibit their products and services.

There are currently 228 youth born in exile located at a campsite near Berg Aukas. Some get involved in the agricultural activities at the Centre. Of the total, 101 are males while 127 are females. They will be integrated into the training programme at Berg Aukas as soon as the Centre is ready.

During the 2010/2011 Financial Year all 13 volunteer computer literacy promoters were sent to India for a short refresher training courses on ICT under the auspices of the India Technical and Economic Cooperation. Our Ministry covered their allowances while they were in India.

My Ministry entered into a cooperation agreement with Namibia Planned Parenthood Association (NAPPA) during the 2010/2011 Financial Year which provides for the management and provision of comprehensive reproductive health and HIV/AIDS information at the Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centres' clinics.

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A visit was undertaken by my Ministry and NAPPA to carry out an assessment of the Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centres (MPYRCs). It was to determine the resources needed in order to facilitate the provision of clinical services, that is, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) for young people.

Meetings were held with the Ministries of Health and Social Services, Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development within those Regions visited to brief them on the purpose of the initiative and possible future collaboration.

The Centres visited and assessed were as follows: Khorixas, Outapi, Oshakati, Eenhana and Katima Mulilo MPYRC; Frans Dimbare Rural Youth Development Centre. NAPPA is now in the process of acquiring medicines and other pharmaceuticals to equip these centres.

The Ministry hosted the first ever National Consultative Conference on Youth Development from 8 to 11 November 2010 at the Windhoek Country Club, and His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, Hifikepunye Pohamba officiated at the opening ceremony of the conference.

The conference was attended by 330 delegates from 94 youth organisations and stakeholders. Participants were expected to help generate innovative ideas to advance strategic issues affecting Namibia's development. This was achieved by providing platforms to articulate emerging challenges facing the youth by reaching consensus regarding resolutions.

The Namibian Youth Credit Scheme is aiming at becoming the leading agency in harnessing and developing innovation and entrepreneurship among the Namibian youth in order to reduce youth unemployment and to alleviate poverty. To date the Scheme is operational in all 13 Regions. Since its inception, 3,624 unemployed youth, mainly in the rural areas, have been trained and assisted with loans, and more than 5,500 jobs were created by the loan recipients.

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The Juvenile/Child Justice Activity has recorded the following achievement during 2010/2011 Financial Year:

- Attendance and participation on the Programme Advisory Committee for Child Labour has been strengthened, and the Action Plan on the Elimination of Child Labour in Namibia for the Ministry has been developed;
- A Social Worker, the first ever to be recruited by the Ministry, is placed at the Windhoek Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre (WMPYRC) to deal with Child Justice matters as well as other cross cutting issues;
- 128 Young offenders successfully completed the life-skills training programme at the WMPYRC.

The National Youth Council (NYC) advises the Ministry on the needs and expectations of young people. The National Youth Council, as an umbrella body, has so far registered 49 youth organisations and affiliates.

The National Youth Council is involved in 2 major projects, namely brick-making and mushroom production. In December 2010, 300 Namibian youth participated in the Youth and Student Festival in Johannesburg, South Africa organised by the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

My Ministry has 2 Youth Skills Training Centres, namely, Kai//Ganaxab and Okahao Youth Skills Training Centres during the 2010/2011 Financial Year with an annual combined intake of between 150 and 160. During 2010/2011 Financial Year, 155 youth graduated from both centres. Most of the graduates from Kai//Ganaxab Youth Skills Training Centre opted to join Vocational Training Centres to further their skills up to a Trade Diploma, whereas those from Okahao prefer to venture into self-employment through income-generating projects such as agriculture, poultry, piggery and rabbit farming.

Activities undertaken during 2010/2011 Financial Year are as follow:

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Under Civic training:

- 500 National Youth Service trainees were recruited in May 2010;
- 937 recruits placed on voluntary community service;
- 769 are undergoing skills training, of which 513 are at Rietfontein and 256 at other vocational training centres; and
- 35 trainees were sent to Zimbabwe in January 2011.

The total number of recruits is 2,206.

With the Agricultural Production activity;

- 498 hectares planted of which 260 hectares at Berg Aukas, 130 hectares at Rietfontein.
- Kangongo and Omauni had 83 hectares and 25 hectares, respectively, planted.
- 616.15 tonnes of white and yellow maize harvested and sold.

The Namibian Grape company employs 251 permanent and 1,258 seasonal employees respectively. Harvest for 2010/2011 season is 1,009,150 million cartons.

The construction of a Greenhouse for mushroom and horticulture production in Henties Bay was completed in January 2011. Thirty National Youth Service trainees, who are currently studying at UNAM Sam Nujoma Marine & Coastal Resources Research Campus at Henties Bay, are expected to work on the project.

The National Youth Service took ownership of Etunda Farm in the Omusati Region in December 2010 which measures 45 hectares and will be used for horticulture production.

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Total hectares under cultivation by the National Youth Service for 2010/2011 was 951 hectares

The National Youth Service owns 168 cattle and 107 goats which are currently at Rietfontein Farm. In order to fully engage in livestock production, the National Youth Service purchased Farm Gemsbokpan No 1274 situated about 60 east of Rietfontein, measuring 7,200 hectares. Additional livestock will be purchased during the current Financial Year.

The proposed operational Budget for these activities amounts to N\$209,091,000.

The following are the capital projects under the creation of facilities programme.

- Construction of Katima Mulilo Multi Purpose Youth Resource Centre Construction Centre(Caprivi Region) Final Phase;
- Construction of the Frans Dimbare Integrated Rural Youth Development Construction Centre (Kavango Region) Final Phase;
- Construction of the Eenhana Multi-Purpose Youth Centre (Ohangwena Region);
- Relocation of the Farm Duplessis Rural Youth Development Centre to Otjinene-Upgrading (Omaheke Region);
- Construction of the Mariental Multi Purpose Youth Resource Centre Construction, phase 2 in the Hardap Region;
- Construction of the Gobabis Multi Purpose Youth Resource Centre (Omaheke Region) Phase 1;
- Construction of the Okahao Youth Skills Training Centre (Omusati Region);

Construction of Maria Mwengere (Rundu) Multi-Purpose Youth

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- Resource Centre (Kavango Region);
- Construction of the Okahandja Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre (Otjozondjupa Region);
- Construction of the Opuwo Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre (Kunene Region); and the
- Construction of the Swakopmund MPYRC (Erongo Region) Phase 1.

The proposed Budget Allocation for these Capital Projects amounts to N\$49,600,000.

The total Budget requested for this programme is N\$258,691,000.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the Sport Programme is there to promote the development of sports through the mass participation from grassroots to international excellence. The programme encourages all Namibians to participate in any sport codes of their choice both locally, regionally and internationally.

Likewise, this Programme is responsible for: provision and maintenance of basic sports facilities in all 13 Regions, and the purchase and distribution of sports equipment to all Regions. Equally important is that the programme facilitates the transportation of athletes in competition participation at all levels.

Sport is a very expensive undertaking especially in a vast country such as Namibia. I thus call upon the private sector and development partners to come on board and assist us to put Namibia on the global sport stage.

Sport is an activity which necessitates a great deal of travelling both locally and internationally. The ever price increase of fuel contributes to the increase in transport expenditure. To distribute sports equipment one needs transport to do so and to enable athletes to participate in both local and international competitions, transport is once more required.

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This travelling puts a great demand on resources allocated for transport and travelling and subsistence allowances. Hence, for more medals to come to Namibia, consideration should be given to the financial guideline of the resources allocated to the Directorate of Sport in my Ministry.

The Ministry is striving to ensure that the Nation has appropriate sport equipment to assist in the preparation to participate in various games. These equipments are expensive and need proper storage.

The Ministry assists with construction of sport fields in the rural areas. This cannot be given to all communities as requested, due to financial constraints. However, with the limited funds, proper structures are put in place.

Expert trainers are assigned to sport codes through bilateral agreement with sister Governments such as those of Cuba and Germany.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson in order for a country to be eligible to participate in international and regional games, it is obliged to pay membership fee. Some of these fees are high because they are paid in foreign currencies therefore Government assists some of the sport codes with the payment of these membership fees.

The Programme of Sport now has a division responsible for our people with disabilities and women in sport. An umbrella body is formed and is overseeing the programme implementation and financial adherence.

The survival of sport is mainly depending on Government support for it to function properly. With the limited resources allocated to the Namibia Sport Commission and its affiliates, Namibia has managed to host competitions and compete regionally and internationally.

The Namibian rugby team has become a household name, after three consecutive qualifications to the prestigious Rugby World Cup competitions.

The country is hard at work to prepare for London 2012 Olympic Games.

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Thus far, only 3 Paralympics athletes have qualified for that tournament. Other athletes are hard at work to fight for qualification.

We have athletes at High-Performance centres in Mauritius and South Africa.

The country is hard at work with preparation to these Games which are hosted by Maputo, Mozambique during September 2011.

The total proposed Operational Budget for these activities is N\$79,683,000.

The following are the capital projects under this Provision and Maintenance of Basic Sports Facilities Programme.

The contractor has completed the ablution at the Swakopmund Sport Complex and was about to start with the fencing. Unfortunately, the fence that was bought is of poor quality and the contractor has to re-order another fence from South Africa. The contractor is busy with the purchase of a Public Address system and put in a hover.

Phase 1 of the Eenhana Sport Complex project which consisted of fencing was completed. Now the project is in Phase 2, which comprises the levelling of ground and de-bushing of the playground and the construction of ticket gate is underway.

No progress is made on the Centre of Excellence project. Money allocated for the project was used to renovate the Independence Stadium. The Ministry is still looking for a plot to buy on which the centre will be build.

The proposed Budget request for these Capital Projects amounts to N\$21,500,000.

The total Budget request for this Programme is N\$101,183,000.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, the Arts Programme is one of the most dynamic programmes of the Ministry since

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it enables Namibians to design, compose, produce and manufacture unique, marketable art products. The Programme of Arts develops and promotes our arts and artists on regional, national and international levels. It strives to enhance the ability of the creative arts industry to create employment and alleviate poverty, and to transform Namibia into a manufacturing country. Creative capital is built through intellectual property, registered designs, trademarks and patents, which could contribute to the country's economic prosperity and entrepreneurial potential.

The activity has made concerted efforts to strengthen its data collection and networking capacity. It is in a process to map the impact of arts on the economy and social development, and to revise the current policies in order to create an enabling environment for the development of the Arts Industry. The activity is also responsible for the promotion of many Namibian artists nationally and internationally through participation in expos, festivals and international exchange programmes. The staffing component at Headquarters is in the process of being expanded to strengthen capacity especially in the Regions.

The demand for arts education and training grew throughout the previous Fiscal Year with a record number of students enrolled for courses at the College of the Arts and the National Arts Extension Programme (more than 4,800 students) and other Government sponsored programmes, such as the Annual Arts Academy, the John Mwafangejo Art Centre, Tulipamwe and the National Choral Network. Staff development programmes were also conducted to improve the standard of teaching through in-service training and international cooperation.

The National Arts Fund, which is administered by the National Arts Council of Namibia, is the main source of funding for the development of the Arts Industry. The disbursement of grants to artists and arts organisations is made annually, based on successful application. The demand for assistance in art projects has become overwhelming. The National Arts Council of Namibia also offers scholarships for career development in the Arts and makes sure that Namibia is linked to international organisations, such as the International Federation for Arts

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Councils and Cultural Agencies. The Council also provides technical assistance to ensure sustainable implementation of the approved projects and to build the capacity of artists.

The National Art Council of Namibia does not have adequate space to operate from and efforts will be made in the course of this year to solicit funding for new premises to be secured.

The National Art Gallery of Namibia (NAGN) works towards achieving the objectives as defined in Act 14 of 2000. It serves as a museum gallery for the protection and exhibition of Namibia's national art heritage, and as a body to promote Namibian contemporary arts and artists.

The National Theatre of Namibia is an Article 21 Company which receives an annual grant-in-aid. The NTN has won stakeholder confidence, empower artists, staff and audience, strive for operational excellence, ensure good governance and compliance. It has increased its fundraising capacity and has introduced program diversification. As a result, the institution has recorded an increase in audience.

The total Operational Budget for this activity is N\$66,895,000.

The following are the Capital Projects under the Development of the Infrastructure Programme:

- National Theatre and National Art Gallery Upgrading; and the
- Boiler House Theatre Upgrading Katutura Community Art Centre (KCAC)

The total Budget for these Capital Projects is N\$ 1,000,000 and the total Budget request for this Programme is N\$67,895,000.

The main purpose of this Culture Programme is to identify, develop and promote the Culture and Heritage of Namibians for the purpose of nation-building, employment creation and the nurturing of national pride, identity and unity in diversity.

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HON SHIFETA**

Under the Facilitation of Cultural Understanding and Tolerance, the nurturing of Cultural Industries, the Identification and Promotion of Heritage programme, about 1,500 culture groups were established. In line with our goals, we now encourage culture groups to arrange their own performances in their communities and at tourist lodges against payment. A process was started where officials have received training in order to learn how to assist culture groups to get involved in Small and Medium Enterprises done under the Millennium Development Goal Fund. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) developed manuals with particular reference to performing and other artists to obtain relevant skills to start businesses.

We have culture centres in Rundu, in the Kavango Region and Omuthiya in the Oshikoto Region. With the assistance of the MDG Fund we have now identified and are busy developing about 20 other culture information centres, trails, museums and activity centres countrywide. These places will enhance cultural tourism when completed. At these places young and other economically able Namibians will receive training in marketing, business skills and distribution of products. We want to have a strong presence at trade fairs locally and internationally of Namibian products. These are, inter alia, music DVDs, traditional medicines, art and craftworks, cuisine, attire and cultural exhibitions of our history, traditions, fauna and flora.

As part of the Cultural Exchange Programmes and State-Sponsored Events, we sent 3 culture groups to the Shanghai Expo in China in 2010. They performed around the Namibian Pavilion and networked and learnt how nations from around the world utilise crafts, performances, exhibitions and retailing utilising their cultural industries to generate income while at the same time earning the respect of the world by showcasing their creative prowess.

Another group went to the African Union Festival in Kigali, Rwanda. Our artists could learn from world class artists, both traditional and modern, what lucrative culture industries in traditional and modern performances could be created. This should be approached in a manner commensurate with this economic sector.

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HON SHIFETA**

An intensive workshop for one day enlightened us how to prepare, understand and implement events in culture performances. All this knowledge and practice we plough back into the local culture industry. The Namibian performing artists are making steady progress to build an industry as we see regularly in the public media. We had similar exchange programmes with Zambia and South Africa.

The National Museum is the custodian of national heritage objects. The National Heritage Council of Namibia was established in March 2006 in terms of the National Heritage Act, Act 27 of 2004. It is responsible for in-situ conservation of national heritage in all its diversity.

There is a particular need for training professional heritage workers in disciplines such as archaeology, anthropology and conservation for which bursaries should be made available.

In addition, new sites have been declared as national monuments, some others are soon to be declared. To this end, human remains found in Lüderitz, were buried at Shark Island according to a Cabinet decision. Already established shrines placed under the custody of Heritage Council, such as, Eenhana, Ongulumbashe and Heroes Acre also need second phase development projects that are halted because of financial constraints. Human remains, in particular skulls of Namibians taken to Germany, will be repatriated soon.

Heritage conservation without public appreciation of their heritage would be a losing battle, thus the National Museum and National Heritage Council have initiated public educational programmes to promote awareness.

The total Operational Budget for these activities is N\$72,045,000.

The following are Capital Projects under this programme:

- Construction of Omuthiya Multi Purpose Culture Centre (Oshikoto Region) Phase 2

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HON MAAMBERUA

- Brandberg National Monument Construction (Erongo Region) Phase 1.

The total Development Budget for these projects amounts to N\$9,251,000. The total Budget requested for this Programme is N\$81,296,000.

The total Operational Budget request for this Ministry is N\$427,714,000.

The total Capital Projects Budget request for this Ministry is N\$81,351,000.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in conclusion, I would like to thank the team of our Ministry, the Honourable Minister, the Permanent Secretary, the management and the entire staff members for assisting me in compiling this Budget motivation speech.

I now request this august House to approve the expenditure request of our Ministry amounting to N\$509,065,000 for 2011/2012 Financial Year.

I thank you for your kind attention.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you Honourable Deputy Minister. **Vote 14 – “LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE”** is put for Discussion.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I thank the Minister of Labour for a well-motivated statement. Let me start with your proposal to allocate N\$13,316,000 to the Employment Equity Commission. Apart from the N\$13 million that you are proposing to allocate, are there any other sources of income to the Employment Equity Commission? In this respect I have in mind levies for assessments done on companies or is it done free of charge?

In the same vein, I have with me here the Annual Report of the
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HON UEITELE

Employment Equity Commission which was tabled a few weeks ago. However, this Annual Report has no financial statements attached to it. In the same Annual Report there is a list of companies which have defaulted and the question is, do those amounts accrue to the State Revenue Fund or does this amount actually go to the Employment Equity Commission?

On page 4 the Minister is informing us that he has only 41 labour inspectors and 10 factory inspectors responsible for the whole country. What exactly is the reason that we have so few inspectors? Is it because you cannot get enough posts approved by the Public Service Commission or how are you going to achieve our objectives in that Ministry with only 41 labour inspectors for the whole country?

On page 6 the Minister informs us that retrenchments were unfortunately rampant during the review period. However, there is no breakdown as to how many retrenchments took place in the mining, fishing, agriculture and hospitality sectors. You mentioned the total figure of 4,276, but what are the retrenchments in the respective sectors? I think that information would be helpful if we were to analyse and come up with relevant interventions.

I think the reference to “*disabled people*” is an unfortunate choice of words and I see the same tone also in the motivation of the Minister of Veteran Affairs. I think there is a more humane description of that category of persons. Thank you very much.

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

HON UEITELE: My intervention is based on page 4 where the Minister says he has 41 labour inspectors only. I just wanted to hear from the Minister what number of inspectors would be sufficient for the Ministry. Currently the complaints of most of the workers and farm workers are not attended to in the absence of inspectors and I want to know whether it would not be possible for Regional Councillors to attend to some of these

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HON SHIXWAMENI

problems and then channel them to the Ministry responsible? Thank you very much.

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

HON SHIXWAMENI: I think most of the issues have been addressed by Honourable Maamberua and I will raise 3 main issues and 1 is on the labour inspectors. I do sympathise with the Ministry regarding the shortage of labour inspectors in the country, but given the shortage that we have, there are complaints regarding some labour inspectors, not all, who normally colludes with employers in order to stifle the complaints of the workers. Many people are talking about this issue and I would like the Minister to investigate to see what exactly is happening on the ground. Quite a number of workers have complained that the employer and the labour inspector have colluded to kill a particular case.

The other issue I want to raise is with regard to retrenchments. I had the opportunity of saying that what we need in order to track down employment is the issue of regular labour force surveys which, with the technology available, could be done either on a monthly or at least a quarterly basis. When one sees the statistics that the Minister provided about unemployment, one begs the question as to whether we are still at 51% unemployment or actually above that level of unemployment.

My argument there is to have regular labour force surveys so that we can keep track and so that Government have the necessary statistics in order to plan better.

On the same page 6 the social grants, such as the pensioners' grant is mentioned. I think the Honourable Member here would claim that for 21 years it has been his issue, he has been pressing for pension increases, but what I want to say is that we should stop playing ping-pong with the issue of pensioners' grants. My appeal to the Ministry of Labour, together with the Ministry of Finance, is to do research and investigate how sustainable

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HON SHIXWAMENI

this N\$500 is. I would really plead that we do proper research as to what it can afford the pensioners, because most of the pensioners take care of their grandchildren, including their children, paying school fees, etcetera. I think we should stop playing it as a political ball and investigate the matter and see what would be the most affordable rate that we can afford in terms of an increase for old-age pensioners.

My last point is on the Employment Equity Commission. The Employment Equity Commission is doing quite a good job, but there is still a lot that needs to be done with the whole issue of the allegations of race-based payments in existence. I think it would be good if the Employment Equity Commission investigates this issue of race-based salaries still in existence in some private companies so that this issue is addressed and also the issue of payment of expatriates as opposed to the payments for locals. What is happening in our society is that expatriates are paid more than their equal partners in these international Non-Governmental Organisations. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:

May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Comrade Shixwameni, you are making a good point, but are you aware that other than race-related payments, after 21 of Independence there are still some farmers in this country who put a dog or a cat in a vehicle while the farm workers are transported at the back in the cold and even passing through Police roadblocks? Do you not agree with me that there is a need for a law to prohibit this totally?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I am fully aware of it, I have seen it several times and I think what we need to do is to basically act. We do not need a law, I mean if you pass a Police roadblock and there is a dog in front and people at the back, the Police should be able to order that person to immediately put the dog at the back and the people in front.

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HON MOONGO

I was saying international Non-Governmental Organisations need to be looked into in terms of their payment structures. It is a serious issue that needs to be addressed and I hope it will be attended to.

I must conclude by saying that it is completely unacceptable that 21 years after Independence 5% of the population of this country are in executive positions and the majority of the people of this country are basically at middle and junior management level. That situation needs correction and I think we need to act now before it is too late. Thank you.

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

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also want to base my remarks on page 7, the social welfare services. I think this is the year that we are supposed to consider an increase of the old-age pension to N\$1,000 because of the floods. Until when are those old people going to live under these circumstances where they have to be rescued from the water? Here in Windhoek it is much better, we have old-age homes for the elderly and we should do the same for those who are affected by the floods. The land is flooded, they cannot find food. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Would the Honourable Member accept a question? Can the Honourable Member confirm or deny that the Honourable Member is not providing support to some elderly couples that have contributed significantly to his upbringing and should he not deal with that matter first before he comes to us for an increment in the social grants from the Government?

HON MOONGO: I accommodated more than 30 people in the Uukumwe which was not flooded. Three are under water and I am accommodating those people for now. It is the duty of the Government to
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HON MOONGO

build houses in a very safe area so that we do not have to remove the elderly people from the flooded areas every year.

There are also complaints by elderly people that their November and December pensions were not paid. Has the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare recovered the outstanding money? If yes, why was the money not paid out to the rightful owners? What if an elderly person ends up in hospital for 2 months and he does not have anybody to act on his behalf and then dies? This money remains with the company distributing the pensions and I want to know what happens to this money when an elderly person dies after not being paid for 2 to 3 months. They always have delaying tactics; they say you will be paid double the next month, which does not happen. Where is the money? There is corruption within the system and I want this to be corrected. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Chief, you talk about money being lost. Here where we are sitting we have the right person to whom you were supposed to report that case, namely Honourable Mbumba. Have you done so or are you only asking the Minister of Labour?

HON MOONGO: I wanted to speak about it under the Vote of the Ministry of Health and you said I should wait for the Vote of Labour. Now you are again saying it is Minister Mbumba. You are dodging, you do not want to act and we want action to solve the problems of the elderly people. Soon you will also be old and we cannot ignore the fact that money is being lost. I support the Vote.

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

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HON NAHOLO

HON NAHOLO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I want to confine myself to page 2 of the Honourable Minister's speech and my main focus is on the Namibia Labour Force Survey. I want to hasten to say well done, Honourable Minister, on the results of the Labour Survey, although it has taken too long for the country to know what the unemployment situation is, which was more or less 2 to 3 years. I am sure that when the country was in the dark as to the unemployment rate, the planning for employment was affected in the process.

My second concern is that the unemployment figure is being disputed by your fellow Cabinet Members and I am tempted to question the credibility on the basis of measuring unemployment especially on the part of the Ministry of Finance, as to how they arrived at that figure of 104,000 new jobs within 3 years while you have a situation whereby some Members of Cabinet are disputing the unemployment rate. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. I do not necessarily agree with the way Honourable Naholo is putting it, that Members are disputing the 51%. I know that there are Members who have expressed concern on the methodology used and not necessarily the figure arrived at. This is what has been question, but that is an academic expression.

HON NAHOLO: The concern with the number of labour inspectors has already been dealt with. Forty-one people cannot cover the whole country and I am wondering what is happening to the poor employees at the hands of employers in the absence of labour inspectors. I am sure there are many unfair labour practices all over and, therefore, I think that the Budget should respond to this. I am sure the Minister already has a plan so that in future we have a sufficient number of labour inspectors.

I want to lead to the issue of training, because when I was listening to the Honourable Minister, I was listening more to what he was not saying, especially on the issue of training. I believe the labour inspectors need to

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HON NAHOLO

be supported in terms of training because they have to be brought on par with the challenges they are facing on a daily basis. They need to be conversant with the laws, such as the Labour Act itself, the Affirmative Action Act, Social Security Commission Act, etcetera. These laws are the instruments used by the labour inspectors in their daily activities. Honourable Minister, try to encourage the promotion of training.

I believe that since this Ministry is charged with the responsibility to look after the wellbeing of the working population, this Ministry should be central to the ideal of human-centred development efforts. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? I think the Honourable Member has been a very favourite person to the Minister of Labour whenever he went abroad. Why did you not advise the Minister during that time when you were there and still with the NUNW? Now you have a stage where you can accuse the Minister while you were one of his favourites. Why did you not advise the Minister that time?

HON NAHOLO: The Ministry needs to promote in-service training because there is a lack of skill development with the employees in the Public Service, especially the lower categories such as Government cleaners, drivers and labourers. These people have no chance for promotion at all; therefore they need skill development because it shows that once you enter Government as a cleaner, you will retire a cleaner and the same goes for drivers and labourers. Promotion is a primary interest of each and every worker. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask a question? Honourable Member, you are saying the categories you have mentioned will remain as such. Are you sure of that statement? Do you know how many employees are in the Public Service and how many have moved from one position to another through their own efforts to advance themselves?

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HON ISAACKS

HON NAHOLO: You said they advanced themselves, they tried to help themselves. It is not the Government which is helping the people to gain skills, they tried on their own. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member wants to advance a very erroneous notion. From my own experience I can name a number of people who were cleaners and there is no obstacle in the Government system preventing people to move upwards. Of course, that also depends on individual efforts, but the opportunities are there and we have also discussed it and said that a person should not think if you are a cleaner today, you will remain a cleaner forever. Let me stop there because it is not true.

HON NAHOLO: In conclusion, Honourable Chair, I reluctantly support the Vote.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to find out from the Honourable Minister whether the labour inspectors only attend to farm workers, whether commercial or communal, when a case is reported or are they visiting them regularly to find out what the problems are?

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

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: I thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, I would like to thank the Minister for continuously doing a very good job in their quest to improve the labour and social welfare of the Namibians.

Others have already touched on the issue of labour inspectors and I would just like to find out what is hampering the process of recruitment of these very important people. Is it lack of qualifications, lack of human resources or why are they not being recruited? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: May I ask Honourable Ncube a question? When Honourable Naholo of the RDP started at the NUNW, did he start as a labourer or a cleaner?

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Maybe he can answer that. I am asking this question because these people are very important. The companies are claiming that they treat men and women equally, which is not done in reality and if there is nobody to follow up, this issue will never be tackled. There are still women who are disappointed with the way companies handle the issue of gender parity at all levels and companies should invest meaningful resources in gender parity.

Honourable Minister, I would humbly request that the companies ensure that more women climb the corporate ladder. They have to go beyond flag jobs. They should actively promote and de-stigmatise flexible career arts within their organisations or companies. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Will this House allow a woman to have a veto right?

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: I would also like to find out how many women are employed in Uukumwe and at what level. (Intervention)

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HON NGATJIZEKO

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: May I ask a question? If you look to your right how many women are you seeing there right now? I have written letters to the Political Party leaders that we should amend the Electoral Act so that we have women in those positions where the men are in the majority. When are they going to respond to my letters?

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: I think we have been seeing that trend in the DTA throughout the years that they do not include women.

Another point is on page 7, the companies which are failing to comply with the provisions of the Affirmative Action Act. I really feel that stiff penalties should be put in place in the new law, because these people are doing it deliberately since they know they have money to bail themselves out. That is why they continue to undermine the law that was passed by this Parliament.

Honourable Minister, on one page you used the term “*people living with disabilities*”, then “*people with disabilities*” and then “*disabled people.*” Could you maybe educate us which one is the right one to be used because it is really confusing. Thank you very much. With these few words I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

COMMITTEE: Thank you. Can I call on the Minister to respond?

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you very much. I want to thank all the Colleagues who have supported this Vote, but I just want to clarify a few things.

A number of Members have raised questions on the issue of Labour Inspectors. The structure of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is relatively small compared to that of many other Ministries. Some of you

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HON NGATJIZEKO

might be looking at the N\$1 billion that I have requested here, but the bulk of that money goes for social welfare. You must also remember that the procedure to get positions on the fixed establishment of any Ministry is a cumbersome one. The Public Service Commission has to approve those positions and then you have to secure funding. We have those and we try to make do with that, also considering that, for instance, this year's Budget is taking on very important issues facing this Nation, such as appraising unemployment. We will continue to try and secure more inspectors.

Honourable Ueitele asked what would be an appropriate number of inspectors. I suspect about 80 labour inspectors and possibly 20 factory inspectors should be able to do the job. Of course, one of the most important aims of the Labour Act is to try and create harmonious relations between employers and employees, to the extent that the number of inspectors should not be a big issue if all of us really adhere to the law.

Now you have noticed that of recent our inspectors have gone to one of the Regions and they have found that some of the employers are not complying with the provisions of the law. They do excellent work. We have been hearing all these accusations that they are bribed, but we have asked that if you have such proof to come directly to me and I will take it on myself that we will deal with that inspector. Please, these few people are doing what they are doing for the country and they are still being accused of things they are not doing and that is really unfair.

Honourable Maamberua, the Employment Equity Commission is a Government institution, a kind of Parastatal. What we have budgeted for here is what they have and that is all, unless they have other sources that I am not aware of. The reports tabled here are narrative reports on what they do and not necessarily financial reports. However, if you want to know more of this public institution, you should be able to approach them for this information.

Honourable Shixwameni, I thank you very much and I take note of your suggestion on the issue of labour surveys. I am of the same opinion and I have been wondering why we have so many years between labour surveys, because those figures would make no sense. Therefore, my

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HON NGATJIZEKO

proposal is that we do it on an annual basis, resources allowing, because I am informed that one constraint for this process to take place on a more regular basis is the finances and especially the availability of vehicles to allow people to go to places. However, we should be able to look at best practices elsewhere on the sub-continent or even in the whole Region because this information is needed on an annual or even on a quarterly basis if we can progress to that extent.

Honourable Maamberua, I also want to explain to you the very important work the Employment Equity Commission does. It has thus far tried to keep record of how the Affirmative Action Programme is being implemented. Cases have been reported and about 200 of those employers who have failed to comply with the law have been charged and taken to court. People who do not comply with the law are being taken care of. We are a peaceful, law-abiding country, we are also a country that tries to be friendly to investors and therefore, we want the role-players in this sector to be brought to a point where they can cooperate and find amicable solutions to problems between them without being controlled by Police Officers or the army. That is what we are trying to do; we will continue to do so, hoping to get them to a point where we can say we Namibians can solve our problems amicably.

Comrade Naholo mentioned the training of people and I thought he is aware of the establishment of NIPAM, which was established for the purpose of providing capacity to civil servants. To take a decision to help yourself to improve your capacity is entirely an individual decision to be taken. If you decide to improve your capacity, there is no way that someone else can decide whether you will get that training or not. It is very important for us to help our people to improve their capacity, because that would improve production and contribute to our GDP.

Honourable Moongo, the issue of increment on old-age pensions has been taken care of by the Government throughout. Honourable Moongo knows very well what the situation was when this country became independent. It is through consistent efforts that we have reached the level of N\$500, not that it is enough to take care of all the needs, but it is better than what they had been receiving. The expectation is that we

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HON KAURA / HON IIVULA-ITHANA

should be able to take responsibility for our parents and take care of them, rather than dumping our children on them and expect them to survive on the N\$500.

Honourable Moongo, with regard to the November and December payments, I must correct you that there was no corruption and I think you do not understand where the corruption is coming from. I have explained that there was a change of service providers in December. With that takeover some people might not have received their pensions for one or the other reason. The new company took over in January and after reconciliation the money would be paid in February. If it was not done, Honourable Moongo, I am extending an invitation to you to specifically go and tell those people who have not received their money that the money is available. Thank you very much.

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

HON KAURA: Just a question to the Minister. Honourable Minister, have you been to the Katutura old-age home when senior citizens are being paid, standing in the sun, standing in the rain, standing in the cold from 6 in the morning until 6 in the evening? No facilities are available, no chairs, nothing. Is it not possible to move them to the community hall where there are chairs and facilities to receive their payment there instead of standing in the sun?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: The Honourable Member is bemoaning the fact that the old people are receiving their pensions in that fashion. The pension payout is not an independence phenomenon; it is a phenomenon that existed before Independence. What this Government did was to add on to what the old people used to receive. How many facilities has his Government created?

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HON BEUKES

HON KAURA: In the first place, this is the Government of the Republic of Namibia, we are talking about our own parents, we are sitting here as Namibians, dealing with an issue that concerns our own parents. Twenty-one years after Independence this is what we are saying; you cannot pay our people in the sun 21 years after Independence and try to justify that. There are chairs at the Katutura Community Hall, you can use that facility to pay the people and at least they would be sitting down instead of standing in the sun, the rain and cold from dawn until sunset.

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

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I have been engaged in many requests for the elderly, ranging from problems such as the pay-points and I think I have taken note of what you are saying and we would see what can be done about some of these places.

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

Vote 18 – “ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM” is put for Discussion.

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

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, Honourable Minister, Deputy Minister and the staff of Environment and Tourism, the importance that we as a Ruling Party and as Government place on maintaining and preserving our environment is apparent from the Budget speech. Namibia is, indeed, a trendsetter in environmental conservation.

Spending in the previous Financial Year and what was achieved is indicative of your efforts, such as human-wildlife management, the

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA

establishment of conservancies which in itself is an effort by our Government to empower our people to not only benefit financially but to become partners in the conservation set-up.

Our tourism industry is healthy. As you pointed out, Namibia received international recognition in various categories. If this is not an indication that we are managing successfully, I do not know how that can be called.

Comrade Minister, access by our citizens to our parks and resorts is an aspect that may need strengthening. This goes hand-in-hand with affordability. However, big spending is ongoing in establishing community lodges. It is indeed commendable.

The concern about global warming resulting in climate change and its effect on our ecosystems and economic growth did not go unnoticed in your Budget speech. The formulation of a national policy on climate change for Namibia demonstrates that the Ministry and the Government want to be proactive to respond to challenges that we will face in the future. I, therefore, support the Budget as requested by the Minister of Environment and Tourism for the 2011/2012 Financial Year. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, let us not get into general discussion. I call on Honourable Ithana.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. At the beginning allow me to congratulate the Honourable Minister, the Deputy and their staff for the good job they are doing in that Ministry. I have a soft spot for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism as the founding Deputy Minister of that institution.

Comrade Minister, I would like to respond to what you have said on page 1, that the primary role of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism is associated with maintenance of ecosystem and conservation of

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biodiversity. That is the key responsibility on which I would now like to proceed.

Comrade Minister, the *oshanas* in the North are a very important features of the Namibian landscape. These *oshanas* are silting up and their typical features are disappearing. Coupled to this are the number of donkeys in the North which have not only become a menace to human life, they have also become very destructive to the biodiversity that your Ministry wants to preserve. When will we reach the stage where we say the owners of donkeys should please take care of their animals and keep them like any other domesticated animals? (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: I am terribly sorry to disturb the Secretary-General, but she mentioned something very important, namely biodiversity and the donkeys. Comrade Secretary-General, there are other Regions which are in dire need of donkey meat. I have in mind the Erongo Region. Why can we not cull these donkeys and export meat to Erongo?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I have raised this issue before but nothing seems to be done... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask the Secretary-General of SWAPO a question? The SWAPO Party is the Party of the workers, the Party of the peasants, the poor people and the youth. Is the Secretary-General of the SWAPO Party aware that those donkeys are the workforce of the poor?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I am very aware of that and that is why I am saying that the owners of donkeys should take care of their donkeys as they take care of their cows, goats, sheep and even dogs. Why is it that donkeys only have owners during the ploughing season? Immediately the ploughing season is over, these animals are left to nature

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to take care and they sleep on the roads and they eat 24 hours around the clock.

HON MINISTER LANDS, RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION: May I ask a very small question? I can very vividly recall when I was a young boy, growing up in the area where I hail from, that uncles would come from the North to buy donkeys in great numbers from Otjimbingwe and barefoot take them back all the way to where they came from. Have they now become a problem after they were trekked all the way to the North?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Deputy Chairperson, what I was going to say is that the donkeys do not have predators in the North and, therefore, they multiply. Maybe a market must be found for these animals.

The other point that I wanted to bring to the attention of the Minister is the invasion of the North by these Palm Trees. In my Region of Oshikoto, around Onyaanya, Onayena and Onathing... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. Is the Honourable Member aware that the other name for the people in that Region is *Pomilunga*?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes, I am aware, but I am saying that if we are not doing something about this particular vegetation, the North is going to be a desert very soon.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Comrade Deputy Chairperson, may I ask my senior Comrade a question? Comrade Ithana, hailing from that part of the world, I would think when you grew up you witnessed elderly people, particularly men, drinking

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some juice from *Omiilunga*. Are you proposing that we should start harvesting it in various ways, *Eendunga*, *ombike*, *omiilunga* and the other juice that we extract from the baskets and all the likes? Can we perhaps turn this into an economy?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Chairperson, I am raising these issues so that we find a way of devising some strategies. The prohibition of *omiilunga* has created this environmental problem that the trees are now just multiplying. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information. I really sympathise with the Honourable Member, but if we do away with *omiilunga* you will create a possibility for erosion, because when it rains *omiilunga* keeps the soil from being swept away. If there were no *omiilunga* there it would just look ugly, because the wind will be everywhere and also the women make baskets. Traditionally the basket was the plate we used and I think I would prefer the palm trees to be there.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: We have deviated a great deal. The Honourable Member has made a very strong point and I am confident the Minister is going to respond to all those issues. Can we leave it in the hands of the Minister to respond?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I was going to propose that a study be done to find out the effects of *omiilunga* on the soil. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: On a Point of Information. It is a national plant in my area and I have to defend it. The palm tree gives fruit, from the fruit you get *ombike*, *kashipembe*, African Gin and from the same fruit you get firewood. Then from the leaves of the palm tree you

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HON MOONGO / HON IILONGA

make nets, baskets, hats and you use it for thatching and from the same palm tree you can also get the palm tree wine and it is also a breeding place for special birds, so it is a special tree and its existence should not be questioned.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Deputy Chairperson, you can see the interest, therefore I am proposing that the Ministry undertakes a study. We have realised that the more we have them in that number; it is a disadvantage to some other species. In the North many of the indigenous trees have disappeared because *omiilunga* has taken their place. They grow everywhere in the field and they have become a pest. Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I rest my case.

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

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I do not want to dwell on *omiilunga*, but it is true that it is a historic plant in Ondonga and the Traditional Authority is protecting it because of its value.

I see an amount of money is allocated for wildlife protection at Etosha Pan while it is killing our livestock. When is the Ministry going to erect a new fence from Oshivelo to Kunene Region because the wildlife is killing our livestock? I support the Vote.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson. I just want to thank the Minister for the translocation of wildlife to the conservancies.

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HON NAHOLO

People are saying they want to know whether our black-faced impala is really original or whether there was cross-breeding. If the black-faced impala is included in the 172 being trans-located, then I suppose that notion no longer exists, because I recall that some of these people who are helping us to trans-locate were the ones who were saying that they lose their value with cross-breeding.

Is the Wildlife Breeding Stock Loan Scheme also applicable to the North or is it only applicable to the people inside the redline? If it is also applicable to the North, what is the procedure to take up a loan and how many years will one be paying back?

Lastly is on the very important medicinal plant, the devil's claw. Why is there no mention of hoodia? If we allow the export of fresh hoodia, this medicinal plant used by our forefathers will become extinct. Is there any law to prevent the export of the plant? We had the experience of the ostrich where one egg cost N\$30,000, but where are the ostriches today? We have zero, but when you go to other countries, they are there in their millions. Therefore, we should only export dry hoodia and devil's claw. I support Vote 18.

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

HON NAHOLO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the Honourable Minister informed this House that 32,000 jobs will be created in the travel and tourism sectors. This Ministry is one of the four Ministries that are earmarked to create employment before 2014 and I want to congratulate the Minister on this score and I would also like to congratulate in advance the 32,000 Namibians who are going to have jobs this year, 2011. However, my main interest is in what the Minister did not say. How many indirect jobs are going to be created, Honourable Minister? I support the Vote.

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HON KAZENAMBO

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

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to wholeheartedly support the Vote. Firstly, I would like to enquire from the Minister what the procedures and requirements for one to benefit from these loans are. Is this even for those living on farms or communal areas and which animal species can one acquire? (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Kazenambo, may I ask you a tiny question? Are you prepared to take all the cheetahs and all the jackals?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: No, and while we are on that, Honourable Minister, we are told by the Ministry we are not allowed to kill cheetahs which endanger humans and animals, it has to be reported to the game wardens, however when you report a case to them, they do not have vehicles and when they do arrive, they say no, not this one. Is there not a humane manner to take care of these animals, because sometimes they totally wipe out the livelihood of poor people?

Thirdly, is on the question of tourism development. We are told tourism is a foreign currency earner, but what concrete assistance is given to entrepreneurs who own small tour operating companies? I saw some young Namibians who are running small restaurants and have tour operating companies. Some are dependent on the big companies to hire buses. Is there no concrete fund similar to the AgriBank and the Development Bank where these youngsters could be assisted to acquire kombis and to have capital for their restaurants?

Lastly, there is mention of wildlife management on page 8 and we are told
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HON SIMATAA

by big countries and organisations such as CITES not to touch elephants, but I have not seen people in Europe living with elephants. Why do they not release dangerous species and even birds in the streets of London? (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask you a small question? Do you know that the symbol of power for the chiefs who call themselves kings and queens in Europe is the lion? Have you seen a lion in Europe?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: This is really a serious issue. They are kept in zoos because they are considered dangerous and even when you enter those zoos there are strict rules, but the very same people who keep dangerous species in confinement are saying that we must learn how to live with elephants and lions. I am proposing that the issue of wildlife management be revisited. I have no problem living with giraffes, but having lions and a hyena roaming in the areas is unacceptable as our people are dependent on livestock. Now the elephants are competing with our people for food and water and I would agree if the elephants could be kept in national parks in confinement and be moved from areas where they are competing for food with human beings. They are a danger, they are killing people.

I have read that when elephants are living with people, the baby elephants are traumatised by the presence human beings and cattle and also their mothers are stressed and become dangerous. Therefore, they should be moved away from people and be kept in confinement. I support the Vote.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am glad
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HON SIMATAA

that I am taking the Floor after Comrade Kazenambo has spoken because I will continue along those lines, but probably from a different angle.

I do not hate animals called Jumbos, I grew up amongst those animals, but the problem that I have with the Jumbos is that in the Caprivi Region and the northern Regions where people are relying on crop production for their survival these Jumbos, which are multiplying in big numbers, are imposing starvation and perpetual dependence on Government on the people, even during periods when they can harvest. That is the problem I have.

Again, we need to balance that. In any given ecosystem there is no natural predator of these animals called Jumbos, except human beings. Therefore, I propose that international organisations, such as CITES, need to understand and appreciate our situation and avoid treating us in Africa as if we are simply an extension of Europe. By the way, they decimated their animal populations, but are now talking about conservation. They should give us the latitude to harvest our natural resources and we will do that responsibly. We have been doing that in a responsible manner over the years by culling these animals. That is what I wanted to add to the point raised by Honourable Kazenambo.

My second and last point is based on the review of the Lotteries Act. Comrade Minister, I am trying to enquire in advance, that if you look at other countries where lotteries are in place – although they are social evils and we need to balance our appetite to gamble with our appetite to survive – but if you look at the positive experience from other countries, the proceeds from lotteries have been invested in social sectors, such as education, health and sport. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask a question? Comrade Minister, on the issue of lotteries, I want to find out what are your views on these current lotteries by SMS? Every day there is a new one and I want to know by which law they are controlled. I want to know how that contribution to education will be collected if anyone can have these lotteries?

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HON NAMBAHU

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: I think what I will do and conveniently so, is to pass the questions over to Comrade Netumbo. I was trying to indicate that we should take advantage of the review process we are engaged in and factor in the requirement to target a certain percentage from the proceeds raised from these lotteries so that we can channel these to critical areas of education, health and sport development.

The Deputy Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture just tabled the Budget for sport and we heard how inadequate the Budget is and money generated in this fashion can assist us in many ways. On that note, I support the Vote.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee let me also support this Vote wholeheartedly. It is all-encompassing; it deals with so many issues and will contribute to the development of the country if some of the issues are properly addressed.

I want to start on the issue of the Casinos and Gambling Houses Act. It is a good approach that we are moving towards replacing this with the Gaming and Entertainment Act, but sometimes we are content to count and quantify the benefits accruing from gambling exercises, however I am not too sure whether a study has also been done to quantify how much it contributes to the deprivation of our people who engaged in these activities. With due respect to the previous Parliament, the people who legalised gambling in our country which, I think, was during the time we hosted the Miss Universe Pageant here, I know of people who have become paupers on account of gambling addiction. Inasmuch as we try to address poverty, on the one hand, this is one of the avenues through which poverty is perpetuated.

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HON NAMBAHU

I know we are going to meet with resistance because it brings a lot of revenue for business people involved in this and they are not going to take it kindly and hands folded, but I think we should make a study and the process should be accelerated.

The AAP, the African Adaptation Programme, is meant to help the populations to develop capacity to adapt to climate change and I feel this is a window that we should really exploit to develop varieties that can adapt to these new conditions in terms of horticulture, water harvesting, in terms of plants that can survive prolonged rainy seasons and droughts associated with climate change. I am very happy to see the Conventions and that there are Governments, such as the Japanese Government, that are helpful in this regard. Maybe we should popularise it and even help some of those flood-stricken Regions to develop long-term plans or strategies to adapt.

My last point is on the Environment Commissioner. When I was working in the water sector we were talking about this issue all the time, but we still do not see them anywhere. I should congratulate either the Department of Conservancies which has gone to communal areas and created Conservancies there. However, I still feel that there is a red line in terms of the environment. It seems to end somewhere near Namutoni. If soil erosion is taking place on the other side, we are not really concerned.

Around the Cuca Shops plastic bags are being eaten by roaming animals and there is no education on garbage collection in those areas and it seems there is still a red line. Maybe that is my impression, but I think this need to be looked into. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Nambahu, may I ask you a tiny question? Would you suggest that the Cuca Shop owners should pay an environmental levy?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Very much so. I cannot agree more, I think there should be something; it cannot just be left like
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HON SHIXWAMENI

that because there is this “*Polluter Pays*” principle and we should apply the same principle to the one who contributes to that kind of situation. I really think that should be looked into in conjunction with Forestry.

When it comes to *omiilunga*, serious research should be done and if we plant them in a proper way, they could even be used as wind barriers. I grew up in an area where pine trees were planted to curb soil erosion and maybe we should use these indigenous trees to do that. The palm tree could even be used for manufacturing building materials. I support the Vote.

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

HON SHIXWAMENI: I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister for all the awards and international accolades that she has received and wish her all the best of luck.

To start with the international front, the Kyoto Protocol is coming to an end in 2012 and its renewal is in doubt as the negotiations are ongoing.

I would just like to find out, how have we as a country benefited from the Kyoto Protocol and CDM project mechanism? Is there anybody who has benefited inside Namibia and if there is, how many have benefited?

The other issue I want to raise is on page 6 of your statement concerning Enterprise and Financial Management for entrepreneurs in the Tourism industry. I must say that early January I passed through Etosha and, I must congratulate the Namibia Wildlife Resorts for the renovations that they have done on the lodges throughout Etosha, but I would say that it seems the shops there look at tourism only from the international perspective and not from the national perspective, that indeed our own countrymen should be able to afford the facilities, be able to enter Etosha, spend two, three days. I stayed at both Namutoni and Halali and finally exited through Okaukuejo. The facilities are very grand, they are

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HON SHIXWAMENI

beautiful, but the so-called SADC price for locals is very high. I would really urge the Namibia Wildlife Resorts and the Ministry to engage in a new exercise on these prices. For a double room it is N\$450 to N\$500 per person per night, which an ordinary Namibian, apart from those of us who are sitting here, can afford. It will just be good that these prices are revisited so that the locals could visit our national parks, because many of our people do not know our country. By encouraging local tourism at relatively affordable prices, people will be able to travel around the country to see this beautiful country for themselves, because the beauty should be appreciated by Namibians and not only by the German, the British and the French nationals. We ourselves should be proud of our country and we should be afforded the opportunity to stay at these lodges at affordable prices.

Another matter is the artefacts sold at the lodges. I hope that through this Enterprise and Financial Management Plan our people will be educated in terms of pricing. In determining prices, people are looking at what the Germans and the British can afford because they come with the Euro or the Pound. I would also like to buy some of the artefacts, but they are unaffordable. I keep on telling people that we out-price our own from the market. Maybe financial guidance is needed for our people, because the more you sell, the better than waiting to sell a few things because people are unable to afford. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? While you are on a very important point that may generate economic spin offs, would you also suggest that when tourists go to areas like Opuwo where they call the local people together and take photos that they also pay for that? When these photos are taken to Europe, they are converted in postcards and sold at an exorbitant price. Do you not think we may put something in place that those people also generate income?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I agree with you that it is exploitation of our Himba and San people because the photos are generally taken for free and
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HON SCHLETTWEIN

it is something the Ministry could probably look at and see what needs to be done to ensure that something should be done about the copyright of those photos.

My last point I want to emphasise is the commercialisation of our wild natural products. I welcome this initiative and I know there are a few people who have benefited from it, but I think the system needs to be popularised and widened. Alongside the Trans-Capriivi Highway, particularly in the Kavango area, many products like Maguni and Nangondwe are sold alongside the road and the Government in general needs to look at how to develop these local people to process these products that can be packaged and sold commercially. Once they are packaged properly their lifespan is extended than just being sold loosely there. I support the Vote.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you for giving me the Floor. I do not want to keep you very long, but I have one contribution that relates to page 2 of the Minister's statement. It relates to many interventions we have heard on how we deal with our wildlife and environmental resources.

I, for one, think that the Ministry is in fact doing well and that they have the right approach which, if I understand it correctly, tries to cover 2 aspects. Our environment and our wildlife, whether it is plants or animals, are, on the one hand, our natural heritage which needs to be conserved and preserved, but it is also, on the other hand, a commercial resource. I think the Ministry has found a balanced way in managing that through accepting and adopting the policy of sustainable utilisation of natural resources. Whether it is the fauna or the flora, the principle is the sustainable utilisation of natural resources. That is the first point.

The second point that I want to make is that as a small country we are at
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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH

risk that our environmental policy is driven by the need of the developed world. By engaging them in international fora, we are locked into an agenda that is not of our making that does not address our needs, but the needs of someone who is in charge of that agenda. Unfortunately we are probably not strong enough and not in a position to be champions of that agenda. However, the Honourable Minister is doing well, she is trying very hard and the Right Honourable Prime Minister did very well at the Earth Summit to drive our agenda. We must be aware that we are in fact doing well, we have managed our wildlife resources better than the north, because we still have elephants, we still have lions and we still live with them and they are coming to look at them as they do not have them.

In many aspects we actually have the better expertise in terms of natural and wildlife management than the north and we should not be shy to put our agenda up front and say that is how we want to manage our wildlife so that it benefits our people. That is the first priority and then we can see what you need. It is a principle point that we should not be shy to drive our agenda very hard. We should not fall into the trap of being driven by foreign agendas that do not take our needs as the pivotal point.

With those few words, Honourable Minister, I think you are doing well and I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Minister, could you respond to some of the specific issues raised?

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you Honourable Members for your support of this Vote which is in charge of our natural economic base.

The first concern raised is on the access to our parks to be made affordable, but by and large she was really supporting the Vote and acknowledging the work done by those in charge of the Ministry. Our
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parks are definitely accessible to all of us and we should just make an effort to visit those parks.

The *Honourable Minister of Justice* was concerned about the features of the *oshanas* and the damage done by the donkeys, that they are destroying the biodiversity. In everything we have to do as citizens, we have to find a balance. It is a fact that the donkeys are used in those communities where they are found and they are also contributing to the production in those communities. Therefore, what is needed is only an understanding on how a balance can be reached. It is true that if the donkeys are multiplying that another way of utilising them positively can be found. It is only a matter of people taking a decision and being guided.

The issue of the palm trees has generated a very interesting discussion and maybe we should do research on how indigenous trees could be utilised in order to contribute to the economy of the country. I remember when I was at the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare we asked for research on the marula tree so that we see whether they would have a negative impact on the environment if planted in great numbers and I hope the results of that research will still come out. There is nothing wrong with doing research on our indigenous trees so that we can agree on what value can be added, but all our indigenous trees definitely have to be protected.

Honourable Moongo mentioned the fencing of Etosha. I hope you have read in my motivation that we plan to fence off all 800 square kilometres of Etosha with the same quality of fencing. It will cost us a lot of money. I cannot tell you exactly when it will be completed, but you have seen in the Budget that since last year we have started fencing off Etosha. That is an ongoing programme.

Honourable Ilonga, you spoke about the centres for trans-location of game and you have asked about the black-faced impala. A study was conducted in 2005 and revealed that the black-faced impala in Etosha are genetically pure. The Ministry does not permit the keeping of the black-faced impala within the range of two farms and we can now say that they are pure, they are not mixed.

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You asked whether this loan can be given to the North. Under the breeding scheme you are given game and after a certain period, depending on the reproduction of the species given to you, you will be required to return the exact number of species given to you. Thus far the idea is to assist those who want to venture into game farming and that was specifically focusing on those who are getting farms so that they can also become game farmers. That will help when you pay back because you will still remain in a non-restricted area, but if you are in a restricted area, it might be difficult for those game to be returned. However, as time goes on we might consider it, but for now we are concentrating more on freehold.

At present the procedure is that you apply and then the officials of the Ministry will do an assessment of your area, whether you will be able to manage and keep the game you are asking. There is great interest in this particular scheme and the Ministry is not even in a position to assist each and everyone who is asking because it is a very expensive exercise just to capture and to make sure that they are properly transported. Every time you capture you must have a Veterinarian and currently we have only one very overworked Veterinarian.

I can tell you that we do not allow the hoodia plant, nor the seeds, to be taken outside the hoodia range. The hoodia range consists of Namibia, South Africa and Botswana and we do not allow plants or seeds to move from there. If that is happening, it is unfortunate, but this is not allowed by law.

Honourable Naholo, if you read that paragraph carefully, we are talking about the direct jobs to be created by those activities which are directly benefiting from the tourism industry. If you open a hotel, you may decide to contract out your laundry services and that laundry will not be able to do it with their current capacity, they will be forced to employ more people for the job. Those are the industries which are directly benefiting from the tourism industry and because of that they are also creating jobs. There are many examples of entities benefiting from the tourism industry and all those comprise a good number of jobs.

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Honourable Kazenambo, I have explained how one could benefit from the scheme. You said that our game rangers are called but they have no transport. We all know this Budget is coming from the same cake, but our idea is to make all our rangers mobile so that they can move as fast as possible, but sometimes our wishes cannot be met due to the available resources. However, they are trying their level best.

You asked whether we could not have an institution, such as the AgriBank or Development Bank, for small entrepreneurs. The Namibian Development Bank was established to assist the growth of the economy and to help those entrepreneurs from whatever sector. We are now in discussions with the Namibian Development Bank to have a specific window for those who are venturing into the tourism industry, especially now that the tourism sector has been identified as one of the strategic sectors for job creation and in the course of this year alone, my Director of Tourism had several meetings with the Chief Executive Officer of the Namibian Development Bank and we are hopeful that something could be done.

The same applies to the AgriBank, because conservancies are part of land utilisation and if one wants to venture into game farming, it is also farming. Therefore, we are discussing with AgriBank to consider support for those involved in game farming and other forms of land-use and we are hopeful that something will come out.

With regard to the elephants, I think it is in line with what the Deputy Minister of Finance said that we have to drive our own agenda. I want us to say whether we want to get rid of wildlife as happened in Europe. We cannot correct a wrong with a wrong. You are saying you read a study which says if the game lives with humans, especially elephants, they become aggressive. Other studies are telling us that if you confine elephants, they become aggressive because they want to be free. Even now that we are erecting this fence in Etosha it will be a three-safety net. It is the fence itself, which is electrified and there is an alarm and that alarm will be linked to 7 points around Etosha. Each unit will know which area they are taking care of and when the alarm sounds, they will know where the elephants are breaking out. We are taking all the

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necessary measures and we will keep improving on them.

Last year I informed this House that CITES gave us only 90 elephants for trading purposes and we are negotiating for more. The only problem is that there are regional groups and in Africa we are not speaking with the same voice, because there are countries which do not want to hear anything about trading in elephant products. That is making the international discussions very difficult because Africa is not speaking in one voice. Of course, Southern Africa is trying because we are the ones who are hosting the largest number of elephants in the world.

Honourable Simataa, you also touched on the elephants and I have answered that. The conservancies want elephants, because if you harvest one elephant, you get N\$300,000, N\$500,000 at a go and as I mentioned in my statement, we have now started implementing the scheme, we give N\$60,000 to every conservancies and this is going to be done as time goes on.

We are reviewing the Lotteries Act as well as the one on gambling. We have to know that lotteries and gambling are completely different. We have already started the process of bringing a national lottery. It is true that at the moment there are illegal activities. We are aware of it in the Ministry and I do not want to go into detail at this time. However, in the process we will alert you on what is happening, especially the recent development and the lottery. We will come with a law on gambling very soon and try to manage it.

Immediately this law was implemented there was already a problem and that is why this Parliament had to say stop giving gambling licences now. Then a study was done under the leadership of Comrade Damaseb. That is why I referred in my introduction to the Damaseb Report. That Report has revealed the negative social impact that gambling has on our country. With the review of the law we are trying to see how to curb that and we do not know whether we will succeed as it is a big challenge. It is already clear that gambling has a negative impact and it is so unfortunate that our people see gambling as a way of making quick money without thinking of

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the consequences. Of course, it is your choice, but sometimes when you are put in such a temptation, such a choice becomes difficult.

I agree with you on the African Adaptation Programme. We have many programmes of environmental nature which are supported outside the Budget which are looking at different varieties of seeds, etcetera. Currently we have forty centres where we are testing different things and we are working together with the Ministry of Agriculture so that we can see what should be done. I hope that the Honourable Members of Parliament know that we have an environmental centre in Etosha National Park as you enter from Tsumeb. Many schools visit that centre and those of you who are patrons of schools should arrange for the schools to go there. We give them a very good entrance price and there is a hostel where they can sleep. Our officials will then give them information, so please make use of that centre.

Comrade Nambahu, on the issue of the Environmental Commission, when I came into this Ministry I thought by 2011 I would not talk about not having an Environmental Commission in place. It is so difficult for us to manage environmental issues because we just do not have the capacity. The challenge is our structure and it is clearly stipulated in the law who should serve on the Environmental Commission and that it should be an independent body. When I presented the Budget I said that we are going to have that Commission when we leave here, but I can tell you that if a miracle happens, we may have that Commission by next year. However, for now, there is nothing. I said in my motivation that I know that the Cabinet Committee on Public Service, chaired by Prime Minister, on the 14th of February had given principle approval of our structure, but now it is just stuck and where, I do not know. That is the challenge, until next year there will be no Commission in place. I do not know whether it is the Public Service Commission or Treasury, but no Commission until maybe next year.

It is true that the trees can be used as wind barriers and it is being done at the coast.

The Kyoto Protocol is coming to an end in 2012 and we do not know

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what is going to happen. The Kyoto Protocol faced challenges because the main players, which are the developed countries who are the polluters, are just not willing to do anything. The main components of the Protocol deal with the reduction of emissions, putting up a fund for clean development mechanisms and then the transfer of technology. Nothing is really happening. We do not know what is going to happen at the COP 17 in Durban, but as I said, I am going to brief this Parliament fully on this issue. Maybe it will be very helpful because on the 26th of May we are going to have the SADC Ministers responsible for Environment, Forestry and Natural Resources meeting here in Windhoek and one of the issues would always be how we see the way to the Durban conference. When I give information to Parliament, we will debate on the matter.

Support to the entrepreneurs in the tourism industry - that is what we are doing, like using our natural products. I understand some of the people are not getting information and that is why you find some of these products just being sold along the roads. We ask that Members of Parliament should also be part of the community initiative, so that we can provide information to members of the community and even mobilise the necessary funds for them.

Honourable Shixwameni said he was in Etosha last year, but the price is a package consisting of a bed, breakfast and dinner. Lunch is excluded. You have to understand that if you can hardly buy all this at N\$400. You do also travel, Comrades, and the only place you will pay N\$400 is at a bed and breakfast establishment. I am pleased to hear you are saying the facilities are good, but then you have to appreciate the comfort in which you find yourself. (Interjection)

HON SHIXWAMENI: I spoke of the ordinary man.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: No, how will that ordinary man reach Etosha? You all go there driving your cars and if you are driving a car, honestly, you need to support your own facilities. There is no subsidy in this Budget for NWR; the funds provided
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here are to improve the infrastructure. How do we expect the NWR to run those facilities? We kept the NWR alive, developed those facilities and then the NWR should stand on its own and in all sincerity, if you compare the prices of the NWR to those of the lodges around Etosha, there is a big difference in favour of the NWR. They are buying things in the same shops and they are providing the same services. That is really the whole issue. At the moment there are promotions at the NWR facilities and I do not know how many of you are making use of them, however we are marketing nationally and we have to see how best our people can have access to that.

You say the artefacts are expensive. Again, it is the ordinary people who are producing these crafts and you do not want to appreciate what they are doing. We can check together with the Ministry of Trade whether they are pricing properly, but they need to be supported.

Finally is on the balanced utilisation of our natural resources. We will continue to do that and we will do our best to see how we can influence the environmental policies which are being led by the world. It is true that the environmental policies are being led by the world and we now have a deadlock because the developed countries are not moving and that is the challenge we are facing as a continent. What miracle can we perform as a continent so that we can set the tune for international negotiations?

This morning I was at the Conference of African Ministers of Health where they are discussing the impact of climate change on health and they were talking about setting up funds for health, but the concern was that you are setting up these funds, but you do not contribute anything to the fund, you want somebody else to do that and that is the attitude. It will be a big challenge until we change our attitude and do things on our own. I thank you all for your support and trust us to take care of our natural resources.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 31 – “VETERANS AFFAIRS” is put for Discussion.

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HON WITBOOI

HON WITBOOI: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. My contribution is on page 3 where it deals with identification and registration of veterans.

Allow me to thank His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba and the leadership for the wise thought to establish a Ministry of Veterans Affairs to cater for those who contributed towards the liberation of our beloved country. I wish to congratulate the Honourable Minister on progress made with some of the veterans who registered in 2008 and the various developmental programmes are also commendable. I have read with joy and pride in the print media and through other means of the various grants received by veterans. Our veterans deserve this assistance as their blood waters our freedom.

Taking in consideration with appreciation the progress made, I wish to make the following remarks. The processing of applications, especially those of 2008, is still very slow. I am in frequent communication with the southern office of the Ministry. I am also informed that a number of veterans who registered in 2008 are still waiting on an answer. There are also those who are waiting for the registration team in order to register them. Knowing that all of those who have registered will not automatically qualify for status of a veteran, there are people of whom I am 110% sure are veterans. For example, we know of the remarkable role the Hoachanas community has played during the liberation struggle of this country. There is no doubt about their contribution, however most of them have not been registered due to many contributing factors, for instance lack of transport, information not reaching people on time, etcetera. Those who have registered during 2008 are still awaiting replies from the Ministry. Even this morning I spoke to the Chief there and I am in regular contact with the offices and the Chief told me he only knows about the status of one. Another one was called to Mariental for additional information.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Ministry of Veterans Affairs for acquiring buildings to serve as offices in the Regions. I am hopeful that service delivery to the people will improve. With these few remarks, I support the Vote.

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HON DR KAWANA / HON MAAMBERUA

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

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 31. This is a Vote and as a veteran I declare my interest. I wish to congratulate the Honourable Minister for the honour he received from the President of Finland. I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: I wish to also join others in congratulating the Minister of Veteran Affairs for running the Ministry in a fair manner. It is the Ministry which is actually at the centre of the heart of SWANU, knowing that SWANU is the oldest liberation movement in the country.

Coming back to the document, mention is made of identification and registration of veterans. That item does not indicate the amount allocated. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. What is the relevance of this persistent remark that SWANU is the oldest liberation movement? Is it to remind whom or to do what? Is there somebody who is arguing against that?

HON MAAMBERUA: I hope the seniority of SWANU does not annoy anybody. Just for the information of the Minister of Veteran Affairs, the item, identification and registration of veterans... (Intervention)

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HON MAAMBERUA

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Why I am saying this is not because I am annoyed, because if we start saying who has done what in the struggle, why do those who have contributed not say, “*we are the ones who liberated the country?*” Why do they not do that? There are others who have done more than that, but do not come here and brag and say we have done this.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Can I plead with you to continue, please? I do not want a dialogue.

HON MAAMBERUA: Minister of Veterans Affairs, there is no amount allocated to the identification and registration of veterans. There are sub-items, but they are not addressing themselves to that identification process and I have to bring out that point because we know that many veterans in the Regions are yet to be identified and registered and we have to ensure that specific amounts are allocated for that particular effort.

On page 4 under the title, “*Legislation Policy and Formulation Regulation,*” we are told that we should draft new Bills and review existing laws and regulations to ensure that all those who contributed to the liberation struggle are covered. I do not know whether the current legislation is not sufficient to cover all those who have contributed to the liberation struggle or not, but otherwise maybe the Minister would want to explain what exactly that is supposed to mean. If it is the disabled veterans, I think there might be a better way of doing that.

On page 7 under “*Liberation Struggle Heritage,*” this programme aims at research and gathering information for archiving and under that Section some N\$6 million are allocated. Obviously, this information has to come from the liberation movements that are recognised for purposes of this and those liberation movements obviously need some capacity to be able to provide that information. My proposal or suggestion is that part of this

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HON MWANINGANGE

money should actually be made available to those liberation movements so that we can provide the information. Some of the information may still be in the countries where we operated from in exile, some information is deep in Namibia somewhere and it is going to be costly to actually gather and provide that information to the Ministry.

With those few remarks and questions, I support the Vote.

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

HON MWANINGANGE: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to, first of all, congratulate the Minister of Veteran Affairs and, indeed, also his predecessor, Comrade Tjiriange who paved the way for this programme to be a reality for men and women of the liberation struggle, who dedicated their lives to the liberation of this country, to be given a token of appreciation. Thank you very much.

Under Programme 1 there is an arrangement for the burial or funerals of the freedom fighters that have passed on. What would happen with regard to those who have already passed on and whose graves have not been marked? I am speaking about those buried here in the country.

My last question is on historical places. In July we went to Tanzania and we happened to pass at a point where we saw some graves of our Comrades. We were taken by the Chairperson of the Committee to historic places of the liberation movement in that part of Africa and we were pleased to see that the graves were well marked and well-kept although not well decorated. What does the Ministry have in mind in that respect? This also applies to other places where those heroes and heroines are buried. These are the few remarks and questions and I support Vote 31.

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HON LUCAS

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, for the opportunity. I rise to support Vote 31 and I would like to confine my remarks to page 5, Programme 4, “*Education and Training, Grants to Veterans and Dependants of the Veterans*”.

I commend the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs and his entire team for coming up with this very important initiative of assisting the liberators of this country who were disadvantaged in one way or the other because of our historical background. Honourable Minister, this assistance is highly appreciated. I would like to get more clarity on this type of financial assistance to veterans and their dependants who would like to further their studies at the institutions of higher learning, because this programme seems to suggest that funding will only be provided for scholarships done in Namibia. Honourable Minister, I am asking this question on behalf of my constituents. For instance, if I have registered at the Witwatersrand University, which is beyond our borders, do I qualify to access this type of financial assistance or not?

Another concern I have is on page 6, the construction of veteran houses. Honourable Minister I recall that some years ago the responsibility for constructing veteran houses was under the Ministry of Regional and Local Government and Housing and I would like to know whether this responsibility has now been transferred to the Ministry of Veterans Affairs or whether they are 2 parallel programmes. With these few concerns I support Vote 31 and I thank you.

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

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HON NAMOLOH

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Firstly, I would like to thank the Minister and his staff for a job well done.

Honourable Minister, on the cover of your speech there is a picture I thought should not be there. It is a picture of a coffin being buried with people around it and I want to know whether it is really necessary. Does it mean that all veterans will be buried?

Honourable Minister, I was very happy when I read on page 3 about the identification and registration of veterans, but Honourable Minister, I was present when you were the first one to be registered and I feel you need to employ people who would know what a veteran is. I do not want you to ask for doctors to be recruited and then you recruit mechanics; otherwise they will confuse a foot with a tyre or a leg with a wheel. We who were there were asked many unwarranted questions. I am asked, "*Where were you?*" "*I was at the operational command headquarters.*" "*Which town is that? Can you give me a street number?*" I think if you were to look at our registration forms, you would find a mess. We need to look into this in order not to disappoint the people who are being registered there. I feel it should be veterans registering other veterans. We can employ people, yes, it is employment creation, but if we need the true facts about where people were, we need people who know what it means. Honourable Minister, the registration should be done very well.

The people at the Ministry of Veterans Affairs should know that they are dealing with a very sensitive issue and the people should be dealt with in a proper manner. I have heard of many people who are very disappointed. People are getting old, they are traumatised, they need care and we need to deal with them properly. Veterans Affairs is a special Ministry, created to deal with the veterans and as such, the people there should behave accordingly. They do not own the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, they are owned by veterans and they should give them service. People are very old, they are being tossed around, "*Come tomorrow, bring this, and bring that.*" No, there must be people who can deal with veterans in a proper manner and service must be given.

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HON NAMOLOH

On page 7 there is mention of individual veterans' projects. I do not know whether these projects are sanctioned or whether they are viable projects that are presented to the Ministry and then funded. When I want to engage in chicken farming, would my project be funded or will I be told that I can only buy a tractor or a grinder for mahangu? How much mahangu will you be grinding if you are a veteran there in one village? You will not be earning money with that project.

Programme 2, Liberation Heritage, "*acquiring historic material of the liberation struggle through negotiations.*" Comrade Minister, is the Ministry going to have a museum or where are we going to keep these materials? Do you also envisage having a museum to keep these materials or what is this all about? Some of us have materials which we have made ourselves during the struggle, how are you going to negotiate with us? Are you going to buy them or are you going to negotiate and then we give them for free or what? Maybe you could establish a website for all those materials to be viewed.

I want to assist the Minister to answer a question asked by Honourable Mwaningange because I have some information to that effect. He asked what will happen to the unmarked graves of those who have passed on earlier on. We have now taken steps as the Ministry of Defence to identify and mark most of the graves of those people. They have been catalogued with pictures and the Ministry will now start erecting tombstones. (Intervention)

HON MAAMBERUA: May I ask the Honourable Minister a small question? Were the steps your Ministry has taken to identify the graves of people who have fallen during the struggle done in consultation with all the liberation movements?

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I was speaking about those who have died inside the country. Those are the tombstones which are being identified. I was just saying what we have done and the Minister of Veterans Affairs will elaborate on that. With these few words I would

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HON GOWASES

want to support Vote 31.

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

HON GOWASES: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise to submit my contribution to Vote 31 of Honourable Nicky Iyambo, Minister of Veterans Affairs.

I appreciate the fact that the welfare of liberation veterans is catered for, but there are still a number of areas that I wish to highlight. On page 3 the Minister mentioned that N\$5.6 million are needed for the printing of veteran registration cards. The going rate for printing of a card in Namibia is N\$30. With this amount the Ministry could print over 165,000 cards in one year. Would I be wrong to understand that we have more than 165,000 in Namibia and if not, on which statistics is the request for N\$5,6 million based? It is impossible that the veterans could be in excess of 165,000. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: May I ask Honourable Gowases a question? Honourable Gowases, in the light of you having rejoined the RP a day before you came to Parliament, are we really sure that all the Members that went to RDP and voted for RDP during the elections have come back for RP to be a Party with the required number of members or is it just you and Honourable Mudge who brought you here?

HON GOWASES: That question is not relevant.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Can you continue and make your point as quickly as possible?

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HON GOWASES

HON GOWASES: On page 6 the Honourable Minister requested N\$3 million for the construction of houses throughout the country. This N\$5 million for the printing of cards and the N\$3 million for houses in 13 Regions... (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information. Honourable Deputy Chairperson, when we talk about this Ministry we should be very serious and not bring in politics. I want you to control this House. The Ministry of Veterans Affairs is about our blood that waters our freedom. I remember the day when you made your maiden speech and talked and I did not say anything, but do not repeat what you said.

HON GOWASES: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, on page 5 Honourable Iyambo mentioned that a single grant of N\$20,000.... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I just want clarity, may I ask a small question? Are you questioning whether we have 165,000 veterans or are you saying the number is too high? Could you clarify that question?

HON GOWASES: According to the speech there are only 20,000 veterans. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: My sister, I hope you understand properly, 20,000 are those who are paid. How many people were involved in the struggle through the years? It is a period of over 40 years. There were those who were fighting, there were those who were inside the country. How many veterans do you think did the revolution

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HON MOONGO

produce according to your estimate? The people who started were 20,000 but from the sixties up to now, how many people were engaged in the struggle? Do you think they were 20,000 in total or were they more than 500,000?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Can we leave it at that and can you, because of the time, try and make your statement and conclude?

HON GOWASES: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, on page 5 Honourable Iyambo has mentioned that a funeral grant of N\$20,000 is planned for the veterans while the pensioners only get N\$3,000. My question is whether the veterans will also benefit from the N\$3,000 if they are registered as pensioners at Social Welfare? I thank you.

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

HON MOONGO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I read on page 4 that the Veterans Act will be amended and cover at least all... (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, I would like to listen carefully, you keep on saying “all”. It is all the veterans of the war of liberation, those people who fought, contributing to the liberation, freedom and Independence of Namibia persistently, not those who were fighting against. If we talk about “all”, it does not mean the Koevoet, the SWATF who were fighting on the side of the enemy against the Independence of this country. Therefore, forget about it if you want them

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HON MOONGO

to be included.

You disqualified yourself, because you came back and joined the enemy. You were making AG laws in this Parliament, imprisoning freedom fighters, some of them whom were hanged here in Windhoek, such as Nduvu Nangolo. You made oppressive laws here in this building; therefore you do not qualify to be a veteran.

HON MOONGO: If I did not return from exile, Jerry Ekandjo and Toivo Ya Toivo would not have been released from Robben Island. I stood here, we took a decision and we convinced South Africa to release you. You are supposed to thank us. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Can I plead with you, I know that we have to make political statements, but let us maintain Order and keep to the topic. You make your statement and you query it, but I think if we do this, we will be here forever. I do not want that to persist because it does not take us anywhere.

HON MOONGO: I was not speaking in general; I was speaking on page 4.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Do not repeat what you said, go to the point you want to make.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Correction. He said if it was not for him, me and Toivo and others would not have been released. I was sentenced to 8 years on the 16th of November 1973 and I finished my 8 years on the 15th of November
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HON MOONGO

1981. I am saying it for the record because it will go into the HANSARD.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, I think that is very clear, we get the point.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: What he said is on record, so I put on record that I completed by 8 years.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Can I please ask you now to take the Floor and avoid a dialogue. Get back to the point you want to make.

HON MOONGO: My point is that I am happy that the Bill...
(Interjections)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Let him state his case, please.

HON MOONGO: I want to state my point and until I have stated my point I will not allow anybody to come in. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Please, please, we cannot continue like this. Let him state his point, he has not yet told us what he wants to say.

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HON MOONGO

HON MOONGO: My point is that I am happy that the Bill is to be amended in order to cover all those who participated in the liberation struggle, because many people were omitted deliberately and everything was done on the SWAPO ticket. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. Honourable Moongo must withdraw, it cannot go on record, please. No matter whether we are tired, it cannot be stated that people like Ya Toivo must thank Honourable Moongo. This is like telling Mandela that he must be grateful to South Africa. Moongo was a collaborator with the South African colonial regime. We suffered and some of us marched and mobilised the international community, petitioned the United Nations and the release of SWAPO political prisoners was not as a result of generosity of Honourable Moongo. He must just withdraw that statement.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I think the correction has been made for the purpose of the Record.

HON MOONGO: I want him to withdraw that I collaborated. I did not collaborate with anybody. I want him to withdraw! I came here to negotiate the Independence of Namibia and through the process we implemented Resolution 435. (Interjections)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Can I make a plea and this is the last time I am going to state this, I will not permit further dialogue on this point. Honourable Member, could you conclude your statement?

HON MOONGO: They must not intervene. I want to complete my speech and nobody has the right to silence me.

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HON AMATHILA

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

COMMITTEE: I am ruling all of you Out of Order now, absolutely, and I will read this: “*After the Presiding Member has called the attention to the conduct of a Member who persists in irrelevance or in repeating arguments, he or she may direct the Member to discontinue his or her speech*” and at that time I have no alternative but to ask the Member to discontinue. I am moving to the next person in line to speak. Honourable Amathila. It applies to both; I am not going to continue to hear you.

HON AMATHILA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would like to thank the Minister of Veteran Affairs and to congratulate him for tabling this Vote. It is a very important Vote and to a large extent its significance also depends on how we adjudicate the issues listed here.

On page 3, paragraph (i), the identification and registration of veterans: This is a very critical component of this programme of the Ministry, how veterans will be identified and how they will be registered. It will contain an element of how people feel, have they been treated fairly, has all the information about them actually been considered before they are classified to be veterans or not and whether some form of justice has been done.

As Honourable Maamberua indicated, no funds are indicated here and I feel this is a very critical component of this exercise. It requires a lot of money so that at least people who are going to man this particular desk should be able to understand the circumstances of every case or every application submitted. There are a lot of people who are very much unhappy about the way they were treated when they applied to become veterans. I remember that somebody told me she was asked to narrate what she has done in her eyes to deserve to be called a veteran and she has indicated that she has been looking after the guests of SWAPO when it was so dangerous to be exposed to the Police. She said she has held some parties for these people and somebody said, “*But do you think that because of doing that you deserve to be a veteran?*” This particular lady felt so bad. This component really requires people who will understand, who can put themselves in the shoes of what was happening those days

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HON AMATHILA

when somebody entertained political leaders or did fundraising. You would find a lady walking very slowly at the risk of being imprisoned, because those long dresses had compartments to carry some drinks. People were not allowed to have intoxicating liquor and sometimes this was very important for fundraising because there was no money readily available for these activities.

For people who did that at the risk of their children being left alone when they are arrested, I think it will require somebody who will understand the circumstances before you can just write off somebody and say she did not do anything for the struggle and, therefore, does not deserve to be a veteran. If you compare that to somebody who was cooking in Nyango or Kwanzazul and that person deserves to become a veteran, it will not be fair.

My view is that this component really requires people who can imagine the situation that time and they need to have that understanding in order to adjudicate whether a person really qualified to be a veteran or not. I have not yet applied to be a veteran, I do not know whether I qualify, but my time will come.

All I am trying to say, Honourable Minister, is that this component requires people who have either been there, who would be able to judge the situation now and in the past, people who will be able to say that if Honourable Nyamu says Honourable Ya Toivo gave me my membership card, that person should be able to go to Ya Toivo and engage Ya Toivo on those terms and verify that it is indeed correct. All I am pleading, Minister, is that you select the people carefully so that at least they can satisfy each and everyone, so that everyone can feel there was justice and fairness.

I think it will be very important that we review the law that we passed, because there are elements of, not unfairness, but things we possibly did not clearly look after that would require us to review, as you put it in paragraph (c), "*in order to be seen to be fair to each and everyone.*" I do not want to cite some of the cases, but I think it is very important and I congratulate you that you have made provision for the review of the law

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HON MANOMBE-NCUBE

and some other arrangements in the future.

I was also trying to find on page 5 whether veterans receiving this funeral grant will also qualify for the other grants by the Ministry of Labour.

On page 7 individual veteran projects is mentioned. The Honourable Colleague has invited all the veterans to submit projects. Some of the projects will become too identical. Will it maybe be possible to lump all those projects together in order for them to become more implementable and possibly more successful, rather than having individuals running the same projects? Is it perhaps possible for these people to buy shares in existing Government projects, such as the Green Scheme, instead of starting projects afresh? Some of the veterans are old and may possibly not carry their projects through, but if you put the money in a secure investment under the Government, the chances are good that they will get some dividends while still alive.

With those remarks, Colleagues, I would like to state that I support the Vote on veterans and hope that when I come to submit my application, I will also qualify.

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

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, I would like to thank the Minister for promoting the welfare and socio-economic needs for veterans of the liberation struggle. Then I only have a question, Honourable Minister.

On page 3 under the impact assessment, I see that the Ministry is saying that this will be carried out over 2 years while the exercise will confirm the number of registered veterans in the country and whether or not they are still alive. The Ministry will also be able to find out the number of dependants or children of the deceased. Will this exercise be done to give
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HON LIMBO

them the benefit of the grant, because it is not clearly indicated?

What will be the status quo when one of the spouses passed on? Is there any mechanism in place for the remaining spouse to continue receiving the grant? Thank you and with this I support the Vote.

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

HON LIMBO: Thank you very much, Deputy Chair. I rise to support Vote 31, Veterans Affairs, being a veteran myself. I want to raise a concern, which was also raised by Honourable Namoloh and Honourable Amathila, and it has to do with the identification of veterans.

Some of us experienced problems when we went to register. (Interjection) Do not make jokes on this issue. I personally saw some of the people who went to register and I was involved in telling the Colleagues that I do not think this one or that one qualifies, because the criteria were not clear to some of the people sent to the Regions. Some of saying, "*during the liberation struggle I was a member of NANSO, I was the SWAPO Branch Chairperson*" and everybody was registering. As a result you will find that some of the people receiving the N\$2,000 did not do anything, they were on the other side of the fence, fighting against the Independence of this country. One gentleman who is not a Namibian was a security guard at the Institute of Namibia, came here and wanted to be registered. At the end of the day even the colleagues there had to tell him he does not qualify. There were many problems surrounding this issue.

I have a question on the lump sum mentioned on page 4. I wanted to find out from the Honourable Minister what would happen with regard to those heroes and heroines whose remains are in the bushes of Angola. Will their parents or family members qualify to get something or what will happen? We are always being told that if your husband died during the liberation struggle, you have to wait and the children of these people are bothering us now. We are caring for these children as single parents and

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HON SIOKA / HON DR N IYAMBO

we do not know what to do.

Another question is whether the dependants who qualify to get loans from the Ministry of Education will be required to repay the loans after completion of their studies or do they fall within the Ministry of Honourable Kazenambo? I need clarity on that issue.

With those words I want to say I wholeheartedly support the Vote. Thank you very much.

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

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me assist the Minister of Veteran Affairs by making a comment.

I am declaring myself as a heroine because I participated in the war and I was injured. I want the Honourable Minister to define who qualifies to be a veteran, explaining it again as it would clarify some of the questions raised here. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Can I now call on the Minister to respond to some of the specific issues?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. In the first instance, I want to thank all the Colleagues who spoke in support of this Vote and those who supported it in silence. I will most probably not answer each and every question specifically, but rather in general.

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HON DR N IYAMBO

Firstly, how do we identify those who are to be registered as veterans? The Act is very clear; it says who is supposed to be registered as a veteran. You appear before the panel, they have a form, which may be complicated and not what you want, but that is what has been agreed upon. Everybody who appears before the Registration Committee will be registered unless there is a person who would say that one does not qualify to apply, because in some cases not everybody is known to the team.

We normally have two teams, one for people who were abroad and normally the people serving on that team are from the Ministry of Defence, the majority of them former commanders of PLAN who know the people who have been under them outside and they will immediately identify them immediately because your picture is also taken and they will say that one they know. Of course, you have to tell where were you born, when did you leave the country and who received you first abroad; where were you trained and by whom and where did you go after the training? If you went to the front, which front, who were your commander and all that? Normally it is done in that way. Of course, in the process it has been found that people say they were trained in Nyango and fought at the Kwanazul front. Of course, if this person is now pretending to have been abroad, the commanders will know that this person is definitely not telling the truth. If there is anybody who knows people who have veteran status and receiving N\$2,000 per month who are not a veteran, please let us know.

With regard to the people who were inside the country, if we are registering people from Hardap, an activist from Hardap who was inside the country will be the one leading the panel, that yes, we know the person, he has been active, but if you simply say you joined SWANU such and such a time, I joined SWAPO such and such a time, I have been a member throughout, that does not qualify you to be a veteran. You must have been involved in certain activities that really indicate your life has been endangered in one way or the other or these are the people that you have helped. Some have taken people from far away in the South and they brought them to the border. When they came back they were harassed, they attended meetings, those meetings were broken up and people were beaten and imprisoned.

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HON DR N IYAMBO

If at the end of the day you will be told that you do not qualify, that is not the end of the story. There is an appeal board headed by a Magistrate and you may go and tell your story and the appeal board will meet as a Court. You will be asked to swear before God that you are telling the truth and nothing else but the truth. If you did not convince the team of the Ministry that first attempted to register you, we hope you will convince the Magistrate Appeal Board, because they are neutral, they have nothing to do with people recruited by the Ministry. If you fail once again, I think you must accept that perhaps you were not telling the truth.

The registration will continue as long as there are still people who aspire to be recognised as veterans. Algeria got its Independence in 1963 and until now they are registering veterans. It will not last only a few years, it will continue as long as there are people who claim that they deserve to be veterans. The majority of people asked how they will be identified.

Also on the question of the lump sum, the lump sum will be given to those who are registered as veterans and the people who will be registered are those who participated in the struggle between 1959 and 1989 – not people after that and not people before that.

My *Honourable Colleague Moongo* is very happy that the Act is going to be amended and it is true, the Act will be amended and I got a mandate from the Cabinet to amend, but let me be clear, the amendment that we are going to embark upon is to recognise people who participated in the struggle, but in-between they compromised. Those ones will not be given veteran status, it is only to recognise the time that they were working positively for Independence, because the Act is clear, it speaks of somebody who was engaged in the struggle persistently and consistently. Therefore, Honourable Moongo, the attempt to amend the Act; take it from me, will not take into account somebody who fought on the side of the enemy. (Interjection)

HON MOONGO: Who is that?

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HON DR N IYAMBO

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: SWATF, Koevoet and you if you came to join this Government that was in existence. (Interjection)

HON MOONGO: I never joined any Koevoet!

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I did not say you. If the Honourable Member came and was engaged in the political set-up here at home and I think I heard him correctly that he even made a law to make it possible for some people to be released, if you were engaged in that, Honourable Member, count yourself out immediately, you will not get veteran status.

The lump sum of N\$50,000 will be given to everybody who is recognised as a veteran. This period will continue for 3 years. Why? It is because close to N\$3 billion are going to be spent in this exercise and this money is coming directly from the Treasury. Therefore, we cannot afford to Budget all that money in 1 or 2 years, it will take time. Right now we are paying N\$50,000 to those that were active from 1959 until 1973.

To answer the question by *Honourable Gowases*, we reckon that for this Financial Year we will have to pay out 20,000 veterans and for that we have budgeted N\$1 billion. The N\$1 billion are meant to cater for about 20,000 veterans. Next year we will add and that amount is not for all the veterans.

There was a question whether the spouse of a departed veteran can also benefit. We have a slightly different point of departure than the Ministry of Labour. If the elder who got the social subvention passed away it will only be paid for that month the person passed away. In the case of a veteran the spouse will get assistance for one more year after the registered veteran passed on, hoping that if this veteran was taking care of a number of people, we give them a space of one year to make alternative arrangements. After that it will end.

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HON DR N IYAMBO

Regarding the children of veterans, the registration was calling for veterans and the dependants of veterans. If there is a dependant of a deceased veteran, there must be somebody who was taking care of that child and you were supposed to register that child and if that child was under 18, he was supposed to have been assisted. However, if the child is now above 18, he or she can now perhaps get a study grant for vocational training, Polytechnic or UNAM.

Honourable Lucas wanted to know whether you will be assisted if you are studying in Witwatersrand. No, you will not be assisted provided you are studying a subject not available in Namibia. If that subject is not available in Namibia and according to the Ministry of Education is an essential subject, yes, you will be assisted. Otherwise, if you want to go and study History or Social Sciences, that has to be done here.

There was also a question whether these children will have to repay after their studies. No, this is a study grant, it is not a scholarship. It is not a loan, it is not a scholarship it is a grant.

Honourable Amathila had a question on the funeral benefit. If it is an elderly person who is registered with the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Labour will give a coffin. If this veteran now passed on, we will only assist with the tombstone because the coffin has already been taken care of by the Ministry of Labour or even the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Safety and Security. They take care of the funeral, but we will supply the tombstone. Otherwise it will be duplication and this money comes from the same coffers. Therefore, in that case we will only give N\$10,000 that goes towards the tombstone and not to the funeral service any longer.

Honourable Amathila also had a question on individual projects, whether one can actually join an existing project or people can join forces in order to make their projects more viable. It is a very a good question. Currently the law reads that it would not be possible for you to be engaged in the same project because it says you can get a maximum of N\$200 000 per project. That is one of the amendments to come, to enable two, three or five people to come together and say they want to build a guest house. If

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HON DR N IYAMBO

you want to join the existing Green Scheme, that you can do, but then it will only be that N\$200,000 of yours that go into the Green Scheme if you are the only one going there, but if you will be 2 or 3 joining the same Green Scheme, that is unfortunately not possible right now as we speak. However, I believe the law would have been amended before the end of this year. It went through Cabinet and I think the Attorney General is making the final touches. It will probably be available before the next approval of projects because the projects were only approved last month and it is given on a yearly basis. Before the next approval is given the law would have been amended.

We have now started with 27,000 veterans and at the moment the panel is sitting in Okahandja, vetting 7,000. Once they complete the 7,000, those 7,000 will go to the Veterans Board to be approved. Honourable Witbooi said there were people in Hoachanas and I wonder where they were, because they went twice to each and every constituency. Information was given on radio, given to everybody and what is left now is that we will no longer go to each and every constituency. If there are people in the Regions who have not yet registered, they should simply give their names to our offices in each of the Regions and then we will be told there are now 10 or 50 people who have reported and we will go there.

There was also a question on the sum of money which was not specified. That money is in the Veterans Fund. For example, we have 52 veterans who are doing practical skills training at Valombola and 186 at tertiary institutions, UNAM or the Polytechnic, and 14 who are going to join Windhoek Vocational Training. Altogether it is 252, but the money allocated for the education grant was only supposed to cater for about 88, 89. However, since there was money in the Veterans Fund and the Veterans Fund is supposed to take care of all other things that can be used towards the welfare of the veterans, she then said we cannot ask more money from there, if there is money in the Veterans Fund we can use that for loans. That is how we are now giving 252 grants for people to study.

The selection for these grants is made between the Ministry of Education, the Polytechnic, University of Namibia, vocational training.

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HON DR N IYAMBO

Honourable Witbooi, people who registered in 2008 and yet they have not heard what their fate is, I am hundred percent sure that around the second week of next month an answer will come, because that is the last group that we have been considering. Whether they will be approved or not, that I cannot say, but if these people were inside the country, it is their own colleagues who were inside the country, the activists, who give guidance.

With regard to the negotiations for materials on the liberation struggle, the idea is that if there is an individual person who was an activist during the struggle and he has photos, we have to negotiate with him and we have to pay. Negotiation is to pay. Of course, if you are generous and give it freely, it would be wonderful, but we believe if we want to complete everything, we really have to pay.

Concerning those graves without gravestones, if those graves have been identified, we have to be informed about it or the Ministry of Defence and we can then agree between us who will put a gravestone there.

Honourable Mwaningange asked about people buried in Tanzania. Currently there is a project, being chaired by Honourable Ndaitwah, called African Liberation Heritage – Road to Independence – consisting of Namibia, Angola, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Tanzania and that will be taken care of in the process. People who know of sites of importance must come to the office and share this important information.

About the children to get grants, if a child is 18 years old, that child will now apply to the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. Of course, he will be asked questions; he will be accepted provisionally on condition that you start your examinations at the end of the year. When the grant is given, it will be given until that child has finished his or her first degree and if that child fails, he will be given consideration for one more term. However, if he fails twice, then that is the end.

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

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: With this the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 09:00.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 10:40 UNTIL 2011.04.21 AT 09:00

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

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

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

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 24 and 27 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90(c) of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration at 12:30. I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? Minister of Environment and Tourism.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. Yesterday the Whole House Committee has finalised the consideration of Vote 18, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. During the response I intended to make some corrections on page 3 of the motivation statement. On that particular page, with specific reference to paragraph 3 where I mentioned the allocation from the MCA Namibia, it is stated in the statement that an

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NANDI-NADAITWAH**

amount of US\$304.5 million has been allocated to the tourism sector. In fact, the amount mentioned is what has been allocated nationally. However, the allocation to the tourism sector in Namibian Dollar amounts to N\$469 million and that should be the figure to be reflected in the statement I made on the 19th of April in this Honourable House. I thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: We take note of the correction. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL

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

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is moved that I leave the Chair. Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair. Professor Katjavivi.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill*. When progress was reported on Wednesday, the 20th of April 2011, Votes 15, 21, 24 and 27 had been introduced and Votes 01, 02, 04 to 10, 13, 14, 18, 23, 26 and 31 had been agreed to.

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA

Vote 16 – “JUSTICE”, N\$402,670,348 is put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I feel honoured to stand before you, on behalf of the Ministry of Justice, to motivate the Budget requirements of the Ministry of Justice, Vote 16, for the 2011 to 2012 Financial Year.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Director-General of the National Planning Commission, the Deputy Minister of Finance the staff of their institutions and Cabinet as a whole, for availing additional financial resources to Vote 16 to address urgent matters, key among them, the strengthening of the Ministry’s legal and administrative capacity for improved service delivery, re-grading of the job category legal officer, introduction of Judicial Case Management in the Supreme and High Courts of Namibia and the construction of additional courtrooms for the Magistrates’ Courts at Outapi and Eenhana, respectively.

As you are all aware Honourable Members, the Ministry of Justice is responsible for a variety of services such as the administration of justice through the Courts, the provision of legal aid in terms of the Namibian Constitution, the development and reform of law, the drafting of legislation on behalf of Government, the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms, the administration of deceased estates and estates of incapable persons, international cooperation in criminal matters, the prosecution of crime, the representation of Government Offices/Ministries/Agencies in civil matters, and the general rendering of legal advice to the President and Government.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the total appropriation amount sought for the Ministry of Justice amounts to N\$389,871,000 for the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

The appropriation sought for this Financial Year represents a 19.3% increase from last year’s allocation and we thank the Minister of Finance

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA

for her understanding in this regard.

Of that amount, 90%, that is, N\$350,612,000 is intended for the Recurrent Budget, and the remaining 10% is intended for allocation towards the Development Budget.

As the Ministry strives to be a model provider of accessible and timeous justice for all, it is evident from the Ibrahim Index on African Governance, with specific reference to the Rule of Law, Transparency and Corruption, that progress is made with Namibia being ranked fourth in 2009 and fifth in 2010 in Africa in this regard.

Having highlighted the various services rendered under the structure of the Ministry of Justice, I now wish to highlight some activities and points of note, which I feel obliged to report to this august House, before a summary of the breakdown of the total requested allocation figure per service:

Regarding the Administration of Justice, in the Magistrates' Courts A total number of 56,900 new cases were entered on the court roll during 2010 added to 141,556 existing cases, which brings it to a total of 198,456 cases. Of this, 36,398 cases are finalised, whilst 162,058 remain on the Court roll. Of these 120,455 are traffic related cases.

As you may have noticed, the total number of cases finalised increased from 31,684 finalised in 2009 to 36,398 cases finalised in 2010, respectively.

The Regional Courts entered a total number of 885 new cases, adding onto 1,406 older cases, bringing the total to 2,291.

Regional courts are Magistrate Courts with a higher jurisdiction than District Courts, but are also Lower Courts in comparison to the High and Supreme Courts.

From the above number of cases for the Regional Courts, a total number of 812 were finalised and 1,479 remain on the roll. In 2009 only 788 cases

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were finalised, whilst 2,229 cases remained on the roll. A definite increase can also be noted with regard to the annual performance of the Regional Court for the year 2010.

In the High Court in Windhoek 26 criminal appeals were lodged, adding onto 86 existing appeals, thus totalling 112. A total number of 91 cases were finalised and 21 appeals remain on the roll.

The High Court in Oshakati received 33 criminal appeals, adding onto the 15 existing ones. From this number, 44 were finalised and 4 criminal appeals remained.

The High Court is also a Court of first instance and has received 10 new criminal cases, adding onto 52 existing ones of previous years. From the total of 62 criminal cases, 24 cases were finalised and 38 remain pending.

A total number of 3 applications for leave to appeal from the State were registered, and none, from the previous years. A number of 2 cases remained and only one was finalised.

No new State appeals were recorded in 2010 in the High Court, however 5 which were carried over from the previous years, are finalised.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, on the official website of the Superior Courts (www.superiorcourts.org.na) the following is said:

“The High Court of Namibia has jurisdiction to hear all civil and criminal matters. It also exercises admiralty jurisdiction and serves as a Labour Court; and is, ordinarily, the Court of first instance in constitutional matters. The High Court is the hub of Namibia’s Court system: It hears and determines appeals from the Lower Courts and appeals lie from its decisions to the Supreme Court...”

It is now universally accepted that the efficiency of the judicial system is an important barometer for a country’s investor friendliness. Investors prefer countries where courts are independent and deliver speedy justice. The Judicial Case Management system the Courts are putting in place is

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aimed at the delivery of speedy justice. The Courts cannot be immune from the imperative of effective service delivery being spearheaded by the Executive.

The judicial process in Namibia is based on the principle that litigants determine the pace or progress of a Court case after it has been lodged with the Court. The Judges have next to no control over the progress of a Court case until the actual hearings begin, by which time a lot of delay had taken place. Yet the public assumes that lack of progress of Court cases is as a result of inaction by Judges.

This system for conducting Court cases has been found to be open to abuse: Litigants can engage in tactical manoeuvres to delay cases and often employ methods that increase legal costs. In majority of the cases judges are powerless to stop this abuse.

In many countries, for example Botswana, England, America, Singapore and Malaysia, this reality has long been recognised and very radical reforms have been introduced where Judges have assumed the power to control the litigation process. Those systems have recorded significant reduction in the time it takes to finish Court cases. The moment a case is filed at Court, Judges take charge and set deadlines for such cases. Parties are required to cooperate with the Judges to expedite litigation and to find the best ways to limit legal costs. That is what is referred to as judicial case-flow management. Time wasting by lawyers and litigants is drastically reduced in systems that practise judicial case management. That is the direct opposite of what is happening in Namibia.

Recently, the Judge President, in his capacity as head of the High Court, visited Botswana, Malaysia and Singapore to see how judicial case management works. On a return visit to Botswana after the first visit to Botswana, the Judge President was accompanied by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice. The High Court has published two official reports aimed at providing the framework for the implementation of judicial case management in Namibia, a document I had tabled in this august House just last month. The proposals were discussed at a stakeholders' conference where the legal profession and users of Court

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services were consulted. There was universal support for the introduction of judicial case management and the Judge President has begun to informally implement the principles of judicial case management. The results are said to be very encouraging.

The official introduction of the judicial case management requires the change of the Rules of the High Court which are passed by the Judge President with the approval of the President of the Republic. The new Rules are in the process of being drafted and will soon be placed before His Excellency the President for approval. When those Rules are promulgated, Judges of the High Court will have powers to manage Court cases and lawyers and litigants will no longer dictate the pace of litigation.

The study of judicial case management systems has shown that quickly resolving legal disputes is achieved not only by giving more power to Judges but also by enacting legislation to provide for alternative dispute resolution mechanisms (ADR), such as arbitration, conciliation and mediation. The reports published by the Judge President have specific recommendations on those issues.

For the Courts to function optimally, the Court must be computerised so that the flow of documents is facilitated. It has been recognised in the countries practising judicial case management that computerising Court record management is a necessary condition for the success of judicial case management. Equally important is improving the physical infrastructure of the High Court to provide for more Court rooms and offices for Judges and Court staff.

Judges' workloads increase dramatically under judicial case management and it is important that more support staff are appointed to assist them. At the moment our Judges do not have research assistants to help them with legal research and that also causes delays in the speedy delivery of judgments. Urgent steps must be taken to appoint research assistants for the Judges.

The current litigant driven manual system also does not allow for accurate statistics. The High Court will embark on a project from the month of

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May, during which a case status hearing will be scheduled in order to determine the exact extent of outstanding matters. This project will be steered by the Judge President in cooperation with the Chief Registrar.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, In the Supreme Court, 6 petitions to the Chief Justice was recorded. From this total, 3 were finalised and 3 remain on the roll.

From the statistics highlighted one can see that all our Courts from the Magistrates' to the High Courts have a backlog of cases unattended to which needs serious consideration. However, a visible increase in the total number of cases finalised for both Magistrates' and Regional Courts are noticeable. The statistics provided are for a calendar year (January 2010 to December 2010) as the fourth quarterly statistics are still outstanding and will only be collated at the end of March 2011 for the Financial Year (1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011).

The Magistracy has a staff establishment of 104 Magistrates, of which 82 positions are funded but only 77 were filled during the 2010/2011 Financial Year. Attracting adequate qualified Magistrates locally was a challenge because most of the graduates are absorbed by the Private Sector mainly because of the lucrative offers. Nonetheless, the Magistrates Commission aims to have a 100 percent local Magistrates contingent, but it can only do so if resources are availed to recruit and promote local Magistrates. Currently there are still 12 Magistrates from Zimbabwe who were recruited during the time the Magistracy was facing a critical shortage of Magistrates. We see this situation improving towards the end of the 2014/2015 Financial Year.

Notwithstanding the shortage of Magistrates, during the third quarter of the 2010/2011 Financial Year 16,625 new cases were recorded adding onto the already existing backlog of 51,848 cases.

Magistrates at smaller stations have a bigger challenge in finalising cases given the vastness of the country. Where there are no District Courts Magistrates hold periodic Courts and cases have to be remanded at their stations when Magistrates are attending these periodic Courts.

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The lack of Courtrooms also compounds the problem especially when divisional Court sessions are held; District Courts have to wait because there is only one courtroom at some stations.

The Commonwealth is providing technical assistance with the training of Magistrates. A Deputy Chief Magistrate is seconded and paid by the Commonwealth to provide technical assistance to the Magistracy.

Since the start of the programme a number of Magistrates were trained in various aspects of the profession. However, this programme will shortly come to an end and it is hoped that the expertise gained will go a long way in enabling us to train our own experts to provide training on a continuous basis.

The Ministry pats itself on the shoulder on initiating the Legally Qualified Persons Training Project. This project is now in its third year and we have been able to train 17 students with the last intake, in the sphere of Magistrates and Prosecutors. This is a three-month rigorous practical and theoretical training. In total the Ministry has employed about 3 Magistrates from this training over the past years. This year we are looking forward to appointing 4 of these students to fill the current vacancies in the Magistracy.

The cause of the high number of cases is a concern to the administration of justice, which is viewed as a challenge that needs to be tackled holistically. While the Ministry, in particular the administrators, are working on finding solutions to the challenges of resources, as politicians we equally have a responsibility to avail resources to the Justice sector and in particular the administration of justice at the Lower Courts. We are conscience of the fact that failure or collapse of the Lower Courts, which are the Courts of first instance for the majority of people, can be a recipe for disaster.

Since the promulgation of the Community Courts Act, Act 10 of 2003, 32 Community Courts have been established or recognised, with 5 applications pending, which may soon be gazetted.

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Section 5 of the said Act, stipulates that the Ministry of Justice should provide Community Courts with financial assistance to defray administrative expenses incurred with the operations of such Courts.

During the 2010/2011 Financial Year such assistance has been disbursed to 24 Community Courts to the tune of N\$120,000.

Eight remaining Community Courts which have not as yet received any financial assistance are scheduled to receive their initial training during April and May 2011, while their financial assistance will be deposited in their respective revenue accounts immediately hereafter.

Since the operationalisation of the Community Courts in September 2010, several training interventions, such as workshops and inspections, have been conducted which involved the majority of the established and recognised Courts, to illustrate the practical application of the provisions that regulates its operations. Training of Court officials will be conducted on an ongoing basis, whilst inspections will be done on an ad-hoc basis for the foreseeable future.

During the inspections conducted by the Division responsible for Community Courts from January to March 2011, it was found that most of these Courts are not using the financial grant for its intended purpose as stipulated in the Act. Some of these Courts have grossly mismanaged this grant without being able to provide adequate proof or justification for the expenditure of more than half of the total grant amount of N\$120,000.

In general the operationalisation of the Community Courts progressed rather well. However, during recent visits it became abundantly clear that certain matters need to be addressed as a matter of urgency since the majority of office-bearers at such Courts bitterly complained about the following aspects which are of concern:

- Sitting allowances payable to justices need to be increased, with the possible inclusion of additional benefits, as the current rate of payment is not accepted countrywide;

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- The composition of the staff compliment of a Community Court should be reviewed and consequently increased as it is currently practically impossible to be complied with as regulated in the Act, that is, to have one Clerk and one Messenger per Court, which may include more than 10 Sub-Courts per Community Court, which may have a very big area in respect of jurisdiction to cover. Consequently, the possibility exists that funds so provided may be depleted mostly on transport expenses rather than the intended purpose of spending the financial grant on daily administrative costs. Further to this, the Clerk is legally tasked to record all Court proceedings as stated in the regulations, which is basically attempting the impossible;
- Furthermore, the judicial hierarchy of the Community Courts in relation to Magistrates Courts need to be reviewed, in view of Article 66 of the Namibian Constitution which places these Courts at the same level, whereas Section 26 of the Community Courts Act, contradicts this provision as it provides that Magistrates Courts will be the Court of Appeal in customary Court cases once customary practices have been exhausted. In order to alleviate the above contradiction, it is recommended that a Customary Court of Appeal be established.

Deputy Chairperson, the Office of the Prosecutor-General embarked on the implementation of Prosecution Guided Investigations (PGI), which concept is embedded in the National Development Plan (NDP 3). This concept was readily accepted by all stakeholders in the Criminal Justice System and it already proved to reap results.

Statistics show that this office received 52 matters for the PGI for 2010. There is a noticeable reduction in the cycle time of these matters on investigation and they are also finalised in a shorter period that is between 4 and 12 months, rather than before the introduction of Prosecution Guided Investigations, when cases took 4 to 5 years before investigations were completed.

There are however some challenges with regard to the PGI. Investigating Officers tend to relax and wait for the prosecution to guide them and do not take own initiatives with regard to investigations. The Police are also

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facing a huge problem with inexperienced investigators and they tend to focus on crime detection, whilst their investigation capacity is compromised. In addition, the Prosecution is overloaded with dockets as this office does not have sufficient personnel to handle all these matters on the PGI. It should be noted that the PGI is vital in the way syndicates operate currently. The latter position should be considered by the Government and sufficient resources should be availed to this office to effectively and efficiently employ Prosecution Guided Investigations and subsequently, to fight and eradicate crime in Namibia.

The Prevention of Organised Crime Act, Act 29 of 2004 (POCA), came into operation on the 5th of May 2009 and as a consequence brought a number of challenges with it. This legislation empowers the prosecution to deal with Criminal and Civil matters. Restraint, preservation and forfeiture applications can now be brought in terms of this legislation. It has also brought about financial implications with its implementation, which was not addressed and catered for in the Act.

The first matter that landed in Court in terms of this legislation is the “Lameck and Others”, matter. This office was faced with an account of the curators, who were appointed by the Court to oversee the property of the defendants and respondents, of an amount of N\$930 876.62, which was not budgeted for. In addition, more than N\$170,000 was paid to the lawyers who were briefed by this office, given the fact that it was the first case based on this law we had to deal with. In short, this illustrates the challenges this office is facing when it comes to the financial implications involved in order to implement the Prevention of Organised Crime effectively.

From the time this legislation became operational, two applications for restraint were brought by the Prosecutor-General. One of these applications was successful, whilst the other one was unsuccessful. In addition, five criminal cases involving money laundering and smuggling of immigrants were decided by this office.

The two cases of smuggling of migrants were finalised in the Regional Court in Katima Mulilo. The first case was that of State versus Kabemba

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Kazongo Louis, Katima Mulilo CR 139/10/10 – R/C Case 03/2011 which involved two charges of smuggling of migrants in contravention of Section 16 read with Section 1 of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act. The accused was convicted as charged and sentenced to N\$15,000 or 5 years imprisonment.

The second case was that of State versus William Alfred, Katima Mulilo CR 139/10/10 – R/C Case 08/2011. The accused faced 3 charges of smuggling of migrants in contravention of Section 16 read with Section 1 of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act and he was sentenced to N\$20,000 or 5 years imprisonment.

The third case of smuggling of migrants is pending in the Oshakati Regional Court whilst the remaining two cases for money laundering are pending in the High Court Windhoek.

The speed and efficiency with which financial crime is prosecuted and confiscations undertaken is greatly reduced by the poor quality or incomplete investigations undertaken by investigators, particularly in the Namibian Police.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, the establishment of the Ministry of Justice with the inclusion of Judges, Magistrates and office-bearers caters for 1,262 posts, of which 886 are filled.

The objective of the Legal Aid Programme is to ensure access to justice for all by providing Legal Aid i.e. representation and advice to those without or with inadequate income.

The main activities are:

- The provision of legal advice and representation to indigent persons;
- The processing and administering of applications for Legal Aid; and
- The supervision and monitoring of Legal Aid.

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The number of applications received increased by 15% from the previous Financial Year, which is 6039. Concomitantly, the number of applications granted increased by 4%, from 71% during 2010/2011 to 75% in 2011/2012. Like in all previous Financial Years, during 2010/2011, all 100% eligible criminal applications were approved.

It is worth noting that Directorate of Legal Aid met its target of providing aid to 75% eligible indigents during the reporting period.

We also report that after some officials in the Ministry were inducted in business process re-engineering, the turnaround time for Legal Aid applications, has been reduced from sixty working days to a mere ten working days. This is likely to impact positively on the problem of backlogs in the criminal justice system experienced mostly in the lower courts. However, the challenge is to match the re-engineered process with the resources- both human and financial.

The biggest challenge remains to expand - that is having an office and a permanent legal office - Legal Aid service to far-flung areas.

The Master of the High Court is required by statute to serve the public with deceased estates, liquidations (insolvent estates), registration of trusts, appointments of and administration pertaining to tutors and curators, and the administration of the Guardian Fund, in respect of minors and mentally challenged persons.

The Master supervises the administration of deceased estates to ensure an orderly winding up of the financial affairs of the deceased, and the protection of the financial interests of the rightful heirs and creditors that have claims against the estate.

During the period under review, 2,802 deceased estates were reported to the Master of the High Court compared to 3 407 during 2009/2010, 2 166 in Windhoek and 636 in Oshakati.

The power to appoint an estate representative in estates with a value less than N\$100,000 was delegated to Magistrates in terms of the Estates and

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Succession Amendment Act 15 of 2005, which came into operation on 29 December 2005.

The Master took over estates supervised by the Magistrate's Offices in Windhoek, Rehoboth, and Oshakati. These estates are included in the above total.

A Deputy Master will soon be appointed for the Master's office in Oshakati and estates dealt with by the Ondangwa Magistrate's office will then also be taken over by the Master.

2,014 deceased estates were reported to the rest of the Magistrates' Courts during the period under review compared to 2,070 of the previous year.

Problems are experienced with some Magistrates who are already overloaded with other work and who would as a result not always have time to spend on the supervision of deceased estates. The taking over of estates by the Master from some of the offices brought some relief. It is however not possible yet to take over files from all the offices due to geographical constraints.

Many other problems are also experienced with the administration of deceased estates which are generally caused by the following issues:

- Intestate succession bill – consultations of the draft bill have taken place under the guidance of the Directorate Law Reform. It is in the process of being tabled before the Cabinet Committee on Legislation.
- Recognition of Customary Law Marriages Bill - The Administration of Estates Act 66 of 1965 currently only recognises civil marriages when it comes to the appointment of an executor.
- The Administration of Estates Act 66 of 1965(as amended) needs further amendment to make it more practical and to include intestate succession.
- All liquidations and insolvencies fall under the jurisdiction of the

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Master of the High Court. The Master must ensure that the rights of creditors and businesses are protected.

Forty-five insolvencies and liquidations were reported compared to 47 for the previous year.

Amendments need to be made to the Insolvency Act to prevent business owners from declaring themselves insolvent just to avoid payments to creditors, whilst they continue to trade under another business name.

343 trusts were registered compared to 734 during the previous year.

Amendments need to be made to the Trust Monies Protection Act, Act 34 of 1934 to ensure proper compliance to the provisions of the trust deed and ensure payment of tax to the Receiver of Revenue.

The Master of the High Court also administers the Guardian Fund. It is a fund created to administer funds paid to the Master on behalf of various persons known or unknown, such as minors, persons incapable of managing their own affairs, unborn heirs, missing or absent persons or persons having an interest of a usufructuary or fideicommissary nature, in the money.

3,201 accounts have been opened for minors and persons under curatorship, and other persons and creditors from insolvent estates and monies due to a deceased estate compared to 2,546 in the previous year. Such funds are invested at an interest rate of 8.5%.

The current value of the Fund as at 31st of January 2011 was N\$818,974 346.43 compared to N\$632,979,188.38 at the end of the previous Financial Year while payments to the tune of N\$83,875,632.67 were made to beneficiaries compared to N\$113,564,122.94 during the preceding Financial Year.

A return of approximately 8.6 percent has been received on the Guardian's Fund investments from 1 April 2010 until 31 January 2011, while the Namibian Bank rate is currently at 6%.

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During 2010/2011 the Directorate Legislative Drafting completed 14 Bills, 25 Proclamations, 80 Regulations, 161 Government Notices and 33 General Notices (Regulations for Regional councils and Local Authorities and other Notices).

Directorate Legislative Drafting successfully conducted ten awareness workshops on the lawmaking process for client ministries, offices and agencies, which is already yielding good results.

The Directorate Law Reform renders secretarial services to the Law Reform and Development Commission, a statutory body established in terms of the Law Reform and Development Commission Act of 1991.

The functions and duties of the Commission are to undertake research into and examine all branches of the law and to make recommendations for the reform of the law or the development of new areas of the law.

The Commission has been without a Chairperson for the last five years but the appointment of a Chairman in the person of Mr Sacky Shangala in November 2010 is sure to bring new impetus and direction into the work of the Commission.

During the year under review, the Commission published two Reports, i.e. the Report on Matrimonial Property and the Report on the Adjustment of Fines. The Commission is currently busy with 12 projects spread amongst four researchers. As a result of the arrival of the fulltime Chairperson who can drive the programme of the Commission, there are plans to take on many other new projects and this may require an increase in the number of staff which will have an upward effect on the expenditure of the Directorate.

The Directorate Legal Advice is responsible for assisting the Honourable Attorney-General to execute his constitutional functions which, among others, is to render legal advice to the President and the Government of the Republic of Namibia in terms of Article 87 of the Namibian Constitution.

It is important to emphasise that due to the nature of the Directorate's

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functions, the extent to report on activities is limited by the confidential nature of work and most importantly, the principle of attorney-client confidentiality.

The functions of the Directorate Legal Advice are generally to provide legal advice to all Offices/Ministries/Agencies, Regional and Local Authorities as well as to all State-Owned Enterprises. The work of the Directorate Legal Advice entails:

1. Drafting and scrutinising all agreements between Government and other parties, that is other States, international organisations and institutions, and or private individuals;
2. Scrutinising of Bills and specific policies to ensure that they are in line with the Constitution and relevant statutes,
3. Advising on legality of statutory and administrative actions by Offices, Ministries and Agencies, regional and Local Authorities and State-Owned Enterprises.
4. Assisting Offices, Ministries and Agencies, State-Owned Enterprises and Regional and Local Authorities in scrutinising and negotiating agreements in various aspects of their operations. In addition to providing the above, the Directorate also provides lawyers to serve in various statutory and non-statutory bodies such as boards, Committees (disciplinary inquiries etc), and Commissions of Inquiry.
5. Assist Offices/Ministries/Agencies, Regional and Local Authorities with investigations into allegations of irregularities and assisting (by serving as members of the Disciplinary Committees, initiators with disciplinary inquiries) or investigators. During the year under review the Directorate has handled about two major investigations involving Chief Executive Officers (Oshikoto Regional Council and the dispute over the boundaries of Ondonga and Oukwanyama).

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During the year under review the Directorate experienced a decline in demand for legal advice in comparison to previous years. The Directorate received about 374 requests for legal advice, about 199 requests were finalised and about 175 requests or 46.79% remain outstanding at the time of this Report. This reflects files that are closed and not the files that are still the subject of protracted negotiations in which advice is rendered from time to time and during meetings (for example the SADC or EPA-EC matters).

Advice was also sought on many issues relating to the Traditional Communal Issues for example the land dispute between Ondonga and Oukwanyama Traditional Authorities.

Professional staff participated in about 78 different local and international rounds of negotiation or delegations at the request of the Ministries, Offices and Agencies.

It is, therefore, important that Government continues to provide financial and political support to the Attorney-General and his staff in order to continue performing these critical functions of the State.

980 new instructions from clients were registered and opened by the Government-Attorney and of these 295 files were closed.

N\$8,749,460.44 was incurred by the Government-Attorney as costs to legal practitioners, Counsel and other legal costs, while an amount of N\$792,635 was successfully recovered in respect of legal costs and collections.

Namibia's involvement in the International Community is increasing. International law is recognised to form part of the Namibian law in terms of Article 144 of our Constitution and, therefore, we are constantly exposed to the challenge of ratifying treaties and international instruments in order to be part of the international community. We cannot be ignorant of global developments and the ever-increasing demand for international cooperation amongst States. The world is becoming smaller in terms of criminal networks, which pose a serious threat to a healthy global

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economy and global safety. Namibia cannot be regarded as a safe haven for foreign criminals; neither can it be regarded as a gateway for transnational organised crime.

Our legislation needs to be reviewed and/or amended in order to make provision for domestication of international instruments which we have ratified or acceded to. It serves no purpose for us to ratify international instruments if our domestic laws are not in line with those instruments. This exercise involves high costs and substantial employment of expert resources and manpower. A considerable amount of time is spent on research and consultation to come up with effective pieces of legislation.

A lot has already been done regarding domestication of international instruments such as the promulgation of the Prevention of Organized Crime Act and the Anti Money Laundering Act. The Anti-Terrorism legislation is in an advanced stage of drafting. Namibia is also in the process of domesticating the provisions of the International Criminal Court – Rome Statute; a process which is spearheaded and carried by the Directorate Legal Services, including the payment of membership fees.

This Directorate is responsible for reviewing of draft legislation which the Ministry of Justice is responsible for. This is an intensive exercise which requires precision, expert knowledge and skill.

The human rights programme falling within the mandate of this Directorate is an active programme which requires the attendance of meetings at international level on a frequent basis. This involves a lot of travelling time and costs. As a State Party to various international human rights instruments Namibia is required to file and present periodic reports to the relevant organs of the United Nations. Adequate and competent staff members are required to draft these reports which need to be of a certain required standard and format.

Apart from reporting duties, Namibia is also responsible for serving on various subsidiary committees of the United Nations, the African Union and SADC as well as the various Joint Permanent Commissions formed on a bilateral basis. In addition, Namibia is a member of regional bodies

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such as the Eastern and Southern African Group against Money Laundering. These all require active participation at various levels and involve payment of membership fees, travelling and manpower.

Namibia is a party to a number of bilateral and multilateral treaties on mutual legal assistance and extradition. We however need far more treaties of this kind with a number of countries in order to form a closer network of cooperation in order to combat transnational organised crime; ensure effective enforcement of reciprocal maintenance matters and rendering and receiving effective and timeous mutual legal assistance.

It is of cardinal importance to maintain the reputation of Namibia on the international front as a respected member of the international community.

The Ombudsman is responsible for the investigation of complaints received from the public and relating to maladministration, human rights violations and the environment and natural resources of Namibia. Complaints relating to corruption are mostly referred to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

During the 2010/2011 Financial Year, 2,085 complaints were received by the Ombudsman, compared to 1,561 during the previous Financial Year; this signifies an upward trend in the number of complaints, a trend which is anticipated to continue in the 2011/2012 Financial Year. Of the complaints received, 574 were received during the annual nation-wide complaint intake clinics, which include regular visits to prison facilities as well as police cells; this is an increase of 209 compared to the 2009/2010 Financial Year and it is also expected that this number will increase further due to major public education events which have been a focus point of the Ombudsman over the last number of years.

A total amount of N\$39,249,000 was allocated to Vote 16 for Capital Projects during the 2010/2011 Financial Year. The following are some of the achievements attained by the Ministry during the Financial Year under review:

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- Construction of a new Magistrate's Court at Tsumkwe in the Otjozondjupa region was completed, which had cost the Ministry a total amount of N\$11.2 million.
- A new lift (elevator) was constructed at the Magistrate's Court in Mungunda Street, Windhoek, at a total cost of N\$1.6 million.
- The upgrading of the existing Magistrate's Court at Okakarara in the Otjozondjupa region is nearing completion and it is expected that the building will be ready for occupation by May 2011. The Ministry had spent an amount of N\$5.3 million in respect of this project during the period under review.
- The Ministry had also utilized a total amount of N\$4.5 million for the renovation of Magistrates' Courts at Aranos, Okahandja, Karibib, Rehoboth, Windhoek, Otjiwarongo, Otavi, Walvis Bay and Lüderitz. A total amount of N\$4.8 million was utilized for the renovation of assigned houses at Ondangwa, Tsumeb, Keetmanshoop, Karasburg, Lüderitz, Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Opuwo, Windhoek, Otjiwarongo, Usakos, Omaruru, Katima Mulilo, Mariental and Aranos.
- Renovation of the Supreme Court in Windhoek is nearing completion, with May 2011 set as the completion date. The Ministry had expended a total amount of N\$12.5 million in respect of this project during the Financial Year under discussion.
- Feasibility studies were carried out for the upgrading of existing Magistrates' Courts at Outapi in the Omusati Region, Eenhana in the Ohangwena Region, Ondangwa in the Oshana region and Gobabis in the Omaheke Region.
- Other feasibility studies were carried out for the construction of new Magistrates' Courts at Grootfontein in the Otjozondjupa Region and Katima Mulilo in the Caprivi Region, respectively.
- Tender documentation was also done for the construction of a new Ombudsman's Office at Ongwediva in the Oshana Region.

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The total expenditure was N\$38,198,997-47 which translates in a Budget execution rate of 97%.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the purpose of the above facts and figures are to illustrate how busy the year was for the Ministry of Justice, and also to demonstrate that we add value to the democratic system of Government as a sector to achieve the Ministry's vision: *"To be a model provider of accessible and timeous justice for all"*.

To summarise, the following amounts are required for each of the programmes that are administered by the Ministry of Justice under Vote 16:

I now seek the indulgence of the House to approve the allocation totalling N\$389,871,000 for Vote 16. I thank you for your attention.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 10:40
HOUSE RESUMES AT 11:00 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Vote 22 – "FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES", N\$244,180,641 is put for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:
Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. Thank you for honouring my invitation through the Speaker's Office to participate in the consumption of fish. We have an outfit called the Namibia Fish Consumption Trust and they were responsible for the preparation of the fish we enjoyed and they need to be applauded for what they have done.

Once more, I am immensely honoured to present to this august House Vote 22, Fisheries and Marine Resources for the 2011/2012 Fiscal Year.

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My warm congratulations are extended to the Minister of Finance her Deputy as well as her Permanent Secretary and her staff members. Also my salutations to the National Planning Commission and its entire staff members for devising a national Budget which is geared towards creating the necessary employment to address our developmental objectives in terms of poverty alleviation and greater equality in our socio-economic fabric.

It is my hope that we as Government will be able to translate this Budget into a workable document as soon as possible to ease the suffering of our people on the streets and in our villages.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the fishing sector is constantly faced with unpredictable financial difficulties which are brought about by various factors:

- i) The exchange rate fluctuation has shown an appreciation in favour of the Namibian dollar as against the major trading currencies. Most fisheries have shown reduced prices during 2010/2011.
- ii) Currently the diesel pump price has increased from N\$7.07 per litre in January 2011, to more than N\$8.10 per litre to date.
- iii) The non-diversified market nature of our fish and fish-related products also contributed towards our volatility of our fisheries sector.

I am pleased to inform the august House that despite all these turbulences, the fishing industry still remains an important sector in terms of employment creation as well as GDP contribution to our country's economy.

The fishing sector has contributed towards our socio-economic development and is still contributing in various regions of our country.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the confidence of the fishing industry into the economy is a fact of life as is evident in

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their continuous investments made in the current year. An amount of N\$342 million was invested by the horse mackerel sector in acquisition of vessels. Further investments were made in the construction of new factory facilities, upgrading of fleets as well as vessel refurbishment in the hake sector. The pelagic sector needs also to be acknowledged in its confidence in our economy.

Our fishing industry remains our country's second biggest export earner of foreign exchange currency after mining.

With a cut of 25% in the Budget allocation our Ministry's vital functions in terms of implementing the laws pertaining to monitoring, control and surveillance's effective delivery might be sacrificed in the process.

This means serious ramification with regard to the enforcement of the laws under our Ministry, with special reference to the Marine Resources as well as the Inland Fisheries Acts. I will give more details when I get to the specific programmes.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has been allocated an amount of N\$244,180,641 for 2011/2012 Financial Year. Out of the N\$244,180,641 allocated to Vote 22 an amount of N\$185,537,641 is earmarked for operational activities and N\$48,642,000 are directed for capital projects. The allocated amount will be utilised as follows:

The purpose of the Survey and Stock Assessment programme is to assess the dynamics of the fish stocks and marine environment, in order to provide scientific advice. The outcome of such assessments is used to inform Government on the appropriate utilisation levels of fish stocks. Surveys to assess the healthiness of hake, crab, rock lobster, seals, horse mackerel, pilchard and monk will be conducted during the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

Surveys on the marine environment and on the state of the stocks were also conducted during the 2010/2011 Financial Year and the findings are as follows:

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During the 2010/2011 Financial Year, data on the marine environment indicate that present temperature and oxygen profiles compare favourably with long-term averages and that no major low oxygen events have been documented since 2000/2001. It was noted, however, that upwelling favourable winds off the coast of Lüderitz, in 2010, continued to be below the long term average of 50 years. It was further noted that copepod (food for the fish) abundance index continued the lower trend of the last four decades. This is a sign of the adverse effect of climate change.

I am pleased to inform this august House that some of our commercial fish stocks have been showing some signs of recovery over the past three years, although there is still a need to rebuild such stocks to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) levels, while others continue to be stable, over the past few years, thanks to the prudent management measures taken since Independence.

The hake catch per unit effort (CPUE), which is used as an index of stock abundance, has shown a remarkable increase during the past year (2010). However, the status of the Namibian hake stock is still estimated to be below the MSY level. Hence, there is still a need to rebuild the stock to the MSY level.

At the beginning of 2006/2007 fishing season, conservation measures were introduced (close area, close season) which proved to be effective and need to be kept in place in order for the stock to continue to improve.

As for the pilchard, the biological indicators shows that the stock is still in a stressed state; meaning low biomass condition during the year 2010. The relative biomass estimates from the acoustic surveys conducted during 2010 show that the stock has decreased by almost 40 percent during 2010, when compared 2009. In addition, the spawning stock biomass is still below the Limit Reference Point that needs to be reached and exceeded to ensure sustainable harvesting and better socio-economic returns of the sardine resource. One positive sign was that of relatively good recruitment which was encountered during the October 2010 survey, although about half of the pilchard recruits were found in Angola.

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The biomass survey for monkfish conducted in November 2010 shows that the monkfish stock has slightly decreased since the last survey in November 2009. Despite the slight decrease in biomass estimates in 2010, the CPUE has increased while the catch at length data also indicates a healthy stock. Recruitment was also found to be good during 2010. Indications are therefore that the monkfish remains stable, as was observed during the past few years.

The monk commercial data for the past year shows a moderate increase in the overall fishable biomass when compared to the previous year. This increase continues on the trend of the preceding five fishing seasons where the upward trend indicates signs of a recovering stock.

The rock lobster commercial data predicted increases in both the new and full recruits during the 2009/2010 fishing season. A noticeable increase in the overall fishable biomass of the resource was also observed during the past year. Although, there was a marked decline in catches during the past fishing season, when compared to the previous season, on the northern and central fishing grounds, this is believed to be an effect of environmental variables influencing the feeding behaviour of lobsters and not necessarily a density factor. The lobster stock, therefore, appears to be in a stable state, while showing signs of improvement.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is currently in the process of acquiring a modern and multi-purpose research vessel to replace the ageing research vessel, the *Welwitchia*. In this regard, the Government of Namibia has signed an agreement with the Finnish Government for a concessional loan credit needed for the purchase of this vessel. A contract with a Finnish shipbuilding company, that shall build the new research vessel, was also signed.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my Ministry has embarked upon the process of developing management plans for all our major commercial fish stocks, such hake, horse mackerel, pilchard, monkfish and seals. In November 2010, a consultancy company was appointed to assist the Ministry's staff in completing the Hake Management Plan and I can recall that I opened the first workshop of the

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industry and our staff members.

The implementation of management plans is required for EAF (Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management) which was agreed upon by fishing nations and the FAO in 2010.

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management implementation shall see fishing nations moving away from target oriented fisheries management towards considering a broader spectrum of the entire ecosystem, including socio-economic issues, when managing fisheries resources. To fulfil our responsibilities, under this programme, we are requesting an amount of N\$55,046,000.00 for the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson the Human Resources Development programme caters for various skills development required by the Ministry for reasons of sustained development and efficient service delivery. During the year under review, my Ministry awarded 16 new bursaries to staff members to study various courses on full and part-time basis locally and abroad. In total, 29 staff members are studying to uplift their qualifications according to the Public Service Recruitment Charter, among them twelve staff members are on fulltime studies leave. The Ministry expects at least fifteen staff members to complete their studies by December 2011.

The Ministry also funded 103 staff members to undergo short-term skills development courses which are critical in their daily tasks. Among these courses, all sea-going personnel were trained in a mandatory basic safety-at-sea course. The Inland Fisheries Inspectors as well as scientists and technicians from the Aquaculture Directorate, obtained the Under-25 Tonnes Skippers tickets for them to be able to navigate the boats in rivers, for the purpose of conducting research or patrol.

The Ministry continues, through the Namibian Maritime and Fisheries Institute (NAMFI), to train sea-going personnel in Navigation, Engineering and Basic Safety in line with the International Convention of Standard Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers (STCW-78/95) requirement which Namibia has acceded to. From the 4th of April 2011,

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the Ministry will send eleven Fisheries Inspectors to attend the one-year tailor-made Fisheries Inspectors and Observers course at NAMFI.

The Ministry requires skills that are unique to the fishing environment in the form of Fisheries Inspectors, Scientists, Marine Engineers, and Fishery Observers who need special training in order to fulfil their responsibilities successfully. Despite these efforts, the Ministry continues to experience a high rate of exodus of experienced and well-trained staff. There is a brain-drain taking place and the mining industry is taking quite a number of our people. Hence, the Ministry needs to continue with the training of new professionals who join the Ministry every year. This is in line with Vision 2030's objective to have Namibia as a developed Nation with well trained and skilled workforce.

An amount of N\$3,600,000 is allocated to staff training as well as related capacity-building activities to train marine engineers, pilots, inspectors, scientists, policy analysts, economists, statisticians, observers and other cadres during 2011/2012 Financial Year.

The purpose of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of fishing activities programme is to ensure that fishing and fisheries activities within the Namibian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and inland water bodies comply with the country's fisheries legislations. Also, the programme ensures that fishing activities by the licensed Namibian flagged vessels outside our EEZ are done in conformity with international laws and applicable conservation measures of regional fisheries management organisations to which Namibia is a party.

The Namibian fishery operations are based on the deployment of fisheries inspectors onboard the fisheries patrol vessels and aircraft, monitoring and control of fishing related activities at the harbours and fish processing plants, coastal and inland patrols, and the inspection of rivers and inland freshwater bodies. The Ministerial Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Programme, is supplemented by the Fisheries Observer Programme ever since 1992. For this purpose, the Ministry, through the Fisheries Observer Agency, places fisheries observers onboard each licensed Namibian fishing vessel. The main functions of fisheries observers are to observe the fishing

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activities onboard the vessels and report to the Ministry the compliance thereon with the fisheries legislation. The fisheries observers are further assigned to collect scientific data and undertake commercial sampling of marine living resources onboard the fishing vessels.

The Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Programme, remains an important and effective fisheries management tool, and through this programme Namibia has managed to protect, conserve and enhance the sustainable harvesting of our living marine resources. For this reason, over 50% of the Budget under the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Programme goes to fishery operations.

Today, Namibia has the fisheries legislations in place which created a conducive environment indeed to facilitate the law enforcement process.

However, these laws have been in place now without revision. The Ministry has already identified certain areas in our fisheries laws that warrant considerable amendment. These areas include offences and penalty clauses, fishing gears and harvesting methods, and port State and flag State responsibilities. In my 2010/2011 Budget motivation speech, I have, for example, referred to the possible amendment of our fisheries legislation to also accommodate certain provisions of the FAO Model Scheme on Port State Measures and legally binding instrument on Port State Measures to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Apart from the monitoring, control and surveillance activities planned for the 2011/2012 Financial Year, the Ministry has in mind the introduction of Inland Fisheries Resources Act and Regulations in Kunene Region, amendment of the Inland Fisheries Resources Act and Regulations, the amendment of the Marine Resources Act and Regulations, and upgrading of the vessel monitoring system in accordance with international standards. The implementation of the afore-mentioned actions is of course, subject to the availability of funds.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, N\$103,740,000 has been allocated to this important programme during the 2011/2012 Financial Year, which is N\$14,698,000 down from the N\$118,438,000

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budgeted for 2010/2011. The Ministry wishes that the Budget allocation to this programme could be slightly increased, or alternatively should remain at the 2010/2011 Budget level.

In view of the above, this august House is invited to note the ramifications as a result of this shortfall. The Ministry will certainly streamline the fisheries operation activities to operate within the budget ceiling. This means that we have to scale down the deployment of fisheries inspectors and fisheries observers. Furthermore, the planned upgrading of the Vessel Monitoring System will have to be shelved.

The Fisheries Observer Agency (FOA) and the Namibian Maritime and Fisheries Institute (NAMFI) are the two statutory institutions which renders the service in the fisheries sector. In the past, some of their resource requirements were catered for under this programme. However, the usual funds allocated to them have been halved during the 2011/2012 Financial Year, a move that may affect the quality of their service delivery.

The Promotion of Marine & Inland Aquaculture programme develops aquaculture farming activities in coastal and inland areas, by utilising intensive methods under macro and micro scales for marine and fresh water species.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Mariculture industry continues to commercially produce quality oysters, mussels and abalone at suitable open-water sites at Lüderitz, Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. They are sold locally and exported to South Africa and eastern markets. The second half of 2010 produced good growing conditions which have continued into 2011.

The health of farmed aquatic animals is being monitored through regular testing for disease by the NatMIRC. The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has finalised the Import-Export Regulations on aquatic animals, which came into force in April 2010, (Gazette 4453 of 09 April 2010, in terms of the Aquaculture Act of 2002) The Import-Export regulations lay down strict measures to control movements of aquatic

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animals and disease outbreak or spread. This important aspect is overseen by the World Animal Health Organisation. Namibia is a member state of the World Animal Health Organisation and was proud to host the regional African seminar in June 2010. The building of laboratories, that is Capital Project Item NPC Code 5110, is to cater for disease diagnosis as part of the new NatMIRC building.

Research into Harmful Algal Blooms, hydrogen sulphide events and possible farming of new indigenous species continues, in order to assist the mariculture industry. Promising results on rearing the indigenous prawn species is receiving targeted attention by our scientists at NatMIRC.

It has been noted, globally, that in order for the Freshwater Aquaculture Sector to be successful, there are certain key prerequisites. These include the availability of land, availability of relevant expertise, a supportive legislative framework, as well as access to finance.

I am proud to report that the Namibian Government has ensured that all of these prerequisites are in place. The Government has also gone one step ahead in establishing the necessary infrastructure to support the development of the freshwater aquaculture sector.

For example, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has developed freshwater aquaculture centres for fish breeding; fingerling production; training; research and capacity building in the Omusati, Oshana, Kavango, Hardap and Caprivi Regions through the capital projects provision. The combined investment in freshwater aquaculture infrastructure development by Government and its collaborating partners is in excess of N\$38 million in 2010/2011 alone. My Ministry will continue to strive to strengthen this sector which is a key contributor to food security in Namibia, as well as the African Region.

For the coming 2011/2012 Financial Year there is an ambitious programme in place to further develop both the mariculture and fresh water aquaculture sector in Namibia. The core functions and objectives of the Ministry will be to:

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Further invest through the Capital Project programme an amount of N\$38,500,000 for the 2011/2012 Financial Year, to continue with applied research which is necessary for management in order to make the right decisions.

Increase fingerling production at the major Inland Aquaculture Centers with the assistance of our Vietnamese experts, train Ministry staff members hands-on technical skills and to accommodate UNAM/Polytechnic under and post-graduates for field attachments.

In order to carry out activities under this programme during 2011/2012 Financial Year, an amount of N\$76,499,000 is requested.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, allow me to submit, to this august House, Vote 22: Fisheries and Marine Resources for 2011/2012 for consideration and approval. I would like to implore all Honourable Members to support this Vote for the sustainable development of the fishery sector and socio-economic development of our people.

We are optimistic that we will implement our national programmes that are focused on the fulfilment of our mandate efficiently and effectively during the current Financial Year. I want to seize this moment in wishing all the Members of the House and their families a happy Easter holiday and I thank you for your attention.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.

I put **Vote 19 – “TRADE AND INDUSTRY”**, N\$560,932,811 for Introduction.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:
Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members of this August House, thank you very much for the opportunity

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to motivate Vote 19 of the Ministry of Trade and Industry for the 2011/2012 Financial Year. Before I start with my contribution, I wish to take this opportunity to express my support for the 2011/2012 Budget that has been presented by the Minister of Finance to this House.

I have no doubt that I will also have the support of this Honourable august House for this Vote and your support is much appreciated and valued. I thank you in advance for your part to ensure that we remain on course to an industrialised Namibia.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, during the tabling of the 2011/2012 National Budget the Honourable Minister of Finance emphasised accelerated economic growth and the creation of an environment and conditions for job creation and new sources of revenue.

I have no doubt that the Honourable Members of this august House will agree with me that the main source of revenue for the State is the Trade and Industry sector, which is the Private Sector. It is equally true that the Private Sector flourishes and serves as an effective source of revenue and engine of sustainable economic growth, where the legal and regulatory framework in place is business friendly.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, the responsibility of creating that general conducive business environment has been entrusted to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, of course working in partnership with other Government Offices, Ministries and Institutions. The Ministry has a clear mandate to create an enabling environment for business to flourish and to grow its contribution to the GDP. Bringing about such results requires policy cohesion, coordination with other economic policies, and integration of functions and timely implementation of programmes. The programmes of the Ministry must interface with a range of social and economic development strategies across all spheres of Government.

As we craft the way for Namibia in 2011/2012 and beyond, it is imperative for us to start focusing on an agenda that will not only contribute to economic growth, but will also allow the majority of our

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population to enjoy the benefits brought about by such growth and expansion. It is of no use showing all the positive economic growth while the majority remains excluded. As we engage further, it is my humble request for us to look futuristic on areas that can help us drive the agenda of inclusivity.

Let me highlight two drivers that come to mind. The first one is the Accelerated growth of the Small and Medium Enterprise sector. At this point, allow me to quote the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry, Honourable Dr Hage G. Geingob, who said the following: *“The SME sector is a pathway to the industrialisation of Vision 2030 goals and objectives. The SME operators need to transform themselves from self-centred enterprises to learning organisations because the more they prepare, the better they will be able to plan strategically for their success in doing business in this competitive economic environment. No country in the world has developed with a weak SME sector.”*

It is, therefore, my opinion that for us to develop this sector, we should not only focus on the financing and mentoring requirements of this important sector, but also explore ways to incentivise this sector from an income tax point of view. As an example, the qualifying SME companies could deduct all their capital expenses in the first year of operations as compared to the current wear and tear allowance. Another possibility is an allowance for a 100% deduction of expenses geared towards training and education. The combined effect of such incentives would ensure that small businesses have positive cash-flows to finance their current operations as well as to invest in future growth.

The second driver is skills development. Based on the complaints from the youth and young graduates, generally companies are reluctant to employ graduates or youth who do not possess any work experience. What about a tax incentive to those companies that demonstrate commitment to employ youth and young graduates for on-the-job training. The cost can then be deducted 100% as skills development allowance. We should have a policy where we do not allow the graduate to stay for longer than 6 months without a job. Beyond 6 months it is unlawful and something needs to be done. We should have that as a deliberate policy. We cannot

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invest in them and not employ them; we must do something about it.

Let me now come to the Budget allocations:

The total Budget allocation to the Ministry for the Financial Year 2011/2012 amounts to N\$558,052,000.

This total allocation consists of:

- An amount of N\$254,309,000 for the Operational Budget, and
- An amount of N\$303,743,000 for the Development Budget.

This allocation reflects a total increase of N\$67,363,000 or a 13,73% compared to the previous allocation. Our Development Budget has received the bulk of the total allocation, which represents a 19,2% increase, while the Operational Budget reflects an increase of 7.8%. Thank you very much, Comrade Minister.

In order to fulfil its mandate of promoting investment, trade and industrial development, the Ministry of Trade and Industry has clustered its interventions under five key programmes. These programmes are:

- Trade Promotion and Facilitation;
- SME and Entrepreneurship Development;
- Industrial Planning and Infrastructure Development;
- Domestic Market Competitiveness; and
- Domestic and Foreign Direct Investment Promotion

I will now elaborate on each of these programmes in terms of the specific activities to be carried out and the corresponding budget allocations.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the Ministry of Trade and Industry is the national focal point for trade promotion and facilitation. In collaboration with other national stakeholders, the Ministry of Trade and Industry has, over the past years, spearheaded the maintenance and negotiations of agreements on preferential market access for our goods and services under various bilateral, regional and multilateral trade arrangements, notably

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SADC, Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Economic Partnership Agreement with European Union.

With this allocation, we will continue to safeguard Namibia's trade and economic interests in the regional and multilateral arenas during the 2011/2012 period.

Some of the key activities to be carried out under this programme are:

The Deeper Regional Economic Integration programme is mainly a SACU programme and as is common knowledge, Namibia assumed the Chairmanship of SADC. As the National Focal Point for SADC, the Ministry of Trade and Industry will continue to be at the forefront of coordinating Namibia's participation in all SADC related matters. During the 2011/2012 Financial Year, Namibia will host an Extra-ordinary SADC Summit on Regional Integration, which is expected to take place during the first quarter of the 2011/2012 Financial Year. This Ministry will spearhead the preparations for this up-coming event.

The ability of Namibia to fully benefit from the market access opportunities that have come about as a result of trade agreements negotiated by the Government greatly depends on the capacity of the business sector to take advantage of such opportunities. Such capacity is often absent or inadequate.

In this regard, the Ministry of Trade and Industry will, in addition to the execution of our obligations under regional and multilateral trading arrangements to which we are a member, utilise the Budget allocation to the Trade Promotion Programme to implement trade-enhancing activities, which I will enumerate just now. Such activities will be aimed at both boosting the supply-side capacity of our producers and traders as well as towards building the service delivery capacity of local trade and industry associations, with which the Ministry works in providing business support services to the Private Sector.

The Ministry focused its support on projects and activities of these bodies

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that complement and enhance the realisation of its Private Sector development objectives. In this regard, it is our intention to continue to provide the requisite financial and capacity-building support to these partner industry organisations in the coming Financial Year, in order to enhance their capacity to help the Ministry in delivering some of the business development support services to their members.

The Ministry has embarked on the construction of such business support infrastructure. The first of such trade fair facilities to be developed was the Okakarara Business Centre, which comprises a trade fair section and a business component. The Centre has resulted in the creation of 64 permanent jobs and 156 temporary jobs during its construction. The centre is ready for operation as from March 2011 and consists of 2 sections, namely a business section and a trade fair section. The business section consists of facilities such as restaurants, a supermarket, a communication centre and various small-scale businesses and shops. The trade fair section of the Centre consists of an 800 square meter exhibition hall, a 250-seater pavilion, a 10,000 square meter open exhibition area, a conference hall and an animal pens area. This centre is expected to be officially opened in the near future by Dr Hage G. Geingob, Minister of Trade and Industry. Similar trade and industrial estates are under development in Rundu in the Kavango Region and Katima Mulilo in the Caprivi Region.

Given the lack of appropriate capacity of regional and local authorities and organisations to successfully stage trade fairs, the Ministry has made a provision to assist in building such capacity. This started during the previous Financial Year when the Ministry sponsored study tours and experiential visits by representatives from the Okakarara, Kavango and Caprivi regional trade fair bodies to well-established organisations at home and abroad, such as the Ongwediva and Windhoek Shows and the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair, respectively. It is our intention to continue providing such support during the current Financial Year and beyond.

The trade sector is a major economic activity and an important source of revenue for our country. The constraints posed by the small size of our domestic market makes it imperative for us to consolidate existing

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regional and global export markets as well as to secure new ones. In this regard, the Ministry, through its Export and Marketing Assistance Programme, provides financial and logistical support to enable local traders and producers to access export markets to exhibit and sell their products.

During the previous Financial Year, the Ministry sponsored and facilitated the participation of 310 Namibian SMEs in trade fairs at home and abroad to the tune of N\$6 million. This support includes among others, transportation of exhibition materials and sample products, rental of exhibition space and partial contribution towards the travel and accommodation expenses of exhibitors.

Beside the exposure provided to local enterprises especially SMEs, this Government support has enabled various local companies to make inroads and penetrate markets in the region and beyond, such as Botswana, Ghana, Germany, Italy, Zambia, Turkey, Zimbabwe and Dubai.

Increased export activities and earnings are very beneficial as they will lead to increased production and employment activities at home. As such, the Ministry plans to continue and indeed to increase this valuable support to our industry and entrepreneurs during the 2011/2012 Fiscal Year.

An effective strategy to penetrate foreign markets is first to gather intelligence or research on such potential markets as well as to ensure that the quality of local products is up to standard. In this regard, we have devised market research and product development support measures. We plan to expand on these in the coming Financial Year.

Some of the initiatives that we have undertaken in this regard during the previous Financial Year are:

- The hosting of an innovation and capacity building workshop on arts and crafts which was attended by artists from different Regions of the country. As a follow up to the workshop, 10 of the participating SME artists with innovative products were allocated space to display their products at the National Arts and Crafts

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Centre for a period of 3 months;

- Assisted a young entrepreneur to improve the quality of her beauty and cosmetic products that she manufactures locally, and this support helped her to get her products accepted on the shelves of most retail shops in the country and is now pursuing export opportunities;
- The Ministry has conducted research on a number of markets in the Region and beyond such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Russia Federation and USA;

We have secured land in the 2 Congos where we will construct cold storage facilities and warehouses to facilitate exports and the distribution of Namibian products in the 2 countries. Fact-finding missions have already been undertaken and land has been availed for this purpose by the authorities in these sisterly countries, who are also eager to see an increase in trade between them and Namibia. We plan to complete the concept designs and start construction during this Financial Year;

- A piece of land has also already been acquired in Luanda for the construction of similar facility in the Republic of Angola.
- Our research on the UAE market and the recent visit to Dubai by Honourable Dr. Hage Geingob have confirmed the great potential for exports of Namibian products, such as dates and arts and crafts to that key market. The scope to export our minerals, beef and fish as well as other products and services, remain wide open not only to the market in Dubai, but the entire United Arab Emirates, Middle East and Asia. On the other hand, Dubai and the UAE is no doubt an important source of imports for local SMEs, thus providing an alternative source of inputs and finished products away from existing traditional sources. A total of 38 SMEs have been supported to travel to Dubai to exhibit their products and explore business linkages during the past Financial Year;
- The Russian Federation has also been found to be a potential

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market for, among others, Namibian beef. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and their Russian counterparts are consulting on the sanitary and phytosanitary requirements, which process we hope will be finalised in due course so that trade can take place;

- Market research was also conducted on the demand of arts and crafts in the USA during the 2010 Santa Fe International Folk Art Market, and the findings point to a great opportunity and high demand for Namibian arts and crafts. However, the import requirements into that market are very stringent and inhibiting market penetration by most Namibian companies. The Ministry is currently working with the industry and market experts in order to come up with an effective market penetration strategy.
- A market research on Devils Claw was conducted in Namibia and Germany to determine the possibility of local entrepreneurs to export directly to the German market rather than using intermediaries who are under-paying the local producers. The research revealed that Namibia is the largest producer of devils claw in the world, and the product is in very high demand and selling at high prices in the international market. The Ministry's focus will be on helping to link Namibian producers to the buyers so that they can reap maximum financial benefits.

The last activity under the Trade Promotion Programme is the establishment of the Namibia Board of Trade (NBT).

Article 14 of the SACU Agreement requires all SACU Member States to establish national bodies that will be responsible for import tariff setting and management, implementing anti-dumping measures, conducting research and maintaining trade data, and general import-export control and management.

In fulfilment of Namibia's obligation to SACU, the Ministry of Trade and Industry is working towards having the Namibia Board of Trade in place

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and operational by the third quarter of this year or sooner. The process requires that an enabling legislation and in this regard an appropriate bill is already being drafted and will be tabled in this august House in the coming months.

The SME and Entrepreneurship Development Programme focuses on the enhancing the productive and entrepreneurial capacity of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise sector and harnessing the culture of entrepreneurship in the country in general.

A total Budget allocation in the amount of N\$123,896,000 has been made to this Programme. This represents an increase of 78.9% from the previous Financial Year.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members one of the main constraints faced by SMEs in the country is the lack and high cost of accessing equipment and machinery which they require to make the products and render services of the quality required in the market. In order to address this constraint, the Ministry has devised an equipment aid scheme whereby the Ministry purchases equipment and avail them to SMEs on favourable leasing terms.

During the 2010/2011 Financial Year, some 105 entrepreneurs benefited from this support, and this has in turn created 382 employment opportunities, of which 263 are permanent and 119 were temporary. This intervention is having a visible impact and the requests for equipment assistance have exceeded the budgetary allocation in the past Financial Year. As such, we have requested and proposed for the allocation of N\$40 million in the 2011/2012 Financial Year for this purpose.

The intention is to distribute part of this amount to all the 13 Regions of our country to ensure that entrepreneurs in the various Regions are covered or benefit. The idea and plan is first and foremost to ensure that each of the 13 Regions are allocated specific amounts of funds for example equipment, for SMEs, transport, training/mentorship, and secondly to create champions for each Region, for those who started small and grew rapidly and be available as resourced SME operators. We

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believe that this regional empowerment initiative will ensure balanced regional distribution and greatly contribute to the development of our rural majority.

The rest of the allocation will be used to support specific entrepreneurs that come up with highly innovative business and project ideas.

We have no doubt that this investment in the SME sector will boost the sector's productive and job-creating capacity. Worldwide, employment in this sector has proven to be more sustainable and resilient to economic shocks, especially those that have external origins. Just as an illustration, if each Region has an average of 30 SMEs, this gives you 390 SMEs, imagine the number of possible jobs that could be created. If each SME were to create 10 jobs, this will translate into a total of 3,900 jobs.

I must also inform the Honourable House that this year we will have a first national manufacturing Expo in each Region, so that we know what is being manufactured in each Region, so that we can support those manufacturing initiatives in each Region and focus on what is already there.

It is often inconceivable that a richly endowed country like Namibia has a large section of its population living in poverty. The most vulnerable groups are often the youth and women. One of the cited and recognised causal factors for the state of poverty and joblessness in our society is lack of productive skills. In this connection, the Ministry of Trade and Industry saw it necessary to come up with a technical skills training initiative targeting unemployed youths, while at the same time contributing to the goal of increased local value addition to the country's mineral resources.

To this end, the Ministry constructed a fully equipped Gemstone Centre at Karibib, where youths enrol for training in gemstone cutting and polishing. Some 24 young trainees successfully completed a 6-month training course in 2010 under the auspices of an Indian trainer. It is pleasing to report that all of these trainees have been taken up by diamond cutting, polishing and jewellery making companies. In addition to the trainees who are taken in from outside, 2 Namibian understudies are

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permanently attached to this Indian expert so that they can also become future trainers.

A similar skills development initiative is under planning for the Keetmanshoop Gemstone Centre, where the Ministry is working in collaboration with the Polytechnic of Namibia and a Swedish partner. This functional skills training initiative is crucial and helps in meeting the skills needs of the industry on the one hand, and in enhancing the marketability of the trainees in the competitive labour market, on the other. It is therefore our plan to continue with this intervention. In this regard, we have also joined forces with the Ministry of Mines and Energy and are working towards assisting the trainees to become self-employers and entrepreneurs in their own right in the long-run.

In addition to the above and with the aim of boosting the capacity of local entrepreneurs including small contractors to take advantage of and benefit from Government public work tenders, the Ministry has devised an intervention geared towards providing training to small contractors in tender procedures and project costing. I refer to what the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport reported earlier. This has already happened and we intend to intensify that.

In addition to the above, 18 SMEs received mentorship and business advisory services during the previous Financial Year. The skills gained from these efforts have and are expected to assist small contractors to successfully compete for tenders

One of the identified reasons for business failures among SMEs is a lack of business management skills and experience. One way to help build such capacity is to facilitate for upcoming entrepreneurs to look for strategic partners as well as to visit well-established businesses at home and abroad to gain exposure. The cost involved in undertaking such exposure business visits is often beyond the reach of struggling but high potential small businesses.

This is one of our existing SME support interventions and we plan to continue and expand its coverage in the coming Financial Year. It is

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imperative for our upcoming entrepreneurs to mix with top executives at home and abroad in order to learn and establish business networks. It is through these interactions that business relationships are established and enhanced.

As the Honourable Members will agree, every successful business or company started as an idea conceived by the business initiator or owner. The expertise and cost involved in properly documenting ideas into business plans either for purposes of sourcing financing or as a business management tool is often very high and beyond the affordability of most of our people who aspire and have drive to get into business.

Through our feasibility study and business plan support, the Ministry, in consultation with the beneficiaries, enlists services of qualified business consultants and covers the costs for such consultancy services on behalf of the beneficiary applicants.

During the previous Financial Year, the Ministry provided the following assistance in this area:

- Six feasibility studies and 26 business plans, as well as 13 mentorships were financed and done for aspiring entrepreneurs;

We need to assist more in this area in order to realise the innovative plans that can meaningfully add to our economic growth if implemented properly.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the last but obviously not least activity under the SME and Entrepreneurship Development Programme is the establishment of an SME Bank. As the Honourable Members of this august House would have been reading in the media, the Bank of Namibia, after a long process of scrutiny, finally granted the Ministry a conditional licence for the envisaged SME Bank.

The objective of the Bank is obviously to provide affordable financing and related business supportive services to the SME sector, whose growth continues to be inhibited by the high cost of financing from existing

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private and public financial institutions. Preparations are underway now and during the 2011/2012 Financial Year towards meeting the set conditions and for the establishment of the envisaged bank. For the SME sector to move forward and expand, it is critical that a practical financing house that understands their financial challenges needs to be established to cater for that.

I wish now to move on to the next key Programme. A total of N\$157,670,000 is proposed for the Industrial Planning & Infrastructural Development programme. This year's allocation represents a 12.6% increase in comparison to last year's allocation.

With this Budget allocation, we plan to undertake the following major industrial developmental related activities:

The Industrial Upgrading and Modernisation Programme is a SADC program, which is aimed at enhancing production efficiency and effectiveness of firms and industry support institutions in the region. The activities to be carried out will focus on the following three components of the programme, which will be implemented concomitantly:

- Component I, entails support towards upgrading and improving the competitiveness of firms in the identified priority industries;
- Component II is aimed at building or upgrading the capacity of technical industry support institutions; and
- Component III focuses on strengthening institutional capacity necessary for improving competitiveness of industries in the country.

A number of aspiring Small and Medium Entrepreneurs often find it costly and difficult to implement their business ideas due to the high cost involved in acquiring serviced land, trading and factory space especially in urban centres. Such facilities are often lacking in rural areas. The central objective of this programme is to stimulate local businesses and industrial activity through the provision of affordable business premises for industrial and trading activities.

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An amount of N\$21.4 million has been budgeted for under the 2011/2012 Financial Year for the construction of phase 2 of the Okahandja and Oshakati industrial Parks.

Concept designs and preparation of technical documentations for planned new community markets in other needy areas such as Grootfontein, Gibeon, Gochas and Karasburg will be done with funding under the current 2011/2012 Budget. However, construction of these facilities will commence during the 2012/2013 Financial Year.

The allocations of the previous Financial Year have been used to implement the following capital projects, which are currently under construction: Community markets at Keetmanshoop, Tsumeb, Onethindi, Oshifo, and a garment factory in Windhoek, Northern Industrial Area; as well as the Ministry's Regional Office at Omuthiya in Oshikoto Region.

The Upgrading and planned expansion projects under the management of the NDC consist of the following.

The Kavango Mangetti Cattle Ranch, which used to be ranked the third largest ranch in the world some years back, has been operating below its optimal carrying capacity and its fencing and water storage infrastructure have dilapidated over the years due to lack of funding to cover the high cost of restocking, upgrading and maintenance. Urgent repair and upgrading is needed to turn this Government ranch from its current communal livestock farm type of a status to an exemplary modern commercial farming project that it ought to be. The funds allocated will specifically go towards the upgrading of water supply infrastructure, fences, handling pens and buildings as well as procurement of equipment. Naute Date and Grape Development project:

This project is also under the management of the NDC. Agriculture is one of the sectors that is highly labour-intensive and can thus create a lot of job opportunities for the many unemployed citizens. The NDC is engaged in the production of grapes and dates in the southern parts of the country, which have found a lucrative export market to Dubai, and which in turn contributes to the much needed revenue for Namibia. A large part of the

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fertile and cultivable land is not in use. In addition there is an urgent need to construct appropriate storage and maintenance facilities as well as staff quarters and upgrade existing ones. The funds that have been requested will enable the Corporation to carry out these commercial date and grape production and related infrastructures.

As the Honourable Members of this august House know, the NDC, as State development agency, has been entrusted with the management of a number of business and residential properties situated in the various regions of the country. Most of these properties are in urgent need of repairs and general maintenance. Some of these properties have a high commercial value and potential, and can generate revenue for the Corporation if they are repaired and put back in productive use.

The fourth programme for which we are seeking a Budget allocation deals with registration of businesses, consumer protection and a competitive domestic market. An amount of N\$70,164,000 is proposed for this programme, representing a decrease of 5.5% from last year's allocation.

Without any doubt a modern and effective business registration system and processes will facilitate and increase the rate of business establishment. The more businesses are incorporated and become operational, the more business activities and employment opportunities can be expected.

We all know that how long it takes to register a business is often entirely blamed on the Ministry of Trade and Industry, although the process involves outside private role players. These are stationery shops, accountants, lawyers and post offices that sell forms and render business registration services, including revenue stamps. The involvement of these other different players increases the cost and lengthens the time of registering a business.

In this connection, we have since introduced an automated business registration system, effective from the 1st of November 2010. During the 2010/2011 Financial Year, 62% of companies, close corporations and industrial property registrations were done using the computerised

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registration system. The level achieved exceeds the set target of 60%. The next step of registration is to make the services available via the internet. This would allow efficiency and effectiveness, as well as a convenience to foreign investors who would wish to register Namibian companies from anywhere in the world.

A further new measure to increase the ease of registering businesses is that we now avail registration forms to the public free of charge. During our distinct Open Day public consultations, it has come to our attention that members of the public were subjected to having to go to private stationery shops to purchase these registrations forms, instead of obtaining such forms from the Ministry. We will also make them available to the NCCI and Regional Council offices countrywide.

As a measure to save costs for business and make room for efficiency, we are in consultation with the Ministry of Finance to seek exemption for us to establish a unit that will receive payments of business registration at the Ministry instead of people having to travel to post offices to purchase revenue stamps before they submit their forms to the Ministry.

Other activities to be carried out under this program are Consumer Protection and Internal Market Regulation. There have been complaints raised with regards to the violation of consumer rights and welfare. In response to this, the Ministry is in the process of drafting legislation that will foster greater consumer protection. This process will involve public consultations and information dissemination campaigns on consumer related matters countrywide.

Franchising provides local entrepreneurs access to tested business models and support services. The franchise sector is however generally very restrictive to the extent those certain practices of some franchise holders or owners tend to be very discriminatory and somewhat anti-competitive. Unlike other countries, Namibia does not have a regulatory framework to ensure fair play in the sector.

We intend to introduce a legal and regulatory framework on franchising and technology licensing with the aim of facilitating and regulating the

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acquisition and use of franchises during the 2011/2012 Fiscal Year.

As a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) since the 29th of April 1997, we are required to establish a National Authority to monitor national trade in scheduled chemicals. As the designated lead institution, the Ministry of Trade and Industry plans to enlist the services of an appropriate legal expert to come up with a Draft Bill.

Although still just a few years in operational now, Namibia has its own quality standards assurance and competition bodies, namely the Namibian Standards Institution (NSI) and the Namibian Competition Commission. These institutions play very critical regulatory roles aimed at ensuring adherence to set national and international quality standards at product and industry levels as well as safeguarding competition in the Namibian marketplace.

The 2 institutions are still at their infant stages and need to build up the necessary human, technological and infrastructural capacity. Budgetary allocations are required to enable these State agencies to build up the required operational and institutional capacities. In particular, the Namibian Standards Institution needs to expand its laboratory and testing capacity and services to cover heavy metal, histamine and norovirus in addition to food, as well as to ensure the full implementation of the Standards Act, 2005 (Act 18 of 2005) and the National Quality Policy (NQP).

As alluded to earlier, the Namibia Board of Trade and the Namibian Competition Commission will be able to effectively deal with anti-competitive business practices, such as dumping and cartel activities.

The last Programme for which we are seeking a Budget allocation is investment promotion and facilitation.

The budgetary allocation to the Domestic and Foreign Direct Investment Promotion programme amounts to N\$51,647,000.

Last year, the Minister and the staff intensified investment promotion and

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marketing efforts at home and abroad. One of the positive outcomes of such outward and inward investment promotion missions is that a number of Namibian business delegates who participated in them signed business partnership deals. For instances, it is worth singling out that representatives of Namibia's United Africa Group met and started negotiating for the construction of the 5-star Hilton Hotel in Namibia during one these business missions abroad.

Efforts have also been made to strengthen the capacity of the commercial offices abroad. This saw the appointment of 2 new commercial counsellors in Washington DC and in 2009 Berlin. These are very strategic locations and the measure taken has seen growing interests and business missions from those countries to Namibia.

As a commitment to public-private partnership ventures, the Ministry in collaboration with stakeholders such as the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised and led business missions to countries such as the People's Republic of China, USA, Tanzania, Brazil, Turkey, Zambia, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Germany, and also hosted inward missions from Japan, China, the USA, Turkey and Poland.

The main activities planned under this Programme for the 2011/2012 period are:

- Completion of the drafting and subsequent tabling of a new law on investment which, unlike the existing Foreign Investment Act, 1993, will provide for the promotion and facilitation of foreign and domestic investment. The law will also unambiguously spell out the economic sectors or activities, which, in response to the wishes of the Namibian Government and public, will exclusively be reserved for Namibians and those where foreign investments will be required or allowed with local joint venture partners. This legal framework is also expected to make it a requirement for all investors to register with the Ministry's investment promotion unit for statistical and regulatory purposes, a provision which is not explicitly provided for in the current law.

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- Intensification of visits to existing business establishments in order to monitor and enforced compliance of investors especially foreign investors to the applicable laws and to the investment activities which they have declared and have consequently been admitted into the country to conduct. One of the measures that will be strictly enforce is the restriction of foreign nationals to engage in retail, in-town taxi transport, salon and hair dressing as per gazette notice by the Minister of Trade and Industry of April 2010, unless exemptions are provided.
- In keeping with the goals of deeper economic integration and trade cooperation, the Hon. Minister will lead investment and trade promotion missions to sisterly countries such as South Africa, Angola, the Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe and Cuba. These will be in addition to other scheduled and statutory meetings and engagements at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.
- Intensified marketing and information dissemination through production and distribution of promotion materials and placement of adverts in prominent TV and print media at home and abroad, including through the website.

In conclusion therefore, I now wish to request the support and approval of this august House for Vote 19 Ministry of Trade and Industry for a total allocation of N\$560,932,811 for the 2011/2012 Financial Year. I thank you.

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

Thank you. At this point in time I need to remind the Honourable Members of the procedures in the Committee Stage. Opposition Members are here to exercise their role of checks and balances. The Committee Stage paves the way for the Opposition and backbenchers to express their views on matters that are brought before this House and on which they deem fit to raise questions for explanation by the Executive. This is the main purpose of this Parliamentary platform, the Committee Stage and it is not against the practice that Members of the Executive make statements, they are entitled to do that, but they should

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not be general and interventions should be limited to the absolute minimum.

May I also say something that may remind the older Members of this House? I recall, as a Member of the Drafting Committee, that the Honourable Dr Hage Geingob, first Prime Minister and Chairman of that Committee, used to refer to the need to maintain unity of purpose in terms of promoting national peace, stability and cooperation. To maintain it he used to start each meeting with these words: "*Honourable Members, what we are busy with is not for ourselves, but for generations to come, so that what we are doing here, we do so in the spirit of, one, give and take, two, goodwill and reconciliation.*" Those words were relevant at the time when they were stated and they are still relevant in 2011. I appeal to Members to be sensitive and caring as we deliberate from here onwards.

Vote 15 – "MINES AND ENERGY" is put for Discussion.

DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Minister, on page 3, the first paragraph, and my thanks go to the Ministry for establishing Epangelo Mining as well as declaring those minerals as strategic.

Still on page 3, paragraph 5 deals with exploration. We used to be told that this is not mining, but I want us to be aware of the activities taking place during exploration as this is where Government loses. I am happy to see that the number of inspectors has been increased and they need to concentrate on exploration activities, because people find diamonds and if we are not careful, they would say they did not find anything. This is just an example of what can happen.

Honourable Minister we now have an agreed terminology which replaces TESEF and BEE, namely NEEF, New Equitable Economic Framework. Therefore, where it is stated on page 5 that, "*these measures are meant to enhance our Black Economic Empowerment*"; it should read "*Enhance our NEEF.*"

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The first paragraph on page 5 is definitely a concern not only for the Ministry but to all of us. A person is given an EPL and pricing is decided outside. I hope that the envisaged new Minerals Bill will address this matter, that an EPL may not be transferred.

In conclusion, I want the implementation of the hydro-electrical power to be speeded up. I support the Bill.

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

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have 5 questions to the Honourable Minister Katali. Firstly, I want to congratulate the Ministry for listing the various resources as strategic which should henceforth be exploited by Namibians. I hope that we would be able to negotiate with other mining companies, whether it is Epangelo or NAMCOR, that our Government should have the biggest stake in these companies, so that we do not only benefit from the payment of dividends and royalties, but that we also benefit from the profits as well. Mining companies should also be encouraged to establish trusts to assist the communities in which they operate.

I want the Minister to enlighten us on what is delaying the operations of the Valencia and Trekkopje mines despite the fact that contracts were signed some time ago. Maybe the Minister could inform this House as to what the problems are that they are experiencing.

With regard to the new shareholder agreement with De Beers, I would like to ask our negotiating team to press De Beers to show magnanimity towards the Namibian people. We cannot continue to operate with De Beers in secrecy, because I think De Beers is the one who benefits from the NAMDEB partnership. I hope De Beers will be open to ensure that Namibians not only have a stake in NAMDEB, but that De Beers should give Namibians and NAMDEB shares within De Beers International, so

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HON KAURA**

that we also benefit. It is a question that they need to reciprocate as they have been mining our diamonds for over 100 years in this country.

With regard to the transactions abroad, which Honourable Ilonga also mentioned, we all need to be united and condemn these transactions as illegal activities by capitalists and I am in full support that when the new Minerals Bill comes to this Table, there must be provision to ensure that people are not allowed in EPLs, because these are the properties of the State of Namibia and we have to insist on that, even if we have to build in penalties so that if you dare sell an EPL abroad at an undisclosed price, the State should have the right to nullify that agreement.

There have been reports in the newspapers about the health hazards caused by the Tsumeb smelter. This smelter has been there for quite some time now and I am sure people's health might have been affected over the years. Are these people going to be compensated or what is the situation going to be?

Lastly, we need to look very closely at uranium mining. Apart from the health hazards caused by uranium mining, we also need to look at the benefits derived. There is currently a report on the Internet which indicates that the African uranium producing countries collectively get less than 17% of the proceeds of uranium and this is a very serious situation. We cannot allow companies to come and exploit the resources of Namibia and then take the bulk of the profits abroad, leaving our people here poor and facing health hazards. We need to negotiate collectively as Africans who are uranium producing countries to ensure that we reap the maximum benefit from uranium production. I support the Vote.

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

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chair. I have only 3 questions. One is on the State mining company, where it is stated that the Ministry's Budget is N\$5 million and Cabinet recently approved a

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HON NEHOVA**

submission to declare uranium, copper, gold, zinc and coal as strategic minerals with a view of allowing exclusive exploration and mining of these minerals by the State mining company. My question is how are you going to do this exploration with N\$5 million?

On the same page 3 it is mentioned that in the 2010/2011 Financial Year we issued 452 Exclusive Prospective Licences, 273 mining claims and 4 mining licences. The figures for EPLs and mining claims include renewals. I understand that the majority of prospecting licences in the Kunene Region are issued to Russian business people, but in the last 21 years they have not established one mine while they have the monopoly in that Region. Why are those prospecting licences being renewed?

I want to know who the owners of the Etango Uranium Project at Arandis are, because the name rings some bells.

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

HON NEHOVA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to deal with the Rural Electrification Project. The pressing issue with the Rural Electrification Project is the extension of charges. The extension charge is a cost element added in the pricing structure or tariff to the consumer. The electrical assets extended to the consumers in the commercial farming communities as well as to the general population have been paid by the Government through the new Rural Electrification Project as a social responsibility, but the electrical asset operators under which these assets fall have been charging exorbitant prices from farmers for the electrical network. These charges are nothing but robbery by the network operators for them to maximise private financial benefits in the form of salaries and other allowances while these assets are already paid for by the Central Government. Heavy charges have, to a large extent, resulted in a financial burden on mainly industrial customers as this affects business negatively. (Intervention)

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HON NEHOVA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: May I please ask the Honourable Member a question? The Honourable Member spoke of the network operators that are charging high prices, but we know that the country has more than one network operator. Can he just be specific on which one he is referring to so that we do not generalise.

HON NEHOVA: Please sit down. You are not a commercial farmer, in the first place, so listen, I am coming to that.

With regard to farming, the agricultural sector has been identified by the Government that it should be supported at all levels in order to increase food production in the country. The Cabinet of the Republic of Namibia in 2000 took in an executive decision to make food production a priority. However, the sector cannot achieve the intended objective as the cost of energy continues to rise and has become unaffordable. We must find solutions to the pressing issues in the energy sector in order to maximise the national benefits as a country and for industries to operate in an attractive environment.

In the northern electricity distribution area these extension charges have not been applied at the inception of the company, however they too have followed suit with the others. In the NamPower and ErongoRED distribution areas the extension charges are in place. Honourable Chairperson, what I want to say is that the commercial farmers are being exploited by those who are managing these infrastructures. If these infrastructures were already paid for by the Government under the Rural Electrification Project, why should we be asked to pay extension charges? This is robbery and those of you who have farms, take note of this. I support the Vote.

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

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HON SHIFETA / HON LIMBO**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have two points and one is based on the exclusive mining rights. When the Minerals Bill comes to this House we have to look at the minimum stake in these companies and this should also be applied retrospectively. Many mining companies are already in existence, they are exploiting our minerals but we, the owners of these minerals, get peanuts. We must determine a minimum stake, for example, that 30% should be exclusively reserved for the Epangelo Mining Company from exploration to the full mining development and that should be applicable retrospectively to those companies already in existence so that we distribute the resources equitably.

We have a fifty-fifty stake in NAMDEB, but I want to ask the Minister, how sure we are that our interests are being looked after properly? Are we not being cheated? Do we have experts to ensure that there are no evasive tendencies by the other partner, that books are not being doctored and are the directors we appoint really taking care of our interests? We must have mechanisms in place to ensure that we get what the people deserve.

My other point is on encouraging those who are exploiting our minerals to do the processing here, because we do not want our raw materials to be exported without adding value. Those are my questions and my comments. Thank you.

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

HON LIMBO: Thank you, Honourable Chair. I have only one question to Honourable Katali and it is on rural electrification and the criteria used. I know the policy of the Government is to first give electricity to schools, clinics and then the others, but in my Region there are areas with electricity but no schools. I want to know what criteria used for a particular place to qualify, because I know of schools and clinics without electricity.

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HON BEZUIDENHOUT / HON NYAMU**

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

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I have only 2 points that I want to raise with the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy. One is whether the Ministry has been given an indication whether it would be viable to exploit the cement deposits in the Karas Region or would it clash with other industries in the surrounding area?

Secondly, I want to compliment the Ministry and the Government that our diamond sector is clean and complies with the Kimberley Process and that we did not receive any negative reports. Thank you very much.

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

HON NYAMU: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I want to refer to the diamond-cutting factory at Okahandja as I made a very big contribution to its establishment. Recently there were reports of theft, which seems to be shrouded in secrecy. We know that this factory is owned by De Beers and the Government of Namibia and it is clear that the theft could only have been committed by one of the two. Was it a joint theft or was it one of the partners who stole from the other one? Can the Minister explain to this House what happened?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. I call upon the Minister to reply to the specific questions.

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HON KATALI**

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I thank all those who participated and those who have thanked the Ministry and I for various issues and I will not repeat them as I go along.

There were many important questions, one of them from *Honourable Ilonga* on whether the Ministry knows what is happening when exploration is done. Of course, when you are exploring for diamonds in an area and find them, that would be an indication that there are diamonds.

Then there are rules as to what an exploration company needs to do when they find such diamonds. It is possible that theft may take place, but we have strict rules on the disposal of diamonds, which means that diamond will be discovered somewhere. Theft is theft and it may happen, but once we discover it, we will apprehend the person.

Thank you very much for mentioning NEEF, I am aware of it but Cabinet still has to approve the minutes where that decision was taken. The Bill will be tabled here and, therefore, our contributions will have to be considered. We are working on Baynes Hydro-electrical power and it is on course.

Honourable Shixwameni, all your suggestions are related to the Bill to be tabled. Valencia and Trekkopje are cautious in going into mining without having determined the deposits, but I think they will start operations soon.

The negotiations with De Beers have been completed and we only need to sign. If something has not been included in the agreement, it is a done deal, but when there is a review we will have the opportunity to make proposals.

What has happened in Tsumeb is that when it was discovered that there is a health hazard, the people were warned about what to do and what not to do, but I am not aware of people who were affected to warrant compensation. Measures have been put in place in the area as to which crops can be grown in the area as it could easily be contaminated by these

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HON KATALI**

toxics.

Your comment on uranium is what we all yearn to have, that we need to derive more benefits from our proceeds. It is true that uranium is hazardous, as has happened in Japan recently, but that was not just because of the reactor itself, it was as a result of the tsunami. A natural disaster can happen anywhere in any form and people will be killed.

Honourable Kaura, your concern is on the N\$5 million given to Epangelo. This is only for operations and there are many ways how Epangelo is going to work. Epangelo may not necessarily do exploration by itself and develop the mine by itself, it will still have to work with knowledgeable partners who have the financial means to explore and open up a mine.

You mentioned the EPLs and mining claims continuously being given to the Russians and renewed. There are rules attached to the renewal process and I do not think anybody can escape these rules. If they have been renewed, it means it is still within the law. However, if there are specific issues that the Ministry needs to know, please feel free to approach us. Otherwise I cannot with certainty say that some companies' licences are just being renewed despite the rules. For example, when the licence is renewed after 2 years, the exploration area will be minimised and after another 2 years there will be no renewal at all and that is being applied. If the company did not comply with certain issues that they indicated they were going to do, that means renewal will not be done. Maybe it is just a matter that to develop a mine takes up to 10 years from exploration.

I do not have the names of the owners of Etango with me, but I can provide the Honourable Member with that information.

Honourable Nehova talked about rural electrification. As far as I know, rural electrification started after Independence and during that time many of the freehold farms already had electricity, but those who got electricity through NamPower after Independence went through a separate process where NamPower rules applied, which says the client is the one to foot the bill for the infrastructure, whether the lines or the transformers. I do not

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HON KATALI**

really understand what you meant by extension when there is already a line. If there was a line to your farm, I do not think you should be charged for any extension. In any case, the NORED and others are private companies; they are not governed by the law administered by the Ministry of Mines and Energy. Although we are the custodian of electricity, we are not directly managing and overseeing the distributors. Apart from NamPower, which is a State company, the others are totally private companies established by the Companies Act. You will remember the REDs were almost smuggled into the Electricity Act but it failed, therefore they remained outside the legislation of this Parliament.

We also have to bear in mind, Honourable Nehova, that not all the electricity that we are using in Namibia is generated here. It is generated outside and the price is also set outside. Therefore, NamPower cannot sell the electricity at a cheaper price than what they are buying it from outside. When we have our own electricity, it will still be expensive because when you generate you have to recover the cost and we have to live with that fact.

Honourable Shifeta, you only mentioned what you want us to do when the Bill is tabled here, so let us wait for that. The only issue I can react on is the law being applied retrospectively. That is not acceptable by law and Honourable Kawana can bear me out on that.

Honourable Limbo wanted to know what the criteria are if there is a village without a school or clinic which has been electrified. It is very difficult to give an answer if I do not know which village it is, when it was done and the size of the village. We have 600 plus schools without electricity in the whole country and I know Kavango has the most schools without electricity. The Regions have to determine the priorities in their Regions and we only provide the funds and technical assistance. However, I can inform the Members and the public that we are trying to fast-track the electrification of schools, clinics, agricultural centres and Government buildings in the rural areas and we have changed the formula. The population in an area used to be a determining factor to allocate money for rural allocation, but now we are using the number of schools

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without electricity in that Region as a criteria. We have discovered that much of the money meant for schools and Government buildings is being used by businesses and households close to the transformer. We are not going to deny them, but kind of suspend some of their activities. We provided transformers for those who want to tap from there and then we continue to electrify the schools and after that we electrify the households and businesses, because should we continue the way we have been doing it, we will still have schools without electricity in 2040. If we do what I am proposing now, it means within 5 to 10 years, every school in Namibia will have electricity and that will be to the benefit of all, because the households within the 500 radius are just a small number and the others will still be excluded, which is not fair to my mind. Therefore, Honourable Limbo, I will go to that Region, but give me the names of those areas and we can see how it is going to happen.

Honourable Bezuidenhout, we have Ohorongo and I think if you want to open another mine in the South, it is free competition and that is it. Ohorongo is not barring anybody from starting another mine.

Honourable Nyamu, you mentioned the factory in Okahandja, but you left a long time ago. There came a company called LKI which is involved with Namgem. The agreement has not yet been signed but they are involved because NAMDEB wanted to withdraw and the Government called in this partner. We are still negotiating. The theft was committed by an employee representing LKI who had the keys and the responsibility, but other people were also moving in. It is rather a delicate matter and it was kept with the law enforcement officers as it could jeopardise the investigation.

There was also a question by Honourable Shifeta about value addition and encouraging people to do value addition. People who have exploration skills may not have mining skills and those with mining skills may not have processing skills, therefore other people need to come in to do the processing. I thank you very much.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27
HON MAAMBERUA**

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

Vote 21 – “CORRECTIONAL SERVICE” put for discussion and agreed to.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I give the Floor to the Honourable Deputy Minister to thank the Members.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson. I just want to thank the Members for their overwhelming support.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: **Vote 27 – “NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE, SPORTS AND CULTURE”** is put for Discussion.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have tried to contextualise this Ministry, particularly on the cultural side, with many names in terms of history, taking into account that Namibia is the first country in the world to experience the kind of magnitude of genocide that we have experienced, that is at the world level.

Since Independence we have been putting up monuments and many of these monuments reflect the magnitude of the genocide that this country has suffered and I would have wished that in this Budget some amount could have been put aside for the erection of a genocide memorial. That was not done.

The second amount that I would have hoped to be included in the Budget of this Ministry is an amount that is going to start the process of engaging

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the German authorities so that we can in earnest start negotiating for the reparation of our lives, the blood that was spilled in this country. Therefore, there are amounts that have not been budgeted for, which means the process is actually not taking place and I am not talking about the repatriation of the skulls and the remains. It is actually very important that in next year's Budget we are going to be serious with starting the process of negotiating with the German Government in terms of reparation demands. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Order. While the point that the Honourable Member is raising is quite important, I think he is not taking the right approach, because if a country decides to engage another country on an issue as weighty as the one that he refers to, you cannot just take that decision on the basis of an Appropriation Bill on the Floor. You have to discuss the issue and then come to a conclusion that we are going to deal with this issue in this manner and then budgeting would follow. That cannot be done during the Budget Debate.

HON MAAMBERUA: I am not talking about dreams here, there is a resolution taken by this House 4 years ago and nothing has happened on that score. (Interjection) No, it is not a question of Foreign Affairs. Next month this Ministry is leading a delegation at we have to start erecting very important monuments in remembrance of our people who have lost their lives. We cannot continue to erect monuments which have no bearing on the main genocide that has taken place, the first genocide of that magnitude in the whole world.

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

HON UEITELE: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote. Our Nation's future depends on the youth who must be moulded to participate actively in the

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socio-economic development of our country.

We must continue to strengthen the pro-youth policy interventions in place. Already the National Youth Service Scheme is making a difference in the lives of many young Namibians by giving them new skills and competencies. I call upon the Private Sector to open their doors to thousands of our youth who go through the training programmes of the National Youth Service by offering them employment, apprenticeships and scholarships to further their studies.

I am conscious that the Post-Independence generation is slowly growing and coming of age. It is a critical time for our country to reflect deeply on the challenge facing our youth today. A Nation with a well-educated youth who aim to excellence is a Nation with a bright future. Therefore, the future of our country can only be secured if we give them the necessary skills to compete in the modern economy.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the National Youth Council is making use of the technology centres to strengthen their skills in information and technology. The construction of the Otjinene Youth Hostel is nearing completion, whilst the National Youth Service, Sports and Culture and the Ministry of Works commenced with the construction of the multi-purpose centres and I just want to congratulate the Ministry for these efforts. Whilst applauding the Line Ministry concerned for its achievements, it is appropriate to recommend that they must also consider the construction of youth offices in all constituencies. I support the Vote.

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

HON KAURA: Honourable Chair, I have a very soft spot for both the Minister and Deputy Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture and appreciate their programmes to empower our youth. However, I have a very simple question. It is stated on page 11:

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“Swakopmund Sports Complex: The contractor has completed the abluition and was about to start with the fencing. Unfortunately the fence that was bought is of poor quality and the contractor has to reorder another fence from South Africa.” I want to find out who was the contractor and where was the original fence of poor quality purchased from.

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

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I only have a few questions to the Deputy Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture on Youth Reproductive Health mentioned on page 3.

Has the Ministry thought of developing a campaign for equal rights for youth with disabilities and awakening the awareness of youth with disabilities about health care and especially HIV/AIDS? I am posing this question, Honourable Deputy Minister, because there is a misperception that people with disabilities are not sexually active, which is not the case. My emphasis is on the girl-child who has been prejudiced.

On page 9 you mentioned the creation of a conducive sport environment and I would like to find out whether the multi-purpose youth centres and playgrounds the Ministry intends to build will be accessible to youth with disabilities, because currently the situation is pathetic, even the toilet facilities are not accessible for people with disabilities.

The establishment of the umbrella body for people with disabilities mentioned on page 10 is a very much commendable gesture by the Ministry, but I just want to know whether this environment will be conducive for the youth with disabilities.

Then I would just like to comment on the involvement of the youth programme in the education policy. The policies must be made accessible

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to the public and also benefit the youth with disabilities. I know the message is very clear that all the youth are welcome, but because of the past experience of segregation by people with disabilities in general, they lack self-esteem and I would want the Minister to launch a campaign that would encourage the youth with disabilities in particular to participate in these programmes aimed at enhancing the capacity of the youth in general.

Perhaps the Ministry must support business development services for entrepreneurs with disabilities and deploy youth with disabilities in rural communities to inform other youth with disabilities and communities about their rights. The Ministry should also enable the youth to be at the forefront of their own development, recognising the additional disadvantage experience by especially women and girls with disabilities.

This programme seeks to promote the participation of women with disabilities in the National Movement for Gender Equality and the acquisition of leadership and self-help development skills. I thank the Minister very much for having this inclusive policy and I would like to thank them for including the youth with disabilities in their programmes. I support the Vote and I thank you.

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

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I join Honourable Ncube in congratulating the Ministry for the umbrella body for people with disabilities. That will go a long way in understanding what needs to be done for that specific sector of our citizens concerning sport.

Preparation and participation in rugby competitions, the Namibian rugby team has indeed qualified for the 2011 Rugby World Cup and my question is whether the Ministry is indeed supporting the Namibian rugby team in this regard. Another concern is that the Hage Geingob Stadium is every now and then threatened with sale-in-execution and as a national asset we

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cannot continue having that threat. The Rugby Union, which is responsible for that facility, must somehow come up with a plan to avoid this situation in future.

On the participation and preparation for the Olympic Games, my congratulations to the 3 para-Olympic athletes who have already qualified for the tournament. I thank you very much.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I also want to express my support for this Vote and go straight to one important point which, in my view, deserves some attention, namely this juvenile justice issue. I have been talking about this since I came to this august House, that we have programmes with different stakeholders. This one has a programme on juvenile justice, the other one has the same programme and we do not seem to be coordinating our endeavours. With the increase of drug abuse by young people in Namibia, we will not be successful if we do not coordinate our efforts. I do not need what emphasis I need to put on that so that we really start coordinating our efforts in this area. I would like to see more being done about drug abuse by our young people, because it is now even taking place in the most far-flung areas of our country and we need to pull up our socks. Even small kids are using a device which is inculcating the smoking habit with our kids and those who are in the know need to look into this for us to come up with a law how to regulate this.

We sometime complain that our youngsters are found at shebeens, but if we do not provide alternatives, we will not be successful and I look at sports and sport facilities as one of the ways to attract the participation of young people. A human being is a social animal and they do not only go to the shebeens to get drunk, but it is also to socialise and if no other facilities are provided where people could spend their leisure time, we can preach and cry but we will not be successful.

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HON SHIFETA**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. I call upon the Deputy Minister to respond to some of the specific questions.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Maamberua, the Ministry wants to identify and develop monuments. We are planning to erect a genocide monument at Ozombu Zovindimba and I think you will be satisfied with that one. The communities are welcome to give suggestions when it comes to the identification of monuments and sites. They are free to approach our Heritage Council and even the Ministry, because monuments are owned by communities, but the duty is on us to develop and maintain monuments and heritage sites.

Honourable Ueitele, I thank you very much for your good comments. We are in the process of building youth offices and multi-purpose youth resource centres in almost every Region. We are either extending or erecting from phase one multi-purpose youth cultural centres.

Honourable Kaura, the material for the Swakopmund sport complex was obtained from a Chinese company which ordered it from China, but rectification has been done. However, let us not generalise because of that.

Honourable Ncube, we treat the youth equally, whether with or without disability, in our programmes and services. Disability does not mean inability and that is why they are given opportunities to develop their potential. Our sport facilities cater for those participating in the para-Olympics and the fields and buildings we are constructing now definitely are accessible for our para-athletes.

Honourable Bezuidenhout mentioned preparations for the Rugby World Cup in September this year. We are preparing for a team to compete and as you know, our rugby team is second in Africa but they have to be prepared not only to participate but to compete and we want them to be

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counted and not only to remain underdogs. However, I want to caution and I want our lawmakers to understand that sport is very expensive. Preparations for this World Cup cost N\$5 million, only to take this team to the World Cup in New Zealand. To send one team to engage with Ivory Coast, for instance, will not be less than N\$2 million. That includes transportation, allowances, accommodation and food. We are now just talking about here in Africa, but for Europe it will amount to N\$1.5 million for only one competition. The air tickets for a contingent of about 36 will amount to about N\$500,000. Then you have allowances for the players and the technical team, which will be about N\$800,000. Then comes accommodation, preparing your team well, medics and others and it will all amount to N\$2 million. If we want to prepare and want more medals, we must be willing to invest in sport. In the case of football you have male and female teams and we are not talking about only one national team, we are talking about under 15, under 17, under 19, under 20, under 21, under 23. If these 6 teams have to compete in South Africa it already amounts to N\$10 million. We are not talking about our national team, the Brave Warriors, but sport development is our baby as a Ministry and we have to make sure that when these teams go they are supported by us.

Currently we are giving only N\$7 million per annum for football, which will be depleted after 2 competitions which is the same for rugby. We must talk about at least N\$30 million to football and N\$30 million to rugby. Then our teams will be on par with others.

With regard to the rugby stadium, there are people with cheque books who want the stadium and that is the only stadium we have in the whole country. If we have to lose that stadium, it means that even if we qualify, we will have to go and qualify outside the country. If that stadium lands in private hands we do not have a stadium and to develop another stadium here in Windhoek would cost not less than N\$60 million. I had a meeting with the rugby executives because we wanted to attempt to bail them out as to us as Government that is a public asset and it is in the public interest that we do not allow this stadium to be sold. Measures have now been taken to ensure that the stadium is secure, because if it lands in private hands, that person can say we cannot have a rugby match as he is having a

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HON MWANINGANGE**

wedding there.

Honourable Nambahu mentioned juvenile justice and the need for coordination of the programmes. The Ministries and Agencies dealing with juvenile justice see so many kids finding themselves in very serious predicaments. Some do not have houses, they end up committing crimes and they really need assistance. Therefore, we are coordinating with the Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare on this matter and other Non-Governmental Organisations. We now have a pilot programme and we want to see if it can be duplicated in other Regions.

The Hooka pipe is a very serious matter. I have seen it in Asia and here you see young people especially in Karasburg smoking that long pipe. It is very dangerous because they make use of all kind chemicals and drugs to get drunk. We have to find measures to prevent this. Thank you very much.

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

Vote 24 – “TRANSPORT” is put for Discussion.

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

HON MWANINGANGE: Thank you, Honourable Chair of the Whole House Committee. Firstly, I would like to, once more, congratulate the Minister of Finance, Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, who did well by allocating so much money to this vote this Financial Year and, indeed, Honourable Minister and your team, you are trying to prioritise in this respect.

I am on page 2, the construction of roads where the various road projects are indicated. It is important to note that the socio-economic advancement

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also depends on road communication and, indeed, by stimulating the economy it provides permanent and temporary jobs. I am pleased to note that some of the contractors who were allocated these projects did train the workers, some of whom have been empowered and became permanent road developers.

I have a question on a specific road, namely the one between Nkurenkuru in the Kavango Region and Elundu in Ohangwena Region. That road consists of 2 or 3 components. The one is from Nkurenkuru to Okongo and they are doing a very good job, but I am disappointed in the one from Elundu in Ohangwena Region towards Okongo. They are not doing very well.

On page 4 some problems were indicated and I agree with some of them, but not all. For example, water scarcity is mentioned as well as material. This is because some of these contractors do not have the capacity to carry out those projects. When they won the contracts, they were not prepared to spend more money on equipment and as a result they are unable to perform very well. This is one of the problems I have observed and it must be noted in future, Honourable Minister. I thank you.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Chair, I want to put a question to the Minister. You put more emphasis on railway safety, but these automatic vehicles you have given us are problematic as they cannot be pushed by people when you have a breakdown. I had to wait from 10:00 on a Sunday until 15:00 the next day to be assisted, sleeping in the bush and I want you to consider our safety.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I call on the Honourable Minister to respond.

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HON NGHIMTINA**

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Comrade Iilonga, maybe you should blame the Ministry and not the Minister because I found the automatic vehicles already there. Maybe next time when we buy vehicles we will take that into consideration.

Honourable Mwaningange, everybody is not happy about the tarring of the road from Nkurenkuru to Elundu as they were too slow that particular time and we had to talk to them. I was there several times and eventually even His Excellency the President also went there and they later improved. It is true that the materials are not available there, the stones are brought from Tsumeb and you will remember at one time the road between Epembe to Elundu was totally destroyed by big trucks when the rain started. They were not passable and it was very difficult as the materials are far away and they could not find sufficient water there.

It can be that they are not doing their work properly in other ways, but the scarcity of water and materials is real and cannot be ignored. However, laziness is unacceptable and we have to push them for timely completion of the project as agreed.

Another problem is that it is a long distance and it was a mistake to give it to one company. It was supposed to be divided between two companies so that they could compete. Competition is healthier than a monopoly. However, we will monitor them and see what is happening. I thank you.

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

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will adjourn until 26 April 2011
at 14:30

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40 UNTIL 26.04.2011 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 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	2,175,549,278
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
	Total	35,869,200,000	843,997,341	36,713,197,341