

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SPEAKER

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Ms Loide Kasingo

THE CABINET

MINISTERS

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

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

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

DEPUTY MINISTERS

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

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

SECRETARY

Mr. J Jacobs

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

ALL PEOPLE'S PARTY (APP)

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

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

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

DTA OF NAMIBIA

Mr K Kaura *(Party Leader)*

Mr P Moongo *(Chief Whip)*

NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA (NUDO)

Mr K Riruako *(Party Leader)*

Mr A Tjihuike *(Chief Whip)*

RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (RDP)

Mr S Bezuidenhout

Mr Hidipo Hamutenya *(Party Leader)*

Ms A Limbo

Mr H Lucks

Mr P Naholo

Mr K Nehova

Mr J Nyamu

Mr A von Wietersheim

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Ms C Gowases

SWANU

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

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

Mr B Amathila	
Dr M Amweelo (Mr)	<i>(Chief 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	<i>(Assistant Whip)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr F Ueitele	
Mr E Utoni	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr Piet van der Walt	
Ms L Witbooi	

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)

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

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

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

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
26 APRIL 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, today, the 26th of April 2011, marks exactly five years since the death of our first Speaker of the National Assembly, the late Dr Mosé Tjitendero. We still remember the role he played during the establishment of our young democracy and creating a functional parliamentary democracy for our beloved country. Therefore, we continuously say, “May his soul rest in peace.” I, therefore, invite all the Members to observe a minute of silence.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

1. Social Security Commission Employees Compensation Fund, Maternity Leave, Sick Leave and Death Benefit Fund and Development Fund for the Financial Year ended 28 February 2009:

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**NOTICE OF MOTION
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

2. Marine Resources Fund for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2005.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Reports. Notice of Questions. Notice of Motions? Professor Katjavivi.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON PROF KATJIVIVI: I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 12, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22 and 25 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. Any further Notice of Motions? Honourable Amweelo?

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON DR AMWEELO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move without Notice, that Leave of Absence, due to his own illness, be granted to the Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Marco Hausiku, until 29 April 2011. I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

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.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MOTIVATION VOTE 12
HON SIOKA**

**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE:
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: 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.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported on Thursday, 21 April 2011, Votes 16, 22 and 19 had been introduced and Votes 01, 02, 04 to 10, 13,14, 15, 18, 21, 23,24, 26 27, 29, 30 and 31 had been agreed to.

**Vote 12 – “GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE”,
N\$554,703,100 is put for Introduction.**

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, I rise to motivate Vote 12 of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. I would like to start by thanking His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia for his able leadership and commitment to the improvement and betterment of the quality of life for the Namibian people, especially women and children.

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In the same spirit, allow me to thank and congratulate Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, her Deputy and the entire team for the National Budget presented in this august House. The Budget in all its manifestations demonstrated that it aims to unlock prosperity and well-being for the people of our beloved country.

Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Namibia is a proud signatory to the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. The special areas of focus in terms of this Protocol for our country are:

- Economic empowerment and food security for women;
- Elimination of Gender Based Violence including Human Trafficking;
- Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) issues including maternal health and HIV/AIDS;
- Education for young girls and women especially in areas perceived to be male dominated; and
- Increased women's participation in politics and decision-making processes including participation in peace-building and peace-keeping matters in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

As you are well aware, Honourable Members, Namibia was the fourth country within the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to attain the target of 30% women representation in Parliament by 2008, but this dropped to about 26% in 2009. The target we are aiming for by the year 2015 is 50% representation. All these matters have been packaged for implementation through the National Gender Policy adopted by this august House in March 2010.

I am further proud to state that the Ministry is being guided by its five year Strategic Plan (2010-2011) which was completed in 2009. Its implementation started in 2010. The Strategic Plan has four strategic themes namely:

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HON SIOKA

Gender Equality; Child Welfare; Community and Integrated Early Childhood Development, Operational Excellence (which is a cross cutting theme). The MTEF targets have also been aligned to the Strategic Plan.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, having made these introductory remarks, let me now take the House through the Budget allocation to the people's Ministry, Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. In a nutshell, the Budget for the 2011/2012 Financial Year's allocation is based on the strategic direction of the Ministry for 2011/2012.

Some of the strategic directions for 2011/2012 under the Child Welfare programme are:

- Development and implementation and monitoring of National Plans of Action for children, including Early Childhood Development and integration into the NDP IV.
- Costing of the National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children and Child Care and Protection Bill
- Implementation of the Child Care and Protection Bill when it will be enacted as a law. Develop and implement strategies to increase access to social welfare grants.

The amount budgeted for this Programme is N\$482,618,000.

The strategic directions for 2011/2012 under the Gender Equality and Women Development programme are amongst others:

- Implementation of SADC Protocol on Gender and Development lifting of the minimum target for women representation in politics and decision making, from the 30% (2005) to 50% by 2015: the drafting of new legislation to ensure equal representation at all levels.
- Implementation of the National Gender-based Violence Plan of Action.

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- Development of National Gender Plan of Action, Support the implementation of Gender Strategies in Health, Education, Agriculture and finance sectors.
- Continue to improve knowledge/skills for gender mainstreaming for gender directorate staff and sector gender focal points/gender units.

The amount budgeted for this programme is N\$18,968,000.

Some of the strategic Directions for 2011/2012 under this Community Mobilisation and Integrated Early Childhood Development programme are:

- Development of national standards for IECD services;
- Support of the development of IECD implementation strategies;
- Development of ECD centers registration and monitoring systems; and;
- Development of a comprehensive IECD M&E programme system.

The Budget amount for this programme is N\$48,427,000.

The total Operational Budget allocation requested for the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is N\$495,619,000, while the Development Budget needs the allocation of N\$54,394,000.

The Grand Total for Operational and Capital Budget is N\$550,013,000.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, allow me to present the allocations as per main Strategic Theme/Programme in detail:

The Directorate of Child Welfare Services ensures to achieve four strategic objectives such as: To ensure care and protection of all children; To empower communities to take care of orphans and vulnerable children and to strengthen implementation of child welfare services.

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In an attempt to ensure that the rights of the children are upheld and protected, the Directorate has embarked on the following:

- The Directorate managed to appoint more staff members at both National and Regional level in order to be able to deal with the escalating number and needs of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in the country.

As a result, an amount of N\$22,664,000 is required to cater for all staff members for 2011/2012.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, through the Permanent Task Force on OVC the ministry successfully embarked upon the Development of the National Plan of Action for Children for the period 2011-2015: The current National Plan of Action came to an end in 2010. This plan serves an important purpose in coordinating the inputs of different Ministries and stakeholders that benefit children in Namibia. This process involved the analysis of the National OVC Policy, the 2006-2010 National Plans of Action and other relevant reports to prioritise the existing National Plan of Action activities to identify emerging issues and activities for the 2011-2015 Plan. This process will be completed this year.

The Social Workers of the Ministry in all regions, through the multi-sectoral Woman and Child Protection Units, handled cases related to sexual and physical abuse, sexual offenders, child neglect and abuse involving about 1,767 children. Further, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare provided psychosocial support to two thousand one hundred and fourteen children around the country.

Social Grants are in the form of Maintenance Grants, Foster Parent Grants and Special Maintenance Grants for children with disabilities under 16 years. The number of children on the social welfare grants increased from 110,638 in December of 2009 to 120,828 by December 2010. In order to improve and streamline the child welfare grants system, the Ministry has adopted the Business Process Re-engineering (BPR) System. This should improve the accessibility of Social Welfare grants across the country brought about by insufficient staff at regional and constituency level,

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transport and long waiting periods in processing child welfare grants. An amount of N\$348,103,000 is required for 2011/2012.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the objective of the Directorate of Gender Equality is to improve the status of women and girls; to promote positive cultural practices and beliefs; to facilitate the development of gender responsive policies and laws and to ensure gender mainstreaming at all levels

The Ministry conducted legal literacy and gender sensitization and awareness using the Capacity Enhancement Tool and the Gerald Egan Model of the Skilled Helper in all thirteen regions targeting Traditional Leaders, the youth, and learners in schools, councillors, men and women in the following Regions: Khomas, Ohangwena, Omaheke, Kavango, Caprivi, Hardap, Otjozondjupa, Kunene, Karas, Oshikoto, Omusati, Oshana and Erongo. In total, 2,358 people participated in these workshops of which 1,355 were female and 1,003 male.

The objective of these workshops was to sensitise participants on gender issues, HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, reproductive health, existing gender related laws such as the Combating of Domestic Violence Act (Act 4 of 2003) and Combating of Rape Act (Act 8 of 2000).

The Ministry has completed the exercise of analysing the sector budgets of Education, Health, Finance and Agriculture from a gender perspective. Findings from these studies will be disseminated and strategies to fill gaps will be developed. Staff members from these sectors have been trained on basic gender responsive budgeting. 34 males and 37 females were trained.

Gender-based violence continues to be a national concern. In addressing this problem Government has put in place various laws such as the Combating of Domestic Violence Act (Act 4 of 2003) and Combating of Rape Act (Act 8 of 2000). In addition the Ministry launched a National Zero Tolerance Media Campaign for Gender-based Violence in July 2009 and will continue until 2012. This campaign encompasses the UN Secretary General's campaign as well as the Africa UNITE campaign launched last November by the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

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Through the National Advisory Committee, the Ministry has embarked upon the development of the National Gender-based Violence Plan of Action; this plan will go a long way in creating synergies in addressing gender-based violence.

Training Workshops on Human Trafficking were held for key stakeholders, such as social workers, gender liaison officers, Police Officers working at border posts, Woman and Child Protection Unit staff members, immigration officers and customs and excise working at border posts from all 13 Regions; in total 90 people attended.

The amount budgeted for Gender Equality programme is N\$18,968,000.

The Community Mobilisation and Integrated Early Childhood Development Directorate ensures the achievement of the following strategic objectives:

- To promote equitable and accessible services and resources to communities;
- To improve equitable access to ECD programs for children from 0-4 years:
- To improve management and quality delivery system related to ECD program: and,
- To improve implementation of community development programs.

Through the Income Generating programme the Ministry encourages community members to embark on economically viable projects that could be sustained in the long run. Based on that, the Ministry provides start-up funds which are complemented by training in basic business skills as incentive towards ensuring the growth and sustainability of IGAs. The Ministry facilitated the transfer of an amount of N\$759,525 to 13 Regional Councils, earmarked for funding community projects in the Regions. In total, 74 community projects of which 65 are owned by women benefited from the grant.

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In order to improve the capacity of institutions that deliver Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes and increase access and enrolment of children in ECD centres, the Ministry constructed one model ECD Centre in three Regions: Model ECD Centres are aimed to serve as a resource centre and as a model in the best practices to ECD centre in the region. Constructions of the Model ECD Centres were completed in Oshikoto (Tsintsabis), Erongo (Utuseb-Walvis Bay) and Omaheke (Gobabis). Material support ranging from building materials to learning materials were purchased and distributed to qualifying ECD centres in all 13 regions to the value of N\$385,000.

The Budget amount for this programme is N\$48,427,000.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members of this august House, it is now my humble honour to request this august House to approve the Ministry's Budget request for 2011/2012 to the amount of N\$550,013,000. Thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Thank you.

I put **Vote 20** – “**AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY**”,
N\$2,295,263,965 for Introduction.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. Permit me to introduce Vote 20 – Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

I thank the appointing authority, His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba, for once again affording me this fourth opportunity to present and motivate the financial allocations, to the Agriculture, Water and Forestry Ministry for 2011/2012. Deserved thanks and gratitude are also due to my Colleagues. Comrades and friends: Honourable Minister of Finance, Honourable Director-General of the National Planning

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HON MUTORWA**

Commission, Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance and all their Staff responsible for Budget preparation, presentation and management; for the professional and dedicated work that you are doing for Namibia and all her people.

I am motivating Vote 20 under the theme: “AGRICULTURE AND FOOD FREE PEOPLE AND EMPOWER THEM TO DO OTHER THINGS!”

A short explanation is: The primary responsibility of almost all organisms is to gather or sometimes to fight for food. It is only when food is available that some time is availed to do other things!

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is mandated to promote, develop, manage and utilise agricultural, water and forest resources sustainably. This mandate will be achieved through the following key strategic areas and they include: the need for job creation, improve competitiveness, diversify agricultural practices and products, market development, food security, access to water and sanitation, integrated environmental management, improved regulatory environment, internal capacity, training and support, good relations with industries as well as occupational health and food safety standards. The Ministry believes that it will realise its vision when focusing on its seven strategic focus areas. The strategic focus areas as outlined in the Ministry’s strategic plan are: Capacity Building; Stakeholder Synergy Creation; Product and Market Development; Quality External Support Services; Infrastructure Development, Maintenance and Operation; Sustainable Natural Resources Management; and Improvement in Socio-Economic-Environmental Conditions.

My 2010/2011 Motivation Statement is to be found on pages 232-247, HANSARD, Volume 127, 2010. The discussion of Vote 20 for 2010/2011 is captured on pages 324-341, HANSARD, Volume 127, 2010.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the Ministry has advertised for the expression of interest on Tandjeskoppe farm in the Karas Region to be operated on a Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. There is a great

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interest in this project. Nine applications were received from private companies who would like to partner with Government in developing the area. In addition, the Ministry has replaced an old irrigation system with a 30 hectare drip irrigation system at the Orange River Irrigation Project at Aussenkehr and the expansion of the cold storage facility is in progress. It is expected to complete the facility during September 2011.

Meanwhile the Ministry is currently developing eight hundred hectares of land at the Sikondo irrigation project in the Kavango Region. Fencing and construction of the platform at the project is already completed. The development of the irrigation systems, de-bushing and electrification is ongoing and it's expected to be completed before December 2011. A total of 200 hectares at Sikondo is under cultivation with 100 hectares planted with mahangu and the rest with sunflower. The Ministry has embarked on the development of six hundred hectares at the Etunda Irrigation Project phases 5 to 8 which are expected to be completed towards the end of the year. Furthermore, the feasibility study and design for the construction of a new dairy farm at the Uhvungu-Vungu irrigation project has been completed and the construction work is expected to commence during the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

In order to harness the partnership between Government and the Private Sectors with the view to encourage a multisectoral approach in exploring options to realise the agribusiness potential in Namibia, an Agriculture Investment Conference was successfully organised from 15–17 September 2010. The conference addressed Agri-business; Agro-technology; Agro-inputs; Agro-logistics and supply; and Agro-financing. The conference attracted over 600 delegates from across the globe, including some 20 international experts who shared their expertise and knowledge. One conclusion from the conference is that public-private partnership within the Agri-business sector is a key mechanism to develop and deliver a reliable stream of technology, inputs, logistics and finance in the face of changing demands.

The Ministry managed to overcome two Foot and Mouth Disease outbreaks which occurred in Kavango and Eastern Caprivi in 2010. This achievement resulted in the opening up of beef exports from the Northern

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Communal Areas to South Africa and Angola under new and better agreements negotiated amongst veterinary officials of the respective countries. The issue of pre-slaughter quarantine which had negatively impacted on the marketing of beef in the Northern Communal Areas was removed for the north-central and north-western regions.

The occurrence of Rift Valley Fever resulted in temporary suspension of beef, lamb and venison exports as well as that of live ruminants to Republic of South Africa. The early detection and rapid response and containment of these outbreaks caused relatively limited disruption of trade in animals and animal products to our trading partners.

Major animal diseases that occurred in 2010, such as Lumpy Skin Disease and African Swine Fever were successfully controlled during the 2010/2011 Financial Year. Due to the success in controlling major animal diseases and negotiating market access, the country continued to benefit from exports of beef, lamb and game meat to markets in European Union, Norway, Switzerland and South Africa from its Foot and Mouth Disease free areas. The Directorate of Veterinary Services successfully underwent audits by the European Union and United States of America inspectors. It will thus be possible for the country to export beef and lamb to the USA in the near future. Exports to Israel and Russia may commence after audits scheduled for the first quarter of 2011 have been conducted.

The construction of Onambutu Water Supply Scheme Phase 5 in Ohangwena region was completed in November 2010, while the construction of Onambutu Water Supply Scheme Phase 6 will commence in the 2011/2012 Financial Year. The water supply coverage projects of the Katima Mulilo – Ngoma Water Supply Scheme and the Katima Mulilo – Kongola Water Supply Scheme have started with the upgrading and construction of the existing NamWater Purification Plant and the construction of an additional pump station in Katima Mulilo. The Water Supply to the Displaced Communities Project in the Kavango region will commence to site, drill and installing of boreholes and water points in the upcoming 2011/2012 Financial Year.

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The Ministry is continuing with the implementation of the Community Based Management project of water supply to the rural communities, which to date rehabilitated 107 water points, installed 126 boreholes, drilled 53 boreholes, cleaned and pump tested 157 boreholes and constructed 7 small pipeline extensions as well as installed 456 water meters at a cost of N\$48 million.

The Ministry facilitated the excavation of 26 earth dams in twelve regions, while the other six earth dams are at various stages of implementation. This brings the total number of dams constructed to date to 84 since the inception of this project in 2008.

The Ministry has made significant inroads into capacitating small-scale irrigation farmers. To date eighty-seven small-scale irrigation farmers have completed their training in irrigation farming and have graduated from the Mashare Irrigation Training Centre in the Kavango Region. Of these, fifty-five have been placed at the following irrigation projects and I am happy to announce that most of them are young people interested in farming and who are doing relatively well. This must serve as an incentive to many of our young people to look at agriculture as a sector where they can get involved, not only to produce food, but also to gain the necessary skills for their own livelihood: Uvungu-Vungu (10), Shadikongoro (12) and Ndonga Linena (29) and Etunda (4). It is good to note that nine National Youth Service trainees who completed this training have secured permanent employment with National Youth Service. Furthermore, the Ministry managed to place thirteen irrigation farmers at the Hardap Irrigation Project and the first production season has commenced on the 1st of April 2011.

During 2010/2011, the Ministry procured a total of 650 metric tons of mahangu from the northern communal crop producing regions and 5,100 metric tons of white maize from the government irrigation projects. Of the 650 metric tons, 500 metric tons of mahangu have been stored in the Omuthiya silos, while 150 metric tons have been stored in the Okongo silos and 1,500 metric tons of maize have been stored at the Katima Mulilo silos, while 3,600 metric tons of maize has been stored at the

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Rundu silos. When we are faced by calamities, such as floods and drought, we can access this food from the silos to be distributed to the people through the emergency programme in the Office of the Prime Minister.

The Ministry continued with the implementation of the Dry Land Crop Production Programme to assist communal farmers' access to improved and affordable agricultural farm inputs in the crop-growing regions. This will assist farmers to achieve food self-sufficiency and increase their income through increased crop yields by providing subsidised ploughing and weeding services as well as subsidised seeds and fertilizer. It is good to note that there is a general increase in the number of farmers demanding services we provide through this programme every year and Honourable Members of Parliament, this is one of the programmes that really deserves more financial allocations. We are grateful to the Ministry of Finance, we understand the constraints, but this programme is so important if we are to do justice in assisting our communal subsistence farmers to also produce more and access the markets for their produce.

The 2009/2010 cropping season recorded 10,389 farmers who benefited from the programme through seeds, fertilizers and tractor ploughing and weeding services.

Continuous support and assistance to human resource development endeavour remains a high priority in all regions. In this regard a total number of 437 staff members were exposed to short in-service training courses covering Genetically Modified Organisms testing, industrial relations, maintenance of water infrastructure, plumbing, horticultural development, livestock and crop production. The Ministry was able to provide short training courses to more than 3,819 farmers in agricultural related fields using collaborative funding and donor support.

A project on quantification of groundwater resources in Namibia commenced and will continue in the 2011/2012 Financial Year. It encompasses determining the quantification of storage, planning potential of available resources, understanding and quantifying the recharge and

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ground/surface water interaction, defining and using a more systematic classification of aquifers, quantifying groundwater use and updating the Hydro-geological Map of Namibia.

An exploration/ production borehole was drilled at Eenhana where fresh water horizons were found underneath the saline water. The borehole is to be utilised by NamWater for water supply purposes. The water quality will be monitored over a longer period of time and this will provide important information regarding the long term sustainability of the source. Four more exploration boreholes were drilled in the Ohangwena and southern part of Omusati region and also at Ondangwa.

Consultants have been appointed to investigate the different options to supply water at the most feasible and sustainable manner to the communities of Otjimbingwe. This project is managed jointly by NamWater and the Ministry. The water supply of the Kalkveld project runs parallel with the Otjimbingwe one and the two projects are scheduled to be constructed during the next Financial Year 2011/2012.

A Combined Regional Rural Water Supply Development Plan for the four northern regions of Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena and Oshikoto, with a 15 year planning horizon is scheduled to be completed by the end of April 2011. It will reveal, among others, the costing of infrastructure required to satisfy the region's water needs.

The Ministry supported 44 existing and emerging Community Forests in building capacity of the rural communities to optimise opportunities from these resources. The annual revenue generated by different communities amounted to N\$113,320,000 from timber, devil's claw, crafts, carpentry, and camp-site management as main income sources.

The Ministry's Strategic Plan has identified job creation, improvement of agricultural competitiveness through improved and mechanised farming methods, access to affordable farming inputs, agricultural marketing,

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product development, value addition and product diversification as the key strategic issues for agricultural development.

The Government has introduced various measures aimed at promoting value addition in the country. It is with this in mind that the Ministry has established a dedicated Agro-Processing Unit under the Ministry's restructuring exercise to spearhead the development of this sector for the domestic and export markets. The Ministry is also in the process of developing a comprehensive agro-financing scheme aimed at stimulating agricultural production as well as the processing of agricultural products.

The Ministry is committed to market diversification for Namibian agricultural products, particularly for meat from the Northern Communal Areas, referring to seven Regions – Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena, Oshikoto-North, Oshana, Omusati and Kunene-North. If one just visualises the size of these Regions and the demography, then one would conclude that there is justification for diversification of agricultural products from those Regions, including meat products. In this connection, the Ministry has negotiated and signed a trade agreement with the Democratic Republic of Congo by which the export of live cattle from Namibia to the DRC may continue under the obligation that an equivalent amount of Namibian produced meat is exported as well.

The marketing of meat from the Northern Communal Areas to south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence faced supply constraints. In order to facilitate the availability of meat, the Ministry embarked on a programme of upgrading abattoirs at Eenhana and Outapi. During the next phases the abattoirs at Rundu, Oshakati and Opuwo will be upgraded. This programme will ensure that healthy and good quality locally produced meat will substitute meat imports into Namibia.

In line with a recent Cabinet Decision, the Ministry is taking over the permit issuing function previously undertaken by the Meat Board. In this connection, the Ministry will be implementing an agricultural inspection service and permit issuing system aimed at ensuring that Government policies are implemented accordingly. However, in order to ensure that

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this function is carried out effectively, appropriate equipment needs to be procured and a permit issuing system needs to be implemented.

The ongoing exercise of reviewing the Ministry's legislation initiated the process of setting product standards for agricultural products, especially for meat from cattle, poultry and game. This process, which is done in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Namibian Standard Institution, should be completed by the end of this Financial Year.

In line with the Ministerial Medium Term Plan, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is implementing six Programmes:

- (i) Crop production and horticultural development;
- (ii) Livestock production, improvement and animal health control;
- (iii) Cooperative regulation, development and promotion services;
- (iv) Integrated Water resource management;
- (v) Water supply and sanitation to rural communities; and
- (vi) Management, development and utilization of forest resources.

Guided by these six programmes, I would like to motivate the Budget allocations for the year 2011/2012. In doing so, the Honourable Members are referred to the Technical Paper containing detailed information on last year's achievements and plan activities for the coming years.

I am motivating a total Budget of N\$2,268,638,000 for the 2011/2012 Financial Year for the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Of this total, 40.3% or N\$914,706,000 will be used for the Operational Budget, while the remaining 59.7% or N\$1,353,932,000 represents the Development Budget. Overall, 38.8% or N\$879,296,000 are dedicated to the development of the water sector to supply water to rural communities and resettlement towns. 55% or N\$1 247,733,000 will go to the development of the Agriculture Sector, and 6.2% or N\$141,609,000 are earmarked for the development of the Forestry Sector.

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I shall now elaborate programme by programme:

The purpose of the Crop Production and Horticultural Development Programme is to increase crop and horticultural production in order to reduce poverty, improve food security at household level as well as to earn revenue from export and mitigate the HIV and AIDS impact. For this programme an amount of N\$746,485,000 is requested to carry out the following activities:

For Namibia to meet its food requirements and to export the surplus, the Ministry is busy implementing the revised Green Scheme Policy and have aligned Musese, Mashare Commercial Farm Unit, Etunda and Orange River Irrigation Projects (ORIP) to conform to the Policy.

Plans are underway to implement Phase II of the National Strategic Food Reserves Facilities project, which includes the expansion of silos at Okongo and Omuthiya from the current 500 metric tons to 3,000 metric tons, respectively. The construction of a 3,000 metric tons silo at Tsandi has commenced and it is expected to be completed by August 2011.

In order to stimulate domestic horticultural production the Ministry has embarked upon the construction of two cold storage and marketing infrastructures at Rundu and Ongwediva. The construction of the Fresh Produce Business Hubs phase I have started and it's expected to be completed during April 2012. The construction of these facilities requires massive investment which is above the annual budgetary allocation. Hence the project is being done in phases.

The Livestock Production, Improvement and Animal Health Control Programme would increase livestock production and marketing as well as improve the animal health status in communal areas, while improving the production level of commercial farmers. The Ministry requests an amount of N\$342,997,000 to carry out the following activities:

Livestock and meat production continued to play a significant role in contributing to the country's GDP. The sub-sector generated more than N\$1 billion annually, most of which is attributable to foreign earnings.

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There has been a significant penetration of foreign markets, which has contributed to the increased export earnings from Namibia's meat and meat products. These markets constitute mainly Norway, the EU, Angola and South Africa. Recently, there has also been a noticeable development of the domestic and international marketing of game meat, which has the potential to contribute to the country's total meat export volume and earnings.

The Ministry has continued to promote processing and value addition to our livestock products, such as dairy and small stock products. Similarly, the private sector has taken up this opportunity and a number of processing facilities for both dairy and small stock products currently exist in Karas, Hardap, Omaheke and Khomas Regions. These processing facilities have significantly contributed to foreign earnings, skills development, job creation and agribusiness development.

The Ministry is also implementing the Livestock Marketing Incentives Scheme. The purpose of this Scheme is to increase throughput at the abattoirs, thereby increasing incomes for the farming households especially in the Northern Communal areas. This Scheme is designed for the upgrading, renovation and building of new marketing facilities and management of these facilities in communal areas. One auction kraal was constructed at Nepara in the Kavango Region and development of additional kraals at Oushake in Ohangwena Region, Omuntele in Oshikoto Region and Kasava in Kavango Region is on track.

The Ministry has developed a Bull Scheme which is aimed at assisting communal livestock farmers to acquire good quality breeding males at subsidised prices. The Ministry shall continue to introduce high quality bulls and rams to communal farmers in order to improve their herds.

The purpose of the Co-Operatives Regulation, Development and Promotion Services Programme is to create a conducive environment for agribusiness development. The programme entails the promotion and regulation of cooperatives, the development of agro-industrial projects for investment, agricultural marketing development and representation of Namibia in agricultural related regional, bilateral and multilateral

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organisations. The programme further entails the compilation and analysis of agriculture, water and forestry statistics, early warning on food security and policy advisory services. An amount of N\$125,854,000 is required to implement the programme.

I must also inform the Honourable House that 2011 has been declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Composites and in July we will be hosting a big meeting here. The focus this year is to highlight some of the important activities by the people involved in the cooperative movement.

Under this programme support is provided to all cooperatives in the country and the Government support to the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme is managed through this programme.

Activities under this programme also include market research and development, agro-production feasibility studies, as well as ensuring Namibia's compliance with the agricultural trade regulations and membership contributions to the agricultural related organisations and institutions to which Namibia is a member. The Ministry endeavours to devise and implement an agro-financing scheme and incentives to enhance agricultural production

The Integrated Water Resource Management Programme is to develop and maintain a water management system, capable of providing the necessary information for the planning and management of water resources. An amount of N\$118,938,000 is required to carry out the following activities:

The Ministry is mandated with the responsibility of developing and implementing the national water policy, regulations and the water legislation for the sustainable management, securing, coordinate, monitor and equitable access to water from national and international water resources by Namibian users.

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The Ministry continues to engage with the neighbouring countries in bilateral, multilateral, regional and international cooperation on international shared water courses through the Orange - Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) comprising Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa and Namibia, Permanent Water Commission (PWC) between Namibia and South Africa on the Lower Orange River, the Permanent Okavango River Basin Commission (OKACOM) on the Kavango River between Botswana, Namibia and Angola, the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) comprising eight basin States such as Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe as well as the Permanent Joint Technical Commission (PJTC) on the Kunene River between Namibia and Angola.

The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination Programme is responsible for management and implementation of the water and sanitation policy and programmes. The purpose of this programme is to enhance the development of rural and bulk water infrastructure, the supply of water to urban industries and rural communities, and the coordination of development of the sanitation programme. An amount of N\$760,358,000 is required to implement the programme.

The Ministry will continue with the strengthening of the process of decentralisation by capacity building, development of a water subsidy strategy and water tariff systems to facilitate the delegation of rural water supply function to the respective Regional Councils. The construction of rural water supply constituency offices will be completed in the Karas and Hardap regions and will commence in the Erongo and Omaheke Regions during the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

In total an amount of N\$112,463,000 was spent Management, Development and Utilisation of Forest Resources Programme during the year 2010/2011. In order for the Ministry to ensure that the forestry programmes are undertaken at different areas in all regions, the Ministry requests an amount of N\$141,609,000 for the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

Forests and woodlands in Namibia play a pivotal, life-supporting role in the lives of many of our people. They provide various benefits, including

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livelihoods, vital ecosystem services, raw materials, fuels and goods for trading. However, these resources are being seriously eroded by the mounting momentum of deforestation, which will be further compounded by the impacts of climate change. This Ministry, through the Directorate of Forestry, is mandated to face these challenges, manage our forest resources in a sustainable manner, expand the role of forests in development and open up new economic opportunities around forest resources.

Bush encroachment continues to impact severely on agricultural production in Namibia. Defined as the *“invasion and/or thickening of aggressive, undesired woody species resulting in an imbalance of the grass: bush ratio; a decrease in biodiversity; and a decrease in carrying capacity”*, this phenomenon is compromising economical development and environmental sustainability and needs to be addressed as an issue of national concern. This Ministry has developed a scheme to reduce the extent of bush encroachment in Namibia through supporting farmers by subsidising bush control and the utilisation of bush removed.

I must also inform the Honourable House that in accordance with the newly adopted Government programme of Targeted Intervention for Employment Creation and Growth, activities on bush encroachment will be implemented and we hope this programme will make an impact.

Fire protection and forest conservation remain one of the main activities of the Ministry. The Ministry acquired ten fire quad bikes fitted with water tanks; three fire trucks fitted with water tanks; six 4x4 fire vehicles fitted with water tanks; fire equipment and tools including fire beaters, high pressure pumps, drip torches, wind-driven knapsack sprayers and fire signboards to indicate fire-prone areas costing N\$6,724,980. I must commend the Ministry of Defence as all these trucks and equipment was manufactured by our own Windhoek Maschinenfabrik. That is called inter-ministerial collaboration and coordination. A total of 3,916 km of firebreaks was cleared with participation of 192 women and 1,753 men, together sharing an amount of N\$2,613,497 in the form of remuneration. A Fire Policy document has been drafted and presented to stakeholders for comments.

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Wood industry promotion is becoming increasingly important in the drive of the forestry sector to create employment opportunities. Eight Town Councils were approached to provide land for the construction of firewood sales facilities. Such facilities are under construction in Ongwediva, Oshikuku, Helao Nafidi (Onhuno) and Okahao, at a cost of N\$1 821 746.

May I finally point out that what I have presented are essentially highlights and summaries of achievements of the past year and plans for this year. I therefore draw the attention of the Honourable Members to the Technical Paper, which contains details of our Ministry's programmes, projects and activities in the Agriculture, Water and Forestry sub-sectors. Furthermore, the informative and valuable documents tabled by the Honourable Minister of Finance, do also provide sufficient factual information, regarding the various programme activities and the required funding, thereof. Pages 216 - 233 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2011/2012 – 2013/2014: Macroeconomic Stability, Economic Growth, Job Creation and Welfare Improvement may justifiably be seen as the Motivation Statement for Vote 20. If it was not for the HANSARD I would have just told the Honourable Members to read these pages, but I have to speak so that I am recorded in the HANSARD for posterity.

I thank local and international cooperating partners, farmers, the Private Sector, including Non-Governmental Organisations and Government agencies, for their continued support and confidence to invest in the Agriculture, Water and Forestry sub-sectors in Namibia. We must continue to strengthen these relationships to achieve overall development goals of our sectors, for the benefit of all the citizens and residents of Namibia. It is the commitment of the Ministry to ensure that the sector contributes optimally to economic growth food production, food security and that Namibia is able to feed itself and export the surplus.

With these remarks, I now call upon the House to discuss and approve the budget for Vote 20 for the 2011/2012 Financial Year. I thank you.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:05
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:45 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Vote 25 – “LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT”,
N\$226,164,173 is put for Introduction.**

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. This afternoon I rise with a deep sense of appreciation and privilege to introduce Vote 25 of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement for the 2011/2012 Financial Year to this august House for support and approval.

I also reiterate my support for the Budget that was earlier presented in this House by the Honourable Minister of Finance. I would further like to extend my gratitude to Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Director-General of the National Planning Commission, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance, the Permanent Secretary and the entire team of dedicated staff for a job well executed.

I want to applaud the new Targeted Intervention Programme for Equitable Economic Growth (TIPEEG), an initiative by the Office of the President to arrest unemployment and accelerate economic growth. If you would allow me, Comrade Deputy Chair, in the words of His Excellency President Pohamba: *“The effects of the implementation of TIPEEG cannot be achieved under a business-as-usual approach and it will, therefore, require flexibility in decision-making and the unconditional cooperation of all sectors of our society, including the private sector, organised labour and civil society.”*

Whilst tabling this Vote, the Ministry is contributing to unemployment by fast-tracking the development of communal areas, construction of regional offices in Opuwo, Rundu and Katima Mulilo.

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Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to express solidarity with our citizens who are affected by the floods in the north and north-eastern parts of our country as well as, albeit perhaps in a lesser extent, the riparian communities along the Kuiseb River. These communities need assistance and I urge this House to bolster the current efforts to sustain the livelihoods of the vulnerable communities so affected.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, at the onset I thought it imperative to give a brief outline of the mandate of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement before I present the budget for Vote 25.

The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement was set up to prudently administer and manage land resources in a sustainable manner and to facilitate equitable access to land by all Namibians in order to address disparities in income that are prevalent in our society. In cognisance of the main economic activity of our people, the Government, through the Land Reform Programme, has taken steps to facilitate the accessibility to available agricultural land by the majority of the Namibian people in the framework of social justice and economic empowerment. The Ministry will continue to facilitate equitable and affordable access to land through the National Resettlement Programme and Affirmative Action Loan Scheme.

Having said the above, Comrade Deputy Chair, Honourable Members, I now have the pleasure to present the 2011/2012 Budget and priorities of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement together with the highlights of achievements through the expenditure in 2010/2011.

The 2011/2012 Budget of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, as expressed in its Medium Term Plan, will focus on four key programmes, to wit:

- Land acquisition, distribution and resettlement;
- Land-use;
- Security of tenure and real property; and

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- National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

The Land Reform Programme, believe it or not, is on course and the Ministry is still on target to redistribute five million hectares of freehold land through the National Resettlement Programme and ten million hectares to the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme by the year 2020. The Ministry has so far purchased and distributed 2,1 million hectares under the National Resettlement Programme. I am glad to report to this House that the rate at which land is being offered has improved due to stakeholder consultations and several administrative changes. In the 2010/2011 Financial Year the Ministry acquired 49 farms with a total area of 301,768 hectares at a cost of N\$190 million. A total of eight farms that are suitable for resettlement purposes were waived due to shortage of funds in the Land Acquisition and Development Fund. These shortages pose a challenge to the attainment of the targets within the land reform process. There is an urgent need to allocate adequate funding to the programme and this in no measure is an indictment to the Minister of Finance. I am merely just stating a reality that we are confronted with as the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement.

In conjunction with the land acquisition drive, the issue of post-settlement support to beneficiaries remains a major challenge within the implementation of the programme. It is a significant effort for most of the resettled farmers to bring the land into full production without Government support. In an effort to address some of the challenges faced by resettled farmers, the Ministry embarked on a massive nation-wide infrastructural improvement programme in collaboration with experts from the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and I can only thank the Minister responsible for that sector for the very splendid cooperation existing between his sector and the sector of Lands and Resettlement.

In addition to the Infrastructural Improve Programme, the Ministry, in partnership with the Agricultural Bank of Namibia, continues to avail a joint financial package worth N\$20 million for access by resettled farmers for the procurement of productive inputs. Additional funding has also been made available through our development partners to support the

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training of resettled farmers in agriculture and farm management schemes through a mentorship programme.

The contribution of land tax to the Land Reform Programme has been immense. During the 2010/2011 Financial Year, revenue amounting to N\$36 800 000 was collected from the taxation of commercial agricultural land. This money is deposited into the Land Acquisition Development Fund to augment budgetary allocations to land acquisition.

The year also saw the successful development of the computer-assisted mass appraisal system that is currently in testing phase before final acceptance. The system, which is funded by the EU to the tune of N\$4,5 million, will be used for the valuation of commercial agricultural farms for land tax purposes as regulated by the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act, Act 6 of 1995.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members the Ministry has also developed a land tax payment reconciliation system at a cost of about N\$1 million. The system will enhance the capacity of the Ministry to administer the land tax through identification of delinquent cases and enforcement. It is expected that the system will be commissioned during the first quarter of the 2011/2012 Financial Year. The land taxation programme will require an amount of N\$10 million from the Land Acquisition and Development Fund in order to undertake a re-evaluation of all commercial agricultural land, leading to the approval of the main valuation roll hopefully in 2012.

I am happy to inform the House that the National Consultative Workshop on the Land Bill took place during the period under review. The Bill is currently being scrutinised by the legal drafters and it is anticipated that once passed by Parliament, the Land Act will enhance efficiencies in land administration and address the current associated challenges. An amount of N\$128,355,000 to implement the above programme is needed.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Namibia is faced with a variety of competing demands for land uses. The purpose for this programme is to promote sustainable use of land as a natural resource and to secure

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economic growth from land uses. I am glad to inform you, Honourable Members, that the Ministry has established the necessary mechanisms for coordinating land-use planning and shall be spearheading the process. With the imminent conclusion of the Karas and Hardap Regional Land-use Plans, the Ministry shall embark on the development of the land-use plans for Caprivi, a Region that currently poses challenges as far as land use is concerned. These plans are intended to assist various stakeholders with information for long-term socio-economic development and will generally minimise land-use conflicts in those regions. The completion of the land-use plans shall go hand-in-hand with the development of the instruments to ensure that the plans are adhered to. Work on the formulation of the management and monitoring of land-use plans will begin during this Financial Year. In an effort to promote the sustainable utilisation of communal land, the Ministry will soon secure the services of a consortium of land management experts to develop and implement modalities for the management and support to small-scale farmers in communal areas. The Ministry requires an amount of N\$38 449 000 to implement the above programme.

The Security of Tenure and Real Property Rights programme, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, contributes to the maintenance of the Registry of Land that affords security of tenure and property rights. Through the mapping, verification and registration of communal land the Ministry strives to provide security of tenure to communal areas. The Ministry has so far verified 32,423 land parcels in the communal areas. In addition, the registration methodologies developed in the Land Act in the last Financial Year will ensure a speedy land registration process. The diminishing commonage in communal areas due to large land claims and fencing of large areas continue to undermine the idea behind communal areas. The Ministry shall during this Financial Year implement activities targeted at controlling and eliminating this practice and we shall rely on the unconditional cooperation of the Members of this august House to let an understanding be developed in the communities that to fence off large tracts of land is not good for access to land by all of us.

In line with decentralisation efforts, the Ministry has developed training

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programmes for Communal Land Boards to equip them with knowledge and skills to issue land rights in a speedy manner and to manage all aspects of communal land with minimum assistance from the Ministry.

I would further like to inform this august House that the Ministry has made significant progress in the decentralisation effort during 2010/2011 with the approval of the Decentralisation Framework and decentralised organisational structures in March this year. The Ministry shall seek final approval for decentralisation and hopefully gazette it during this quarter. Decentralisation will reduce a huge burden on the central land management and administration component and allow the centre to focus on strategic issues. The location of resources close to the people will result in relevant solutions, speedy delivery and ownership of the initiatives and effectiveness of programmes at the regional level. To accelerate this programme, the Ministry requires an amount of N\$16,788,000 only.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the optimal utilisation of natural resources and efficient land management are essential in the management of the environment. Recent flooding and other natural disasters in Namibia continue to challenge and test our collective resolve to respond timely and effectively. The challenges we face include planning and education, readiness and response and recovery. To meet these challenges we need to locate values-at-risk areas for prevention or mitigation, identify natural and technological hazards and understand the geographic distribution of incidents. This is where spatial data becomes essential.

Spatial data in the form of maps, area images and cadastral information provide the backbone for efficient and effective management of the challenges mentioned above. The Ministry is determined to provide the essential tools to help Namibia manage its environment optimally.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, during the 2010/2011 Fiscal Year the programme carried out the following activities:

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- Namibia's claim for extended continental shelf was submitted to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. In April last year Namibia made a presentation to the Commission on the limits of the continental shelf. This presentation is the first step towards convincing the United Nations that Namibia's continental shelf extends beyond the conventional 200 nautical miles. If the United Nations approves the Namibian claims, the impact would be the extension of the Namibian territorial boundary by over 1 million square kilometres. Considering that the continental shelf is formed by debris, this will extend the area for exploration of minerals and possible exploitation of off-shore minerals. I am sure the Minister of Mines and Energy would be a very happy individual.
- Revision of topographical maps of the Caprivi Region, which is now 50% complete, was carried out;
- Captured digitally all the farm parcels in Namibia;
- Revision of the topographical maps of Oshana, Oshikoto, Omusati, Ohangwena and parts of the Kunene Region. To enable the Ministry to execute this task and provide the geographic information appropriate for meeting Namibian spatially related challenges, an amount of N\$38,172,000 is required.

The land reform process remains a priority of our Government and the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement will strive to empower the people of Namibia through the eradication of poverty, through access to land coupled with the prerequisite post-settlement support packages.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I, therefore, at this juncture wish to request the unwavering support of the Honourable Members in this august House for the approval of an amount of N\$221,764,000 as the original allocation to Vote 25 and to cater for the increase in expenditure related to personnel within the Public Service, an additional N\$4,490,173, which will amount to N\$226,164,173. I thank you.

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HON EKANDJO**

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

**Vote 17 – “REGIONAL, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT”, N\$1,487,293,194 is put for Introduction.**

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Chairperson
of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august
House.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I am greatly honoured to be accorded this rare opportunity to deliver, in this august House, the Budget speech of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development and seek support and approval from Honourable Members. My statement comes after unprecedented achievements highlighted by yet another successful election for Regional and Local Authority Councils held from the 26th to the 27th of November 2010, for the fourth time since Independence. The Namibian people can proudly declare that these elections were conducted in a free and fair atmosphere. It is my sincere hope that the new leadership at the sub-national level will adopt innovative ways to assist Government in its unrelenting quest to effectively and efficiently deliver services to the citizens of this Country.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, the total allocation for the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development in current Financial Year is N\$1,487,293,194. The increase accounts for 51% compared to the allocation of the previous Financial Years.

Programme 1: Housing and Infrastructure Development requires N\$741,502,000. Housing is a basic right and crucial to the realisation of Vision 2030, NDP3 and millennium Development Goals. Improving the living conditions of urban dwellers, especially those living in informal settlements by improving housing, security of tenure and access to water and sanitation, will most certainly culminate in positive impact on the attainment of set goals and targets. A total amount of N\$110,000,000 is

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allocated to the City of Windhoek for this Financial Year alone and another amount of N\$100,000,000 for the subsequent two Financial Years.

The Ministry submits that it is profoundly committed and determined to continuously achieve the primary goal of creating conducive environment for all role players in order to facilitate the process of shelter for all Namibians.

Housing development is an essential and imperative initiative that goes a long way in combating poverty and enhance overall economic development. However, housing development alone does not necessarily lead to poverty alleviation since the poor have other priorities and pressing needs. Therefore, there is a need for linkages to be observed between housing, municipal infrastructure development and economic growth.

The Build Together Programme needs N\$35,000,000. To ensure effective and efficient implementation of this programme by the sub-national Governments, Central Government has made resources available in order to service land and provide funding for loaning to the beneficiaries of this important programme.

The decentralisation of social housing programme has resulted in good governance as communities are actively taking part in project planning, decision-making and even in the implementation of the projects. The principle of community participation has led to the projects to be completed in time and promote the concept of ownership.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, there has been an increase in the urban population, particularly in the informal settlements. This process of rural/urban migration has resulted in tremendous pressure on the delivery of basic services in urban areas. All Local Authorities are unable to meet the needs and demands of serviced land to accommodate the influx and cater for potential investors. However, the Ministry has a plan in place to support financially the development of infrastructure and overhauling the old ones, within the limit of financial resources at our disposal.

The shortage of suitable qualified staff at sub-national level hampers the

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process of both land and housing delivery. Lack of these skills often results in poor management and maintenance of infrastructure. The Ministry has secured 32 Cuban experts in the field of town planning and Civil Engineering to ease the burden on the sub national governments.

Costs of land delivery in the country are unaffordable, and the building standards and appropriateness applied currently does not take into account the affordability of many poor Namibians. Consequently, the Ministry, in cooperation with its partners in land and housing delivery, are busy looking at ways to develop building standards in relation to Namibian conditions, Hence, the need to revise the National Housing Development Act of 2000.

The relative shortage of infrastructure in towns, such as roads, water supply, communication facilities and adequate housing, makes some towns less competitive and not attractive when it comes to investors, resulting into the stagnation of economic growth.

In order to effectively and efficiently implement Cabinet's directives on the provision of basic sanitation in rural and urban areas, the Ministry will require a substantial funding over and above the present allocation.

The allocation of the total amount of N\$603,223,000 to this sub-programme is committed to the construction of services in the would be proclaimed towns and the existing Local Authorities, construction of local infrastructures in the newly proclaimed towns, traditional authority offices and the storm water drainage systems in the flood prone towns and settlements.

The Regional and Local Government Coordination programme - N\$586,643,000 is aimed at facilitating the establishment and development of effective and sustainable Regional, Local Government and Traditional Authorities. These institutions are our vehicles that bring Government closer to the people and delivering services to our communities.

Our strategic goal is to create an enabling, regulatory and legal environment in which all sub – national levels of Government will be able

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to maximise their governing, development and service delivery mandates.

In order to reach this noble goal we have to continue improving their delivery capacity and expand their client – service relationship and commitment to take their communities to greater levels.

We continue to establish new Local Authorities, in those parts of our country where access to basic municipal services and other urban amenities are absent. In doing this we are also mindful of the Cabinet decision to establish a second Local Authority in Regions where there is only one Local Authority.

The Minister is empowered in terms of the Local Authorities Act to upgrade or downgrade Local Authorities. During the Financial Year under review, the Village Councils of Aranos, Ruacana, Oshikuku and Otavi were upgraded to the status of Town Councils. The upgrading has considered the potential of these Local Authorities to grow and is aimed to create opportunities for a bigger staff complement and benefits to attract better skilled personnel that will drive their development to higher levels

Conversely, Karibib, Usakos and Karasburg were downgraded from Part II Municipality status to Town Council status, while Uis Village Council was de-proclaimed to settlement area status. The lowering of the local authority status allows the Ministry to invest in such areas directly or through the regional council in the case of a settlement area.

It is our firm belief that where the Private Sector is not attracted by the natural conditions of the area, Government must invest to create a conducive environment for the private investors. The Ministry provides funds to these Local Authorities as capital investment to create the necessary capital infrastructure and as seed capacity for essential operational costs. This capital infrastructure will ensure reliable service delivery that will in return attract investments.

The overall objective is to address widespread poverty, high unemployment levels, and low economic growth in our Local Authorities.

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This Financial Year we are going to have elections for Otjinene in Omaheke Region which was proclaimed as a Village Council.

The technical issues around the proclamation of Oranjemund in the Karas Region as a Local Authority are going to be resolved very soon. These are with regard to accessibility of the area since it is situated in a restricted mining area. Once this issue is resolved we will also have local elections for Oranjemund this year.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson in addition to investment in Local Authorities the Ministry considers capacity building and training as an important strategy to improve local governance and development. Councillors and their officials went through an extensive legal training that we conduct annually. This training is aimed at educating Local Councillors and staff on the interpretation of and navigation through statutes and understanding legal *jargons* that Local Authorities face on a daily basis.

During December 2010 and January 2011 the newly elected Councillors went through an induction program aimed at introducing them to all areas of Local Authority operations. The induction was necessary as Councillors are from different backgrounds and needed to go through this induction as an orientation to local governance.

The Ministry continues to implement the Intervention Plan approved by Cabinet in 2007 aimed to assist ailing Local Authorities by broadening their revenue base and revenue generation capacity, efficient management of resources, revamping of dilapidated municipal services infrastructure, and capacity building through training. The intervention plan assists us to resource these Local Authorities with professional staff, such as Accountants and Artisans, replace their aging vehicle fleets with new fleets, repair their water and electricity supply infrastructure, settle their bills with the utility companies and other important accounts. The Reform of this Sector remains a priority of the Ministry. The reform was necessitated by Local Authorities that demand a complete Local Government system from what we currently have in Namibia.

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We have secured a consultant through the Commonwealth Secretariat who will start in August 2011 to assist us to design a Local Government system that will meet the need of our people and yet compatible with our political and legal system and affordable within our means.

The Ministry went through a lengthy consultation process aimed at soliciting stakeholders to propose Amendments to the Local Authorities Act. The Act had to be amended to eliminate shortcomings and loopholes that are drawbacks to the performance of the Local Authorities or to the Ministry in playing its coordinating role.

We have also finalised the process of introducing standard Personnel Rules for Municipalities Part II, Town and Village Councils. The Rules have also standardised conditions of service for all Local Authorities' officials in the same category.

Disaster in Namibia has become phenomenal especially to our Local Authorities that do not have the capacity to respond adequately to any emergencies due to lack of resources and a clear guiding policy.

Emergency management is another priority area owing to global warming, natural calamities such as tsunamis and earth quakes that have become the order of the day in deferent parts of the world and the floods Namibia is experiencing nowadays. Currently this sector is regulated by the Civil Defence Ordinance of 1979, which was designed to deal with civil defence in the context of the colonial social order.

The Ministry is working on a Local Authority Emergency Management Policy that will put an emphasis on prevention and make sure that Emergency Management is mainstreamed in all Local Authority planning and operations. The Policy will also introduce an integrated approach to emergency response and recovery.

The Policy will further assist the Ministry to fund Emergency Management in totality rather than subsidising parts of this function.

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Under the Local Authorities Fire Brigade Service Act of 2006, which requires the Ministry to subsidise fire brigade service in Local Authorities, we continue to resource these Authorities with fire fighting equipments. Twenty-three Local Authorities were equipped with fire-fighting equipment in the 2009/2010 Financial Year and sixteen benefitted during the 2010/2011 Financial Year.

The remaining Local Authorities will also be provided with the fire fighting equipment during 2011/2012 Financial Year. Our aim is to ensure that each Local Authority has a functional fire brigade service to deal with fire and other emergencies at that level.

During the year under review, the Ministry allocated an amount of N\$500 000 to the Association for Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN) in order to assist them in their capacity building and advocacy initiatives for the benefit of Local Authorities in the country. The Association is an important partner in research and input in legal and policy development and in capacity building for its members

The Ministry had spent N\$13,500,000 for compensation of land to affected families to relocate to pave ways for development in the Local Authorities and Regions. This is not even half the money required for this purpose, and therefore more funds are required if we are to meet the demand for land in most Local Authorities.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the Ministry continues to play a crucial role in capacitating Regional Councils to perform their mandates through providing the necessary financial resources and the training of both the elected leaders and administrative staff.

The provision of services at declared settlement areas has improved as a result of the recruitment of essential staff that is responsible for the day-to-day administration of these settlement areas.

The Ministry had allocated N\$284,898,000 as subsidy to the Regional

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Councils in the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

During the year under review, the Ministry conducted a comprehensive induction programme for the newly elected Regional Councillors and their senior administrative staff. Capacity-building interventions focused on, among others, financial management, local and regional economic development, human resources management, legal framework and leadership were undertaken.

The Regional and Local Government sector is still faced with enormous challenges:

- Inadequate revenue base coupled with aging and dilapidated capital infrastructure and poor management of financial resources by the majority of our councils, hampering the effective and efficient service delivery at these levels;
- The non-availability of suitably qualified personnel, particularly in the fields of Finance, Engineering and Town Planning has contributed to the lack of capacity among both Local Authorities and Regional Councils to perform their mandates and manage their affairs efficiently and efficiently;
- The unhealthy working relationship between the elected regional and local political leaders and their appointed administrative staff as a result of non-compliance with the provisions of the relevant laws remained a challenge that the Ministry continues to address; and
- Inadequate funding to subsidise operations of Local Authorities in order to develop the areas and improve service delivery

We hope to redress these challenges by fostering the monitoring and evaluation system in order to detect malpractices on time and minimise the wastage of resources. More efforts will be directed towards training of officials in the area of financial management and auditing in order to be more responsive in the future.

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Local Economic Development is yet another strategy through which the Ministry coordinates and creates an enabling environment for local economic development in Local Authorities and Regional Councils. Our primary objective with this strategy is to make Local Economic Development a prominent part of regional and local development initiatives.

Based on the White Paper on Local and Regional Economic Development for Namibia, adopted by Cabinet in 2009 and which I tabled in this august House a fortnight ago, the Local Economic Development Agency has been created as a division within the Ministry to provide continuous technical support to the Local Authorities and Regional Councils.

Because of demographic reasons, an additional branch office has been established in Oshakati to serve the northern Regions. The branch office is initially staffed by personnel from German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), our main partner in this initiative for the time-being.

More than 120 people including Chief Executive Officers, Mayors and, Regional Councillors were trained on the concepts of local economic development. The training aims at making them aware of the potentials an enabling business environment has for the development of their respective areas. We are beginning to see concrete development initiatives taking place at local level.

We are facing challenges in this area of operation such as; the lack of finances on the part of Local Authorities and Regional Councils to invest into projects, lack of human capacity in this area and lack of investment climate (e.g. access to serviced land). With proper investment and capacity building strategies we hope to overcome these challenges.

Traditional Authorities continue to play an increasingly important role in ensuring observance of customary laws and in allocation and administration of communal land through Communal Land Boards. They

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are also expected to administer community courts, preserve their culture and customs, and resolve disputes amongst communities in their areas of jurisdiction. Programme 3: Traditional Authorities Coordination would need N\$22,794,000

The Council of Traditional Leaders has the primary mandate to advise the Head of State on the utilization and allocation of communal land and on any other matter that may be referred to it by the President.

The Ministry continues to render secretariat services to the Council of Traditional Leaders. The Council successfully held its Annual Meeting in October 2010. . More funds will be required to fund the Annual Meeting of the Council of Traditional Leaders.

The Ministry pays monthly allowances to Traditional Leaders from the forty nine recognised Traditional Authorities. Fifteen persons per each Traditional Authority are paid monthly allowances. Other expenditures go towards the training of Traditional Leaders and their Secretaries, investigation of disputes, travel and the running costs and maintenance of their vehicles.

The Traditional Authorities Reform Committee has finalised its report with recommendations after its comparative studies to neighbouring countries and consultations with the local stakeholders. We hope the reform will result in making the Council of Traditional Leaders smaller and manageable and decentralise its activities to the regions for easy accesses by communities. It is also expected to introduce criteria to be met by communities aspiring for recognition.

Honourable Members will recall that the Republic of Namibia's Decentralisation Policy provides for two phases of decentralisation namely, being Delegation and Devolution.

Programme 4: Decentralisation Coordination would need N\$10,380,000.

Delegation refers to the transfer of functions, staff and assets to Regional Councils and Local Authorities following the legal process and

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methodology defined by the law and the Policy of Decentralisation.

The achievement under this programme is the continued support to Line Ministries to develop and implement their Decentralisation Action Plans. The support to decentralising Line Ministries is ongoing. As this august House has been informed during last year's Budget presentation, the delegation of the functions of education and maintenance took effect as of 1 April 2009. This was followed by the full handing over and induction of the education functions and staff to all 13 Regional Councils. The hand-over of functions, staff and moveable assets for the maintenance function was completed in all Regions except Oshana, Omusati, Ohangwena and Oshikoto.

Substantial progress has been made with the preparation of the delegation of the functions of the Ministries of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Lands and Resettlement, Information and Communication Technology, Labour and Social Welfare and my own Ministry. Ministries of Mines and Energy and Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture have started awareness sessions for the management cadre leading to identification of functions for delegation during the 2012/2013 Financial Year. The Ministry of Health and Social Services undertook a technical visit to Uganda to get a better understanding of the separation of functions for delegation to sub-national Governments. The identification of primary health care functions for delegation has commenced.

During the 2011/2012 Financial Year, the following programmes and activities are intended to be enhanced:

- Continued support to Line Ministries to develop and implement their Decentralisation Action Plans;
- Continued capacity building and support to Regional Councils and Local Authorities to maintain a state of readiness for decentralisation and improve their performance;

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- Continued awareness raising sessions for Line Ministries and the public at large;
- Build professional competence within Line Ministries. Staff must be willing and capacitated to play new roles in the delegation and devolution process; and
- Continually strengthen the development planning capacities at Regional and local levels;

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, allow me to conclude my points under this programme by stating that decentralisation, if carefully implemented, will substantially contribute to sustainable development, poverty reduction and participatory democracy.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the Ministry has been mandated with the responsibility of promoting sustainable rural development and poverty reduction in rural areas of our country. The Directorate plays a coordination role of facilitating the creation of partnership, provision for collaboration and creation of synergy between rural development programmes by a cross sectoral coordination of rural development interventions at all levels.

Rural development will focus on areas such as Rural Industrialisation, Natural Resource Management, Social and Infrastructure Services Development, Food Security Secretariat, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Statistics and Research. For this the programme would need N\$54,445,000.

The Ministry, in collaboration with the National Planning Commission, is also currently busy with the formulation of the Rural Development Policy and the Rural Development Strategic Plan. The consulting team, which is assisting the Ministry in the formulation of the policy, has already been appointed. Therefore, it is expected that the draft will be ready before the end of June 2011 for consideration by Cabinet. The Rural Development Sector Programme Strategic Plan is also expected to be completed by December 2011.

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The following are programmes for Rural Development:

- Food/Cash For Work
- Food Security
- Regional Specific Action Plan
- Family Farming
- Rural Industrialisation
- Rural Development Centres
- Micro-Finance Grant Scheme
- One Region One Initiative
- Rural Sanitation
- Youth Employment Scheme

During the period under review the Food/Cash For Work project was implemented across the country, covering productive activities such as feeder roads, water pipeline construction, construction of teacher's houses and classrooms, earth dams excavation, construction of community halls and clinics, etc.

A total of N\$4.4 million has been allocated creating short employment to over 3,000 rural people. The rural people, in particular able-bodied, participated in the programme by providing labour-intensive. This programme is in a high demand by rural communities in all Regions; however, the fund allocation is ever inadequate to satisfy communities' needs.

The aim of the Food Security programme is to mobilise the rural communities to engage in food production activities for improving the households' food production. The project focuses on developing an integrated farming system to improve the quality of the household food consumption through the introduction of diversified crop and livestock production.

In addition, the Ministry is funding the implementation of the Regional Specific Action Plans, which were formulated in 2005 from all 13 Regions.

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Family Farming is a new programme initiated by the Ministry to supplement the fast-tracking of food security in the country. The idea is to identify plots in each Region and equip them with necessary farming facilities (machinery and tools) and involve individual families in farming activities in order to produce more food for households' consumption and surpluses availed into the market. In so doing the programme will contribute towards poverty alleviation.

The Ministry supports the development of appropriate technologies, skills development, outreach programmes and job creation opportunities for rural communities through Rural Development Centres. At the moment there are three Rural Development Centres, which are at Ongwediva in Oshana, Okashana in Oshikoto and Ben-Hur in Omaheke Regions, respectively. Currently, the Ministry is establishing seven additional Rural Development Centres in Caprivi, Hardap, Karas, Kavango, Kunene, Ohangwena and Omusati. An amount of N\$3.5 million has been spent for the feasibility studies.

The Micro-Finance Grant Scheme was initiated as a mitigation measure for addressing the prevailing challenges in Namibia's rural areas where the majority of the population lacks opportunities to initiate income generating activities that contribute towards their better living condition as well as the growth of local economy. This is done through the promotion of entrepreneurship in rural areas by availing grants for the implementation of rural-based viable business ideas. So far, a total amount of N\$1.4 million has been spent on Micro-Finance Grants during the 2010/2011 Financial Year and the programme created over 500 jobs to rural people in the Regions.

The Rural Sanitation programme is in line with the Millennium Development Goal on achieving the improved sanitation services by the year 2015. An amount of N\$134 million has been allocated for the implementation of the programme in Caprivi, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Kavango, Oshikoto and Kunene during the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 Financial Years. Each Region received an amount of N\$20 million with exception of Kunene which received N\$14 million. The project involved rural Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), including

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youths in the construction of toilets facilities. The following number of rural toilet facilities was constructed: 1,314 for Kavango, 1,480 for Ohangwena and 1,450 for Caprivi Regions. Over 4,000 jobs have been created through this programme.

The One Region One Initiative Programme is also one of the newly initiated programmes, aimed to promote local economy and poverty alleviation through value-addition on local resources. The programme will be based on the regional's competitive advantages and is expected to create over 6,000 jobs.

The Youth Employment Scheme programme is aimed at providing jobs for youths in the rural areas by involving them in socio-economic development activities, such as conservation of natural resources and grass harvesting. An amount of N\$2.7 million has been allocated for this Financial Year (2011/2012). It is expected that this programme will create about 3,000 jobs due to insufficient Budget allocation.

This Programme has the following challenges:

- Inadequate funds;
- Lack of personnel at regional level to implement rural development programmes especially under the Division Rural Services;
- Slow pace of the implementation of Decentralisation process; and
- Absence of a Rural Development Policy/

The Trust was established by the Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provision Act (Act 22 of 2000). It is managed by the Board of Trustees which is appointed by the Minister (Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development). The beneficiaries of the fund are Regional Councils and Local Authorities. An amount of N\$30,000,000 for Regional Development was allocated to the Trust Fund for the previous Financial Year.

During the period under review, the Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provision implemented three major projects for upgrading of the sewerage networks in Karibib, Ruacana and Rundu. The Ruacana

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project is completed while the Karibib and Rundu projects are in the final stages of the project circle.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, I would like to assure Members of this august House that my Ministry will continue to pull together and play its part accordingly to build better communities and ensure a better life for all Namibians.

I now humbly request this august House to support and approve the total Budget amount of **N\$1,487,293,194** I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.

Vote 16 – “JUSTICE” is put for Discussion.

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee I have a few questions to the Honourable Minister of Justice. I just want to find out from the Honourable Minister why offenders who violate their bail conditions by committing another crime are again given bail.

On the Ibrahim Index on African Governance, which are the countries that are before us so that we know who are doing better than us?

On page 8 the Honourable Minister mentioned Judicial Case Management and that the new rules being drafted are going to be sent to His Excellency the President for approval. Do they not need to come to Parliament first?

When is the Caprivi Treason Trial going to be finalised, given this new system that might speed up the process in the Courts?

It is stated on page 9 that Judges at this point in time do not have research assistance to help them with legal research, which also causes delay in the

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speedy delivery of judgments. When do you expect these research assistants to come on board to speed up the process?

When do you expect the Customary Court of Appeal to be established, because according to your own statement what is happening now is abnormal and, therefore a Customary Court of Appeal must be established?

On page 18 the Honourable Minister stated the following: *“The speed and efficiency with which financial crime is prosecuted and for confiscations undertaken is greatly reduced by the poor quality/incomplete investigations undertaken by the Investigating Officers, particularly in the Namibian Police.”* I want to find out what are the qualifications for someone to become an Investigating Officer, because a finger is pointed at the Police Investigators and many cases are thrown out of Court because of poor investigation and the inability to defend it in Court by these Investigating Officers.

On page 27: *“Advice was also sought on many issues relating to the traditional and communal issues, for example the land dispute between Ondonga and Uukwanyama Traditional Authorities”.* Honourable Minister, given the fact that this dispute has been simmering for quite some time now, when do you expect this dispute to be settled finally before it causes serious disruptions? Thank you very much.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support this important vote and I would also like to register my appreciation for the good work being done by the Ministry when it comes to birth registration at our offices.

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During my Minister's Budget speech it was said that we collected N\$45 million as revenue and half of that came from the Ministry of Justice and we appreciate your support, Comrade Minister. I was asked to register our appreciation and we ask that you continue to support us while we are establishing our regional offices.

Furthermore, I would like to register the appreciation by the grassroots for the legal assistance rendered to poor people. Keep up the good work and I support the Vote.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 16 and I want to touch on the Judicial Case Management mentioned on page 7. It is important that we enable the Judges to decide on the process rather than allow those who represent the Accused to determine the duration of the case.

We know that we have an independent Judiciary, but sometimes it seems that they cannot be criticised constructively. Are we really sure that now that the Judges are going to be given the mandate to determine the deadline for a case, their use of that power would cause some hiccups? I expect that the rules to be drafted would be clear so that it does not cause problems and that the community would then be told they may not criticise the Judiciary. I also want to find out whether the legislation mentioned on page 9 would be implemented alongside the rules mentioned on page 8 or how would they relate to each other? It is very important that the High Court Rules and the legislation correspond. I thank you.

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

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HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have a few questions to the Minister and the first one is on page 2. Honourable Minister, I am quite happy that you have dealt with the four Courts here, the provision of legal aid in terms of the Namibian Constitution, development and reform of laws, drafting and most importantly, the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms. That is where my question comes in, Honourable Minister, namely fundamental human rights and freedoms.

Honourable Minister, I do not know who qualifies for fundamental rights and freedoms and who does not qualify when I look at some cases and things that have been going on for quite some time now. We had a case of a newspaper which has been banned through a Cabinet Decision that Government should not advertise in *The Namibian* newspaper. I want you know from you, Honourable Minister, being the Minister of Justice, the administrator of justice and also, according to this statement, providing legal advice to the President and Government, you must have been the one who advised Government to impose this never-ending sanction against *The Namibian* newspaper. Can the Minister explain to us in this House and to the public what crime *The Namibian* has committed that justifies to be punished for close to ten years?

My second question is based on page 4, Administration of Justice in the Magistrates' Courts. I am getting the impression that the pending cases are not decreasing but rather increasing year by year. Can the Honourable Minister explain what actually the problem is? I am asking this question on the understanding that every year we are approving a Budget here to improve the administration of justice because justice delayed is justice denied. If we have to go by these figures, it means there are many people who have been waiting for justice for more than two years.

On page 10 it is stated that the magistrates have an establishment of 104 of which 83 positions are funded but only 77 were filled during 2010/2011. Here we are talking about denying people justice, we have approved funds in this House for the Ministry to employ 83 Magistrates, which it has not done and we have a backlog of cases. I do not see the reason why and what happened to that money? Why is it that the people that were

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budgeted for were not employed and we are crying about high unemployment. We have been crucified by some of the Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers, saying that companies should employ people from UNAM. One of the reasons given by the Honourable Minister is that we do not have expertise in the country. Currently we have twelve Magistrates from Zimbabwe and ten from Zambia and this is what we have been saying... (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, can I ask you to pose your question and then we allow the Minister to respond.

HON TJIHUIKO: The question is, if we can employ twelve from Zimbabwe and we have this huge backlog and money not being spent, can you not employ more from the SADC member countries so that they can assist us to get the process going. (Interjection). And from Botswana, South Africa and China.

I have noticed on page 17 that we have spent over a million on a corruption case just to get the process going. This system is very expensive and we need to look for ways to conclude these cases the sooner the better.

My last comment is based on page 19 and it is a compliment, not a question. I wish to congratulate you, Honourable Minister, that looking at the statistics of legal aid; one gets the impression that your Ministry is trying its level best to provide assistance to those who cannot afford legal aid. Congratulations for that. Thank you very much.

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

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HON MOONGO: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, let me thank the Honourable Minister for her good statement, although I have some doubts when I read on page 14 that 32 community courts were allocated N\$120,000 while those are the courts performing the best in Namibia. They do not have as many cases pending as the others. Therefore, I do not understand why the one performing the best is the one being underfunded. Do you want the community courts also to have a backlog? I want to know the reason why these courts are only allocated N\$120,000 as this is embarrassing and causing harm to justice in the communities. I thank you very much.

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

HON MWANINGANGE: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 16 and to say that the work being done in the Administration of Justice in our country is really commendable.

On page 14 I wish to underline the importance of the Community Courts which replaced the Traditional Courts. There is a need to train the Justices and other officials of these courts as currently they do not seem to understand the difference between civil and criminal cases. When dealing with a civil case, it seems as if they are also dealing with a criminal case, which is due to lack of understanding and knowledge in this field. If this is done it would improve the administration of justice at that level. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: Could I ask the Honourable Member a question for clarity? You are saying Community Courts are dealing with only civil cases, but I thought they also deal with criminal cases in the case of stock theft. If somebody steals one cow, he has to pay back two and that is a criminal case, but you say they only deal with civil cases. Are you sure about that?

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HON NAHOLO

HON MWANINGANGE: Under the current system they should deal with civil cases, however criminal cases are dealt with by Magistrates' courts and the Community Court will assist by giving information to the Police and the Magistrate. We have experienced that when these cases are sent to the community courts there is always conflict of interest especially in the passing of sentence. Therefore, they need to differentiate between civil and criminal cases as is done in modern societies. Honourable Chairperson, I support the Vote

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

HON NAHOLO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I have two issues, the first based on page 25 and the second on page 30. At the bottom of page 25 it is stated: *"The Directorate of 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."*

Honourable Chair, we have the Attorney-General in the person of Honourable Albert Kawana who is also the Minister of Presidential Affairs, but according to the Constitution the Attorney-General is not supposed to be a Minister. The functions of the Attorney-General are different from those of the Ministers as stipulated in Article 40 of the Namibian Constitution. Therefore, I want to know how long we will continue with illegality which is unconstitutional, as it is illegal for a Minister to be the Attorney -General at the same time. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member is Out of Order and he must be ruled Out of Order.

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HON NAHOLO: I am being ruled Out of Order but I wonder whether I am Out of Order.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You posed a question and the Minister is going to respond. Continue to your next issue. I am trying to prevent you from repeating yourself.

HON NAHOLO: Let us move to page 30. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Honourable Naholo, you raised a very pertinent question on one person occupying two Ministerial positions, do you also think that it might be ethically incorrect for a Minister responsible for advising Government to be the Secretary-General of the Ruling Party? Do you not see a conflict of interest?

HON NAHOLO: Honourable Tjihuiko, we are dealing with a Government which is full of contradictions and double standards. That is in short the answer to your question. (Intervention)

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I request you to raise specific points and come to the conclusion, because otherwise there are going to be so many points of order. Is that what you are really looking for?

HON NAHOLO: Deputy Chair, if I may continue. On page 30 my interest is on the question of human rights, as stated here by the Minister. I know that many of us here as Members of Parliament, including the Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, do not attend certain international forums. (Intervention)

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: At this stage of the discussion we need to be concrete, to the point, but the moment you are trying to expand on what you want to say, you are taking so much time. Come to the point. Please, let me ask you again, state the issue you want to put on the Table. I do not know which conferences I do not attend, how do you know?

HON NAHOLO: Honourable Deputy Chair, I am referring to ...
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Order. This will be recorded by HANSARD and if that is Parliamentary, we should also exercise our rights according to the procedures rather than leaving things attended to for the sake of time. The Honourable Member said that we are dealing with a Government of contradictions and double standards and he must just withdraw that or he must substantiate the double standards and contradictions, because it is not stated anywhere in the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia that a serving Member of a certain Party cannot be appointed. Honourable Nyamu is the Secretary-General of the RDP and he is also a Member of Parliament. What prevents constitutionally the Secretary-General of SWAPO to become a Minister? In which Article is it stated the Minister of Presidential Affairs may not be the Attorney-General? He must just withdraw.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, can we have Order? Honourable Naholo, you have actually made an accusation without substantiating what you are trying to say. It is an accusation thrown in the air. Can you withdraw those words so that we can make progress? Otherwise you have to detail the point you are making. The Ministers holding these portfolios have been Ministers all these years, why should they become something special on which you have to raise a point? You responded to a question

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by Honourable Tjihuiko and I will ask you to withdraw that because we need to make progress.

HON NAHOLO: Honourable Chair, I am not convinced that I should withdraw, but for the sake of peace in the House I will withdraw. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information. I think maybe the Parliament has to arrange an induction workshop for Members of the National Assembly, especially the newcomers, because the Honourable Member is even arguing with the Chair, which is unparliamentary. We are dealing with the Ministry of Justice and it is not his fault, he is a newcomer and he did not attend an induction workshop. Maybe the Chair can arrange an induction workshop through the Office of the Speaker.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: This is very important. It is true that there is a workshop being prepared by the National Assembly for Members of this House to deal with a number of important issues, but for now I would like to concentrate on the matter at hand and deal with the issue before this House and I am asking the Honourable Member to continue and windup because the time is now against you.

HON NAHOLO: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. You asked me to windup, but I have a lot to say and it is just very unfortunate that here in Namibia you cannot stand up and speak your mind. However, in conclusion I will only say I support the Vote in principle pending a correct answer by the Honourable Minister.

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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. Firstly, let me say that I am rising to give my unwavering support to this very sensitive vote. I appreciate everything contained in here; there is no doubt about that. I do not know how to formulate my question because according to the Constitution, and not according to what is being cooked up here by failing Political Parties, we have three branches, the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive. I am going to talk about the management of Justice, Community Courts and human rights as they are inter-related.

Honourable Tjihuiko and Honourable Naholo, while you are not comfortable in your chairs, the issue is complex. Now I am directing a question to the Minister. Some of the questions are really not implemented by the Minister and this is the complexity, because when you are dealing with Courts, the Minister is not a Judge, the Minister is not a lawyer. She is a lawyer, but she does not practice in the Courts and that is where the complexity comes in, because I am directing questions that I was supposed to direct to the real practitioners, but I will attempt to do so.

Everything is well-articulated on page 7 with regard to the management of Justice, but my concern is that we do not know what the delay in the conclusion of Appeal cases is costing the State. In the Administration of Justice one does not know if it is for somebody outside there to prove that somebody is wrong and that is why I am saying that these matters are really complex, because sometimes a person is released but then the State appeals. Now, one does not know on what grounds are this Appeal being launched and you cannot question anybody. You are at a loss as you do not know which factors were used while this case is costing the State money.

I want to give an example. I have stolen Honourable Kaura's goat and the

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Lower Court will find me guilty. When I take the case on Appeal, I will not only be subjected to the Judiciary but to the entire community, that I am a thief, I am rapist, I am a criminal, I am corrupt and I have to live with this stigma because the case has not been concluded. This also links to the issue of your fundamental human rights. (Interjection). You are not comfortable because you are appealing cases while you failed to win the elections and you are wasting State resources. You were rejected by the people. You are only four there and next time you will be only one.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I did not appeal to you, you are a seasoned Parliamentarian, and we stick to our time. That kind of discussion will always provoke this part of the House. Honourable Kazenambo that is a wrong explanation and it is going to lead to a question and that is why Honourable Tjihuiko is waiting for you. Honourable Tjihuiko, do you want to raise a Point of Order?

HON TJIHUIKO: Just a small question.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Maybe there will be an answer after this small question and if there is no answer, I am going to ask you respectfully to please conclude because we cannot go on like this.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Kazenambo, I want to humbly appeal to you to stick to short questions and be to the point so that the Honourable Minister could be able to answer.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: In conclusion, we cannot allow Okahitua democracy. In some communities there are three or four traditional leaders and what would happen if I am tried by a community court which I do not

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recognise? I reject the judgment as I do not recognise that Traditional Authority and I move to another and say I want to be tried by this one. What are the criteria being used, because in Gam you have the Kambazembi Royal House with a Community Court and you have one under the Herero Traditional Authority and Tjiuiko is the community lawyer and you can see the way he behaves in this House? How do you deal with that situation and what criteria are being used? I thank you.

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

HON KAURA: Just a small question to the Honourable Minister. Honourable Minister, I just want to find out, where do you place the situation where, especially in the four O-regions, somebody who has gone through the Magistrates' Courts, the High Court and were found guilty or not, he still has to pay thirty head of cattle for the murder he has committed. Where does that come in? That practice is still ongoing in especially the four O-regions. Where do we place that in the judicial system of Namibia?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. I am now going to ask the Minister to respond to some of the specific issues raised.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, for giving me the opportunity to respond to the various questions posed. And let me thank the Honourable Members who supported the Vote.

Honourable Kaura's first question was on suspects who continuously commit crimes and continuously receive bail. Bail in itself is granted as a way of keeping a suspect out of prison and assurance to the Court that the suspect will indeed appear on a due date. The situation should be that this

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person will not run away and that at least he is within the environment within which he can be obtained. It does not really matter how many times the person has committed crime; bail is not to prevent a person from committing crime unless this person has committed a crime in a way that he violated the bail conditions. The conditions of bail are such that a person sometimes should not threaten the potential witnesses. If this person went and threatened the witnesses, then obviously that person needs to be confined so that he or she does not get into proximity of the potential witnesses. Otherwise bail is just a way to allow this person not to be in jail because one of our fundamental principles is that the person is considered innocent until proven guilty. If you confine a person to prison just on account of being a suspect, it is not constitutional. I think that clarifies the question by the Honourable Member.

The Caprivi Treason Trial is a very complicated one, I must say, complicated in a way that the charges against these suspects are grave and many. We have 114 suspects in custody and the charges against them are 278 and these charges must be proven beyond all reasonable doubt. No doubt should be left in the mind of anybody that they are either guilty or not guilty. The case is complicated, it has taken long, it is true, but justice will eventually be done. That is the trust that we have in our Judiciary. Let us also not forget that in spite of the fact that this case has taken so long, there is a very grave principle of the separation of powers. Neither this Legislature, nor the Executive can interfere with the operations of the Courts. It is within the wisdom of those learned Colleagues who are there to dispense with the matter as they see fit. However, we are all concerned that the case is taking so long and we hope that sooner than later it will be finalised.

On the issue of research assistants, I enumerated the challenges facing the Ministry of Justice as a whole, including some of the matters that have contributed to the backlog of cases. These are challenges we have identified, it is not that we have a solution at hand. The solution at hand is funds. If the Ministry can be assisted, next time I think we will be clocking a billion. Almost every other Ministry here has received a billion and truly, if all these challenges I mentioned here are to become a reality,

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then the State must cough up a huge amount of money. I am happy that the Minister of Finance is in the House.

The Customary Appeal Court is an idea because we have identified the conflicts between the Civil Courts and the Community Courts, subjecting the Community Courts to Civil Courts, yet this system is supposed to stand on its own. If that Appeal Court has not finalised the issue, then it will probably start another system, not that it is made parallel. I am just waiting for this session of Parliament to come to a close so that I can undertake a very intensive visit to Community Courts to identify all the shortcomings in the system.

I will not go into the qualification of police investigators because it resorts under a separate Ministry altogether and they know how they do the training and recruitment. It is unfortunate that that vote has already been debated.

The land dispute between Uukwanyama and Ondonga is again a matter in the hands of very senior colleagues and they are dealing with it. I know that my Ministry is involved in giving advice, but this also falls within the principle of lawyer-client confidentiality relationship.

Comrade Kaiyamo, thank you for your support and you will continue to render whatever assistance you are asked to do in furthering good governance in the country.

Comrade Ilonga, thank you very much. I do not know why we here are interested in seeing the High Court Rules as we will not understand them in any case. Those are complicated matters of the Courts and their procedures in terms of how they deal with matters. The President, by virtue of the Constitution, appoints Judges and we never even question why the President has appointed this Judge or the other. Why are we interested in the Rules?

Honourable Tjihuiko, your question should have been posed to the Minister of Information and Communication Technology, therefore it is misdirected. To say that the pending cases are not reduced is also not

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being fair and I realised that you have not read my statement. If you have done so, you would have seen the reduction and I do not want to argue with you on this one, I am just referring you back to the statement.

Your next question is the one which exposed you thoroughly that you did not read the statement, because it was properly explained why only 77 posts were filled.

Honourable Moongo, it was my mistake as I did not say N\$120,000 to each Community Court. However, I also want to make an appeal through you that this is State money and it must be accounted for properly.

Honourable Mwaningange, thank you very much for your support. I think you have explained how the Community Courts operate.

Honourable Naholo, the Honourable Attorney-General has motivated several Votes here and you did not have the courage to put the question to him and now you are asking me. The question is misdirected, go and ask him, he is here.

Honourable Kazenambo, we are all learning and sometimes we do not know how to behave, what to say, and what to write or what to broadcast when a case is before Court. There is a Latin expression, *sub judice*, which is supposed to appeal to everybody that only the Court is dealing with a matter and, therefore, all others must wait. However, immediately a case is before Court in Namibia, everybody is a presiding Judge or magistrate and we try innocent people and find them guilty. That is very serious and I do not know how we can educate the public. It has gone to the extent that nowadays people have become very strict about information. People are crying that the Report on the GIPF must be made public, but we have forced this situation upon ourselves because immediately a Report is released, we are already judging people before it reach the Court. We are already attributing guilt or innocence to those we hate and those we like. We are spoiling it for ourselves, but my appeal is that the public should learn to trust our Judiciary. It has acquitted itself so well for the past twenty-one years, let us trust them and let us give them

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the opportunity to resolve these dispute rather ourselves, in particular the media.

Honourable Kazenambo asked whether an accused can choose which Community Court should try him. I do not know and maybe Honourable Moongo can advise us outside this House. I thought we belonged to specific communities, therefore, how do I commit an offence in my community and opt to be tried by another Community Court in Caprivi just because I do not trust this Community Court? Each court has jurisdictional powers and these powers are territorial. If I commit a crime in the Caprivi Region, then I will most probably be tried there, but if I have committed a crime within my community at Okakarara, I must appear before the Traditional Court in Okakarara and we should not play these games that denigrate the powers of the Traditional Authorities. I know there are individual members of our society who do not want to appear before Community Courts even when they live in those communities. It is not respectful; the Constitution recognises our cultures in Article 66.

Honourable Naholo referred me to Article 44 of the Constitution, but your reference is very misdirected. This Article 44 talks about duties and functions of Cabinet Members and the ministerial accountability is to this Parliament and nobody else. Let us behave in a way that is commensurate to our positions as Members as Parliament. We can beat the political drum at the rallies and say whatever we want to say, but let us be truthful in this House, particularly when it concerns the Constitution. We should not attribute what is in our minds to this document.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I think I have done justice to the questions.

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

Vote 22 – “FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES” is put for Discussion.

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HON DR AMWEELO / HON DR ANKAMA

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I will be brief and come straight to the point. I am quite happy with regard to Programme 1 on surveying and stock assessment, more especially on the marine environment. We are all aware that oil spills are one of the hazards affecting the marine environment and also climate change and maybe you could introduce the joint survey to include the Exclusive Economic Zone, which is 200 miles, to determine whether any ships are discharging oil within that Exclusive Economic Zone.

Secondly, on page 21 the Minister mentioned the development of freshwater aquaculture centres and also training and research. However this year we experienced many problems and accidents with regard to the floods and maybe the school children and communities must be provided with life jackets. You will remember the incident at Oshigambo where a boat capsized with school children. It would be helpful if they are provided with life jackets. Also the people handling the life boats must be trained.

I have here the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Annual Reports of 2008 and 2009 and mention is made of licensed vessels from 2004 to 2008. The licensed trawlers were 334 in 2004 and in 2008, 292. I want to know the reason for the decrease in fishing vessels. Is it because they have reached the end of their lifespan or is it because of a drought in the sea? What was the cause of the decrease in fishing vessels? I support Vote 22.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to pose a question and give advice.

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HON ESAU

I appreciate and would like to support this very important Vote. Secondly, pages 18 to 22 deal with the inland aquaculture which has expanded greatly inland, but currently this sector is doing very little for us to access the freshwater fish. I thought it would be appropriated that research is conducted to find out whether we are doing well in aquaculture or whether there is something we need to improve upon. I also do not know whether we are stimulating the industry to emulate or use the traditional methodology of preserving this good food and I am asking whether the Ministry is doing anything to promote dried or canned fish.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. I ask the Minister to respond to the questions.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:

Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. At the outset, let me thank the two Comrades and also the others who have supported the Vote in silence. Honourable Amweelo made reference to Programme 1 of the Ministry, survey and stock assessments, talking about oil spillage and hazards within our Economic Exclusive Zone. I want to give the Honourable Member the assurance that we are in fact monitoring all the vessels in our Exclusive Economic Zone in terms of catches and illegal dumping of fish. We have inspectors on all the vessels who are reporting to us and all that is under control. We have aircraft and vessels which ensure that our environment is not polluted through oil spillages.

With regard to freshwater aquaculture, with special reference to the flood situation and accidents, in fact, tomorrow I will be receiving life jackets from one of our companies which will be distributed to the northern Regions. That is a contribution from the fishing companies.

On the reduction of licences from 2004 to 2008, there was a situation whereby the quota was reduced and what normally happens is that companies take their vessels to other fishing grounds.

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HON TJIHUIKO

Honourable Ankama, who was also responsible for putting up our media units during the struggle, I want to thank you for supporting the Vote. Aquaculture is one of the sectors we want to develop fully and also mariculture, inland fisheries, where you can farm with oysters and abalone. Freshwater fish farming has not been developed to the extent we want to see it developed. In fact, recently I visited seven projects in the Caprivi and Kavango Regions and there is interest, the people are farming in small ponds with fish, however we need to beef up our research and development so that the output is such that we can feed our people from inland fish, add value and even export from Namibia. In Caprivi the women are exporting fish to Zambia and DRC, which is very encouraging, but they need to be assisted to add value. The pricing also needs to be looked at because there is a lot of what is called transfer pricing in the informal sector and we need to help the people.

We also have Vietnamese experts who are also helping us with research and development and I have in fact met with a delegation from China who have come to do a feasibility study on what is happening at the Hardap Centre and they would be providing a report and then we can see how best we can tackle these issues. The traditional methods of fish farming will also be taken into account when it comes to boosting our production in freshwater fish, because tilapia and catfish are very delicious. Once more, thank you very much for your support and *aluta continua*.

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

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Deputy Minister of Trade, you described the functions of the Ministry and you were saying that among others it is to accelerate economic growth and the creation of an environment and conditions for job creation and new sources of revenue. Am I right to say that what you tried to explain to us

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HON TJIHUIKO

here is that the role of the Ministry of Trade is one of creating an environment conducive to business development by the private sector to take its course and create jobs? If the answer is yes, then I am happy, because that is the role of a Government Ministry, to create an environment, legal and otherwise, that would enable the private sector to do the things that they can do best. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. No wonder that the Honourable Colleague could see that he is not fit to be in that Ministry. When you are developing a conducive environment for economic development, you do not confine it to the private sector, because public institutions can also play a role. In progressive economies, such as Singapore, the public institutions also play a critical role; therefore you are distorting the whole matter. Sit down!

HON TJIHUIKO: Coming to page 3, the Honourable Deputy Minister again said... (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I am very sorry, Honourable Tjihuiko, I know you just had an audience with Mr Oriega, but I have a small question for my own education. To which *Ombara* do you belong so that I can understand the dynamics of those questions?

HON TJIHUIKO: I could have answered that question when Honourable Kazenambo presented his budget but unfortunately I was not here. I will come back to you Honourable Prime Minister and I will explain that.

The other point I want to raise is one of the roles of the Ministry, namely to design a special tax incentive scheme for the sector. As an example, provision could be made for Small and Medium Enterprises to deduct all the capital expenses in the first year of operations, as compared to the

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HON TJIHUIKO

current wear and tear allowance. Another possibility is an allowance for hundred percent deductions of expenses towards training and education. My question is, Honourable Deputy Minister, how would you control this training by the Private Sector that are not registering with you when they take on these people and how do you ensure that these people have been trained to the satisfaction of your Ministry?

Secondly, do you not think that this kind of scheme can be misused and the Honourable Minister of Finance ending up paying taxes that are being claimed without any training of our people?

I wish to suggest the introduction of tax incentives to those companies that demonstrate commitment to employ youth and young graduates and put them on job training schemes. The cost can be deducted hundred percent as a development allowance. My point is that having opened this door for even Tjiuiko with a small business and I can convince the Ministry of Finance that I have employed this number of people and I must get a hundred percent deduction, how do you control these things? I know one of the problems the Ministry has faced, especially with the EPZ, is that you cannot verify because this is a very broad statement. I wish you all the best of luck, but two years down the line I will ask you the same question.

Under the SME and Entrepreneurship Development Programme, the Equipment Aid Scheme is very important. One of the main constraints that you have identified faced by the SMEs in the country is the high cost to access equipment and machinery which they require to make the products or 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. This, in turn, would mean that the Ministry somewhere there in the building needs to have a system where the people pay and the money is kept there in the Ministry. At what time and how many times a year do you pay these dues to the Ministry of Finance? As the Ministry responsible for providing environment for the Private Sector to take its course, how did you come into running physical schemes in the Ministry while you have an institution called the NDB?

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HON TJIHUIKO

What is the NDC doing in this respect? I hope you will answer my questions and not make political statements.

Here we are talking about expertise to run these schemes. Do you have the in-house capacity, a department responsible for running these schemes?

Then you have another programme in the Ministry where the rest of the money you have asked for will be used to support specific entrepreneurs that come up with highly innovative businesses and project ideas. It is a very good idea and in many other countries this process is being run by Government NGOs. In South Africa they have a department responsible for that, it is not being done by Government. Now here we have the NDC, a Government development arm and the Ministry is running the actual programme within the Ministry. I wish to go to that office that is running this scheme and apply and I do not want to go to the Minister, I want a Deputy Director or Chief Economist, somebody with experience in advising and running these schemes.

Honourable Minister, you were saying that one of the identified reasons for the business failures among Small and Medium Enterprises is the lack of business management skills and experience. Then you were saying: *“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.”* People can be trained and trained in skills until they are perfect. Taking people to India to look at what the Indians are doing, bringing them back and give them money is a recipe for disaster.

In conclusion, I want to refer to the famous SME Bank. We have read in the newspapers and you mentioned here that the Ministry is in the process of establishing the Bank. That will be a Bank established by Government with taxpayers' money. Experience taught us that the credit guarantee scheme of the Ministry failed because people see it as Government money and they knew that if they do not pay, nobody will take them to Court. Now that the Ministry is setting up another Bank, will you really take people to Court to pay their loans two, three, six weeks before elections? I rest my case.

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HON EKANDJO / HON UTONI

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Ekandjo.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I just have a small question. We have this Pep Stores, Jet Stores, Kalahari Sands Hotel, M&Z, Shoprite, Friendly, Hotel Fürstenhof, Hotel Thuringerhof, BP, Shell, Standard Bank, FNB, Bank Windhoek, NedBank, Agricultural Union and many others. These are some of those who complain about the many Chinese here, but I never heard that they contributed to the flood. The poor Chinese with small businesses contributed even N\$100,000. My question is whether these are really our partners? We had so many floods for the past two three years and they never contributed an iota and when the President made an appeal, the Parastatals and the black empowerment entities did contribute, but not these entities. We had our meetings all the years at Kalahari Sands, M&Z is an empire, Shoprite, Bank Windhoek, and these are the people complaining about the foreign businesses, but what is their contribution to this crisis of the floods? They only make loud noises but their actions are lacking. (Interjection). My apologies to Standard Bank.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Your point is taken, I am sure the Deputy Minister may include that in his responses. Honourable Utoni.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my contribution is based on page 8; paragraph 2 where the Ministry of Trade and Industry is showing its commitment to the construction of infrastructure for trade fair centres in various Regions and towns. This is a commendable effort by the Ministry because the trade fair centres are very important institutions to grow the economy of locals and also creates an atmosphere of happiness when a trade fair is taking place.

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HON AMATHILA

Honourable Deputy Minister, while you are now trying to construct the infrastructures of trade fairs, I think there is also a need to develop the capacity of the trade fair organisers, because these people really need assistance. It is also time now that the Ministry of Trade and Industry should organise a national body responsible for trade fairs, a body composed of knowledgeable people who can advise the organisers of the trade fairs, a body that can coordinate with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the activities of foreign exhibitors.

Honourable Deputy Minister, if you look at how we organise our trade fairs presently, it seems we are not trying to complement one another but rather competing with one another. Of course, competition is a healthy exercise, but in this case some of the small trade fairs will be killed in the process because in some areas there are no big markets. Maybe we could have a body which could look at the local economic strategic plan of a given Region and advise that you do not need to organise a trade fair of this nature. If Okakarara is organising an agricultural trade fair, then Erongo should rather look at a tourism trade fair. What we experience is that it is the same types of trade fairs organised in all the towns. Honourable Iyambo could even initiate school trade fairs.

We cannot duplicate everything all the time and I am just scared that this trend may kill, for example, Okakarara which is just emerging because the market is not that strong. I support Vote 19.

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

HON AMATHILA: Honourable Deputy Chair, I rise to support Vote 19 and to congratulate the Minister and the Deputy Minister for the beautiful ideas they have shared with us in this Budget. I would like to specifically refer to the creation of the SME Bank, which is a very beautiful idea and if made to work, it would definitely relieve the pressure on those who are unemployed today.

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We started this Debate on the Budget with the concern on unemployment, which is 51%, and as the discussions went we started toning down on this concern for the unemployed. If one looks at what people have tried to do for themselves, especially the *kapana* ladies, with very little money from Government, they have created their own niche in serving the people and raising money. That too can also be said about people who have created their own employment with taxi units. They have employed on a single taxi, which possibly costs N\$100,000, two drivers and this led to the creation of garages, welding plants and a chain of other activities. I tend to think that maybe next time around the SME Bank will need more funds in order to make cheap money available to those who want to create their own employment.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development and the Ministry of Mines and Energy should also consider the possibility of coordinating their programmes. There is a potential here in the big city that we can harness the sun as source of energy. If we can help residents of Windhoek or any other place to buy these solar panels, use what they need for themselves and sell the surplus of the energy to the grid, not only are they going to generate energy for themselves, but they will also generate more money for themselves and by so doing, we will definitely eradicate poverty. It can be done, it has been done in other places and it is just a question of the three Ministries working together to help the people through the SME Bank to acquire the solar panels. I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Thank you. May I now call upon the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry to respond to some of the specific questions?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. *Honourable Tjihiuko*, I thank you very much for your support. Yes, indeed, the paper gives you the two scenarios to set up the scene under which the mandate of the Ministry of Trade and Industry

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would operate and I specifically highlighted those two as the key drivers. The first one is the accelerated growth of the SME sector and the second one is the schemes development. You are right, I am addressing not only the Private Sector but also the Public Sector and that is mentioned in the document. However, we need those two to accelerate economic growth and then I come in detail with the mandate of the Ministry. We will continue executing our mandate to create that environment, as would become clear as I further respond to some of your exact questions on the programmes. This is why we are providing the infrastructure, to make that environment more conducive and not simply by policies.

On page 3 we mention the functions of the Ministry and how we control the Private Sector when they are not registered with the Ministry. First we encourage that businesses must be registered with the Ministry of Trade and Industry. To make that happen we have discovered that the procedures to register a company were made too difficult and impossible, either deliberately or maybe to sabotage the Government's efforts. You were there, you should know better and I must clarify this because you asked it as a former Deputy Director in the Ministry. What has been happening, and this has also been reflected when the Government was assessed in terms of doing business in Namibia, that we were rated very low. One of the main reasons is that to register a company is a nightmare. It is because the law was not changed. Let me give you the picture and also to the public out there.

To register a company in Namibia was until the 1st of November last year a nightmare. To register a company you had to use a lawyer, auditing firms or you must have money to go and buy the form from a private company and these private companies are not even available in some parts of the country. Of course you would have been encouraging them to do illegal business, but that system is now something of the past. From the 1st of November we are encouraging everybody to do legal business by registering, because the forms to register are now available at all thirteen regional offices of the Ministry. This will also be available at the offices of the NCCI branches and the Regional Council offices. (Interjection). You are asking me why it took so long, but you must answer that question. I must add that it is free of charge, because it is the mandate of the

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Ministry to register companies. Those who are not registered now have the opportunity to do so as the services are closer to where they are doing business. More so with the Small and Medium Enterprises that is struggling with finances who are being killed before they start business.

It should be understood that that has changed from the 1st of November 2010. It has taken us twenty years, but at least we have done it now, we are not just talking.

Honourable Tjihuiko, you asked about the control of the Private Sector mentioned on page 4. This is linked to the previous question and I say I wish to suggest the introduction of a tax incentive, because tax is the mandate of Ministry of Finance and I can, therefore, not prescribe in another Ministry's mandate. However, we are in consultation as line Ministries to make it easier for small and medium enterprises and those who want to do business. We must help them by creating a conducive environment to register and to do business; we must support them, not necessarily with money every time. This is part of that support.

Another query was on the Equipment Aid Scheme and the leasing terms. (Interjection). You asked the question and I am answering. I must thank you for giving us the opportunity to correct what you could not do. Thank you for leaving because it gives us an opportunity to correct what you have messed up. (Interjections). Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I am answering the Honourable Member's question and my answer is that was not encouraging Small and Medium Enterprises to flourish or to succeed. It is and was their responsibility to address it.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: He is objecting to the term "*the mess left behind*" and I think that is the point.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Let me rephrase it. (Interjection). Unless you were in charge, were you in

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charge? If you were in charge then I am correcting what you did not correct.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I think we are going to prolong this point unnecessarily.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: We are correcting things that were a stumbling block for small and medium enterprises to develop.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: There is no direct reference to Honourable Tjihuiko. That is what he is objecting to.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I will remove the word “mess”, but we are correcting things that were a stumbling block to the Small and Medium Enterprises to grow. I withdraw the word “mess,” but it is our responsibility to correct and remove the obstacles.

The Honourable Member wants to know what is NDC doing and the Honourable Member should have known better because he was a senior manager. NDC is merely an implementing agent to implement the decisions given to them. If the Honourable Member does not know that, I do not know what he was paid for.

The fifth point the Honourable Member raised on page 15 is a query on the rest of the allocation. I want to refer him to the previous paragraph in which I extensively elaborated that we will start to include the rural areas in benefiting from these limited resources. We will give a quota to each region to benefit from the budget. What we experience now is that 90% of that small allocation is taken up by Khomas, the capital city and the real people who have to benefit only hear about it, therefore we have taken a

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decision that it must go out there. The rest I am referring to, for the benefit of the Honourable Member and also the members out there, we as a Ministry intend creating champions in the regions. They cannot remain small, they must also grow and for that reason we create those champions by helping them financially, with equipment or mentally. That is the rest of the allocation being referred to here.

The sixth query by the Honourable Member was on page 16. (Interjections). Honourable Chairperson, when the Honourable Members ask questions I have to answer and now they prescribe how I should answer and that is very unparliamentary. The Honourable Member said it is not beneficial to expose people out there and then to bring them back to give them money. This is not what this paragraph says, I do not know to which English school he has gone. I would advise the Honourable Member to read and if he has a problem with my Namlish, he can always consult me afterwards as I do not want to bore the Honourable Members here because they understand what is said here. I tried to write it in a simple but understandable English, not to show that I studied at Oxford University.

The seventh query is on the SME Bank. The Honourable Member is confusing the Credit Guarantee Scheme and the SME Bank. The Credit Guarantee Scheme, which he administered that time, specifically guaranteed the money the commercial bank disbursed to the SMEs, and this is why most of them could not make the repayments because the charges were too high. The SME Bank is a bank that would set up its own terms to directly disburse funds to the Small and Medium Enterprises. If the Honourable Member cannot see the difference, I think I have simplified it enough. I believe that I have addressed the concerns of the Honourable Member.

Honourable Ekanjo, thank you very much for your support. I have addressed the issue of the other companies here and I want to repeat without withdrawing what I will say. For twenty-one years we have seen who genuine Private Sector is and who are not. If we want to grow, which all of us want to do, let us take bold decisions and create our own Private Sector. Many economies have been built by their own citizens, so the

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example is true. All they are preoccupied with is profit, they are not interested in investing in the future. They always mention their shareholders and they are not concerned about the development of the country.

In my first contribution to the General Debate I used the example of the Chinese, as did the Minister of Fisheries. We should not shy away from taking the good things. When they do not do the right things, we as Comrades and friends tell them they do not need to engage in this because this the Namibians can do. We want you to engage in high tech because you have the technology. What is wrong with that?

Therefore, when we are in trouble, as in this case, we must also identify who are the real Private Sector friends who give us support when we need it most. We do not need to be given lectures, we can see for ourselves.

Honourable Uutoni, you are right, this is part of creating a conducive environment. If these trade fair facilities do not exist, we will construct them for our people to do business. Not all the Regions know what is happening in other Regions and sometimes it becomes very difficult to plan on what are the strengths of Region A compared to Region B or C. We hope that in future we will have regional trade fairs so that we allow each Region to showcase what they are able to produce and in so doing, we can help the various Regions with what they are good at, to exploit the competitive edge of the various Regions. We shall, obviously, take your advice to create a body that would help us as we are moving forward.

It is true, we do not want unfair competition to kill the others, but we want to give recognition to the various initiatives, no matter how small in each Region, so that they can grow. I must also repeat what I said here, that we also plan to do something for the first time and that would be a national expo where we want to know what is being manufactured in each Region, so that we can plan properly and focus on what is being manufactured in Kunene, Omaheke, etcetera. We want to inform ourselves and that will happen this year, but also to find out how many Namibians and how many foreigners are involved in the manufacturing. We want to take an informed decision.

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Honourable Amathila, thank you very much for your support. I do not need to add to what I have said about the creation of the SME Bank. I also mentioned in my presentation that there are several Ministries involved and not only Trade alone. Mines and Energy is involved through the small miners, the Ministry of Finance, Agriculture and Fisheries. All Ministries need to work together and we have started working together to that effect. We are not in competition with one another, but we have identified our various mandates and put them together to have a better impact. I thank you for your support.

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

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to remind the Honourable Members that tomorrow His Excellency the President will address this Assembly and the Nation on the State of the Nation. You are humbly requested to be in time.

With that the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 21:25 UNTIL 27.04.2011 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
27 APRIL 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, today, the 27th of April 2011, His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba will address Parliament on the State of the Nation. I now suspend the business of the House and invite His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, into the Chamber. Please remain standing until His Excellency the President's procession enters the Chamber accompanied by the Honourable Speaker.

WELCOMING SPEECH

HON SPEAKER: Honourable fellow Parliamentarians, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. The Parliament annually anticipates this happy reunion with the Executive in the person of the Head of State and Government of our Republic. Our President, who is elected by popular vote, is required by the Constitution to deliver a State of the Nation Address before Parliament and spend some time of his working hours in a lively engagement with leaders of Political Parties represented in the House. Welcome to our august Chamber, Comrade President.

I now have the distinct honour and personal pleasure to invite His Excellency, our Head of State, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, to deliver the State of the Nation Address for the seventh time. Your Excellency.

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HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA: Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly; Honourable Chairperson of the National Council; Honourable Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and Deputy Chairperson of the National Council; Your Excellency, Founding President and Father of the Nation, Dr Sam Nujoma, in absentia; Right Honourable Prime Minister, Comrade Nahas Angula; Honourable Deputy Prime Minister Comrade Marco Hausiku; Distinguished First Prime Minister, Dr Hage Geingob; Distinguished Former Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Libertine Amathila; Your Honour, Chief Justice Peter Shivute, Honourable Members of Parliament; Esteemed Members of the Judiciary; Esteemed Service Chiefs; Distinguished Regional Governors and Chairpersons of Regional Councils; Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps; Members of the Media; Fellow Namibians; good afternoon.

I have come to this august House to account to the Nation on the activities of our Government over the past twelve months and to share our plans and goals in the new Financial Year and beyond.

In their wisdom, the framers of the Namibian Constitution provided for the State of the Nation Address as a mechanism to promote accountability and good governance. This is one of the traditions that define our character as a Nation and demonstrate our desire to build a better society for all our people.

Our fore-bearers, the heroes and heroines of our revolution, sacrificed their lives and made it possible for our people in all corners of the country to enjoy peace and security; and for our Government to pursue national development priorities in an atmosphere of peace and stability.

This year, we commemorated our Nation's 21st Independence Anniversary. This historic milestone should inspire all of us, to continue marching together and to jointly confront the challenges of poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment.

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In this regard, our Government is focused on improving service delivery to our people at all levels, especially to those in rural, informal settlements and peri-urban areas.

I trust that all Namibians will draw inspiration from this auspicious occasion and rededicate themselves to make Namibia a better place for all citizens. It is in this spirit, that I have come here today to deliver the State of the Nation Address for 2011.

Fellow Namibians, the year 2010 was, broadly speaking, a period of recovery, both at the global level and on the domestic front. Despite the global recession, the Namibian economy grew by an estimated 4.8% in 2010. The outlook during the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period is favourable, with a projected average growth of 5.3%.

I would now like to highlight some of the notable achievements made by our SWAPO Party Government during the past Financial Year. These include the holding of free and fair Regional and Local Authorities Elections; the appointment of new Regional Governors to focus on the implementation of Government policies in the Regions; provision of additional funding to Green Scheme projects; steps taken to address the shortage of textbooks in our schools; the building of new classrooms; the re-skilling of teachers and school administrators; the inauguration of the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM); the steps taken to resolve the problems at the GIPF; the hosting of the Employment Creation Summit; and the holding of the Agricultural Investment Summit to name a few. Public services in various areas were also expanded.

In addition, the West Coast Cable System landed at Swakopmund in November last year. We now expect to have access to faster and cheaper broadband connection for Namibia's education institutions, health facilities, private homes, businesses and other public institutions to the digital super highway.

Similarly, our Government continued with the implementation of projects to expand the provision of better public health care services. Several

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health facilities and infrastructure have been renovated and upgraded, while new clinics and health centres were built. Steps were also taken to address the problem of aging infrastructure at our main hospitals around the country. This is part of our commitment to ensure that shortcomings that can compromise the delivery of quality health care or endanger the lives of our people are addressed.

The expansion of our physical and communications infrastructure continued apace, with the construction of tarred and gravel roads around the country. I had the pleasure of inaugurating several road projects that were completed and to witness the commencement of the construction of new ones.

When I visited the construction sites, I was impressed to witness, first hand, the industriousness of our people who are working on these projects. I was also pleasantly impressed to note that women formed part of the labour-based component of the construction teams. Do join me, to commend and thank these hard-working Namibians for their dedication and contribution to the building and development of our country.

Fellow Namibians, our country was once again affected by devastating floods in the northern and north eastern parts of the country. The floods have claimed the lives of many people, both young and old. Thousands more have been displaced. I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government, and, indeed, on my behalf, to extend our condolences to the families of our fellow countrymen and women who lost their lives due to drowning and snakebites.

The floods have also caused widespread destruction to crop fields, homesteads, roads and other facilities; while destroying grazing areas and placing livestock in the danger of starvation.

Several public facilities, including health centres, schools and Government offices became inaccessible and some remain closed.

Given the gravity of the flood situation, I declared an Emergency Situation in the affected areas on 29 March this year. The Government has

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provided an initial amount of N\$30 million to assist the affected communities and to deal with other effects of the floods.

As flood waters subside, relevant Government institutions and State-Owned Enterprises must act quickly and work together to rehabilitate damaged infrastructure and thereby assist the affected citizens to rebuild their lives.

We are mindful that in the aftermath of the floods and the extensive damage that it has caused, more resources will be needed for rehabilitation and to assist the affected individuals and communities to rebuild their lives. I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the generosity and patriotism of many Namibians who took it upon themselves to assist their fellow citizens during this difficult time. They acted in a commendable manner by opening the doors of their homes to school children, to the teachers and to their fellow citizens who had nowhere to go because of the flood disaster.

In addition, many others provided not only shelter, but also food to those who were in need. This spirit of selflessness has made it possible for learners and teachers to continue attending school.

In the same vein, I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Emergency Management Teams at regional and national levels. I also commend the Namibian Police; the Namibian Defence Force and other public institutions for providing relief, rescuing those stranded and relocating those affected or threatened by floods.

On behalf of the Nation, I also thank individuals, businesses and our development cooperation partners, from the Region and around the world, for their contributions to help our Government and people to cope with this disaster. I appeal to those who have not yet done so to show compassion and contribute to the flood relief efforts. As a caring Government, we will do our best to ensure that no life is lost due to food shortages caused by the floods.

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Fellow Namibians, our country faces many socio-economic challenges that must be addressed urgently. These include unemployment, poverty, socio-economic inequalities, labour skills shortages and a narrow industrial base. Public expenditure through the national Budget over the 2011/2012 to 2013/2014 Medium Term Expenditure Framework period will focus specifically at addressing these challenges.

A substantial part of the Budget will be implemented under the *Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth* (TIPEEG), at a cost of N\$9.1 billion. If public works are included, the total allocation increases to N\$14.6 billion. Our aim is to facilitate the creation and preservation of 104 000 direct and indirect jobs. The targeted priority sectors that were identified for their potential to create jobs are: agriculture; tourism; transport infrastructure; as well as housing and sanitation. Other sectors will also continue to receive attention.

In order to succeed, we must be prepared to think out of the box and to do things differently. Therefore, the implementation of TIPEEG requires a fresh mindset, which is focused on the attainment of quantifiable results. In short, TIPEEG is a deliberate strategy to achieve the stated goals within the estimated time and the resources provided.

We must ensure that targeted beneficiaries of this programme such as the unemployed citizens and women receive the intended benefits. I would now like to highlight some of the specific projects which will be funded under TIPEEG: I will start with, Agriculture:

In the Agricultural Sector, funding is geared towards the development of horticultural projects; improved crop production; livestock farming; improvement of animal health and the expansion of rural water supply.

Funds will also be made available for the acquisition of equipment as well as the modernisation and expansion of agricultural projects such as Shitemo, Shadikongoro, Etunda, Vungu-Vungu and the Kalimbeza Rice Project in Kavango, Omusati and Caprivi Regions, respectively. An amount of N\$768.2 million is allocated for these activities during the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period.

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The management of National Strategic Food Reserves will be improved through the expansion and maintenance of these facilities in different parts of the country. Training will be provided to small-scale irrigation farmers to diversify food production. This is aimed at promoting food security and self-employment for our people.

Funds have also been allocated to establish marketing and food processing facilities in Windhoek, Rundu and Ongwediva.

The transport budget will primarily be allocated towards infrastructure maintenance and expansion. Projects to be financed include the construction of roads and completion of the Northern Railway Extension Project from Ondangwa to Oshikango. This priority project must be completed soonest in order to further boost trade between Namibia and Angola, and to reduce the amount of cargo transported on our roads. An amount of N\$286.1 million is allocated to this project during this fiscal year, while the total for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period is N\$380.6 million.

In the area of community-based tourism, Namibia is one of the leading countries in Africa. To date, sixty-four conservancies have been gazetted, supporting about two hundred and sixty thousand people, or thirteen percent of the population. These projects have, therefore, made it possible for many communities to benefit from the natural resources and to improve their living conditions.

The activities funded under TIPEEG in the tourism sector include, infrastructure development, tourism marketing, development of community-based tourism projects and the construction and renovation of facilities at Namibia Wildlife Resorts. The total allocation to the tourism sector under TIPEEG is N\$370.2 million.

Honourable Speaker, all our citizens, especially those who live in informal settlements and peri-urban areas deserve decent housing and sanitation. Our Government will, therefore, provide resources to address poor sanitation in both informal settlements and rural areas.

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Activities in this sector will focus on the servicing of land, construction of urban and rural sanitation facilities and construction of low-cost housing. Urban sanitation will receive an amount of N\$496.2 million this Financial Year. The total allocation for this sector over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period is N\$1.6 billion.

Fellow Namibians, as I have already pointed out, the total cost of TIPEEG over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period amounts to N\$9.1 billion. This amount increases to N\$14.6 billion if the allocation for public works is also taken into account. Our aim is to target specific challenges in a systematic way because we want to see results.

The *onus* is now on all the Government Officials who are tasked with the responsibility of implementation to ensure that these resources are utilised for their intended purposes and within the timeframes provided.

I wish to further point out that TIPEEG will be incorporated within NDP4. Therefore, it is not a replacement of our existing planning process which is based on the National Development Plans, with duration of 5 years. In order to ensure full implementation of this programme, a TIPEEG Implementation Committee, under the co-ordination of the National Planning Commission, has been established.

Fellow Namibians, in addition to the allocations for the selected sectors under TIPEEG, I wish to highlight support to the following sectors:

Education is the most important long-term investment that we can make as a country. That is why our Government continues to devote the largest share of the national Budget to this sector.

We will continue to improve the provision of education at all levels, through the provision of text books, the construction and renovation of classrooms and the training of more teachers. Additional funds are also provided to expand the number of bursaries through the National Student Financial Assistance Fund.

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The aim is to expand access to tertiary education in order to equip our youth with the necessary knowledge and skills. Similarly, more funding is directed to the training of teachers to cater for the increasing number of the country's school-going population.

The health of our people is of paramount importance. Therefore, our Government has allocated funds for the building and renovation of health facilities, acquisition of medicines and support to the Namibian Institute of Pathology. During the past year, our Government also funded the construction of health centres and clinics across the country.

The provision of ARV treatment was expanded to all health centres and clinics, while concerted steps were taken to reduce the Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV. This included a campaign to encourage more men to become involved in these efforts. My dear wife is the patron of the programme and I hope that the Nation will render her the necessary support in spreading this important message.

Our Government has increased the allocation of financial resources for rural development. The aim is to improve the living conditions of our people, stimulate rural economies, improve sanitation, to expand rural electrification and rural water supply as well as to modernise rural transport infrastructure. Furthermore, the central Government has strengthened support to Regional Councils to foster efficient management at regional level.

Namibia is governed on the basis of the Rule of Law and democracy. In this context, ordinary citizens must be afforded the space to conduct their daily lives without interference, fear or intimidation from criminals. In recent weeks and months, crimes such as rape, violence against women and children, murder, robbery and theft have been reported in different parts of the country. This is disturbing.

Those who commit such offences spread fear among the community and they undermine our efforts to build a peaceful society. Our women and children have the right to conduct their daily activities without fear of being attacked or violated by ruthless criminals.

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Against this background, I call upon all our law enforcement agencies to leave no stone unturned in tracking down and apprehending the perpetrators of crime so that they can face the full force of the law. Our SWAPO Party Government will not relent in its determination to combat crime. We will, therefore, build additional Police Stations and provide the police force with the necessary means to succeed in their mission.

We will also continue to ensure that the territorial integrity of our country is protected by a well-trained and disciplined Defence Force. In this regard, funds have been allocated to cater for the welfare of our soldiers; the renovations of military bases and other activities.

Our Government will continue to address the socio-economic needs of our people, especially orphans and vulnerable children, senior citizens, citizens with disabilities and veterans of the liberation struggle. Hence, substantial funding in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework is allocated for welfare grants to vulnerable groups and to our veterans. In order to promote social inclusion, Government has implemented various projects aimed at integrating previously disadvantaged communities such as the San, Ovatie and other groups into social and economic activities.

We will also continue to address the issue of equitable land redistribution with a view to addressing the question of land hunger. Assistance programmes are being introduced aimed at making resettlement farms productive and thereby contribute to food security and employment.

The mineral resources of our country are non-renewable. Against this background, legislation will be introduced to ensure that strategic minerals are exploited with the participation of the public sector. It is for this reason that Epangelo Mining Company was established as a vehicle for public ownership in the Mining Sector. I appeal to the Honourable Members of Parliament to speedily pass the envisaged legislation once it is tabled later this year.

Our Government remains committed to the conservation of our natural environment and our natural resources. We will continue to strengthen the conservation of our marine environment, particularly our fisheries sector.

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We will continue to support aquaculture and fish farming projects in rural areas. This will help communities to improve their nutrition and also to generate incomes.

Our Government places a high premium on sound labour relations in our country. Thus, we will continue to promote the spirit of consultations among the Government, employers and the labour fraternity.

The new Labour Act provides for faster and more affordable resolution of labour disputes through arbitration and conciliation. I call upon all stakeholders to make use of this mechanism for the sake of harmonious labour relations in our country.

Fellow Namibians, deliberate steps are being taken to increase the participation of more Namibians in the local economy. One of the initiatives towards this end involves the review of the Public Procurement System through the Amendment of the current legislation. The proposed Amendments that will be tabled soon will address issues such as reservation of certain public tenders for targeted beneficiaries, including youth, women and SMEs; and the provision for the Tender Board to delegate some of its powers to the Regional Councils. A Review Panel will also be established to consider complaints from aggrieved parties in the tendering process.

Another initiative is the bridging facility that was established by the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN). The facility enables an SME contractor who is awarded a public tender, to cede a portion of his or her income to serve as collateral, in exchange of financial support by the DBN. Furthermore, work has started to establish an SME Bank. It will provide capital to entrepreneurs in the SME sector.

An initiative has been introduced to develop an all-encompassing Industrial Policy for Namibia. This policy is designed to promote cooperation and coordination among different economic actors and to minimise bureaucratic inefficiencies. Our Government is also in the process of reviewing the current Foreign Investment Act, to create

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opportunities for the participation of Namibians in foreign investment ventures.

We must continue to work hard in order to improve Namibia's competitiveness at both regional and global levels as this will contribute to the country's ability to attract foreign direct investments which are vital for economic growth, as well as for employment and wealth creation in the country.

Fellow Namibians, it is important to ensure that the Civil Service, which is the engine behind the implementation of Government policies and delivery of public services, is well oiled and that it operates optimally at all times.

Against this background, our Government continues to implement Public Service Reforms in order to improve service delivery. These include Performance Management System, Business Processes Re-engineering, as well as the Public Service Charters, which we plan to implement at all levels of Offices, Ministries, Agencies and Regional Councils.

Presently, several projects are also being implemented as part of the *E-Government Policy for the Namibian Public Service*. The main focus is on improving the delivery of appropriate, useful and relevant information and services to our citizens. For the Civil Service to be effective, efficient and accountable, it is important that it is unified in terms of knowledge, orientation, work ethic, and core values.

I am pleased to report that measures were introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration to issue birth and death certificates at hospitals, Regional Council offices and other places by medical personnel, Regional Councillors and Traditional Authorities.

In March this year, I inaugurated the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management. NIPAM was established to transform the Public Service through focused training in order to improve management and staff competencies and to provide organisational development support and capacity building.

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As Namibians, we must build and maintain a Civil Service that is ethical, efficient, prudent in the utilisation of resources and responsive to the needs of the public. Therefore, our commitment to effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency must be total. It should be based on the shared belief that Public Servants have a duty to act with dedication at all times. There should be no lip-service or half-hearted approach to public service delivery.

Fellow Namibians, Namibia is part and parcel of the international community of nations. On a daily basis, our country interacts with other states and international organisations as we promote our national interests. In these actions, Government representatives should always be guided by our foreign policy, which is anchored on the principle of resolving international disputes by peaceful means.

Against this background, Namibia will pursue its foreign policy by encouraging consensus through multilateralism. We will continue to play our role at forums such as the United Nations, the African Union, the Commonwealth, SADC and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU). We have made our voice heard on conflict situations on our continent and elsewhere in the world, including the unrest in North Africa. We will continue to call for restraint and the cessation of bombardments of civilian populations by both parties to the conflicts.

In August last year, Namibia assumed the Chairmanship of our regional organisation, SADC. Our country has, therefore, been providing leadership and policy direction to SADC and its institutions since then. Next month Namibia will host an Extraordinary SADC Summit here in Windhoek. As SADC Chairperson, I have been invited to co-chair the upcoming tripartite Summit, involving COMESA, the East African Community and SADC. This meeting will take place in June this year in South Africa.

In April last year, SACU Heads of State and Government adopted a new Vision for the Customs Union. Work has commenced to realise this vision with the focus on the development of a regional industrial policy;

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review of the revenue sharing arrangement and ensuring unified engagement in trade negotiations with third parties.

SACU has also agreed to present a coordinated position in dealing with the envisaged *Tripartite Free Trade Agreement*, involving COMESA, SADC and the East African Community.

Fellow Namibians, peace, stability, national unity, security and national reconciliation are the important building blocks for the development of our Nation. I take this opportunity to thank the Nation for upholding these values over the past twenty-one years.

Our Government will continue to address the plight of our youth, women, peasants, workers, senior citizens, veterans of the liberation struggle, orphans and vulnerable children and our citizens who are affected by HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

We will continue to provide quality education and health services to our Nation. We must continue to be firm in our resolve to develop our country, especially the rural areas by improving agricultural extension services, provision of potable water, construction of feeder roads, rural electrification, building schools, hospitals, health centres, clinics, communication infrastructure, and other services.

We must continue to work hard to improve our country's regional and international standing in the areas of human welfare, good governance and economic management. We must continue to address the challenges facing our Nation such as poverty, hunger, unemployment and diseases. We must reject the vices of tribalism, regionalism, nepotism, ethnicity, sexism, racism and corruption.

Today, I have outlined specific projects that have been funded and will be implemented during this financial year and over the next three years of TIPEEG. For this programme to succeed, all Namibians must join hands and pull together in the same direction. I see TIPEEG as a challenge to the Nation; to the Government, the private sector, the labour movement,

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the farmers and indeed all sectors of our society to work harder in order to roll back poverty, unemployment and under-development in our society.

I invite each and every Namibian to do their in order to make TIPEEG a success. Let us roll up our sleeves and get down to work, in an atmosphere of peace, security, stability and national unity, while promoting the *Policy of National Reconciliation*.

Long live the Republic of Namibia! I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: May I sincerely thank you, Excellency, for this comprehensive and reassuring speech on the State of the Nation and impressive tour d'force indeed on the work of our Government.

Honourable Members, as the tradition has it, the Floor is now open for a two-way engagement and feedback, as the case may be, with His Excellency the President. Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, let me join you in thanking the His Excellency the President for a very strong and encourage message well delivered.

Honourable President, I have put a number of questions to you over the years, but today I have one question only and this question concerns the more than N\$600 million that are alleged to have been lost through what seems too many to be corrupt dealings.

Mr President, knowing your very firm stance on corruption, why can you not allow for an independent commission of inquiry into the GIPF saga? Certainly, given your stance on corruption, you will agree with me that given the alleged closeness of some of your team to the GIPF saga, any tampering by Government with any other investigative processes will be interpreted as an attempt by your Government to manipulate the process and, therefore, to pre-empt or predetermine the outcome. Therefore,

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Comrade President, why not an independent commission of inquiry? I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank you, Honourable Ulenga. Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Your Excellency, Mr President, I want to find out whether Your Excellency has addressed us today as the President of the SWAPO Party Government or as President of the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

Your Excellency, with the rains, which have been a blessing in our dry country and which also appears not to be a blessing especially in the four O-regions and north eastern part of Namibia, what mechanisms can be envisioned to contain the floods that appear to be a permanent feature in our country due to global warming. We hear of underground reservoirs that are creating a success in other parts of the world. Can underground reservoirs maybe be contemplated to contain the floods that appear to become cyclical?

While copious rains have inundated the whole of Namibia, communal farmers in the Otjozondjupa Region are hit with water bills from NamWater, demanding up to N\$127,000 per household. We have heard of the Special Initiative money, could this not be diverted to defray the bill of NamWater amounting to N\$69 million for people living along the Eastern Water Carrier in Otjozondjupa Region?

Your Excellency, when do you expect the simmering Ondonga-Uukwanyama land dispute to be laid to rest? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Kaura. Honourable Hamutenya.

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HON HAMUTENYA: Your Excellency, our Nation is faced with widespread poverty and you yourself have alluded to that. This poverty is manifested above all in a high rate of unemployment. A question uppermost in the minds of many people in this country is how much longer could this nation wait before it can see improvement in its plight?

My second question has to do with your statement. Honourable President, you announced to this Nation when you were inaugurated as the second President of the Republic of Namibia that you will pursue a policy of zero tolerance on corruption. That was in 2005. When you look back today to 2005, do you think that you have fulfilled that promise and if the answer is yes, what evidence can you provide to this Nation that you have indeed tackled corruption head-on?

My third question is that many people in this country and elsewhere think that Namibia's judicial system leaves much to be desired. They refer to the Caprivi secessionist case as a classic example of the saying that justice delayed is justice denied. In other words, the eleven years during which the case has been dragging on is now excessively long. In this respect, people understand that the Judiciary in this country is independent, but they do not believe that the judicial system in Namibia is an island unto itself. I am concerned with the worries and sensitivity of the people. When is this Nation going to see a resolution of the long drawn-out case of the Caprivi secessionists?

As you know, Mr President, the recurring floods have become a serious problem for this nation and you have passionately referred to it also in your speech, but what do we plan to do to address this problem now and in the future? Thank you, Mr Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Tjongarero.

HON S TJONGARERO: His Excellency the President, I have only three questions relating to the national Vision 2030. We as the Namibian

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Nation identified certain areas through various task forces to be given special attention. Having this in mind, my first question: Is His Excellency the President satisfied with the overall progress made up to date?

Secondly, acknowledging the enormous task at hand, I would like to know which Ministries are so far ahead in driving the process?

Thirdly and lastly, how often are the key role players reporting progress to the relevant authority and the public. I thank you, Your Excellency.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Von Wietersheim.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Your Excellency, through you, Honourable Speaker, I touched on this issue before when Your Excellency visited the coast a couple years ago when the diesel generating power plant was still in an advanced planning stage and I raised the question why at that stage Namibia is still investing in a power generation plant based on fossil fuels. I wish today again to ask Your Excellency whether awareness is growing, which I hope, that we in our country have a vast and ample supply of solar and wind energy which can be converted into a long-term supply and source of energy. Seeing the rising scarcity of energy for the SADC Region, I think these are the kinds of projects that Namibia could develop not only for its own benefit, but also for the benefit of the whole Region. At the same time we have the gas supplies along the coast for so long untapped which would provide an ideal combination of solar or wind power together with gas to guarantee a power supply which is not interrupted during the times that no solar generation is possible.

We are now seeing the Fukushima tragedy and the whole world is watching and looking at future supply of energy for our country and our region, we should now choose the right direction and make use of the naturally given resources we have. Thank you, Your Excellency.

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HON SPEAKER: Your Excellency.

HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT POHAMBA: the Honourable Members' questions are yet another demonstration that democracy is alive in our country.

Honourable Ulenga was talking about an independent inquiry on the GIPF situation. It is difficult, even if someone wants something to be done. The case of GIPF has already been placed in the hands of our Judiciary and they are looking into that situation. I do not think it would auger well for us to snatch it from the hands of the Judiciary for an independent commission of inquiry. Let us leave it with our very capable Judiciary to look into that situation, as they have already started doing.

Honourable Kaura, when you are sitting there you are facing the SWAPO Party Government and what is wrong, if I am sitting here, heading the SWAPO Party Government, to talk about it while you are talking about it yourself? You want to talk about it when you accuse or blame the SWAPO Party Government and you do not want me to refer to that. Is there anything wrong with that, Comrade Kaura? I have been elected to lead the SWAPO Party Government and wherever I am, I am saying I am leading the SWAPO Party Government. Maybe when you are elected after fifty years, you would not like to be referred to as the DTA Government, but once upon a time there was a Government of the DTA here and the people used to refer to the DTA Government and you were there, you did not stop it.

With regard to the water debts of the communal farmers in Otjozondjupa Region, I remember it was mentioned some time back before I became President and speaking under correction, the people were asked to pay for what they have consumed just like others in other parts of the country. On the other hand, you Colleagues always wait until I come here, you do not come to the Office of the President and discuss these issues. I did even extend an invitation to you to come so that we can talk about the problems facing our people in our country and you did not do so, apparently because

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you wanted to come and say it here. When I extend invitations to you Honourable leaders of the Opposition, I want us to frankly discuss the problems. Maybe this problem has come to your attention after your visit to my office less than four months ago, but the best way is that when I invite you, we should talk about all the problems facing our people, including this one.

I will find out from my Colleagues responsible as to what exactly is taking place. The Opposition give notice of questions to be asked to Ministers, for the Ministers to go and do research and had it been possible, I would have preferred this particular question to be submitted to me. I would have gone to those who are responsible and provided you with a very clear, informed answer. Now I want to extend an invitation to you, to once again visit my office with one topic on the agenda - the water issue that you felt you should ask here.

You asked what measures could be taken to contain the floods. It is somehow difficult because in the first place, floods are not brought about by humans; they are brought about by someone mightier than us. There are areas which are flooded by rainwater and there are those areas which are flooded by water coming from across the border and unfortunately, our immigration officers are unable to stop those unwanted waters at the borders. However, your point could be discussed with the countries where the water comes from, Zambia and Angola, as it is really devastating. If you were to go to the northern areas by helicopter, especially Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena and part of Oshikoto, it is really frightening. At the moment we do not possess the technology to stop the water, but if we put our heads together with the neighbouring countries, something might be done. A lot of water comes to the eastern areas of our country, carried by a huge water channel called the Zambezi River and it cannot be stopped. You have brought a good idea, it is food for thought.

Comrade Hidipo, I am used to seeing you this side, but things do change. Unemployment is a big problem and I mentioned it in my statement. Last year in September we called a summit to discuss unemployment and the TIPEEG that I talked about in my speech was born out of that summit.

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The summit was attended by the Government, trade unions, employers and many others and they recommended to the Government that something must be done in specified sectors and TIPEEG is the implementation of the recommendations by the summit. TIPEEG is aimed at bringing down the high unemployment rate in the country. The allocation of the funds mentioned in my speech will go a long way to attend to the unemployment situation in our country.

Corruption – I do not want to see it as it was at the time I made that announcement. We have set up mechanisms in the form of the Anti-Corruption Commission and we have been supporting it from this side of the House and I also want you to support the Anti-Corruption Commission. It is not a job for one person, it is for us as Namibians to work together to confront corruption. You do not even come to me and say, *“look, so and so is corrupt, investigate.”* People are keeping quiet, especially my brothers and sisters in front of me. You see things happening and you keep quiet. I want to appeal to you as fellow leaders to speak to your members, that whenever they detect corruption, to tell you and you come and tell me in confidence. I am not going to reveal but I will call Noa to investigate this. You Colleagues like to talk when you come to Parliament but you hide things, you do not come to me. I invited you and I was happy to see you when you came. Keep coming and tell me, we will investigate those things.

If I say zero tolerance, how am I going to get the information in order to follow up? Yet, I have some fellow citizens who are not forthcoming. I invite you to work together as citizens of this country to confront corruption.

You spoke about the Caprivi secessionists and you are right, justice delayed is justice denied. You have never been in jail, I have been in jail, but I can tell you, Comrade Hidipo, if I stayed in jail like Herman Ya Toivo did, I would have been a crazy man by now. I hated the sound of the keys when they came to the door and how about those who have been there for a long time? They are not there because of the Government, the Government arrested those who were found committing crimes and they

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were handed over to the Judiciary and the Government does not interfere in the Judiciary, unless you have forgotten what is in the Constitution. As much as I would like something to be done, it is not in the powers of the Executive. Maybe after a hundred years when the RDP takes over this situation is going to confront you. It is not good for people to be kept in jail, I hate it as I was in jail, but I do not have the power. Maybe you should approach Justice Shivute and ask him. Not even the Minister of Justice, being in the Executive, would be able to interfere with that. Should we do that, the first people to talk about interference with the Judiciary would be from this side.

Honourable Tjongarero posed some questions which I did not catch well. He spoke about Vision 2030 and I want Vision 2030 to materialise as planned, but again, it is the same as a person building a house and at night somebody steals the bricks which were used for building yesterday. You will not complete your house in the time you intended and I appeal to you as fellow citizens that we work together in order for us to realise the implementation of Vision 2030.

Ministries may not be hundred percent satisfied, but I think by and large they are satisfied because the process is driven partly by the Budgets. We give money to Education because the realisation of Vision 2030 depends on our skilled, trained persons. Last evening I opened the International University of Management that was founded by a Namibian citizen by the name of David Namwandi and he is talking about his contribution to the realisation of Vision 2030. Certainly, if we do not have trained and educated people, they will not be able to get there. Nobody from outside will get us there, we have to build ourselves and that is why we put a lot of the taxpayers' money on education.

Honourable Von Wietersheim, just imagine, you have been away for such a long time that I have forgotten your name. I remember when we met in Swakopmund we talked about these things and the Minister of Mines and Energy has done research and reported to me that wind and solar energy could be a good option. I am using solar energy in my village, Okangudhi, and it works well, but I have not yet tested wind energy. I

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think the Ministry responsible is working hard to find which is the easiest. You talked about Fukushima, but nobody likes what happened there, we would want to do it better. However, let us be honest with one another, we are going to face an energy problem as time goes on. We have tried to bring this interconnection from Zambia, but it is still not ours, we are getting energy from outside. There was a time when we were thinking of getting energy from the DRC and we were preparing for Inka. All of a sudden we were told to wait with the Inka project. Now we are in a situation where we cannot move because it is from outside. If we were to get our own source of energy it would be better and all of us can do it as Namibians. You brought up the idea, why did you not come and ask me?

You waited to be elected to Parliament in order to ask these questions. Again I am extending an invitation to you so that we discuss as you might have good ideas.

Lastly, I want to say that I am happy to have talked to you, this time in Parliament, and I will be even happier if we can talk to one another when it comes to the welfare of our people and the development of our economy. When elections come, we will meet there, but when it comes to the development and the welfare of our people, let us talk.

I am not going to mention names, but I remember there were those who came, saying that they have come to an illegitimate Government. I said, *“Okay, I am very happy you have responded to the call of a person who is leading a legitimate Government in this country, you are welcome”* and we discussed the issues.

Comrade Speaker, once again I want to thank you and your Colleague, the Chairperson of the National Council and my Colleagues, particularly those who are behind me as they have given me encouragement to talk more when they clapped hands. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Before I give the Floor to the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House, may I, on behalf of all my Colleagues on

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both sides of the aisle thank you very much, Your Excellency, for coming to spend all this time with us. I trust you feel happy to be amidst us. After all, this is where your political life started before you were able to land better employment opportunities elsewhere. We wish you our very best in directing, together with your Cabinet Colleagues, the destiny of our country, which is a daunting task, for the good of all of our country now and in the future. Once again, thank you very much, Excellency. I call on the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow afternoon

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I want to join you in expressing our gratitude for the message by the Head of State and to say that I have been informed by the Chairman of the National Council that the National Council has collected money for the floods and he was appealing that they do not want to do it alone, we should join the collection party, so that on Friday morning the Chairman of the National Council can give the donation to the people.

On that note, I move that we adjourn now and return here tomorrow at 14:30.

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

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:30 UNTIL 2011.04.28 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
28 APRIL 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we are still reminded to make our contributions to the flood victims in the north-west and north-east of our country. I was made to understand that our counterparts in the National Council have already made their contributions. Our voluntary contributions should be deposited with the Director in the Office of the Speaker. Tomorrow we will go into recess and that should be the deadline for contributions. A formal event will be arranged where the donations will be handed over to the Office of the Prime Minister in the presence of the Speaker and the Chairman of the National Council.

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

**TABLING: 2008/2009 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I lay upon the Table, Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice for the year 2008/2009.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Notice of Questions. Notice of Motions? Professor Katjavivi.

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**NOTICE OF MOTION
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: I move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 03, 11,12, 17, 20, 25 and 28 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. Ministerial Statements? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE:
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: 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 Tuesday, 26 April 2011, Votes 12, 17, 20

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and 25 had been introduced and Votes 01, 02, 04 to 10 to 16, 18 19, 21, 24, 25, 26 27, 29, 30 and 31 had been agreed to.

Vote 03 – “NATIONAL ASSEMBLY”, N\$129,788,047 is put for Introduction.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, I rise to motivate Vote 03.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, Commonwealth tradition, now also practiced by SADC and other African countries, offers some relevant best practices. Last year, the Commonwealth Speakers Conference held in New Delhi deliberated on the following topic: “*Speaker as a Mediator*”. As such, the reasoning went that the Speaker should stick to that role and once elected, leave Party politics altogether. The first part I agreed with, but not the second. The SWAPO Party and I are inseparable.

In any case, in Namibia we become Members of Parliament on the basis of the Proportional Representation Electoral System. Thus, to resign on account of becoming a Speaker, is a contradiction in terms. However, a point needs to be made here. Just as Speaker is not a participant in the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, he should not be required to introduce and motivate Vote 03, Vote 11 and Vote 28. My earlier remarks above have indicated the right way to handle the whole thing! It is an easy wrangle to resolve. That should be done before the next Budget. The Speaker must stay in his seat.

All that said and counting on mutual understanding, I am pleased to introduce the Budget for Vote 03 – National Assembly for the 2011/2012 Financial Year. The primary role of Parliament is lawmaking that will promote the well-being of the communities we are elected to represent.

Lawmakers are there to articulate the people’s needs, mitigate their anxieties and further their interests. We have a duty to turn those ideals and uncertainties into workable pieces of legislation for the sake of our fellow citizens whom we represent as political leaders and lawmakers.

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The Namibian people are looking up to us with great hopes and high expectations for us to live-up to the undertakings and promises made by all Political Parties during the election campaigns. The result of our promises must become outputs and services that make a difference in their everyday lives.

Our constitutional order, laws of the country, democratisation efforts and good faith service delivery must produce results. The citizens feel empowered and feel they are masters of their own destiny in unity and solidarity.

The Namibian Constitution enjoins the legislative power to the National Assembly for passing laws and arranging for the review of such laws by the National Council. The Budget process and debate on the annual Appropriation Bill in a democracy is one of the most important activities in our national life as Parliamentarians. Through this process, our Government informs the electorate through the elected representatives on the programmes and activities and also explains the utilisation of the country's resources. Our people need knowledge and opportunities for entrepreneurship and self-development.

The 2010/2011 Financial Year, saw the inauguration of the 5th Parliament. The overriding challenge was to capacitate the new Members on how to execute their new responsibilities as Members of Parliament. Six induction workshops were held by the respective Standing Committees on their specific oversight responsibilities. Mixing of the old and the new Members make the transition mutually rewarding. In addition to those initiatives, the Members attended various conferences, consultation initiatives and workshops at local, regional and international levels. Those encounters have usually helped in the past towards strengthening Members of Parliament understanding of Parliamentary democracy in all respects for Namibia and the wider world.

In line with its duties, the new Parliament considered twelve bills of which eight were passed without Amendments, one with Amendments, one reconsidered, one referred to a Standing Committee and so forth. Eleven Motions were tabled of which 8 were agreed to, one was referred to a

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Standing Committee one was withdrawn. Ninety-five Reports of the Auditor-General were tabled and one hundred and twenty-six Reports of the Auditor-General were referred to the National Council. One hundred and forty-two Reports were tabled for note-taking and discussion. Twenty-four questions were tabled and deliberated upon, while eight lapsed.

In relation to regional and international Parliamentary relationships, it is worth mentioning that our participation in SADC Parliamentary Forum, Pan-African Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Union, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the ACP-EU, has further been intensified and reported upon in the House. In this regard, Namibia successfully hosted the Regional Parliamentary Conference for Africa on Children's Rights and HIV/AIDS in collaboration with the IPU and UNICEF and also the 28th SADC PF Plenary Assembly in collaboration with the SADC Parliamentary Forum. The National Assembly hosted fifteen foreign delegations and visited four Namibian Missions abroad (Egypt, Tanzania, India and China).

As President of the IPU, I attended eleven conferences and meetings, the major one being the IPU World Conference of Speakers in July 2010. The august House should take note that as President of the IPU, the National Assembly and the IPU share the cost for my participation in these activities. The term of office as IPU President will end in October 2011. The endless activities of the IPU, the Commonwealth, the ACP and other multilateral engagements are routinely reported on in the House. The rest are easily accessible via the IPU website.

"Taking Parliament to the People" is an important pillar of outreach by Members. These platforms are used to interact with and to educate the citizenry on important legislation, including Bills and Motions. The Presiding Officers also use these platforms to familiarise themselves on matters of service delivery by the Executive as is their duty on behalf of the Parliamentary Standing Committees. Parliamentarians has also made regular use of trade exhibitions and visited numerous schools and tertiary educational institutions as per invitations.

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The work of the Parliamentary Standing Committees in a multi-party democracy cannot be over-emphasised. In non-partisan fashion, the Honourable Members continue to show involvement and dedication in the execution of their duties. In fulfilling their role as representatives of the people during the past year, the various Standing Committees conducted seventy-five Public Hearings/meetings and more than a thousand citizens participated and contributed in their discussions.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, one of the biggest challenges that the National Assembly has been facing is the provision of proper office accommodation for Members of Parliament and staff. We have embarked on renovating this old and cumbersome building. I have for a while now been reaching out and consulting political principals, key stakeholders, including financial institutions and state proprietors. The purpose was to get started with the preparations for the construction of a new Parliament Building in line with *Chapter 10: "Peace, Security and Political Stability"* of the Third National Development Plan. In this regard I am pleased to report that we are looking at the land behind (east side) the existing Parliament Building, measuring around fifteen hectares which already belongs to the Government. There may perhaps be other sites, but this one is ideal.

Honourable Members, the achievements of the National Assembly cannot really and accurately be measured in dollars and cents. However, the institution needs dollars and cents to carry out its activities and responsibilities as enshrined in the Namibian Constitution. It is against this background that the National Assembly requested an amount of N\$127,008,000 for the 2011/2012 Financial Year. This amount represents: N\$111,799,000 for the Operational Budget and N\$15,209,000 to be utilised for the continuing upgrading of the Parliament Building under the Development Budget. As can be noticed, the work is ongoing.

The National Assembly has two programmes, namely in the first place the Enhancement of Parliamentary Process which requires N\$42,144,000.

Under this programme, the following will be concentrated on:

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- Capacity-building through courses, workshops and seminars regarding “*Best Parliamentary Practices*”. To improve interpretation of Standing Rules and Orders, how Committees function and its powers for Members of the National Assembly. The services of resource persons will be needed.
- Strengthening and promotion of cooperation between national Parliaments and regional and community outreach programmes to raise awareness on e-governance and the role of Information Communication Technology in development and civic education.
- Ensure that the National Assembly meets its obligation towards regional and international organisations by not only paying its required subscriptions but to avail opportunities for Members to exchange ideas and experiences on parliamentary best practices.
- Enhance the procurement of goods and services, including the HANSARD, printing of Bills and production of Committee Minutes and Reports for the National Assembly in a fair and competitive process that will result in best value for money.
- Overseeing the recruitment of staff and training for staff to develop specific workplace skills in accordance with the Public Service Staff Rules.

The overall goal of the Consolidation of Democracy programme (N\$75,736,000) is to facilitate the work of Members when they consider questions of national interest and stability. This is primarily done by organising and coordinating all activities relating to the sittings of the National Assembly and its Standing Committees, and other special events. It involves making sure that Members are well informed of the work calendar of the National Assembly and facilitating their participation in the specific events, ensuring implementation and follow-up on resolutions, assisting in the preparation of topical reports, and keeping alive the institutional memory of the National Assembly. The main activities are as follows:

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- Consolidation of Parliamentary democracy by undertaking familiarisation visits to the regions to interact with the traditional leaders, business people and civil society on the democratic and legislative structures and to facilitate interaction and feedback between the National Assembly and the public.
- Provision of professional services, such as legal and research for scrutinising Bills submitted to the National Assembly for tabling and summarising complex and lengthy Bills referred to Parliamentary Committees.
- Facilitating deliberations and decision-making on financial issues and ensuring effective financial management including planning, reporting and internal control for the National Assembly.
- Ensuring effective human resource management policies to secure the highest standard of efficiency, competency and integrity in the Secretariat, increasing employee productivity and contributing to the long-term career development of the National Assembly staff.
- Maintenance of the Parliament Building and grounds and managing the use of the conference facilities.
- The provision of funding for Political Parties to improve the democratic process.

Finally, I am happy to report that this year we plan to hold the Third Children's Parliament during the first week of May. The primary objective is to expose today's children for tomorrow's world leadership. Learning is a continuous process and it is imperative that we should harness, nurture, support and develop it. Resources would be required to realise this objective.

Before I conclude, allow me to add to what I have already said as follows: This indicative bullet point serves the purpose of identifying intended areas of activity for the new Financial Year and beyond. First, as stressed in the Budget speech of Vote 03 – the National Assembly, the National

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Assembly Building will take a few years and has become urgent. The National Development Plan 3 has already incorporated the plan in 2008.

Secondly, Agenda for Change needs to be reactivated for inclusive appreciation by all the parties concerned. This has become necessary for the reorientation and planning that will require costing and proper coordination.

The Standing Committee on Privileges met twice to take action on streamlining the qualification of members of the Namibia Electoral Commission and also to revisit the requirement of disclosure form themselves.

The time has come to review the Standing Rules and Orders of the National Assembly. The world is in a flux considering the ever-changing political, economic, social and telecommunication challenges.

The review envisaged above must also include two other related matters. One is Parliament's own Standing Committee on the Budget and the status and entitlement of the Office of the Government Chief Whip.

We need not to be reinventing the wheel here, all we need to do is to copy and domesticate relevant aspects for our own situation.

In conclusion Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I urge you kindly to approve the request for Vote 3: National Assembly for the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

I thank you.

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

Vote 11 – “NATIONAL COUNCIL”, N\$54,527,921 is put for Introduction.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I have the distinct honour and privilege to motivate before this august House Vote 11 of the National Council for the 2011/2012 Financial Year. The National Council requests approval of a N\$51,285,000 Budget to cover its operational and developmental expenses for the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

All National Council activities are guided by Article 74 of the Namibian Constitution which mandates the National Council to investigate and report to this august House any subordinate legislation, reports and documents referred to it by the National Assembly. In addition the National Council is mandated to recommend legislation on matters of regional concern for consideration by the National Assembly.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to highlight some of the main activities that the National Council has undertaken during the 2010/2011 Financial Year. This is in line with the National Council's two well-known programmes, namely:

1. *"Enhancing Public Participation in the Lawmaking Process"* and
2. *"Strengthening the Review and Oversight Function of the National Council."*

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, public participation in the lawmaking process is critical to any established or emerging democracy as it enables the legislature to build partnership with the public and the various role players to whom the lawmakers are accountable. Similarly, civic education programmes have played a crucial role in enhancing this partnership by educating the public on the functions of the National Council and Parliament. During the previous Financial Year the National Council undertook civic education programmes to selected schools and local trade fairs to promote public participation in the legislative process.

Activities under these undertakings involve mainly the development and distribution of information materials to raise public awareness on the role of the National Council and Parliament. Activities are therefore geared

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towards encouraging the citizens' active participation in legislation. In this regard, the National Council has produced a corporate video profiling the core functions of National Council Parliamentarians and the Secretariat. The main objective is to expose the functions and mandate of the National Council and thus promote greater public participation in lawmaking. The video concerned will be shown at outreach programmes and civic education events.

Raising awareness and promoting the role and functions of the National Council will always feature as a continuous activity and therefore the National Council is requesting an amount of N\$274,000.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, to enhance public participation, the Presiding Officers will continue to conduct outreach programmes to Regions as stipulated in the National Council Strategic Plan to strengthen the interaction between the National Council and the public. For these ongoing activities the National Council is requesting an allocation of N\$340,000.

The right to information is a basic human right. For example, Article 21 of the Convention on the Rights of People Living with Disabilities advocates for access to information by people living with disabilities in appropriate format. This can be done successfully by ensuring that Parliamentary Debates and Committee Reports are translated and interpreted in Braille and sign language. As previously reported, the HANSARD is already being printed in Braille. Plans are underway to print other National Council publications in indigenous languages with a view to making them accessible to a larger section of our population. The National Council is requesting an amount of N\$100,000 in this regard.

It should be emphasised that the media, being the forth pillar of our democracy, plays a pivotal role in acquainting citizens with Parliament's core functions of representation, legislation, oversight and advocacy. These are continuous activities which will go a long way in enhancing citizens' understanding of our lawmaking process. An amount of N\$278,000 is required to fund these oversight activities.

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During the last Financial Year the National Council has started upgrading its Chamber to make it accessible for people living with disabilities. This activity has been carried over as the actual installation of the lift will only be completed this Financial Year due to technical reasons. In addition, the National Council intends to conduct a feasibility study on the possibility of expanding the administration building to create space for additional offices. We request an amount of N\$134,000 in this regard.

The National Council is requesting for an amount of N\$15,412,00 for administration and overhead costs under this programme.

In total, the National council is requesting a total amount of N\$16,538,000 to fund activities under Programme One during the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

Programme 2 is about strengthening the review and oversight function of the National Council

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, there is a great need to enhance our effectiveness in lawmaking, scrutiny of proposed legislation and encourage public input into the legislative process.

For this reason, Public Hearings remain important avenues for soliciting public opinions and inputs into Bills and issues of concern.

During the 2010/2011 Financial Year, fourteen Bills were referred to the National Council for review. Among them was the Banking Institutions Amendment Bill which the Standing Committee on Constitution and Legal Affairs had referred to a Public Hearing. It was consequently passed with Amendments after thorough consideration of the various submissions received from the public. Eight Motions were moved and considered in the House, some were vehemently debated.

The Standing Committee on Habitat undertook an investigative visit to the Caprivi Region to assess the damage caused by floods and the living conditions of the people affected. In addition, the Women Caucus undertook an outreach programme to some Regions to encourage women

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to stand for election as well as to meet various communities to discuss issues pertaining to human trafficking, shelter for women, education and unemployment. Similarly Committees have planned similar participatory activities, and hence request an amount of N\$3,613,000.

In the previous motivation before this House, I indicated that the National Council had embarked upon digitalisation through the utilisation of various modern technologies. This is one of the continuous initiatives for which the National Council is requesting an allocation of N\$330,000.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, Members of Parliament need the provision of objective, factual, and timely information if they were to make informed decisions. As a result, the Secretariat will continue to provide them with research information through the acquisition of selected reference materials. Again, this activity is continuous and an amount of N\$257,000 is requested.

The importance of well-trained Parliamentarians and the staff component cannot be ignored in any Parliamentary setup. During the last Financial Year, Members of the National Council and staff attended various training courses in line with the Strategic Plan in order to build their legislative capacities. The National Council will, therefore, continue to embark upon capacity building exercises, especially aimed at training the new Members of Parliament of the National Council in topics pertaining to parliamentary processes and procedures. To achieve this objective, an amount of N\$1,982,000 is requested.

Attachments to sister Parliaments on benchmark studies over the past years have proven to be one of the best ways to train Parliamentarians and staff. This platform has accorded Parliamentarians and staff the opportunity to share knowledge and learn from their counterparts' experiences. During the previous Financial Year, some Standing Committees undertook benchmark studies to the Prince Edward Island Legislative Assembly of Canada, the Parliament of Zambia, and the National Council of Provinces of South Africa.

The Chairman of the National Council made a reciprocal visit to the

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National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in August 2010. The House may recall that the Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference also visited Namibia in March 2010. The purpose of the two visits was to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two legislatures as well as to share experiences and learn from each others' Parliamentary processes. Benchmark studies will be maintained as they benefit Members and the Secretariat substantially. An amount of N\$3,211,000 is requested in order to maintain these interactions.

Employees' wellness programmes have become an integral part of many modern Parliaments. The National Council drafted a Wellness Programme to cater for both Members and staff. The workplace Committee on HIV and AIDS will continue to carry out its awareness creation activities among Members and the Secretariat. For this, the National Council is requesting N\$190,000 to continue with this health-ensuring campaign.

The National Council's membership to regional and international Parliamentary bodies has been the major source of its Parliamentary exposure. The National Council remains committed to pursuing its beneficial membership which has enriched it in terms of experience sharing, learning new ideas and benchmarking. Additionally, the presence of National Council Members of Parliament of the National Council on the executive platforms of these bodies is testimony to the valuable contribution that the House of Review is making and thus fitting recognition. An amount of N\$4,493,000 is requested to cater for this commitment.

In the previous motivation, the National Council reported that it has completed drafting the revised Standing Rules and Orders, the Witness Guide and the Tools on Oversight. The National Council now request an amount of N\$78,000 to have these important documents printed.

The acquisition of an information communication technology (ICT) facility, were partially acquired. Further acquisition to achieve maximum

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benefit from the utilisation will still continue. However, acquiring this facility still remains a priority for which the National Council is requesting an allocation of N\$451,000.

The National Council further requests N\$20,142,000 for administration and overhead costs under this programme. In total the cost for Programme Two amounts to N\$34,747,000 during the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I request this august House to approve the National Council's total budget of N\$51,285,000 to fund its operational and developmental expenses during the 2011/2012 Financial Year. I thank you for your support and attention.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you.

Vote 28 – “ELECTORAL COMMISSION”, N\$113,465,773 is put for Introduction.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the Budget for Vote 28, Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) for the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

I am pleased to note that the ECN had in the past year successfully conducted a nationwide supplementary registration of voters as well as the Regional Councils and Local Authority elections.

The ECN is continuously making efforts to enhance cost effectiveness and operational efficiency through the training of staff members with specific emphasis on competency, professionalism, accountability and transparency. Due to the financial constraints and the austerity measures being implemented by Government, the Electoral Commission has

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submitted a rather conservative Budget to take it through its planned activities for the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

A total amount of N\$112,911,000 is being requested for consideration and approval by Parliament.

The ECN has two programmes under its Budget, namely Holding of Elections and Voter Education. The breakdown of the two programmes of the Electoral Commission is as follows:

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

An amount of N\$4,190,000 is earmarked for by-elections in the event of the resignation or death of a member of a Regional Council. In terms of the law, such vacancy should be filled within 90 days of occurrence. A supplementary registration of voters is held prior to the election process in which a new candidate in that particular Constituency is elected for the unexpired period of the remainder of the five years period.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson in terms of the Electoral Act 1992, continuous registration of voters should be carried out to include persons who have turned 18, changed their names and/or addresses due to relocation from one constituency/Region to another on the national voter's register. This is done by engaging persons in every constituency of a Region to issue any voter with a new or revised (duplicate) voter's registration card on the presentation of the required documentation and after verification (in case of change of address/name) of such documentation. An amount of N\$1,912,000 has been allocated for this activity.

The ECN was able to conduct the Continuous Voters Registration (CVR) exercise in the Ohangwena and Oshana Regions between the 5th of May

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2009 and the 5th of June 2009. Continuous voter's registration was conducted in the other 11 Regions during the previous Financial Year.

An amount of N\$8,496,000 is being requested for the supplementary registration of voters as provided for under Section 28 of Electoral Act, Act 24 of 1992 as amended. The supplementary registration of voters is carried out to include persons who turned eighteen years of age and also target at giving opportunities to persons who have changed addresses to register as voters in their new constituencies of residence. It is evident from the supplementary voters registration conducted prior to the last elections that many eligible Namibians still remained unregistered as voters for several reasons, for example lack of relevant documentation and access.

The cleaning and verification of the voter's register is a priority for the ECN as the voters' register is at the heart of each and every election. An amount of N\$1,192,000 has been allocated in order to, amongst others, things ensure that both National and Local Authorities Voters registers are clean of "*ghost voters*" by removing the names of the deceased, those who has taken up citizenship of other countries; continuously improve the voters register including but not limited to the use of electronic voters register at polling stations and continuously improve the functionality of the electronic voters register to provide all necessary electoral data. All necessary efforts will be put in place to ensure that a credible voter's register is maintained.

An amount of N\$940,000 has been earmarked for the computerization of the ECN logistics. The implementation of a computerized system for the ECN Logistic stores would not only put the ECN in a position where it can keep track of all election material, but would also give an indication as to when and which items need replacement. Ongoing training of staff members is a priority and maintenance and update of the system ensures optimum performance and utilisation of such system to the benefit of the institution.

An amount of N\$2,250,000 has been allocated for construction of the ECN Head Quarters as payment of the retention.

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

Hence, data compilation, verification and production are obtained from various electoral sources. Apart from general and global electoral information, these include votes cast per polling station, gender participation on polling day, analysis and review of the electoral data before and after elections in relation to planning and organisation and personnel, public opinion. In order to keep pace with current developments, the ECN shall continue to review and improve the Electoral law and practice by engaging legal and other experts. In order to achieve this objective, an amount of N\$436,000 has been allocated to Research, Human Resources and Infrastructure Development.

Legal actions in respect of electoral disputes or against electoral management bodies are commonplace and a fresh election or recount of votes may be the result of such legal actions. The ECN has faced post-election legal challenges arising from electoral disputes observed during past elections.

There is absolutely no guarantee that the ECN would not encounter such challenges in the future. In the light of the above, and in order to cater for such unforeseen eventualities, an amount of N\$980,000 has been allocated for legal challenges.

An amount of N\$559,000 has been allocated for a mock election.

An amount of **N\$41 265 000** has been allocated for an Electronic Voting Machine and Registration Kit. The newly enacted Electoral Amendment Act provides for the use of Electronic Voting Machines by the ECN. In light of this the ECN is to purchase the

Electronic Voting Machines into two phases. The Commission has also

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started with preliminary preparatory work for next General Voters Registration process. Similarly the Commission, after consultation with stakeholders, has resolved to introduce a mobile electronic registration of voter's kit to be used for data capturing during voters registration. The most important motivation and justification for the use of an electronic system of voter's registration is efficiency, speed and accuracy of data. The Commission is confident that the introduction of an electronic system of voters' registration will go a long way in perfecting the voters register which is always a contentious issue before every election and often the reason for court cases.

After any electoral event, be it registration or an election, the ECN Logistic stores need intensive reorganisation. Prior and after an event materials are being dispatched and received (in bulk) from various Regions and constituencies in a very short space of time. After the activity is over, proper reconciliation and stocktaking of items take place in order to ensure that all materials sent out have been received back. This is a time consuming and tedious process and invariably involves considerable human resources therefore, an amount of N\$800,000 is required.

An amount of N\$22,955,000 has been allocated to ensure the smooth running of the day by day activities of the Electoral Commission of Namibia.

An amount of N\$23,982,000 has been allocated for Voter Education. The purpose of conducting Voter Education and sharing of voter information is to increase citizens' level of understanding of electoral processes and ensure participation in these processes. The Voter Education function is thus geared towards increasing voters understanding of electoral processes and eradicates voter apathy. Voter Education is further imperative in order to increase participation of eligible voters in the election processes. The conducting of countrywide Voter Education is in line with the SADC election requirements to which Namibia also subscribes.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, this presentation makes a case for the activities and programmes that the ECN wishes to undertake this year, I

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now wish to entreat this august House to approve the budget for the Electoral Commission of Namibia for the 2011/2012 Financial Year. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. That brings us to the conclusion of the Introduction of the three Votes.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:50
HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:20 PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: **Vote 12 – “GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE”** is put for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I rise to support the Vote and I also to thank my sister for the motivation. May I just offer a word advice, and this I have been doing since this Ministry was created. They must really consider a joint workshop for men and women as the meaning of this Ministry has changed to gender equality as opposed to women affairs and we as men feel that we are being discriminated against by the Ministry as we are not involved. Even when they are talking they only refer to girl-child and forget about the boy-child. Therefore, I hope next time we will be involved because it is also our Ministry. With these few remarks, I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You are right, the Ministry is known as Gender Equality, therefore it is inclusive and your point is well taken. Honourable Tjongarero.

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HON A TJONGARERO: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote and looking at the last two bullets in the motivation, I just want to know from the Minister whether there is anything in the pipeline where we as Namibians can manufacture our own uniforms. Last year we had an intake of 54,000 Grade 1 learners and all those summer, winter and sport uniforms were imported. All our uniforms for our health workers and Police are imported, as is the linen for our health institutions. If we could send some of our youth to be trained in making shoes for those uniforms, we will be able to create some employment. Thank you very much, I support the Vote.

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

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would just like to add my voice to support Vote 12 and allow me to thank the Minister for the well-motivated Budget.

Honourable Minister, we have signed the Protocol on Gender and Development, however I do not know whether we have already ratified this or not and if not, what is hampering the process for the Protocol to be tabled in the House for ratification? I wonder whether this has not perhaps contributed to the drop in women representation in Parliament from thirty to twenty-six.

On page 4 it is mentioned that we are aiming at 50% representation by 2015 and I would like to find out whether there is anything in the National Gender Policy that would gear us towards the attainment of our target.

I am very much appreciative of the holistic approach by the Ministry to redress gender issues; however I would like to suggest that it be intensified to bring everybody on board. It is required of all of us to redouble our efforts and go the extra mile to ensure that our country

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becomes a model country with regard to gender issues. Thank you very much, I support the Vote.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My point has already been touched upon by Honourable Dr Kawana, because the second sentence under Programme 2 does not sound well as it only refers to the improvement of women and girls. However, many of us also need to be improved taking into account the system in which we grew up and our cultures. Thank you very much.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to make a few comments on this Vote. Honourable Minister, I understand that the objective of the Directorate of Gender Equality is to improve the status of women and girls, to promote positive cultural practices and beliefs and to facilitate development of gender responsive policies. Now my question is: How far have you gone on this and what are the positive and tangible results?

On page 15, I see that we have a law in place, the Combating of Rape (Act 4 of 2003), Act 8 of 2000 and it continues. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Order. Could the Honourable Member ask questions rather than reading from the statement that we have already heard?

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HON TJIHUIKO: I thought that at this stage of the Debate we should concentrate on the Minister's statement. I know that the Honourable Member was at one of the supermarkets in Pioneers Park, trying to see whether the owner is discriminating when the people are entering or leaving. I am not blaming him.

Honourable Minister, my point is that we can have one thousand and one good laws on paper, we can talk about them, but as long as those laws are not implemented, we are not going to address the issue of violence against women in future. We need to put in place mechanisms that would prevent these acts from taking place. It seems your Ministry is good at organising workshops and good at making statements, but we want to see practical activities by your Ministry. I want to see you reviewing laws which do not meet the requirements, coming up with new innovative ways to implement these laws. We have seen you too many times on television; and it is enough, we know all your dresses, but we want to see practical activities, Honourable Minister. That is not good enough. I withdraw what I said about the dresses.

In conclusion, Honourable Minister, let us see practical activities, especially on the implementation of the laws passed by Parliament. If you need help, bring them back to Parliament so that we can improve on them. With that positive advice, I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I thank you for the Floor. I just want to ask a few questions. I thank the Minister for introducing the people's Vote which caters for everybody – men, women and children.

Violence against women and children is a thorn in the flesh of all of us and maybe it is time that the Minister considers calling a meeting of all of

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us, men and women, to discuss the issue of violence against women and children. I know that women also make themselves guilty of this, but in the majority of cases it is the men folk who are doing this and it would be good if we call a meeting to discuss violence against women and children.

We have democracy in this country, however sometimes democracy can disappoints one. We have signed the SADC Protocol and 50/50 representation and I am happy that you are working hard on this issue. What can we do for us to reach the 50% women representation? Do you not think it is time that we look at the quota system being used in the Local Authorities? I thank you and I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chair. We have had conferences and workshops on violence against women, children and men at Safari Hotel and all over. The people who attended are not the ones involved in this and we are speaking to ourselves. Is there no way we can divide the townships into twenty or thirty streets and address the people in the squatter areas, in the riverbeds and cover each house? When these conferences are advertised, it is only us who attend, but the actual people who actually beat their wives, those people who drink *tombo* are the ones involved. Is there no way we can go down to the roots? (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question? Most of the instances of woman bashing and killing are done by people with guns and these people with guns do not sleep in riverbeds. Therefore, to attribute violence against women to people who sleep in riverbeds is not quite fair.

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HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Honourable Prime Minister, what I mean is that we should cover all strata of the population rather than just addressing one layer in the Safari Hotel and workshops. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: On a Point of Information. In one of our newspapers of today it is reported that some of the African countries in their meetings agree that it is good that women should be beaten. I am referring to Uganda and the majority in their Parliament are women. The most violent men are those who are well-off. They are threatening the women today in their houses quietly and silently.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I think Honourable Ekandjo was right when he said we should go for relentless efforts targeting all members of our various communities. We cannot say this community is better than the other; we simply do not have that luxury. Every effort must be made and I am sure the Minister is very aware of this.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: We must address all, in the Safari Hotels, in the riverbeds, under the bridges at Wernhil. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Minister a question? Honourable Minister, are you aware of the fact that in some of our cultures women feel that if they are beaten they are loved?

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: We should have a

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National campaign involving every person, not only the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Order. It is very disappointing indeed when Members of Parliament, senior citizens and leaders, raise irrelevant issues when we have a debate on women. How do we expect the people whom we are leading to behave? What kind of human being is that who wants his or her body to be violated? Even if that story is known by ordinary people, let us not raise it here. This is an Honourable House; we cannot raise such low level issues.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Comrade Chairperson, I want us to involve all people. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: I am rising on a Point of Order, trying to seek guidance. When Honourable Kaura made an intervention when Honourable Ithana was speaking, he said “sweetheart” and that is unparliamentary. I think for the sake of HANSARD he has to withdraw that. (Interjections).

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Kaura, I am sure you agree that might have been misdirected. Would you take it back?

HON KAURA: The Honourable Member is jealous. (Laughter). Therefore, I withdraw the “sweetheart”, sweetheart.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I would like to rule at this point, I do not think we are

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adding value to the Debate. If you do not desist, I will call on the Minister to respond because we have so much business.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me thank those who have contributed to this Vote, the people's Vote. Obviously, I needed many more of them to give me advice and assistance on how to improve.

Comrade Kawana, I appreciate your advice to call workshops for women and men, but I would like to refer you to pages 14 and 15 where I mention the number of men we have invited to our workshops. Even last year I came up with statistics when we had the Sixteen Days of Activism. We always invite men, but I know why Dr Kawana is saying so because the President once attended the Conference of Spain and African Women which put the condition that since we are preparing ourselves, we have to call on women first to sensitise them. The men were not there and even the President questioned it. If we want to build the country we should call upon the men in the Regions and not only those in Windhoek, especially on the Sixteen Days of Activism. However, if you compare the numbers, the men are fewer although they are being called upon to attend. Gender does not mean that it is only women.

Honourable Agnes Tjongarero wanted to know if there is anything in the pipeline to manufacture uniforms. This is a good suggestion and we may think along the lines of giving this project to men and women who are receiving funds from the Ministry of Gender as the input would not be cheap or this could be referred to the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Honourable Ncube, we did ratify the Protocol in 2009 before I became the Minister of Gender. It was tabled by the former Minister, Comrade Mungunda, and it was discussed and ratified here. Maybe I could refer you to the HANSARD, Volume 122.

Your other question was on how we involve others in this 50/50 representation and it reminded me of something which is very important.

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I wrote three letters to all five Political Parties that we amend the Electoral law and there was no response. I reported back to the President that even my Party is not responding. If your Personal Assistants or Secretaries are not giving you the letters, it is not my fault, I wrote three letters on three occasions. I would like to warn especially the two parties that you only consider men to be here with your beards while the women are the ones supporting you. Why do you not allow the women who are voters to take positions here? I am not going to allow that. I wrote three letter, where are my answers, except for the RDP who was not here?

I went to the President and the President gave me another direction. I want to amend this law; we are sick and tired of seeing men here. The DTA are only two men here, last time they were four men, where are the women? NUDO were three last time, now they are two men. I know you are just paying lip-service, but one day when you want to become President of this country I will call upon all women to vote against you. I will make sure that women vote for any woman who stands for President, because that is when we will have women in these high positions. For now you are only cheating on women. Very soon I will again send a letter to the RDP and I know Agnes will ensure that they respond to my letter. Let us amend the Electoral law, it should be a must that you include women in your list, not only seeing men around here.

You have also mentioned the involvement of those with disabilities. This law is the only law which can assist us, because you are not going to be approved by the Electoral Commission if you do not include women in your list. This is the only way we can do it, or else we have to come up with another law, which I am already planning.

Honourable Uutoni, it is true what you were saying, but really, to be at par on men is a long journey. The majority in this House are men and the women were double colonised by the colonial masters and our husbands who did not allow us to leave the kitchen and stand for any position. Can you tell me who the first lady to be a Member of Parliament in 1975 was? Our masters colonised us as women and you were empowered, Colleagues, therefore empower others to be in power with you. We are human beings; there is no difference between us.

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Let me first come to *Honourable Haingura* before I deal with Honourable Tjihiuko. We call on both men and women in all the Regions and I have statistics, the men being called are in the minority. When the Prime Minister opened the Sixteen Days of Activism only a few men attended.

Comrade Jerry Ekandjo, your advice is also good, but the Prime Minister answered your question.

Let me come to *Honourable Tjihiuko*. Honourable Tjihiuko, I do respect men because of your wives and I need the same respect because of my husband. He is the one who dresses me and you do not question how my husband dresses me. He never paid *lobola* at all, so it is for him to spoil me. I am not showing off on television with my dress, I am serving the Namibian people. I am a Christian, I was baptized, I do not show off.

Gender-based violence is not an issue for the Ministry alone, it concerns everybody and everybody should be involved. You are sleeping with your wife and a gun would come from the safe to shoot the wife. Is it not you men who are doing it? Is it true that a gun can jump from the safe to come and shoot somebody? I will suspect that you are the one who organised it somehow. You people are supporting the criminals, advising them how to win their cases, but a dead body cannot defend itself, the gun came from the safe.

Therefore, Colleagues, I call upon you that we work together to fight gender-based violence. We have to fight this war together, not only Doreen, because Doreen is not in everybody's bedroom, not in the riverbeds. I also have the same two eyes, two ears and mouth that you have, I am not different from you. Brothers and sisters, I told you last time that I have three bulls that when they fight, they fight amongst themselves, but they never fight cows. That means some men are not like bulls, some men are beasts because you have to come to your wife whom you sleep with. I can get annoyed with this because you people are making jokes. The other time the President said the women are not raped by snakes, but they are raped by their own sons. These are our own children who are raping us; it is our children who are killing us. The

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President said it and there is no way we can run away from it. Therefore, all of us should fight against this gender-based violence. If there are children in the riverbeds, let us bring these children so that they understand. As I talking now they do not hear, but the majority of violence also happens in the homes. That is why I am inviting everybody to advise me on what I should do and not to remark on my dress. I am not showing off, I do not need a television. I thank you.

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

Vote 20 – “AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY” is put for Discussion.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My question is based on the allocation for new programmes in the 2011/2012 Financial Year, namely Integrated Water Resources Management. An integrated approach to water resources management requires that all sectors measure impacts on water resources, including its allocation and development, be involved in consultation and decision-making regarding the management of the water resources. My question to you, Comrade Minister, is: Do you experience any problems in our Regions with regard to the lack of involvement of other sectors in the Integrated Water Resources Management? If yes, which sectors are not involved in consultation and decision-making regarding management?

Secondly, with regard to capacity-building in an area such as water management, my question is related to establishment of Water Committees, if any, in the Regions in order to maintain infrastructure, farming practices and efficient water use.

Thirdly, I am happy that you mentioned earth dams with a view to harvest rainwater. This is a very good approach, but the biggest problem we are facing right now is that we are experiencing a problem with regard to the

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water in the north-east and north-west of our country. Maybe you can give us advice because this problem may continue for many years to come. What do you think could be done in the long-run to solve this problem? I know natural disasters are unexpected events, unwanted events, but we need to do something as a country. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. I know the Minister is quite capable to answer the question, but all of us have been asking what needs to be done and I want to contribute partly to that one. I feel the Namibian entrepreneurs need to turn this problem into an opportunity. Companies must team up with Government and even with other countries that are managing water.

HON DR AMWEELO: My question is more based on the long-run, twenty years of facing this situation of floods. Honourable Minister, the other day we mentioned that the Government should do a feasibility study to see how we are going to divert this water. Is there a possibility that canals or pipes could divert this water to huge earth dams with feeder dams in the desert? That is one alternative and maybe you can advise whether this will solve this problem in the long-run.

The earth dams in our Regions are now under water. The Government tried to relocate people from the low-lying areas to higher ground, but where they are now there is also water. What would you advise with regard to this problem in the long-run? Otherwise, I support Vote 20 and I thank you very much.

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

HON KAURA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chair. In this technical paper in support of the motivation by the Honourable Minister, I see on

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page 3 that the Ministry has allocated tractors to various Regions, for example, seven to Caprivi, eight to Kavango, ten to Ohangwena, six to Oshikoto, six to Oshana, five to Omusati and two to the Kunene Region. Honourable Muharukua, the Kunene Region stretched from Outjo all the way to Torra Bay. Do you see what the Minister did? For the whole Kunene Region, only two tractors.

Honourable Minister, I really think this will upset Honourable Muharukua very much.

Honourable Minister, I am happy to hear that at least beef from the northern communal areas is going directly to South Africa and also to Angola and the DRC, but I have another question on cattle going on-the-hoof to the DRC. A levy has recently been implemented to assist the northern communal areas on each livestock which is sold south of the redline, to assist the farmers north of the redline. In view of the fact that farmers north of the redline are in a position to send their meat to South Africa, just as we do here south of the redline, why the levy, what are we subsidising? If they are in a position to send their cattle to Angola and to the DRC, what is the reason for the levy? Why should we continue to subsidise them when we sell our livestock?

Honourable Minister, you were saying that 437 staff members were exposed to short service training courses covering genetically modified organisms. I remember that this issue of genetically modified organisms came to Parliament, but I do not remember us having accepted genetically modified organisms. Are they accepted here in Namibia or not? When we discussed that in Parliament, I thought it was not accepted.

You mentioned in bullet 1.4.3 that cattle are going on-the-hoof to the DRC. The reason why we were prevented from exporting cattle on-the-hoof to South Africa, with the exception of weaners, was that they had to be slaughter locally to add value, but now cattle are exported on-the-hoof to the DRC. Why do we have this dualism, where in one section cattle going on-the-hoof to Angola and DRC, but in the other section they are not going on-the-hoof to South Africa? Those are the few questions I had, thank you very much.

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

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 20 as a crop producer in a communal area.

Comrade Minister, you are doing fine on crop production and horticultural development, but I think your efforts must be intensified. The tractor services in communal areas have not improved the livelihood of the people. It is either that those who are responsible to arrange the service to the communities is ill-prepared to deliver the service or the instructions are not quite clear. It is unfortunate that during the last season not much was done to help the communal farmers in this regard and next time the tractor service should start as soon as the rainy season begins. These tractors have for a long period just been parked at their stations and people were becoming restless. The rain was pouring, the tractors were just there, people were waiting for instructions from Windhoek and when the instructions came, it was almost too late. We need to improve on that.

Secondly, I want to move to my favourite topic, the donkeys. Donkeys are very useful, but Comrade Chairperson, I am not being given to explain my point of view with respect to donkeys. Donkeys are very useful, but I think our communities do not understand the purpose and the usefulness of a donkey. A donkey must be treated as livestock so that when they are roaming around, people should know whose donkeys are those. They must be tagged; they must have owners at all times. Donkeys have become a danger on the roads. (Intervention)

HON NEHOVA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Can donkeys be a source of meat? Are donkeys edible?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Member, donkeys are edible in Namibia, but we have not planned anything for donkeys other

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than just to abuse them. I speak from the point of view of somebody who comes from North and during the rainy seasons the donkeys have sores all over their bodies, they have been abused. Then immediately after the ploughing season are over, these donkeys are left in the Oshana's and they sleep on the tar road. Why is it that we cannot require owners of donkeys to treat them the way they are treating their cattle?

I am going to do research and provide this House with the number of people who have lost their lives on account of donkeys. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Minister, this issue of donkeys is interesting. As we grew up in our communal areas, even in the Okakarara area, there were periods when the people from the North would come and buy donkeys and take them to the North and now they have multiplied to the extent that they have become a plague. At one point a butchery for donkey meat was opened in Gobabis. Seeing that donkeys can cross the Cordon Fence, why does somebody not buy them back and sell them as donkey meat in Gobabis?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: This is precisely the issue I was going to address when Honourable Kandy Nehova posed the question. I am saying in certain parts of Namibia people eat donkey meat, but in the North donkeys are only used as draught animals whenever people need them. When they do not need them, they let them loose. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I should declare my interest as I am a donkey owner. Honourable Minister of Justice, would you propose that there should be a referendum on donkeys so that the people can talk?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Before you go for a referendum we can move a Motion here and just discuss donkeys, because I am not against people who keep donkeys, but I want people to keep donkeys in a

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manner that is useful to those who consume it and useful to the owners to whom they provide labour. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Honourable Minister of Justice just a small question? Honourable Minister, I do not know whether you are aware of the fact that when donkeys become too many, especially in areas where grazing is scarce, they remove the grass with roots and all. Do you not think that in the northern area it would be a good for somebody to start reducing the number of donkeys in the area?

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I do not want to join the Debate on donkeys, but I think the Honourable Member has made a very strong point about the idea of doing a study. Could we for now keep that as something the Honourable Member will undertake and continue with the subject matter before us? The point has been sufficiently made.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I support the Vote.

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

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, the Minister mentioned statement the sale of wood in his, which I feel should be left to the poor communities to generate income and not for the State to interfere and arrest the people who are trying to survive. I also want to say that the price of mahangu is too low as one has a tough time to produce mahangu and if possible, the price of mahangu should be reviewed. It seems the Government allows companies to import mahangu from India while it is locally produced. Please, the price should be reviewed.

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I would also like to know whether the Minister is aware that goats and even chickens are dying like flies in Omusati. Could the Ministry intervene before it is too late, otherwise the disease will get out of control and wipe out all the animals, leaving the community without any livestock? I support the Vote.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have two questions. Honourable Minister, I am quite happy with your report and in your submission you have mentioned a number of very important issues that the Ministry wants to do and what the Ministry has already done, but on page 3 the issue of water is mentioned and I remember last year or a few years ago we undertook a trip to Omaheke and Oshikoto where we were looking at the issue of water bills and the scarcity of water. This year we are facing a situation of too much water and my question is whether the Ministry has any idea what to do with the current floodwaters that are threatening the communities? Do you have any ideas to turn the challenges into opportunities?

Coming back to the water debts, I know that this issue was raised with His Excellency yesterday and I remember that a Committee has done a study. They went out, collected information and a Report was supposed to be tabled in Parliament as a result of Honourable Venaani's Motion. I want to know from the Minister whether he got a copy of that Report. Is the Report still coming to Parliament to be discussed and where are we on that Report because money has been spent. Thank you very much.

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

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HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 20 and wish to refer to cooperative regulation, development and promotion services. Honourable Minister, I really appreciate this one, but I think there should be intensification of promoting awareness of cooperatives and also to have targeted interventions in this regard. I am saying this in line with what you have said about livestock production and management, especially the issue of sheep and karakul and this also applies to crop production.

If cooperatives are well-coordinated and well-promoted, it could empower the people of the South and revitalise the production of sheep, especially karakul and then we link them with the international market. This would lead to the improvement of the standard of living of our people. Sometimes we talk about these things and only few people with information and capabilities pick up on this while the whole community who could benefit from this are not in the know. (Intervention)

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: On a Point of Information. What Honourable Kazenambo is saying is very correct, but the international animal rights groups target the slaughtering of these small animals and that is why the prices are fluctuating. The Karakul Industry is very dependent on the sale of those small pelts, but they are targeted by international animal rights group who are against the methods of slaughtering these small animals.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: In our development efforts we will be challenged on everything. Even mining exploitation will be challenged, but be that as it may, I mentioned both crop and livestock production. The north-east of the country is the bread basket and we are talking about unemployment, therefore let us call upon our Traditional Leaders, through the Ministry of Agriculture, to popularise cooperatives. Mobilise the youth, mobilise men and women, rather than Kazenambo fencing off 2,000 hectares in a

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communal area which then also becomes unproductive. This should be designed in such a way that communities are mobilised into cooperatives.

The Karas Region is conducive for sheep production, Omaheke and Otjozondjupa Regions are for cattle and the majority of the youth there can be mobilised in cooperatives, thereby creating many jobs. In the communal areas in the North and the South the youngsters are idle, but because they are on their own, there is no way they can produce something. This can be done if they are mobilised into cooperatives.

When my Secretary-General was talking I realised that our problem is that we do not allow each other to be heard. Even if the person is making a brilliant point, we do not hear one another out. She was talking on the issue of tractors and Honourable Minister; we are honestly facing a problem. Sometimes the Colleagues, because they know that they do not come here to defend this issue, they are just comfortable, they are Civil Servants with permanent employment and they are not subjected to elections. Some agriculture extension officers have even more powers than the President of this country. One does not know who supervises them, they drive Government cars around the clock, they are drinking at bars and the poor peasants will tell you that they want to plough but the officials are refusing to assist them. Somehow a mechanism must be put in place to monitor the agriculture extension officers who have become Ministers or Chiefs on their own. They have all kind excuses until the season has passed. This is a genuine appeal for a mechanism to monitor and evaluate.

We are also culprits because if they are a friend of the Honourable Member there, we will defend them and say they are being targeted while in reality they are not doing their job at the expense of the community and something needs to be done about the agriculture extension officers.

Honourable Minister, I do not want to target anybody, but I want to state that we sometimes cry about unemployment and job creation. I can tell the Honourable Minister that we had investors who wanted to invest in forestry, but they were not assisted by the officials. I do not want to mention names, but there are people with money who wanted to invest

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and there was one excuse after the other while already five years ago we could have created thousands of jobs in manufacturing.

Honourable Minister, I have no problem with the issue of the levy which was raised by Honourable Kaura *per se*, but honestly, let us hear each other out on the issue of the levy. Personally as I am speaking here the levy does not affect me, I am a Minister, maybe I would sell a certain number of cattle, but there are poor villagers who sell one cow and these people are ruined economically. I am not saying that a levy should not be introduced, but I am saying that it should be introduced in a manner that it will not disempower the poorest of the poor. How it is going to be done, I do not know. I support the Vote.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support our Vote, the Kaoko Vote. Honourable Minister, Honourable Kaura already mentioned the tractors and I am not happy at all. When we talk about having 13 Regions, I want us to count 13 Regions, not twelve Regions and then when you want something, to say you are including Kunene. Kunene is a Region like any other Region and I am saying this all the time.

Comrade Minister, when I talk about the Kunene Region, I do not talk to the Opposition Parties only, I am talking about Kunene when I am not happy. Can you see in this book what the Himba women are doing here? We of Kaoko are not lazy, we are strong people, why send only two tractors to us? You cannot do that, you have to treat the people of Kunene the same as the others.

I joined this Parliament after the second election and I learned a lot from this House. When I keep quiet, I keep quiet as a human being; I do not

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keep quiet as a stupid person. Please, I want you to treat those people the same as the other people.

The Honourable Members mentioned the levy and I have a problem with that. Before you introduce those things you have to talk to the people so that they know what the purpose is. You are telling me all the time that I am talking about the whites and this thing is for the whites, it is not for us. They are still getting a lot of money from us and we are now tired. These people just call us for a cup of tea because they want to do business, but we are suffering because of that.

Comrade Minister, as to the floods in the North; water is coming from Angola and we are not doing anything with that water. Honourable Amweelo mentioned earth dams and we can even have canals to use that water for food production in the dry season. We should do something with that water; even bring that water through a bridge at Oshivelo and Ruacana so that it does not flood the houses of the people.

Comrade Minister regarding the red line; the people from Kaoko want to bring their cattle here. I know what you are doing together with your Deputy Minister, but you know that when you talk to black people all the time, they know what you are doing, but when you keep quiet, they say you are not doing good things for them. With these few words I support the vote.

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

HON MWANINGANGE: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 20 and I want to refer to bush encroachment and de-bushing projects carried out by the Ministry. The Minister indicated that there is a very scientific and technical research paper and I would like to support the idea of de-bushing. It is indeed very essential in the sense that various species of grass are now disappearing due to bush encroachment. Some species of

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bush are very poisonous, the leaves are covering the surface and the grass seeds cannot germinate because it becomes rotten under the leaves.
(Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a small question? Are you sure it is as a result of bush encroachment or is it over-grazing?

HON MWANINGANGE: Honourable Prime Minister, I was going to come to over-grazing. Bush encroachment has become a very serious problem for agriculture and for the life of the soil. There is a need for that de-bushing programme to be intensified. You mentioned here that the support from the Ministry goes to the farmers. Does it go to both commercial and communal farmers and if that is the case, how is it applied to the communal areas because I am really ignorant on this one. If it goes to communal farmers, it is a very important programme in the sense that it can involve youth and women and it should go to the areas where bush encroachment is increasing. I believe that if that is the case, we are going into the right direction to decrease the degradation of land and over-grazing, because the grass will grow in potential larger areas instead of scattering everywhere and then again damaging the soil, causing soil erosion. Otherwise I congratulate the Minister for this Vote which has produced very essential inputs.

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

HON A TJONGARERO: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 20 and I have only one small question to the Minister on page 9, point 1.1.3. I have realised that we buy most of cheese, butter and cream from somewhere else and I remember that Outjo, Omaruru and Gobabis used to produce these products. Is there anything in the pipeline so that we can produce

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our own dairy products on a large scale and not to import from somewhere else? With this, I support the Vote. Thank you.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to register my support for this very important Vote. This morning on my way here I was wondering what I was going to say on my favourite subject, the water. I realised that most of the things I wanted to talk about are actually very well captured in the Water Bill which is now on the agenda of the Cabinet Committee on Legislation. Namibia has already invested a lot of thinking in the areas of flood water management, Water Basin Committees and all water resources. We had a team visiting Australia and other places, looking at the best practices all over the world. The Bill takes care of obstruction of watercourses, water pollution, water master plans of Regions, establishment of the Water Council, the establishment of the Water Regulator and water pricing policies and what we need to do is to fast-track the adoption and passing into law, so that it addresses all the other problems we experience.

Comrade Minister, when it comes to the internationally shared watercourses, I have mentioned before that we should not wait for the passing of the law to establish the Commission on the Cuvelai. I was at loggerheads with some of the functionaries because we were putting more emphasis on the Orange River while we foresaw the problem in the Cuvelai Water Basin. It was not given the necessary importance that it deserves and a friend of mine in the Ministry would always come and say there is another way, but what scientific arrangements were made to cater for this problem? It is good that we are sharing this kind of information but the Commission should really be in place, for people to dedicate their minds and intellectual powers to solve this problem. I have no words to call for the fast-tracking of this Bill. I spoke to the drafters, they are done and it is now up to us to see what can be done.

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Honourable Kazenambo raised the issue of cooperatives and I really think it should be known who the people are who are dealing with cooperatives, because some of us who grew up in countries where cooperatives are very important and they can be established in any field. Products are imported by cooperatives in order to share the costs among themselves, yet they conduct their individual businesses. We need to give the necessary attention to this issue of cooperatives.

My last point is on adapting our cultivating methods to climate change. People should go out there and come up with cultivars that appropriate for the climate change we are experiencing. We have long spells of rain and we still stick to the old way of doing things. I do not know whether we want to continue in that non-egalitarian society that we have or whether we should go with the pace of modern development. I support the Vote and I thank you.

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

HON KAPIA: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am happy that Honourable Nambahu mentioned the Water Bill as that covers most of my comments. We have lakes in the North like Oponono, Puriri, Okadhiya and others which are supposed to release water into Etosha, but somehow that becomes a problem because the channels have completely vanished as a result of soil erosion. As a result, the water starts flooding the villages when the lakes become full. Could we not excavate some of these water channels during the dry season and conduct a feasibility study all the way to the Etosha fence. There is a place called Okuma which is quite suitable for a dam and even those cattle posts in that area will no longer use purified water for their animals as they can get water from this dam.

Lastly on the Agriculture extension officials, can they not wear overalls? These people studied and understand agriculture very well, but they wear suits and ties in the village. Instead of going from house to house to see

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how the people are ploughing and doing the correct things, they are dressed in suits and ties. Who is now going to assist the farmers?

Every year the cost of the branding irons is increasing and I wonder whether the Ministry has now become a business like the Ministry of Mines and Energy which increases the price of petrol because of international threats? What is reason for increasing the price of the brands every year? Are we assisting the communities and who are the companies who are manufacturing the ear tags?

Honourable Minister, I support our vote because this is the livelihood of the Namibian people. Thank you very much.

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

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 20 and commend the Ministry for the improvements made on the Green Scheme programme in the Regions where we have rivers.

My intervention today is based on rural water supply and I want to quote from page 5 where it reads: “*The Combined Regional Rural Water Supply Development Plan for the four northern Regions of Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena and Oshikoto with a fifteen year planning horizon is scheduled to be completed by the end of April 2011.*” This master plan supplied water to all these Regions and I think the time has now come for a second plan after Independence for Zambezi and Kavango Rivers to supply the inland remote areas, including the neighbouring Regions. For example, if we could have a pipeline from Bambi West where that small river from Angola joins the Kavango River, that pipeline could supply water to the Onampungu area and surrounding villages up to the eastern part of Ohangwena Region, which is about 130 kilometres from the river. The same goes for a pipeline from Ndonga-Linena which could supply

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water to Karukuvisa, through Ncaute area up to the eastern part of Otjozondjupa because from Karukuvisa to Tsumkwe is about twenty kilometres, while it is about 175 kilometres from the river to the Tsumkwe area.

My third point is on earth dams, but I am not talking about normal earth dams which are found everywhere, I am referring to a dam like the Hardap Dam. I think it is now time for our engineers to advise the Ministry of Agriculture to approach our neighbours where the floods come from to build a big dam which will supply water throughout the year and take care of the floodwaters. Therefore, I would like to request the Ministry to work hand-in-hand with the engineers and come up with plans for a big dam like Hardap. This should include the Ministry of Environment because they would complain about the impact on the environment in the area. With those words I support Vote 20 and I thank you.

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

HON DINGARA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the vote of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

Eighty kilometres east of Rundu there is a big *Omuramba* which moves from the river through to the *Omuramba* referred to by the previous speaker, Ndonga-Linena. Every year when the river rises, the water goes through Ndonga-Linena as far as ten kilometres and it becomes the same size as the Kavango River. Next to the river is a gravel road with a bridge crossing the Ndonga-Linena and after five kilometres there is a new tar road from Rundu to the Trans-Caprivi Highway. When the water rises, the Ndonga-Linena has more water than the river for a distance of ten kilometres and as soon as the water in the river subsides, the water flows back into the river and then the *Omuramba* is also empty.

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When I was there last week, I could see that the people now have water next to their homes for a distance of more than ten kilometres and since the bridge at Ndonga-Linena is not high, I was thinking of asking the engineers to look into the possibility of building sluice gates at these two roads, so that the sluice gates are opened for the water to pass and closed when the water is about to subside so that the water remains there the whole year in that *Omuramba*. I am sure the Minister is aware of the place that I am talking about.

Mention is made of rural water supply on page 7 and also management, development and utilisation of water and I think it would be cheaper to build the sluice gate because the road already exists. With those few suggestions, Comrade Minister, I support all the other things you have said. Thank you very much.

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

HON NYAMU: I have only two short observations to make in respect of this Vote and they are both related to food production.

The first observation is that since Independence this Nation, this Government has neglected to upgrade the production of mahangu crops. I am a product of mahangu, I grew up with mahangu and I think most of Colleagues from the six Regions have always consumed mahangu, but I think we have done very little in terms of providing support to mahangu producers. No wonder we have even under-valued the mahangu prices. The fact of the matter is that the producers are even more under-valued. As a matter of fact, they are not even considered as producers as producing mahangu is not considered as a business; it is just like a part-time activity. It is not fully recognised and when people are asked what they do, “*No, I do nothing, I only produce mahangu.*” They feel that they are not being useful at by producing mahangu. Close to 66% of the population of this country live on mahangu. (Intervention)

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HON KAURA: May I ask a question? Where does the mahangu come from that we buy in Shoprite if you feel that it is so under-valued? It is available in Shoprite, where does it come from?

HON NYAMU: I am speaking under correction when I say it does come from the six mahangu producing regions, but it is also possible that some of it comes from outside. Mahangu is an indigenous African food product and for thousands of years Africans have survived on mahangu. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information to Honourable Nyamu and to the rest of the Honourable Members. It is not hundred percent correct to say mahangu as a product has been completely neglected. I believe mahangu has been declared as a controlled product, meaning that while mahangu is available inside the country, no permit will be issued for the import of mahangu. You might also have seen in the statement of the Minister that mahangu is being stored at silos erected by the Government in Caprivi, Kavango, Omuthiya and at Okongo. The mahangu stored there was produced by the local people who are being encouraged to sell mahangu. I believe the Government is rendering the same support to mahangu producers as it is rendering to cattle producers. There has been even a price increase and I am sure the Minister will reply.

HON NYAMU: Thank you for your contribution. What I am saying is that the production mode of mahangu has not changed in a thousand years. Had it changed to new methods, we could be producing a hundred times more for our own consumption and for export, but we have not done that and I am speaking from personal experience. I have a mahangu field and in my village people are producing mahangu as they have done thousands of years ago. You cannot deny that whatever efforts we have made, it did not have an impact on the producers by and large and the Prime Minister will bear me out, because I visited his mahangu field and he is doing it the way his grandparents were doing it, no new method to increase

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production. These people will remain subsistence farmers for centuries to come if we allow them to do it their own way. They are left alone, they have no practical assistance, no new ideas, yet mahangu, being an African crop from the Mediterranean to the south, has sustained Africa for thousands of years.

There are many African countries which have new methods, in West Africa, East Africa, but I do not think we have brought those skills to Namibia. For example, our people do not have fertilisers to produce more mahangu, they are left to their own devices, yet they do not have enough cattle to produce fertilisers. I want to visit the Minister's plot in Kavango, which is one of the main producing Regions, to see what he is doing there with his mahangu. Is he still doing what people have done three thousand years ago or what? I feel we need to pay more attention to this sector and spend more money.

Someone has mentioned the extension officials who are wearing suits and they are not making an impact. We must make efforts to enlighten the villagers how to increase their production. Mind you, that is where most of our votes come from, from the mahangu producers from the west to the east and we have literally neglected them.

The second observation I want to make is in respect of the Green Scheme. In America food production almost comes from one state for domestic consumption and for export, almost one state in the whole of the United States, but when we talk about Green Scheme here, we are talking about patches from the south to the north to the east, small patches which in the process require high capital input for infrastructure. Why do we not concentrate on one area, like Kavango and Caprivi, as far as food production is concerned and so something else in other Regions? Why try to produce mahangu in Karas or other Regions where the grass is good for cattle farming? We need to consolidate the Green Scheme and concentrate on one area and produce enough for the rest of the country instead of having patches which are not economic. Thank you.

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

HON NEHOVA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee; I am going to be very brief. On page 12 of this book there is mention of bush encroachment and special assistance to commercial farmers, which is not clear to me and maybe the Minister can elaborate on where we as commercial farmers can access these funds as this is a real problem. We are expected to produce wheat for the markets mentioned here, Norway, Angola, etcetera, but in order for us to produce the Government must assist us with subsidies to fight bush encroachment.

Honourable Kapia mentioned the price of ear tags which has become too expensive, Honourable Minister. It is N\$16 per ear tag and that means N\$32 per animal and if you have three hundred animals on your farm, it becomes too expensive. I hear, and maybe the Honourable Member will confirm, that the price of these tags is being increased by September. It keeps on going up; it is levies for selling, for slaughtering and for exporting.

Honourable Minister, one last thing and I do not know whether I should ask this to the Minister or the Prime Minister or both of them: There is an institution which I thought is a Government institution, that is used when the farmers export meat and it is called Meatco. Honourable Minister, what is Meatco? Is it a private company, is it a Parastatal, what does it contribute to the GDP of this country?

With these words I congratulate the Minister for presenting this Vote and I support the vote. Thank you.

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

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HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. The Honourable Minister and his team produced very clear, precise and informative documents for a non-farmer like me. My contribution is based on page 2, last year's successful investment conference and against that background, I want to comment on page 6 and 7, namely the strategic plan of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry which has various components, such as agricultural marketing, product development, product diversification and I want to concentrate on value addition in the sense that I do not want the Minister to answer now but just take to note.

New programmes are mentioned on page 7 for the 2011/2012 Financial Year and next year it must read, new programmes for the 2012/2013 Financial Year will include some initiatives for supporting feasibility studies and encouraging, through this investment conference, some entrepreneurs to start looking at value addition of our agricultural products. We have tasted the *Ekunde bean* and that was something that was done in this country. That is a shining example of what can be achieved and we should move towards value addition to substitute what we are importing. The same would go for our meat products. We have potential to produce our own tinned viennas and beef for the export market.

On the Technical Paper you have indicated 86 bursaries to the Ministry of Education. Congratulations, Honourable Minister. To put 86 people on science programmes for the future is a very worthwhile investment and at this stage I want to urge all the Grade 11 and 12 students in our country to seriously consider careers in the science field. The country needs them in order to expand and develop and this is a very impressive array of degrees in various disciplines.

My only question is on page 51, Honourable Minister, where one individual has a B.Sc in Geo-hydrology but unfortunately there is no vacancy. Just look into that explanation there because we cannot afford to lose these people.

On the BTech level, no reason is given whether they have completed, they

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are still busy or they have withdrawn. My compliments go to the Ministry and it must be an honour Prime Minister to have as many science people to support and develop the future of our agricultural sector as we know that more than 60% of our people depend on that. The entire infrastructure is in place, the Green Schemes, the silos, and we now have to go to the next level of becoming more sophisticated in terms of our agriculture by value adding and the rest. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. I now call upon the Minister to respond to the specific questions.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I thank the Honourable Members who made very constructive and useful contributions and also for the support of the Vote by those who spoke, but also those who did not take the Floor.

By way of introduction, before I come to the specific questions, I think it is very important for us, more so us sitting in this Honourable Chamber as leaders, to always reflect and appreciate that yes, indeed, on the 21st of March 1990 this country did achieve political freedom and Independence. Therefore the political emancipation in a way has been realised, but the battle for economic independence is a most ferocious one, more so in the era of globalisation. This particular phenomenon is more obvious in the sector of agriculture where you have a dualism in the economy. Whether you talk about livestock or crops, this country is divided into two – the communal areas and the commercial areas and that also determines the markets of these agricultural products. We must always keep that in mind.

Honourable Dr Amweelo, we do not have any problems when approaching individuals, leaders or communities to get involved in our Water Committees in terms of water resource management, but we would obviously like to send the message out that this is a continuous activity

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where all of us, when called upon, should make our contribution and we commend those men, women and youth who are serving on these water committees in their respective areas, they are doing well.

Yesterday the President was accounting to the Nation and one of the questions that he attended to was on this issue of the floods. Yes, indeed, we have to work out some adaptation measures but also mitigation measures to deal with the consequences of natural disasters, including floods. For now I will not say it is the responsibility of the Ministry *per se*, even though we are responsible for water, but it is the responsibility of the whole Government.

With regard to earth dams, we are currently doing surveys to clearly identify the waterways so that we can advise the people in good time to move away from the flood areas and then also to devise waterways that may divert the water from affecting towns and homesteads.

Honourable Kapia talked about Oponono Lake and I am informed by the officials that there are already plans in the Ministry to widen and deepen the Oponono Lake in order to harvest water and ensure that the water is properly diverted. Those plans are in place.

Honourable Kaura, as regards the tractors, let me explain to the Honourable Members of this House and the general public that, as I have said in my statement and is also contained in the technical document, we have two very important programmes dealing with crop production, namely the Green Scheme which is dependent on irrigation and the dry land crop production programme, which is dependent on rain and as Honourable Nyamu has said, even before the Green Scheme and irrigation, people were depending on rain to produce food. However, this is not a Government programme, it is a programme in which individual farmers are involved from time immemorial, but Government is recognising the importance of the programme and devises ways and means to assist the people, whether through ploughing services, fertilisers, improved seeds, silos and marketing outlets.

At one point Government did have tractors available, but then those

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tractors were withdrawn and privatised, but a decision was taken just before Dr Nicky Iyambo left the Ministry that there is an absolute need as many people said Government must intervene and support. That is why towards the end of 2007 Government took the decision to reintroduce ploughing services with Government tractors to assist the individual farmers with ploughing, not free at charge but at least at a subsidised rate.

Last year was actually the first year when we started to roll out this programme but there were many shortcomings, I admit, because there were not too many tractors. However, as we speak, our officials are in the process of acquiring more tractors so that this ploughing season we are ready to assist. I must say very frankly that there is no discrimination in the number of tractors allocated to Regions; the only consideration at this stage is the number of tractors available. People have to indicate that they want to make use of the ploughing services of Government and based on the statistics received from every Region we determine the number of tractors to be allocated. However, I can assure my Honourable Colleague Muharukua that discrimination, as far as this Government and this Ministry is concerned, is not the issue.

Concerning the issue of beef from the northern communal areas, we are still a long way from reaching that stage and I stated it when we debated the Animal Health Bill here. We now have a policy in place to deal with the eradication of trans-boundary diseases (FMD), but when we talk about the seven northern communal Regions, FMD is not prevalent in all those Regions, it is more confined to Caprivi and the eastern part of Kavango and that is why those areas have been divided into three zones. On Saturday when I launch the programme in Rundu I will also speak at length on this issue where all the Governors of the seven Regions will be present.

The meat from the northern communal areas may reach the South African market, but not the international market. When I talked about the European market, the Norwegian market and the American market, I was only talking about the area in the southern zone. Therefore, when there is a levy to assist in dealing with all these problems of diseases and trying to

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assist the people in the northern communal areas to market the beef, I think it is just a question of goodwill. We will reach the stage when we say both the northern and southern areas are now equal and therefore, no discrimination, but I can see there is still a long way to go.

We as a country have not accepted genetically modified organisms. The sentence that the Honourable Member has read says very specifically that the people who were trained have to detect whether there are any of these genetically modified organisms, but not that we have opened up.

Honourable Iivula-Ithana, I agree that donkeys are very useful animals. I think it is the only animal mentioned in the Bible, that our Lord entered Jerusalem on a donkey and if one looks at the work done by a donkey, it is so versatile. Even when journalists of the *New Era* got stuck in the mud somewhere in the Otjozondjupa Region, it was a donkey that pulled them out and I agree with her as to the usefulness of the donkey. However, whether we should tag the donkeys, the tagging is for nothing else than identification. If I ask you here to give me your ID or your passport, everybody will produce that, but in today's world where animals are produced and reared for the market, for business, it is so strict that the meat that you export can be traced. If the European market suspects something in terms of disease, they must be able to trace it back to the farm and that is why this whole issue of ear tagging is so important and it not being introduced for the first time in the northern communal areas. I do not know why we want something good for certain parts, but when it is to be extended to others, we do not want it. It has already been introduced on all the commercial farms – identification and traceability. Globalisation can also mean bad things and you have to trace the origin.

The *Honourable Nehova* talked about the cost, namely N\$16 per tag, but there are also administration costs for those implementing the system and, therefore, there must be a cost. If it is too high, well, that is what it costs to do the work for now and I cannot make false promises.

Honourable Moongo made very valuable points. If you read the paragraph on the sale of the wood carefully, we are not saying that the Government will not transport and sell wood. Especially in the northern

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areas wood is becoming a very scarce commodity and it is something being used every day. Therefore, our Forestry officials have a responsibility for conservation and also the sustainable utilisation of natural resources. It is no use just to prevent people from cutting the trees when you know those trees are an indispensable part of their livelihood. We are therefore providing some infrastructure in towns where those who are in the business of selling wood, including Honourable Moongo, collect their wood in a legal manner, can take their wood to a market where it can be sold. You are the one to collect the wood and sell and the money you receive is for your pocket.

Many people talked about mahangu, that the price is too low and the production mode and all of them are right, but my predecessor has also in a way responded and I want to add to what he said. Two years ago mahangu has been declared a controlled product, the same as maize and other products. This means that, knowing we produce mahangu in our country, we cannot allow the importation of a controlled product from other countries unless and until you have exhausted your own production. We must go around and buy the locally produced mahangu and maize and only when these are depleted can we open the market for importation.

The price is determined by demand and supply and it has to be negotiated. As Government we buy from the producers and it is taken to our silos. The one in Omuthiya is meant for mahangu.

What *Honourable Nyamu* has mentioned is also in a way correct, we have to assist the farmers to improve and adapt their production mode. I can inform the Honourable Member that the Agronomic Board, which is the statutory body dealing with these controlled products, has of last year established a dedicated mahangu division, properly staffed, with the responsibility to go around and assist the farmers in terms of the methodology of how to plant and what to use and we are getting there. I agree with you, attitude is a very difficult thing, even with us sitting here. I was a school principal and Minister of Education and if I can tell you that Government has a policy that those who acquire tenders to provide food to our schools, hospitals and army must procure this food locally, but because of the attitude we become different people when we leave our

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villages and come to town. The late Nyerere warned that the struggle for the liberation of the mind is a very difficult struggle. Even in our own homes our children do not want to eat mahangu and it is a question of attitude. However, as you have correctly pointed out, we have to do more and do not expect the Government to do it; it is something you must tackle in your own individual homes, especially the attitude part. Government will, of course, assist with the production as that is their responsibility and we are doing that.

Let me also answer the question on the extension officers. I was taught in History, and there are some historians here, that one of the very dangerous things to do is to generalise. Generalisation is a bad thing. Although some people say historical events repeat themselves, it is not entirely correct because every event is unique in specific respects, in terms of the time that it is taking place, the place where it is taking place, the conditions and the environment in which it is taking place. It might be true in respect of one or two persons, as is also the case with us here that some of us dodge our responsibilities in our Parliament, but it would be wrong to say all the Parliamentarians sleep in Parliament. It does not work that way. There might be some extension officers who are really very dedicated. I know, for example, that the Director, Sophia, is a very hardworking person and I also know in the Regions there are some who are working, but I also agree with you that as in all spheres of life you will find people who do not take their responsibility seriously, who instead of going to the field are wearing ties. Even when I go to the field on Saturdays I wear something else. However, I cannot condone that and I have been saying publicly and I am repeating it here, the extension officers are experts, they must spend limited time in offices to plan and the rest be in the field with the farmers. After all, they are teachers and you cannot teach without going to somebody who needs help to show how to plough or to fertilise. That is how I will respond to the extension officers. I do not like generalisation, I do not respect it because it discourages everybody, but let us single out the lazy ones and encourage them. As the psychologists would say, every person has some good inherently and our duty as leaders is to try to penetrate the person and bring the good thing out.

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Honourable Tjihuiko, yesterday Honourable Kaura, President of the DTA, posed a direct question to the Head of State concerning this water debt and the President responded in a very proper, empathic manner. However, let me add that we here are also to blame. You are right in saying there was a Debate here when Honourable Venaani moved a Motion on the issue of the water debts. We debated it extensively and at the end of the day we said we cannot oppose this particular Motion because there are real issues that need to be dealt with, that need to be solved. I know that this particular issue has a long history, it started a long time ago and we debated the issue. I cannot remember the exact volume of the HANSARD, but in response, on the advice of the Prime Minister, I said it is good, we are not going to oppose the Motion, let it go to the Standing Committee for further scrutiny, inquiry and consultations with the general public. Where is that report? The report has never been tabled.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, maybe it would not be a violation of the Rules if it is mentioned in the Committee on Standing Rules and Orders that the Report must find its way here through the normal procedures, because we as the Government and particularly the sector dealing with water would be very much interested to see what is the advice and recommendations emanating from the report. As the President said yesterday, even when you, Honourable Kaura, will go and meet him and when he calls me as the Line Minister and ask how far has this been dealt with, I would say that even in the Parliament this matter has been discussed and here are the recommendations, so that all those recommendations will be taken together, studied properly and then we will take it through to the normal channels of Government, the Cabinet Committees dealing with money, then to the whole Cabinet and probably there, as the President said, we may find a solution. However, the issue is, do not just point fingers at the Government, where is that report? People went for consultations, they received S&T but the Report is not tabled. I shall await that Report and that will help us to chart the way forward in terms of dealing with this matter.

I must say *Honourable Nambahu* is very consistent, I checked in the HANSARD, he also raised the issue of cooperatives last year and I still

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agree with him. I said in the Ministry there is not much publicity and advocacy to tell us what is being done on cooperatives. We in the Ministry are responsible for the implementation and administration of the Cooperatives Act. The Registrar of Cooperatives is within the Ministry but, of course, cooperatives are independent bodies and through the Act we are responsible for coordination. I think I take your advice that we need to do more to highlight the profile and activities of cooperatives.

By the way, this year has been declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Cooperatives and I am now talking to the cooperatives out there, not to the Honourable Members. You heard what the Honourable Members were saying, they are saying that you are doing something good there but you are hiding it.

About the investors who wanted to invest in forestry five years ago, I do not know whether Honourable Iyambo will recall this, but all that I can say is that it is not too late and I would be interested to get that information and we will take it from there.

About the livestock dying, nature has its own ways, sometimes cruel ways. Like now with this lot of rain the grazing is good but there are also bad things such as diseases and mosquitoes. The other day I saw on television the bees, snakes and elephants in Omuntele and all I can say is that we as leaders should send a message to our farmers, that whenever they see something unfamiliar happening, that animals are dying, do not wait, report it immediately to the nearest veterinary office in the Region. You may think it is just an isolated case, but it might be a big epidemic. If it is reported, these doctors will take a sample to the laboratory and determine exactly what the cause is and prescribe the remedies. This Minister is just an ordinary teacher, but honestly, nobody will say it is good that animals must die. Animals are our livelihood and wherever it happens, please report it and I know the farmers are doing it. If it is an overall epidemic the State will assist. I think when cholera breaks out Honourable Kamwi will stand up and mobilise so that we can help and the same applies to our animals.

I have responded to the price of ear tags and I agree, the price of branding

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is expensive and I hope the Prime Minister will one day come to the Cabinet and recommend that Government must subsidise the branding. However, Government does not have limitless resources and, therefore, the people must bear the cost as we are not a welfare state.

Honourable Mwaningange, at first the de-bushing was more of a sectoral programme of the Ministry, but I know the farmers are angry because it has taken long for us to come up with a concrete, tangible programme to deal with the issue of de-bushing, but let them not despair. The President has elaborated very extensively on the Targeted Intervention Programme for Economic Growth. The Government has identified de-bushing as one of the major programmes to be implemented under TIPEEG and I know the Ministry of Youth also have a programme where the youth and the equipment are ready for de-bushing, but we are now doing it through the implementation of the TIPEEG programme under the coordination of the National Planning Commission and I think we will make an impact. However, we will also not discriminate and although the largest area affected by bush encroachment is in the commercial areas, we will find a way of assisting both the commercial and communal areas with de-bushing under TIPEEG.

Honourable Agnes Tjongarero, I agree with you on the dairy products Outjo used to produce. I do not want to give a long lecture here, but there was a time when local production was stifled because the reasoning was that everything will come from somewhere outside. That is called economic suicide. Therefore, the shift is now to produce what we can produce and consume what we can consume and export the surplus. We are assisting the farmers with the production, marketing and storage and because of this new approach some of the dairies are coming up. Government is going to revive the Vungu-Vungu dairy and we are almost there. It is important that we must produce what we consume and consume what we produce.

Honourable Nambahu, I see you have a copy of the Water Bill there, but when I came to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry in April 2008, Honourable Nicky Iyambo and his officials were so advanced in the finalisation of the Water Bill. You will remember it was passed in the

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Parliament some time back and then it was found there are many shortcomings and it has to be redrafted. I can inform the larger constituency of this country that, as per our procedures, the Water Bill has left the Ministry of Agriculture in 2009 to the legal drafters and as you correctly pointed out, the legal drafters have done their work. I received two invitations to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation when they had the Water Bill on their agenda, but unfortunately, when I came back from Senegal, my Colleague whom I entrusted with the responsibility to attend that meeting, informed me that the meeting did not materialise. You used the word “*fast-track*” and I appeal to the Members of the Cabinet Committee on Legislation – and I am not prescribing to you – that this Bill has been long outstanding and I know that you worked hard on it. I am throwing the ball back to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation to make sure that this Bill be referred here.

Many of the Honourable Members have raised the issue of climate change and floods and some of these issues are addressed in that Bill, but it is not in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, it is with the Cabinet Committee on Legislation and hopefully it will be tabled this year.

Honourable Nghidinwa, when the Founding President was in office something inspired him to always push for this Green Scheme at Ndonga-Linena. He always asked why we do not make a plan and dig the *Omuramba* deeper. The *Omuramba* is so long, it goes through these mountains between Okahandja and Otjiwarongo. I am talking now to the engineers and the experts. Look at some of these things in your plans. Somebody said the other day that there are other countries which have more problems and I think in the long-term we can do something there, not today but we are planning for the future. I think it can be done.

I am informed that a big dam such as Hardap in the Kavango or Caprivi will not be feasible because we need mountains there.

Honourable Nyamu, you made reference to the United States of America, that a major part of their production comes from one State. Maybe I should just give the definition of Green Scheme, that in the context of Namibia this Green Scheme is nothing else than a Government

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programme which has as its objective the increase of food production in the country, using irrigation. When you look at the definition alone and the geography of Namibia, it will tell you where projects that may qualify as Green Scheme would be. It depends on the availability of water for irrigation. You are right to mention the Regions of Kavango and Caprivi because we have the water flowing there, although we share with the other countries. In the north-west it is justified that we have Etunda there because we also have the water from Kunene there. At the Hardap Dam we also have Green Scheme activities, in Naute we have the dates, along the Orange River we have irrigation. We now have floods, but nobody can guarantee that next year we will have rain. I do not think we have the luxury in Namibia to have all our Green Schemes just there, because water is a limitation.

Honourable Nambahu also mentioned the Commission for the Cuvelai Basin. We have what is called the Joint Permanent Technical Committee between Angola and Namibia and they do meet on a regular basis with the Angolan counterparts. If they are not so active, we can reactivate it but the structure is there and it deals with the Kunene and the Cuvelai Basin.

Honourable Nehova, Meatco is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament to deal with the issue of meat and so forth. It is not a secret that the ownership of Meatco has been contested for some time and that led to Cabinet taking a decision in 2006 and commissioned an independent study with given terms of reference by the Cabinet itself to look at this whole ownership structure of Meatco. That particular study was concluded in 2008 and the findings of the study were presented to the Cabinet, Cabinet looked at it in 2009 and Cabinet in its wisdom decided to refer the matter to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Development for further scrutiny.

The Cabinet Committee met in 2009, but then in the process the leadership of Meatco also felt that they needed to make some input and since then we have been busy with elections and this and that, but as soon as the Cabinet Committee will meet, we will finally go to the Cabinet to now once and for all resolve this issue of the ownership structure of Meatco. However the most important thing is, it is a body that is run,

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managed and administered by an Act of Parliament which was passed here and that is very important. Of course, the farmers have a great say, but whatever they say must be done within the prescriptions of the law.

Honourable Bezuidenhoudt, I take your advice on value addition and accept your congratulations on the bursaries. The matter of the geo-hydrology student who completed and found no vacancy will be taken up with the officials.

Honourable Members, thank you very much.

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

Vote 25 – “LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT” is put for Discussion.

HON WITBOOI: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support the Vote and would like to thank and congratulate the Minister for the training programme for resettlement farmers. Such training is very important as it empowers the resettled farmers to learn more about animal diseases, the treatment and the essential knowledge on farm management. Knowledge on skills about effective farming will enable them to generate better output and make their humble contribution to the GDP.

Honourable Minister, while I applaud the Ministry for its efforts to resettle the landless, I am concerned about the prevailing situation on some farms. The beneficiaries get land, which they appreciate very much, but unfortunately there is no water or the water infrastructure is very poor. There are a few resettled farmers who are financially capable of providing water for the farming activities from their own resources, there is a second category that has to sell livestock in order to provide water for their farming activities and the third category is those who have no means of providing water on their own. Honourable Minister, it is, therefore,

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necessary that all farming units for resettlement be equipped with the basic water infrastructure in working condition, such as windmills, pipes, etcetera before beneficiaries are resettled.

The water shortage frustrates the noble efforts by our Government to give land to the landless in order to improve their socio-economic status and live a better life. There are equally cases where resettlement farms have been allocated but have not been occupied because there is no water, such as one in Karas Region named Soekwater which has not been occupied for six years.

In his Budget speech the Minister said the Ministry spent N\$35 million on a nationwide infrastructure improvement programme. In the light of aforementioned situation around non-functional water infrastructure, the question arises, who benefited from the programme? Honourable Minister, if you are not sure of the water situation on your farm, how can you benefit from the partnership programme with the Agricultural Bank, for example, the N\$20,000 to buy karakul or to start gardening. I sincerely request the Minister to look into the issue of infrastructure maintenance as a matter of priority before resettlement takes place and during the period when the needy farmers are getting used to a commercial farming culture. With this, I support the Vote and I 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. My contribution is based on page 3, Land Acquisition, Distribution and Resettlement. I also want to congratulate the Ministry for their efforts to buy farms in order to resettlement people. Honourable Minister, you mentioned in your statement that “*in the 2010/2011 Financial Year the Ministry acquired 49 farms with a total of 301,768,7431 hectares.*” Honourable Minister, if one considers the number of people applying for resettlement in a constituency, in only one

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constituency 1,500 applications were made and we have 107 constituencies in the country. I am still advocating that funds be made available to develop virgin land, especially in the Otjozondjupa Region where people who can afford are fencing off very big portions of land and as a result, the animals of those who cannot afford to do so are grazing in corridors. I want the Ministry to set aside funds to demarcate at least 2,000 or 2,500 in those areas in order to assist the ones applying for resettlement but who cannot be resettled on the farms the Government is purchasing. If the Ministry could in the next Budget set aside a certain amount for such a pilot project to see whether it could work, as the farms acquired cannot absorb the number of landless people who need resettlement.

Comrade Minister, I hope the Honourable Minister of Finance is listening and would try to allocate extra funds so that we could see if it would work, because then we would probably absorb a number of those who wish to be resettled.

We have members of the National Youth Service looking after farms that have been bought by Government, but most of the farms are far from the main or feeder roads, most of the farms do not have telecommunication and they are also forced to walk distances to the cattle posts to look after the water pumps so that they are not stolen. I feel these colleagues need to be assisted so that they can do the work. They are doing a great job, but sometimes the colleagues who should bring them food are taking long to come and as a result they are suffering there. With this, I support the Vote and I thank you.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to support this very well prepared Vote 25 as eloquently presented by my namesake, Honourable A G

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!Naruseb. Allow me to seize this opportunity to reiterate what I alluded to during the discussion on the Outreach of the Deputy Speaker. This relates to the small size of communal land, especially in the Daures Constituency, that is Okombahe, Omatjete and also Otjimbingwe.

Comrade Deputy Chair, while I commend the great work done by this Ministry, I would like to beg your indulgence to consider my humble suggestion. In addition to the excellent research programme, may I offer that we relieve the pressure on the congested communal areas I have mentioned, Omatjete, Okombahe and Otjimbingwe, by buying farms adjacent to these areas. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: May I ask the Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, I have noticed through the discussions that most of the speakers are raising concerns on their regions they are coming from. Do you not think we here are national leaders who need to look at the concerns of the whole country, rather than asking for something to be done for Otjiwarongo, Otjimbingwe and the area where you are coming from? If I get a chance I will ask something for Okakarara and somebody else will ask for Onyaanya, would that be fair?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you very much for the question, Honourable Tjihuiko. If you listened carefully, I said small communal areas, especially Otjimbingwe and I am not from Otjimbingwe. I mentioned all the small and congested communal areas and I used those as examples, but yes, we are national leaders and we should look at all place where this problem is prevailing.

I said we should buy adjacent farms, maybe on a willing buyer, willing seller basis or perhaps through expropriation if that can be done legally. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: On a Point of Information. Comrade Deputy Chairperson, the issue of this willing seller, willing buyer is just benefiting one group, namely those who already own the land. They are selling it at the highest price and only their colleagues are able to buy that land. I feel we need to think of something else.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I think to be fair, that is the only system in place and until changes are made, what the Honourable Deputy Minister is proposing is basically trying to suggest that we use the system already in place. However, I think your point is quite valid and when the time comes, hopefully the Honourable Member might want to refer to that.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I appreciate the information proffered by the Minister and at some point we have spoken about the exorbitant prices of both land and houses in the major towns of our country and I agree that something needs to be done to reign in those run-away prices.

To continue, Comrade Chair, I was saying that this might increase the living and grazing areas. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Information. This Honourable House cannot be intimidated by certain Members. The Honourable Member was speaking about water at Okakarara and why was it not regionalism? Some people, especially those from tribal Parties, have taken certain areas and that only them can speak on those areas. They feel uncomfortable when SWAPO Members are speaking on those areas. Continue, Otjimbingwe is not an exclusive area for NUDO and the DTA.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: That is why I was hesitant to give you the Floor. I really wanted to suggest that once a discussion has taken place, there is no point to go back to that issue. However, you have made your point and I ask the Honourable Member to conclude.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I am a SWAPO leader assigned to the areas that I am talking about. Comrade Deputy Chair, I am convinced that this will lead to the amelioration of poverty, food security and general welfare of our people in this semi-arid part of our country. Let me stop there and I wholeheartedly support the vote of my namesake.

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

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. One point I wanted to raise was already mentioned by Honourable Muheua, namely the small size of communal land at Otjimbingwe, Ovitoto and others.

Honourable Minister, when we are dealing with land reform, which is a very sensitive issue, we need to be honest. In addition to what my Comrade has said, that somehow, somewhere the Government should declare that farms being bought adjacent to communal areas, be it in Oshikoto, the Hardap Region, the Omaheke Region, should be integrated into the communal areas and we should come up with something on how they will be managed and how to beneficiate the people in need of land. The Oshana Region, the Ohangwena Region, the Kavango Region to a certain extent and Kunene are adjacent to commercial land and in those areas we should determine who are the type of people who should benefit from commercial farms, because some of these regions are congested. (Interjection). Kunene south, the communal area of Kamanjab and

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Khorixas is adjacent to commercial areas, but beyond Oshivelo it is not adjacent to any commercial farm. Something must be designed to ensure that when you are resettling people from those areas on commercial farms, it should rather go to Traditional Authorities, schools, women groups. In the areas bordering communal areas, it should be given to Traditional Authorities, people who can organise themselves in order to benefit a community.

What I am driving at here is that we should take Honourable Tjihuiko or Honourable Kazenambo, people with many cattle who qualify under the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme, and resettle them on the adjacent farms near a communal area like Ovitoto which is really congested. Some people do not even own a donkey but they are resettled. Some are directors in the Government, some are Permanent Secretaries, a principal or a business person with money, but they are resettled on farms adjacent to people who are really hungry for land.

If you do a land audit, Honourable Minister, and I am not shooting from the hip, you would find that some resettlement farms are now rented out and this is testimony that the beneficiary was not hungry for land. He is a teacher, he is a general, he is a Minister, but he is resettled on a farm that is adjacent to thousands and thousands of people who are land hungry. If you are employed and have an income, you have to take an Affirmative Action Loan. For the sake of time I will end here and I support the Vote.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I will be very brief. Let me start by congratulating the Minister of Lands for one thing and that is that I must admit that since he took over the Ministry, the services have become very much apparent and the Minister himself has become very accessible to those who want to talk to the Minister. This is a very good thing because you are dealing with the upper market of the community and those who make appointments.

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Having said that, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, let me touch on this issue of resettlement of which we have spoken about so many times. I believe those of us who need land should also accept the fact that our population is growing and the land is static. We must accept the fact that there will come a time that we may not be able to get a piece of land, not because Government does not want to give land but simply because there is no land. Therefore, we should also start looking at diversifying into other activities from which we can make a living and not simply because my father was in Okakarara I should be given a piece of land. This is what Honourable Kazenambo has alluded to, that people are given land and they do not make use of it, because they have applied on the understanding that they qualify for land and will get the land. We should strengthen our system of selection so that we give land to those who need land for productive purposes and not for commercial purposes.

My last point I want to touch on is this issue of the Affirmative Action Fund. I have done some research on the system used when the Angola Boers were empowered. The system was completely favourable to those who were given a piece of land and if you look at the white colleagues who had an opportunity to buy farms at a very young age, they have paid off their farms by the age of 45 and by the time they are going to retire, they are going to on a farm that has already been paid.

In our case, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I have seen that, due to the fact of where we are coming from, our people who have bought farms under these schemes will not benefit. The scheme is not in favour of those who have bought farms at the age of above 45 after Independence.

It is our scheme, it was meant to support those who were previously disadvantaged and if we have realised that it is not really meeting the expectations, it should be in our right to review it and say, yes, everybody has access to the bank but a scheme has to be considered for the section of our people who have bought farms and at retirement age would have another twenty years to pay. (Intervention)

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Tjihuiko is making a good point, but I want to ask a small question. Would you suggest that for those who got Affirmative Action Loans when they were sixty and above, the loans should be written off?

HON TJIHUIKO: I really do not have a scheme on hand, but I asked myself whether I would be able to pay off a loan if I buy a farm now. When you retire, you do not want to go and work on a farm, you retire to go and rest. If you buy a farm at the age of fifty and you have another ten years to go, would you be able to work on a farm, produce on a farm and be able pay for the farm?

We should look at this situation as we did with many other schemes, such as the veterans, because it is not good to have a Member of Parliament, a Minister or Deputy Minister who is no longer in a position to work, to be forced to move from the farm back to the communal area. Obviously they would say that we told you that these blacks will not be able to run those farms, but the condition we find ourselves in is very difficult. Honourable Minister, I know that you have the capability to look at how best something can be done and I think something can be done. (Intervention)

HON NYAMU: On a Point of Information. When I listened to you, Honourable Tjihuiko, I thought you were referring to me. Everything in your statement fits my situation. If that is the case, can you allow me to elaborate more to strengthen your argument, that for those who got these farms at a late stage it has become a burden, because your whole pension goes to that farm, everything you have earned is eaten up by this farm. Therefore, I agree with you that there is a need to revisit the policy.

HON TJIHUIKO: I rest my case, Honourable Deputy Chairperson and I support the Vote.

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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. I want to talk on resettlement on the land.

Honourable Minister, some of us have been applying for resettlement since we came to this country without success and there is even no courtesy to be told your application was not successful. You stand there waiting that maybe one day I will be told that my application was successful. I feel that courtesy should at least be extended to us.

Honourable Minister, the population is growing and the land will become smaller and smaller and some of the Honourable Members have already mentioned that the land prices are killing us. We need to reconsider our land policies as there will be no Affirmative Action on land if the prices continue to be what they are today. We need to do something about that. It was mentioned here that most of us can no longer afford to buy land because it is either auctioned and those who are buying it are those with money. It is like a Mafia state of affairs, people are selling to their friends and then tomorrow they sell it again.

Therefore, I think the possibility for those of us with my colour to acquire land in this country is very remote and we should also not forget that the war fought in this country was about land, but yet we cannot get land. Why did we go to war if the issue was all about land and when we won, we did not get what we wanted? What was it wanted? Was it only a flag and an anthem? I think we need to look at this.

I also want to say the AgriBank Scheme is killing us. If you take a loan there, you are required to pay through your nose. For instance, on an amount of N\$500,000, you are required to pay N\$40,000 per annum and you have only started farming. (Interjection)

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HON MEMBER: No grace period.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Yes, no grace period. What are we trying to do, Comrade Minister? (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask a question? You are asking to be given a grace period, but what grace period do you want if you are already over sixty? (Laughter). How are they going to recover their money?

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Yes, it is true, but if you are given a grace period, you can build up your capacity and then leave it to your children to pay off. We could have started earlier, when we came to this country some of us were 39, 40 years old, but now I am over sixty and it is futile for me to acquire land. I am only speaking for those who are young, I cannot afford to be resettled at this age because I cannot afford to pay and I am being honest.

However, I am serious that the scheme does not bring relief, it has become a burden to us and when you retire, you have to pay everything you have. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a question? Are you aware that the grace period does not mean that interest is not being calculated, but only that you are going to pay later?

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Yes, Comrade Prime Minister, the high interest rate should also be reconsidered in the future, but what I am saying is that we should try to benefit the disadvantaged people. With this I support the Vote. I thank you.

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

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. We liberated Namibia, our blood was shed and it waters our freedom. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: May I ask you a question? Can the Honourable Member explain how the Honourable Member's Party liberated the country?

HON MOONGO: I was not in prison like you who were at Robben Island, I was at the front, my dear, with my gun, an AK-47. I am not like you, I do not want to quarrel with you. (Interjections).

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I would suggest we confine ourselves to the issue. Please go ahead.

HON MOONGO: We fought for Independence; the country got its Independence as a unitary State. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: On a Point of Information for the Record. At one time the Honourable Member was a platoon commander, but how did it happen that a platoon commander found himself in this august House serving the colonial administration as a Member of Parliament of the colonial master? From platoon commander

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to colonial puppet Member of Parliament in this House before Independence?

HON MOONGO: I want to ask the Minister as I know he is an honest person and I know he will respond as he is not like the others, since the country is a unitary State, why is a person who bought a farm this side of Oshivelo told that he cannot bring his cattle from the northern communal areas? The people on that side who fought for Independence are told to sell their cattle and buy other cattle here. This is a violation of Article 1 and Articles 10 and 30. We took an Oath that we will uphold the Constitution of this country, but my question is, until when will we discriminate against the communal farmers? We want to buy farms on this side of the red line. We fought for the liberation of this country in order to be equal before the law, as stipulated in Article 10. I hope the Minister will answer me. I support the Vote and I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Moongo, I really thought that you were misdirecting the question, because that is something that should be referred to the Minister of Agriculture. Your concern is taken into account, it is genuine, but somehow it should not be directed to the Minister of Lands. Anyway, you made your point, he will deal with that. On that point, I ask the Minister to respond.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Members. *Honourable Witbooi* referred to water infrastructure of farms. When a farm unit is allocated to someone, the expectation is that this person must be able to farm and you cannot farm if there is no water. It would be defeating any logic. However, the unique situation that we are confronted with as a Nation is that when we acquire land and resettle people, not everyone is endowed with the necessary skills expected from a farmer to make productive use of the farm, with the result that on many occasions the Government is expected to provide everything,

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starting from repairing a diesel pump, fixing fences and everything. You may also appreciate that these things do not come cheap, it costs money and money is not readily available at all times.

With regard to the Farm Soekwater, I think the name was very aptly given. We had a programme which started towards the end of 2009 and was in full swing during 2010, where we spent an awful lot of money to repair infrastructures in specifically identified areas. I think Hardap was one, Karas, some parts of the Otjozondjupa and Erongo Regions. Naturally our mandate is to acquire land and when it comes to rendering services, such as repairing and maintenance of water infrastructure, we are relying on the input of our sister Ministry, run very ably by my brother, and they have been very forthcoming in assisting the Ministry to carry out the repairs and maintenance of water infrastructure and many resettled farmers have benefited from that programme by the Government. However, given the scarcity of funds, it is not possible to reach all the resettled farmers at the time that they would want to be reached. That is probably why you have picked up this problem at Soekwater.

Honourable Ueitele, I thank you for the congratulations. I really do not need to give you a lecture here on the demand for land, we are all citizens of this country and we know the situation on the ground. We also know the challenges faced by the Nation in terms of addressing issues which are not so popular. You have referred to the fencing and I would refer to it as illegal fencing of communal land. It is not only prevalent in the Omaheke area; it is prevalent all over the country, probably worse in some parts of the country than Omaheke. I would classify the phenomenon as very selfish by those who make themselves guilty of that practice, but it is prevalent, it is happening and we just need to find ways to deal with the situation because there is no other person we can complain to as the buck stops with us.

You might have heard of the project in the Omaheke area that the Ministry refers to as the Small-scale Farming Project. The Eiseb area has been identified as one such area amongst so many other areas that we have identified in the north and north-east of our country that we want to embark very aggressively on developing small-scale farms, ranging from

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2,000 to 2,500 hectares, where the Government, with funds kindly availed by the Minister of Finance in close consultation with the National Planning Commission, want to bolster the efforts aimed at targeted intervention to create employment, during the current Financial Year we want to develop the necessary infrastructure and the Eiseb Block would be benefiting from this project.

You referred to the National Youth Service and I agree that they are doing a commendable job. The Ministry, in close consultation with the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, has outsourced this responsibility of taking care of the farms in the interim period before the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement would resettle beneficiaries. If these people are experiencing challenges, we shall look into it and see how we can build capacity in terms of them being mobile and being able to carry out their responsibilities to the best of their capabilities.

Honourable Muheua, the issue of the ever-shrinking communal areas has been raised with the Ministry by our number two in the Government hierarchy in terms of looking into our policy initiatives and to change the policy and legal framework and not only in Otjimbingwe, Ovitoto and Omatjete, but mind you, because of the historical realities that we as a Nation are not able to do something about, this very area that we call our working home, the Khomas Region, notwithstanding the fact that there were people who called this area their home, today does not have a communal area. That in itself remains a very daunting challenge for us as a Nation. We are proposing that we must reconsider the policies to deal with the phenomenon of land becoming scarcer by the day. It is something that we as a Nation need to look at and I do not think there is any argument about that.

Farms can be bought to relieve the pressure and mind you, Comrade Muheua, when we talk about land reform, we are not only talking about willing buyer, willing seller. In terms of our constitutional framework, read together with the legal framework that we have established, provision is made for us to expropriate land if it is in the best interest of the people of this country. It is not that expropriation has all of a sudden become a holy cow that cannot be talked about, but we must do it in terms of the

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legal framework and as a Government we must convince ourselves that we have attended to all the other issues.

Comrade Kazenambo alluded to the same issue, only that he added Ovitoto. Yes, we all agree that land reform is very sensitive. You said that when farms are bought we should, in close cooperation with the Traditional Authorities look at ways of benefiting larger communities instead of individuals. I cannot agree more with what you are saying. We have already embarked on that approach, even though we are still in the process of revising the legal and policy framework. You might have learned about the vast tracks of land that we bought in the Hardap area as recently as a year ago, a farm called Noë#Haribes which totalled more than 50,000 hectares. Together with the Traditional Authorities, the regional leadership, guided by the situation on the ground, we have distributed land and so far it works very well. I am happy that you are through your pronouncements strengthening the approach of the Ministry that there is a way that we can deal with land reform, guided by the wishes and the input of the people on the ground. I can only thank you, Comrade Kazenambo, for what you are proposing.

Honourable Tjihuiko, I thank you for your very kind words. On the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme I do not want to shift the responsibility to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance, but the role of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement when it comes to land reform and the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme stretches so far that we are not inclined to compete with Affirmative Action Loan Scheme applicants. As you know, whenever land becomes available, the preferential right to acquire that land is vested in the Government in terms of our laws, but whenever we would learn as a Ministry that Dr Albert Kawana wants to buy that farm, we waive it because we do not want to compete with Affirmative Action Loan Scheme buyers.

The other issue on which the Ministry has been very approachable is when Affirmative Action Loan Scheme buyers, as per the provisions of the Act, would apply for exemption from land tax. The issues that you have raised is part and parcel of our Government policies and it is good that you are sounding your Government off with regard to your concerns based on the

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experiences, but I also want to humbly beg the indulgence of my Colleagues, the Ministers responsible, to take note of what you said so that we can formulate policies to be able to respond to the plight of our citizens.

I have equally taken note of what you have said about the Angola Boere era. Everybody probably knows that when the policy directives were taken by the former administrators of our country, as much as it was premised on discriminatory practices, they were very bold in what they wanted to do for their people. They were not apologetic about what they wanted to do and the results thereof can be seen today. Therefore, if we as a Nation realise that our policies contain half-hearted measures, we cannot blame any other person. We have to go back to the drawing board and develop the direction we want the Nation to go and that is all I can say. Maybe the Line Ministers probably have more to say but that is all I can say right now.

Honourable Minister of Defence, we are duty-bound by the Public Service Charter to respond. We had some discussions on this issue, but the response by the bureaucrats is that so many people apply, they only inform the successful ones and the rest must just accept if they are not informed that they have not been successful. However, I see some merit in what you are saying and I agree with it, we must find a way of informing the citizens because they are entitled to that and my officials are here.

The land prices have skyrocketed, but you know that our people are also used as traps and we probably know about it and that brings along the phenomenon of skyrocketing prices. When I made my intervention three weeks ago, I alluded to the fact of what is happening. I am not about to repeat it. All we probably need to do is to educate our people that notwithstanding the individual benefits that we derive from colluding with those with the means, at the end of the day our actions will be very counter-productive because it will manifest itself in the prices of land escalating and also exposing so many unbecoming things that we think is only known by us and the individuals that we so collude with, but those

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very individuals are also telling us when you interact with them, that, *“Minister, you can say what you want, but tomorrow I will get a farm, I will get another !Naruseb to buy the farm and the other !Naruseb will not be able to pay, the farm will be auctioned, I will come and buy the farm on auction and regain more than what I have paid him and we split the spoils.”* That is what is happening and that is contrary to the popularly spread belief that because the Government buys farms, the farms become expensive. That is a long way removed from the truth; the truth is our own actions.

Honourable Moongo, I need not repeat what Honourable Katjavivi said. I think I have dealt with the issues raised. Thank you.

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

Vote 17 – “REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT” is put for Discussion.

HON UEITELE: Thank you Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My contribution is based on page 3 under Social Housing Build-Together Programme.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, the backlog in provision of adequate and affordable housing in the entire country remains a challenge to be addressed. The shortage is most critical in rural and peri-urban areas. Housing for informal settlements cannot be over-emphasised. Cognisant of the legal mechanisms to address the shortage of housing in our country, I must request the Ministry responsible to reconsider the loan amounts of the Build-Together Programme to be in line with the cost of materials and the fluctuating inflation.

The current Ministerial programme on the upgrading of informal settlement ought to be reviewed in order to be responsive to the current

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burden of influx and uncontrollable increased growth of these informal settlements.

Comrade Minister, houses have become so expensive all over the country, so expensive that some of us cannot even afford to buy houses. If we cannot, how can the people on the ground afford and I feel we must look into the issue of using local materials, because the prices are skyrocketing because of especially the cement and corrugated iron. The Build-Together Programme needs to look into this.

Comrade Minister, it is said on page 6 that during December the newly elected Councillors will undergo a training workshop, however we still have a challenge with these Local Authority Councillors, especially those who are employed in other Ministries. Whenever they have to attend to Village or Council meetings, they are forced to put in leave, with the result that at the end of the day the colleague cannot take leave as it has been exhausted. Something must be worked out because these colleagues are performing duties in the interest of the community. There must be a provision that would allow them to attend these meetings without taking leave from their duty stations. I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 17 as this Ministry is still close to my heart.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I want to thank the Ministry for allocating money to the City of Windhoek with a view to improve the conditions in informal settlements regarding housing and sanitation, but while I appreciate this allocation, I also think that the City of Windhoek needs to improve the sanitary situation within the City of Windhoek. I think most of you, like me, might have observed people relieving themselves

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within the City of Windhoek and that is an indication that the public amenities are not sufficient. If this practice continues unabated, we risk having the City of Windhoek denigrated, which has been regarded as the cleanest city in Africa, a liveable and beautiful city, but now you find people relieving themselves and even those driving motor cars. A person parks a car and relieves himself against a wall. This practice must be stopped and in fact, the City Police have to arrest these people. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask a question? Honourable Minister, you are addressing a very important hygiene issue. I have been living here for many years and I have witnessed what you are mentioning, people relieving them, sometimes even facing the public. However, is it true that it is only men who behave in that fashion and why is it that these comrades have all of a sudden lost their self-respect? Can you confirm or deny the allegation that it is only men who behave in this fashion and not women?

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: I fully agree, I have only seen men doing this and this is an indecent practice and they should not be allowed to continue like this. The City Police should be instructed to arrest whoever is found doing this. (Intervention)

HON NYAMU: May I ask a small question? Minister, you are proposing arrest, detention, punishment for a very serious issue. Instead of proposing a solution, you are proposing punishment. The fact is that this city lacks facilities and people are not doing this by choice, it is by nature. I am sure it is not something they would like to do, except that they have no alternative as there are no facilities. Instead of punishment we must think of providing all over Windhoek.

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HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Members, before I mentioned that the culprits must be arrested, I also indicated that there is a need to increase the public amenities. However, people should behave decently in public. The people doing this are not children, they are adults and they should really respect themselves.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Can I just share this with the Members? I am not trying to restrict your freedom, but I have a long list and to be fair to everybody, I think we should not unnecessarily repeat.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I just ask a small question? Comrade Kaapanda, would you restrict that kind of indecent behaviour just to the city or would you also say the same to the people along the canals in the North where our gender bath next to the road in the presence of persons of the opposite sex?

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Any form of indecent exposure is prohibited by customary law.

The next point I want to touch on is rural sanitation, which is a very good thing but very difficult to implement. I have seen toilets which were built in the Omusati Region and when one looks at the location of these toilets, one can conclude that there were no consultations with the prospective beneficiaries because these toilets are erected in the middle of nowhere. One does not know who will use these toilets in the middle of nowhere. The nearby villages cannot access it; it is far from their houses. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask a question? Comrade Kaapanda, as the

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municipalities, especially Windhoek, is now being given funds, is it not high time that they stop the auctioning of land, because those who buy at the auctions are the developers who want to expand their businesses. Could we not advise the Municipalities not to auction land?

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

TECHNOLOGY: I will not attempt that question. What I want to say on the issue of rural toilets is that there is a need for consultation with the rural people, so that the beneficiaries could indicate where it would be convenient for these toilets to be erected. Also the design of these toilets should be ideal for this situation, because some of the toilets built in the rural areas are those who are built for households where they will be maintained. I do not know whether they will also provide maintenance teams to maintain those toilets in the rural areas. With this I support the Vote.

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

HON LIMBO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to give my support to Vote 17 and I have two small questions.

Many of the small Local Authorities have been complaining that they have been experiencing problems since the water and electricity functions have been taken away from them. The responsibility for water now resorts under NamWater and electricity supply was taken over by NORED in the northern Regions and I want to find out whether this trend is going to continue or something will be done.

Secondly, Honourable Kaapanda already mentioned the toilets and I have seen in the Caprivi, which is a sandy area, that some of these toilets collapse. I think they used very cheap materials for the slabs and as a

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result it is money wasted and something has to be done. I support the Vote.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I just want to make a few points to support this very important Vote and mine is on infrastructure development and also the challenge in housing as viewed against the existence of the REDs.

Comrade Minister, you mentioned that support will be provided for the development of infrastructure in the rural areas and you enumerated a number of these, namely communication, transport and works. However, the issue of electricity seems to have been omitted and somebody needs to assist me here, whether the REDs are Parastatals or Private Companies. Who supervises and oversees these animals? Someone would say they are controlled by the Electricity Control Board, but when we call them, I am yet to see them accounting them to a Parliamentary Committee for their bills. If they are supervised by the control boards, can the control board answer a question that has to be answered by a politician, an elected person? No. According to me they are in-between, they are not controlled by the Electricity Board, they are not controlled by the Members of Parliament and if we give account of how they treat us, it leaves much to be desired. They have no respect for anyone and you have seen the kind of wastage. I think they have already broken even, that is why they are now constructing all kinds of buildings. I do not know how they survived all along without being supervised by anyone. I am from a background where we do not like assumptions and we must now really direct and supervise these people and find out how they are doing business, whom are they accounting to and I do not really know the rationale for their existence.

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I also see a very good approach in trying to come up with a plan for storm water drainage systems for towns and local authorities. Presently people just dump sand here for the water to be diverted to their neighbours. It is a commendable exercise. Keep it that way, Comrade Minister.

The other one is that I want you and your sister Ministry of Lands to come up with a programme of addressing sustainable and integrated land-use management. Where I come from it is the Traditional Authorities who distribute land in the communal areas and I do not know whether they have really been exposed to this concept of integrated land-use management. I do not want to see that there is a red line and those on the other side in the communal area are left like that and by the time the concept of integrated land-use management reaches us, the land is degraded and there is nothing more to manage, there is nothing more to denigrate. I have spoken in this House several times and I have used the concept of carrying capacity. Somebody spoke about cattle grazing in the corridors and in my area that is the only place left, the corridors. As long as we continue attaching the distribution of land to income for these Traditional Authorities, we will never be able to solve this problem and the generations to come will have nothing and we will have to bear the blame. I thank you.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you very much once again, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 17 and I think you have noticed that when I say I am going to be brief, I mean it.

I congratulate the Honourable Minister for allocating funds to housing and infrastructure development. Shelter, as contained in our long-term plan, Vision 2030, is a basic need. Comrade Deputy Chair, I will be speaking on pages 2 and 3.

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Much has been said about the exorbitant prices of property in our major towns and maybe it is good for those who purchased properties earlier. I am acutely aware that these prices are subject to demand and supply, but I am also convinced that these prices are over-inflated.

My second concern is on the redemption period of property on mortgage. The current system employed by the commercial banks needs to be reviewed. It has always puzzled me how it is possible to pay off a vehicle of N\$800,000 or even N\$1 million over a short period of five years, while it takes twenty to thirty years to redeem a housing loan of N\$500,000. With that I support Vote 17.

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 17. Honourable Minister, I feel your Ministry has to be commended for supporting Regional and Local Authorities with finances, more especially when it comes to infrastructure development because in the past there has been an outcry in Local Authorities. This is a very good move. You have indicated that a number of towns will not be attractive due to the shortage of infrastructure such as roads, water supply, communication facilities and adequate housing.

Honourable Minister, you have mentioned specific infrastructures and there is something that is very challenging in the Local Authorities and I do not know whether this is also catered for under this programme and this is the challenge of informal traders which are now increasing and have become a headache to Local Authorities because of the lack of trading space. When a Local Authority develops a new extension or township, you find the informal traders flocking to that place and they sit wherever they want to sit because there is no trading space provided for them. Sometimes the Local Authorities try to force them out but it is a challenge, people start to face one another. It seems they are doing it

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especially during election time and Independence Avenue is full of people selling their apples and nuts. If there is nothing provided under this item in terms of informal trading space, my advice is that space with infrastructure should be provided.

If you look at our informal markets more especially in the northern towns, you find that many people are slaughtering their cattle there. It would be good to provide a small abattoir as the Local Authorities cannot do that now because they do not have money.

The Honourable Minister was talking about proclamation of new Local Authorities and indicated that Otjinene in Omaheke Region and Oranjemund will soon be proclaimed, which is a good thing. Now I want to look at the situation between Oshana and Oshikoto Regions. There is a place that is connected to Ondangwa called the Onethindi area and that area is growing into a big city uncontrolled. When you go to Ondangwa that is the face you see. Everyone is allocating land to himself or herself. I want to know what is planned to be done about this. Maybe this could be incorporated into Ondangwa. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: May I ask Honourable Uutoni a question? Honourable Uutoni, the point you are raising has been raised previously either here or somewhere else when there was a proposal for Onethindi to be declared as a town of its own. I was one of those who were against Onethindi being proclaimed as a town simply because of its proximity to Ondangwa town. Given the fact that Ongwediva and Oshakati are almost in the same situation, would you also maybe suggest that the two towns be merged to become one?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you, it is a good suggestion. These are just suggestions we are putting to the Minister for consideration. Whether Ongwediva and Oshakati should become one town is up to the people themselves, but Oshakati and Ongwediva are now being controlled, you do not see anarchy. However,

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the one I am referring to has no leadership and it is growing and it is going to be very difficult if you happen to proclaim it as a town.

Honourable Minister, you are talking about upgrading new towns and downgrading others. You are talking about Usakos which was a Municipality and Karibib which is now downgraded to a town. Honourable Minister, since 1992 and before you had towns that were doing very well being proclaimed as towns. Are there none of those towns which have performed very well so that it could also be promoted to a Part 2 level Municipality? It is just downgraded from Part 2 to a town and from a town to a village, but there is nothing provided for those who are performing very well to move up. With that I thank you and I support the Vote.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to thank the Minister, first of all, for the establishment of the social housing. This is a very welcome initiative, because the poor and vulnerable members of our society could be assisted to have a roof over their heads and I am personally aware of people who are currently benefiting from this programme and who are very much grateful to the Government.

However, Honourable Minister, the people are getting these social houses free of charge and I believe it is based on some merits, but I want to find out what happens if the occupant of a house dies. In some cases I heard that the house is forfeited and is given to the next beneficiary and I would like to find out what happens to the minor children of the deceased. Are any measures put in place for an identified relative to continue staying with them in this social house?

Then, Honourable Minister, in principle the Build-Together Programme was an excellent programme because these houses were meant for the homeless people. At the beginning the programme was doing extremely well, but somehow things started going wrong. Some people who borrowed this money never paid back, some used it for other purposes and until now those houses have only been constructed to window height. I do

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not think the Ministry should be blamed for his, but rather those who squandered the money. The Government should take drastic action to review the programme and also to recover the money. It must go back to the drawing board and the defaulters should be identified. Monitoring and evaluation should be put in place by the Ministry in order to revise this housing programme and also secure that the N\$35 million budgeted for the 2011/2012 Financial Year be accounted for.

On the issue of infrastructural development, I urge the Minister not only to consider towns but also to reach out to villages and settlement areas, for instance places such as Kalkfeld where sanitation and water supply is in limbo, especially what we in Kalkfeld call the *Ble ônde* (Zinc houses) where the old bucket system is still in use. Honourable Minister, I believe and all of us believe that these people are subjected to health hazards and I want the Minister to also look into that. I wholeheartedly support the Vote without any reservation. Thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Minister, I think we have become more capitalist than the capitalists themselves. You have many good programmes to which a lot of money has been allocated, but when one looks at what has been given by the State for the well-being of the people, the outcome is disastrous. Land has become expensive, it is being auctioned and when those who are more capitalist than anybody else see the money, it is manna falling from heaven and prices are skyrocketing. We will not build the number of houses as promised here, we will only build a few houses.

Comrade Minister, why can we not build flats in Windhoek, for example, so that the services are centred? Presently the services are scattered all over the mountains and the hills – water, sanitation, and electricity. If the services are centred, we would be able to provide adequate services to the

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people. I think this is disastrous. In other countries they build flats and I know Africans do not like flats, but we must design policies that would avail services and accommodation to all.

Comrade Minister, it seems we have started to give powers to ourselves in towns and in all sectors. Things have become expensive. When the poor are running the affairs, they inflate the prices so that they become rich. There is no town where you can afford to buy land because it is expensive and people only want money in their coffers.

Comrade Minister, I will not be convinced that the Mayor of a town who does not reside in that town would be able to see the problems of that town. He sleeps somewhere else and only comes to work during the day. The Mayor and the rest of the Municipal staff sleep somewhere else. If they sleep in the villages where there is no electricity and toilets, how will they solve the problems of electricity and toilets in the towns and the cities? It is disappointing and then you recruit people only for their cheques, but not for providing services to the people they work for. I have seen it and it is very disappointing. I think there should be a policy that once you are a Mayor of a certain town or city; you must reside in that town or city. It is like the Mayor of Okahandja sleeping in Windhoek and this is not acceptable. People must stay there and see the problems of the people. The Governors do also not reside in the capital towns of their regions, they stay somewhere else and only come to work.

Honourable Minister, you mentioned a programme on family farming and the number of jobs to be created and we will be able to ask you next year whether you have reached your target. You also mentioned that the Ministry is working on a Local Authority Emergency Management Policy. Is this not duplication, because the Office of the Prime Minister already has a Disaster Management Policy and I think the disaster management at local levels should be centralised there. I feel it should be there and maybe this is duplication.

On family farming, in the Regions where I come from there is a tradition that we only cultivate during the rainy season and when the rain stops, you will not find any household with a garden where they grow vegetables even

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though there is an abundance of water. What is needed is education and they must be given skills. At Odibo where I grew up, there were small dams there full of water and there was one *Oshimbundu* man called Paul who had a big garden and all the people went there to buy sweet potatoes, cabbage and potatoes, but we do not have the skills to do gardening when it is not raining. This year we have received about 150% of rain and there is a lot of water, but you will not find anyone gardening. Comrade Minister, you should give skills and training to our people to do gardening.

The Youth Development Programme, the socio-economic development activities, such as conservation of natural resources and grass harvesting, is very interesting but you need to give us more information on what you mean with conservation of natural resources and grass harvesting. With these few words, Honourable Minister, I will support the Vote. Thank you.

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

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:
Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 17 and commend the Ministry for what they did so far through the NHE, Build-Together and Shack Dwellers Programmes to provide shelter to the Namibian people. As these are the only programmes which can benefit the poor people, I want to suggest to the Minister that, if possible, the Ministry should order all municipalities to give bigger plots for these programmes, because our people will not be able to buy other plots.

I read today in one of our newspapers that illegal immigrants from neighbouring countries are part of the national migrants from rural to urban areas, who are also accommodated in Okuryangava, Okahandja Park, Greenwell Matongo, just to mention a few. I would suggest that the municipalities register these households who are resettling in those areas

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mentioned in the newspapers and then to contact the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration to do their work, because as a result of the exemption of visas from our neighbouring countries and the vastness of our borders, it is really difficult for the immigration officers to stop the influx into our cities and towns. If the municipalities register those people, we will be able to deport them.

My last question is on the One Region-One Initiative. I want more clarity on this programme because it is not clear from the motivation. With these few words, I once again support Vote 17 and I thank you.

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 will try to avoid repeating some of the issues raised by other Colleagues but allow me to refer to an issue raised by Honourable Namoloh from a different perspective and that is on food security, namely Family Farming and the Youth Employment Scheme.

Comrade Minister, I am trying to beg your indulgence in explaining the rationale of placing these programmes under your vote as opposed to strengthening already existing programmes, for argument's sake, in terms of food security and family farming under the Ministry of Agriculture and the same in terms of the Youth Employment Scheme under the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture so that we can complement existing programmes and avoid the tendency of being inefficient and introducing similar programmes elsewhere, just ending up duplicating. If I am raising that on the basis of less information, I would beg your indulgence in terms of providing justification as to why existing programmes were not strengthened as opposed to placing them under this vote. On that note, I move my support for Vote 17. Thank you.

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA

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

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My few issues are centred on the affordability of land in urban areas. I know the issue has been dealt with by other speakers who spoke before me, but Comrade Deputy Chairperson, the method and the system of auctioning of land needs to be reconsidered. I do not think even the Minister will have adequate time to address that issue and maybe he can address somewhere else, but we really need to seriously look at this issue because it is exploitative, it is being abused, it is enriching a few and I am told that currently Windhoek is 60% owned by foreign nationals. People with money who cannot afford houses in their own countries come here, using foreign currency to buy land to the exclusion of Namibians, because one, we cannot afford it, and secondly, it is so competitive at the auctions.

Why is it that we cannot dedicate a piece of land to NHE, for example, which is a National Housing Enterprise and this company either builds for those who cannot afford to build for themselves or can also sell, but then they scrutinise the buyers, so that only Namibians are allowed to buy land. Truly, we cannot be foreigners in our own country. One cannot buy a house in Luanda, one cannot buy land in Angola but here it is open for everybody and it is not fair.

The other point I want to raise is that some of our locations have been in existence for a long time and we need to renew some of these locations and give them a new look by demolishing some of the old houses and building new ones so that we renew our towns. We give our towns a facelift as is happening elsewhere. Katutura was built in 1959 and these houses are old. It is only that our people do not have money and therefore, they have no choice.

I want to re-emphasise an issue raised by Honourable Namoloh. Truly, we are not planning properly. I am told certain farms around Windhoek are going to be bought because we want to expand Windhoek. Expansion,

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as Honourable Namoloh has said, involves infrastructure for water and electricity, schools which are going to be spread out, children walking long distances. Why are we not building flats where the services are then provided at a very central place and the children are given proper playgrounds? Now we build so many houses far away from each other and no playgrounds for children. Old people have nowhere to walk; recreation facilities are non-existent in Windhoek.

We condemned apartheid because it has created these facilities and we are not doing something different from what apartheid has created. Let us look at Katutura, rebuild Katutura and build better facilities for Katutura. Let us build flats, even if it is only three storeys and then other facilities. Then I think you will make progress. I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you very much. I rise to support the Vote. A few months ago I was the Deputy Minister in the very same Ministry, I learned a lot and I can really support the Vote, but while I am supporting the Vote, I must also be honest. I mentioned this when I was addressing other Ministries, it is a pity that when my Vote was discussed I was not here, I was attending a funeral somewhere.

My senior Minister is going to be grappling with questions; he is going to answer on behalf of everybody. We are Line Ministers but somehow the people who are taking decisions are not here and they are sitting there, scribbling on small notes to aid the Minister to defend the indefensible. This is the problem with this system and now it appears as if we as Ministers are attacking each other, but the truth is that I was a Deputy Minister in that Ministry and your heart is bleeding while you are signing some things. They are autonomous by Act of Parliament but at one point they must come here and defend their autonomy.

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I am talking on housing and infrastructure. Windhoek used to be praised everywhere and even by myself. Whenever I travelled I used to say, *“These are bigger countries, potholes!”* Now Windhoek has potholes everywhere. To be honest, this rain has exposed criminality, because it appears that these colleagues who used to receive tenders have built gravel roads and they painted them black. (Laughter). Yes, they were building gravel roads! One does not know now who should account in this case for the quality of service because it is an autonomous management and the Minister is interfering. That is why one would love to ask the Chairperson of the Management Committee of the City of Windhoek. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: They are here.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: They are comfortable because they are writing defensive notes here, I know! They are passing notes. What these colleagues are doing is criminal, to be honest and now I am not addressing the Minister, I am talking to the crooks that are cheating us with the tenders. One wonders what guarantee is given for this infrastructure when it is being created and those in the Management Committee must from now have guarantees on the standard of these roads because it is our money.

We are told that the rates and taxes are hiked because the infrastructure has to be maintained. What infrastructure is there which justifies the hiking? I am not directing this to the Minister; I am talking to the management, the Chairperson and the CEO. How many millions are you paying for these roads and then the poor citizens are being told that the rates and taxes are being hiked for infrastructure? What type of infrastructure? Substandard infrastructure exposed to the core? Please, painted black. I do not need any defensive answer from these people, they must go and do their homework, it has just exposed itself, it is criminal and they must address that criminality. They must report those companies who got those tenders and they must rebuild these roads.

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The Honourable Members were talking about planning. Town planning in this country is not done by the Ministry, we have a body called NAMPAP with independent engineers, quantity surveyors, name them. They are private, maybe with two officials from the Ministry and these people are so-called independent experts who are participating in the planning. They are writing notes, the notes will be flowing, let them flow, but I will talk to the point. I agree with the previous speakers who said planning should really speak to the needs of our people. As the Secretary-General has said and it cannot be denied, Windhoek is foreign-owned and all the towns in Namibia are going to be foreign-owned. Oshikango, Ongwediva, name them, all of them are foreign-owned and it is a serious concern.

Government must come up with a clear policy that in certain areas there will be no auctioning whatsoever. We put our foot down; we say no auctioning of land in this area. It is for Namibian citizens. In certain countries you are only allowed to lease whether you are there for a hundred years, but in Namibia it is laissez-faire, it is a free-for-all. They are autonomous Local Authorities, autonomous Regional Authorities, but there they are defended by the Minister. No, it cannot continue this way, it is blackmail, interference by the politician in their affairs.

I can tell you that in Windhoek and I am not talking about Katima Mulilo, Oshakati, Keetmanshoop, in Windhoek alone, graduates from UNAM, clerks in the Government, clerks in the banks, people who are under the bracket of N\$400,000 cannot afford to buy a place in this city here. Our own citizens are condemned to be displaced in their own country and there is no defence and I am not exposing anything, I am talking about the plight of the people who have elected me to be in this House. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: You are talking like NUDO now.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: What NUDO? The most reactionary Party on earth.

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There are young graduates who are supposed to form families tomorrow who have nowhere to stay in their own country. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: On a Point of Information before you conclude in a form of a question. Do you not believe that Windhoek is maybe owned by property developers who buy huge tracts of land and chop it into small pieces and build matchboxes, townhouses?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: You have put it as it is and to make it even worse, our young graduates are landless in their own country, displaced in their own town. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: May I ask the Honourable Minister a small question? Are you aware that the same people you are talking of are the ones who are threatening the Government through the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration to issue them with permanent residence and citizenship because they have acquired properties, mentioning in their applications that they have property in Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Ondangwa, Katima, Windhoek, why do you not want to issue me with citizenship? Are you aware of that?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: I am aware that and this has nothing to do with xenophobia, we appreciate the generosity which our brothers and sisters in Africa and from elsewhere has shown to us, but to be honest, we cannot become landless and displaced in our own country. I have mentioned that bracket of young people, today it is shameful that they have to lease land from foreigners in their own country and the price is set. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? I am following very well, but do you not think that all of us, in one way or the other, are also responsible for the situation that we are condemning today, for the following reason: The Local Authorities Act is administered by the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development and if we have realised this situation long before, was it so difficult to repeal this Act and to do it the way we think is appropriate?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: This is exactly what I have said. In the process of monitoring and evaluating, we are now highlighting the consequences of the Act that was put in place and we are saying that it is about time that review and amend this Act or repeal it completely.

In conclusion, while we are repealing some of these Acts, our citizens who are innovative and have money have realised that the country is being sold out and that they must now develop estates where the rich are retreating. As we are amending I would suggest that neighbouring farms around towns must be bought by Government, by Local Authorities and be blocked not to be developed into private estates by the likes of Kazenambo, so that they can build for the poor generation of this country around the cities.

In addition to that, let us also consider upgrading the roads to double lanes between Windhoek and Okahandja and Windhoek and Rehoboth, even Ongwediva, Oshakati, Ondangwa and Onethindi. That would make the youngsters to live in Okahandja because traffic is not congested, they can live in Okahandja and work here in Windhoek. I support the Vote.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Let me remind the Honourable Members, I know you are seriously concerned about some of these important issues that are reflected in your interventions, but we are equally expected to express ourselves in a dignified manner without reflecting on the character of any

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person who is not able to defend himself or herself. While I actually welcome strong expression in any form or shape, on the other hand we are required not to question in any way the characters of other people. An expression like “crooks” should not be expressed in this House and there are Rules governing our conduct. I can understand it is a heated Debate, you are actually seriously concerned about these issues, but you can still express yourself without necessarily using certain terms that are actually not dignified. Therefore, I am forced to remind Honourable Members not to do so. Let us make progress.

MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: I withdraw that.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I am grateful to the Honourable Kazenambo for being big enough to do that. Thank you. Honourable Haingura.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I will be brief. I see many millions are being given to the City of Windhoek and I want them to please look into the sanitation at Babylon, because in 2006 we had an outbreak of polio which originated there as a result of lack of sanitation.

Secondly is the issue of streetlights in some of our towns and also the naming of streets. Sometimes one gets lost in small towns because of lack of street names. If you do not know Rundu town, you would not know where to go. Let us use this money for street lights to curb crime.

Lastly I just want to emphasise the issue of flats. Our student nurses coming from the Regions already have houses in Ondangwa and elsewhere. They need a second house when coming here, which they cannot afford and, therefore, they cannot concentrate on their studies. I think flats would help us for them to get accommodation. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Dingara.

HON DINGARA: Thank you Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. If one looks at the Government Housing Scheme, the maximum qualifying amount is N\$450,000. If one looks at the price of a plot in Hochland Park, for example, is about N\$500,000. How would a Civil Servant acquire a house if the land alone costs more than the qualifying amount provided by the Government?

I also want to touch on the auctioning of land. The problem is that I thought we have the power here in Parliament, but here we are crying and complaining, I do not know to whom. Is this not the House which should take decisions to move mountains in the country?

I want to join those who have complained because a fully serviced plot, for example in Otjomuise, it would probably cost round about N\$60,000. (Intervention)

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: May I ask a small question? Are you sure that if there was no camera here people would be complaining?

HON DINGARA: Yes, I think that is the answer, maybe we are complaining for a reason that is probably not to solve the problem that we want to solve. We are probably complaining for other reasons. As the House making laws for the Nation, we are supposed to come and make the laws and then the laws are implemented and then we carry on with other things and we do not repeat our complaints year after year.

If the plot which costs N\$60,000 is put on auction, it will be sold at N\$300,000 and when the bidder gets the land for N\$300,000, he would wait for two years without building anything so that it can be sold at N\$500,000 because by that time the land has appreciated.

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We have consulted stakeholders involved in the provision of housing in the country and almost all of them are saying the housing demand in Namibia is in excess of 300,000 at the moment. NHE, one of leading providers of housing, are given the responsibility to ensure that by 2030 they would have completed 45,000 houses. That is 15% of the current demand and who will deal with the rest of the demand? I think I have now joined those who were complaining. I am supposed to provide a solution and say we must do this, but fine, this is the nature of our system, we have to join each other in complaining and maybe one day we will get a solution. With those few words I support the Vote.

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

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am going to join the group of complainers. Honourable Minister, I think you know that for a couple of years I have been very critical of your Ministry especially because I believe that your Ministry is the one with the capacity to take development closer to the people and I must admit now for the first time that looking at your submission, I can see that you are coming closer to what I was talking about.

I am no less impressed, Honourable Minister, by what is mentioned on page 9, local and regional economic development, the fact that you have now put a system in place where development will be seriously taking place in the regions. You have provided the necessary support services and that is commendable. One could see that the Cabinet Decision of 2009 is being implemented and we hope that with a little bit of funding you would be able to create the necessary economic structures in the regions that would help our people not to flock to the main cities.

The second point that I want to touch on is the issue of the Council of Traditional Leaders. Honourable Minister, the Council of Traditional Leaders is a very important meeting where the Nation wishes to go and see our Traditional Leaders debating issues. I am sure that the day that

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that house is being made open to the public, it would attract a lot of attention. Can you please try to facilitate a process where, whenever the Traditional Council is in place, to allow those who want to go and listen to our leaders to do so? I think there is nothing wrong with allowing us to go and listen as the colleagues are here listening to us. That will enable us to appreciate what the Traditional Leaders are doing, because in most cases we are just reading a report by a third party in the newspapers and that creates an attitude towards our leaders.

My second-last remark is on the issue of rural development coordination. Honourable Minister, I was looking at the programmes listed here and I think I will concur with what the previous speaker has said. Looking at these programmes, I think we need to consolidate. I do not think that it is necessary for your Ministry to look at SMEs. There is no difference between Rural Development Centres and the SME modules of Ministry of Trade, the macro-finance scheme and the other schemes proposed in those Ministries and the list goes on. Let us look at the core functions of your Ministry, concentrate on that and perfect your activities rather than trying to getting involved in others that can be taken care of by another Ministry.

Honourable Minister, on the Food and Cash for Work Programme, productive activities such as feeder roads, water pipes, construction of teachers' houses and classrooms and earth dams are activities that can create jobs for unemployed young people. I know that the Budget may not allow you to appoint fulltime workers, but these people are not working in the Regions and constituencies, the areas where we need to create jobs. To move these programmes to the Ministry of Works to be budgeted for properly to create jobs in those areas, whether for six months or one year, would be better. If it remains with your Ministry, you should look for a Budget that would justify creating jobs that can also help to develop some kind of skills and experience for their CVs when they are looking for other jobs.

I conclude, Honourable Deputy Chair, by saying that I support the Minister of Justice on the issue of the price of land. I believe and I need to verify this, I am not sure that the law that prohibits foreigners to buy

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farmland is specific on farmland. I think it says that foreigners are not allowed to buy land in Namibia and if not, we can amend that Act to ensure that land is land, whether it is abandoned, whether it is land in Windhoek. Maybe we need to amend rather than passing a new Act. I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much. I only have one point, a very brief one. Comrade Chair, with respect to the towns and the City of Windhoek, in particular, on the issue of street kids, particularly those of the ages 8, 9 and 10, I decided to go underground and went to many of the shops in the City of Windhoek, especially in Katutura and Monte Christo. There are tens and tens of children of ages 8, 10 and 12 not attending school at all. I spoke to them and they were talking to me. Of course, I consulted some colleagues at the City of Windhoek. This is the same thing with many other towns; many kids of ages 8, 9 and 10 are not attending school.

There are those in the City of Windhoek in particular of 8, 9 and 10 who are mainly selling sweets and when you ask them, "*why are you here,*" they would tell you, "*My aunty or my uncle has asked me.*" This was not something I have done once, I have done it several times even with a lot of my Colleagues to go and see what is happening. Many of the little ones are not attending school.

If you go to places like Soweto Market, you have scores of the learners at places where some of us go for haircuts, they do not attend school. Honourable Minister, taking into account that we have the City Police in Windhoek, would they not be able to assist, maybe to approach many of these kids together with our colleagues dealing with social issues, because this is a time bomb. When these kids become 15 or 16 they will sit at the traffic lights, but before that they are at those shops particularly at Monte

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Christo, Soweto as well as in Khomasdal. The same goes for Rehoboth where there are quite a lot of kids that are not attending school. Is it possible to get the City Police to assist us to get these kids to the Ministry of Gender for counselling and to be assisted, otherwise it is a lost generation. I support Vote 17.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Honourable Members, I now call on the Honourable Minister to respond.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members. Let me from the onset start with *Honourable Ueitele* on the issue of Build-Together and respond to all those who touched on the issue of Build-Together.

Since the Build-Together Programme started in 1992 it has shifted a lot. Currently, once the funds are appropriated, the Ministry pays it into the accounts of the Local Authorities to implement the programme. I have taken a decision in the Ministry that once the current Budget is approved, the funds will not be allocated to the Local Authorities, the reason being that there is no uniformity and some Local Authorities use the funds to pay NamWater and other services. Build-Together is meant for people whose monthly salary is from zero to N\$3,000 and those from N\$4,000 onwards qualify to apply to NHE. Currently there is a loan from N\$5,000 up to N\$40,000 which they have to pay over a period of twenty years. The criteria are that one must have a plot in order to qualify for a Build-Together loan. Imagine, where will a poor cleaner have a plot in order to qualify for Build-Together, meaning that if you apply for N\$40,000, half of the money will go to buy a plot and you remain with the other half. With that half he or she must pay the builder and as a result, only N\$10,000 remains to build a house. The result is that we have half-completed Build-Together houses all over the country.

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There are no guidelines, you find that one applies for N\$40,000 and then he or she starts digging trenches to start building a house with eight rooms and after buying the concrete, the N\$40,000 are depleted and the house remains that way.

In short, what we are going to do as of now is that NHE will also build two-room, three-room, four-room houses, houses for N\$10,000, N\$40,000, N\$50,000 up to N\$60,000 and if you apply for a N\$40,000, then you have to sign an agreement with NHE that you have to pay over twenty years and then they say, here is the key, go into that house, meaning that the whole N\$40,000 you have applied for have gone into the house.

If you apply for a N\$30,000 house, the house is already built, you sign a contract, here is the house and by that we will build mass housing, because currently the Build-Together build houses is per application. For instance, if in Okahandja only two people applied that year, it means they will only build two houses because they say only two people applied. Why can we not build mass housing and people see the houses and they apply. NHE will also have to control that money because we believe NHE will not use the money to pay NamWater and others; they will use the money for what it is meant for.

NHE is also going to build flats, one-bedroom, two-bedrooms or three-bedrooms with a kitchen and a sitting room, because you find a 20 year old UNAM graduate from Walvis Bay who is employed in Windhoek and that person does not think of marriage. Where can those people rent a house? The result is that that person will squat.

When we had a Shelter Africa meeting here last year, we went through the townships up to the informal settlements. They were saying these are not slums; why do slum people build houses? Did the Government supply them with corrugated iron? If a person can buy corrugated iron, it means these people can afford it, but only because the opportunities are not there, they build these. We are going to build flats as even the services will be cheaper. We will build flats; you will find a kindergarten and shops there.

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I said we are going to extend the boundaries of Windhoek and I will explain why. The City of Windhoek is already busy extending the boundary of Windhoek to beyond the airport at Seeis on the way to Gobabis and on the way to Okahandja, up to NamWater and beyond Aris, the reason being that currently the people are building houses in the mountains beyond Goreangab Dam and if you have to provide sanitation in those areas, you are wasting your money. Windhoek must move this side where it is flat, rather than our people moving into the mountains.

We have a private town being developed, Omeya and also Finkenstein on the way to the airport. I got complaints about the first constitution of Omeya, the township being developed on the way to Rehoboth. Such towns are in South Africa and it is mostly for whites. The first constitution of Omeya says that if you want to live in Omeya, it is an association; you must first belong to the association to get a plot there. They were saying there will be two gates with security and if you have domestic workers working for you, they must stay in their compound and after six they must not move around and if you receive visitors, the association will determine who will come and who not. It happened in South Africa, many farmers are developing their farms into townships, exclusively for white. They said Windhoek has an influx of people, they want rest, and they want their own town. The reason for extending the boundary beyond the Airport is for all the farms within to be controlled by the Local Authority. If a farmer wants to develop his farm into a township, he must get permission from the Ministry of Regional and Local Government so that we can control them.

For instance, a person can have a farm close to Windhoek, maybe 2,000 hectares close to Windhoek, that person will know that within two years Windhoek will also encompass his farm and he will start developing the farm, build roads, a township, street lights, everything and by the time the municipality will come and negotiate, this person will say he wants 20 billion and it will be too expensive. However, before they do that, let us just take them on. That is the purpose.

Windhoek should move eastwards where it is flat. For instance, if take a town like Rundu, if you enter Rundu from Shell and go to the Kavango

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market up to Cymot, it is crowded, they just build one business on top of the others, you cannot even reverse your car. It is time that the Central Government becomes involved in the planning of towns.

For instance, if one goes to Beijing or Shanghai, there is a master plan with small houses and they tell you that Beijing twenty years ago was here, we are now there, in thirty years we will be there. The houses and streets, everything is in the master plan for the next fifty years.

These private developers and planners build haphazardly. Today you find a township here, after two, three months another township there. Central Government has to be involved in the planning of towns so that each town must have a thirty years plan. We must know what Karibib would look like within twenty years.

On the issue of the independence of Local Authorities, Namibia is a unitary State, the three tiers, namely Central Government, Regional and Local Government are all one and we have to involve ourselves. Therefore, we are going to change Build-Together, NHE will build the houses because the current Build-Together Programme is not making a dent in the housing shortage.

Comrade Kaapanda, the priority of the Government is housing, sanitation, lights and clean water. The current Budget for the City of Windhoek is N\$110 million only for this Financial Year, which the Central Government will subsidise for the first time, because all along our Local Authorities were left to do their own thing. We used to say Windhoek is clean but we never contributed and with this Budget the Central Government will have to subsidise Local Authorities in order to make a dent. If we do not subsidise, towns like Gibeon, Karasburg and others will never make a go, we have to subsidise them. For the City of Windhoek the Budget of this year is N\$110 million, but mostly for water and sanitation. This will also include sanitation in the town, so that people do not need to stop your car and walk behind a bush. We are also not just going to say here is the money, we have to control it.

Coming to rural sanitation of Omusati, I do not want to go into that as

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there is a case with the Anti-Corruption Commission and I am not going to elaborate, but when one goes to Ohangwena, Kavango and Caprivi Regions, they have done wonders. That one of Omusati, something went wrong and the Anti-Corruption Commission is dealing with that.

Very soon I am going to get a consultant, an advisor to the Minister from Zimbabwe on all laws regarding Local Government, all the old Ordinances, so that he or she can come and review all the Ordinances, because I would want Local Authorities not to sell land but to lease it for 99 years. People are saying if you lease the investors will not come, but investors are running to Angola and in Angola you cannot buy land, you lease. In the northern parts of Namibia, especially Caprivi and Kavango, those lodges lease, they do not buy, but there are thousands going there.

Therefore, my dream is that after the consultant studied all these ordinances, then we can come up and say that in towns we will lease the land. I would like to start in the Local Authorities, so that at least we must lease this land because if we sell, you may find that half of Otavi is bought on auction as auction is free for all. If the land is auctioned, I can come there as Jerry and I say 5 million, but who is behind me? I bought the land as a Namibian, but at the end of the day I can sell it to anybody because I have been used.

Honourable Limbo, the REDs do not resort under my Ministry, they resort under the Ministry dealing with electricity. We have left it to the Local Authorities and some want them to withdraw, some say they want to stay with the REDs. In the case of Erongo RED you find there are no cuts of electricity, because settlements like Otjimbingwe or towns like Karibib, Usakos, Uis and Omaruru are not cut off, because Walvis Bay and Swakopmund cater for them, once they pay, they cover all those, but in the meantime Walvis Bay and Swakopmund want to withdraw from the RED because they are struggling to main Walvis Bay. The Town Council of Katima Mulilo was saying that before the REDs their monthly revenue from electricity was over N\$400,000, but now they only get surcharge N\$30,000.

We now leave it to Local Authorities, that those who want to join the

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HON EKANDJO

REDs may join and those who want to withdraw, let them withdraw because currently it seems as if once you are with a RED, you cannot withdraw.

In the South where there are no REDs, they are being cut off daily by NamPower. We talk of local authority, every councillor wants a local authority in his or her constituency, but if you establish a local authority, one first has to look at the economic power of that settlement, whether it is really viable to have a local authority or must be a settlement which can be spoon-fed by the Central Government through the Regional Council?

That is now the problem with NamPower and NamWater, but NamWater has an intervention plan, where towns like, for instance Rehoboth or Otavi at one stage, the local authorities struggled to pay NamWater and then NamWater approached them and gave them two options. The one plan is called an intervention plan, meaning we will now do the billing and the collection of moneys directly from the clients and the second option, we cut off. Some said no, they do not want the first option because if NamWater intervenes, they will not get the revenue from water, meaning that Local Authority uses the money paid by the people instead of transferring the money to NamWater. It is as a result of that in 2009 I wrote letters to all Local Authorities and all Regional Councils countrywide, requesting them to supply us with their capital projects so that we can intervene and they supplied it to us. It was a total amount of N\$1,2 billion. Unfortunately they cannot get all, in this Budget we have received N\$600 million to cater for that, so that we subsidise the Local Authorities and whenever they collect the money for NamPower and NamWater, they must pay it to those utilities.

Comrade Nambahu, you talked about the infrastructure challenges. The N\$600 million are meant for the infrastructures. The Local Authorities have given us their capital projects and we are going to work accordingly. These are tar roads, street lights, housing, storm water drainage, all the infrastructures in the town, because all the former coloured and blacktownships in the whole country and also these towns like Okakarara, Khorixas, Oshakati, Katima and Ruacana do not have even robots. Even Narraville, Khomasdal and the one in Keetmanshoop do not have storm

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water drainage. When it rains, the water just stands there, but in the town proper you find storm water drainage. Therefore the N\$600 million is just a start.

When it comes to the REDs, I cannot respond because it does not resort under this Ministry.

Comrade Muheua, private developers get their money from the banks and I do not think the Ministry can ask the banks why one should pay such high rent. We are only dealing with NHE houses. The people who build these private estates develop a piece of land, build houses and I do not think the Government has any say. Unfortunately, Namibia is a capitalist economy. Even if you build your house on your own, you must go to the bank and I do not think the Ministry can interfere. The person will say it is his own funds; he bought the land from the municipality.

Comrade Uutoni, thank you very much. You mentioned the informal traders. I went to the City of Windhoek and they are also looking into the matter. Behind the Catholic Church at the taxi stand you find some youngsters who are washing cars. I told them they must investigate the idea to have a flea market there of maybe two or three storeys for the informal traders. The whole area must be under interlocks, there must be cool rooms, an area where you can buy traditional food. The ground floor must be for food, the first floor for those who are doing hair or selling watches and the second floor for mechanics. Lunchtime people buy junk food from KFC and Nandos, but we want the people to be able to buy whatever you want. We want to develop that area and that will be just be the beginning, there must be many of those.

In front of the Kalahari Sands Hotel there is an area where the wood carvers are selling their products and there is a small building where the buses to South Africa stop. They must expand that area; they must cut off all those trees and build a shade so that the people can sell there even when it is raining.

We have a twenty-year plan for Windhoek and other cities. For instance, you have an arcade from the watchtower in Independence Avenue to

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HON EKANDJO

Wernhil, so why not do the same from the Kudu statue up to the Municipality and let it be for pedestrians? Weekends you can take your family and walk there and there must be chairs available and people must enjoy themselves there. However, they must make provision for military parades and military vehicles on national days, but it must be closed for other vehicles. They must develop an area for parking, so that Independence Avenue is only for pedestrians. These are some of the ideas we have.

As I have said, in Rundu and other towns they are expanding in one direction. They must build shopping centres all over so that business can expand and once the time comes, we will make submissions to Cabinet and Cabinet will direct Local Authorities that this is how we want Namibia to look like ten or twenty years from now.

Currently we have thirty-two Cuban town planners, civil engineers and architects. As we are speaking now they are in the northern areas to mitigate the floods, but each Region will have a town planner, a civil engineer and an architect. The idea is that in the future each town must have a civil engineer and a town planner to plan according to our ideas. Currently our Local Authorities make use of private town planners who are very expensive and do things their own way.

With regard to Onethindi, Onethindi is between Oshana Region and Oshikoto there at Punyu Hotel. That area is a settlement and all the services in Onethindi are provided by Ondangwa town although they are in another region. However, nothing in the law prohibits a town to be situated in two Regions. If a city such as Windhoek can have six constituencies, why can a town not be in both Regions? Currently the people are neglected because the services by Ondangwa end there. Do we now have to create another local authority in Onethindi? We just have to look into this and see what the best option is so that they can become part of Ondangwa.

Our Local Authorities have to be trained and I have a message to the Opposition, your Councillors in the field must be people who understand the laws. Most of the Local Authorities under the Opposition are falling

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behind. When I attend meetings in most Local Authorities, you will see the Mayor standing up, asking the CEO what the next point is and then this technical person explains and explains. What I am saying happened in an Opposition controlled Local Authority. This technical expert goes into detail because they receive so many books and the Councillors do not read those. The Local Authority meetings are not the same as this Parliament; there they discuss bread and butter issues. This expert goes into detail and the Mayor asks the Councillors for comment and instead of the Councillor saying, "*I agree*", he says "*magree*", the next one "*magree*", everyone "*magree, magree, magree.*" The result is that the officials in the Local Authorities are the ones playing the guitar, are the ones running the show.

The Councillors only meet once a month maybe for two hours, some are sleeping, they get their sitting allowance and they "*magree, magree*" and they go home and for the whole month it is the officials running the Local Authority, especially the Opposition controlled Local Authorities.

Local Authority Councillors are not serving fulltime, they are part-time, but imagine, during the elections you run around, you do not sleep, you introduce the Councillors and you tell your supporters to elect this person because he is going to do wonders, but if they only meet once a month for two hours, what is this person going to do? I elect a person to do a job every twenty-four hours.

We have to consider whether we can amend the law so that the Mayors of the Local Authorities and the Chairpersons of the Management Committees and the Chairpersons of the Village Council can be fulltime, so that they know what is happening there. Imagine if we as Ministers were also part-time and only meet once a month and leave everything to the Permanent Secretaries to run the Ministries, they will not do anything. According to the Act they are elected for one year, but if they are Civil Servants an agreement can be reached. Most of them are teachers and we can agree with the Minister that the teacher can be seconded to be a fulltime Mayor and afterwards return to teaching. NANTU officials are in office for five years, but after five years they go back to teaching.

Somebody mentioned that Civil Servants who serve on Local Authority

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HON EKANDJO

Councils have to take leave. Most of our Local Authority Councillors are Civil Servants, either teachers or nurses. Some are even Civil Servants in the Ministries. If you are a teacher and you happen to be elected as a Councillor, but in your capacity as a teacher the Minister of Education says he is going to India, he wants to take you along, you will not take leave because you are going in your capacity as a teacher to India. Two weeks later there is a very similar conference in India for the Mayors of towns to discuss education; this person has to take leave to there. The result is that by their leave days are depleted.

The Public Service Act says if you perform work outside your normal duties, you must declare, but in the case of an elected Councillor, this person is not doing his own work, he is a Public Servant, he is doing work on behalf of the Nation, just like a Minister is doing work on behalf of the Nation. We are in the same category. It is as a result of that, that most of our people who are Civil Servants do not offer themselves to be elected as Local Authority Councillors, with the result that most of our Local Authorities are the “*magree, magree, magree*” and the Local Authorities are going down. Honourable Members, I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Any objection? Agreed to. Honourable Members, I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: On that note, the House is adjourned until tomorrow morning, 09:00.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 23:17 UNTIL 2011.04.29 AT 09:00

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
29 APRIL 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a few announcements. I would like to remind the Honourable Members who have committed to contribute towards the flood victims in the North that today is the due date and you are requested to make your contribution to Ms Mkusa, the Director in the Office of the Speaker.

Secondly, I want to inform you that the Parliament of Namibia will convene the Third Session of the Children's Parliament from the 7th to the 12th of May 2011. Those Members who will be here in the Khomas Region are welcome to attend.

In the same vein, I would like to humbly request Honourable Members to collect everything in their desks because the children will be using our seats.

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON DR AMWEELO**

- Municipality of Swakopmund for the Financial Year ended June 30th, 2010.
- Municipality of Gobabis for the Financial Year ended June 30th, 2010;
- Village Council of Tses for the Financial Years ended June 30th, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions?
I recognise Honourable Dr Amweelo.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON DR AMWEELO: I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 03, 11 and 28 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90(c) of the Standing Rules and Orders, not be interrupted if still under consideration at 12:30. I so Move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Any Ministerial Statements? I would like to acknowledge the presence of fifty-nine learners from Oshigambo High School in the public gallery. You are more than welcome. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE:
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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HON TJIHUIKO

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 Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair. Honourable Dr Amweelo.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the Appropriation Bill. When progress was reported yesterday, 28 April 2011, Votes 03, 11, 20 and 28 had been introduced and Vote 01, 02, 04 to 10, 12, 27, 29 to 31 had been agreed to.

Vote 03 – “NATIONAL ASSEMBLY” is put for Discussion.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Before I make my contribution, allow me to correct something. Yesterday I made a comment that I did not realise would hurt the feelings of the Honourable Minister of Gender and I, therefore, apologise and hope that the Honourable Minister would accept and it will not happen again.

Having said that, Honourable Chairperson, I support Vote 3 and I thank you.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Kapia.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03
HON KAPIA**

HON KAPIA: Thank you very much, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. When the final Amendment to the Appropriation Bill was presented by the Minister of Finance the figures changed. I stand to be corrected because when the Honourable Deputy Speaker was presenting these three Votes yesterday, she did not mention the amended figures. The amended figures are N\$120 million for the National Assembly, N\$154 million for the National Council and N\$113 million for the Electoral Commission. I only wanted to make that observation so that it could be corrected.

The Deputy Speaker raised a very important point in her conclusion yesterday concerning Agenda for Change and I really want to appeal to all of us as lawmakers to build up institutional memory and a very strong, firm institution for future generations. We are not doing this for us who are here today, but for the future generations of this country. Therefore, there are some serious and important elements which need to be considered in the Agenda for Change, such as improvement of the independence of Legislature. (Intervention)

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Kapia, this is Committee Stage and normally we just talk about concerns or raise questions.

HON KAPIA: I am addressing a concern, the independence of the Legislature. We have three organs of State and they are independent from each other. They can coordinate activities but they are independent from each other and I need to be recorded as such, that there are things which need to be corrected. Thank you.

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

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HON MOONGO / HON AMATHILA

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, I wish our Speaker a speedy recovery and although he is not here, the Deputy Speaker is here to respond to our queries.

My first concern is on the salaries of Members of Parliament, Ministers and staff of the Parliament. WASCOM was implemented fifteen years ago and it is now outdated and should be reviewed. The gap between the salaries of the Ministers and the ordinary MPs is too big and it needs to be narrowed. Also the salaries of the officials are too low and need to be reviewed. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask a question? Honourable Moongo, you are talking about the gap in the salaries of the ordinary Members of Parliament and the Ministers and I want to give some information to the public out there. I joined the Ministry as a Member of Parliament and as far as I know, we are earning the same salaries.

HON MOONGO: I know many people like to talk about their own affairs, but the Namibian Constitution says all people are equal and should be treated equally. I would like to know whether all allowances are equal. Even our allowance for committee meetings is too low and embarrassing as it is not *on par* with the SADC salary structure. I support the vote and I thank you.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Amathila.

HON AMATHILA: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support the Vote of Parliament. It is our Vote and I would like to thank the Minister of Finance for having made it possible for us to discuss this Vote.

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HON AMATHILA

When I read the paragraph on page 2 which refers to taking Parliament to the people, obviously during election time the whole country becomes one constituency and all of us derive votes from the whole country and not from a single constituency as such. This is maybe not the time, but I am slightly disturbed by the fact that, after having been elected by the people, the Parliament is not on record to have made an effort to go and see our people when they are suffering. That is really not a good reflection on our role as Parliamentarians, having been elected by the very same people who are suffering as a result of floods. I do not think it is too late for the two Houses of Parliament, including the Executive, to express our sympathy by sending a delegation for the people to see that we are with them in their hour of need. Now that we are going into recess, the two Houses should consider very urgently putting together a team that would represent Parliament, so that at least we are on record for having undertaken that trip to the flooded areas of our country.

Another proposal which I have and which will have no bearing on the cost of our Budget, is that in five days time we will be observing Cassinga Day. We need to institutionalise that day by having discussions and inform our constituencies, the whole country on what happened on this particular day. The cost to that has not been budgeted for and I do not think that will be a very big cost.

Thirdly, the 9th of February is Constitution Day and the day on which this body came into being. It is very important that we also use that as a means of sharing information with the young people on what transpired and what led to that particular day, so that at least every time before or after the 9th we have a week of discussions to share our experiences, what we recall because all of us will not be here forever. Let us bequeath this information to the generations to come. I support the Vote.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Thank you. Before we continue, I would like to refer you to the Rules of the Committee Stage. It says: “*During this stage the Bill is considered in details on a Clause-by-Clause basis*”. Honourable Bezuidenhout.

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HON BEZUIDENHOUDT / HON NYAMU / HON KAZENAMBO

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Honourable Assistant Chairperson, I only have one question to put to the Deputy Speaker on page 5, the second bullets which reads: *“The provision of professional services, such as legal and research, for scrutinising Bills.”* My question is whether it is Bills only or can the services also be available to Standing Committees when needed.

Secondly, I also want to put on record that I support the Agenda for Change and once we get to those details, I will make my contribution.

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

HON NYAMU: Honourable Chair, I want to join those who have expressed their best wishes for the quick recovery of our Honourable Speaker, my former classmate. On behalf of the RDP I want to express our reservations on the statement of the Speaker on page 1 where he stated that he is inseparable from his political party. My feeling is that perhaps he misinterpreted the statement of the Commonwealth that the Speaker should be a mediator, which means a neutral mediator, for that matter, and not necessarily that he resigns from his Political Party. Therefore, his statement here is unfortunate and we will watch him regarding his attitude and behaviour in this House. I thank you.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Kazenambo.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you very much. Firstly, let me support the statement by Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly that the Speaker is inseparable from his Party. It is the same as me being the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture but I am inseparable from my Party. I have been appointed in this post, I know

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HON MBUMBA

when I should be neutral, I know when I should perform my duties without the SWAPO Party colours, but I am inseparable from my part. It is an innocent statement; it does not mean that when you are the Speaker your only duty is here. The Honourable Member expressed his reservations on behalf of the RDP, but the Speaker acquits his duty, he acquits it as the Speaker of the National Assembly.

I know that that there is a committee on WASCOM, but I would like to support Honourable Moongo regarding the salaries and the welfare of the Honourable Members, especially the backbenchers and the staff. It should not be seen as an Honourable Member talking about his own plight; it should be seen as addressing the Government on the institution called the Parliament. These are the representatives of the Namibian Government who engage in business with other national institutions abroad and imagine a Member of the National Assembly of Namibia meeting with others on, for example, climate change and this person has to count his pennies to hire a taxi to attend that meeting. He may under-market his country, he may under-sell his country and it needs to be looked at.

If a researcher who is doing research for a Member of Parliament knows very well that this person is underpaid is struggling financially, what respect do you expect to command? This issue must be looked at, how we are investing in and treating the National Assembly as an institution of importance. This should also go for the officials who are sitting here 24 hours. I have observed them, now they blame me later because they know that Kazenambo are going to keep them here, because they are frustrated, from here they are going to struggle to get a taxi, but I will keep them here. With these words I support the Vote.

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

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I did raise my hand earlier to say something before Honourable Nyamu and

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HON !NARUSEB

before Honourable Kazenambo have spoken and it is exactly on page 1, paragraph 1.

I think I have a duty, on behalf of my Secretary-General and on behalf of the Vice-President to state and thank the Honourable Speaker for his standpoint. He is saying as a Speaker he will sit in this chair to discharge his duties as the Speaker, but he will not resign from his Party for the sake of a job. The other day I said there are Colleagues, Comrades, Members of Parliament whose aim is to divide, destroy because they cannot rule. This is not the first time, it has been said that the Founding President should not be a member of SWAPO, the President should not be a Member of SWAPO and now the Speaker should not be a Member of SWAPO. Next time the Prime Minister should not be a Member of his Party and yet they are elected on the basis of those Parties.

Comrade Chair, anyone who rose on the ticket of the SWAPO Party and tries to renege on the principles and assignment of that Party will find himself out in the cold. This is being said by the Deputy Secretary-General of the SWAPO Party.

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

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Assistant Chairperson. I did not really want to participate in this Debate and unnecessarily prolong the discussion on the subject matter, but I thought I must also express my opinion. I have experience of being a backbencher, I started off somewhere where Honourable Makgona is seated and it was more or less the same time that the WASCOM Report and Agenda for Change came into play.

My understanding of this approach is simply to strengthen one of the organs of our Government and it is the Nation which will ultimately gain from the efforts so embarked upon. I do not see any competing interests in terms of empowering the support systems in the legislative arm of our

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HON ULENGA

State. That is how I understand it. I have been looking all along at the objectives of Agenda for Change and we must probably just see it in that context.

Having that experience of being a backbencher, you are expected to contribute to the Debate, you are expected to do your own research and come here and talk sense, not just talk for the sake of talking. We know that for you to be able to do that, the Agenda for Change has as its objective to strengthen those efforts. With this, I support the Vote.

HON ULENGA: Thank you Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My intention was not to make comments on the remarks in the Speaker's motivation document, however having heard from a few Colleagues on this issue, I should perhaps also do so.

First of all, my understanding is more or less the same as that of Minister Mbumba and Minister !Naruseb, but I also see the point of former Minister Nyamu. I did not understand the Speaker in the first paragraph talking about formally leaving Party politics. If that is what is suggested by the conference that he referred to, I think that is just Out of Order. Politics is not about just this kind of behaviour, it is not about sitting here, it is about principles and policies. You do not show the colour of your politics by smiling at this one or doing that, it is by contributing politically in terms of principles and in terms of political action, like the struggle. Therefore, I think the Speaker is right in saying that he will be inseparable from his Party and nobody can require a person to resign from your Political Party just for the purpose of being Speaker. I think what would be right, and I suspect that is what the Speaker meant, is that as Speaker he shall not take part in Party-politics. Some people really go to a laughable extent. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask Honourable Ulenga a question? Honourable Ulenga, you said the Speaker must not participate in political activities. Do you mean the Speaker as he sits here participating in political activities

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HON ULENGA

or do you mean during a campaign he must not speak on behalf of his party? Please make it clear so that people do not misunderstand you. Do you regard Honourable Nyamu as a real democrat?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Assistant Chairperson, I am not making a statement, I am commenting on the Speaker's statement and I cannot mean that the Speaker should leave Party-politics. I mean as Speaker he cannot practise Party-politics as Speaker and even during a campaign you do not campaign as Minister, you only campaign on the Political Party platform basis.

However, as Speaker here he has to be able to Rule a Minister Out of Order for being rude or breaking Rules of Parliament, like not answering questions that come from the Opposition. That means he must have the courage and the honour and the duty to call Ministers to Order when they think a question coming from this side needs to be treated with contempt.

Honourable Assistant Chairperson, sometimes it seems as if there are some people trying to put pressure on the person sitting there, trying to remind him that he is sitting there because of a Party. When you sit there, it is not because of Party, you sit there because you have been elected by the House. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member said the Speaker should call to Order a Minister once he is rude. The Speaker is not there for the Ministers, the Speaker has to call to Order everybody here if we are rude. He only mentioned the Ministers.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Ulenga, I would like to remind you that we are in the Committee Stage.

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HON ULENGA

HON ULENGA: Honourable Assistant Chairperson, I am dealing with Committee Stage. To tell the truth, you said we should follow the Bill point by point and line by line. The Bill consists of the Minister's speech, it is all those Votes that we had here. I want to go ahead because there is a very pressing issue and in that respect I want to echo what several Colleagues have already said before me and that is to say that in this whole document something pervades and that is simply that this House is being treated with contempt by itself and generally by other institutions of the country. We are not giving ourselves the support we should be giving ourselves.

The other day I spoke about the need for proper consultations and proper decisions in this House regarding the various Votes and money allocated to the various Votes. Now this particular vote, I cannot remember when we as a House or our representatives in the House have really considered all the tiny nitty-gritty of the Vote here. I just say simply, like Moongo and others have said, that we are not reserving sufficient funds to enable the House and the Members to carry out their duties effectively and this we are doing to ourselves and it should stop.

The Ministers are, first and foremost, Members of Parliament who have been appointed as Ministers additional to being Members of Parliament and it would serve us all if we talk and act as Members of Parliament and make sure that the Parliament, above anything else, is empowered. The Speaker is talking here about the need to acquaint ourselves properly with our work and the need for research. I can tell you we are in severe need for some of these tasks to be carried out and performed for us.

The staff members of this institution have been objecting for the last few years. It is not a surprise that when you speak to the public out there, it seems like they are wondering what is a Members of Parliament really. It is like it is needless to go there and it is when you are prepared to go and sit and sleep and that is what a Members of Parliament is all about.

In view of what is being offered here, I support this Vote with great reservations.

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HON MUSHELENGA / HON KASINGO

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Mushelenga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Assistant Chair of the Whole House Committee, I would like to address myself to page 51 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. I see that an amount of N\$7.2 million has been budgeted for the Committees for the current Financial Year and I know we have about seven Standing Committees of Parliament, but I also know that other groups, such as the IPU and the CPA are also being paid from the same Budget. Previously each Committee had at least in excess of N\$1 million, but if I look at seven Committees sharing this cake plus other Parliamentary groups, it brings it to about N\$700,000, N\$800,000 and I am not sure this amount is enough if the Committees are to do what they are supposed to do.

In the current Financial Year the amount is N\$7.2 million, next Financial Year it will be N\$6.9 million and the year thereafter only N\$6 million. Are we trying to say the importance of Committees is going to diminish from one Financial Year to another? I need clarity on that. Thank you very much.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I will give the Floor to the Honourable Deputy Speaker to respond.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much for the Floor. I would like to respond to the comments by the Honourable Members, but first of all I want to thank all the Colleagues who supported the Vote by making comments, asking questions and also doing so in silence.

Honourable Tjihuiko, thank you very much for supporting the Vote. *Honourable Kapia*, thank you for supporting the Agenda for Change and also other Colleagues, especially from the Executive component. I should think if Agenda for Change is implemented, it will address many of the concerns and problems facing the backbenchers. This goes hand in glove

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with the conditions of service of the backbenchers.

In all the SADC countries the Members of Parliament are being looked after reasonably well in comparison to us. When it comes to mobility, we know we are only two million people in a vast country and unfortunately there are people in each and every corner of our country and we have to go there. I am known to have talked about the need for mobility for the last five years since I became a backbencher. For example, in Zambia and other countries Members of Parliament get cars for their five years and I am happy with the way the Government is assisting the Committees by providing kombis to carry out our oversight functions, but as individual Members of Parliament we are also supposed to visit our constituencies and mobility is very important.

I would like the backbenchers who belong to the Standing Committee on Standing Rules and Orders to take up the matter and call the Commission which is dealing with the conditions of service of all Political Office-Bearers. I do not think these people are doing anything and we should not blame the Executive component. I know all the Political Parties are represented in that Committee and we can move that they be called so that we can ask for a progress report. I think I have answered all the Colleagues who have supported Agenda for Change.

I am also happy that members of the Executive who have been backbenchers, in particular the Minister of Lands, understand what it means to be a backbencher.

I tabled a Report of the Deputy Speaker, a very objective Report, I should think, highlighting what was said by the grassroots and unfortunately the Minister of Health and Social Services is not here, I wanted him to hear. The Report was opposed, it was taken personally, it was criticised. I felt sad and it came to the point of the moderator question of the Speaker. I do understand, although I was not here, that the Speaker was in a dilemma. Here comes a Member of the Executive and shoots it down for the second time after it has been shot down outside Parliament. It is very bad and I do not want to go into the merits or demerits of the Report, I just want to register that several Members of the Executive have said it was a good

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Report. When a Report is tabled the Members can criticise and then give us an opportunity to respond. The Report was motivated by Honourable Makgone who accompanied me and I feel she could have been given an opportunity to respond as she is able to do that. However, I am happy that the majority of you understand the work of the committees.

Allow me also at this juncture to thank the Minister of Information and Technology for budgeting for the Motion referred to my Committee when I was the Chairperson of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, namely the Public Access Centre Motion. I thank you for understanding and all I am saying is that let us respect each other in our different portfolios and responsibilities. I am not saying we should not be criticised, but we should be given a chance to explain a situation.

Honourable Moongo, the core issue here is this Commission we have appointed. We must summon them and ask them how far are they, not only us as backbenchers but also on the salaries of the Executive component inclusive of the President. We are not saying we must get the same salaries as the Ministers, but we must get our share in terms of our activities we are carrying out. Comparison does not fit in here, the core is the implementation of Agenda for Change.

Honourable Kapia, I am still waiting for the staff to change the figure and I would like the Colleagues to adopt the figure for Vote 03 as corrected by the Minister of Finance.

Honourable Amathila, I would like you to be the convener of this team that will go and visit the victims of the floods. You can call two or three Colleagues from other Political Parties and decide when and how to go. I am sure the Parliament will be able to give you S&T. Cassinga Day as well as the 9th of February is very important. Those are issues we must discuss in the Standing Rules and Orders Committee. For Cassinga Day we dispatched ourselves to go and educate the grassroots, particularly the youth.

Honourable Bezuidenhout, thank you for supporting Agenda for Change.

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Research services are supposed to be available to all Committees, but as you may recall, the National Assembly is limping. One important issue the Agenda for Change is addressing is the independence of the support staff of Parliament. Other Parliaments have what is called Parliamentary Service Commissions and we are aiming at that. If we have that, then we will be able to employ the people we need, however currently we are limping although we have the skeleton staff that will be able to help all the Committees.

Honourable Nyamu, in that gathering they were talking about the Speaker as a mediator. However, I do not want to go into this, but I just want to say that I think our Speaker is neutral. Sometimes we think the Speaker is too much for the Opposition. I also agree with the Deputy Secretary-General who said that to delink yourself from your Political Party will not work. The Ministers are heads of institutions whose members belong to different Political Parties, but they are neutral.

Honourable Kazenambo, thank you for eloquently highlighting the dilemma in which we find ourselves. I hope by next year the situation will improve, in particular with regard to mobility. We need individual transport.

I have talked about Agenda for Change, I have talked about this Commission and maybe at that time when we establish a Budget Committee, things will improve, because it is the Budget Committee which will be able to liaise with the Ministry of Finance and the Speaker has also mentioned that. With these few words, I thank you.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Assistant Chairperson, I have asked the Floor for two reasons, one being that it seems some questions have not been answered which came from all sides of the House. However, before

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I come to the questions I must say that I do not want to shoot down the Deputy Speaker at all, but one thing really worries me and perhaps it has come too long now. Of course, we are now 21 years old and I appreciate the fact that we have made quite some progress as Namibia. I remember I was here right from the word go and I know it used to be even worse, but I think it should be recognised that we have made some progress before we lash out and criticise the state that we are in. The problem is that all of us seem to be deferring too much to a House that is not here. That is the so-called Executive. I am saying "*so-called*" from the Floor of this House, it is not that they are so-called. This House does not belong to the Executive, this is the National Assembly. We are not here to defer, with all due respect to the Executive, this is the National Assembly, and it is Parliament. The Executive reports here, they have their Chamber, they do their work, it is spelled out in the Constitution, and it is spelled out in Cabinet Rules. It is true they are equally important, but we are not subordinate to the Executive. Actually the Executive is appointed from this House.

Of course, being part of the activities that have been going on for the last forty years or so, I understand the various sectors that we are coming from, but really, I think it should be pointed out that there is no need for a difference, this is our House, we are sovereign here in this House.

There are specific questions I am echoing which were asked by somebody else about the N\$7 million for the about fifteen Committees. The Speaker alone had to attend eleven conferences and there are other international Parliamentary relations that need to be respected. Are we saying that this is actually the amount and as a House we cannot change it, or are we saying that when we feel that this money is not enough, we as a sovereign House of Assembly of Namibia can change these figures? I agree with your sentiments, but when we come to the middle of 2030 when we can correct this that will be just too late, my dear sister. The middle of 2030 is about nine years from now.

I am talking and I know it is not just me, everybody will feel the pinch. We need to correct these figures before it is too late so that the National

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Assembly can do its part for the political and socio-economic development of this country.

People are talking about this Commission, everybody is treating us with contempt, including this Commission, and I do not think we have to call them, we must fire them. This Commission was appointed about two years ago. They came here, they include quite highly placed people, with all due respect, but this Commission is treating us with contempt. The Motion by Honourable Kaura was passed about four years ago and up to now we have not heard anything. That is the contempt we are being treated with.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I think the time has come that the Speaker and you should be able to answer these questions because you are the leaders of the National Assembly and we should not wait for some Minister somewhere to provide us with answers. We are making the laws, including the Appropriation Bill. We make it, it is proposed to us so that we can make it here. This House makes laws, it does not just rubberstamp them. Those who are proposing them are doing so as Members of Parliament first of all. I think the message is clear and I thank you very much.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think what Honourable Ulenga has stated is just a comment and I have highlighted that the Speaker's motivation alluded to the fact that we are going to establish a Budget Committee of Members of Parliament and that Committee will look into the allocated money to the Committees.

I agree with Honourable Ulenga that this House makes laws and nobody is disputing that, but on the other hand, the Executive component are there to carry out the functions in terms of the Constitution and the directives by the Head of State. However, in terms of our Constitution they are also

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Members of Parliament and we have agreed on that. Until the time when we change the Constitution and the whole set-up and say Ministers should not be Members of Parliament and only table their Votes and go, we have to live with that fact. I have taken note of your comments. Thank you.

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

Vote 11 – “NATIONAL COUNCIL” is put for Discussion.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Honourable Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am rising to support the Vote and to comment on some of the issues which were touched upon during the Vote of the National Assembly.

In principle a Public Servant is a person who is first and foremost devoted to serve the public. This principle should be upheld at all times, however, serving one's Nation means that one has to be afforded the means to do so. That is why since I have come to this House I have been one of those Members who have supported the improvement of the terms and conditions of our backbenchers, which are really very poor and cannot be compared with what is obtaining in the SADC Region and beyond. Indeed, I have stated time and again in this House that it is very unfortunate that their terms are even below that of a chief control officer in our Civil Service.

Honourable Members, on many occasions we left this Chamber after midnight. Most of those who took part in the Debates are backbenchers. I have been wondering why is it that they are more comfortable to debate endlessly after midnight and I have since established that they are renting places in *kambashus* which are not comfortable and they are more comfortable being here, therefore they do not mind to debate throughout the night and sleep here. That is how poor the conditions of our backbenchers are. In this regard I propose, Honourable Deputy Speaker,

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that the Parliament must consider to build what is termed a Parliament guesthouse where those national leaders from the Regions can be accommodated. This is really very important and it must be considered.

In addition, I agree wholeheartedly with the Honourable Members who said that we need to improve on the issue of transport for backbenchers because they are national leaders, elected by this Nation, and they have to be in touch with the electorate at all times. I will support what is obtaining in other SADC countries where Members of Parliament belong to car schemes.

Some Honourable Members said we need to summon the Political Office-Bearers Commission, but I am not so sure whether that is the right course of action, Honourable Members. To me that would amount to conflict of interest, especially while we have established a law with procedures as to how we go about addressing this matter.

The established procedure is that the President is approached through the Office of the Speaker and the Office of the Prime Minister and the President in turn approaches the Commission, where-after the Commission conducts investigations and recommends to the President. The President will then decide whether or not to amend the recommendation of the Commission or to agree with the recommendation and implement that decision. That is really the correct course of action. Otherwise I would be a bit uncomfortable for Members to call the Commission and talk about their terms and conditions. However, if the Commission itself initiates that approach by way of consultations, that is fine, but I am a bit apprehensive for them to be summoned by Members of Parliament or a committee. Once again, I look forward to the improvement of the terms and conditions of service of our backbenchers in both the National Assembly and the National Council. I thank you.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: I thank you very much. Honourable Mushelenga.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Looking at the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document there is a slight difference between the Committees of the National Council and the National Assembly. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: May I ask a question? When Comrade Kawana spoke he emphasised the improvement of conditions of service of the backbenchers, but are the Deputy Ministers, including the Ministers, well-off? I do not want to mention names, but when a person became a Deputy Minister he complained, "*Oh, are you earning this?*" We said yes, this is what we are earning, we only have a title. When this person was a Deputy Director in the Public Service he earned more than he is earning as a Deputy Minister. Why do you only say their conditions of service should be improved? It is true, we fought to have theirs improved because they even have a car allowance, which we never had in five years. We were not even travelling. Do you not think that when we address this issue it should be across the board for the backbenchers, the National Council and the Executive. When I am no longer a Deputy Minister I have to buy my car at the market value, but their cars will belong to them although they are struggling.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Comrade Ilonga, you are correct, but the Vote is for the National Council and that is why we are discussing their benefits. The conditions of the Executive should be discussed under the Office of the President under which this Commission resorts.

I am impressed by the way the National Council split their Committee Budgets in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period on pages 33 and 34. Referral of the Bills are under a different Budget unit, exchange programmes are under a different Budget unit and then international organisations, such as CPA and IPU, are under a different Budget. When

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those amounts are added it at least reflects how Committees are supposed to be funded.

I also want to address the issue of Conditions of Service of Members of Parliament. I have a problem with the selective implementation of Reports. The WASCOM Report said backbenchers should receive 60% of what the Ministers are getting. We implemented some items and that even had nothing to do with this Commission, but others we left out. For example, with regard to the question transport, if we talk of 60%, why is it that Members of Parliament are not reimbursed 60% of the money they spend on fuel and servicing their cars? Let us not hide behind the Commission as if everything depends on the Commission. Let us implement the WASCOM Report. Of course, the Political Office-Bearers Commission also has an important function, but there are issues that do not need for that Commission. If we have the will, let us implement the WASCOM report, let us not hide behind the Commission.

I agree with Comrade Kawana, while you see Members protesting, this Commission initiated a meeting with the Members of Parliament. When you are tasked to do something and you go to people, there will be expectations by those people and when you do not meet those expectations, that is when you see people protesting. This Commission came here on its own and consulted Members of Parliament. They went back and there was no feedback to say they cannot implement what we have told them. They just went back and for about four years nothing has happened. What we do not want to see is for Members to move Motions, discussing their own Conditions of Service. However, this Commission should be accountable and perform their duties. It is independent, but it is accountable to the President and it should do its duty, not only come here and raise expectations by backbenchers and go and do nothing. Thank you.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, we must speak on the details of the Bill in the Committee Stage. Honourable Nambahu.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Comrade Assistant Chairperson. I do not want to touch on the vote of the National Assembly, however things which were said there applies to the National Council as well.

I have time and again touched on this issue of us not having a job description. Therefore, you are not given resources commensurate with what you are supposed to be doing. If you are a Member of the National Council, you are representing your Region and you are supposed to deal with the situation prevailing in your Region and these Colleagues spend most of their salaries on transport. If we continue in this way, not building the capacity of our Colleagues, we will end up having by-elections every three months as they will start resigning. It is not a matter of doing them a favour, they deserve it. It is taken that you are in politics because you are not able to be anywhere else and those people did not come from the street, they had jobs and now they are treated as if they have nowhere else to go and this should end.

Honourable Assistant Chairperson, maybe the National Council should be requested to help the National Assembly with the Agenda for Change. I took it several times to the Standing Rules and Orders Committee and the National Assembly itself has reservations on Agenda for Change. Why is it that it is not implemented? We found it there, we took it from the shelves, we studied it and it is not only the Executive to be blamed as even the National Assembly itself has no commitment to it. This thing of passing the buck to other people, I am not here for that. If people are not able to do something, say we are not able and that is it – full-stop. Give it to the other House to help you if they can and if they cannot help, let us not talk about it anymore. Thank you very much.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Ekandjo.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Honourable

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Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. The Constitution in Article 75 reads: *“Review of Legislation: All Bills passed by the National Assembly shall be referred by the Speaker to the National Council. The National Council shall consider Bills referred to it under sub-article (1) and shall submit reports thereon with its recommendations to the Speaker.”* This means the National Council is a House of Review. What does it mean?

Just take an ordinary Court case. Any person can appeal to the Appeal Court and the Appeal Court will determine whether the judgment was fair or not. The Appeal Court does not review the case, questioning the witnesses, they just look at the merits and how the judgment was passed.

However, in our case, instead of the National Council reviewing the Bills, they have a First Reading, Second Reading, Committee Stage, Third Reading and it is just a duplication of what we are doing here. I do not think that is the function of the National Council, they should review. Maybe the Honourable Member who was the Chairperson can explain to us why that is the case. (Intervention)

HON NEHOVA: I want to ask a question to the Honourable Member. The question is whether the Colleagues who are there particularly after these elections, have the capacity to do exactly what you are saying.

HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Provision should be made that the Ministers appear there, because this Budget will be referred to the National Council and then somebody says during the Committee Stage that they want the Minister to do a, b, c. They come up with good proposals, but since the Ministers are not there, their recommendations end up in the air unless it is referred back to this Assembly.

Secondly, one may find that a Bill tabled in this House is referred to a Committee and the Committee meets with the community of Impalila, for

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example, to get their input. The Bill is passed here, referred to the National Council and two, three weeks later the National Council again has a hearing in Impalila. They talk to the people, but the people say, *“Who are you, you were here three weeks ago, we gave you our recommendations”* and they say, *“No, it was the other House.”* I feel that is causing confusion and we must determine the functions of the Review House. Is it necessary for them to go into Committee Stage? They should just decide how did the National Assembly arrive at the conclusion and then the Ministers should appear there. They do not have the privilege to ask questions to the Ministers. I do not know what should be done because even the Constitution is silent on the functions of the National Council.

Alternatively, instead of having two separate Houses, they can join the National Assembly as Members representing the Regions and then we are under one roof. Then they will have the privilege to interact. If not, we must restructure them to do their review function. With that I support the Vote.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Comrade Kapia.

HON KAPIA: Thank you, Chairperson. Many of my points have been taken up by my Colleagues and I only want to emphasise the situation of transport and accommodation of the Members of the National Council. This is very serious and maybe in future we should attend to these matters. The people were elected in the Regions and they do not have accommodation here. Some of the Members even lose popularity in their constituencies because they were forced to buy houses here and then they do not have money to visit their constituencies. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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

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HON ULENGA: Thank you, Assistant Chairperson. This time I am going to be brief. First of all, I just want to echo the sentiments which were expressed previously during the discussion of Vote 03 and to say, as a matter of correction, when I referred in the previous Debate to the Commission needing to be fired, I did not mean the Public Service Commission. I meant the ad hoc Commission that we ourselves established here on the basis of a Motion which was passed in Parliament.

Anyhow, Assistant Chairperson, what has been said with regard to the National Assembly can be said with even more force, - *a fortiori* as said in law. I have come to the sad realisation of the Members of the National Council very quickly become unpopular in their constituencies. Many of them are treated with contempt in their constituencies. Number one, the means to do their work are not sufficient and here I am not talking about their salaries, because they are not supposed to be working with their salaries, they are supposed to have a specific allocation as per the Vote which allows them to do work in their constituencies.

Secondly, there is also a problem here and I think the Members of the Ruling Party will know about this. I hear from the top politicians and some bragging people that SWAPO is so popular, it does not matter whom we put up, even if it is the head of a donkey, the people will just vote for SWAPO. (Interjections).

Honourable Nehova talked about capacity. We do not all have the capacity, but we must not have that attitude when we put candidates in constituencies. It is true that some Parties do not have very good people, it is true we as a country have a lot of lacks, but a person who gets elected must have certain standards. You do not just put up a person because the Party will win there, because this is a person who will end up in the National Council. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Assistant Chairperson, we do not need to be lectured by Honourable Ulenga. He was here on this side as a SWAPO Member to go and build capacity. If he cannot build capacity in his own

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Party, he must not come and lecture here. We know our candidates are capable and that is why they defeat you all the way. Our people have the capacity, therefore they defeat you.

HON ULENGA: Chairperson, I respect what my Colleague there is saying and I want to say that these are our Votes, these Votes concern us as Parliament far more than any other Vote. Therefore, please grant us a chance to explain ourselves when we talk about these Votes. It is all about capacity, it has nothing to do with criticising the Ruling Party, but this sentiment was not only heard by me, it has become a joke and everybody may have heard of it, the sentiment that no, it does not matter whom you put up, as long as the Mannetjie is there the person is going to be elected. I am just saying this should not be said in seriousness, because it is true, we represent the Party and its principles, but sometimes capacity is a problem, also a problem in the CoD. Perhaps sometimes it is good that the one with a little bit more capacity wins, but it is really very important that the people who get to these Houses can do what the Party itself intends them to do.

However, coming to an even more important issue that Honourable Ekandjo mentioned and I must say, with due respect, that the Comrade has spoken more than I have heard him in a very long time, the issue of the National Council, being the House of Review. I think we need proper coordination between the two Houses. Perhaps we need just a Joint Committee because I see that the leaders sometimes meet, I do not know how regularly, but coordination just lacks.

This morning I met somebody there at Wernhil and the person was calling me, “*Minister, Minister.*” Sometimes people say it as a joke, but the serious aspect of it is that quite a number of the members of the public do not care what you are. As long as you get elected to one of these Houses, whatever Party you belong to, they know that you live on State money, sometimes even getting an allowance. They see you with a basket full of food and then they call you “*Minister*”. That really means to say that whoever voted for you, you are there for the people and that is just how it is.

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This thing that Honourable Ekandjo has talked about has happened to many of us. People say, “*You were just here a few days ago*” and it is true that the National Council does not see reports which come from here, they do not go and do their business based on reports that started from the Assembly, they decide on their own and it is just coordination. When the Committee has decided to go and look at the prison in Lüderitz, they also go there. On one occasion we found them only having left a week before and they were referring to a Report they have seen from us. Honourable Chairperson, the leaders of both Houses of Parliament need to look into this issue so that review can be proper review.

We do have the Constitution, but there is also convention. There is a long practice of some of these things which come over years and years from other countries and we do not have to reinvent the wheel here. What needs to be looked at is that the work between the two Houses be properly coordinated, so that we do not end up duplicating our work.

One of the Honourable Members jumped up to try to provide some information with regard to the National Council, but I think it is important that we have the likes of him here, because he was leading that House from the beginning. For example, the Prime Minister was here, the former Minister was here and the former Chairperson of the Council is here, they are just an asset to this House because he set up some of the original structures in that House. Therefore it is good that we have him here because that could even improve our relationship. With that I support the Vote.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Dingara.

HON DINGARA: Thank you very much, Honourable Assistant Chair. With regard to the Conditions of Service of the National Council Members, I want to put it this way: A person is elected in Sibinda Constituency as a Councillor to serve the Sibinda constituency. The salary of that person is very low. The person was a school principal, but

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now his salary is lower as a Councillor. When he becomes a Councillor, he is no more serving a school; the responsibility for the whole Constituency is on his shoulders. The person serves, at the next meeting the person is elected to the National Council in Windhoek and he cannot now serve Sibinda properly. This person is doing it on behalf of the Namibian people and he is obliged to attend the National Council. He has no official transport; the Regional Council has its own meetings which this person must attend in Katima, which means that his salary is depleted within one week. Now the man goes to Cash Loan and borrows money while he is a Government leader. This person has to serve for a period of five years and all goes well during the first two weeks, but from the third week the person goes into debt and at the end of the five years when the person retires, the pension is so small that he has to apply immediately to go back to teaching. As the post of school principal is a promotion post, the person must again start as an ordinary teacher. What a situation! This person did not know that to be a school principal is better than to be a Regional Councillor. He also did not know that it is better to be an ordinary Regional Councillor than a Member of the National Council. (Intervention)

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Dingara, put your question now.

HON DINGARA: I am saying that the Members of the National Council should be provided with official transport because they are obliged to attend to their Constituencies while at the same time being at the National Council. They should also be provided with official accommodation in Windhoek because these people are really losing out.

I do not know what can be done about their pensions, but I have spoken to those who were dropped by the people because of poor service delivery and I can tell you, one feels so disappointed. Maybe the Pensions Act of the Members of the National Council should be reviewed because it is not good for a person to serve only for five years in a political position and then land up in the street. After you have served as a politician and retire,

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your pension should assist you to continue providing services to the community.

The Regional Councillors are paid less than their staff members. The Chief Regional Officer earns more than them. This should be investigated and the whole scenario should be corrected because it is completely incorrect that you recruit somebody and he earns more than you who recruited him. Thank you very much.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I now give the Floor to the Deputy Speaker to respond.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you once more for the Floor and thank you for the support for Vote 11. Thank you *Dr Kawana*. On more than one occasion you have expressed sympathy with the backbenchers and I remember at a certain stage you promised to do something. We are counting on you, being a Minister within the President's Office. I should think you can try to turn around the Conditions of Service of the backbenchers.

For example, the Members of the National Council need accommodation. I do know that the newly appointed Deputy Minister of Veteran Affairs, Honourable Nicanor, is up to now still looking for accommodation because she was stationed in her constituency, appointed as a Deputy Minister and now she is in a dilemma.

We have proposed that a Parliament Village be catered for in the plans for the new Parliament and there should be specific Government flats to cater for the National Council and also the newly appointed Ministers or Deputy Ministers who are from other Regions. Yesterday you have eloquently debated Vote 17 on housing needs and there is really a need because housing has become so expensive.

Honourable Ilonga, we take cognisance of what you have said. The need is measured in terms of time and in terms of the activities you are

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carrying out. The country is large and there is no way you can perform your duties without mobility. The situation of the Members of the National Council is even worse as these people are depleting their salaries and their conditions of service need to be reviewed. It would be good if the Commission appointed by us send even their officials here to hear what the people are saying.

Honourable Kawana, the reason why some Members are saying that the Commission should be summoned is because of the promise they made. You will remember they met us here and they also sent some officials here to discuss with individual Members of Parliament and up to now we do not know what is happening. We only want results but we take note of your advice and we will see in which way we can get a progress report.

The Conditions of Service of all of us should be reviewed and even the Head of State is being paid peanuts in comparison with some of the Heads of State-Owned Enterprises and others.

Honourable Mushelenga I thank you for your support. Although I agree that they do duplicate issues, it must be said that on some issues they outperform the National Assembly administratively.

Honourable Nambahu, thank you very much. I remember that we discussed the Agenda for Change in the Standing Rules and Orders Committee and that we said there are issues contained in that document which can be implemented right away and I am sure our officials are taking note of that and we will look into those issues during the next session.

Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, thank you for your comments. The National Council has its own Standing Rules and Procedures which dictate the procedure to be followed. We agree with you that the Ministers are supposed to appear before them and I do not see the need for the Speaker of the National Assembly motivating the Vote of the National Council. Why can they not do it themselves?

Honourable Kapia, transport is essential in particular for the Members of

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the National Council from the far remote areas. In South Africa the Members of the National Council are given a number of air tickets per year to travel from home to Cape Town. I have here in mind the Members of the National Council from Katima Mulilo who should be given air tickets as Katima is very far from here.

Honourable Ulenga, thank you very much. What is important in what you have stated is that there is a need for coordination of the work between the National Council and National Assembly to avoid duplication.

Honourable Dingara, it is true that there is a need to review the pensions. These people are also Political Office-Bearers. I think I have covered everything.

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

Vote 28 – “ELECTORAL COMMISSION” is put for Discussion.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Assistant Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote of the Electoral Commission and before I do that, I wish to mention one or two issues, the first being that an Electoral Commission in a democratic system is the most important structure. It is the structure that could either make democracy flourish or destroy it in a country. It is so important that any little mistake they may make could have a serious impact on the country. A country could easily be labelled as being undemocratic and suppressing its people and, therefore, an Electoral Commission is so crucial for the process of nurturing and developing tolerance, freedom of speech, etcetera. That is why it is so important for us as lawmakers to ensure that this body is functioning the way it should function.

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As a Member of my Political Party NUDO, I have been attending meetings with the Electoral Commission during the preparation for the elections. I have followed the process of the Court cases, I have carefully listened to the Judgment delivered by Judge Damaseb and I am telling you that there were certain things that I thought could have come out clearer.

The result of the last election which the Opposition Parties, rightly, have taken to Court, was a result of complete mismanagement, not mismanagement by the Electoral Commission, the confusion was caused by the interference by the Commissioners in the day-to-day running of the Electoral Commission's activities. At the meetings that we attended the Director who was supposed to be chairing consultative meetings between Political Parties and the Electoral Commission was pushed aside and the Chairman of the Commission was the person chairing these meetings and after the ruling by the High Court, the Director was again blamed for having messed up the process while he was pushed aside and the Commission was in charge. (Intervention)

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Honourable Tjihuiko, this case is before Court.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Assistant Chairperson, we have to be very serious about this matter. I am told that the term of the Commissioners has expired and new Commissioners need to be appointed. I want to call upon every democratic-minded politician in this august House, especially those in the Executive who are going to appoint the new Commissioners, that the existing Commissioners should not even be considered. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Chairperson, I have a serious problem. The Honourable Member is making his recommendations on the basis of the previous elections. The Ruling by the High Court has been taken on Appeal and as far as I am concerned, that whole issue is still *sub-judice*. Whether he approaches it from whatever corner, the issue still remains *sub-judice*. You ruled him

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Out of Order and the Honourable Member persistently and consistently continues. He is Out of Order.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Tjiuiko, please come to the detail.

HON TJIHUIKO: Legal Challenge is mentioned on page 4. Looking at this, I was expecting to see in this motivation a process that would assist the Electoral Commission to improve so that we can end up with an acceptable result for all. What I see here, with due respect, and knowing what has happened in the past will happen again, is that provision has been made to fight elections, not to improve on the mistakes that we have made. Obviously there will not be any improvement, as far as one could see from the preparation of Court cases, rather than preparations for not going to Court again. I find that very disturbing. (Intervention)

HON KAPIA: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Member made a request to the Executive with regard to the appointment of Commissioners, but as far as I know, we have a Privileges Committee which already met twice to consider the criteria and qualifications of those who would be appointed as Commissioners. The Honourable Member directed this to the Executive and I am not defending the Executive, I just want to correct what is supposed to be corrected. It is not true that this is a responsibility of the Executive and it is also not true that the term of the Commission will be expiring as it was extended by this House and the Honourable Member knows until when the term of the Commission was extended.

HON TJIHUIKO: I thought the Honourable Member is trying to take me back to where Honourable Mushelenga was trying to direct the House and I do not know whether I should respond to that. I was requesting the democratic-minded Members of this august House to join hands and make sure that we protect and defend our democracy by doing the right things

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and it is for all of us to ensure that we do not repeat what has happened in the coming elections and that can be done by having the right people in those positions. I support the Vote.

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

HON UEITELE: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote and my contribution is based on page 6, Voters' Education. I just want to emphasise voters' education as this is meant to educate the community to participate in elections. The people doing Voters' Education need to be assisted in terms of transport and information on their programme.

During the previous elections I have seen in my Region that all the Political Parties' polling officers and presiding officers are trained in one big hall for a period of two days and it is impossible to train three hundred people on election issues within that period and I would prefer that they be trained in smaller groups. The Police Officers guarding the election materials must also be included in this training so that they follow the process and know what is the work of the presiding officer. I support the Vote.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Honourable Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: When we are talking about the Electoral Commission I am wondering who they are. We cannot talk about something which happened yesterday, it is over. Let us rather talk about a new kind of Electoral Commission, let us be advised where to go from now onwards. This book is closed and I hope those who interfered could hear this. We have a country to defend, we have good governance and for that matter, whatever hiccups can be avoided. At this juncture I can say whoever has

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these kinds of laws in mind can confuse the whole Government of the day, but it is too bad, those days are gone. We are here to defend this country, the quality of good leadership and governance and everyone must adhere to these principles. On behalf this country you have to adhere to these principles. With these few words, I support the Vote, but you got the message and let us not divert from the real issue. That is the message.

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

HON MOONGO: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, first of all, I would like to say that most people learn from their mistakes and take corrective measures, but then there are those who do not. We do not want to go to Court after every election, we want people to learn from their mistakes and turn that page. We want the Ruling Party to stop the harassing of people who are supposed to go and campaign because they are entitled to do so. Who are you to prevent people from going where they want to go? Not only that, some election officials used to prevent the Opposition representatives to sleep in the polling stations while everyone is supposed to be accommodated there. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask a question? This is a fact, I did say that and you are repeating the same thing. Put your foot down and say from here on we need to have a new Electoral Commission with authority and if they do wrong, they must be fired.

HON MOONGO: I understand the advice of my Chief, but put the issue on the table and discuss it with all others and then find a remedy. The polling station is in the bush and the people were not allowed to overnight in the polling station or to use the water tap there. This is unnecessary disturbance of peaceful elections. The officials are supposed to be neutral,

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we do not want disturbance, we want accountability and we do not want to tarnish the name of Namibia.

Lastly, I would like to appeal all the Colleagues here to amend the Electoral Act so that it serves everybody and that the Code of Conduct be made part of the law so that we all adhere to the agreement that one Party will not have meeting close to another Party. Please, we want peace.
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: On a Point of Information. At some places the Opposition were waiting to address their meetings, but there were no people. Information was given on the radio that there will be a meeting of the DTA and no member attended. Is that to say that the other meetings were close to that meeting?

HON MOONGO: Not all SWAPO members are bad people. Some people understand, they know and respect the rights of others, but some of the people deny others their right and this is very bad. This is a democratic country and where your right ends, the other one's rights start. Do you not know this? If you do, then talk to your members to make them understand.

I went to Onyuulaye for a public awareness campaign and then twenty SWAPO Members closed the line and said we should not pass there. Namibia has no limits; we have a right to go anywhere we want.
(Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Order. Honourable Moongo's assertions cannot be left unchallenged. I think the Honourable Member wants to create an impression that SWAPO Members are intolerant of other Political Parties, which is not the case. What the Honourable Member is trying to do is actually to justify some unacceptable behaviour of some Members of the Opposition who go into the private spaces of other people to carry out their political activities

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there. I know of Opposition Members who have gone into people's businesses and taken out their flags and put it on the tables of businesses there. Why do you do that? You are forcing the person to push you out, not because of the Party that you belong to but because you want to conduct your political activities inside the business of an individual and that is unacceptable. You are forcing people to act violently and then you say SWAPO is intolerant. Because they know they cannot defeat SWAPO through the polls, they now want to tarnish the image of SWAPO in the eyes of law-abiding people.

HON MOONGO: I want to invite some of the Ministers to join my convoy. I took a trip through Okahao and then to Okalongo and from Okalongo to Kongo and wherever I went, SWAPO panicked and did not want us to go there.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I now give the Floor to the Deputy Speaker to respond.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I thank all those who supported Vote 28, Electoral Commission.

Honourable Tjiuiko, I can just summarise by saying the whole issue mentioned by you is *sub judice*.

Honourable Ueitele, I thank you very much for your advice. The officials of the Commission are here and I am sure they will take note and particularly that voters' education must be across the board.

Honourable Chief Riruako, thank you very much for your advice.

Honourable Moongo, I think the SWAPO Party is tolerant. You will remember that SWAPO organised a big rally in the North with our flags

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and you came amongst the SWAPO members, “*Viva DTA! Viva DTA!*”. People did not do anything to you and that shows their level of tolerance.

With these few remarks, I thank all of you for your support.

ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you very much. Any objection? Agreed to. I shall report the Bill with Amendment.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Bill reported with Amendment.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we have come to the conclusion of the Committee Stage Does the Honourable Minister of Finance move that the Bill be now read a Third Time?

THIRD READING: APPROPRIATION BILL

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. Any further discussion? Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I wish to thank all the Members of the House and the members of the public for the useful and informative discussions that have taken place on the Budget. As I have indicated before, it does enrich the budgeting process and we will consider, to the extent possible, the positive comments that

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THIRD READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

they have made and I wish to renew my invitation to the public and to the Members of this House to follow up on issues of interest with the relevant Ministries, given that we have not only here approved the Budget for the 2011/2012 Financial Year, we have also discussed the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the three years up to 2013/2014 and for the last two years of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework the Honourable Members are free to engage the respective Ministries on the programmes indicated here so that they can put forward their ideas. I thank everybody once again.

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

APPROPRIATION BILL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, we have now passed the Appropriation Bill and it will be referred to the Chairman of the National Council in terms of Article 75(1) of the Namibian Constitution to deal with it under Article 75(2) of our Constitution. Honourable Members, the Chief Whips have agreed that after we have disposed off the Appropriation Bill we will adjourn. The business on the Order Paper not disposed off shall not lapse but will stand over until the 7th of June 2011 when the Assembly will resume.

In conclusion, I would like to wish everybody a pleasant and joyful recess and I am looking forward to see you all again, well rested, on the 7th of June. Before I give the Floor to the Prime Minister to adjourn the House, I just want to report on our contributions to the flood victims. The total amount we have contributed is N\$39,900. Although it is not good to pinpoint one person as all of us have done well, there is one Member who

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contributed N\$10,000, namely Kazenambo Kazenambo. I now give the Floor to the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House to the 7th of June.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I thank all the Honourable Members for their patience and hard work. We have carried out our responsibility and on that note we deserve to go and rest now. I move that we adjourn the House until the 7th of June 2011.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 12:00 UNTIL 2011.06.07 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
7 JUNE 2011**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I welcome you after the long recess. I hope all of us will start our work with strength and determination. I have a few announcements.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Office of the Speaker has been notified about the passing on of Mama Albertina Sisulu, the wife of the late ANC stalwart, Tate Walter Sisulu and the mother to the Speaker of the National Assembly of South Africa, Honourable Max Sisulu last week Thursday, the 2nd of June. The late Mama Albertina Sisulu was a freedom fighter in her own right and has also assisted in nurturing the birth of the democratic state of South Africa.

On behalf of the Parliament of Namibia, I would like to express our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the Honourable Speaker, Max Sisulu, the entire Sisulu family and all the people of South Africa who have known and worked with the late Mama Albertina Sisulu. I now request Honourable Members to rise and observe a minute of silence in honour of the late Mama Albertina Sisulu.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTES OF SILENCE

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: A second announcement is that the Speaker is attending the SADC-PF in Angola and he will be back next week. At the

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**TABLING OF RESPORTS
HON MUTORWA**

same time he will also try to attend the funeral service of the late Mama Sisulu in South Africa over the weekend.

The second announcement is that I have to apologise on behalf of Parliament for the dust as the renovations are still ongoing. We tried to rectify this during the course of the week but the work is still ongoing.

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

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY**

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
I lay upon the Table, the 2009/2011 Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Any other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions?

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: I Move without Notice that Leave of Absence, due to her own illness, be granted to the Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Honourable Muharukua, until 1st of July 2011.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statement? Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism.

07 June 2011

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members. I am sure we are all aware that the Government of the Republic of Namibia has placed tourism as one of the priority economic sectors and even during the Budget Debate we have noted that tourism is part of the job creation programme.

The Tourism Industry is no doubt a fast-growing industry and it is very important in the area of job creation and in the fight against poverty. For this to be realised, it is very important that all members of our community acquaint themselves with this sector, to understand its dynamics and also to be sensitised to participate in its activities.

Against this background, the annual Namibia Tourism Expo is now scheduled to take place from the 8th to the 11th of June 2011 and the official opening is tomorrow at 14:00. All Honourable Members of Parliament are kindly invited to see for themselves what the tourism industry in Namibia can offer. This is going to be the 13th Namibia Tourism Expo and since its inception thirteen years ago it has grown in terms of participation, which for now is not only confined to Namibia. This year we are expecting 30% foreign traders and 70% Namibians. There is also a new trend which has come into the market and the 30% are those who are involved in the tourism industry who are coming to exhibit, however this year we are expecting 120 international traders who are coming from South Africa, Europe, China and USA and that is why tomorrow, after the official opening, the whole day will be a trade day where these international traders will be interacting with Namibians and all those participating in the exhibition and then from the 9th to the 11th of June the show will be open to the public.

Once again, Comrade Deputy Speaker, I kindly invite Members of Parliament to attend the official opening which will be officiated by the right Honourable Prime Minister tomorrow at the Windhoek Show

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HON DR GEINGOB

Grounds at 14:00. I thank you for your attention and I thank you that you will make a point to be there tomorrow.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for that information. I ask the Secretary to read the First Order of the Day.

COMMITTEE STAGE: INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY BILL

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry move that the Assembly goes into Committee?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I so move.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is Moved that I leave the Chair. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy Chairperson, Professor Katjavivi, to take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Committee has to consider the Industrial Property Bill.

Clauses 1 to 233 put and agreed to.

Clause 234 put.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I Move an Amendment to Clause 234 as follows:

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HON DR GEINGOB

In Sub-Clause (1) substitute the following paragraph for paragraph (h):

“Any international agreement or convention which the Minister, by notice in the Gazette, declares, subject to Article 63(2)(e) of the Namibian Constitution, to be an international convention for the purposes of this Act.”

In Clause 234(2) substitute the following Sub-Clause for Sub-Clause (3):

“If any international convention or any regulation issued under an international convention to which Namibia is a party is amended, the Minister may, subject to Article 63(2)(e) of the Namibian Constitution and taking into account the advice of the Registrar, decide if such Amendment is to be applicable for the purposes of this Act and issue such regulations or notices as appear to him or her necessary for carrying out and for giving effect to any of the provisions of the Amendment.”

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

Remaining Clauses and Title put and agreed to.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: I shall report the Bill without Amendment.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

Bill reported with Amendment.

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY BILL: THIRD READING

07 June 2011 **THIRD READING: INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY BILL**
HON DR GEINGOB

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry Move, that the Bill be now read a Third Time?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: I so Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any objection? Who seconds? Any further discussion? Does the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you very much. There is no participation but this Bill has been long outstanding. It came here, it was sent back to the drafters. It was being handled by my able Deputy whom we have sent to Lusaka, but this is a most important Bill for all of you who want to venture into business. Therefore, I would like to thank you for your support. Your silence indicates that you read the Bill very well, you know its contents and, therefore, you accept it. I thank you for your support.

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

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY BILL

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

**CONSIDERATION: WHITE PAPER ON LOCAL AND
REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

07 June 2011

**WHITE PAPER: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
HON UUTONI**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 13th of April 2011, the Question before the Assembly was a White Paper by the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Safety and Security now has the Floor to continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Speaker. Let me again say a few words on this White Paper on Local and Regional Economic Development.

The White Paper is a fundamental tool for development by both Regional and Local Authorities to enhance the quality of life of all the people and to render efficient and effective services in a given Region or Municipal area. Comrade Minister, it is not good for the economy of our country if a number of our towns are struggling economically. Regions and towns, to me, are the backbone of the country's economy because if you develop a town, then you have empowered a big portion of the population. Therefore, this White Paper on Local and Regional Economic Development will enable both Regions and Municipalities to coordinate and manage local economic development planning, create an enabling environment, encourage and promote public participation.

Comrade Minister, there is need to support entrepreneurs and focus on small businesses. In addition to that, each Local Authority and every Region need to develop an SME strategy, a strategy that will give policy directives towards promoting SME development and informal trade localities.

Comrade Minister, at present there is no collaborative platform between most SMEs and well-established larger businesses. In the absence of these platforms there is an information gap in the local market system; therefore these shortcomings need to be addressed. To me, the development of links between local SMEs and larger businesses will not only be beneficial to small businesses, but can also lead to stronger competitive positions for larger companies in those localities.

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**WHITE PAPER: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
HON UUTONI**

Comrade Minister, a collaborative platform between SMEs and larger businesses is very important in the sense that Government is advocating for joint ventures between local businesses and foreign investors and of recent we have witnessed the Africa-China Cooperation launched here in Windhoek on the 21st of May 2011, to cooperate economically and also to do some cultural exchange and many others. What does this cooperation tell us? To me it means that we should prepare ourselves properly by creating proper economic structures in our towns to enable us to compete with others as a strong group and not in individual capacity.

Comrade Minister, for local and regional economic development to succeed, there are many issues that need to be revisited. In the first place, as I am standing here, the majority of our towns do not have a database for their SMEs and informal businesses, no websites, neither profiles recorded on video containing information about their towns. These videos are good marketing tools to be shown whenever a town or a Region has visitors. I am just trying to emphasise this point, that a town needs to be known, yet it does not have a website and there is no profile to show to visitors to your town. This is a very important tool to market our towns.

Towns also need to develop their own statistics which will tell them how many unemployed people, how many skilled people, how many schools they have to help them to plan properly.

I also want to touch on tourism and the need to incorporate tourism as part of local economic development strategy as it has the potential to create employment for local communities. Comrade Minister, I am encouraging that every town or Region should have its own tourism strategy in place because today in most countries tourism is seen as part of local economic development because it is part of the larger employment creation initiative of Local Government. It also enhances the value of cultural heritage and the natural environment. The entire community has an important role to play if tourism is to become more successful, for example, by welcoming and helping visitors, ensuring the maintenance of a litter-free environment and involving visitors in national and local events and festivals. You

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HON UUTONI**

cannot attract investors or visitors if the town is just so dirty. Look at many of our towns, they are very dirty and people are not encouraged to have the rubbish at one place to be collected by the Municipality. Papers, bottles and cans are just scattered all over and then you say this is a town. This will not attract investors in terms of tourism.

Comrade Minister, when I was the Mayor of a town in the North, I met with my counterpart, the Mayor of Katima Mulilo and I said to him that Katima Mulilo town is one of the richest towns in Namibia. Why did I say that? Katima Mulilo has its own natural tourism set-up, the beauty of the area and then you look at the location of the town. The markets that surround Katima Mulilo, such as Zambia, Angola, Botswana and Zimbabwe are big markets. If they could develop those beaches alongside the river, they could share the customers during the festive season with Swakopmund. Katima and Rundu are just so rich and these are some of the things we need to do in terms of local economic development. Maybe the Honourable Minister can take this up. Frankly speaking, Katima and Rundu are some of our best towns in Namibia.

Investment promotion and business development: I am encouraging that every municipality and region should develop their own investment initiative policy to ensure retention and expansion of existing businesses as well as attracting new investment. For this policy to be known, information should be disseminated to potential investors through a marketing strategy.

Facilitating access to finance: Finance is a key requirement to business expansion and development. Therefore, efforts must be employed to address the relevant accessibility and knowledge of financial assistance to SMEs. This means that Local Government can champion the formation of institutional support with regard to finance and ensure that such information is communicated to the beneficiaries. The simple reason for this is for Local Authorities to coordinate the collection and dissemination from Private and Public Sectors regarding provision of finance.

We should encourage financial institutions to provide free financial consulting services to SME sectors. Some businesses such as banks want

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to be paid for consultations, but if we organise well, they can come to a given locality and then give this information for free. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask a tiny question? You were once a very famous Mayor of the Ongwediva town that you have grown from almost nothing to a very important town. As a Mayor you have done many things. Are you perhaps saying that towns like Ongwediva and others should know themselves, just to understand what is available within these towns to perhaps create information centres where they can take people if they would like to do welding or would like to have traditional cuisine or maybe conferences? Are you saying that, former Mayor and my Colleague?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Minister of Works and Transport, I think the question is very important. I just made reference to Katima Mulilo town and every given locality has its own unique situation. You have to identify a product that would make you to be known. For example, in Ongwediva we identified that we cannot compete with Oshakati and Ondangwa because they are big industrial types of towns, but we identified that we want to be a service delivery town and Katima should identify a product that is suitable for them and then compete. I hope I have answered your question.

Finally, Honourable Deputy Speaker, for the local and regional economic development programme to achieve its mission successfully, we should consider human resources as one of the key potential strengths needed in order to create opportunities for economic development in towns and regions. This programme should ensure that skills development of those officials is not neglected. If you do not develop your own people in your Region in your town, you have nowhere to go. This is the most important key. There is also a need to develop a guiding principle towards monitoring and evaluation of the local economic development projects. Honourable Deputy Speaker, I thank you and I support the Bill.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: I have listened to the Deputy Minister and I have to say in the past you did well, but I have to say that if you want to develop an area, there must be a scenario of how it originated. If I use examples of the past, you might not like some of them.

We were criticising the former Government when they developed the northern part of Namibia. It was robbery but it was developing something which could not be erased from that particular area. We have criticised the development in the northern parts of Namibia, saying it is a Bantustan. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Which one?

HON RIRUAKO: I am not talking to somebody who was not there by then. If you want some lectures it can be given. They happened to develop that particular area and also part of Okakarara and Okamatapati and it is where the development of those areas started. You must come up with something tangible; there must be research on how we are going to develop the area. You mentioned Katima and Rundu, the water is alongside the river but this water is not going to where the people are located. It is a whole failure. The same goes for Caprivi, there is water but you failed to bring the water to the people residing in the area. I am not here to make jokes, I am here to tell the public and the Parliament what is supposed to be done and the people in your offices as so-called expatriates and advisors to you are the very same people who introduced the topic of the so-called Bantustans.

The point is that we have to develop those areas and there is no excuse. The water is there, the money is there and this must be done accurately without any excuses. In the area of Rietfontein there is enough water for more than sixty farms, but what are you doing with the money while the water

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is there. For how long are we going to tell one another what should be done? We are supposed to be ready if we mean business. We cannot keep on talking and talking. (Interjections). The person who is asking me “*which page*” is from Gam. The water is running from Gam into the valley without being utilised and these are the people who keep on talking while the water is there. You have to tell your Colleagues how; standing and participating. (Interjection). I am not here to tell you which page. You also have some areas which are supposed to be developed. People keep on asking “*which page*”, but what does it have to do with a page?

We have to be people with self-respect who are looking for options and not to play with words and to show yourself on the television that, “*I asked which page.*”

That is how development should be tackled. The gentleman who was speaking before me mentioned certain things that have to be done and from now onwards we do not want to joke every day in this House. This is a House of politics, a House of performance and we are supposed to be part of it and if you lack this, please come, let us sit down and teach one another. This is my appeal to those who really want to talk about the issue. If you talk about the issue, come to a point and come with a tangible statement that can make other people to listen to you, but people keep on joking. We have many clowns who are supposed to amuse the public, but not this Parliament; this is the House of talking, not joking. Therefore, if you open your mouth, you must attract other human beings to listen to you, but not to interrupt the House. This is a House of learning, a House of construction. This is how you can be regarded as a Member of Parliament and if you do not speak Latin, go and study again and come back. You are young enough to go back and study again in order to cope with the moment of the day.

I have to appeal to you that the time for jokes is gone, let us do business now, not jokes. I am not just thinking about NUDO, I am thinking about the variety, I am thinking about the people of this country to live together in peace and harmony, but not to joke and joke. That time is gone. Let us organise ourselves to live together and how to live with the potential of this country and if you are failing to do so, you can ask me “page” a

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hundred times, but the public wants to know what are your intentions, what do you want to achieve.

Honourable Minister, I appreciate what you said, it really gave a good direction to those people who did not think on that level. Now you are provoked to come up and join that kind of level of people who want to develop this country. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Katjavivi

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, like most of you, Members of this august House, I have read the White Paper under discussion with great interest. This is indeed a well-written paper that helps us to put a spotlight on some of the critical issues covered and thereby contribute towards the mobilisation of local and regional forces within our society in order to improve the quality of life of the people of this country. Thus, the White Paper is calling for our people to network, to work together with a view to create distinctive understanding of their environment so that they may be better prepared to respond to their respective local and regional challenges.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I consider the White Paper as a timely initiative that would complement our overall existing national vision as well as the various strategies for national economic development. I, therefore, fully agree with the White Paper when it states: *“Local economic development is a process by which actors within urban and rural areas work collectively with public, business and non-governmental sectors to create better conditions for economic growth, employment generation and community wealth in order to enhance the quality of life of all the communities.”*

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, in order to achieve the abovementioned sentiments and the overall objectives outlined in the White Paper, we would need to organise dedicated teams and groups in

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various localities and Regions in order to take full advantages that are being offered by the White Paper. I do agree with those who do say that there can be no shortcuts to development, but the way could be open for those citizens who are ready to fully utilise such opportunities, such as those discussed in the White Paper and to make sure that they utilise those opportunities to their own betterment.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, let me request the Honourable Minister, the Deputy Minister and their team to seriously consider producing a summarised version of the White Paper in various national languages and circulate such as widely as possible. This is in order to maximise participation on the part of our citizens and particularly those who are residing in the rural and remote parts of our country.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, permit me to say a word or two about a friend and Colleague of long standing who does not need an introduction in this House. It gives me a great pleasure to extend warmest congratulations to the Honourable Dr Nickey Iyambo, the Minister of Veteran Affairs, for the honour that has been bestowed upon him by the President of Finland when he was accorded the "*Commander First Class Order of the Lion of Finland*". This, indeed, is a fitting tribute to Dr Iyambo's contribution to the cordial and close relations that exist between Namibia and Finland. Somewhere I came across a line written by Ralph Ellison. It goes like this: "*You have to leave home to find home.*" It is a reference cited in a new book, the title, "The Bridge – the Life and Rise of Barak Obama" by David Remnick which was published in 2010. That quote might be probably true, but in the case of my friend he did much more than that. Dr Iyambo served as a reliable and dependable bridge between the two countries in many ways. To Dr Iyambo we are saying, your many friends, particularly the Tanganyika Group, are proud of you. Once again, congratulations Dr Iyambo.

With these few remarks, I support the White Paper and I thank you for your attention.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo.

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HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. First of all, I am happy that the White Paper was tabled in this House, but I still have a serious concern about the villages and small towns in the South which still have the old-fashioned type of toilets. I remember the late Honourable Chief Witbooi asking, “*until when?*” Up to now this problem has not been solved.

I have learned that the people in the North who are affected by the floods and living in tents are still discriminated against because they are not Oshivambo-speaking people. I can give you their names, I can give you their cell phone numbers and this is a fact. People came to me and complained that money and food were received from donors, but they are discriminated against. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, on the 13th of April you spoke on the White Paper.

HON MOONGO: Do you not want me to continue? Stop discriminating against people.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? I recognise Honourable Mbumba.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. We are discussing issues that build; we want to improve the conditions of all our people wherever they may find themselves. We are representatives of all citizens, irrespective of language group, irrespective of where they were born, age, and gender and so on. A Member of Parliament, who has already spoken, simply because he came from his own home yesterday, is now telling us. We know what happened in the past in those border areas and in my view, I never thought we would have such a harmonious situation.

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A Member of Parliament has the power, the authority, the mandate to make sure that he calls those people to order, rather than just coming to Parliament to complain. There are many, many people in the North, in Oshakati, in Ongwediva, in Ondangwa, in Oshikango, in Eenhana and other places who come from all parts of this country, just like in Windhoek. For the person to say that the people are being discriminated purposely and they are not saying themselves, they only have the mouth to go and speak to him. I honestly think we must learn how to utilise the time of Parliament. We want him to give us the name of that Governor, the name of that official who was distributing food so that we can call that person to order, because I have never heard anybody complaining about discrimination in Oshakati before. We want that information and we cannot misuse Parliament for the purpose of self-aggrandisement. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Honourable Kavetuna.

HON KAVETUNA: I beg the indulgence of this House to defer the Debate on the White Paper to the 15th of June.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate stands adjourned until 15th of June. The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

**MOTION ON RECENT OUTCRY BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT
OPERATORS: RESUMPTION OF DEBATE**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday 16 March 2011, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Moongo. The Debate will stand over until next week for Honourable Ulenga. The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

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**CONSIDERATION: REPORTS RELATING TO ROME
STATUTE OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does Honourable Kavetuna Move that the Reports be considered?

HON KAVETUNA: Honourable Speaker, I Move that the Debate be adjourned until the 14th of July 2011.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate is adjourned until the 14th July. The Secretary will read the Fifth Order of the Day.

**CONSIDERATION: REPORT ON ANNUAL
PARLIAMENTARY HEARING**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate is adjourned until Tuesday, next week. The Secretary will read the Sixth Order of the Day.

RECONSIDERATION: EMPLOYMENT SERVICE BILL

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister of Labour and Social Services is not here and the item stands adjourned until next Tuesday. The Notice of a Motion is by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

**DEBATE - ACKNOWLEDGES THE FACT THAT THE
STRUGGLE FOR NAMIBIA'S LIBERATION WAS LONG AND
BITTER AND THAT IN THE PROCESS MANY HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS TOOK PLACE ON BOTH SIDES**

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HON MOONGO: I Move, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who seconds? The Honourable Member has the Floor.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to salute the cadres who sacrificed their lives and died for the liberation of Namibia. Their blood waters our freedom. The liberation struggle was long and bitter and many Namibians lost their lives, were maimed, disappeared and people accused each other in order to be recognised as being more loyal to SWAPO than others. Those who were working under the South West Africa Administration were accused of collaborating with the enemy, even when some were not active in politics. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Like whom?

HON MOONGO: It would be better to listen because some of you were not here. I was here and you should listen so that you do not come up with unnecessary arguments.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, some people inside the country also reported each other to the freedom fighters because of jealousy that they were not given loans and admitted to the job market. Therefore, bitterness and conflict were the order of the day.

The previous administration had a system of granting loans to the community members, provided that one had to undergo business training run by experts in the Private Sector in South Africa. Those who successfully completed the training were the ones to qualify for the loans and those who failed their training became bitter and jealous and reported those who succeeded that they were puppets of the South African regime. In the end they were blacklisted by SWAPO that they were betraying the

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liberation struggle. This is now the time to bury the foul language in Namibia once and for all and not to disturb peace all the time. Let us bury the past and become united as One Namibia, One Nation.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, the freedom fighters of that time did not have the intelligence capacity and investigation abilities to detect genuine information and false propaganda. This unfortunate situation created confusion as to who was the real enemy and who was not, but the enemy was supposed to be the armed forces of South Africa in Namibia only and that political conspiracy theory and propaganda machinery led to the killing of innocent civilians, teachers, cattle herders, kings and queens in Namibia.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, as warring parties, both South Africa and the SWAPO Party's People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) committed human rights violations. Landmines were planted on public roads and in public places and as you know, many butcheries and many commercial banks were destroyed, which was shocking but we all understood that. Schools, banks, service stations and churches were bombed and burnt down. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I want to pose a question to Honourable Moongo. Honourable Moongo, you said the fighters were planting mines and queens and kings were killed. What do you want to tell the public? If you say SWAPO violated human rights... (Interjection)

HON MOONGO: Yes, and also South Africa, both of you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Do you want to say when they were fighting that was violation of human rights, fighting for freedom for you even to sit and talk nonsense and nothing happening to you? Do you say that was violation of

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human rights? No, Honourable Moongo, you are not supposed to say that and it is a clear indication that this man who ran away and joined the enemy is now publicly announcing his collaboration with the enemy.

HON MOONGO: I say this is the only platform where we can iron out our problems and our differences and bury the past in an orderly way, but some people do not want that and keep repeating the old accusations year after year. We want us to discuss the matter and bury it here. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Philemon Moongo, is it not true that are in a hurry to have this history either covered up, plastered over, painted over because you have a long history? You want to claim the victory on the SWAPO's side or the victory on the South African side. Is that possible? Why are you worried if the SWAPO people want to speak their language and praise themselves? If other people want to praise themselves, you can always jump this or that way because that has been your life.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want us to bury the unending accusations against each other. This is harming reconciliation and true reconciliation can only be achieved if we bury all these accusations. If you want me to stop and you continue accusing each other, back-biting each other, it will be a country of no progress, no unity. I want a country of peace. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Comrade Deputy Speaker, on a Point of Information to the Honourable Member. Honourable Moongo, when you introduced your Motion, maybe you were thinking that you want to bury the past, but in my view, you want to open the wounds. Some of the people you are mentioning are

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here, for example, the Deputy Prime Minister who was at Osire for nine months. When you say it is the PLAN fighters who planted mines on the roads, many people here witnessed what happened. Do not scratch the wounds so that the wounds can heal.

HON MOONGO: I think I agree on that point if you could be tolerant and listen to other people. If you are democratic and listen to others, I think you will serve the country better.

I was saying the killing of innocent people and the beating of elderly persons forced people to opt for telling lies as to where the fighters of the South African forces were. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? Honourable Moongo, do you know what a puppet is? If you know, you would probably also know a number of people, some here, some somewhere else, who have been victims as a result of the puppets. You would also understand that there are people who were taken out of their homesteads, presumably dead as they cannot be missing for such a long time, taken out by puppets and Koevoet – whom you are sort of defending here – and beaten up. Do you know that there are people who were taken out from their homesteads as a result of the puppets, beaten up severely and were eventually reported lost or that they have gone to Angola? Are you aware of that?

HON MOONGO: I think I will come to the point that she mentioned of the scratching of the wound. It is true that some Honourable Members on that side may say this is scratching an old wound, but it cannot be an old wound as long as it is still bleeding, because every year, if not every month, during the SWAPO Party gatherings and other public meetings they are talking about the existence of former puppets of the liberation struggle. Some Namibian freedom fighters were illegally detained in

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exile, some were placed in what is known as the Lubango dungeons and others were allegedly killed, while some have disappeared without trace.

Therefore, I say, if SWAPO continues saying there were puppets, we want these things to come to an end here in this very House. This is the House where we can iron out our problems. You want to accuse people while you cannot prove it. Here you were asking me to give proof. Did you have any proof of any puppets? Therefore, it is not an old wound, it is still bleeding because you are still accusing each other and you are disturbing the peace. We need one Namibia, one Nation. Let us bury old accusations and start afresh and become a strong nation.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, ex-detainees and those who never went into exile are still being discriminated against. Those who were in detention were detained illegally. (Intervention)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, I am just warning you not to use words which are likely to incite people.

HON MOONGO: Therefore, we need an immediate remedy in order to bring fairness and justice so that we become a strong Nation and you are only a strong Nation if you are united, but if you call each other names after twenty years of liberation, then something is wrong somewhere. That is why at this platform we need to iron out all these things and bury them.

Therefore, the Government must establish a body composed of ex-bishops or retired judges to mediate between the aggrieved parties, especially those victims in the hands of the new Ruling Party, SWAPO. As the Prime Minister once said here, mistakes were done during the liberation struggle and that is true. (Intervention)

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HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Honourable Deputy Speaker, we all have certain parameters under which we must operate and you cannot in the Parliament of the liberated Namibia say that SWAPO has victims and that SWAPO is discriminating. Where are you getting this, Honourable Moongo? (Interjection)

HON MOONGO: I can inform you how they discriminate.

HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: No, we honestly cannot accept an accusation of this nature. The laws in this country are very clear, the laws within our Party are very clear. You are saying we should come together, but how can I come together with somebody who is accusing me after Independence that I follow discrimination and some of us climb mountains, get phone calls from every corner of this Republic, accept anybody by colour, by gender, by age and we are being accused by the head of Uukumwe that we are discriminating. No, we cannot accept this. I think if something has to be buried, it will not be SWAPO and it will not be reconciliation. It is something you are promoting. It will become clear with time, but honestly your direction is wrong.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I take the advice, but I can only tip him off on one type of discrimination. No one even wants to use the name “*Moongo*” because I was blackmailed to become a puppet, which is not true. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: On a Point of Order. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I think the rules are clear and we need to be guided. Every morning we say we must respect each other and when we make contributions in this House we must be sensitive to one another. To be honest, some Members on both sides of the House have gone through hell and then you see a Member distorting information. Honourable Namoloh

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was a General and I was an armed soldier and when I was a soldier it was no picnic. With respect to our democracy, with respect to this House, we are leaders in this House who were married to people who have gone through hell. We in this House have gone through hell. Please, let us respect one another. We are not terrorists. Some of us were *kommissars* and we had rules of engagement and that still guides us even to accept the policy of reconciliation. Please, let us not go too far when we are debating issues. We can bring sensitive issues, but motivate them in a very humble, respectful manner, but not that I am being reduced to a terrorist after I have suffered. That is unacceptable and Honourable Moongo must change his language.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you read Chapter 12:15 of Proverbs, you will see that the power of words can create war and it can also create friendship. Please watch your words, because as Honourable Kazenambo has stated, we had a war of liberation and many people have suffered. If you are serious with your Motion, change the way you talk.

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much for the advice by the Deputy Speaker. I think what we need to do as Namibians in this House is to form a body which can really reconcile us. Those people who are accused are in a serious situation, therefore I appeal to the State to understand that true reconciliation is when you bring two people together to iron out their problems. I want this platform to iron out these persistent accusations which are harming the hearts, the souls and the spirits of our Colleagues who are innocent. If you do not want to bring this to an end, it means you want to spoil true reconciliation in Namibia.

With this I hope you understand that my idea is to iron out and stop all the accusations during the liberation struggle once and for all. I thank you very much.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want us to do with your Motion?

HON MOONGO: I want you to continue discussing it and then initiate a sort of commission from ex-bishops and retired judges and call all the victims together. If we cannot talk to each other in Namibia, where are we heading? I thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any further discussion? I recognise Honourable Dr Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Wednesday, next week.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate on this Motion is adjourned until Wednesday, next week. The Notice of a Motion is by Honourable Shixwameni. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I Move that the Debate be adjourned until next Wednesday.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Debate stands adjourned until Wednesday, next week. I ask the Deputy Prime Minister to adjourn the House until the 14th of June 2011.

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ADJOURNMENT

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Deputy Speaker, I Move that this House adjourns until Tuesday, the 14th of June 2011 at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2011.06.14 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