

## **LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **SPEAKER**

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

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

Ms Loide Kasingo

### **THE CABINET**

### **MINISTERS**

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

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

Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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  
14 FEBRUARY 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**OPENING OF SESSION**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Your Excellency, the Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation, Honourable Members, I welcome all of you and I wish all of you strength and wisdom from above for 2012.

It is also against this background that I wish our Colleague, Dr Abraham, the Minister of Education a speedy recovery and hope he will join us soon.

Thirdly, I also have to extend our heartfelt condolences on the passing on of his dear sister, Mrs Ndishishi. At the same time I also wish to express condolences with the Minister of Finance for losing such a very strong woman. May the Almighty God cease and ease our pain.

Honourable Members, we are proud to be Namibian citizens, the Land of the Brave. At the same time we are also happy to be SADC citizens. It is against this background that I would also like to congratulate the Chipolopolo for winning the African Nations Cup. They have done the SADC Region proud.

Today is Valentine's Day and I wish you all a happy Valentine's Day. Enjoy yourselves.

Honourable Members, today, the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2012, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Hifikepunye

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**OPENING OF SESSION  
HON DR GURIRAB**

Pohamba, will officially open the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Fifth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia. I now suspend the business of the House and ask leave to go and invite His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia to the Chamber. Please remain standing until the procession of His Excellency the President enters the Chamber.

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**BUSINESS SUSPENDED**

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**BUSINESS RESUMED:**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Excellencies, spouses, fellow Parliamentarians, Lordships and members of the Judiciary, members of the Diplomatic Corps, eminent guests, fellow Namibians, media operators.

Each year at the opening of Parliament the three Branches of State, Executive, Legislature and Judiciary, in terms of the Constitution are jointly in attendance. The Head of State and President of the Republic, in terms of Rule 15(d) of the Standing Rules and Orders, delivers and Opening Address to the Joint Session of Parliament. We renew that tradition today.

The theme of the Fifth Session of the Fifth Parliament is, “*Striving for Better Parliament and Preparing for Leadership Transition.*” Hereafter when the House commences with its business, which is always open to the public, the Speaker of the National Assembly will elaborate on the theme.

I wish to thank Honourable Loide Kasingo, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly for presiding once again over the first phase of the proceedings. I now have the high honour and distinct pleasure to invite His Excellency, Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of

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**OPENING ADDRESS**  
**HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA**

Namibia, to deliver his address for the opening of Parliament. Your Excellency.

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**OPENING ADDRESS**

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**HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA:** Honourable Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly and Madam Guriras, Honourable Asser Kapere, Chairperson of the National Council and Madam Kapere, Your Excellency, Comrade Sam Nujoma, Founding President of the Republic of Namibia and Madam Nujoma, Right Honourable Nahas Angula, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia and Madam Angula, Your Honour Peter Shivute, Chief Justice and Madam Shivute, Honourable Dr Hage Geingob, Former but First Prime Minister of Namibia, Distinguished Petrus Damaseb, Judge President, and all members of the Judiciary, Honourable Marco Hausiku, Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Members of Parliament, Madam Penelope Pohamba, First Lady and my wife, Members of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am honoured to be here this afternoon to officially open the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the 5<sup>th</sup> Parliament of our Republic, which will conduct its business under the theme “*Striving for a Better Parliament and Preparing for Leadership Transition*”. Like others before it, this event is a significant milestone. It reminds us of the importance of nurturing democracy as our chosen system of governance. It also serves as an occasion for all Namibians to recommit ourselves to the values of parliamentary democracy and to the tenets of a Government by the people, for the people.

It is a source of great joy and pride that for the past twenty-two years, since the historic First Session of the First Parliament of the Republic of Namibia in 1990, our country has held peaceful, free and democratic elections at national and sub-national levels, thereby consolidating



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HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

constitutional democracy. This is an achievement that we should all be proud of.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, this official opening of Parliament holds a special significance for our Nation, especially when viewed in the context of the 22<sup>nd</sup> commemoration of Constitution Day. I was very happy to listen to the man who was the head of that body when he delivered a speech in the Cabinet on that very day, that is Dr Hage Geingob. We are proud that since the adoption of the Namibian Constitution 22 years ago, Namibia has been governed on the basis of the rule of law and democracy.

We are proud that we have maintained peace and stability, in keeping with our Policy of National Reconciliation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, our Government is faced with many challenges which we are working hard to overcome. We are determined to ensure that we continue to uplift the socio-economic conditions of our people, especially those who live in rural areas and informal settlements. It is against this background that we have taken deliberate steps to address the needs of our people and to empower communities through the delivery of public services and expansion of social amenities such as housing, potable water, electricity, health care and education.

Furthermore, our Government has adopted forward-looking policies and programmes to take our country forward on the path towards prosperity. The 5 year National Development Plans and Vision 2030 are among the policies that our Government has adopted to undo the injustices of the past and promote equitable distribution of resources. We will continue to relentlessly implement policies and projects aimed at addressing poverty and unemployment among our people, especially among the youth and women.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, looking back at the proud history of constitutionalism in Namibia, we should re-affirm our commitment to the enduring values that are enshrined and are indeed alive

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HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBHA**

in our Supreme Law of the land, especially the entrenchment of fundamental human rights and freedoms in Chapter 3 of our Constitution. It is our duty as leaders to provide exemplary leadership so that our Nation can keep the flame of freedom, respect for human rights and equality before the law burning high and bright. It is our duty to provide the kind of leadership that will inspire our Nation, not only to live by our constitutional values, but also to internalise the letter and spirit of the Namibian Constitution.

Our Parliament has always stood, and will continue to stand as the central pillar of our democracy. Tasked with the legislative function, Parliament has a sacred duty to make fair, just, well-researched and thoroughly-debated laws for the Nation.

In other words, legislators are elected to make laws which are responsive to the needs of our people. This, I believe, can be best achieved if our Parliament can create effective platforms to make the legislative process more accessible to our citizens, and thereby promote participatory democracy.

In this manner, our Houses of Parliament should not be seen as distant citadels that are far removed from the concerns of ordinary Namibians, but rather as arenas for the refinement and conversion of ideas and actions into laws that advance the development of our country. In order to achieve that noble goal, the practice of participatory democracy should become the norm, not the exception.

I, therefore, encourage both Houses of Parliament to strengthen their outreach programmes and conduct more public hearings on the Bills tabled in Parliament so that the views of the citizens are sought and taken into account as part of the law-making process.

Moreover, our Parliament should consider creative and innovative ideas of interacting with the public. Parliament can, for instance, harness the power of information and communication technology to interact with schools and tertiary education institutions in our country.

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HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA**

Furthermore, Parliament can produce and distribute regular information through newsletters and other publications to schools, public institutions and communities so that citizens can acquaint themselves with the work of our Houses of Legislature.

Similarly, visits to Parliament by members of the public can be arranged, especially for our young people. This will also promote the culture of reading and debate among our people. Such an investment in our youth will no doubt secure the future sustainability of our democracy. It is also one of the ways in which we, as a country, can give meaning to democratic constitutionalism and enable this Session to truly strive for a better Parliament and prepare for leadership transition as articulated in your chosen theme.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, I take this opportunity to commend our Parliament for institutionalising the activities of the Children's Parliament. I hope that more children will get the opportunity to participate in these activities so that they can learn about the law-making process at a young age. This could be a useful tool in enabling Namibia to groom a new generation of leaders who are steeped in the culture, practices and traditions of democratic lawmaking.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, during the last Session, several Bills were passed by our Parliament. These include the Employment Service Bill, which provides among other things for the establishment of the National Employment Service; imposition of reporting on certain employers and institutions; and provision for regulation of private employment agencies.

Parliament also passed the Flexible Land Tenure Bill, which provides for new forms of title to immovable property, as well as the registration of these forms of title. I have already signed some of these pieces of legislation into law.

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**HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

Amongst many of the Bills that will be tabled during this Session of Parliament, I would like to highlight the following:

1. Disaster Risk Management Bill;
2. National Health Bill;
3. Public and Environmental Health Bill;
4. Tender Board Bill;
5. Child Care and Protection Bill;
6. Water Resources Management Bill;
7. Plant Breeders' and Farmers' Rights Bill; and
8. Urban and Regional Planning Bill.

The annual *Appropriation Bill* will also be tabled and debated. This is one of the most important tools in the implementation of Government policies and programmes. I will have an opportunity to say more about the 2012/2013 *Appropriation Bill* during the State of the Nation Address.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, I urge all lawmakers to continue serving the electorate with dedication and commitment. This is the only way we can create a stronger democracy, where the voices of our people are heard through their elected representatives.

I wish you all a successful Session of Parliament, with the hope that the Bills that will be tabled will be thoroughly deliberated upon and passed speedily in order to bring about positive change in our country. With your chosen theme as the guide of your work, I have no doubt that our Parliament will continue to improve all aspects of its operations, while preparing for leadership transition to the young generation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, it is now my honour to declare the Fifth Session of the Fifth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia officially open. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I wholeheartedly thank the President for his encouraging Opening Address, knowing that my Colleague, Honourable

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**VOTE OF THANKS  
HON KAPERRE**

Asser Kapere, Chairman of the National Council, will deliver the appropriate Vote of Thanks to His Excellency and also indicate what follows next.

Before that, I want to join His Excellency in acknowledging the presence amongst us of the Founding President of our Republic and Father of the Namibian Nation, Comrade Sam Nujoma. Welcome as always.

Lastly, I have the honour and pleasure to invite my Colleague, Honourable Asser Kapere, Chairman of the National Council, to deliver the Vote of Thanks.

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**VOTE OF THANKS**

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**HON CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL:** His Excellency Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia and First Lady, Madam Penhupifo Pohamba, Honourable Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly and Madam Guriras, His Excellency Dr Sam Nujoma, Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation, Right Honourable Nahas Angula, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, Right Honourable Marco Hausiku, Deputy Prime Minister of Namibia, Your Lordship Chief Justice Peter Shivute, Your Lordship Judge President, Petrus Damaseb, Right Honourable Dr Hage Geingob, First Prime Minister of Namibia, Honourable Members of Parliament, Your Excellencies members of the Diplomatic Corps, Distinguished Service Chiefs, my lifelong partner and Comrade, Reverend Maria Kapere, distinguished guests, members of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with great humility and sense of duty that I take the Floor to extend a Vote of Thanks to His Excellency Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, on behalf of the Speaker of the National Assembly, myself and, indeed, on behalf of all the Parliamentarians of Namibia.

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**VOTE OF THANKS  
HON KAPERRE**

As Members of Parliament it is always a joyous and prestigious occasion for us to be graced with the presence of the Head of State in this august House as this symbolises the confidence and trust that our Head of State continues to have in our Legislature.

Your Excellency, Comrade President, last year we witnessed with joy and pride your appointment as the Chancellor of the University of Namibia as well as the conferment of an Honorary Doctorate Degree by the same university in recognition of your leadership qualities and values characterising your persona and leadership style. For that I would like to invite everybody present here to join me in congratulating His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba.

At this juncture, Your Excellency, I would like to state that Parliament recognises your consistent calls for it as an institution and the laws that pass through it to be responsive to the needs and aspirations of our people. Indeed, it is with conviction and pride that I assure you, Comrade President, that both the National Assembly and the National Council share and support your vision of growth, development, prosperity of our people, especially the poor and marginalised in our society.

Your Excellency, your insightful and encouraging message to Parliament was loud and clear and will, without doubt, help to guide our deliberations in the coming year. Furthermore, your call to Parliament to be accessible to all people of our beloved Republic is well received. Once more, Your Excellency Comrade President, thank you very much for having accepted our invitation to officiate at the Official Opening of the Fifth Session of the Fifth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia despite your busy programme.

Further, Honourable Members, it is my distinct honour and with appreciation that I acknowledge the presence in our midst of His Excellency Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation and leader of the Namibian revolution. Many, if not all Members of this august House, myself included, have in one way or another benefited or learned from your remarkable leadership abilities over years and for this and the continuous support you lend to this House,

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**VOTE OF THANKS  
HON KAPERE**

we remain forever grateful. Thank you, Father of the Namibian Nation, for your presence.

I am always impressed and grateful for the dignified and colourful presence of the members of the Judiciary under the collective leadership of His Lordship Chief Justice Peter Shivute and His Lordship Judge President Petrus Damaseb whom we in Parliament want to assure of continued commitment in ensuring a harmonious and collaborative co-existence among the three Branches of the State. In the same vein, I wish to thank the members of the Diplomatic Corps, Service Chiefs, Permanent Secretaries and other senior Government officials, special invitees, members of the media for gracing the annual event with your presence and your continued support over years.

Last but not least, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the members of our Protocol, the Security Services, Cultural Groups, learners and parliamentary staff who worked tirelessly to make this occasion successful.

Your Excellency, Honourable Members, distinguished invited dignitaries, on a lighter note, today is the day of love and I have done my part. I have already handed over some flowers to Reverend Kapere and I hope you will not forget to do the same with your loved ones.

Finally, Your Excellency, Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to ask all invited guests with invitation cards to join the Honourable Speaker and I in a reception with His Excellency the President in the Parliament Gardens as soon as the President and his entourage leave the Chamber. I thank you, may God bless you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank my Colleague for the excellent Vote of Thanks on behalf of all of us to His Excellency. Two announcements are in order.

His Excellency the President reiterated the importance of preparing for future leadership. We have present among us the President of the

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Children's Parliament, Mr Giovanni Britz and his Deputy, Ms Anna Ndemugwedha and also Namibia's dear friend, Dr Jan Nico Scholten of the Netherlands. He is also present here. It was because of his enlightened vision for a better southern Africa, that he incorporated relations between Africa and the West. He and his Western European colleagues mobilised their best efforts and called upon others to join the fight against the apartheid system, the demand for Namibia's Independence and to end acts of aggression, destabilisation and wanton killing of innocent civilians in the neighbouring African countries. We had at that time one victory in the region, that of Zimbabwe but the struggle continued. However, AWEPA was created in 1984 to champion those worthy and just causes of freedom, democracy, human dignity and equality for all. We have invited him and his dear wife, Anna, to join us on this splendid occasion. Dr Scholten and his dedicated collaborators, continue to work for Africa's worthy causes and particularly for peaceful development and to support Parliaments wherever that need is called for.

I now call upon the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House, but in doing so, not to forget Chipolopolo's dream that has come true, remembering the 1993 tragedy that claimed the lives of the entire Zambian football team and others on their way to Senegal.

Let us also share on this Valentine's Day with love that the Zambian people embraced us with in all those years, and you are the best qualified one to speak on that. Thank you.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Your Excellency, Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, thank you for being with us this afternoon. Your Excellency, Dr Sam Nujoma, Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation, thank you for being with us this afternoon. Dear Colleagues, our Parliament this year is hitting the ground running and before I propose an adjournment, let me join the Speaker as a half-Zambian myself just to say "*Zikomo Chipolopolo!*".

On that note I Move that we adjourn until tomorrow afternoon, 14:30, to start the real serious business. I so Move.

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

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**HOUSE ADJOURS AT 15:28 UNTIL 2011.02.15 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
15 FEBRUARY 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**WELCOMING ADDRESS**

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**HON SPEAKER:** The business of the House is called to order. I want to welcome all of you back to this business of the House. I know that we are coming to the Chamber at this point in time, at this hour with many New Year's resolutions. I take it that the Right Honourable Prime Minister kick-started his bit of New Year's resolutions, watching him the way he spoke to the officials of the Public Service, but they would not be able to do even with decent intentions and abilities on their part if they do not receive the necessary cooperation from the Political Office Bearers. Therefore shape up or ship out does not only apply to Civil Servants, it applies to all of all us, so together we swim or we sink. We had an important address by His Excellency, the President yesterday on the occasion of the opening of the Joint Session of Parliament. The President for his part shared his thoughts on the way forward within the framework of the theme we have adopted for the Session that started yesterday. I suggested that I would also at the earliest opportunity share my thoughts on the theme and on the Rule of Parliament in realising what we have set for ourselves.

Honourable Members, constitutional democracy favours Parliament as the first among equals. If democracy is indeed the Government of the people by the people and for the people, Parliament has no equals as the pre-eminent centre of law-making, accountability and by holding high the ideals of servant leadership and transparency in the eyes of the electorate and the Nation at large.

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**WELCOMING ADDRESS  
HON DR GURIRAB**

Both the public in general and the young people in particular need constantly to be reassured that promises made by National leaders particularly when elections are held represent kernels of public trust between them and the highest office bearers in the land. The whole idea of the children's Parliament has at its core the noble idea of sacred trust that obliges today's leadership to prepare the young ones for tomorrow's opportunities and challenges for a better world.

President Sam Nujoma had said this at the time when the Constitution Drafting Framework was being discussed. ***“Namibia is a huge country with a small population, therefore all Namibians regardless of colour, creed or place of origin have a place in our beautiful country. It is for us to reach out to one another and mould the new Nation out of diversity”***. How much this was true then 23 years ago as it is so manifestly true today, but in the opposite direction I dare say. It is not what we think and say but what we do that confirms the reality on the ground.

I am of the view that Namibia's body politic is slowly but surely entering a slippery terrain which is encouraging disunity and regionalism spurned by tribalism, nepotism of the old fashion kind. That is very dangerous for nation-building, political tolerance and mutual respect of public officials at all times and at all levels. An artist once said; ***“They say that time changes things but you actually have to change them yourself.”*** If we as Members of Parliament think that way, we will be walking in the same direction and ending up where the Constitution wants us to be. Throw your heart towards the same baobab tree and others will follow! We must make laws that change the social economic environment for the better by implementing and monitoring them at all times. We are failing on the front of corruption, public administration and service delivery. I heard the Prime Minister speaking on this scope. We must re-read what the Constitution says about the powers, the authority and the watchdog duties of the National Assembly.

Hear what the Constitution of the SWAPO Party has to say on matters of nation-building and social restructuring. ***“...to combat retrogressive***

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**WELCOMING ADDRESS  
HON DR GURIRAB**

*tendencies of tribalism, ethnicity, nepotism, racism, sexism, chauvinism, regionalism, personality cult, etc.”* These are all things we must fight against, but also to guard against. We must walk in tandem with the letter and spirit of the Constitution in particular the ideals and vision set in its PREAMBLE. That is what must inform our thinking and temper our public actions as national leaders at all times. Otherwise we would be like imposters and wolves in sheep clothing. Dignified and sustained upliftment is what our people yearn for all the time and wherever they are.

His Excellency, Dr Pohamba said that much yesterday about the core issues of the theme of the Fifth Session of the Fifth Parliament which he declared open yesterday. Parliament stands at the centre of larger vision of our Nation’s future. As democratisation is work in progress, it is far less the Cabinet nor the courts but the Parliament (National Assembly for sure) which requires constant and targeted rejuvenation to meet effectively the challenges of sustainable social development and all-round empowerment of the people – all the people not just some.

This is how the President stressed the first part of the theme: ***“Our Parliament has always stood, and will continue to stand as the central pillar of our democracy. Tasked with the legislative function, Parliament has the sacred duty to make fair, just, well-researched and thoroughly-debated laws for our Nation.”*** I personally understood the President not only to have affirmed our collective mandate and duty to serve the public interest but actually saying to the House to do more so that the citizens are truly satisfied and acclaim service delivery and outreach contacts with the words, thank you and Amen! At each sitting, we swear and solemnly affirm, always to do good without fear, favour or prejudice. The children’s Parliament awaits lessons of political culture and engagements with their elected leaders to know the way to act. Namibia like other Parliaments endorsed the IPU Strategic Plans (2012-2014). Its title is **“Implementing a Strategy for Better Parliaments and Stronger Democracies.”**

Now a word concerning that part of the theme which His Excellency spent time underlining, that is “Preparing for Leadership Transition.” There is no better way to illustrate this thing to guide you, to look at this picture

15 February 2012

**WELCOMING ADDRESS  
HON DR GURIRAB**

here. That is a picture of those of us who started with the Constitution making Assembly (Constituent Assembly). Look at us in this picture here to my left, we probably are wiser, however we do not quite look the way we did in 1989 and 1990. Change is the only permanent thing in life they say and that change is visible. We are still able to think, say things and do things.

Therefore, preparing for Leadership Transition does not necessarily mean that we must all pack and go now, but it means that we do all the things that the wise people, theologians, philosophers and medical doctors tell us to do to remain fit. It also means that we must plan for tomorrow. And that tomorrow is today, it was yesterday it was last year, it was decades ago. The President made mention of this and he let it to us to prepare for that future. With the chosen theme as regard to what the President said: **“With your chosen theme as the guide of your work, I have no doubt that our Parliament will continue to improve all aspects of its operations, while preparing for leadership transition to the younger generation.”** I have a view about the younger generation. I remain unimpressed by them, somehow they need as a generation something, I have asked some of them I meet frequently, my generation was crazy and did not spare time, whatever little penny we had in our coffers we spent to know more about what they can do to bring freedom and Independence to our country. Some of us as students where making use of our scarce resources (stipends) to pay bus fare to go to places and listen to what people were saying to educate ourselves to be better people the next day. Younger, to my mind means two things, age but also creativity. Some of today’s African leaders are young but their minds are shamefully dull, if not altogether reactionary. Namibia needs Mwalimu Julius Nyereres and Thomas Sakarias so that they two, the old and the young would act together as a team. Hence the need for preparing for Leadership Transition both horizontally and vertically. For this occasion that is all I have to say. I thank you very much for your attention.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions, Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and papers? Minister of Finance.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON KUUGONGENGLWA-AMADHILA / HON DR KAWANA**

**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Hon Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Report of the Auditor-General on the following:

1. Ministry of Regional, Local Government and Housing for the Financial Years; 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009;
  2. Agronomic Board for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2011;
  3. The Guardian Fund for the Financial Years ended March 31, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 and
  4. Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provision for the Financial Years ended March 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010. I Move so, Honourable Speaker.
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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister please table the Report. Dr Kawana.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2010/2011**

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Honourable Speaker I lay upon the Table annual Report of the Office of the President for the Financial Year 2010/2011. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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15 February 2012

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON MOONGO**

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister, please table the Reports. Any other Reports and papers, any Notice of Questions. Honourable Moongo.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 1:**

**HON MOONGO:** Thank you Hon Speaker, I give Notice that on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Defence, to explain:

1. What prompted and why was S&T not paid to members of the Defence Force residing in Windhoek who were assigned to go to Uulunga wa Kolondo for three months from Otavi and Ondangwa?
2. Is it true that it is only the high ranking officers from Major to Commander who are entitled to get S&T while they are all going to perform the same duty, can this be regarded as corruption and exploitation of lower ranking officers by the higher ranking officers?
3. Does the NDF regulations prevent members to demonstrate against unfair victimisation and unequal treatment in the Force? Is misinterpretation of regulations the cause of more suffering of members of the Force?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member please table the Question. Any further Notice of Questions, Any Notice of Motions. Honourable Ulunga.

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15 February 2012

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON ULENGA**

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you Honourable Speaker. I would like to give Notice that tomorrow on Thursday, the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2012, I shall Move that this House debate the poor and deplorable state of moral, ethical, cultural and spiritual education in the country. How it affects the moral and spiritual wellbeing of our society especially the youthful generation of today and the generations to come and make recommendation to the Ministry of Sport, Youth and Culture. I so Move

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker I further give Notice that on Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2012, I shall Move that this Assembly:-

Having due regard to Article 20 of the Constitution of the Republic which states as follows:

1. *“All persons shall have the right to education;*
2. *Primary education shall be compulsory and the State shall provide reasonable facilities to render effective this right for every resident within Namibia by establishing and maintaining State schools at which primary education will be provided free of charge.*
3. *Children shall not be allowed to leave school until they have completed their primary education or have attained the age of 16 years, whichever is the sooner, save insofar as this may be authorised by an Act of Parliament on grounds of health or other considerations pertaining to the public interest”*

In view of the deplorable factual state of the affairs on the ground concerning education: This assembly should debate:

1. The provision of compulsory and free education in the country;



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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON MOONGO**

2. Debate the funding policies and sources for free education;
3. Make appropriate recommendations to the Minister of Education aimed at the full implementation of the above constitutional provision.  
I so Move.

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**HON ULENGA:** On Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2012, I shall Move-

That this Assembly, fully aware of the unacceptable extend and levels of alcohol abuse in the country and its dire consequences on the health and wellbeing of the community;

*Debates* the state, level and extend of alcohol abuse in Namibia. Make relevant and appropriate recommendations to the President and to the Cabinet with the aim of finally bringing in check and other controls of the use and availability of alcohol in Namibia. I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member please table the Motions. Honourable Moongo, did you forget something?

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that tomorrow or even today, the 15<sup>th</sup> of February-

That this House seriously *discusses* urgently, the unfair demolishing of houses and a kindergarten of Uupumbu, Okandjengedhi and Onawa by Oshakati Town Council in order to find a proper and lasting management of houses built and prevent further demolishing of house in Namibia.

15 February 2012

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON HAUSIKU**

**HON MOONGO:** I further give Notice that on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2012, I shall Move-

That this House *discusses* Traditional Authority Act of 2000 and Amend this law to provide the Appeal Courts as was enshrined in Proclamation 20 of 1919 and 12 of 1920, the right to appeal in all Courts including Traditional Courts.

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**HON MOONGO:** I further give Notice that the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2012, I shall Move-

That this House *discusses* and *resolves* to initiate a law to regulate respect for human dignity and prevent any cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in Namibia. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member please table the Motion? Honourable Deputy Prime Minister.

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** Comrade Speaker I give Notice-

That on Tuesday, 21 February 2012, I shall Move that leave be given to introduce a Bill to:

- Provide for the establishment of institutions for Disaster Risk Management in Namibia;
- Provide for an integrated and coordinated disaster management approach that focuses on preventing or reducing the risk of disasters, mitigating severity of disasters, emergencies, preparedness, rapid and effective response to disasters and forge disaster recovery;

15 February 2012

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**  
**HON DR N IYAMBO / HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

- Provide for declaration of national, regional and local disasters;
- Provide for the establishment of the National Disaster Risk Management Fund and to provide for incidental matters thereto. I so Move Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister please table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions. Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2012, I shall Move-

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to establish a National Honours Advisory Committee to advise the President of the Republic of Namibia, while exercising his or her discretion to confer honours and to provide for incidental matters. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister please table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions. Professor Katjavivi.

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**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI:** Honourable Speaker I Move without Notice-

That leave of Absence due to illness be given to the Honourable Minister of Education Dr Abraham Iyambo until the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2012. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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15 February 2012

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**  
**HON !NARUSEB**

**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member please table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Honourable Minister of Lands.

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2012, I shall Move-

That leave be given to introduce the Bill to:

- Provide for the establishment of a Namibian Council for Property Valuers Profession;
- Provide for the registration of professional Valuers, Associate Valuers, Student Valuers in training and specified categories in the property valuation profession and
- Provide for incidental matters, May I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister please table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO:** I regard the Motion of demolishing of houses as urgent, the people need help... (Intervention).

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**HON SPEAKER:** What is this, a Motion?

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**HON MOONGO:** Yes, it is a Motion that I proposed that it be discussed today, the one of demolishing of houses. The community are outside

15 February 2012

because their houses were demolished, I regard this as urgent to be discussed today.

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**HON SPEAKER:** You will have that opportunity when we reconvene. Any Ministerial Statement?

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**HON RT PRIME MINISTER:** I think that we have done enough for today, I therefore propose that we adjourn until next week Tuesday.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objections, the House stands adjourn until Tuesday, next week, 14:30 as usual

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 20:40 UNTIL 2012.02.21 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
21 FEBRUARY 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**HON SPEAKER:** I have two announcements. One is that a very crucial part of technology is inoperative, that is that the facilities that nature demand that we make use of are inoperative, therefore we have to tighten our belts and continue with the business.

The second is; Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Members, the *Namibian* newspaper, dated 17 February 2012, published an article by Mr Denver Kisting. In the article the Managing Director of NBC, Mr Albertus Aochamub is quoted thus: *“Parliament did not make a single contribution to the cost of covering its opening this week, Aochamub said.”*

I thought I must disabuse the MD of NBC of such a serious mistake so that he and his associates do not repeat the same henceforth.

Neither the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, nor any Act of Parliament obliges the National Assembly to defray the cost of any regular functions of the House, the annual opening of Parliament being one of them.

In terms of the Constitution and specifically according to Act 9 of 1991, Namibian Broadcasting Act, 1991, the NBC's very *raison d'être* is to inform, educate and entertain the public at all times. This august House has no budget-line to that effect, except as regards what Chapter 7 of the Constitution stipulates in respect of the National Assembly.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

I can hardly think of any other suitable venue through which the NBC can more effectively and regularly do that than through the Parliament. For example, radio, television and other ICT gadgets are provided for to further what the NBC is required by law to do as its primary duty.

I myself once doubled as Minister of Information between 2000 and 2003 and I know what it is and what not I speak of. The past responsible Ministers, that would include myself, should have and the incumbent Minister must advise the NBC not to go astray in this regard. I thank you.

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

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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

- Municipality of Walvis Bay for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2010;
- Municipality of Otjiwarongo for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2011;
- Municipality of Keetmanshoop for the Financial Years ended June 20, 2009 and 2010;
- Municipality of Okahandja for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2010;

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON MOONGO**

- Municipality of Tsumeb for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2011;
- Municipality of Mariental for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2011;  
and
- Municipality of Grootfontein for the Financial Year ended June 30, 2011.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 2:**

**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Environment and Tourism the following:

It is a fact that Members of Parliament took an oath and affirmed to uphold and defend the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Namibia (Schedule 3), but the State failed dismally to implement Article 6, “*Protection of Life*”. The life of Namibians must be respected and protected and Article 115, “*in order to secure the internal security of Namibia and to maintain law and order.*”

Can the Minister explain what prompted and hindered the Ministry not to introduce a law which will protect the lives of the people who are killed by protected animals, such as crocodiles, hippos, elephants, snakes and lions, by assisting and providing funds for treatment and funerals, like the



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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

MVA Fund. When will the Minister introduce such a law?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Question?  
Honourable Von Wietersheim.

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**QUESTION 3:**

**HON VON WIETERSHEIM:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2012, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development:

1. Is the Honourable Minister aware of the objections against the sale of a prime property in the centre of Swakopmund – virtually opposite the new municipality building – with a sworn valuation of N\$2,6 million to the SWAPO Party at a nominal price of N\$30,000 by the SWAPO dominated Town Council of Swakopmund?
2. Does the Honourable Minister know that:
  - This prime developed erf of 3486 square metres was leased to the SWAPO Party for the last twenty years for an amount of N\$10 per year under the pretext of developing and maintaining a self-help training centre for construction workers and/or artisans, which never materialised, instead SWAPO erected their Regional Headquarters on the land, as well as leasing part of the land to business partners;
  - The lease agreement to the SWAPO Party provided for the purchase of the said property on termination of the lease, stating that “*the lessee (SWAPO Party) was obliged to purchase the property at the current market value of the time.*”

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

- When SWAPO indicated its interest in buying the property, sworn valuations were obtained in terms of the Council's property alienation policy, which resulted in an average valuation of N\$1,9 million at the existing zoning of the property as "*light industrial*", while another valuation was obtained for possible future zoning as "*office*" property, resulting in a value of N\$2,6 million;
- Contrary to laid-down property policy, the SWAPO dominated Council in May 2010 approved the sale of Erf 3486, zoned "*light industrial*", to SWAPO at a purchase price of just over N\$1 million, only little more than half the average valuation;
- After formal objections by the Swakopmund Residents' Association, the Council amended the selling conditions, stating that the erf was to be rezoned to "*institutional*", which normally applies to churches, schools, non-profit organisation, at a proposed purchase price of N\$30,000;
- After it was pointed out that the zoning as "*institutional*" would result in a violation of the Town Planning Scheme, due to the intended use of the property for SWAPO offices and businesses, the selling conditions were once again amended;
- At its meeting on 26 January 2012 the SWAPO dominated Council decided to amend the rezoning of the erf from "*light industrial*" to "*office*", that is where it was valued at N\$2,6 million, while, however, maintaining the purchase price of N\$30,000;
- Can the Honourable Minister agree that the sale of Erf 3486 at a market related price, as stipulated by the lease conditions, could do wonders in terms of making funds available for the servicing and provision of land in the municipal area of Swakopmund, with a view to alleviating the extreme housing plight of Swakopmund inhabitants, particularly with regard to the informal settlements which the SWAPO dominated Town Council was threatening to bulldoze away recently?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON KAURA**

- Will the Honourable Minister therefore carefully consider the ethically, legally and socio-economically questionable, if not despicable, decision by the SWAPO dominated Town Council, serving only in the interest of self-enrichment of the Party and reject it with the contempt it deserves? (Interjections).

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member please table the Questions? Honourable Members, for your information, and I say that from top to bottom, the Speaker has the prerogative, a duty actually, to send you out of the Chamber and to require you to write to me on the basis of what I would have said to you why I would have asked you to leave the Chamber and only if I am satisfied with your answer would you be allowed to come back. If you do not know that, read your Rules. There are ways in which Parliaments allow monkey business, but it is not anybody's right to disrupt the business of the House just because you do not like the person who is speaking. There are ways to do that. Honourable Kaura.

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**QUESTION 4:**

**HON KAURA:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2012 I shall ask the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, the following:

1. When is the Block E Rehoboth toilet project going to be completed to address the unhygienic situation prevailing in that community?
2. When is the N\$600,000 going to be accounted for by those who participated in the incomplete toilet project in the Block E Rehoboth settlement?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON MAAMBERUA**

**QUESTION 5:**

**HON KAURA:** I further give Notice that on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2012, I shall ask the Minister of Lands and Resettlement, Honourable !Naruseb, the following:

When are the Botswana returnees who are now found in Gam and Eiseb Block going to be considered for resettlement on the farms bought by the Government in the commercial farming sector?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Questions?  
Honourable Maamberua.

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**QUESTION 6:**

**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2012, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister as the Head of Government Business in this House the following questions:

If Article 23(2) of the Namibian Constitution enjoins Namibia to redress imbalances and to achieve a balanced structure of the Public Service, the Defence Force, the Police Force and the Correctional Service:

1. How is it that about 80 percent or more of the heads of the following Offices/Ministries and Agencies (herein referred to as the Public Administration Nerve Centres) are from the same ethnic group or 100% from the northern part of Namibia and by "*northern part*" I mean the geographic northern part of Namibia, that is starting from Otavi upwards?
2. How and when does Government intend to correct this imbalanced situation before the perception is created that in Namibia ethnicity

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON MAAMBERUA**

and/or regionalism is practised?

**Security Nerve Centre:**

1. Chief of Defence Force
2. Chief of Police Force
3. Chief of Intelligence
4. Chief of Windhoek City Police
5. Chief of the Air Force
6. Chief of the Navy
7. Minister of Safety and Security
8. Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration
9. Chief of Prisons and Correctional Services

**Judicial Nerve Centre**

1. Prosecutor-General
2. Judge President
3. Chief Justice
4. Minister of Justice and Deputy Minister
5. Attorney-General

**Public Finance Accountability Nerve Centre**

1. Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee
2. Auditor-General
3. Director of Anti-Corruption Commission

**Public Administration Nerve Centre**

1. Chairman: Public Service Commission
2. Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister and Permanent Secretary
3. Secretary to Cabinet
4. President and Secretary to President
5. Head of State-Owned Governance Council

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON NYAMU**

**Public Finance Nerve Centre**

1. Director-General: National Planning Commission and Permanent Secretary
2. Minister of Finance and Permanent Secretary
3. Governor of Bank of Namibia
4. Head of NAMFISA
5. Head of AgriBank
6. Head of Development Bank of Namibia
7. Head of Namib-Re
8. Head of GIPF.

I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Question?  
Honourable Nyamu.

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**QUESTION 7:**

**HON NYAMU:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2012 I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following questions:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the public media has disclosed that jointly the Honourable Minister in the Office of the President, Dr Kawana, and his Colleague, the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration, Honourable Rosalia Nghidinwa, have conferred Namibian citizenship to a certain Dr Henry Chan, a Chinese national.

1. Right Honourable Prime Minister, if the answer to the said disclosure is in the affirmative, what contribution has the said foreign national made to Namibia before or after Independence?

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**HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

2. Right Honourable Prime Minister, would you assure this House that prior to such conferment there has been transparent oversight conducted before a decision was taken on the granting of Namibian citizenship to him?
3. Further, if the above requirements were not met before the granting of citizenship, would you agree that the two Ministers have desecrated their oath of office to conduct the affairs of the State with due diligence?
4. Right Honourable Prime Minister, would you therefore propose, to His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba for the dismissal of the two Ministers without compensation?
5. Lastly, Right Honourable Prime Minister, including the name of Mr Martti Ahtisaari of Finland, would you provide this House and the public at large the list of names of foreign nationals who may have been granted Namibian citizenship this far?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Minister of Finance.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to appropriate amounts of money to meet the financial requirements of the State during the Financial Year

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**  
**HON SHIXWAMENI / HON MBUMBA**

ending March 31, 2013. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion?  
Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that  
tomorrow, Wednesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2012, I shall Move –

That given the high levels of poverty, which is at 48%, and unemployment  
at 52% –

1. That this Assembly debates the urgent need for the State to  
implement a basic poor household income grant as a measure to  
combat and eliminate poverty in the country;
2. That this Assembly adopts a resolution to refer the Motion to the  
Joint Standing Committee of the National Assembly to conduct  
public hearings countrywide on the need of implementing the basic  
poor household income grant as a matter of urgency.

I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Could the Honourable Member table the Motion?  
Minister of Safety and Security.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Honourable  
Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2012, I shall  
Move –



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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON KAURA**

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the Namibian Correctional Service and for matters incidental thereto.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Motion?  
Honourable Kaura.

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**HON KAURA:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February 2012, I shall Move –

That this august House –

*Discusses* the recommendations of the Presidential Commission Report of 1999 with the view to transform the Polytechnic of Namibia into the Namibian University of Science and Technology or any other suitable name.

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**HON KAURA:** Honourable Speaker, I further give Notice that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2012, I shall Move –

That this House –

*Deliberates* intensely and agrees, in view of the world economic meltdown, to increase the old-aged pension to N\$1,000 per month.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Motions? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements?

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21 February 2012

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON NUJOMA**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to make a Ministerial Statement. It is a great honour for me to stand before this august House and have the opportunity to trace the contour lines that have shaped Namibia's foreign policy. Foreign policy is not only important in its own right, but also because it is a product of our domestic policy. To understand the fundamentals that shaped our foreign policy from the beginning and that continue to guide its trajectory, one has to trace its origins.

**Policy Origins:**

The foreign policy that Namibia pursues today was moulded in the furnace of resistance against colonialism and economic exploitation. It was the resistance to colonialism that inspired Namibians to stand up and continue the struggle for the liberation of our country for which many of our ancestors shed their precious blood and laid down their lives. This is the fulfilment of Samuel Maharero's prophecy, "*Let us die fighting.*" It was the seed of resistance which sowed the seed of the liberation struggle and which, in turn, germinated into the big tree of freedom and Independence whose fruits we are enjoying today. In other words, the fundamentals of foreign policy are rooted in the glorious history of our national resistance by our forefathers as well as the national liberation struggle waged by the people of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO.

In order to articulate the hopes and aspirations of the people of Namibia as well as to advance the cause of freedom, SWAPO formulated three strategies, which were simultaneously and successfully carried out, namely:

- Political mass mobilisation;
- Diplomatic or international campaign; and
- The armed liberation struggle.

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The political mass mobilisation was to raise awareness of colonial conditions under which our people were living and to unite them into a cohesive force to bring about their own liberation by all means necessary. This was successfully carried out by many of us here, including *this gentleman* who is standing here, I had the AK in my hand.

On the diplomatic front, SWAPO managed successfully to rally on its side freedom-inspired, progressive and peace-loving people from all over the world, thereby planting the seed which germinated into the current foreign policy which we, as a free and sovereign Nation, pursue today.

Through the diplomatic campaign, SWAPO earned an enhanced status and was recognised by the United Nations as the sole and authentic representative of the people of Namibia. This was achieved because of the support of our brothers and sisters from the African continent as well as from Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean who persistently stood on our side.

SWAPO also played a vital role in the negotiations with the members of the Western Contact Group (USA, Canada, West Germany, UK and France), which culminated in the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 435 on 29 September 1978. In June 1982, SWAPO negotiated what was known as the Constitutional Principles which were used as the foundation to draw up the Independence Constitution of the Republic of Namibia.

The armed struggle was the decisive factor in our liberation. SWAPO launched the war of Independence on 26 August 1966 after the International Court of Justice dismissed the case brought to it by Liberia and Ethiopia, challenging the legality of apartheid South African rule over Namibia. The people of Namibia were left with no other choice but to declare that, "*we shall cross many rivers of blood on our march to freedom as days follow nights and victory will be ours.*"

The brave sons and daughters of the Namibian soil gallantly prosecuted the war of liberation until the strategic defeat of the apartheid army at the battle of Cuito Cuanavale by combined Cuban international forces,

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Angolan armed forces (FAPLA) and Swapo's People Liberation Army of Namibia fighters.

The defeat of the apartheid army of South Africa led to a series of diplomatic negotiations that finally resulted in the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978.

These are some of the contours and milestones that shaped our current foreign policy – a foreign policy born out of persistence, flexibility and international solidarity. The aspirations of the people of Namibia to fight against exploitation and establish a free, democratic, sovereign and independent Republic are our shared heritage that continues to guide the trajectory of the foreign policy of our beloved country.

Honourable Speaker, when Namibia became independent on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1990, *“forever free, sovereign and independent”*, in the words of its first President – and my father - and now Founding President Comrade Sam Shafishuna Nujoma, it assumed the responsibilities of statehood. Among these responsibilities was the crafting of our foreign policy.

Namibia's foreign policy derives its mandate from the Constitution of the Republic, which is the Supreme Law of the land. Further, it draws its legitimacy from institutions of the State. The foreign policy objectives are guided by the principles enshrined in Article 96 of our Constitution, which provides that the State shall endeavour to ensure that in its international relations it:

- (a) Adopts and maintains a policy of non-alignment;
- (b) Promotes international cooperation, peace and security;
- (c) Creates and maintains just and mutually beneficial relations among Nations;
- (d) Fosters respect for international law and treaty obligations;

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- (e) Encourages the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.

These principles also serve as a yardstick to evaluate the country's foreign policy decisions. Namibia's foreign policy is further guided by a democratic process through interactions of institutions of State (Executive, Legislature and Judiciary) with the ultimate aim of pursuing, advancing, protecting and safeguarding the national interests of Namibia outside its borders.

Like all other Government policies, the formulation of the country's foreign policy rests with the Executive and is enacted by the legislative branch. The Judiciary interprets the policy as necessary. Namibia's foreign policy is further guided by Vision 2030, which aims at safeguarding and enhancing the security and prestige of Namibia and the quality of life of its people. In other words, Namibia's foreign policy is people-centered, it represents their hopes and safeguards their interests.

At the time of the initial transformation of our foreign policy from liberation to nation-building, we took cognisance of the fact that our foreign policy evolved out of an era which was marked by confrontation and disagreement nationally and internationally. We pursued a foreign policy guided by reconciliation at home as well as realism on international matters. In the art of diplomacy, forming alliances with Nations with similar objectives enhances and advances a Nation's interests.

We, therefore, took cognisance of the fact that foreign policy goals are not formulated based on emotion, but on pragmatism. We continue to maintain contacts with our friends who stood firmly on our side during our liberation struggle, but we also embraced countries that were not on our side. In the pursuit of our foreign policy objectives, we have to maximise benefit from our engagement with the rest of the world as well; not from just a few countries. The primary objective remains to serve the people of Namibia, to secure and safeguard their interests and fulfil our international obligations.

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**SADC Region:**

The epicentre of Namibia's foreign policy is the Southern African Region. Bearing in mind the role played by the countries in the Region in the liberation struggle of Namibia and in the eradication of apartheid as well as the role played by geography, Namibia is committed to fostering good neighbourly relations with all its neighbours. This policy derives from our shared conviction that a peaceful Region will reap dividends of prosperity.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The House will rise for refreshments.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40**

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**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:10**

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Comrade Speaker, we are committed to the principle of regional integration, as evidenced by a number of projects, such as leasing of dry port facilities to our landlocked neighbours and the development of the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Bay Corridor, known as (WBNLDC) with a distance of 2,600 kilometres from Walvis Bay to Lubumbashi, just to mention but a few. Spatial developments are planned to convert this transport corridor into an area of sustained economic development for the mutual benefit of the Region. The Trans-Kalahari Corridor for the Botswana market has shown a significant growth with much more goods being transported via Walvis Bay Harbour. These are practical foreign policy strides with tangible results.

Namibia and its SACU and SADC partner countries believe that peace is the prerequisite to human progress and development. In order to respond to security and political challenges in the Region, SADC created the Organ for Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. Through the Organ, SADC has resolved many issues of political and security nature, such as the conflicts in the DRC, Madagascar, Zimbabwe and the

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monitoring of elections in the Region in conformity with values and principles which SADC and its Member States are committed to pursuing.

**African Union:**

Africa is the centrepiece of our foreign policy and will continue to receive our undivided attention. Namibia is committed to the process of regional economic integration through the strengthening of SACU and SADC as stepping stones towards greater African unity and integration, as well as to accelerate economic development on the continent.

The principles enshrined in the AU Constitutive Act shall continue to guide our foreign policy considerations. We will continue to call for and vigorously contribute to the strengthening of African unity. Africans must be masters of their own destiny; however, we cannot be masters of our destiny if we allow forces from outside the continent to divide us. Those who want to divide us do not have the interests of Africa at heart, but want us to remain fragmented so that they could exploit as much of our natural resources as they can lay their hands on. This will ultimately lead to the disintegration and fragmentation of our continent. United we stand, divided we fall, we must keep that in mind.

Just because we do not have strong military power to defend the continent does not mean that we should surrender our sovereignty and the right to speak up when international norms and principles are flouted and ignored. Military or economic power should be used for the common good, not to be contemptuous towards others with less economic or military powers. Just as all human beings are born equal, States have sovereign equality and no one is sovereign above others. As an active member of the AU Peace and Security Council, until just a few weeks ago, Namibia will continue to promote peace and security in Africa and seek peaceful solutions to ongoing conflicts.

Africa has set itself an ambitious agenda of continental economic development and deeper integration anchored on regional economic blocks. This can be achieved with the necessary commitment and political will. The youth of today, who are leaders of tomorrow, must inherit a

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continent with ideas and values that enhance the strength of Africa's role in the world.

The theme of the 18<sup>th</sup> AU Summit this year was, "*Inter-Africa Trade*" and speaker after speaker has stressed the importance of moving rapidly towards inter-Africa trade. We trade more with Europe and the United States, almost 40 to 60 percent, but within ourselves there is less trade. Countries in Asia have taken off because they are trading among themselves. Therefore, the time has come, it is Africa's time, we must remove non-tariff barriers, encourage our people to remove all these obstacles so that we can move the continent forward. We should import and export to and from Angola.

**The Commonwealth:**

Namibia joined the Commonwealth immediately after the attainment of its Independence in 1990. The decision to join the "Club" was based on potential mutual benefits for both Namibia and other members. Apart from shared values, there are Commonwealth projects from which Namibia benefited, such as the National Export Strategy for Namibia, the Pilot Project for an SME Group Purchasing Scheme in Namibia and Aquaculture Advice to the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, just to mention but a few. Since joining the Commonwealth, Namibia has been an active participant in the Commonwealth Games, which fosters a culture of peace not only within the Commonwealth, but internationally. In addition, Namibia has played an active role during its membership of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG). This was established by the Commonwealth Heads of Government in November 1995 to deal with serious or persistent violations of the Harare Declaration, which lays down the Commonwealth's fundamental political values.

**Non-Alignment and International Solidarity:**

Since the attainment of Independence, Namibia has been actively and positively participating in the activities and programmes of the Non-Align Movement (NAM) in the spirit of South-South cooperation. We believed



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that a revitalised and strengthened Namibia will go a long way in advancing the shared interests of its Member States and influence decisions at the international level.

We should reject the notion that just because our means and resources do not match those of powerful Nations, we should simply keep silent and bury our heads in the sand and remain indifferent to events around us. The principles of democracy should be valid at the international level just as they are valid nationally.

As already noted, we in Namibia were assisted during our time of need and cannot therefore turn a blind eye to those likewise yearning to be free, like the people of Western Sahara and Palestine. As beneficiary of international solidarity and goodwill, we will remain faithful to the principles of solidarity, freedom, justice and self-determination of all peoples and against foreign domination.

We will continue to support the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to achieve their inalienable right to national self-determination and Independence. We support the admission of Palestine into the United Nations and UNESCO as a full member.

Equally, Namibia will continue to call for the immediate implementation of the UN settlement plan and relevant UN resolutions calling for the holding of a free and fair referendum in Western Sahara.

There are many countries that supported our liberation struggle. We remain eternally indebted to all of them. However, let me single out the fraternal people of Cuba. They stood firm on our side before and after Independence. It is for this reason that Namibia will continue to join other members of the international community, year after year, speaking with a loud and clear message, calling for the removal of the economic blockade against Cuba. Namibia believes that the blockade is unjustified and is the direct cause of the economic hardship suffered by the people of Cuba. We are not alone in this call, we are 186 UN Member States calling for the removal of the economic blockade against Cuba.

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**United Nations:**

The preamble of the UN Charter speaks of “*we the people*”. This is intended to include all the peoples of the world, from Nations both large and small. Namibia joined the United Nations to advance the principles enshrined in its Charter. These principles include: nurturing friendly relations among Nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples; promotion of international peace and security and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law. Guided by the desire to contribute positively to international peace and security, the Government of the Republic of Namibia remains committed to the fulfilment, in good faith, of Namibia’s international obligations and had contributed within its capacity towards conflict resolution and the maintenance of peace and security in the SADC Region and the world at large.

Namibia remains committed to upholding and advancing the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and to be an active participant in the world body’s activities. Our capacity to contribute should not be limited by fear or coercion. We believe that the United Nations must live up to the highest standard of integrity and accountability. When fear extinguishes hope, it leads to a situation of desperation. We will, therefore, remain fully alert to ensure that the UN remains a beacon of hope and not be turned into a den of fear by the most powerful.

Reform of the United Nations is a pressing issue. There is an urgent need to make the world body more democratic in representing and responding to the interests of all countries, both large and small. Hence, Namibia fully supports the expansion of the United Nations Security Council so that it can be more inclusive and equitably represent all regions of the world. As member of the AU Committee of the Ten Heads of State and Government on United Nations Reform, we have been and will continue to play an active role in promoting the African common position as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus. We have no ambitions to become a member of the Security Council, but if the opportunity arises for Namibia to become a member of the Security Council, we will play our active role without fear or favour.

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To illustrate the need for reform of the United Nations, I would want to express Namibia's very strong disquiet at the increasing abuse by the more powerful members of the United Nations of the otherwise well-intentioned principle of responsibility to protect with reference to Libya. The intent of Security Council Resolution 1973 was to protect civilians. NATO used the resolution as cover for regime change and in pursuit of parochial interests, resulting not only in the death of civilians, but the destruction of infrastructure as well. We cannot remain silent on these types of issues every time an international community phrase is used for selfish interests of the few.

**International Law:**

As per our Constitution, Namibia is committed to the respect for international law and to the fulfilment, in good faith, of its treaty obligations. We equally expect other countries to do the same. Our position on Libya is, and has been, guided by international principles and norms. As His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, highlighted during the General Debate of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly: *"Our Government recognises the legitimacy of the peaceful demands for democratic changes in the sister countries, such as Tunisia and Egypt. However, we believe that the demands for democratic change should be locally driven. They should not be used as a pretext to undermine the fundamental principle of sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of independent States."*

This is not to say we are indifferent to the plight and genuine desires of the Libyan people to shape their own future. Namibia wishes the people of Libya to remain masters of their own destiny and to take effective control of all their resources. Namibia believes that the formation of an inclusive Government will have a positive influence on ending the conflict, consolidate peace and reconciliation and prevent further violence in Libya. We ourselves addressed our challenges through the policy of national reconciliation. The Independence of Namibia was a product of both military confrontation and negotiation.

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**Pacific Settlement of Disputes:**

The Constitution of Namibia encourages the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means. We believe that foreign policy goals can be attained through persuasive means and diplomacy as opposed to coercion. Namibia has contributed, within its capacity, towards peaceful, conflict resolution and the maintenance of peace and security in the SADC Region through the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

On the world stage, Namibia has participated in UN Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Missions in Cambodia, Angola, Burundi, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote D'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, East Timor, Darfur (Sudan), Kosovo and Haiti. Currently Namibia participates in peacekeeping missions in South Sudan and has offered to deploy a full military battalion in accordance with requirements by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Some of these missions succeeded, as reflected in the current peaceful political situation prevailing in most of those countries.

**International Partnerships and Economic Diplomacy:**

We have forged warm diplomatic relations with countries like China based on mutual benefit and respect. Namibia and China cooperate through various programmes either at the bilateral level or through multilateral platforms, such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). We continue to support "one China policy".

With the United States of America we have cooperation on a number of programmes, such as AGOA, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and Millennium Challenge Compact Agreement, just to mention but a few.

With countries of the EU we have signed the Lomé IV Convention, which was replaced by the Cotonou Agreement and since 2000 has been the framework for the EU's relations with 79 countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP). However, we expressed our concerns and reservations at the signing of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the EU, because we feel it has the potential to harm our long-

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term industrial development. Namibia is committed to strengthening the multilateral trading system in a more friendly and just manner, aimed at promoting economic growth and employment creation as well as the reduction of poverty.

Namibia encourages and welcomes foreign direct investment, trade opportunities and joint ventures by both the Private and Public Sectors in line with our result-oriented economic diplomacy. We have signed economic cooperation agreements with a number of countries in which we have spelled out our priorities and needs. We have also established the Joint Commission of Cooperation with many countries to provide frameworks of bilateral cooperation with each specific country.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through Namibian Missions abroad, mobilises resources for technical assistance from our development partners. This stems from our constitutional commitments to “create and maintain just and mutually beneficial relations among Nations.” Strong emphasis is placed on bilateral cooperation, economic diplomacy in order to contribute to socio-economic development, the elimination of under-development and poverty.

Namibia also attaches great importance to sustainable development and the search for the best ways to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. This is another challenge which requires the world’s undivided attention, responsible approach and clear understanding of its long-term consequences to the survival of our planet.

**Confronting Present and Future Challenges:**

Our interaction with the rest of the world must be cognisant of the forces that are transforming political systems today and altering social structures. The focus of our foreign policy must be geared to marketing the Unique Selling Proposition (USP) of Namibia to the rest of the world in terms of trade promotion, attracting investment and tourism and ensuring access of our products on international markets. When Namibia’s first issue of Euro sovereign bond went before the London Stock Exchange, it exceeded the expectations, as told by the Minister of Finance, by receiving offers

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valued at US\$2,75 billion (N\$22 billion) instead of the originally targeted figure of US\$500 million (N\$3,9 billion). We must continue to score success in other fields of human endeavours.

Promotion of values and traditions means that we have always to stand up to what is right without fear or favour or without compromising our principles. We have to stand up to unfair trade practices and the flouting of principles underpinning international cooperation. We have to make right choices and identify priorities coherently, but we cannot afford to remain mere spectators and cheerleaders even when shared values are being trampled upon.

The role we play in the world is determined by our understanding of the forces that are shaping events and how we want to engage with the rest of the world. While not abandoning our principles, we may change some of our approaches to meet demands and new dynamics of the ever-evolving world. The ability to remain alert by identifying threats and seize opportunities determines the place we occupy in the world. We must also avoid placing our eggs in one basket of international pressure only to learn a hard lesson later.

Namibia's foreign policy will continue, therefore, to proudly advance its national interest in an increasingly competitive world. Unity at home, in the SADC Region and the African continent is key to meeting challenges that continue to confront us. However, success in these endeavours depends very much on diplomats contracted to represent Namibia abroad. Namibian diplomats posted abroad must possess sufficient knowledge about foreign policy of the receiving State and its geographical region as well as knowledge about the international system and its complexity. Diplomats who contradict the norms and standard behaviours are not only an embarrassment to Namibia, but are doing a great damage and disservice to the country and its people.

**The Way Forward:**

We at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are mindful of the challenges that we as a Nation and collectively with our neighbours in the Region, the

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African continent and the rest of the world face. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is charged with the management of the external relations; however, the crafting of the policy to be reflected outside the country is a shared responsibility of the three branches of Government. From time to time we review our policy approaches to determine which of them remain relevant in the context of prevailing international trends. We just had our Heads of Mission Meeting and this is where we crafted our policy as to how we should continue to face the challenges. We continue to promote South-South Cooperation and support regional integration for the purpose of creating synergy in socio-economic development through the exchange of ideas, experiences and expertise as well as the pooling of resources.

Our concept of Economic Diplomacy entails that natural resources of Namibia are a vital component to our foreign policy objectives in order to maximise benefits for the people of Namibia. Because through these resources we attract foreign investment, create employment, reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of our people. It also calls for creative thinking and innovation from all Namibians about the utilisation of our natural resources and how we should add value to the raw materials locally before we trade them as finished goods internationally.

The success of our people in sports, arts and entertainment industry is equally important to our Foreign Policy objectives, because these successes constitute the unique selling proposition and branding our country. Our people must feel empowered to be innovative and be able to compete with their counterparts in the wide world.

We need a holistic approach to global issues with a view to enhancing our participation and how to positively influence decisions at the international level in order to derive the desired benefits for the present and future generations of Namibia. We need to know the forces that are shaping the trend of events and be able to identify opportunities and possible threats to our national security and vital interests. While our present and future foreign policy continues to be informed by the dynamics of time, it must however remain firmly anchored in the cardinal principles enshrined in our Constitution, the desires of our people, SADC Principles, AU Constitutive Act, Commonwealth values, Namibia principles of solidarity

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and in the Un Charter. Namibia should proudly advance its interest in an increasingly competitive world by avoiding dangers while seizing opportunities. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his comprehensive statement on Namibia's Foreign Policy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond. Any further Ministerial Statements? We proceed to today's business on the Order Paper. The Notice of Motion is by the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Does the Honourable Prime Minister Move the Motion?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I beg your indulgence to postpone the introduction of this Bill to next Tuesday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of February.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The consideration of this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week. The Second Notice of Motion is by Honourable Ulenka. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

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**MOTION ON ABUSE OF ALCOHOL**

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, the Motion before the House has its roots, first of all, in my own personal experience of the havoc that alcohol wrecks and has wrecked in our society and amongst the Nation and my personal realisation, especially at the time that I worked amongst workers, of the deleterious effects of alcohol in our society and amongst the Nation.

It also arises from my conviction, supported by my experience and my



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knowledge of what happens in other countries and societies, namely that the use or abuse of alcohol can be controlled or minimised or completely stamped out from society. For example, Mr Speaker, it is a known fact that Islamic States, those States or countries that officially operate according to Islamic faith and which takes the Koran as their Bible, so to say, do not permit the use or drinking of alcohol by law. Such countries are, for example, Saudi-Arabia, Iran, Jordan, Syria, North Sudan and Kuwait, just to mention a few examples. Although the ban of alcohol in some of these countries is not 100%, there is almost no social breakdown as a result of alcohol abuse in these countries.

Comrade Speaker, regarding Namibia, the history of the use and abuse of alcohol has not been very long. However, the social and individual scars vested upon our society and our various communities by all these lethal substances are enormous indeed. It is about 150 years ago when at that time there was approximately zero percent use of alcohol in Namibia. At that time certain communities, especially in the northern part of the country, had the practice of brewing beer from sorghum and millet and this beer's alcohol content was so low, at approximately 3 to 4% of the volume and was not deadly. Amongst our communities, Mr Speaker, seasonally some fruits were also harvested and wine, such as marula wine, which is locally called *omagongo* and others, were produced and consumed. (*Okanyeme*) came later with the Portuguese and it was called *ovalende*, in other words, the Portuguese corruption of *aqua dente*, hot water and was a direct inheritance and influence from the Portuguese slave trade.

Mr Speaker, these alcoholic drinks which were used amongst some of the communities were emphatically only available to the adult population, mainly only the male half of that population and precautions were taken against the possible pernicious effects of such drinks. For example, among the communities where this was practised, the conduct of hearings and that of serious discussions or formal deliberations were prohibited or discontinued throughout the whole season in which these fruits were ripe.

As far as central Namibia is concerned and some parts of the north-east, the brewing of honey beer or honey wine was also practised by certain

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communities, especially throughout the north-east and the east central. However, this practice was very rare and not at all common as in this dry and desert tending environment of ours honey bees were not such a common phenomenon and only a few really well experienced hunters found honey in the first place. Bee-keeping as a permanent practice was, therefore, extremely rare in our country, let alone the brewing of honey wine or bee wine. Therefore, amongst many communities alcoholic beverages were totally unknown in the days pre the colonial period and there was no word for such stuff in the local language. Up to today, for example, there is no word for “alcohol” or “beer” in the Otjiherero language, it is simply called “*omeva*” or “*omeya*”, *otjikariha* is a derivation from Nama or Khoi-Khoi and it is not Herero.

Honourable Speaker, during the period directly preceding colonisation at about 1850 to 1890 and immediately during the first colonial period, about 1885 to 1918, wine and distilled hot beverages, especially brandy, were introduced by Western European hunters, traders and slave dealers, Portuguese, Swedes, Irish, English, Dutch, German and French. These traders, hunters and slave dealers and then the colonial state itself are the ones who introduced these very strong alcoholic drinks or beverages. The reasons why the traders and the colonial social engineers sold and often offered “*for free*” alcohol such as brandy, whisky and gin was, of course, both politically and socially motivated. They wanted to paralyse the indigenous agents socially and politically and even mentally and physically so that they could wrestle the political power and their ownership and control of land from the latter’s hands.

These destructive aims of the Western European traders and colonialists were devastatingly accurate, because within a few years; land, livestock and finally, political control, was wrestled away from the indigenous inhabitants of Namibia. By the way, I am sure we all hope that that expropriation of land and livestock that came partly also because of abuse of alcohol will not be final and forever and I hope will one day be reversed, because indeed the whole liberation fight was aimed at undoing this misdeed.

Honourable Speaker, through the abuse of alcohol the period I am talking

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about shows a fast deterioration in the social order of Namibian communities and an equally fast breakdown in the physical and spiritual health of especially the local aristocracy and the members of the local wealthy classes. For example, Honourable Speaker, the famed Jonker Afrikaner, though he was initially a very sober and a very calm and moderate ruler, was in the end enslaved by brandy and so it is rumoured, were also the likes of Samuel Maharero, Nehale Iya Mpingana and other local royal princes who were finally addicted to alcohol. (Interjection). Exactly, that is according to rumour.

The occurrence, use and abuse of alcohol, especially in the South and to some extent the central part of the country, had a slightly different origin and has even a more pernicious effect on society. Mr Speaker, it was the French Huguenot who came to the Cape in the late 1700s, who came there as a result of religious quarrels in their own country, who started farming with grapes and with the local production of wine in the Western Cape. At that time the non-European section of the Cape population, namely the slaves from West Africa, from Madagascar, Malaysia, India and Pakistan and, indeed, the indigenous Khoi-Khoi population who, by the way, the Dutch baptised Hottentots, which is an extremely derogatory and insulting racist term, these members of the Cape community were used as slave labourers on the wine farms of the Cape. Whenever the white farmers had the opportunity and such an opportunity they had a lot of, they availed alcohol to their slave labourers with the aim to dull their senses and to have them addicted to alcohol. When slave labour was banned as a result of the abolishment of slavery around 1820 also in the Cape Colony, the wine farmers or grape farmers started to pay their black workforce, who were then recently emancipated from slavery, in wine, whole boxes of it, instead of in money terms. Mr Speaker, this led to the so-called tot-system or the dop-system. This is a system that was very pernicious to the black community in the Cape because through that system the whole non-European or African black population was forcibly addicted to alcohol through the free, excessive availability to every household. The only thing which was basically available in black households those days was wine. This affected almost the whole of the Cape Colony and quite large parts of central and south Namibia.

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As we all know, the Cape Colony society was extended through large parts of southern and central Namibia not only through trading and hunting, but also because socially, culturally and linguistically the Khoi-Khoi community were widely spread over most of South Africa as well as south-central, east central and even northern Namibia. For example, Comrade Speaker, at the time of Jonker Afrikaner and Hendrik Witbooi, the language of Afrikaans and the Nama tongue were a requirement not only amongst these communities, but also for those who worked as secretarial assistants and interpreters at the royal courts, not only at Windhoek but also at Okahandja, Omaruru, Otjimbingwe, Olukonda, Onayena, Onashiko, Ondjiva, Omupanda, Oihole, Onamakunde (in Uukwanyama, the last three)

Mr Speaker, you can only imagine and shudder at the thought of the results and effects of the dop-system and remember that this highly pernicious inheritance of slavery and of colonialism is what we still bear as a young Nation up to today.

Mr Speaker, the socially and physically deleterious effects of alcohol on people who abuse it and on society in general are obvious and they have been observed and more than adequately commented on by many social scientists, political activists and even many religious leaders. I shall for the purposes of my motivation, therefore, limit myself to citing only two of these learned brothers and sisters, namely Gerhard Gmel, Ph.D and Jürgen Rehm, Ph.D, the two who have worked in close cooperation with the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) in a very successful effort to lay bare the pernicious effects of alcohol abuse on society. This is a United States institution.

Dr Gerhard Gmel is Coordinator of Research at the Swiss Institute for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Problems at Lausanne, Switzerland, while Professor Jürgen Rehm is Chief Executive Officer and Director of the Addiction Research Institute in Zürich, Switzerland, also Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Toronto and Senior Scientist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto, Canada. According to the two and to the extensive research they have carried out, alcohol misuse can and does harm people other than the

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drinker and very often has negative consequences for society as a whole.

It is well-known to play a role in decreased worker productivity, increase unintentional injuries at work and everywhere else, aggression and violence against other people and child and spouse abuse. These are also clear effects that we can see in Namibia today.

Research findings by the above two and by others support the idea that drinking is involved in or associated with many of these social harms. Apart from what the two learned brothers are suggesting, it is also a well-known fact that alcoholism leads eventually to loss of social standing for the individual who uses it, loss of dignity or to undignified behaviour like stumbling, falling, swearing, intolerance and insensible mumbling, eventually loss of self-respect and respect amongst one's peers or in the community as a whole.

For society as a whole, though the two brothers I cited above do not touch on this, excessive abuse of alcohol breaks down or destroys whole communities, leading to their loss of control over their own social and political environment and loss of their economic control of their economic resources.

Comrade Speaker, it has indeed been a long march for Namibia's many communities to a single nationhood since the days the sly Western traders and cunning colonial pseudo state builders I stated above, offered our people brandy in order to try to dull our senses and to obfuscate ordinarily clearly reasonable and sensible issues. But unfortunately our Nation has in our striving forward carried with us this noxious heritage of colonialism, namely the misuse of alcohol and the harmful effects it vests upon communities who practice it.

The specific negative social consequences are very rarely assessed in Namibia, are very rarely measured or costed in our country, however they are definitely of staggering proportions. I can, therefore, conclude without any fear of contradiction, Honourable Speaker, that as far as workplace productivity is concerned, alcohol abuse in Namibia and dependence upon alcohol must be costing our country and our economy many millions, if

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not billions of Namibia Dollars every year as a result of alcohol abuse and as a result of aggressive or violent behaviour.

Honourable Speaker, many spouses and children in our country suffer as victims of this alcohol related violence or aggression and some families have long given in under the strenuous effects of this aggression and of this violence. We know that Article 14(3) of the Namibian Constitution states: *“The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.”*

Comrade Speaker, it says this fundamental group unit of our society, the family, according to this article is entitled to protection by our society and by the State. Unfortunately again, our country and our Government and our institutions which are entrusted with these duties have failed to provide accurate statistical information. It is clear that whole families have disintegrated in their thousands everywhere in the country as a result of alcohol misuse.

Comrade Speaker, we ourselves as agents of the State and of our society shall fail in our duty to protect the family as per the Constitution unless we take effective and tangible steps that will make alcohol abuse, this baleful inheritance our society got from colonialism, a thing of the past.

I, therefore, suggest that we start immediately on this duty by debating this issue in this House and by ensuring that the deleterious historical and current effects of alcohol abuse on our society are reversed, amongst other steps through the rehabilitation and care of the addicted individuals or groups as well as the proper and more effective control of the availability of alcohol to our Nation. This can be done, for example, through higher taxes on alcohol products such as beers, ciders, wines and distilled alcoholic beverages.

Comrade Speaker, it is a well-known fact that our economy depends to a certain extent on the brewing and sale of beers and especially in certain parts of the country which can get very hot during the dry months of October to December, some people will agree with me that there is actually nothing as refreshing as a cold Windhoek Lager. However,

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Honourable Speaker, these drinks need to be taken in moderation and under great and secure control.

We should also, through the strengthening of the existing legislation by Amendments, drastically limit the number of drinking places per measured area or per population density. As it is currently, drinking places are springing up chaotically and in an uncontrolled manner, making alcohol so easily and cheaply obtainable everywhere.

Honourable Speaker, over the last weekend I went to Havana to visit a few students of UNAM. They stay in a compound between two shebeens. The house belongs to their late father, they have no way of being able to move this house anywhere else. To the left and to the right of the building there are two shebeens. The music at the shebeen on the left is blaring The Dogg, while the shebeen to the right is playing John Chibadura from Zimbabwe and the two were competing. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** The left one was playing what?

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**HON ULENGA:** The Dogg. It is understandable that the Speaker has never heard of The Dogg.

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**HON SPEAKER:** You will be surprised. (Laughter)

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**HON ULENGA:** I also came to know him very late. The sobering thing was that the two shebeen owners felt equally entitled to have their shebeens there and to make the business that they are making and basically the only business that apparently is ever set up in Namibia has to do with drinking and alcohol consumption. There is just no way that these students can concentrate and read, it is completely out of the question and

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no wonder, therefore, that there is little progress made at the higher institutions of learning in our country.

Mr Speaker, it is the poorest sections of our population which suffer especially through this chaotic state of affairs, as often they drink on empty stomachs or absorb excessive amounts because of frustration from other social problems. Many of our people hang around drinking places and shebeens because they say they are jobless, they have nowhere else to go and there are no other pleasurable places.

Measures aimed at lessening joblessness by the Government would reduce the deleterious effects of alcohol. It is necessary for the education of our young people at schools to include in their curriculum the teaching on the deleterious effects of alcohol on society and on individuals with the emphasis on the dangers of the misuse of alcohol and I suggest that, therefore, this be made part of the school curriculum.

Comrade Speaker, one thing that is so scarce in this country is statistics on issues such as the extent of the abuse of alcohol in Namibia. Research efforts, therefore, to empirically determine the effects of alcohol abuse and related problems must be strengthened through grants by Government to relevant researchers so that the extent of use and abuse, the effects of such abuse, both acute and long-term, can be determined accurately.

These above recommendations should be encoded in legislation, I therefore suggest that the Liquor Act should be appropriately amended to drastically reduce the availability and deleterious effects of alcohol and to allow for compulsory and free rehabilitation of addicted persons in relevant rehabilitation centres at State expense.

Honourable Speaker, I so Move and I thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank Honourable Ulenga for his Motion and motivation. Honourable Mushelenga.

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HON MUSHELENGA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to make a contribution to the Motion by Honourable Ulenka with regard to the unacceptable extent and the levels of alcohol abuse in our country.

To start with, there is really nothing positive that comes out of the abuse of alcohol. The abuse of alcohol results in quite a lot of negative effects. Historically alcohol has quite a bad name, it was a commodity used to buy people to become slaves. Some Traditional Leaders of those days, unlike modern-day traditional leaders like myself, the old-timers were just given alcohol and traded their people away to become slaves. My own grandfather almost became a victim while he was a young man when he and other members of the family were traded away by their Headman to a Portuguese trader. Fortunately they escaped when this Portuguese trader fell asleep. Maybe he became drunk by his own commodity. That tells you the historical negative reputation of alcohol.

Traditionally, especially from the tradition where I come from, alcohol is regulated in a way. Firstly, it has seasons, that now it is the time of *omagongo*, for example, which can only be consumed during a particular season in the year. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask a question on the exchanging of people for alcohol? Are you aware that most of these people who were exchanged were anti-social themselves, criminals?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** That is not particularly true, because Headmen were taking people at random. I was saying during the time of *omagongo* all other activities, like the traditional court sessions, become suspended and people are allowed to consume alcohol, but they are also encouraged to consume alcohol responsibly.

Alcohol such as *ombike* and *omalunga*, which is stronger than *omagongo*

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was not just readily available to anyone because people know of the negative effects that it would have in a society.

Coming to the sociological effects of alcohol in a society, Honourable Speaker, it is very much disturbing to see how some elderly members of the society have become alcohol addicts and the way they behave. They disturb the peace of mind of the children. In my village where I come from there were some *makakunja's* who were abusing alcohol because there was a military base and as a result they started going to the village to beat up people. I also know of some elderly people that are abusing alcohol who hurl insults, using vulgar language, thereby negatively influencing the children. A person that becomes addicted to alcohol loses personal stability. In my language such a person is called *ombwiyu*. It is even a derogatory word, a person has lost dignity and lost self-esteem and self-respect and becomes the laughing stock of the community.

It is disturbing when you see people consuming alcohol to the extent that it affects their work, teachers leaving school premises to go and drink alcohol, Civil Servants leaving offices to go and consume alcohol, workers in the Private Sector leaving their offices to go and consume alcohol and these people are being paid public funds while they are not producing. Firstly they absent themselves from work and after consuming alcohol they become less productive, if at all they are productive.

Children at school who abuse alcohol are known to be under-performers and again it is disturbing to note that these children abuse alcohol with the encouragement of the elderly members of the society, because how do you as a person who sells alcohol, sell alcohol to a child in a school uniform, knowing very well that such a child is coming from school? That is where delinquency starts at a very tender age and such a person will not become a useful member of the society. Killing and stabbings are a result of people being drunk and becoming aggressive, as Honourable Ulenka mentioned in his motivation. Domestic violence, some people are more brave when they are drunk and when the wives are drunk, they start beating the husbands and vice versa. They become brave when they are drunk.

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Again, it is also a pity to see the way some of our artists in the music industry sing about alcohol, not knowing the message that they are conveying to the society. They praise alcohol as if it is something that brings paradise on earth and kids are listening to this. I really think they should also be encouraged to convey messages that are responsible and do not send wrong messages to especially the children.

One sees notices in some buildings that *no alcohol will be served to children under the age of eighteen*. The question is, is that really being adhered to? Maybe in some place but not all, because you can clearly see young people under the age of eighteen entering bars and the bartenders do not even bother to ask their IDs to prove that they are really over the age of eighteen? It does not happen, whether in the formal bars in town, whether in the shebeens. The priority for bar owners is profit-making. As long as I am making money, whoever comes to me willing to buy alcohol, I am just going to serve.

We have a liquor licensing law and I was surprised to see how the country was almost held hostage by people demanding to freely use alcohol, shebeens. Some Honourable Members on the other side of the House whose names I will not mention, who benefit from the sale of these products, when we were interrogating that subject in a Parliamentary Committee were neglecting their responsibility as lawmakers and they were the first to start attacking that law which was passed here. Profit-making is the problem.

We can talk and talk, I know the Police do some random searches and arrest people who are selling alcohol beyond the prescribed hours, yet people hide away to still do these things when they know today the Police will not be searching. While we have that law, there also needs to be an understanding and appreciation among us as a society on where alcohol is really taking us as a society.

Drinking and driving, it is so painful to see how some people become victims of drinking and driving. A person knows he is going to drive on the road, yet he is consuming alcohol, knowing that he or she is posing a danger to other road users, knowing that he or she is carrying passengers

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and the lives of these passengers are in danger and are being threatened. This is the understanding I am talking about, that if we ourselves in our minds and our souls and from the bottom of our hearts really ask ourselves this big question, where does alcohol take us?

I want someone to tell me even three positive results of using alcohol. None. All that comes out are negative results, yet people go on abusing alcohol.

As Honourable Ulenga said, it is important that these existing laws which we have should be strengthened and please, some politicians, do not politicise some of these laws that are aimed at keeping order and discipline among our societies.

With these few words, Honourable Speaker, I put my case to rest.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. Honourable Kaura.

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**HON KAURA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Before I proceed I just want to refer to something which Honourable Ulenga said and it is a historical correction and that is on this Hottentot which he considers derogatory. Apparently the word “Hottentot” came from the way the Nama people pronounced the word “hot tot”. When they went into the bar they wanted a hot tot and then they said, “I want a hottentot.” (Interjections).

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Kaura, you do not have enough time, make your contribution, leave that one out. It is not true.

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**HON KAURA:** I was basically just trying to elucidate that issue linguistically. Honourable Speaker, giving support to the Motion of Honourable Ben Ulenga, especially on this issue of alcohol abuse, one goes back to where alcohol comes from and throughout human history how it has always been present and why human beings wanted to feel a little bit intoxicated.

Biblically you will remember that when in Canaan the liquor ran out and the Holy Mary went to her son, Jesus and said, *“my son, there are no more drinks”*, he said fill a couple of containers with water and start giving it to the people, and then the people were saying, *“you are giving us the best drink at the end, why did you not give at the beginning?”* It is in the Bible. The reason why some people are cursed is because they saw Noah naked and it is because Noah became intoxicated and therefore, those who saw him and laughed and did not cover him, became cursed. In the Bible they say they are black people like us.

Honourable Speaker, I could have claimed and those with whom I grew up could testify to that, namely the Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Hage Geingob and Honourable //Garoëb, that I could be classified as 99.9% teetotaller, if I were not a Christian, because when I go for Holy Communion I have to take some wine. In church, because of the Holy Communion and because I am a Christian, I cannot claim to be a teetotaller because there I have to take some wine at Holy Communion. It is part of our belief. That is how liquor is so much part of our being that it is like fire. Fire burns, it destroys, but yet you cannot ban the use of fire. People are killed in car accidents, but you cannot ban the use of cars by people. Therefore, it is a question of using it in moderation and trying to use it as safely as possible. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Kaura a tiny question? Are you speaking in defence of Uukumwe? This story of going to church and drinking wine, is that to justify the Uukumwe type of business?

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**HON KAURA:** No, both of us are aware of the fact that in America there was the Prohibition period when no one was allowed to import whisky from England to the United States of America, but yet they could not stop the smuggling of whisky into the United States of America and we are aware of families in America that became extremely rich by smuggling in whisky from England into the United States of America. I just want to look at those things, how difficult it is to ban liquor. It is part of the human being. Maybe a human being wants to drink once in a while.

For example, with palm wine people climb that tree all the way up to the top, make a hole where something accumulates there at the top. He climbs and drinks there and falls off.

During the colonial period in our own country, we black people were prevented from drinking whisky, beer, brandy and all these types of things. We were brewing our own beer and you know that the Police would go to the location and they would punish us for drinking and we considered that as oppression during the colonial period when the South African Government prevented us from drinking liquor and maybe that was a good thing, but we considered that as oppression and people did everything possible to smuggle liquor. The liquor stores were owned by white people but they found a way of selling liquor to black people while it was prohibited and forbidden. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** May I ask Honourable Kaura a small question? Honourable Kaura, you are saying that the South African Government were preventing us from drinking, which apparently was a good thing, but do you not think the problem was that they are preventing us but they were drinking? Was it not maybe the case that we also thought because they are doing it, it was also good for us?

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**HON KAURA:** We considered it oppression, but you know, oppression is sometimes not too clever. For example, they were preventing us from

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buying white sugar and white bread, only today to discover that it is healthier to eat brown bread and use brown sugar. They were thus giving us the healthy stuff and they were eating junk.

Coming to what Honourable Ulenga has said, let us start with banning the advertisement especially of beer on television. Why do we not start with banning the advertisement of beer on television, this gentleman who has a flat tyre and things like that. Why do we not start there?

At the moment we issue licences to anybody who applies for a cuca shop, with the result that in Katutura literally every third house is a cuca shop, with loud music until odd hours in the morning, affecting our children doing homework and then attracting them to go to these cuca shops and drink. I think that is the crux of the matter, what can we do to make sure that every third house in Katutura is not a cuca shop? What can we do to bring an end to malls? (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** You are saying the right thing. Is there anybody here who does not know the name Evelyn Street? I do not know exactly where it is but people talk about Evelyn Street. We celebrate these things, we give prominence to these types of places like Evelyn Street, Herero Mall and these kinds of things. Do you not think the media is also to blame?

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**HON KAURA:** I do not know but I find malls all over Okakarara, not in town, but even at places like Ombujovakuru, deep into the countryside. There is this infectious idea of malls, they are all over. Even if the communities want to curtail these things, the guy produces a licence that he can run a mall and all the kids can come here and the music is loud and in the countryside you can hear it two kilometres away. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Taking into consideration that Honourable Kaura is making a very good suggestion, suppose the Government of the day does that, would the Honourable Kaura not be the first one to say this Government is taking away the people's livelihood, therefore vote for me, do not vote for them?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Kaura, you will have an opportunity to answer that question tomorrow. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.02.22 AT 14:30**



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
22 FEBRUARY 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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

- Fisheries Observer Fund for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2010;
- Film and Video Development Fund of the Namibian Film Commission for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2010; and
- National Arts Council for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2010.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member please table the Reports? Minister of Labour.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON NGATJIZEKO**

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORTS**

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**

Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table –

1. Annual Report of the Social Security Commission for the year ended 31 March 2010; and
2. Annual Report of the Office of the Labour Commissioner for the year ended 31 March 2011.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister please table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Shixwameni.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 8:**

**HON SHIXWAMENI:** I give Notice that on Thursday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2012, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Finance the following questions:

Given the now much publicised slow rate bureaucratic red tape in the implementation of TIPEEG projects and the accompanying allegations of corruption, nepotism and favouritism about the same TIPEEG projects, I shall ask the Minister:

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**NOTICES OF QUESTIONS  
HON SHIXWAMENI**

1. Can the Minister enlighten the Honourable Members of this august House and the public at large as to what has the implementation and success rate of TIPEEG been during the 2011/2012 Financial Year.
2. Is the Minister and Cabinet collectively satisfied with the implementation rate thus far?
3. What exactly, if any, are the stumbling blocks and problems being experienced with the implementation?
4. How many jobs in total have been created up to date, i.e. January 2012, as a result of TIPEEG projects?
5. Can the Minister provide information, the names of the projects and state the allocations Region by Region?
6. How much in Namibia Dollars is due to be returned to the Treasury as a result of the low implementation rate?
7. What does Government plan to do to improve on the poor performance during this Financial Year?
8. In which way does the TIPEEG programme empower the youth if the requirements to access these projects are more rigorous and stringent than bidding to normal tenders and bearing in mind that the majority of our young people are either unskilled or semi-skilled?
9. Does the SWAPO Party-led Government at this moment, given the challenges faced by TIPEEG, still believe that this programme will solve the unemployment and poverty situation in our country?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Kawana.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR KAWANA**

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY**

**GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I rise to make a Ministerial Statement. On 16 February 2012, one of the print medias in Namibia carried an article titled, “*Key Cabinet Reshuffle on the cards.*” The same print media on the second Page carried an article titled, “*Massive Cabinet reshuffle imminent*”. I wish to state upfront that we respect the freedom of the press, as enshrined in Article 21(1)(a) of the Namibian Constitution. However, we also hold the view that freedom of press should be exercised responsibly. May I remind the Nation that genocide committed in Rwanda was mainly instigated through the media. Therefore, if not used responsibly, the media has the potential to destroy our Nation.

In our system of governance, the President of the Republic of Namibia has an exclusive prerogative to reshuffle members of his or her Cabinet as he or she sees fit. Against this background, it is most unfortunate for the print media to carry a sensational story which is devoid of any truth. It is most unfortunate for a print media to speculate about a so-called “*massive Cabinet reshuffle.*” It is even totally unacceptable to state the date when the reshuffle will take place as well as a list of those who will be affected. May I point out that any reference, as a source of the so-called Cabinet reshuffle, to those who are referred to as close to State House has an effect of causing unnecessary suspicion on innocent staff members of State House. The general public are likely to regard them as unreliable and untrustworthy individuals. This can cause them unnecessary harm and by extension, affect their families. Should this happen, the media will be held liable for the instability in the country.

Let us leave the function of Cabinet reshuffle to the discretion of the President in terms of Article 32 of the Namibian Constitution. The media should not interfere in this very important constitutional function. Since Independence, the media has always been invited at press conferences whenever there was a Cabinet reshuffle. In the same vein, the media will

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR KAWANA**

be invited to a press conference should the President decide to reshuffle his Cabinet.

I, therefore, once again appeal to the media not to cause unnecessary tension in the country by publishing unfounded information regarding the so-called massive Cabinet reshuffle. Let us leave this important constitutional function to the President of the Republic of Namibia. It is his sole constitutional function which he or she carries out without any consultation. We should avoid implicating those who are close to State House as a source of information because they know nothing about the so-called Cabinet reshuffle. A Cabinet reshuffle is a sensitive matter, as such the media is requested to exercise maximum restraint.

Namibia must continue to be a country of hope, harmony, peace and stability. We are a Republic founded on the rule of law and democracy. We should continue to cherish these values for the sake of our Motherland. I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his important rebuttal and clarification of the situation. Before we get to the business as scheduled for the day, I want to recognise the presence of a delegation of young students from the International University of Management. Welcome to your House. Bring more next time so that you can listen and learn from what the Members of Parliament are doing here. Thank you for coming.

The First Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs. Does the Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Senior Minister has requested me to ask the indulgence of the House to postpone the motivation of this Bill to next week, Wednesday.

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**PROPERTY VALUERS PROFESSION BILL**  
**HON !NARUSEB**

**HON SPEAKER:** I am sure the House concurs with that. The introduction of this Motion stands deferred until Wednesday, next week. The Second Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement. Does the Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

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**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:**  
**PROPERTY VALUERS PROFESSION BILL**

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds? Any objections? Agreed to. Will the Minister table the Bill? The Secretary will read the Bill a First Time.

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**SECRETARY:** *Property Valuers Profession Bill.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Minister Move that the Bill be now read a Second Time?

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Secondment? Agreed to. You have the Floor, Honourable Minister.

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**PROPERTY VALUERS PROFESSION BILL  
HON !NARUSEB**

**SECOND READING: PROPERTY  
VALUERS PROFESSION BILL**

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members. It is an honour to have this opportunity to present to this august House and the Namibian Nation at large the Property Valuers Profession Bill for discussion and, hopefully, speedy adoption.

The Bill seeks to provide a legal framework for the regulation of the valuation practice in the public interest through the establishment of a body to be known as the Namibian Council for the Property Valuers Profession. The body will be responsible for registration of professionals, candidates and specified categories in the property valuation profession and for introducing internationally accepted valuation principles through education, training and issuance of best practice guidelines to protect the public from the current unregulated valuation practices in the property and banking industry.

The Bill further endeavours to regulate the valuation profession by making professional valuation practitioners accountable for their conduct, thereby eliminating incidences of unethical conduct by unqualified people masquerading as valuers. In this regard, the Bill also seeks to protect the valuers from the conduct of non-professionals who have so far tainted the profession.

Namibia does not have legislation in place to regulate the valuation practice, compared to other countries of the world, including countries in the Commonwealth as well as in the SADC Region. It is important to note that valuation in this country is considered only as a part of the discipline of Estate Agency, banking or general land use, while in reality, valuation transcends these disciplines and requires good knowledge of financial mathematics, property law, economics, accountancy, town planning, environmental science, construction, etcetera.

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**PROPERTY VALUERS PROFESSION BILL**  
**HON !NARUSEB**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the situation prevailing in the country at present is that property valuation functions are being undertaken by anyone who believes they are competent to provide valuation services. The absence of a legal framework to regulate the practice of property valuation has resulted in property values becoming unrealistically inflated, to such an extent that land prices have reached unprecedented levels that are beyond the affordability of the majority of citizens of this country. The Bank of Namibia has in our consultations raised a concern that the lack of regulation has resulted in banking institutions conducting valuation in a discretionary manner. This is detrimental, to say the least, to the interest of the public whose money is tied in real property.

In the absence of appropriate legislation to regulate the valuation profession, we are witnessing a bulk of valuation work being done by persons who are either registered under the Estate Agency Act or by sworn appraisers registered in terms of the Magistrate's Act, with the result that there is no proper professional accountability on the part of the "valuers". In Namibia, as per the existing rules, one is required to be "fit and proper" for appointment as a sworn appraiser under the Magistrate's Act and the Local Authorities Act without further elaboration of what this requirement entails.

The sworn appraisers' registration is granted for carrying out valuation for specific purposes, notably during alienation, distribution or the sequestration of deceased estates. However, this registration is sometimes used for valuation of property for other purposes, including Local Authority rating without due regard to universally acceptable principles of valuation. The requirements laid down for registration as a sworn appraiser in terms of the Magistrate's Act, do not differentiate between a degree holder and a diploma holder with relevant training and experience in the field of property valuation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to bring to your attention the fact that valuation of property is a subject of vital national importance as it impacts on economic activities relating to property, which comprise of land and buildings, plant and machinery, movable property



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and intangible assets, such as the goodwill of a business.

For the benefit of Honourable Members, allow me, Honourable Speaker, to summarise in brief the fiscal and non-fiscal purposes for which valuation services are often required.

The fiscal purposes include:

- Municipal taxes collected by municipalities, town councils and regional Local Authorities on land and buildings;
- Transfer and Stamp Duty collected by Central Government on documents during the registration and transfer of property. The current practice in Namibia is that under-declaration of transfer values of properties is prevalent due to the behaviour of unscrupulous valuation practitioners working together with conveyance firms.
- Income – Taxation on income arising from the letting of property in some countries. The rental incomes that are declared by taxpayers are in most instances below market, resulting in loss of revenue for the State.
- Land tax as part of the Land Reform process.
- Capital Gains: Taxation imposed on capital during disposal of property wherein a gain arises applicable in some countries.

Non-Fiscal Purposes Include:

- Sales and acquisition;
- Market and Rental Value;
- Insurance, Mortgage and Balance sheet.

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- Privatisation/Ascertaining return on investment;
- Liquidation of assets for recovery for settlement of financial disputes by the Courts/inheritance/divorce, etcetera;
- Compensation for compulsory acquisition/expropriation of property for public purposes;
- Computation of betterment levies under town planning laws when there is material change of use of land.

In all of the above specified purposes, the valuation profession has to conform to certain valuation principles, standards and best practices which are internationally accepted. These principles, standards and best practices can only be attained by following mandatory education, training and possessing academic qualification in valuation, coupled with practical experience in valuation.

It is, therefore, imperative that we pay close attention to this important sector of our economy by putting in place appropriate measures through legislation to ensure proper accountability within the property valuation profession and this is what the Bill before this august House seeks to do.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, during the drafting of the Bill, the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement compared extensively our situation with that of countries within the region, which include Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe and countries further afield, such as Australia, Canada, Fiji, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

In Malaysia the qualifications laid down in that country's Valuers Act to register and practise as a property valuer are either a B.A (Land Economy), B.SC. (Estate Management), B.Com (Property), Bachelor of Valuation and Property Management or B.SC (Valuation and Property Management). Similarly Valuers' Acts of Singapore, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Fiji, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa also

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prescribe academic qualifications coupled with experience in valuation for one to practice as a valuer.

In the United Kingdom and Canada, one has to be a member of professional valuation society to practise as a valuer, while in the United States of America each state has its own licensing requirements to register as a “*licensed appraiser*” and “*certified appraiser*” to value different types of properties, be it residential, agricultural, commercial or industrial. Membership to the professional valuation society is granted only to trained valuers/appraisers in their area of professional competence possessing the relevant academic qualification in valuation and requisite valuation experience.

The introduction of the Bill is but one of our Government’s innovative policies that responds to the outcry and demands of the citizens of the Nation to redress the issue of high land and property prices through professional accountability and discipline in the provision of valuation services by the property valuation profession. This Bill has received the full backing and support of practising professional valuers in this country as well as from the Bank of Namibia, which is the regulator of fiscal discipline in the country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, allow me at this juncture to point out the salient provision of this Bill which is to compel most organisations to ensure that the personnel under their employ comply with the registration requirements of the Bill so that the quality of valuation services provided are of a high standard. The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement is mindful of people undertaking valuation activities as part of their employment obligations who do not have the requisite academic qualifications, training or experience as envisaged in the Bill. This matter was discussed extensively during public consultations with stakeholders and the consensus from those consultations, which were incorporated in the Bill, was that the Council will address this matter accordingly upon its constitution.

The other implication of the Bill is that, given the level of professional capacity within the country at the moment, the membership levels thereof

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may not be sufficient to ensure that the Council is self-sustainable financially through its own resources, which will be raised either from registration fees or other levies as contemplated in the Bill. As such, the Ministry will be compelled to seek annual appropriation of public funds to “*grandfather*” the Council’s operations until such time that it is able to stand on its own.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to assure you that all definitions have been closely scrutinised and rightly adapted according to the requirements of this Bill. As I have alluded to earlier on, public consultations were held with all stakeholders and the Bill received tremendous support from all professional valuers. The Bank of Namibia, which we consulted extensively as a major stakeholder during the drafting stages of the Bill, has given us their full backing and blessings.

The introduction of this legislation will provide an enabling environment for standardisation of valuation approaches, reduction of malpractices in the valuation field, improved revenue for both central and local Government, stabilisation of the property market and secure collateral for the banking institutions.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is imperative that today we should consider the need for putting in place legislation to professionally regulate the operations of valuation practitioners and I appeal to this House to debate and consider the Property Valuers Profession Bill favourably in light of the challenges inherent in the current system of valuation practice in the country, high property prices and lack of accountability by industry practitioners. I most sincerely want to thank you for listening to me.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his motivation. Any further discussion? Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI**

**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Honourable Speaker, I beg the indulgence of the House to Move for adjournment of this Bill to Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> of February 2012.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The further consideration of this Motion stands adjourned until 29 February 2012. The Third Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security. Does the Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

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**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:**  
**CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL**

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any secondment? Any objections? Agreed to. Will the Minister please table the Bill? The Secretary will read the Bill a First Time.

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**SECRETARY:** *Correctional Service Bill.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Minister Move that the Bill be now read a Second Time?

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**SECOND READING:  
CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL**

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objections? Agreed to. You have the Floor, Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, may I take this opportunity to introduce to this august House the Namibian Correctional Service Bill which seeks to provide for the establishment of the Namibian Correctional Service and for the administration of the Service based on the new philosophy in corrections, thus replacing the current Prisons Act, (Act 17 of 1998).

Honourable Members, in March 1995 when the Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma, created the Ministry of Prisons and Correctional Services, he introduced a new philosophy and a new policy for working with offenders. This policy partly reads as follows: *“The new Ministry of Prisons and Correctional Services will concentrate on the efficient running of prisons with emphasis on correctional and rehabilitation functions.”*

In 1995, when the Head of the Namibian Correctional Service was appointed, he was tasked, amongst others, to see to it that the new policy is implemented by ensuring that the twin objectives of safe custody of prisoners and that of their rehabilitation are fully attained in furtherance of law and order in the country.

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Since then, the Namibian Correctional Service has been on a steady path towards becoming a modern provider of correctional services. The focus has been transformation from an essentially punitive system concerned only with incapacitation function into a professionalised Correctional Service embracing a scientific and evidence-based approach to the way the Service organises, provides and manages rehabilitative and other correctional services to offenders. It is our firm belief that this will allow for greater public safety in the end and that successful reintegration of released offenders into society should be a national priority and not just a Correctional Service priority.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the transformation agenda currently underway is being carried out through the development and implementation of an Offender Risk Management Correctional Strategy.

The Strategy suggests essentially that, offenders are not all alike in terms of what factors may have precipitated their offending, not all alike in terms of what risk they may present for future offending, not alike in terms of “needs” that they may have and not alike in terms of motivation to address those “needs” and work towards changing their lifestyle. So the Offender Risk Management Correctional Strategy aims to assess and document these differences in order that:

1. Offenders can be managed more effectively according to the risk needs profiles they represent, with a clear purpose to enhance security within the correctional facilities and give direction to efforts aimed at possible successful reintegration.
2. Correctional officers, through the increased understanding of the risk needs profiles of the offenders they manage, can become more active and focused in their interactions, thereby once again enhancing security within correctional facilities and contributing more directly to the challenge of offender reintegration.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am proud to inform this august House that after successfully piloting the Offender Risk

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Management Correctional Strategy at Windhoek Central Prison, it has currently been rolled out to Elizabeth Nepemba Correctional Facility near Rundu. This facility was opened and the Strategy officially launched by His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2011. The arrangements to roll out to Hardap Prison are in an advanced stage and preparations to roll out to other bigger prison institutions, such as Oluno, Walvis Bay, Farm Scott and Divundu are being undertaken.

Honourable Speaker, the purpose of introducing this Bill is, therefore, to ensure effective provision of rehabilitation and correctional functions. This means that the Namibian Correctional Service will no longer simply administer the sentence of imprisonment, but that at every stage of that sentence the Correctional Service will also work with the offenders to change their criminal behaviour.

In order to succeed in this process, the Bill makes provision for crucial areas of the process, such as the sharing of critical information among all those with the mandate to ensure public safety, for example the organs or agencies of the criminal justice system. Further, it provides for the establishment of the correctional community centres meant to support offenders through timely and supervised and controlled conditional release, such as release on parole. This implies that the provision of rehabilitation and correctional programmes will be conducted in both the correctional facilities and the correctional community centres, to ensure continuity.

Honourable Speaker, another reason for introducing this new Act is to be in line with the changes brought by the Second Amendment to the Namibian Constitution that was done last year. Among the changes introduced by the Second Amendment to the Namibian Constitution was the changing of the name of the Service from Namibian Prison Service to Namibian Correctional Service. The Bill I am presenting to this august House is, therefore, also meant to bring the Service in line with the spirit brought by these constitutional changes.



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**Summary of the Bill:**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Correctional Service Bill consists of 15 parts with a total of 135 Sections.

Schedule 1 deals with definitions of various terms used in the Bill.

There are new terms such as “*Correctional Services*”, replacing “*Prison Service*”, “*correctional officer*” replacing “*prison member*”, “*correctional facility*” replacing “*prison*”.

Part 1 is from Section 2 to 14 and deals with the establishment, functions and administration of the Namibian Correctional Service. Worthy to mention here is the introduction of principles that guide the Correctional Service, as stated in Section 4. These principles will guide correctional officers and other staff in their day-to-day operations, conducts and decision-making process.

Part II is from Section 15 to 22 and provides for the establishment, administration and control of correctional facilities and correctional community centres. The centres will be established in the community and will have a home environment. Offenders who are released on parole are referred to correctional community centres to serve the remainder of their sentences in those communities. This approach is to ensure their gradual controlled release into the community with proper supervision and support. The correctional community centres are meant to facilitate the safe reintegration of offenders into society.

Part III consists of Sections 23 to 30 and provides for health care services for offenders.

Part IV is from Section 31 to 37 and it provides for the powers, functions, duties and privileges of correctional officers.

Part V is from Section 38 to 46 and it provides for searching of offenders, searching of cells, searching of visitors and even searching of correctional officers and vehicles.

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Part VI is from Section 47 to 49 and provides for offences that can be committed by correctional officers or any other person employed in Correctional Service.

Part VII is from Section 50 to 60 and provides for matters relating to the discipline of correctional officers.

Part VIII is from Section 61 to 78 and provides for matters relating to the admission and custody of offenders.

Part IX is from Section 79 to 84 and it lists offences that can be committed by any person and the penalties thereof.

Part X is from Section 85 to 93 and it provides for matters relating to the discipline of offenders.

Part XI is from Section 94 to 97 and provides for the rendering of rehabilitation programmes to offenders.

Part XII is from Section 98 to 103 and provides for matters relating to the serving of sentences by offenders.

Part XIII is from Section 104 to 121 and provides for matters relating to the release of offenders from correctional facilities.

Part XIV is from Section 122 to 125 and provides for ex-officio and appointed visiting justices and for their functions. It also provides for the appointment of ministers of religion.

Honourable Speaker, as this provision is also in the current Prisons Act and as ex-officio visiting justices include Members of Parliament, may I, therefore, use this opportunity to invite and encourage the Members of Parliament to regularly visit our correctional facilities in order to familiarise themselves with the administration and operations of these facilities. Such visits are beneficial not only to offenders as they feel society has not forgotten them, but also for the Correctional Service

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management as your findings and observations help us to make necessary adjustments where necessary.

Part XV is from Section 126 to 135 and provides for various issues, such as delegation of power by the Minister or the Commissioner-General, the power of the Minister to make regulations, the indemnity and limitation of actions against the Ministry, etcetera.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I would like to emphasise that this Bill is geared towards ensuring the successful fulfilment of the goals of the Namibian Correctional Service in contributing to the protection of society by providing reasonable, safe, secure and humane custody of offenders in accordance with universally acceptable standards, while assisting them in their rehabilitation, reformation and social reintegration as acceptable law-abiding citizens, consequently contributing significantly to the overall National Crime Reduction Strategies.

I would like, therefore, to request the Honourable Members of this august House to discuss, support and approve this Bill. I thank you for your attention.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his vigorous motivation of the Bill and the House shall now rise for refreshments.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40**

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**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15**

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**HON MOONGO**

**HON SPEAKER:** We resume the business of the House. Any further discussion? Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO:** I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Wednesday, next week.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The further consideration of the Bill stands adjourned until Wednesday, next week. The Sixth Notice of Motion is by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Objections? Agreed to.

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**MOTION ON DEMOLITION OF HOUSES**

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. It is shocking and an embarrassment that twenty-two years after Independence houses are being demolished by the elected Municipality of Oshakati, something which was never done by the colonial Government. The question is, what prompted the municipality to take this brutal and draconian action? Is it due to the violent, rude, angry and tyrannical attitude of some members of the Municipality of Oshakati?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the municipality failed dismally to implement Article 18 of the Constitution which says that any administrative action, including that one of the municipality, must be reasonable and fair to the people of Namibia. The Courts of Namibia will not consider demolishing of properties as being fair. Therefore, the affected community cannot trust them anymore. Why was the building of these houses not halted by the municipality before their completion? They waited until the houses were completed and painted. A kindergarten for

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the community was also demolished, without a resolution taken and without a Court Order. To demolish houses will be considered unfairly by the Courts of Namibia.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, the Preamble of the Constitution states that: *“Whereas the people of Namibia committed to these principles, have resolved to constitute the Republic of Namibia as a sovereign, secular, democratic and unitary State securing to **all** our citizens justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.”* What does fraternity mean to you and to those people who will object to this Motion? Does it mean to demolish your poor brother or sister’s house? Action must be taken against the culprits.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, what does Article 13 tells us? It says that your private house must not be searched without a warrant from a judicial officer. A search can only be done with a warrant from the Magistrate. What about demolishing a house? If a search requires a warrant, what about demolishing a private house? How can you come and demolish my house without a Court Order? Did those people have a warrant to demolish those houses? If not, then it was done illegally.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Article 13 deals with fair trial. Were these poor people given enough time to defend themselves against this unfair action? The answer is no. Did the Court decide that those houses should be demolished? If so, what is the number of that court case and the date? If those houses were demolished without a Court Order it was done illegally.

Comrades, I therefore propose that the culprits have to compensate the people for those houses and resign because they have used excessive power, power not even used by high-ranking people such as Ministers. They abused their power! It is a terrible thing to hear that after Independence a house was demolished. They were supposed to negotiate and even go to Court to obtain a Court Order. Why do we have those structures?

Colleagues, I think this is unfair. We do not solve our problems through violent means but through peaceful means. Were those peaceful means to

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HON MUHARUKUA**

demolish houses?

The Constitution states that a person charged with a criminal offence is presumed innocent until proven guilty according to the law. They were supposed to be taken to Court to be proven guilty and then they would have the right to demolish the houses. The municipality found the owners of these houses guilty before they went to Court. They were not bothered that they were dealing with human-beings.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, if all Acts were violated by the municipality, their action is illegal and unconstitutional. Therefore, their actions should be declared null and void and illegal. I thank you and I ask for your support.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank Honourable Moongo for motivating his Motion. Any further discussion? Honourable Muharukua.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to contribute to the Motion. The Honourable Member said these things should not be happening in 2012. Honourable Headman, it would have been better if you called the Minister of Regional and Local Government and the Minister of Justice to get this information in order to give the public the correct information. If you want to politicise the matter here, nobody is going to listen to you. You even called us your Comrades and I want to invite you to come back to your Comrades. We will welcome back the people who went astray.

We are in the year 2012, we are getting old and we have to talk about things which will develop our people. If we develop our minds first and then our people's minds, then they are going to follow what is said. (Intervention)

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HON MUHARUKUA**

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Muharukua, you are saying it is good to receive those who went astray. Can you tell this House how many of them are in this House?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** I am not going to answer because the door is open. We welcome the people to come back to SWAPO, the door is open for all of them.

To develop Namibia is not to talk about these things. We cannot talk here about something somebody from somewhere told us. This year, 2012, we are going to develop Namibia and Namibia is going to be developed by the SWAPO Government. (Intervention)

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Is the Honourable Member in favour of demolishing houses or not in favour? That is the question that needs to be answered.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, people can rise to ask Muharukua questions, but I am saying it is not good to tell things to the Nation without consulting the two Ministers concerned, because you do not know what happened there. We are all the time talking about what our Constitution says, but our Constitution talks about unity and we cannot even have unity between SWAPO and the Vice-President of the DTA. I do not support the Motion. Thank you.

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HON MUSHELENGA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Any further discussion? Honourable Mushelenga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to contribute to the Motion by Honourable Moongo.

First, I would want to make it clear so that I am not misunderstood, that I do not support the demolishing of people's property, but perhaps I differ from Honourable Moongo on the approach of how to address this issue.

Honourable Moongo reminds me of a biblical story of a Pharisee and a tax collector who were praying. The Pharisee said, "*God, I am so clean, I do not have any sins, I am not like this tax collector.*" The character of that Pharisee befits Honourable Moongo very well. That is why I say, while we all have similar concerns, we differ in the approaches.

We as Parliament have passed laws establishing structures of Government. We have a Central Government, we have Regional Governments, we have Local Authority Governments. Our Local Authority Governments operate within the framework of the Local Authorities Act. They are given certain powers to carry out some activities in their respective communities. It is the same as in the case of a company where as a shareholder you put up a board of directors so that these directors run this company. As a shareholder you cannot be doing micro-management of the company as this is left to the management of the company.

Honourable Moongo is definitely doing this thing to score political points. We are all concerned. There is a Ministry in charge of Local Authorities. I doubt whether as Member of Parliament Honourable Moongo had even taken time to express his concern with the Line-Ministry. (Interjection) No, you have the right of replying. I doubt whether Honourable Moongo had taken time to take up this issue with the Oshakati Town Council. Now Honourable Moongo comes here and indulges in technical legal questions which he is not competent and qualified to address, talking about issues of warrants for demolishing. There is nothing like that, so



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please, let us not indulge in subjects that we are not competent about.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, I would have taken Honourable Moongo to be more genuine in his concern if he had to bring a Motion here where he seeks ... (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a small question, please? Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. You may not have on-the-ground information because you are always in foreign countries. Last year when the Honourable Minister of Finance motivated the Budget, she said: “*SWAPO is a people-centred Party.*” My understanding and the message out there is that SWAPO will first and foremost consider people. The Oshakati Town Council is SWAPO-led, the people-centred Party. Have they considered the element of these poor people before they have demolished the houses or have they now moved away from being a people-centred Party to a Party that does not care? Just that small question.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, it is very good that Honourable Tjihiuko raised this issue. This is exactly why I say the Motion misses the very essence of the subject. The Town Council is a policy-making institution, the Town Council has various employees who are implementing the policies. The various employees do not necessarily always have to implement the policies in accordance with what the initiator of this policy originally envisaged. For example, when Honourable Ministers who were in SWAPO, who were Ministers of Trade, like Honourable Hamutenya and Honourable Nyamu, were passing trade policies .... (Intervention)

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HON NUJOMA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** On a Point of Information. My brother there talked about SWAPO-led Oshakati Municipality. What happened in Otjinene under NUDO?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, I was saying, when Honourable Hidipo Hamutenya and Honourable Nyamu was a SWAPO Minister of Trade, having introduced policies, a Deputy Director Arnold Tjiuiko would implement these policies not necessarily in accordance with what the SWAPO Manifesto was advocating. It is the same thing. This is why I am saying I do not want Honourable Moongo to create the impression here that the SWAPO Party policies or principles are that people's properties should be demolished. SWAPO is there to develop towns and various locations. Perhaps the mechanism in which the implementers go about implementing these policies should be addressed with the Line Minister and the Town Council, rather than coming here, behave like a Pharisee against the tax collector. Mind you, it is said that his prayer was never accepted and that is what is going to happen with your Motion. When people come to elections they will not take you seriously.

With these few words, Honourable Speaker, I want us to be very careful when we try to play around with bread-and-butter issues and people's lives in this House, trying to politicise Motions rather than addressing the problems our people are facing. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Nujoma.

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I rise to augment what my young Deputy Minister, Comrade Peya Mushelenga, said because I entirely agree with him.

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HON NUJOMA**

The SWAPO Party developed a blueprint for the economic development of this country, which is called Vision 2030. In Vision 2030 we envisage a highly industrialised Namibia, developed by its resources, developed by its own human resources in a planned fashion. If you want to be a highly industrialised country, it entails proper planning at national level, at the regional level and at the Local Authorities level. SWAPO went even further, it developed NDP1, NDP2 and NDP3. We are now moving towards NDP4. All these things are meant for concerted, coherent planning of the country and if we do not plan, we will have a haphazard way of development.

I have gone to many countries in Africa, people are driving nice cars, the roads have big potholes, sewerage is running into the streets and so on. Is this what Honourable Moongo wants? If that is the DTA or RDP thinking, then you people are completely lost and that is why you are astray, that is why you are there.

Honourable Moongo even wants to twist the facts. Article 18 of the Constitution says: *“Administrative bodies and administrative officials shall act fairly and reasonably and comply with the requirements imposed upon such bodies and officials by common law and any other relevant legislation, and persons aggrieved by the exercise of such acts and decisions shall have the right to seek redress before a competent Court or Tribunal.”* This is what the Constitution is saying. If there are aggrieved persons, there are competent Courts, they have recourse to these Courts. We have the Ombudsman here, we have Legal Aid available to the people.

Therefore, I agree with Honourable Mushelenga that what we want is a planned process. It is true that our people suffer, but we need to plan our future, otherwise we will have haphazard development and it is important, and I agree that our Local Authority officials should engage the people and find common ground. We are not saying the rights of people should be violated, no, but we need to engage each other in dialogue and find a mutually beneficial solution to such a problem. The SWAPO Party is a people-centred Government, it will always listen to its people, but if administrative officials or administrative bodies like Local Authorities have taken decisions, there is a recourse to the law. If you think your

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rights have been violated, you have the right to go to any competent tribunal. The Ombudsman is there, Legal Aid within the Ministry of Justice is available.

However, I insist that the process of development in this country must be properly planned so that we plan not only for ourselves, because you do not need to be selfish and that is why some of these Opposition Parties ran to South Africa because they wanted the money that time – selfishness. We plan not for ourselves but for future generations. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Ankama.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, fellow Members. I just want to give a short intervention on the Motion by Honourable Moongo, my former student and Headman of Omaalala. If even the animals in Omaalala knew what Honourable Moongo is saying, I tell you, even the goats would have left Omaalala to leave Mr Moongo alone. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** May I ask Honourable Ankama a question? Do you know the meaning of Omaalala? What does it mean?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Prime Minister, can you let them know what it is?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Right Honourable Prime Minister, I would not know much on that and I would

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not want to answer on that, but what I am saying is that the animals would have left him because if you look at the type of Motions that Honourable Moongo is bringing to this august House, then you would realise it is ill-conceived and it lacks logic. What I am saying is that it is self-explanatory, the SWAPO Government has ideas how to go about developing this country. Comrade Peya Mushelenga and Comrade Nujoma have already indicated to you what type of planning we want to see. If the kind of approach you are taking is the one of your so-called Government-to-be, I do not know when, maybe after a thousand years, I do not know, but if people would understand that that is the way you are thinking, it is no wonder that there is nobody around you. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:**

May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Ankama, do you not think that this Motion by Honourable Moongo has a hidden agenda? He is just covering himself, trying to protect himself. Look at the way Uukumwe structures are built. The shop is in front, the traditional house is at the back. Do you not think that he is just trying to cover himself as he is aware that very soon those houses are going to be demolished and as you have indicated, the animals are going to run away completely.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Former Deputy Speaker, what do you read in that? What is the hidden secret?

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:**

Conflict of interest, Comrade Speaker. That is what the Motion is telling us.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:**

Honourable Speaker, the point is that Local Authorities in this country are governed by an Act of Parliament. They clearly know what should be done, but we should also understand that there are individuals like Honourable Moongo who go and instigate locals, knowing very well that they are perhaps not very clear on the laws and they abuse the situation by building houses even if they have been informed not to do so. (Intervention)

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**HON NYAMU:** Honourable Speaker, I would like to ask the Honourable Colleague a question. I have heard contradictory positions coming from the Ruling Party. Some insinuate that they do not care what happens in the action of demolition. Others are saying that this is within the framework of the law, which means they are justifying the demolitions. I want to ask the question, which laws justify the infliction of pain on the population, especially to demolish a dwelling during the rainy season? What justification can SWAPO give? SWAPO claims SWAPO is the people and the people are SWAPO. Is the demolition of houses part of this belief that SWAPO is the people and the people are SWAPO?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:**

Honourable Nyamu, I think you are not a good listener, that is why you did not learn anything from SWAPO. It is no wonder you have left because you do not learn. I think you should know the SWAPO policies better. I will leave that to you to find out, because even if I tell you, you will never be able to catch up. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** On a Point of Information. The Learned Dr Ankama is doing very well. I just want to remind him that Honourable Nyamu did not leave SWAPO, he was expelled from SWAPO.

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HON BEUKES**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** I would like to thank the Honourable Member. Indeed, as a Party we would not want to have a liability like him.

The issue on the table is that there are laws in place and the law should be followed by everybody. For the Opposition Parties, in the person of the likes of Honourable Moongo, to go and instigate people to build houses contrary to the law, is just unheard of. It is just too difficult to understand. What we should understand in this case is that the law that governs the Local Authorities is clear and whenever somebody is aggrieved, there are procedures that need to be followed so that whoever is aggrieved is listened to and attended to appropriately within the spirit of the law.

At this point in time Honourable Moongo is trying to do what my good Colleague and Comrade, Peya Mushelenga has said, you would want to pray louder, showing that you are in a much better position to understand than anybody else. That is painting yourself with gold, where you were supposed to be painted with bronze. In this case I would say that the Motion at hand is ill-conceived and inappropriate at this point in time and I reject it.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Beukes.

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

Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I want to contribute to this issue. First of all, I want to make it clear that it was not taken up with our Ministry and as the Member has already said, yes, it is a SWAPO-led Government, the majority of Oshakati Town Councillors are SWAPO and it is known. Therefore we believe there must be a reason for everything. We are not going on hearsay stories, therefore my Ministry has taken it up and we are still waiting for the response from the side of the Oshakati Town Council and we also believe that there were

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consultations. According to our knowledge it was the case.

I would also like to ask the Honourable Members to be assured that SWAPO will continue developing this country. So, sit back and relax, SWAPO is governing. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Next is Honourable Nambahu.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I also want to make a small contribution to the Debate on this Motion. I admire the aspirations of Honourable Moongo to sharpen his legal skills, but I urge him to do much more reading because there is still a lot to be covered.

Honourable Moongo is supposed to know that there are always two sides to a story and as a good lawyer and student of law, that he is trying to be, he was supposed to give us a balanced story, not a one-sided story. He just brought us the story without actually consulting the Line Ministry so that he gives us a complete picture, because each and every case has its own specific merits. You cannot say the circumstances in this murder is the same as in another murder, therefore I am going to mete out the same sentence. That cannot be.

Honourable Moongo, in order for us to be in a position to get a complete picture, your motivation should have given us all elements of judgment and it has failed to do so. Therefore, I should concur with my other Colleagues that it is not good for a Party-in-waiting to start ruling and administer even at that level. That would be a very bad Government if you were to do that, because those colleagues are entrusted with duties to carry out and it is not for the Party to be involved at that level.

There is also obviously a conflict of interest, Honourable Moongo, because I am told you are in a similar situation with the plot you are



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occupying near UNAM in Ongwediva. People are unable to expand because you are illegally occupying the plot there. So, you might not be the right person because your behaviour might even have encouraged other people to behave like that. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** May I please ask Honourable Nambahu a question? Honourable Nambahu, you know very well that Oshakati was established a long time ago and development and construction have taken place and there are so many buildings in Oshakati. What do you think, why only these buildings? Why only those? The Motivator did not tell us why only those. Why not the whole of Oshakati, for example? That question needs to be answered.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Yes, there is a very good Latin phrase which says *audi alteram partem*, to hear the other side as well and not only one version of the story. I would honestly like to be sympathetic, we are very sympathetic with the people who lost property, but as responsible Members and as a respectful House, we would like to be put in the complete picture so that we can really exercise our minds, if that is what the Motion is seeking. With that part missing we will be unable to exercise our minds and make an informed decision.

That aside, us not condoning the demolishing, we are also aware that there has to be building specifications, there has to be plans. We do not want that chaotic kind of situation happening, therefore there must be proper planning and discipline. I think Honourable Moongo as a good citizen would encourage disciplined and organised development to take place. (Intervention)

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? I agree that there must be planning and order, but with the background that

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Honourable Katali has provided that Oshakati has been there for a very long time and some of these buildings were built before Independence, is the Honourable Deputy Minister of Justice able, as part of the Executive, to comfort people out there and say that at least those buildings which were built long before Independence in the disorder that existed during the liberation struggle, that at least people will be compensated for the buildings that are being demolished currently? Are you able to do that?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Honourable Shixwameni, I hear you loud and clearly, but I would also want to give the benefit of the doubt to the people that are practitioners in the field, because if they were so bad, so insensitive, so draconian as Honourable Moongo is saying they are, the first building to have been demolished would have been that one of Honourable Moongo, but they have not done that. Therefore, they are not as draconian. For you and me to be in a position to exercise our minds properly, we probably need to hear the other side of the story. Otherwise we are not fully placed in the picture, because if they were so bad, they would have demolished all those chaotic buildings that are there. Probably there is something missing here that we do not know in order for us to be able to adjudicate. (Intervention)

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Just on a Point of Information because I am now left with doubt in my mind that the Executive at this point in time does not know what is happening in Oshakati. That is what the Deputy Minister is saying, that they are waiting for information from the ground. I would probably suggest that the best way out of it and to add to what Honourable Nambahu is saying, the best probably would be to present a Ministerial Statement to this House as to what exactly is happening, so that we can all be in the know as to what is happening, because you are now not helping the situation, you are confusing us more.

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HON BEZUIDENHOUDT**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** I agree with you and Honourable Shixwameni, you would be supportive of us asking for the withdrawal of the Motion from the Floor until that information is available and we make a press statement and go forward. I rest my case here. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Bezuidenhoudt.

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**HON BEZUIDENHOUDT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I will not deal with the parochial issue of what happened in Oshakati, because I look at this Motion as maybe a symptom of what is happening in many other towns and it is a serious challenge in the local administration and town development. It is very unfortunate that we are creating an us-and-them situation and trying to politicise the issue. It is a very serious challenge.

My focus would be to say we would probably need to assist our Local Authorities in town planning, in consultation with the inhabitants of that town, so that all the inhabitants understand the development of the town as well as the regeneration of the towns. It would also go hand-in-hand with educating the inhabitants, so that they understand the reasons why things must be done in a specific way, because the town planning is taking place for residential areas, commercial areas and Industrial Areas and if there is any structure that inhibits or delays the progress in a town, people must understand why they need to move from A to B in the interest of the town and that there is a policy behind that when it comes to compensation or whatever issues.

I believe all our Local Authorities need to be encouraged to execute housing provision in an orderly way so that citizens and their local administrators do not start arguing about things which are in the interest of the town's future.

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**HON ULENGA**

My recommendation would be that we should think about developing a national policy to assist and direct Local Authorities how to act when faced with issues such as this, so that we can solve one problem at a time in the development of our country, so that in a number of years' time, we can all be proud of what we have left behind. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Ulenga.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Moongo motivated this Motion in my absence. I was preparing myself to come to Parliament an hour or so ago when I was rudely called off Parliament to go and attend to something that has nothing to do at all with Parliament and when I came back, I understand somebody tried to make my Motions lapse and I will talk to you about that.

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**HON SPEAKER:** No, you were not here, I called out and you were not here. Those are the Rules.

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**HON ULENGA:** I just touched on that issue, I am dealing with the Motion now, Honourable Speaker, and as I was saying, you will have to call me to order if I say anything untoward because I did not hear the motivation of the Motion, but I see what is said in proposing to Move the Motion.

Honourable Speaker, I must say with all honesty, what I heard since I came into the House, cannot be called in any other way other than it being a charade. I see it to be a very serious Motion. I was in Oshakati recently, Honourable Speaker, together with other Members of this House, dealing with other business of Parliament. I heard several people referring to some

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part of the Oshakati Town Council as the “*house demolishers*”. This is what I heard in the public out there. I did not even know what was happening. Then we had a meeting with some Government officials in Oshakati, dealing with other issues having nothing to do with housing in Oshakati. Those people, even though they were dealing with other issues, expressed themselves in a very concerned manner on an issue that clearly was a catch-22 situation. They were not dealing with the issue, they were just putting us into the picture as to how things look like and I could see clearly that this is indeed a catch-22 situation. I do not envy the Minister, the Government of the day and, indeed, this whole House to be in this kind of situation.

I grew up very near Oshakati and I remember, for example, when that road that goes through to Ruacana was built. Fortunately it was built by foreigners, they did not have any need to explain, but now you have a Government elected by the people that has all these tasks, as one of the Honourable Members was explaining, talking about the need to develop the country. National needs are always contradictory, it is always a question of deciding what to do at a certain specific time and apparently it is like sometimes you cannot really take a hundred percent decision. You decide to build a road, you sacrifice a dam; you decide to develop a farm, you cannot build a town at the same time where you develop a farm. If, however, you are going to put up a small administrative village where you have to house your Judges, your Police Officers, your military men, your Government administrators, you will have to find a plan to make sure that those areas are cleared of farmers, for example. In a situation like ours you have to be very careful and be able to walk on eggs, to explain to people why they have to leave their areas that they have tried at their best to develop over years. You have to have the wisdom of a thousand Salomons to be able to convince people in a situation like this. When I was listening to some of these Colleagues, I got the impression that this seems to be the case.

For us to sit here and to listen to some of the expressions coming from the other side of the House in a situation that is as serious as this, it is a complete joke if not contempt of the people out there in general. Therefore, Honourable Speaker, to make a long story short, let us hear

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from the Minister seeing that the Deputy Minister is saying that this situation is still being considered. Let us hear what the exact situation is on the ground so that we can consider this matter with that kind of additional information, if there is any other information. (Intervention)

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** May I ask my Honourable Comrade a question? Honourable Ulenga, in the light of the situation that you are describing and taking into account that the Ongwediva Town Council and the Ondangwa Town Council recently announced that they are going to follow in the same footsteps that Oshakati has already embarked upon, do you not think that it is wise that before the Minister provides that particular information, that this House calls for a moratorium on the demolitions in both Ongwediva and Ondangwa?

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you, Comrade Shixwameni. I do not want to be distracted, taken out of my way. Those who are trying to comment on “Comrade” are exactly trying to do just that. However, I will say very briefly that it is really a pity, Comrades, when I listen to some of the Colleagues, especially some of the younger Comrades, how far you are veering from the point. I just cannot understand, I cannot believe that even some of the people who have the big D in front of their names can try to bastardise a Motion like this that really deals with an issue that concerns the people into something like a shaft.

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** I would like to ask Honourable Moongo to withdraw this Motion, because as you are saying, it is better that you tell your Colleague to withdraw this Motion so that the Minister can give an informed answer. Tell your Colleague, it is him who brought the Motion, it is not us.

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HON ULENGA**

**HON SPEAKER:** No, let us be orderly. Honourable Ulena, continue.

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**HON ULENGA:** Comrade Utoni (Interjections). We trained together in the same unit, we got our AK-47s on the same day. He is not only my Colleague, he is your Colleague as well. (Interjection). No, a Colleague is not somebody that you are trained with, it is somebody that you serve in the same House with.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Politics aside, history stands and history will confirm what he is saying.

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**HON ULENGA:** Like I said, Comrade Speaker, it is high time that we as a Nation start to understand some of the fundamental problems of the State. I think it is not only for somebody to stand up a second after another Minister has asked a question. What do you want to say? I have not even said a thing about what he said. Please sit down until I have said something. Sit down Minister Katali, until I have said something, then you can ask me a question. That is what the Speaker is going to tell you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Minister, I abide by the Rules, but equally Honourable Ulena is also correct, but since you are standing I give you the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Ulena made a statement and in fact, I waited until he restarted his discussions again before I stood up. Honourable Ulena is blaming the Honourable Members who have spoken, but I would like to inform Honourable Ulena that when the Honourable Members

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contributed, they were contributing according to the motivation of this Motion, which unfortunately you did not have the benefit of listening to. We cannot just contribute in a vacuum, we contribute in accordance with the motivation that was made and the utterances that you might not have liked, I think you would also not have liked when they were being motivated. Therefore, just state your case, not trampling on other people when they are answering the Motivator. Thank you.

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**HON ULENGA:** Like I was saying, Honourable Speaker, on a matter like this one I can only be sympathetic to the whole situation. We have a situation where all of us, not just you, the Government, and I think it is high time that we start mending those fissures that have come to divide us as a Nation and work together as Parliament. Not only the Colleagues on the other side did inherit a State... (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Comrade Speaker, just a question and a caution to Honourable Ulenga. A Comrade of yours asked you a question, that municipalities around Oshakati, Ongwediva and Ondangwa and I am told Outapi too, are threatening to follow the example of Oshakati. Do you not think that those people know much more than what we do here? Is that not telling you that story? I take myself to be very ignorant about the background of what has happened and, therefore, I was going to support the call by those who said the Mover of the Motion should withdraw the Motion, we give the Minister the opportunity to inform the House and he can re-table it whichever time when we now know the truth, because now we are debating in complete darkness, attributing blame, yet we do not have the facts. What is it that we are trying to achieve? Really, Comrade Speaker, that is the caution that I was talking about. Thank you.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, I must really say I do not know



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for what reason the last speaker had to interrupt me. I am being honest without any fear or favour.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Rules allow for people to ask for the Floor, you should know that. It is your House, I will guide you. If you want to turn it into a kino, the television will record that, but to the extent that you want to make a contribution, I will give you the Floor. So, do not question my judgment if I have given the Floor to the Minister of Justice. You will always be wrong. You have the Floor.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, I was going to say, if there are some of us who do not know that, we did not create the State that we have. Nahas knows we inherited... (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Prime Minister or Honourable Nahas.

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**HON ULENGA:** Yes, Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Nahas knows we have inherited a State that demolishes houses. (Interjections).

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**HON SPEAKER:** We are getting out of hand, I want to ask you to get back to serenity of mind, so that when I give a Ruling after I have listened to the Prime Minister, it will be properly recorded. I am trying to get us to a point that we would close this one way or the other in an orderly manner, not that you would need to agree.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, I really feel so disrupted, I want to get my points together. Please do not interrupt people's thinking. Comrade Speaker, really, I am serious, I want to say what I want to say.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I sent you to London and you have watched the House of Commons many times. We are doing much better, hundred percent, than the House of Commons.

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**HON ULENGA:** Sure. Speaker, I know for a fact that there are people on the other side of the House who understand the situation perfectly and who have sympathy with the situation and I think I see the traces of what I am saying in the mind of the Secretary-General of SWAPO. The fact of the matter, Comrade Speaker, is that we have a situation where we have a place declared as town lands and the Town Council, like it is set up to do its business, is trying to do its business and what is the business of a Town Council? It is to build a proper town in the town lands of Oshakati, but at the same time where these people need to build a proper town that area is occupied in a very legal and legitimate manner by people who are farming there. It is a paradox, it is a contradiction, we must just face it like that. We have to build a town over gardens, mahangu fields and grazing areas and if you do not explain to the people why you have to take them away from a farm, give them a tiny amount of money and immediately sell the whole area to a Chinese developer and pay him millions. If you cannot explain that, then we are just lost. We must try to explain to the people why are we having this kind of system and what does it mean to the people there who have their grazing areas, their mahangu fields and their small little huts for their children and their families, why do we have to take them away and hand these places over to the Mr Big Money.

I have a plot somewhere there, which is illegal. It is illegal according to the rules but I bought it when Oshakati started in 1959. You were not there, you do not know what happened on the ground. It is not just me, it

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**RT HON ANGULA**

is thousands of people who own these places. We bought them extensively. (Intervention)

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**HON KAVETUNA:** The Motion is not about the people who have illegal farms there, because those people are being compensated according to the law. Honourable Moongo tabled a Motion and I think the Honourable Member will do justice to this discussion if he understands what was the motivation all about.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, I have explained the situation to you and I expect the Speaker to call me to order. I have put it as clearly as I could put it. Let me just say that that is how serious the situation is and it does not just concern Oshakati, it concerns each and every place in this country that gets decided upon by our Government in this Parliament to become all of a sudden somebody else's property. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** There are other names still on the list, but I want to give the Floor to the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. A house is a shelter, a house is a property, in fact a house is divinity to a person. Honourable Moongo moved this Motion not because he cares about people in Oshakati, not really. (Interjections). There are thousands and thousands of people who are living in informal settlements who are being threatened with evictions by municipalities. As a good politician he wants their sympathy, he wants their vote in other words. Let us now allow him to get that sympathy. Please, I am appealing to my Colleagues, let us now allow him to get that sympathy, let us ask the Minister of Local Government to get all the information from

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Oshakati and bring that information here so that we can form an informed opinion.

We know that municipalities have to administer the laws and the by-laws of municipalities. We also know that our own people, especially in these new towns, have sentimental attachments to the land on which they lived traditionally. We do not know exactly what is happening there, but I do know is that there are many people who are living in informal settlements who live under fear that one day their shacks or *kambashus* might be demolished by municipalities. That much I know.

Therefore, Colleagues, we should approach this Debate with some sense of attachment to the people. Of course, we want to support that the laws must be adhered to, but at the same time we must also, as Honourable Bezuidenhout said, educate our people – education, education and education – so that we do not get in a situation whereby we actually have to demolish somebody's house during the rainy season. We should not get there. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I want to give the Floor to Honourable Moongo and I want him to respond favourably to the Prime Minister's proposal to keep this Motion stand adjourned until the Line Minister has an opportunity and then we will revert back to you that time. I hope that you will agree to that.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, in the spirit of what has been said, I would like to adjourn the Debate until next week Thursday to allow the Minister to be able to prepare a statement.

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**HON NYAMU:** Honourable Speaker, I would like to support the proposal by my Colleague, but with an Amendment, that we give the

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**HON SIOKA / HON EKANDJO**

Minister at least two or three weeks. Next week will be too soon for the Minister to do a good job and I also want to add to the proposal, that it is not only Oshakati, we should look at all the places. Ongwediva is under threat, Swakopmund is under threat of evictions and all these places, not just Oshakati. We want to know what is the policy of the Government and how to deal with those matters.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO:** I am happy with the proposal for the adjournment, but I would request the Minister to consult both the victims and the municipality and not to listen to one side only. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** This Motion stands adjourned until when?

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Comrade Speaker, maybe just advice. If this Motion could have been adjourned by the Minister of Local Government and Housing to a suitable time after he has consulted, instead of the Mover of the Motion.

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**HON SPEAKER:** We wanted his concurrence.

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Comrade Speaker, I concur that we adjourn this for two weeks from now.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:50 UNTIL 2012.02.23 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
23 FEBRUARY 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I am advised to let you know that some publications will be distributed to you, including the Strategic Plan of the IPU. I had that in mind when I was speaking about the theme of this Session of Parliament. After I was inducted as the President of the IPU, at the first meeting of its Executive Committee I asked the Executive Committee and the Secretary-General to give me a copy of the IPU Strategic Plan and everybody chuckled and at the end I was told that IPU did not have a Strategic Plan, for an organisation created in 1889, the Strategic Plan was adopted last year by the IPU and you will find the related documents that I am advised I should let you know, that apart from the other very important documents you read daily, this will be your additional reading material.

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

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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

- Education Development Fund for the Financial Years ended March 31, 2009 and 2010;

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- Namibia Press Agency for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2011;
- National Heritage Council for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2010;
- Motor Vehicle Accident Fund for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2011; and
- Karakul Board of Namibia for the Financial Year ended March 30 2011.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions. Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Today being Thursday, we will deal with Questions. Question 1 was put by Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 1:**

**HON MOONGO:** I put the Question.

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to answer the Questions asked by Honourable Moongo. However, before I do that, I want to appeal to Honourable Moongo to listen and to understand, because it is the third time I am answering this type of question and I would like him to understand what I



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am going to tell him so that he does not ask a similar question just in another form.

The Honourable Member would like to know whether the Minister of Defence can explain what prompted and why was S&T not paid to members of the Defence Force residing in Windhoek, who were assigned to go to Uulunga waKolondo for three months and from Otavi to Ondangwa.

I would like to answer and inform the Honourable Member and this House that these members were sent to Uulunga waKolondo to participate in a military exercise, to which we also invited you. There they joined NDF members from different formations and units for that specific exercise called Desert Rumble II. Each member had a special role to play in the preparation and the conducting of this exercise. When the NDF moves a large number of troops, it provides for their sustenance and survival for the duration of the assigned mission. It is impossible for the Ministry of Defence to provide S&T. S&T, in normal circumstances, is provided to people who have no accommodation, no food, so that they can sleep in hotels and buy food. In this case food, accommodation and everything was provided, including a clinic. I do not think the Government has enough money to give you food and then again give you money to buy food. Where would they buy food in Uulunga waKolondo and there is no hotel in Uulunga waKolondo.

I think you will all understand that when you are given S&T, you are given for that purpose. The officers you mentioned, namely Major to Commander, you should understand that a Major is a rank and a Commander is a function. A Major can be a Commander and a Colonel can be a Commander.

We provided transport for these forces, food and accommodation, therefore there was no need for them to receive S&T. If one day there would be a combat operation and they go to war, would you want us to give them S&T? We must understand these things and there is no way that they were discriminated against, they were provided with adequate essentials which could sustain them for three months. Even toilets were

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provided, water tanks were provided, field kitchens were provided and they had showers. It was like a hotel for them.

The purpose of travelling and subsistence allowance is to cover expenses incurred by an employee while on an official trip and I think that is clear to everyone. However, in the case under discussion the members were provided with all supplies needed while deployed operationally and it was not necessary for the Ministry to pay out S&T, as all their needs were catered for. They were at the base which was as if they are in a cantonment, namely lodgings for soldiers.

The officers were assigned to go and supervise from different units and they needed to get accommodation either in Ondangwa or in Oluno or elsewhere because they were not part of these soldiers who lodged there. However, the Commanding Officers were with their units and they did not receive S&T because they had to live with their forces in order to organise them properly.

In Question 3 the Honourable Member is asking whether the NDF regulations prevent the members to demonstrate against unfair victimisation and unequal treatment in the Force. Is misinterpretation of regulations the cause of suffering of members of the Force?

Honourable Moongo, when the Defence Act (Act 1 of 2002) was adopted in this House you were a Member and you should have read the Act and informed the members of their rights. As a Member of Parliament you should have informed that member that what he is asking is not provided for. The Defence Act puts reasonable restrictions on members of the Defence Force not to demonstrate publicly against perceived or real victimisation and unequal treatment in the Force. It is lucidly stated in Section 10 of the Military Disciplinary Code, Schedule 1, which is incorporated in the Defence Act (Act 1 of 2002) that any person who in circumstances not amounting to an offence under any other provision of this Code, conspire with another person to mutiny or cause a mutiny, joins a mutiny, being present at a mutiny, fails to do such person's utmost to suppress the mutiny or being aware or suspecting that any other person is conspiring to cause a mutiny, fails to report without delay to his or her

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superior officer all the facts within his or her knowledge in that regard, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years.

If you demonstrate in the Defence Force it is mutiny and you could be prosecuted. Before you join the Defence Force, the regulations are read to you to understand and even when the recruits are trained, we address them upon completion of the training and then at that particular moment they take an oath of allegiance, to say I commit myself to the regulations and laws of the Namibian Defence Force, that you will not demonstrate, you will not belong to any Trade Union and only serve the Nation and be prepared to die for this country. If we allow them to demonstrate, then one day when you want them to go and defend this country, they will demonstrate and not go there. Therefore, it is not allowed in the Defence Force.

Therefore, it can be clearly inferred from the Defence Act that any member who is subject to the Act shall not strike or perform any act of public protest or participate in any strike or act of public protest or conspire with, or incite or encourage, instigate or command any other person to strike or to perform such an act or to participate in a strike or such an act.

It is, therefore, a requirement that those who take up employment in the Defence Force accept to be detached from interests and activities of ordinary society and of ordinary citizens because they become soldiers. Members of the Namibian Defence Force are prevented from taking any action at all to support any purpose, objective or demonstration. Such restrictions imposed on the NDF members are necessary for a democratic society and they are also in the best interest of sovereignty and integrity of Namibia's national security and public order. You know how dangerous it would be to allow soldiers to demonstrate. They can demonstrate with their tanks or their aircraft, loaded with bombs and what do you expect will happen? They will bomb you or you will see a tank coming through this wall while in Parliament. Why are you calling for them to demonstrate?

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It can however be accepted, that when a member of the Namibian Defence Force feels that he or she is unfairly victimised or receives unequal treatment at work, the provision in Military Disciplinary Code which serves as an aid for all members of the NDF to seek justice be enacted. It is stated with absolute certainty in Section 33 of the Military Disciplinary Code's Schedule 1, which is incorporated in the Defence Act (Act 1 of 2002) that any person who fails to attend to a complaint by another person who is subjected to the Military Disciplinary Code that has been lodged with such person, under the impression redressing the whole or referring the complaint to higher authority in accordance with the Military Disciplinary Code or to report a complaint to higher authority or to the Minister, when it is such person's duty to direct the complaint to such person's Commanding Officer or other authority as directed in the Military Disciplinary Code commits an offence and is liable upon conviction to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year.

Therefore, they are all represented and what they should do is to direct their complaint to their direct Commander, because in Defence it is so transparent that if you have a complaint, you write directly to your Commanding Officer. If he fails to take it up, then he has committed an offence and then he can be found guilty and be sentenced to imprisonment not exceeding one year. Therefore, they have to forward all the complaints of their subordinates. A member must, therefore, exhaust existing internal grievance procedures which are handled by a network of mutually supporting command systems devoid of any demonstrations. He or she can also direct the complaint to the Minister or the Commanding Officer, higher than his direct Commander. That is also open for them to do.

It is not only the Defence Act that makes provision for members to lodge their complaints when they are unfairly victimised or receive unequal treatment at work. If a member of the NDF believes that he or she has been unfairly victimised or treated unfairly, he or she can visit the Office of the Ombudsman. The Office of the Ombudsman serves as an office of the last resort for serving members of the Defence Force, who must first exhaust existing internal grievance procedures before the Ombudsman can review or examine their cases. An aggrieved member can, for example,

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lodge such complaint with the Ombudsman on actions taken without proper authority, taken on irrelevant grounds, the result of negligence or carelessness, based on wrong or incomplete information, improper, discriminatory or contrary to fair or sound administration.

It is explicitly stated that the Labour Act (Act 11 of 2007) does not cover members of the NDF. However, Section 5 of the Labour Act which deals with the prohibition of discrimination and sexual harassment, applies to all employers and employees. This means that even the members of the Defence Force are protected against such discrimination.

Honourable Moongo, you are listening and you have a copy of the Defence Act. I also suspect that these people who are raising such questions are those who have joined the Defence Force because of employment and not because they have a passion to serve in the Defence Force. They are not ready to serve and sacrifice their lives, because they have come here for employment and they want a cent every time they move, forgetting that they are being taken care of. Next time when we recruit, it will be very strict, to take only those who have a passion to defend and be custodians to the safety of this country. I thank you.

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**HON MOONGO:** I would like to thank the Minister and say that his members were not aware of all those facts, otherwise they would not come with the same questions all the time. If I can get that answer, I will take it to them. However, if those Majors and Commanders were accommodated in towns like Ondangwa and come every morning and receive S&T, there are would not be complaints. They did not know all this. I thank the Minister and if he can provide me with the answer, I can convince his members if he has failed to do so.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The First Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Shixwameni. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

Secondment? Objections? Shall we first allow Honourable Shixwameni to motivate the Motion?

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**MOTION ON BASIC POOR  
HOUSEHOLD INCOME GRANT**

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for allowing me to motivate the Motion before it can be objected to.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise in the spirit of the President's recent call on all of us to come forward with creative developmental ideas and to debate them thoroughly and not to dismiss them from the table before ideas as heard.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, our distinguished Honourable Speaker, Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, presided over the United Nations General Assembly Meeting as president of that august House which adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of which the first MDG is to "*Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger*" by 2015.

From the start I would like to acknowledge the efforts taken by the Government of our Republic to address the socio-economic plight of our people, such as the continued payment of old-age pensions, OVC grants, the current TIPEEG programme, the San and marginalised groups programme and many other programmes and ideas that the Government has come up with in the past twenty-two years.

Whilst acknowledging these, we should also be conscious of the fact that many of the ideas had not materialised as we all would have wished, in terms of eradicating poverty and eliminating unemployment. My dear brother, Calle Schlettwein, when I tabled the Motion said, "*this issue has been debated and why do you bring it up time and again?*" I would like to say that until such time that poverty is eradicated, we must not rest and

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we must put our ideas to a continuous workshop of debating. We cannot give up and say this idea has been thrown off the table. We should bring ideas for debate and refinement, time and time again until the Nation agrees what is the best.

Martin Luther King Junior once said: *“I am now convinced that the simplest approach which will prove to be the most effective solution to poverty eradication, is to abolish it directly by a now widely discussed measure, the Guaranteed Income Grant.”*

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, with the twin problems of both unemployment and poverty standing above 51% and 48%, respectively, in our country, we as national leaders should be more concerned and more worried as to what are the practical solutions that we bring to the table in order to help solve the problems that are at 48% and 51%, respectively. These are Government statistics and we cannot, as the very Honourable Minister said the other day, hide our heads in the sand.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the *“Promotion of the Welfare of the People”* is the heading of Article 95 of Chapter 11, titled Principles of State Policy of our Republic and Constitution. It clearly states that *“the State shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting, inter alia, policies aimed at the following”*, amongst others and I am just mentioning the two that are relevant to the Motion that I am moving on the Floor of this august House and they are:

*“(g) enactment of legislation to ensure that the unemployed, the incapacitated, the indigent and the disadvantaged are accorded such social benefits and amenities as are determined by Parliament to be just and affordable with due regard to the resources of the State;*

*“(j) consistent planning to raise and maintain an acceptable level of nutrition and standard of living of the Namibian people and to improve public health.”*

The ever-deteriorating living conditions of our people, coupled with the ever-increasing rate of unemployment and shortage of housing warrants

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the immediate and urgent implementation of the above policies as a matter of urgency by our Government. We can no longer delay a firm and solid response aimed at poverty eradication in our rich country with poor people.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, people are starving in this country, forcing them to scavenge at rubbish dumps all around our country's towns and overnight forced to scavenge in dustbins in the affluent suburbs of the east and southern parts of our beautiful capital city, Windhoek.

I just came from Ohangwena and Oshikoto. Without pre-empting the report that will be laid upon this table, we visited OVCs and I was so appalled, in certain situations I virtually cried. Some members of the delegation basically shed tears because we visited OVC houses where people told us they have not eaten for one week. (Interjections)

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Rule is, as nasty as some things might be, as objectionable as some things might be, we allowed the Motion to be moved and then those who want to contribute to the Motion will have the opportunity to do so. Let us stick to the tradition to allow Honourable Shixwameni to motivate the Motion.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Some of us who travel to the slums, to the areas that some Members probably would not have gone and I said to my Colleagues sometimes when we travel, both the staff and fellow Members of Parliament, they said "but how do you know this country so well that you can tell which pocket of the country it is?" My simple reply that I always give them is that I had the privilege, both as the NANSO Secretary-General, as NANSO President and SWAPO Youth Secretary and as a Minister, to travel the country from east to west, north to south and I have seen both before and after Independence as to what is transpiring in this Nation of ours. Some of our



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people that are seated here, unfortunately only travel between their offices and their villages, I am sorry to say that. We must stop this level of poverty in our country and stop it immediately, not later, and the State has the means to do it right away.

Myself, and I believe most of the Members in this House on both sides of the aisle believe it can be done and be done during our lifetime and not later and I believe as united Namibians we can in fact do it, that we can eliminate extreme poverty from the Land of the Brave and that we can minimise unemployment.

What is the proposal that we are making? We are saying that in this rich country with so many mineral resources, so many other riches, that indeed we can eliminate extreme poverty. We are proposing that every household with a minimum of three and a maximum of six persons living together, which is the basic standard that was adopted by the last census, that an average Namibian family consists of at least a maximum of six persons, that if all of them are living together with a combined income of less than N\$250,000 per annum, and that is just the benchmark, should be classified as poor and should qualify for the Basic Poor Household Income Grant for the next five to ten years.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this is not unrealistic. We as a rich country can indeed do it. I am not myself a statistician and a mathematician, but we have done the calculation which that shows that it is indeed possible and it is doable, it only requires the political will.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let not only the previously well-off, the rich, and the new rich, as they are called in Spanish, *los nuevos ricos*) enjoy the benefits of our hard-fought Independence, but let the poor, the destitute and the not-so-well-off, who anyway are the ones who are in the majority and who bore the brunt of our liberation struggle and fought for this country's Independence, enjoy the fruits of their long suffering, their blood and sweat.

The Basic Poor Household Income Grant programme that we are proposing will be a Targeted National Programme for Poverty

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Eradication, a fundamental instrument of economic justice. It should be a graduated programme for five to ten years and not a permanent one.

Poor households, almost about 100,000 times 6, as per the last census statistics, will amount to lifting more than 600,000 Namibians citizens out of poverty by the stroke of the presidential ball-pen alone. We will be spending about N\$3 billion per annum, compared to TIPEEG, if we allocate an amount of N\$2,500 per month for every classified poor household. This money spent over a ten-year period, which will amount to N\$30 billion, will definitely eliminate extreme poverty in this very resource-rich country where we are told that we have plenty of oil and now of late we have heard the Kudu Gas. To tell you a story since I was at primary school in 1974, I have been hearing about Kudu Gas and I hope it comes and that we exploit this Kudu Gas.

I challenge those ones that doubt these figures to do their own calculations and not to react emotionally, because these are figures that we have sat down with statisticians, with mathematicians who calculated these figures up to the single cent and that it is basically doable, unless if we just do not want to implement it.

It will be a betrayal for the Namibian State and Government to leave the poor to fend for themselves whilst we protect the rich people's wealth and so-called foreign investors and history will of course judge us harshly. We will be committing a historic injustice as leaders if we allow extreme poverty to continue unabated amongst the masses of our people.

Who should be the primary beneficiary from the Basic Poor Household Income Grant that we are proposing? I propose, and not limited to this, that priority for the programme should be given to the following groups in our society:

- Children-headed households, who are in most cases orphans and vulnerable children;
- Female-headed households;

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- Pensioner-headed households;
- And all such families combined together in a household who are unable to get a job for a period of six months of seeking employment.

I believe a more targeted and focused programme is a better approach to address poverty eradication than a universalist programme. That is why we have amended it, that it should not be a universal thing, it should be a targeted programme that would only be able to lift the poor out of poverty, because the universal approach of giving N\$100 to each Namibian, that is two million Namibians, I think the Honourable Prime Minister would not even feel the hundred dollars that have come on his account, neither would Pupkewitz, if you put a thousand dollars on his account, will detect it. He might think it was just a mistake that was made by the bank. That is why we believe that the programme should be targeted.

Why should we be universalist when we know what problem, difficulty or challenge is that we are facing and the one we want to address is exactly known without doubt?

Adults on the programme should work on some community/State programmes in their community as volunteers, either as history tellers at schools, to tell the history of their villages and communities or as cultural workers at schools or any other projects that Government puts up which could involve these people in helping the State to overcome the problems of structural deficiency in our community.

I believe the State has an obligation and the responsibility to protect the weakest in our society at all times and that is why we continue to insist that our Nation State, the Namibian State, must be a strong developmental State. We cannot ascribe to the notion of neo-liberalism, because we do not have the luxury of the neo-liberalist States around the world. We are an emerging Nation State, emerging from a history that is characterised by colonial apartheid oppression and segregation and we should basically rise up to that challenge that we cannot be neoliberal in this country.

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

It should not be about sloganeering and political gerrymandering, it should only be about our people, the electorate and all Namibians and nothing else but them. Poverty must be ended and must be ended in our lifetime and there should be no doubt and compromise amongst us as national leaders and legislators in a resources-rich country, classified internationally as an upper middle-income country, as to why our people must continue to languish and wallow in poverty and live in squatter camps.

As leaders we must not only be concerned about the handful of 10% well-to-do who control and own the resources of our country. We should and must be more and more concerned on a daily and nightly basis about the mass of our poor people in our country, particularly in the rural areas. About the unemployed, under-employed and the poor peasants in our country and the general working and poor living conditions of the working class in our country in general, including the working and living conditions of our men and women in uniform. I would just like to state here that in fact the appalling conditions in which our Police Officers, security officers live in some of the areas are completely deplorable while these are the people that guarantee us day and night security, defending our borders, but they live in deplorable conditions. We need to address them.

What are the possible funding sources for the Basic Poor Household Income Grant? I believe that we as leaders and society at large must be bold enough and consider the following sources for funding and these are not exclusive sources. That is why I am saying, let us put this Motion, adopt it and put it to a nationwide Debate so that we can come up with a solution. Let us not have Cabinet decide what is good for the Nation, let the people speak for themselves as to what would be good for the Nation. Then we can agree as to how we divide the cake that is distributed through the Budget.

I believe that one of the sources is the reform of the current income support programme and tax deductions. I have mentioned that the State provides social grants, such as pensions and OVC grants and many others. The other source is profit accrued from State-Owned Enterprises and

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income from the long overdue State lottery and increase of the sin taxes. Last year the State Lottery Board was commissioned and I would like to see that we implement the State Lottery Act so that we can see what will accrue from that. The last one is wealth taxes for the higher income earners.

The list is not exhaustive and can be very long. That is why I am inviting a Debate and that is why I am saying, let us put it up to public Debate through both public hearings and discussions on both radio, TV and in all our national newspapers so that we as a Nation can come up with the best, if not excellent proposal at the end of the day to make Namibia and Namibians the winners. We can also do international case studies and research to enrich our own national Debates.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, the truth and only truth is that we as a Nation cannot continue to have continuous peace and unity without just and fair wealth redistribution. Let us narrow the income gap as a matter of urgency as soon as possible. Let us all work for real equality of all our citizens. Let us make all Namibians proud, let all of us as national leaders be foot soldiers for equality, justice, fairness and the eradication of poverty in our country during our lifetime.

The curse of poverty has no justification in our age, that is the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and our country. The time has come for us to civilise ourselves by the total, direct and immediate abolition of poverty in our rich country during our lifetime. Let us all rise up to the unique challenge of making poverty history and build a society which celebrates equality, socio-economic justice and real democracy.

I challenge your individual consciences as Members of Parliament and national leaders and collectively as an elected institution to candidly express ourselves openly both as leaders and as Christians, which we claim to be, to stand up and support this Motion which is for the marginalised, for the poor and the working people of our land of the brave. Let us as a country have a Basic Poor Household Income Grant during our lifetime.

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**HON RIRUAKO**

I appeal to all of us as national leaders and legislators in this House to have a mature Debate which will only have one goal in mind, as His Excellency the President of our Nation recently stated, “*creative ideas, well debated policies and for the promotion of the welfare of all our citizens.*” Let the Debate begin and let us have a fruitful mature Debate. Let us all think outside the box and I thank you all for listening to me. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rest my case. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Let me, before the others take the Floor, revert to Honourable Mushelenga who was rising not on the substance of the Motion but on a procedural issue. Once sworn in, Speakers are endowed with the ability to read the Honourable Members’ minds, but it is early in the year, my mind is a bit tired so I could not read clearly what Honourable Mushelenga was up to. He was rising on a procedural issue in that Honourable Shixwameni apparently made reference to a Report of a mission which has not yet been submitted to the House for consideration and that was the point on which he was rising. My apology to you. Honourable Riruako.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Honourable Speaker, there is a bomb in the House. (Interjections). Yes, a bomb of words of the truth. It happened that way, we do not have to run away if we are really elected leaders of the people, for the people. If we are not, do not waste your time, pack and go. If you are, sit down and listen and solve the problem. We cannot tolerate what is happening, we have the money, we cannot lie about that. The TIPEEG is gone, there is no more TIPEEG and it was put before us to implement it in order to take care of that kind of project and the people who were dealing with this put the Honourable Minister of Finance in shame. What are they doing in their offices? They are blaming the Minister of Finance and they were given the cake on the table to cut and divide it. What is wrong with you? Somewhere, somehow that person must be known and be found and be challenged. This is not the way we are supposed to be.

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HON ULENGA**

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40**

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**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:20**

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Honourable Speaker, I was speaking about TIPEEG which was a failure. Now it is for us as a Government to change the outlook and to come up with something tangible and different from what we have done before.

Mr Speaker, I am not here to blame the Minister, I am blaming the doers, those who were supposed to deliver and did not do so. Why? There is no excuse waiting for something to put in your pocket before you go and do the job. That is the problem and we cannot tolerate this nonsense any longer. It is a failure of the whole Government, but it is not the fault of the Government, it is individual desire. That is quite clear and we are not going to take this TIPEEG back, we are going to come up with something else different from what we have started with, because it is quite clear, we have discovered why it was not delivering. We are not going to tolerate this nonsense anymore and Honourable Kuugongelwa, you must be pleased with yourself, you have delivered to them but they did not deliver. It is their failure, it is not yours. Those who were given this task must be taken away from the first task, the failure, and be transferred from the present job to another job where they can perform well. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Ulenga.

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to make a brief contribution on the Motion on the table and let me start by thanking and congratulating the Honourable Shixwameni for bringing to the House

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a discussion that has been long overdue. It has been long overdue because it is a discussion which has been exhausted almost everywhere else except in this House. It is a topic that I am sure that most of us, if not all of us, have been able to deal with during the last ten years.

Honourable Speaker, I will take an approach just slightly different from the immediate previous speaker in that I consider this Motion and this issue to be non-controversial. In other words, it is not controversial at all and I am sure it is a topic on which the whole House will be able to find consensus. Therefore, there will be no need for harsh words, extreme sentences, we are all aware of the extreme poverty under which our people suffer. We also know that this poverty has a long history. The issue, as the Chief was saying, is how to stem the growth of this poverty and how to come back with vigour to the issue of the Millennium Goals amongst which is the alleviation of extreme poverty, if not complete eradication.

I think Honourable Shixwameni is in good company in bringing on this Motion. Not only Martin Luther King Junior, but also the likes of Ghandi, Mandela, Fidel Castro of Cuba and Mother Theresa have been fierce advocates of the BIG.

I think, Honourable Speaker, what we need to have consensus on here really is the principle. The issue of the styles and the forms and the methods can be left to those who know how to do those things, but I think when we look at the policies of the Government of Namibia which always had to come here and to be passed from this House, the idea is indeed that of fighting poverty. I do not want to get into the list of the proposals which are there, Honourable Shixwameni has already listed them. They indeed go out and reach quite a significant section of the population. However, if we go out there and you look at the conditions of Namibia's very, very poor people, your tears would flow, it is true. But do not go to the Ohangwena Region to cry there, you do not have to go one thousand kilometres to cry, just step out of this House and you will see what is happening. Get into Katutura, old Katutura, those original houses, twenty to twenty-five people in every yard. If you are lucky, you will find one or two employed. That is why I have difficulties in believing the 51 percent unemployed, because everywhere I go I ask, how many people are in the house? No, we are fifteen. How many of you do work? No, there is one,



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or there is none. Namibians do not go to look for work, they do not because there is no work. Generations, not just families, generations, a grandmother, the mother, the daughters, the children, four generations live in a house, there is no question of finding a job because the days when I would walk this whole of Windhoek looking for a job and perhaps in the afternoon find some *okuherufuna*, like they used to say, those days are gone.

These people come back without anything at home and can you imagine stepping out and walking the streets, opening doors of each and every house? What kind of thing does that do to your dignity? However, Namibians get forced to get into that kind of activity. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** I wish to pose a question to the Honourable Member just to explain whether the situation of unemployment has just begun in post-independent Namibia, because you mentioned that in the past people could find jobs to assist, but nowadays such opportunity is no longer available. Is it true, Honourable Member?

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, I see the sense of what the Honourable Minister is touching on, but perhaps I should explain. You and I are sons of this soil, I have no doubt about you. It will be your issue if you have doubts about me. It is just like somehow the substance of the matter has changed a little bit. Before, not only before Independence but several years ago...(Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Before Independence you found notices at all the businesses, "*kapena ilonga, kapena ilonga*", meaning there are no jobs, you do not even need to ask. In the seventies when we were still at

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school, we came here to look for jobs during the vacation, but all that you could see were *kapena ilonga* signs at the shops and companies, white companies, which means *kapena ilonga* is not a new phenomenon. The unemployment situation has been there ever since. Thank you.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, unfortunately I was just getting into the meat of my brother's question, I get it completely. I was just trying to explain what has perhaps changed. To make that kind of statement that you are making is like saying poverty has been there ever since man began, so what is the use of fighting poverty now or talking about it, being concerned now because it has been there forever. However, I wanted to talk about specifically this place. Somehow something has changed, but hear me, this is not a cause of Government, it is not a phenomenon only in Namibia because they have been Independent since 1990. Go to any country, go to Zambia, go to Botswana, go to South Africa, the conditions are more or less the same. That we are fighting it here does not necessarily mean that we are so way off, it is a question of addressing an issue that is pressing here in our country.

What you would find is that in the past, first of all, there was a Government that restricted us, kept us in certain places, so Erongo was not overpopulated and you did not have so many people demanding to eat from a meagre, small little source. Now Namibians are coming out because they are free to go out and get what they can get. They are coming out in their millions. You do not even know whether the counting was really that we were only one million or perhaps it was a lie. Therefore, people are coming out.

The other thing that happened is that work has been formalised. That kind of regimentation that has been there before Independence is no longer there. You will remember that in the olden days trucks full of workers were loaded off at the *kampong*, Police everywhere, "*get into there*". The municipality was feeding about ten thousand workers in Windhoek. That kind of organisation is no longer there. These are the issues that we need to deal with now when we deal with poverty in this country, we need to

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look particularly at the situation. People are no longer living divided and their lives are being run by a super State all the time. We need to organise our State and our Government in ways which fit into this situation.

For me it was easier to walk the streets of Windhoek and perhaps in the afternoon I may find some part-time job, simply because there was even this forced order. Now that forced order is no longer there today, which means right now our situation may even be worse simply because it is a new situation. However, we fought for it, we said we want a situation we can control ourselves, not that there will not be problems, of course there will be problems, but these problems are challenges and not that even the Government that will take over will not be criticised, of course it will be criticised because it has to do things right and right is not absolute. There is always right and more right and most right and most-most right. That is how things will work, do not be surprised.

Anyhow, I am almost off the topic because this Motion is not really about that, it is not about criticism, it is just about describing the situation and really finding an answer to the conditions.

There is something I wanted to touch on because I think the Minister came very close to it, this question of politicisation. I hear everybody saying, *“do not politicise it, do not politicise it.”* It looks like there are two distinct meanings of this word “politics” and “politicisation”. I found a fellow two years ago in the street who is walking around with a knobkierie and apparently he wants to bash some Opposition Members and I said, “but you know, our Constitution says this and this about human rights” and he said, *“yes, of course, our Constitution is right, it is the best in the world”*. Then I said, *“but the knobkierie, what is it about?”* He said, *“no, this is just politics.”* What you do in the field does not have to correlate with what is written in the books, because when you go out in the field you do the politics.

Mr Speaker, what is politics? Politics is dealing with the question, namely who is getting what, how often, how much of it and that is what we are all about. Even the struggle was about that, who gets what, when, how often and how much of it? Is it a question of one getting so much while the

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other is getting so little, one getting so often while the other one is getting so seldom and one particular one getting this while the other particular one does not get anything? Who is it that must get, how much must they get and how often?

Here we have come just to do that. Actually we start running away from it, we all are doing politics, but the sense or the mis-sense, the mis-notation that is coming in, namely that politics is like trashing what is wrong or trying to point out fault of the other or whatever. I do not think if you stand up and like often many do, "*the Honourable Member must go back to school, you must listen now, you are asking stupid questions*", that kind of approach is not really politicising matters, that is called something else but I will not get into that.

Honourable Speaker, I have listened to many in Namibia outside this House. I see that the Honourable Hage Geingob is now out, I have heard many others on the other side of the House speaking in favour of BIG. I know that several of the manifestos of some Parties in this House, not just one, had something to say in favour of BIG. There is some work that says no, if people get BIG they will get lazy and they will get used to getting stuff they have not worked for. In Namibia today you find people really getting stuff, not just a little of it, but quite a lot of it for nothing, not just in terms of N\$100, but millions. My dear friend, go out there, read the papers, hear who is getting N\$200 million because he facilitated, a, b, c. Hear who is getting half a million US Dollars because he was there at the right spot at the right time. I am not getting personal, this is us, this is what we do, it is like being the right person, know the right people, be at the right place at the right time, then you get not just N\$100, you will get several million dollars and you have not done anything. You do not even have to have been in the struggle, you do not even have to have been in exile or in prison or here, you just have to be at the right place at the right time. This is Namibia today. Therefore, how can it be not right if you sit there in the streets or in these suffocating houses and get N\$100?

Mind you, this cannot be a permanent solution, it is true. Of course, poverty shall always be there, but I think poverty can be controlled in such

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a way that we will not need BIG forever, but Comrade Shixwameni, I think five years are too short, five years flies by just like five minutes. At least ten years will be a kind of period of time where you can measure the successes or failure of a programme like this one.

Mr Speaker, I think I have said enough, there are many others who want to say something about this. The project in Omitara can be our starting point, because like somebody else said, we do not just have to rush into this thing. I think there may even be a need for discussions, hearings, even a kind of survey to ascertain certain things.

I wanted to mention some of the places I have been to that are really shockingly poor, but I think it will actually be a waste of time because there are so many in Namibia. I must say, there was just one that was really bad. We were supposed to go and see a Police woman somewhere, we were travelling and it was night and we had to go and find this Police woman in Usakos. She is a servant of the State and you know, we struggled to find this woman's house where she was living, just getting there. There is no question of electricity, there is no question of a proper shack and this is a woman who must every morning put on uniform and go and guard the State, the people against crime, arrest people who do this. The conditions of her situation were just completely bad, but I know there are other people who are far worse off than that.

Money will never be enough to solve all the problems, but at least a certain amount granted by the State may lead to a situation where...(Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:**

May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Ulenka, you have mentioned a female colleague who is in uniform and you were struggling to get her house and so on. Since this Government started, the Government has been trying to increase the Budget of the Ministry of Safety and Security and Defence, but the Government was faced by arguments from the other side of the House. (Interjections).

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Mr Lucks, you are new in this House, I was one of the people who were fighting for this and I served in the Committee on Security. We know how we fought against this. We are the people, including Comrade Ben Amathila, who went to investigate the conditions of the Safety and Security officials, but we faced this challenge. There was a Member on the other side who even accused us that; what is the point of having a Defence Force in Namibia, are we afraid of somebody coming to attack us? The same applies to the Police which you are talking about. The Government has been trying to increase their Budget, but we were faced with opposition by the Colleagues on that side. Are you aware of that?

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, let me say this: Yes, the Honourable Minister is right when it comes to the facts. It is true, there were people opposing and I have opposed certain aspects of the Vote on Defence on some occasions. Therefore, you are right in terms of the facts generally, but you are wrong in the spirit of this Motion on the Table. It has nothing to do with pointing fingers. If there will be a question of pointing fingers, it is the refusal to act. Let us not get stuck in the past. So what if there are people who oppose proposals or criticise proposals from the Government? That is how it should be. (Intervention)

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**HON RIRUAKO:** On a Point of Order. I defended the Budget of Defence in front of you, not from there, the amount that should be given to them. Can you rule out that fact? (Interjection)

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** I do not have the Floor.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** But next time when you speak, come up with it.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, that is the business of ours, debating over issues and there should not be any fear of contradiction if somebody stands up and debates and has various opposing views on, for example, the Vote on Defence.

Only two days ago I met a young man who was asking me two things, which I will explain. Why do we have an army? This is now 22 years after Independence. So, do not think Namibians have stopped debating that thing and I can tell you, it will be there forever. Surely even in America they are debating why do we have an army. Some will maybe say why do we have schools or why do we have hospitals? It is a question of perspective, where do you stand and how do you see these things.

Somebody was asking me, this money that is being paid out to veterans, why should they be paid? I am a veteran, I had to explain what I have seen there concerning other veterans, but I cannot now start condemning a person because he is raising these matters because sometimes it is a question of not understanding, sometimes it is a question of putting value on certain things. It is true that you will have a position on it if you walk around the country and you find illiterate kids of 15, 16 and then you find these army guys in the camps. We are told that they are going to defend this country when there is war, we send money to them, they sit in camps, they do this, they do that and they go to the location and do this and that. Then somebody says, "*why do they have this job, why do they not do this and that?*" These are legitimate things, you must just counter them with other legitimate arguments. Some would say the army should be carrying out other work besides fighting, some would say education is more important than defence, some would say defence cannot be absent, it must be there. It is a question of educating, arguing and convincing each other.

Honourable Speaker, I was concluding and I was just saying that, let us not even count places that we have seen which look like they are poorer than others, let us take the bull by its horns, let us send out a team there which will carry out a survey or let us instruct the Executive to do that and to come back with a Report to Parliament which will indicate which particular area, which particular group of people, which particular settlements we need to start with and how much is it going to be. Is it

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going to be N\$100, N\$200, N\$500 or exactly how much? The nitty-gritty needs to be worked out by a ground force, not by the Parliamentarians. We must agree in principle that we are going to fight poverty determinedly. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. The next speaker is Honourable Maamberua.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Actually my intervention was just going to look at the matter of procedure, that the Motion has requested in the second Paragraph that this Motion be referred to a Joint Committee for further scrutiny and in-depth analysis, consultations and so on. I wanted to concur with that proposal coming from the Motion itself and humbly request the indulgence of the House that we immediately refer this Motion to a Committee so that we can be more informed as to the outcome of the research and consultations through that Committee. Maybe the Human Resources Committee can be the right Committee to do that. Thank you very much.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you, very much, Honourable Speaker. In the light of Paragraph (b) of the Motion, I will also agree that this Motion needs to be referred to a Parliamentary Committee and in the same spirit of the Parliamentary Committee, without pre-empting what may or may not come out of it, my experience for the few years that I have been in this House is that sometimes when the findings are presented here from the Committees, we become defensive, we take it personally, that our Ministries are targeted or individual persons are aiming at Kazenambo as a person and I hope on this one that will not be the spirit.



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Nation-building requires us to apply brakes. I will repeat, nation-building requires us to apply brakes. We are driving this Nation on a highway and anything that is being driven that does not have brakes will cause you to collide. Please, we need to listen to one another in order to apply brakes so that we do not collide. It is that information of applying brakes that will be my prelude to this Motion.

A writer called Paul Harrison, a former journalist who worked in many African countries, wrote many books with regard to his experiences and the theme of a number of his books that I read is *“Into the Third World.”* One of the situations that he captures in his books is migration from rural areas to urban areas in developing Nations in Asia, Africa and Southern America and much of his work is on poverty. Why I am using the applying of brakes is that he analyses poverty and he categorises it into many categories and sustainable development studies describe poverty in many ways. One is psychological, one is seasonal, one is conditional. Seasonally poverty manifests itself in different ways. In the community I come from, during the rainy season poverty takes a different dimension as compared to drought. Wherever you go during the rainy season they would say, *“why can you not give him milk”* and you want visitors to come, but during the dry season you would like people to pass your household because food has become limited. We even have months that we call *sekira pu nyoko*, arrive at your relative.

Poverty is also psychological in the sense that a person is driving a big Mercedes Benz even if he cannot buy petrol for that Mercedes Benz, psychologically he is poor because he would like to live in a mansion while he cannot even meet the bond. However, I am not going to address the psychological and seasonal poverty here, I am going to share my experience in contributing to this Motion.

To me this is a moving Motion and I am one of the privileged tate’s because economically I come from a privileged background. However, coming from that economically privileged background has exposed me to the realities of poverty. One day in 2005, shortly after I was appointed as Deputy Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing, I was on a mission to Omaruru in the Erongo Region. After I did my official

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duties I went to Spar, I bought my food at Spar and went back to my car. There were some women sitting there and I was not attracted by them, but I was attracted by the place I parked my car. While I was enjoying my food, I saw these women had bags of pellets, those things we feed the cattle with. They collect them from trees and they were sitting with those bags and bottles of water and they were sharing it with their babies and also some leftovers from a dustbin. Tears ran from my eyes and that was not my first experience. Whether we like it or not, that is the situation in this country. Women and children sitting under that tree and I asked myself, why do I need to exist in this world? I looked back at the way I am privileged, recently appointed Deputy Minister, a business person while other citizens are eating those. (Intervention)

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Can I ask a question? What did you do after you discovered that and your tears started coming out? Did you give them a bite or not?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Let me answer that, Chief, it is a good question and I am bringing this experience to share what I did. My immediate reaction was not a permanent solution. I only shared the little that I had, an extra drink that I had and the food, but that could not address the situation. Nothing could change that. That is what I did, I reacted as a person who was crying in my car, I got out and shared, but that was a temporary measure, not meaning anything to their challenge. This goes to the challenges of nation-building. A lawmaker, business person, coming from an economically privileged background, but that is the reality. That is why I support Paragraph (b) of this Motion wholeheartedly.

Yesterday I went to a Restaurant in Independence Avenue and met three gentlemen. They came to me and politely said, "*Honourable Minister, can we talk to you?*" The brave one approached me and I said yes, what is your issue? He said, "*we want to make an appointment with you at your office, can we do that?*" I said, "*you can always do that, I am a*

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*public figure?” He said, “can I relate my case” and I said, “go ahead.” He said, “no, Honourable Minister, we take photos and if you can allow us to take your photo, we take pictures and then we print them and give them to people, but we have been taking these pictures in Goreangab Dam and also here. Two months ago we were chased away from Goreangab Dam, we are no longer allowed to take pictures there and generate income for ourselves.” Three young men with good cameras and everything. “Now we are here and we are not sure how long we are going to be here, but can we take your picture?” I said, “why and who have chase you?” “No, we were chased away from there, we were told to go to the Municipality. We went to some places and we keep on being referred from one point to the other, so we want to come to your Ministry and relate our case.” I said, “please call my secretary, leave your number there so that I can investigate.”*

That is why I am saying that this Motion requires us to look holistically at the causes, not the symptoms of poverty, because poverty manifests itself in different dimensions. It is caused by culture and the Government of the Republic of Namibia has done a lot, as Comrade Shixwameni has enumerated. He has acknowledge Government programmes, which I can also mention. There are beautiful programmes but it is not enough, people are eating from dustbins. (Intervention)

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Honourable Kazenambo, have you ever eaten with your servant in your house at the same table?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** I will directly answer that with my experience and I have mentioned my experience. Yes, I have eaten with servants, I have eaten with employees at my house and I am still eating with them. Even if you go to my farm, I eat with my workers at the moment.

To answer your question, I want to enrich your question. When I was a

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child in Botswana, to answer your question and that is why we should look at causes, one day we were slaughtering three goats and my own biological half-brother refused to skin a goat. He was saying, *“why are these workers here and now we have to skin the goat?”* He refused and I will summarise this story to go to the story of psychological poverty, he refused totally and my father kept quiet. We skinned the goat and we started cooking meat. As we were now eating meat, my father said, *“you are not going to eat this meat, you are not”* and all of us were puzzled, why? My mother was quiet, my brother asked why? He said, *“no, you are saying that they are workers, but let me tell you, to start with, of this goat that was slaughtered there is none that is yours, it belongs to me”* and because my father was a pastor, he said, *“God has created people in many ways, He gave him a lot of wealth but He deprived him manpower that he can take care of his wealth, that is how God balances these things”* and I am not in a church. He told my brother that these people you call workers are providing their labour so that we can co-exist and survive together. That is what makes me to eat with my workers up to today because God balances things and my brother was not rich with anything and my father told him that he is poor and these workers are richer than him, than his psychology tells him. (Interjection). Yes, they are human beings just like us. That is why I want this Motion to go to a Committee.

Some of the people are in these conditions of poverty not by choice. Some of these people that we call poor do not find themselves in this situation by choice, it is circumstances that makes them poor and this Motion is saying that we should look at mechanisms and programmes, to reinforce those programmes already in existence, to address the basic income of the people who do not have. You will find them everywhere.

The former Governor of the World Bank used to say that they do not have any colour, they do not have any language, you will find them in valleys, you will find them in mountains, you will find them in cities and the conditions keep changing. If we find more safety valves to release the pressure of poverty, it will be more helpful and this is my understanding of this Motion.

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In Gam there is a group of people from the San community and we have a programme for the San community in the Office of the Prime Minister, but still some were not captured by that safety net. You find people collecting firewood, carrying it on their heads and they support families of more than fifty by selling firewood which they carry kilometres on their bodies. Even if you drive from here to Brakwater, you will see women from the settlements of Katutura, Havana or Okahandja Park collecting firewood from the farms surrounding Dobra to support their families.

If we can hear their voices, listen to their voices, apply the brakes on the super highway of building this Nation to listen to their conditions and circumstances and to hear the best solutions, like those boys that I met yesterday, it might contribute to the reduction of poverty in this country.

I am adding my voice by saying that let us hear their voices, let us listen to their voices. My boss will talk further and may God forgive me where I have trespassed. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Prime Minister.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** My initial idea was to beg the indulgence of the gallant Members of this House on this side that I should adjourn this Debate to another date so that we can consult, but since you have given the Floor to Honourable Kazenambo, I have changed my original idea. Therefore, if there are people who want to speak, let them speak.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Deputy Minister of Finance.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for giving me the Floor. I also intended to adjourn the Debate because it is a rather complex issue which has a number of elements that we must look at and listening to the Honourable Prime Minister, I did not change my mind and I do request to adjourn the Debate. I also hope that God forgives me. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Tjiuiko.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you, very much, Honourable Speaker. I was actually thinking of adjourning the Debate, but having listened to the Colleagues, I have realised that I only need two minutes to make a contribution.

Let me start by congratulating Honourable Shixwameni for bringing this Motion, but most importantly, the manner in which he has motivated the Motion has made a difference. Obviously, being a next-door neighbour I believe that he has learned from my experience.

Honourable Speaker, the most important thing that I have seen in this Motion and the reason why I do not want to spend too much time on the Floor is the fact that in principle all of us in this Chamber have agreed that there is a need for us to look at this problem. That is critically important. We may differ in the approaches that we are going to employ, but the fact of the matter is that we all agreed that this Motion has come at the right time and we need to look at it critically and carefully and I have seen this from the attitude of the Prime Minister by saying we should go and consult. That is very important, I have also consulted with the Chief.

One issue that is still bothering me and I want us to take this home, is the fact that we should not try to compare ourselves with anybody else. We should not look at what happens in South Africa, in Zambia, we have a unique situation in this country, we have resources, we have the human

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resources that can turn this situation around. I do not like the idea of somebody trying to compare the current Government with the previous administration, these are two distinct things. This is a people's Government, we are here, elected to represent the will of the people. We should not be compared to what happened in the past and that is one reason why people have thrown that system out. Therefore, what we need to do as leaders is to put our thoughts together on how best we can go about this system.

I do not want to start looking at the figures of unemployment, the poverty level and all these things, that has already been said and I do not think this is the right time for us to do that. Let me put my weight behind the idea that this Motion should be referred to the Committee and I am not sure whether a Joint Parliamentary Committee may have what it takes for us to get the necessary, properly researched Report that would enable us to come up with an informed decision. I do not doubt the ability of our people, but I think that in a situation like this, it would maybe be better for us to source an experienced institution that would do proper research and come up with sound, polished recommendations for our consideration, that would take the cost involved and the impact into consideration.

Honourable Speaker, let me rest my case and I propose that maybe the Colleague should look at that and decide to amend the Motion. Otherwise, I support the Motion.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Nyamu.

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**HON NYAMU:** Honourable Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to share views with other Colleagues who have spoken and those who would want to speak later.

I have initially thought I will express myself fully on the matter, but taking

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into account the complexity of this Motion and the fact that I did not have

an opportunity to consult with my Colleagues on the matter, I support the proposal of the Deputy Minister of Finance to postpone the discussion on this matter until a later date within a week or so. Only then will I be able to speak not only for myself but on behalf of my Colleagues as well. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** There are two ideas, they do not necessarily contradict each other. One was to defer it to a Committee and the other is to adjourn the Debate for further consideration until a specific date. One implies that we fix a date when to resume consideration of this Motion and if at the end of that exercise the House agrees to refer it to a relevant Committee, then we would at that stage consider doing so. I would now invite somebody to adjourn for further consideration until some specific date. Prime Minister.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** At this stage I want to appeal to the Colleagues who are talking about the Committee that, since some people have already expressed themselves, natural justice requires that we should allow other people also to express themselves. Therefore, I am proposing that we adjourn the Debate until the 15<sup>th</sup> of March.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objections? This Motion stands adjourned until the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2012. The Second Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds? Objections? You have the Floor.

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**MOTION ON RECONCILIATION  
HON MOONGO**

**MOTION ON RECONCILIATION**

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I am reintroducing this Motion as it lapsed last time.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, welcome back from the recess. I hope this time of the year you are able to listen and learn and identify what is wrong and what is right in Namibia.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, Namibia is regarded as a true democratic country and enjoys high respect worldwide, but there is still bitterness and anger in the hearts of some political leaders about the tyranny and high intolerance. The colonial and revolutionary feelings are deep-rooted and it is very hard to forget the painful colonial and revolutionary events of the past. These past events will never be repeated. If you are a true and honest Christian or an atheist, try to forget and forgive the past. As the Bible says, do not let the sun set with anger. Do not be cross with your neighbour, do not allow the sun to set, feel free to go and talk to him and apologise and reconcile before the sun sets. Traditionally we say, no revenge of a fight, *oluhodhi ihalu shuninwa otalukufaalele*.

I am motivating again the bitterness, insult, intolerance and hate speeches which we always hear in Namibia here and there. We want to bury it and bury the past. It is destroying peace, stability and lasting reconciliation in Namibia. It is a fact, it degrades human dignity. Therefore, those who are going to repeat it after we introduce a law are supposed to be punished.

Then you will see peace flourish and there will be peace in every corner of Namibia and it will be easier to unite. As everybody knows, it is the task of the Government to unite the people. We cannot unite with anger and hatred. We must stop using those very bad old words like *omashenge*, homosexuals, *Omaramaba mbongo*, traitors or puppets or Satanists, unqualified, inexperienced Ovambos, hungry and stupid with a Koevoet mentality. We must no longer repeat those words, those were colonial

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**MOTION ON RECONCILIATION  
HON MUTORWA**

terms. Let us bury the past and forgive each other and walk as one Namibia, one Nation.

I do not think this Motion is a bad thing. Do you want to carry on with anger?

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I call upon the President and the Prime Minister to take this Motion seriously because if they do not support it directly, Namibia will be degraded to a lower standard internationally and unity and true reconciliation will not easily be achieved in Namibia. I, therefore, request all of us, for the sake of unity and true reconciliation, to accept this Motion and work together as a united Nation, give each other the hand, talk to each other and bury the past. With this I request the support of the House. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank Honourable Moongo for motivating his Motion. Honourable Mutorwa.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
Thank you, Comrade Speaker, for giving me the Floor to make a contribution to the Motion on the Floor of this House.

Permit me to start off by stating that I do not have a problem with the motivation by Honourable Moongo, the sermon on reconciliation, which is something that we need to remind ourselves about every day as we are moving forward as a Nation. However, Comrade Speaker, we debate issues in this House as they are phrased on the Order Paper. When I look at the phrasing of this particular subject matter that the Honourable Member wants this House to debate and I compare that to the motivation, they do not speak to one another.

The phrasing on the Order Paper requires and requests this Honourable House to discuss and resolve to initiate a law to regulate respect for

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**MOTION ON RECONCILIATION**  
**HON MUTORWA**

human dignity and prevent any cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment in Namibia.

Now I am going to make the following contribution, Comrade Speaker: *“The duties and functions and responsibility of the National Assembly”*, and I am quoting from Article 63 of the Constitution, *“is to make and repeat laws for the peace, order and good Government of the country in the best interest of the people of Namibia.”* To make and repeal laws – the operative words here are to make and to repeal, but in his motivation the Honourable Member is basically requesting this House to initiate a law, which is not the responsibility and duty of this House in terms of the Constitution. (Interjection)

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**HON MOONGO:** That is another excuse.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
No, it is not another excuse. I mean, we have to be procedural, we have laws, we have Rules that guide the activities of this House and, therefore, Comrade Speaker, I am saying that inasmuch as the intentions are good, I think it is not correct procedurally for the Honourable Member to request this House to initiate a Bill. That is not what the Constitution requires this House to do and, therefore, the Honourable Member can maybe go and reformulate. However, if the intention of the Honourable Member is to initiate a private member’s bill, that is a different matter. That is provided for in the Standing Rules and Orders and it is for the Honourable Member to initiate a private member’s bill and then they can take it from there. However, I still contend that I do not think if the intention is to request this House to debate that and to initiate a Bill, that it would be what this House is supposed to do. That is my argument, I do not know what the Speaker will rule, but that is how I look at it the way it is formulated on the Order Paper. I rest my case.

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**MOTION ON RECONCILIATION  
HON MUSHELENGA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Mushelenga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to make my contribution to the Motion by Honourable Moongo.

Honourable Moongo's Motion, as it says, that this Assembly discusses and resolves to initiate a law to regulate respect for the human dignity and prevent any cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in Namibia. Whether we debate here or we task one Ministry to go and initiate a law is another issue, but all that I am saying is that Honourable Moongo is addressing an issue that is exactly already provided for in law. I am going to read some provisions from the Constitution and I am going to qualify further my argument with decided cases by our Courts of law that exactly prove that we already have these laws and it is a question whether they are being adhered to and in the event that they are not being adhered to, what needs to be done.

Today, Honourable Speaker, this book was distributed, *"The Constitution in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"*, the provisions of which I am going to lecture Honourable Moongo on. I refer him to Page 93, Article 8, *"Respect for Human Dignity"*, which reads: *"The dignity of all persons shall be inviolable. In any judicial proceedings or in other proceedings before any organ of the State and during the imposition of a penalty, respect for human dignity shall be guaranteed. No person shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."* That is what this Constitution provides for. There is actually a law, a supreme law of the country which provides for this.

Then going to case law, there is the well-known case decided by our Courts when the Attorney-General took a matter, the case of *Ex parte Attorney-General* regarding corporal punishment in public institutions. Honourable Speaker, the Judgment of that case... (Intervention)

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**MOTION ON RECONCILIATION**  
**HON MUSHELENGA**

**HON NYAMU:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? The Deputy Minister read a passage from the Constitution regarding the protection of human dignity and the Constitution says torture is not allowed. Would the Deputy Minister explain the meaning of torture in detail, what type of form can torture take? Can the Minister explain what his understanding is of torture?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, if Honourable Nyamu would just have exercised some patience, I was going to talk about all these facts.

In that Judgment the Learned Judge talked about the negative effects of corporal punishment, that is now physical torture. First it is violating the dignity of a person, secondly, such type of punishments dehumanise such a person. To be flogged is a humiliation in itself. Thirdly, it also leads to mental torture, because when you are being flogged, and it is not only at schools where people are flogged, also at traditional institutions, people are looking at you while you are being flogged and even your children. Imagine a man of the age of Honourable Kaura being flogged in front of his children and imagine children seeing him cry. That will torture the Honourable Member mentally.

Again, this type of corporal punishment is discussed in the Judgment. Even the person that is carrying out the corporal punishment would be affected too, because by carrying out this corporal punishment, you must transform yourself into a certain mood in order to be able to flog someone. Even if you are not angry, you must try to instigate yourself that you become really aggressive in order to flog the person. That is why our Courts do not approve of that.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned under automatic adjournment until Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.02.28 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
28 FEBRUARY 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**BILLS CONSIDERED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** I have been informed by the Chairman of the National Council that the Council has, in terms of Article 75(2) of the Constitution, considered and confirmed the following Bills without Amendments:

- (a) Judges Pension Bill;
- (b) High Court Amendment Bill;
- (c) Stamp Duties Amendment Bill;
- (d) Value Added Tax Amendment Bill;
- (e) Income Tax Third Amendment Bill;
- (f) Labour Amendment Bill; and
- (g) Geo-science Conscience Professions Bill of 2011.

I shall now, in terms of Article 75(3), refer these Bills to the President to deal with them under Articles 56 and 64 of the Constitution.

I have further been informed by the Chairman of the National Council that the Council, in terms of Article 75(2) of the Constitution, considered and confirmed the Flexible Land Tenure Bill, 2011, with Amendment. This Bill will be placed on the Order Paper for reconsideration by the Assembly as soon as possible.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select

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**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON NGHIMTINA / HON SCHLETTWEIN**

Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Works and Transport.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORTS:  
NAMIBIA AIRPORT COMPANY**

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Comrade Speaker, I lay upon the Table –

1. Annual Report of Namibia Airport Company for the year 2007/2008;
  2. Annual Report of Namibia Airport Company for the year 2008/2009.
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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? Deputy Minister of Finance.

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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

1. Village Council of Bethanie for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2010;
2. Village Council of Witvlei for the Financial Years ended 30 June 2000 to 2007;



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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON TJIHUIKO**

3. Town Council of Khorixas for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2010;
4. Town Council of Rundu for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2010;
5. Town Council of Ongwediva for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2011;
6. Town Council of Opuwo for the Financial Years ended 30 June 2004 to 2006;
7. Town Council of Opuwo for the Financial Years ended 30 June 2009 and 2010.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Tjihuiko.

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**NOTICE OF MOTION**

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** I give Notice that on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2011, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

*Discusses* the water debt owed by the poor and very poor communities to NamWater with a view to be written off in the interest of the poor rural households and communal farmers and that the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry be assigned to implement the recommendation of this Motion and to report back to Parliament within six months of the approval of this Motion by this Honourable House.

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**FIRST READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements? The First Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Finance. Does the Honourable Minister move that the Bill be now introduced?

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**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:  
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds? Objections? Agreed to. Will the Minister please table the Bill? The Secretary will read the Bill a First Time.

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**SECRETARY:** *Appropriation Bill.*

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**SECOND READING:  
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Minister of Finance Move that the Bill be now read a Second Time?

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

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**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Any objections? Agreed to. The Honourable Minister has the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise today to table before this august House the 2012/2013 *Appropriation Bill* and the 2012/2013 to 2014/2015 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). I rise to present the Budget which allows Government to stay on course in terms of poverty reduction, enhanced economic development, improved service delivery and accelerated job creation. This Budget has been formulated and will be implemented amidst exceptionally uncertain global financial and economic challenges.

The Budget recognizes the potential negative impact of the global economic environment on the domestic economy and the fiscus. Simultaneously, the Budget recognises inherent structural challenges and urgent national priorities for which fiscal policy has a prominent role to play.

During the previous and current MTEF, we have significantly expanded the Budget, thanks to our strong pre-2008 fiscal position. The expansion was aimed at cushioning the domestic economy from the severe impact of the global economic downturn and addressing the structural challenges in the economy with added impetus.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the expansionary fiscal policy we pursued since the 2008/2009 Financial Year has served our country well. We have shielded the economy from the severe effects of the global economic meltdown. After a mild recession of 0.4% in 2009, the Namibian economy rebounded in 2010 with a relatively high growth rate of 6.6%.

In terms of fiscal parameters, the expansion was not costless. The Budget deficit has reached an estimated 11.2% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2011/2012 and Central Government debt has increased from 16.6% in

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**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

2010/2011 to an estimated 27.0% in 2011/2012. This progression has placed us on the upper limits of our fiscal benchmarks.

Honourable Speakers, Honourable Members, when His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba addressed this House last year on the State of the Nation, he said and I quote: *“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.”* These challenges still remain and the Budget before you is a continuation of our targeted approach to overcome them.

This is a cautious, but targeted Budget. It maintains the fiscal expansion envisaged in the 2011/2012 to 2013/2014 MTEF, amidst an extraordinary challenging global economic environment. The Budget summons our collective responsibility to eliminate waste, to be targeted and timely with programme implementation and to do more with less.

There are four core areas for fiscal policy during the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

**First**, we have to continue entrenching macroeconomic stability by ensuring that our fiscal operations remain on a sustainable path. In this regard, the MTEF encapsulates fiscal restraint, which maintains expenditure commitments in real terms, but guards against significant expenditure expansion. Our goal to maintain fiscal prudence will be supported by renewed efforts to strengthen domestic revenue collection and administration.

**Second**, this Budget is unrelenting in its resource allocation to priority economic and infrastructure sectors, with the objective of placing the economy on a high and inclusive growth trajectory. We have to depart from the episode of jobless growth. By any measure, unemployment and poverty levels remain unacceptably high. This Budget carries forth the resource commitments and prioritization engendered in the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG). The Budget provides for significant public investment in key

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**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

economic and service infrastructure in order to address supply-side constraints and create robust conditions for private sector-led growth and job creation in the long-term.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this is not to discount the progress we have made and the successes we have achieved since 1990. We have maintained macroeconomic stability, fiscal prudence and external financial viability which have become innate attributes of the SWAPO Party-led Government. This is serving us well and drew recognition from the world's financial markets. We have also managed to provide fiscal support to the economy at the height of the global economic meltdown.

In this Budget, we are making a timely and collective decision for a gradual withdrawal of significant fiscal expansion, in order to regain fiscal space and to be able to deal with future exogenous shocks on our economy.

The priority must be to create productive jobs in the private sector and to progressively reorient TIPEEG towards supporting job creation in the long-term. We should also accelerate growth from the current rates of 4% annually, if we are to reach a high-income and industrialized status by 2030. Hence the continuation of the targeted interventions under the TIPEEG dispensation in the medium-term.

**Third,** the 2012/2013 Budget summons the venerable duty of individual Offices, Ministries and Agencies to reduce wastage and to waste neither time nor energy to implement programmes and to realise internal efficiency and value for money. This is what priority allocation and operational efficiency are all about. The core message emanating from the first year of TIPEEG implementation is that more money *per se* does not guarantee success. We have to inculcate the culture of innovation and efficient service delivery.

**Fourth,** the Budget deploys resources to strategic infrastructure development projects to facilitate regional trade and expand our domestic production frontiers.

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**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

This Budget proposes policy actions aimed at accelerating inclusive economic growth, job creation and efficient service delivery. Unfortunately, we are facing adverse external conditions, but we can meet our goals if we make a virtue out of necessity.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not propose that we engage in collective pessimism. We should resolutely address the challenges we face. However, one thing is clear. Government is determined not to replicate the debt crisis that emerged in other parts of the world, where excessive and unaffordable debt has brought recession and worsened unemployment. Instead, we will rein in significant expenditure expansion, stabilize growth in public debt and strive for public spending that will support high economic growth and increased employment, while maintaining macroeconomic stability.

This is what this Budget will offer. It proposes programmes and reflects policies that will incite all of us to do more with less.

Let me unveil the medium-term fiscal objectives up front. In the coming MTEF, Government will provide policy and programme support for:-

- Macroeconomic stability and external financial viability to be maintained;
- Maintaining prioritization of resource allocation to economic sectors with high growth and job creation potential under the TIPEEG dispensation.
- Promoting a conducive environment for our entrepreneurs to innovate, invest, employ and export more;
- Empowering our youth to acquire new and up-to-date skills in schools, vocational training institutions and at the workplace;
- Strengthening the capacity for our country to become self-sufficient in power supply;

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**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

- Encouraging Government institutions to become more innovative and more efficient in programme execution and service delivery
- Enhancing public expenditure programmes to produce better results;
- Encouraging our Labour Unions and Public Servants to exercise restraint in wage negotiations;
- Encouraging our people and enterprises to contribute more revenue to Government;
- Contributing to the development of strategic infrastructure, such as turning the greater Walvis Bay area into a regional hub for cluster investment in logistic support, fishing, industrialization and service delivery to Western, Central and Southern Africa Regions;
- Providing the resources for Government to mitigate the impact of, and our people to adapt to climate change, and
- Ensuring deeper regional economic integration and improve Namibian merchandize export capacity.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to give an account of developments for the Fiscal Year that is now almost behind us. Then, I will proceed to summarise policies and programmes that Government proposes to carry out in this Budget and through the 2012/2013 to 2014/2015 MTEF period.

**GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT:**

The global economic environment is beset with contagious risks and uncertainty about growth prospects. A cold wind is blowing from the North, and international trade transmission channels may turn this into stormy weather. The adverse impacts on global growth are mainly due to difficulties faced by advanced economies, in particular those in Europe, in resolving the sovereign debt crisis and its growth-reducing effects.

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

While positive growth is projected for 2012 and 2013, we are not out of the woods yet. Global economic growth prospects for 2012 and 2013 have been revised downward from 4.0 and 4.5%, to 3.3 and 3.9% respectively. While there are signs that the world's largest economy, the United States, is on the mend, the sovereign debt crisis in Europe threatens to decelerate the pace of global economic recovery.

Ominously, the Euro zone, which is a traditional market for Namibia's main export products, is projected to slide into a mild recession of 0.5% this year and to post a paltry 0.8% growth in 2013.

Turnaround in these economies depends on the successful resolution of the sovereign debt crisis in the Euro zone area, which is still uncertain. In several of these economies, structural adjustment and fiscal austerity measures have given way to job losses. For a relatively small economy like Namibia, this is an experience that must be avoided at all costs.

The emerging economies of the BRIC countries, (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) which have become increasingly important for global economic prospects are also beginning to suffer from the contagion.

As a small open economy, Namibia is susceptible to the contagion from global economic developments through the international trade channel. During the first round of the global economic downturn, our economy contracted by 0.4% and revenue took a knock by 3.3%. We are already experiencing a slowdown in economic growth with an estimated 4.2% in 2011 as compared to 6.6% in 2010.

**DEVELOPMENTS IN REGIONAL ECONOMY:**

The Sub-Saharan Africa Region achieved a strong growth over the past years, although there is variation in the speed of recovery among countries within the Region.

In most of the Region's low-income countries and among the seven oil exporters, growth is almost back to pre-crisis levels. This is important for Namibia as over 10% of our exports are destined to low-income African



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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

economies. Clearly, there are positive prospects for further growth from the Region.

In the middle-income countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, including South Africa, economic recovery has been much slower, reflecting greater exposure to global markets. To illustrate, growth in the South African economy also slowed to an estimated 3.1% in 2011 and it is projected to reduce further to 2.7% in 2012, before recovering to 3.2% in 2013 and to 4.2% in 2014. This slowdown is of concern to Namibia as South Africa absorbs about 20% of our exports. SACU economies are also projected to experience lower growth than initially anticipated, which may put downward pressure on the SACU Common Revenue Pool going forward.

**REGIONAL INTEGRATION:**

The size of the domestic market makes it imperative that Namibia continues its outward-trade policy to facilitate diversification of export commodities destinations, while enhancing value addition. This includes finding ways to promote Namibia's increased trade with SADC and SACU markets as well as establishing new markets in emerging economies.

It is against this background that Government is participating pro-actively in the process of formulating a Regional Industrial Development Policy for SACU. In addition, the implementation of the SADC Finance and Investment Protocol will lead to a more conducive investment environment and transparent processes that can help in promoting intra-SADC trade and investment.

The SACU industrial policy will allow the BLNS countries to develop their supply-side abilities to improve their range of export commodities.

Government is also taking part in the Tripartite Free Trade Area negotiations that were launched in December 2011 for the envisaged Free Trade Area among SADC, East African Community and COMESA. The aim is to conclude these negotiations by 2014.

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Government also welcomes the decision taken in January 2012 by the African Union Summit to move towards the establishment of an “*All AU Free Trade Area*” by 2017.

**Developments in the Domestic Economy**

**MACROECONOMIC PERFORMANCE:**

The domestic economy is estimated to have expanded by 4.4% during 2011. This growth estimate is lower than the 6.6% growth rate achieved during 2010. The deterioration in global macroeconomic conditions affected the pace of domestic economic growth in 2011. This low pace of growth is expected to prevail during 2012.

Primary industries, especially the Mining Sector, are estimated to have posted a lower growth in 2011 due to demand slowdown in export markets and commodity price moderation. As a result, mining production output has moderated.

Performance in the secondary and tertiary industries also slowed in 2011 on account of subdued global and domestic demand for goods and services. Performance in the Manufacturing Sector may turn out at only half the level achieved in 2010.

Expansionary fiscal and monetary policy provided the necessary stimulus to the economy. Economic growth would have been even slower if Government had not maintained a supportive policy stance to counter the negative impact of the global recession. This helped to stimulate demand through higher public investment and Government and private consumption expenditure.

**EMPLOYMENT, POVERTY AND INEQUALITIES:**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Government remains focused in its concerted efforts to address unemployment, poverty and inequalities. It is a matter of great concern to Government that much of the economic growth experienced to date has not translated into significant job creation.

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Reducing income inequalities remains one of the high priorities for Government. Findings from the successive Household Income and Expenditure Surveys indicate that we are gradually pushing back the frontiers of income inequality, with a systematic reduction in the Gini Coefficient ratio from 0.63 in 2003/2004 to 0.58 in 2009/2010. This gradual reduction places us on course towards the Vision 2030 target of 0.55 ratio.

However, unemployment remains unacceptably high. Robert Kaplan once said *“If you can't measure it, you can't manage it”*. I agree with Robert.

As a country, we need to improve measurement and consistency of employment and earnings data not only in terms of quality, but also the frequency. The year 2011/2012 marked the roll-out of the TIPEEG programme with a targeted objective of creating mass job opportunities in the short-term, while investing in economic infrastructure and addressing domestic supply-side constraints. I am glad that these efforts are accompanied by measures to strengthen our statistical system and institutions to ensure timely and quality data.

**FINANCIAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS:**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Global Competitiveness Report for 2011 ranked our Financial Sector on the 36<sup>th</sup> position, out of the 142 countries assessed that year. This rating affirms that our Financial Sector compares well with the best in the world.

We have modernised the legislative and regulatory environment for both the bank and non-bank financial industries. This modernization allows regulatory authorities to exercise risk-based supervision and macro-prudential surveillance to strengthen financial stability and guard against possible emergence of financial crises.

We have embarked upon a national strategy to modernise the national payment system and infrastructure. New instruments are being introduced in the capital and money markets. This is embedded in the Government's debt management strategy, which emphasises domestic borrowing as an

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instrument for domestic capital markets development.

In addition, the financial services industry, especially the banking and other non-bank mobile services providers are initiating new products diversification and innovation.

However, significant challenges remain. The level of ownership and localization of financial services remain skewed and the majority of Namibians are financially excluded.

The commencement of the implementation of the ten-year Financial Sector Strategy this year heralds the beginning of the new era for the gradual and holistic development of the Financial Sector. As an integral part of the strategy, a financial literacy programme has been developed amongst other strategies to advance financial inclusion agenda.

I am also gratified that the legislative Amendments to domestic asset requirements legislation have now been finalised. The coming into force of the amended laws would release financial resources into the economy and represents Government's unequivocal policy thrust to mobilise domestic assets to catalyze domestic investment.

A new regulation 29 is due for gazetting into law and marks a watershed policy innovation to operationalise domestic asset requirements engendered by Regulation 15 and 28. Application of Regulation 29 would ensure safe and prudential management of institutional investments in unlisted assets.

In addition, work to further review and streamline the Financial Institutions and Markets Bill (FIMBILL) which will govern the non-bank financial industry is nearing completion for its tabling in 2012.

**MONETARY POLICY AND INFLATION:**

On account of the need to support domestic demand conditions, the Bank of Namibia maintained an accommodative monetary policy stance in 2011, characterised by an unchanged repo rate regime. This supportive

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

monetary policy environment complemented Government's expansionary fiscal policy and private sector activity to aid the economy through the vicissitudes of an otherwise adverse macroeconomic environment.

The stock of foreign reserves remained sufficient to maintain the currency peg and import cover, amidst increased imports of production inputs feeding into capital investment in various sectors of the economy.

The inflationary conditions remained subdued at an average of 5.1%, but an upbeat in the food and oil prices in recent months resulted in upward inflationary pressures.

**TRADE AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS:**

The overall balance of payments is estimated to have remained in deficit, on account of an increased import Bill, decreased SACU inflows on the current account and continued capital outflows on the financial account. Reflecting the impact of the Government's counter-cyclical policies and the rising expenditure on imported oil and capital goods, the current account deficit increased, but was financed by positive financing inflows from abroad.

As a result, foreign exchange reserves increased slightly at the end of 2011, to just over US\$1.4 billion, representing 2.4 months' of coverage of imports, which is still sufficient to assure uninterrupted financing of imports and other foreign obligations.

**FISCAL PERFORMANCE:**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, a distinct outcome of the Government fiscal activity is reflected in the extent to which fiscal policy has contributed to supporting domestic economic activity and our ability to improve the quality of life for every Namibian through expanded provision of services. We have achieved numerous successes on several fronts and Government remains seized with addressing the challenges of unemployment, poverty, inequalities and inclusive economic growth.

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We have been able to shield the economy from the adverse external environment and maintain a stable macroeconomic environment conducive for private sector investment and wealth creation.

Government has been able to maintain and even increase expenditure to provide for national development programmes and public services amidst global economic challenges. We have been able to mobilise Public revenue and keep public debt in check.

**REVENUE OUTTURN:**

As a result of the economic growth and our domestic revenue mobilisation strategy, total revenue and grants for 2011/2012 is estimated to have rebounded to N\$26.9 billion. This is an increase of 15.5% from N\$23.3 billion collected during 2010/2011. The estimated outturn is, however, slightly lower than the budgeted revenue estimate of N\$28.0 billion owing to adverse impacts of a slowdown in global economic activity and revised macroeconomic prospects.

Domestic tax revenue streams, particularly Individual Income Tax and Value-Added Tax maintained robust elasticity and anchored the rebound in revenue performance. However, contagion from the global economic slowdown impacted on corporate earnings, with adverse shocks to company tax, especially in respect to mining company tax.

While the SACU Common Revenue Pool is estimated to have moved out of deficit in 2010/2011, the total Pool deficit for 2009/2010 amounting to N\$9.8 billion was due for repayment by SACU Member States during 2011/2012. Accordingly, Namibia has fully settled her share of deficit of N\$2.4 billion. Renewed risks in global and regional economic prospects threaten to stall strong recovery in SACU revenues going forward.

**EXPENDITURE OUTTURN:**

Total expenditure allocation for 2011/2012, including statutory expenditure, amounted to N\$37.2 billion, which was a 28.7% increase from N\$28.9 billion allocated in 2010/2011. The significant expenditure

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expansion is predominantly due to the introduction of TIPEEG and the rise in the Civil Servants Wage Bill. Development expenditure nearly doubled to N\$8.1 billion.

Honourable Speaker, I should emphasise that the Public Sector Wage Bill as a share of GDP grew from 10% in 2008/2009 to 14% this year. Public Servants' wages now absorb virtually half of Government revenue, which was only 33% four years ago. This trend needs moderation going forward.

The total Budget execution rate for 2010/2011 stood at 96.9%. Operational Budget execution rate amounted to 97.7%, while the Development Budget implementation rate stood at 92%, as compared to 89% achieved during 2009/2010.

Preliminary expenditure outturn including expenditure commitments for 2011/2012 amounts to N\$29.2 billion, which is about 75.8% of the N\$38.5 billion allocated. Operational expenditure execution rate is estimated at 77.3%.

The total Development Budget expenditure and expenditure commitments, including TIPEEG amounts to N\$6.0 billion, which represents an execution rate of 75.1%, out of N\$8.0 billion Development Budget allocated during 2011/2012.

Indeed, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members; the under-utilisation of the Development Budget and, in particular, TIPEEG allocations is a cause for national concern. Under-utilised allocations, especially those of a development nature should be seen from the perspective of the lost development opportunities, cost of borrowing and how they could have found alternative uses in the economy.

**BUDGET DEFICIT:**

As a result of fiscal expansion undertaken, the Budget moved into a deficit since 2009/2010. The deficit for 2011/2012 is estimated at 11.2% of GDP.

**DEBT STOCK AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES:**

The total debt stock for 2011/2012 is estimated at N\$24.9 billion. As a percent of GDP, total Central Government debt stock stands at 27%, which constituted a two-thirds increase from the 16.6% in 2010/2011, reflecting the fiscal expansion to accommodate the TIPEEG dispensation. Contingent liabilities, stood at N\$2.6 billion or about 2.6% of GDP.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, may I remind the House that the fiscal expansion we undertook since 2009/2010 could not be undertaken without relaxing the fiscal benchmarks. As such, the following fiscal sustainability benchmarks as revised were adopted:-

- Average debt as a ratio of GDP is capped at 35% over the MTEF, as revised from the 25% to 30% target band;
- Public expenditure level is maintained at 40% of GDP annually, as revised from 30%.
- Budget deficit is to be maintained within 7% of GDP over the MTEF
- Interest rate payments as a ratio of revenue and contingent liabilities as a ratio GDP are both to be kept at 10% annually.

In the framework of the 2011/2012 to 2013/2014 MTEF, the N\$37.2 billion expenditure allocation for 2011/2012 stood at 41.2% of GDP, translating into a Budget deficit of 12.5% and a debt ratio of 27.9%, which was projected to increase to 35.0% by 2013/2014.

Clearly, the expansion did not only commit all available fiscal space, but virtually also placed all fiscal targets on their upper limits beyond which fiscal sustainability becomes a policy concern. This concern is all the more accentuated by the deterioration in the global economic environment and its concomitant impact on the regional and domestic economy. In this context, Government has to reign in significant expenditure expansion and stabilize incurrence of additional Public debt in the coming MTEF.



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**Strategic Policy Initiatives**

**PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT:**

Government has embarked on a tax policy reform agenda aimed at bringing on line alternative sources of revenue and improving tax administration. In line with the reform process, measures are underway to modernize the tax system through establishment of an Integrated Computerised Tax System, establishing specialised offices and strengthening internal audit capacity. Initial efforts in this regard have resulted in improved revenue collection.

Efforts are also underway to further improve tax compliance, including the introduction of voluntary compliance. A simplified special tax system for Small and Medium-sized businesses is being investigated to extend coverage to those entities who are not in the tax net and to reduce compliance costs on small businesses. Government is also undertaking a study to investigate the viability of establishing an autonomous Revenue Authority. The study is expected to be concluded during 2012.

We have successfully piloted a complete module of Programme-budgeting which will allow for tracking and reporting of expenditure execution and outcome impacts on a programme basis. This was done through appropriate modifications of the Chart of Accounts of the State Revenue Fund. We will roll-out this approach to all Offices, Ministries and Agencies in the coming years.

**PUBLIC PROCUREMENT:**

The Tender Board Amendment Bill will be tabled before Parliament this year. The amended rules provide for, among others, preferential considerations for majority Namibian ownership of enterprises, the previously disadvantaged persons, women, youth and SMEs. This legislative focus is a landmark development to re-orient Public procurement system as a tool for domestic economic development.

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Amendments have already been made to the Tender Board Regulations to enable Government to implement some of these reforms under the existing law. These Amendments will be gazetted in the coming weeks.

**FINANCIAL SECTOR POLICIES:**

Several policy initiatives were also undertaken in the Financial Sector to strengthen financial stability, promote inclusiveness and elevate the role of finance as a key catalyst for economic development and social transformation.

In particular, the Financial Sector Strategy was finalised this year. The Strategy provides for strategic actions to be implemented over a 10 year horizon for a more inclusive Financial Sector, financial deepening and development, strengthening financial safety nets, localisation of the Sector and skills development. A Financial Inclusion Council under the able chairmanship of the Right Honourable Prime Minister and an Advisory Board were inaugurated in 2011 to be responsible for the coordination and monitoring of targeted strategies for achieving financial inclusion.

On the 15th of March this year, I will launch a National Financial Literacy Programme, which will educate the public on financial management and raise awareness on, among others, consumer rights.

In addition, the implementation of the Financial Sector Strategy will provide the necessary impetus for the implementation of the voluntary Financial Sector Charter of the industry, which has been disappointing to date.

Mechanisms have been instituted for the implementation of the findings from the User fee Study, which we conducted in 2009/2010 to investigate the level of fees and charges in the Financial Sector and their impacts on financial inclusion. In addition, a FinScope study was undertaken during 2011 to investigate the level of financial inclusion. Its findings will be published next month. Such findings will provide valuable information for policy formulation and monitoring of outcomes.

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A National Payment System (NPS) Vision 2015 was launched during 2011 under the ambit of the Bank of Namibia. The Vision provides strategic actions to be undertaken to modernise national payment infrastructure.

The Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) continued to advance measures to stem money laundering and bring suspicious transaction under the radar within the framework of the Financial Intelligence Act.

**CAPITAL MARKETS DEVELOPMENT:**

In respect to domestic capital markets development, the Government borrowing plan continues to be oriented towards domestic sourcing in order to support capital markets development. We have introduced two new domestic bonds to provide increased market opportunities for local financiers. Retail bonds will also be introduced in the market for the first time in order for individual Namibians to seize the opportunity in investing in these secure instruments.

To further buttress the financing for the Expansionary Budget, Namibia accessed the international financial market for the first time in 2011. The debut Eurobond issuance was on the back of a favourable investment grade of BBB- awarded by Fitch Rating Agency since 2005 and a Baa3 grade awarded by Moody's Rating in 2011.

The issuance of the Eurobond made Namibia the fourth Sub-Saharan African country with a sovereign issuance and it has the effect of not only diversifying the country's funding sources, but also raising Namibia's profile among the international investment community.

Credit ratings are undertaken to provide independent views on Government's credit worthiness and ability to pay debts. Favourable credit ratings help to reduce the cost of borrowing from both domestic and international sources and also attract other types of capital such as foreign direct investments as well as portfolio investments. It is, therefore, important to maintain our current investment grade ratings.

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**LEGISLATIVE REFORMS:**

Several legislative reforms have been undertaken to improve the legislative environment in the Financial Sector.

- The Mobile Payments Regulations have been formulated under the Payment Systems Management Act to provide an effective regulatory environment for electronic payment services.
- Drafting of the Financial Institutions and Markets Bill was finalised to provide for risk-based supervision and streamlining of regulatory measures for individual non-bank financial industry sub-sectors.
- A new Regulation 29 was formulated which will usher-in a safe environment for the implementation of Regulation 15 and 28 dealing with domestic asset requirements encapsulated in the amended laws for long-term insurers and pension funds.

A Tender Board Amendment Bill has been finalised to provide for local economic development and international best practices. The Bill will be subjected to a final round of public consultation before tabling during the course of this year.

- The Draft Audit Bill and State Finance Amendment Bills have been finalised and are undergoing legal drafting.
- A range of tax Amendments were introduced in the House in 2011. Other tax Amendments will be introduced during the course of this year, including an environmental levy, an export levy on raw material exports and transfer duty Amendments.
- We shall also introduce Amendments to the Financial Intelligence Act to provide for consistency with best international practices.

**STATE OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOES) PERFORMANCE:**

Low productivity in SOEs remains a concern. Perpetual bail-outs place

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constraints on Government fiscal position.

The implementation of individual performance agreements with SOEs is aimed at ensuring efficient delivery of results and value for money for the public.

**THE TIPEEG INTERVENTION:**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the 2011/2012 Budget marked the first roll-out of the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG) as a fast-track dispensation for job-creation and stimulus for high economic growth in the long-term.

TIPEEG allocation amounted to N\$5.8 billion for 2011/2012 and a total of N\$14.7 billion over the MTEF. Over the MTEF, TIPEEG is expected to generate jobs in excess of 100,000, a network of strategic infrastructure and improved domestic production capacity.

In regard to the implementation rate, the total Development Budget expenditure and expenditure commitments, including TIPEEG amounts to N\$5.9 billion, which represents an execution rate of 73.1%. The reported limiting factors which hinder smooth implementation of this programme include:-

- Scarcity of engineering capacity in regard to project preparation; and
- Limited implementation and monitoring capacity at Offices/Ministries and Agencies (O/M/As) level.

I must emphasise that allocated funds should not only be seen to have been spent, but the quality of expenditure and optimum outcomes need to be assured. Going forward, TIPEEG process re-engineering will receive priority attention as well.

**BUDGET ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES:**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would now like to highlight

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other budgetary accomplishments and challenges in during 2011/2012.

The **Agricultural Sector** is a source of livelihood for to about 65% of our population and a key Sector for exports earnings.

In this Sector:-

- The area under irrigation under the Green Scheme programme was increased from 9,500 hectares to an estimated 12,000 hectares.
- Disease control programme was expanded in the Communal Areas to improve animal health and product quality.

**WATER:**

- Provision of clean water has been expanded through extension of water pipelines in communal and informal settlement areas. The number of water boreholes has also increased in the remote areas.
- As a result, the percentage of population having access to clean water in rural areas increased to an estimated 95.4% in 2011/2012.

In the **Education Sector**:-

- The number of children from disadvantaged communities completing one year of pre-primary education increased from 5,000 to 12,500.
- Education facilities were provided and upgraded, which provided expanded access and quality.
- Output from Vocational Training and Technical Education increased from 6,500 to over 8,000 graduates
- In the Tertiary Education Sector, the target of 1,000 graduates in key human resources categories was exceeded

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Like education, ***Health*** is a key growth and productivity enhancer. In this Sector:-

- State-of-the-art medical equipments were installed in Katutura, Rundu and Oshakati State Hospitals.
- Immunization coverage increased to 87% and notable progress was made towards achieving other Health Sector targets under the Millennium Development Goals
- The Cardiac Unit at Windhoek Central Hospital is fully operational and it held 47 open-heart surgeries. A Telemedicine Center was also established during the year.
- The provision of antiretroviral drugs was expanded to cover over 98,000 persons living with HIV and AIDS.

**SOCIAL SAFETY NETS:**

- Namibia prides itself to be among only three countries in Sub-Saharan Africa which provide social grants to the vulnerable. The coverage for social grants was expanded.
- The veterans support programme reached an increasing number of veterans of the liberation struggle
- Government has carried out relief operations to assist persons affected by floods in the northern and north-eastern Regions.

***Environment and Tourism*** is another Sector which was accorded priority attention under the TIPEEG dispensation.

In this Sector:-

- Increased marketing was undertaken to increase the number and tourists from existing core and secondary markets as a result of expanded activities of Namibia Tourism Board (NTB).

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- It is estimated that the Tourism Sector generated net foreign revenue in the order of US\$323 million
- Five additional community-based conservancies were established, facilitating access to tourism resources for rural communities.
- The National Policy on Climate Change was launched with its accompanying Strategy and Action Plan which provide for targeted actions to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

In respect to *Private Sector Development*:-

- DBN disbursed funding to the tune of N\$616.7 million through its funding facilities for various categories of enterprises. This funding benefited 288 Namibian companies, which is a record increase of 88% from 153 companies funded during the previous year. The total new permanent jobs created amounted to over 2,100 and about 3,000 temporary jobs, while 3,012 jobs were retained. As part of its broader lending coverage, the DBN intends to set up a Venture Capital Fund to facilitate business start-ups.
- AgriBank provided funding to the tune of N\$17.7 million to small-scale farming projects. The Bank also provided mentorship to about 990 Small-scale farmers and plans to establish a Livestock Credit Scheme for small-scale farmers.
- an Industrial Policy has been formulated under the Ministry of Trade and Industry to give impetus to private sector-led industrialisation, export-orientation, value addition, skills development and economic diversification

**Infrastructure Development**

**PORT EXPANSION:**

- Progress was made with implementing the New Walvis Bay Container



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- Terminal Project. This project is expected to take off early in the 2012/2013 Financial Year.
- Progress has also been made to establish a Corridor Gas and Oil Terminal at Lüderitz so that it becomes an Oil Importing terminal for SADC countries.

**ENERGY:**

- The Anixas Diesel Power Station was inaugurated in 2011 and resulted in increased output by more than 100% from 2.4 megawatt to 5.8 megawatt.
- Work is progressing on the installation of a fourth unit at Ruacana Power Station with an increase in power generation capacity from 249 megawatt to 341 megawatts.
- The rural electrification programme has been expanded resulting in an increase in the share of rural households having access to the national grid to 25% towards the target of 27% for 2013.

**IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR:**

- A total of 405 kilometres of rural gravel roads were developed, exceeding the target of 218 kilometres and several national roads have been rehabilitated
- A new Business Plan for Air Namibia was developed to turn around the Airline business to profitability and two long haul aircrafts were acquired for Air Namibia as part of the turn-around business plan

**MACROECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR THE MTEF:**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this MTEF was formulated amidst renewed risks to the global economic growth. The speed of global economic recovery has slackened. In the Euro zone economies, the fears for a recession have been realised.

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Anaemic recovery in the global economy points to difficult moments for the domestic economy and the Region due to exposure to global trade environment. As such, real GDP growth for Namibia has been revised downward.

We expect economic growth to yield 4.4% in 2012, and it is projected at 4.8% and 4.9% in 2013 and 2014, respectively.

The projected slowdown will have adverse effects on the real sector economy, especially the export oriented industries and subsequently for Public revenue.

**FISCAL OUTLOOK AND TARGETS OVER THE MTEF:**

Given the uncertainties in the global economy, the focus of fiscal policy will be on the maintenance of long-term macroeconomic stability. Thus, Government will aim to create fiscal space in preparation for possible exogenous shocks.

As a result, no substantial Budget expansion will be accommodated beyond what is provided for in the current MTEF. However, the spending plans within the current MTEF will be broadly maintained in order to consolidate economic recovery and support job creation and poverty reduction efforts. Importantly, programmes for education, health and road transport reflect larger allocations to repair flood-related damage to infrastructure and to strengthen support for accessing tertiary education by our youth as well as to intensify the fight against HIV and AIDS. However, the Public Wage Bill has also increased to accommodate the 10% salary increase granted to Civil Servants last year.

While the focus of fiscal policy emphasises consolidation, the unforeseen impacts of climate change will pose serious challenges going forward, with significant costs related to coping with the effects of climate change, exerting pressure on the fiscus. Some important interventions in this regard are under planning and have not been catered for under this MTEF.

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**REVENUE:**

Due to the effects of an adverse macroeconomic environment since 2011, revenue for 2011/2012 is estimated to have reached only N\$26.8 billion, which represents a shortfall of about 4.2% from N\$28.0 billion budgeted for. However, the estimated outturn represents an increase of 15.5% from N\$23.3 billion collected during 2010/2011. The year-on-year improvement is a result of the positive economic growth realised during 2010 and 2011 and the national efforts to strengthen revenue collection.

For the 2012/2013, total revenue and grants is projected to increase to N\$35.4 billion, an increase of about 32%. This increase is mainly due to the rebound in SACU revenues for 2010/2011. The SACU Common Revenue Pool is estimated to have recorded a surplus during 2010/2011, as a result of which Namibia will receive an adjustment of N\$ 2.5 billion in respect of the 2010/2011 shares. This adjustment is to be remitted to Namibia during 2012/2013, in addition to the country's share for that year. As a result, the total SACU receipts for Namibia during 2012/2013 will nearly double to N\$13.9 billion, from N\$7.1 billion received during 2010/2011.

However, on account of global and regional economic slowdown, domestic as well as SACU revenue outturn are projected to generally remain flat during the MTEF. As a proportion of GDP, total revenue is projected to moderate from 34.5% in 2012/2013 to 31.4% during the last two years of the MTEF.

To improve revenue collection, Government will continue implementing the initiatives to reform tax policy which will entail identification of new sources of revenue and strengthening tax administration

**TAX POLICY CHANGES AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW TAXES:**

Honourable Speaker, during 2011, I announced new taxes that will be introduced during 2012/2013. As I stated previously, the introduction of the new taxes is premised on three broad objectives, namely:-

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- Deepening and diversifying the revenue base in an environment of increased trade liberalization and taking into consideration the ability to pay.
- Promotion of domestic value-addition to raw materials and industrialization, particularly in the natural resources sectors, and
- Wealth distribution and social welfare promotion.

The following are some of the tax Amendments that were approved by Parliament in 2011:-

- Introduction of a withholding tax on fees paid to non-residents
- An increase in Non-Resident Shareholders Tax, and
- Taxation on income from the alienation of mineral rights.

Parliament also approved Amendments to Value-Added Tax (VAT), Stamp Duty and Transfer Duty which provided concessions to tax payers.

The following tax proposals will be introduced during the course of 2012:-

- Introduction of a differentiated rate on the export of natural resources;
- A revised Corporate Income Tax for non-diamond mining companies;
- Environmental levy on a range of environmentally harmful products, and
- Introduction of a transfer duty on the sale of shares in companies owning fixed property and mineral rights or licences.

These measures are all part of a broader tax policy and administration

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reform agenda, which will be pursued over the medium term to improve the tax system.

In addition, the following increases in SACU excise tax rates as announced by South Africa in the 2012/2013 Budget have become operational with effect from 23 February 2012:-

- Malt beer 9.99%
- Traditional African beer 0.00%
- Traditional African beer powder 0.00%
- Unfortified wine 7.76%
- Fortified wine 6.00%
- Sparkling wine 8.03%
- Ciders & alcoholic fruit beverages 9.59%
- Spirits 20.00%
- Cigarettes 5.95%
- Cigarette tobacco 4.94%
- Pipe tobacco 8.05%
- Cigars 5.01%

**EXPENDITURE AND BUDGET BALANCE:**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me now illustrate the expenditure outlook and funding priorities for the MTEF.

Total expenditure for 2012/2013 amounts to N\$40.2 billion, seen against an estimated revenue of N\$35.4 billion. Expenditure is projected to remain flat and average N\$40.4 billion over the MTEF, corresponding to 35.2% of GDP.

This level of expenditure maintains fiscal expansion engendered in the 2011/2012 to 2013/2014 MTEF.

The Budget deficit is estimated at 4.4% of GDP in 2012/2013 and averages 3.3% over the MTEF. The Budget deficit will be gradually

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reduced by the end of the MTEF through a combination of revenue base-broadening and expenditure moderation. In essence, the Budget represents a commencement of gradual fiscal consolidation. This course of action will allow Government to stabilise Public debt in the longer term.

As such, Central Government debt is estimated at N\$28.3 billion in 2012/2013 or 27.7% of GDP. For 2013/2014, debt is estimated at N\$34.5 billion or 30.3% of GDP, while for 2014/2015, total debt is projected to increase moderately to N\$35.5 billion or 27.9% of GDP.

**Policy Interventions for the MTEF**

**SAFE-GUARDING MACROECONOMIC STABILITY AND  
FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY:**

Government will continue to entrench macroeconomic stability and fiscal prudence as a prerequisite for growing the economy and addressing socio-economic challenges. The fiscal stance for the MTEF is the adoption of a fiscal consolidation path towards stabilization of Public debt and Budget deficit through a combination of moderation in expenditure expansion and improvement in revenue.

**THE TARGETED INTERVENTION PROGRAMME FOR  
EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH (TIPEEG):**

Government will continue with the implementation of TIPEEG programme. The TIPEEG resource prioritization approach is carried through in the MTEF and it will be integrated into the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4).

Following a slow start during the first year of implementation, targeted interventions will be instituted during 2012/2013 to marshal improved implementation through capacity-building and effective monitoring.

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**IMPLEMENTING A REVENUE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY  
AND TAX POLICY REFORM AGENDA:**

Government will pursue the reforms of tax policy with the objective of enhancing its contribution to socio-economic objectives, while maintaining the competitiveness of the tax system. A key emphasis of the reform process involves improvement of tax administration and revenue base-broadening and deepening. A taxpayer's public education program launched during 2011 will be strengthened to improve public awareness and reduce the cost of compliance and administration.

**STRENGTHENING PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT (PFM)  
AND ENHANCING VALUE FOR MONEY:**

To strengthen Public finance management and improve the quality of expenditure, Public expenditure review and tracking will be rolled-out to all Budget Votes, starting in 2012/2013. Full deployment of Programme-budgeting will also be rolled out to all Votes during the MTEF to enhance targeting of resources and Public accountability.

**PROMOTING FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND MODERN  
LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT:**

Measures geared to bring about a more inclusive Financial Sector will be pursued during the MTEF. In particular, a 10-year Financial Sector Strategy will be implemented. In addition, legislative reforms will be pursued to optimise the role of the Financial Sector in the economy and alignment with international best practices. Such reforms will include specific provisions to address the findings of the User fee Study, especially in respect to high user fees and charges in both the bank and non-bank Financial Sectors. In addition, a financial literacy programme will be rolled out this year to provide consumer education.

**PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT:**

The activities of the Development Bank of Namibia and AgriBank have been supplemented by the coming on line of the Microfinance bank,

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FIDES Bank, to provide funding for businesses, especially for SMEs. DBN is investigating the possibility of establishing a National Venture Capital Fund and preparations are under way to establish an SME Bank under the ambit of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

**PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

The new Tender Board Bill will be tabled in this House this year. The new Bill provides for more support to the local economy, the previously disadvantaged as well as enhancing good governance practices.

**EXPENDITURE PRIORITIES FOR THE MTEF:**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, our country faces severe structural challenges emanating from several decades of differentiated treatment and neglect. We have set our priorities and we take pride in the successes we have achieved on several key fronts.

However, the challenges of unemployment, poverty and skills shortages remain. We have to continue efforts to address these challenges, while still remaining within our means by doing more with less.

**ECONOMIC GROWTH, EMPLOYMENT CREATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION:**

Promoting broad-based economic growth and job creation remain an important priority for Government.

In this regard, the key intervention areas for the MTEF are the priority sectors indentified under the TIPEEG programme, namely; Agriculture, Housing and Sanitation, Tourism and Transport.

Under the TIPEEG intervention:-

- Agriculture is allocated N\$3.7 billion over the MTEF



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- Housing and Sanitation is allocated a total of N\$4.1 billion over the MTEF
- Transport is allocated N\$2.8 billion over the MTEF, with additional funds to be sourced from external sources for the Sector, and
- Tourism is allocated a total of N\$286.8 million over the MTEF 135. However, TIPEEG shall be reoriented under NDP4, in order to focus on the creation of long-term jobs in the private sector in the long-run.

Further, the bottlenecks that hinder accelerated implementation of the programmes and the Development Budget in general will continue to be addressed by strengthening the technical capacity for project planning and execution by Offices, Ministries and Agencies.

Other measures to improve execution include using the administrative capacities of Regional Councils and Local Authorities in order to de-congest the centre, and strengthening mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on TIPEEG's accomplishments.

**AGRICULTURE:**

Amongst the many activities to be undertaken in the *Agricultural Sector*, we are providing funds to continue with the Green Scheme and establish a National Fresh Produce Hub infrastructure, operationalise the Namibian Agricultural Marketing and Trade Agency

Resources are also availed to intensify animal health programmes and to promote marketing of livestock products from communal areas.

AgriBank will receive funding to provide production loans, especially to small-scale farmers.

**WATER:**

As a semi-arid country, we have to brave investment in water infrastructure to secure adequate supplies for households and businesses.

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In this regard, rural water supply and the Desalination Plant at the coast and the Neckertal Dam are among the priorities over the MTEF. The Neckertal Dam project is expected to commence in 2012/2013 and it will support irrigation activities in the Karas Region.

**INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT:**

- Funding is provided for the development and upgrading of transport infrastructure to link remote areas to the national network and to enhance regional connectivity and cross-border trade. This will expand our production base and facilitate trade.
- Air Namibia will receive additional funding to execute its new business plan and optimise the airline's contribution to the economy.

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND SKILLS FORMATION:**

**Education** remains the top priority and receives a lion's share of the Budget. A total of N\$9.4 billion is allocated to the Education Sector during 2012/2013, which is 23.6% of total expenditure. Over the MTEF, the total allocation to education amounts to N\$28.1 billion.

This allocation will provide funds to amongst others:

- Construct and upgrade educational facilities
- Recruit qualified teachers and construct accommodation facilities for teachers in rural areas as well as improve teacher skills
- Improve funding to the Students Financial Assistance Fund to enable more youths to access tertiary education.
- Provide for increased vocational training.

This Budget allocates N\$4.0 billion to the **Health Sector**. For the MTEF, total allocation to the Health Sector amounts N\$11.1 billion.

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

The allocation will support delivery of quality health services. In particular, the allocation will help sustain critical programmes previously funded by donors who are now phasing out their funding; improve health facilities and recruitment of professional staff.

**STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SAFETY NETS:**

In this Budget:-

- The old-age pension is increased by an additional N\$50.00 per month, to bring the monthly pension grants to N\$550.
- Allocations are made to expand coverage of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children.
- Allocations for emergency relief are strengthened to provide relief to people affected by natural disasters as well as repair for damage to infrastructure.
- Provisions are also made to continue with support programmes for veterans of the liberation struggle.

**DEFENCE, SAFETY AND PUBLIC ORDER**

Allocations to the Security Sectors are aimed at:--

- Upgrading the facilities of our security forces and enhance Namibia's participation in peacekeeping missions as part of the United Nation's membership responsibilities
- Constructing and renovating Court structures and reducing the backlog of cases in our Courts
- Building office and accommodation facilities for the police, and recruiting and training new members of the force.

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**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT:**

We are seeking under this MTEF to increasingly place our youth at the centre of development by creating opportunities for youth employment and empowerment.

During this MTEF:-

- Allocations to the Youth, National Sports and Culture amounts to N\$1.6 billion
- As part of this allocation, funding is provided to the National Youth Credit Scheme to support young entrepreneurs who want to start income generating activities.
- The national procurement rules have been amended to provide for preferential considerations for youth empowerment.

**ENERGY:**

In the Energy Sector, the Budget interventions are aimed at expanding electrification in rural areas, especially to clear the backlog in the electrification of public facilities and also to strengthen the national generation and transmission capacity.

**HOUSING AND IMPROVED SANITATION**

A total amount of N\$1.3 billion over the MTEF is allocated to Ministry of Regional, Local Government, Housing and Rural Development to cater for the servicing of land and improved sanitary standards in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. A total of N\$90 million is allocated to NHE over the MTEF to provide for the construction of low cost housing. In addition, the Government's Institutions Pension Fund (GIPF) has developed a housing scheme for fund members to access a portion of their pension to finance acquisition of houses. The Transfer Duty Act and Stamp Duty Act have also been amended to provide for the increase of the tax threshold to assist low-income earners to acquire houses.

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**EXPECTED RESULTS:**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, doing more with less and getting more value for money are the key principles that will govern Public Finance Management.

The Accountability Report of Government gives an account of achievements realised with appropriated funds.

**USE OF CONTINGENCY ALLOCATIONS FOR 2011/2012:**

During the current Financial Year, an amount of N\$250 million was allocated as a contingency provision. Of this amount, N\$80 million was spent to meet the emergency needs as presented by Offices, Ministries and Agencies. I have distributed the list of activities that have benefited from the Contingency Provisions.

**CONCLUSION:**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, our counter cyclical fiscal and monetary policies have worked well and have had a positive impact on growth and poverty reduction. The main message of this Budget is that the time has come for developing fiscal buffers to prepare for fiscal consolidation by 2014/2015.

Credible fiscal measures that build buffers will also help to create fiscal space for supporting future economic growth. As to Government itself, we aim at becoming a cost-efficient and accountable Government that delivers timely and high-quality services.

Where our policies did not have their expected impact, this should incite us to consider alternative approaches. But Government cannot solve the challenges facing our country through Public Sector institutions alone. At the end of the day, it is the activities of the private sector that will propel our country to greater heights.

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New collaboration models between Government and private sector partners are, therefore, to play their role. Economic development is not about what Government alone can do, but what Government, the private sector, civil society organisations and Labour Unions can do together.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in his address to the Nation on the occasion of the celebration of the 21<sup>st</sup> Independence anniversary our President, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba reminded us that: *“On 21<sup>st</sup> March 1990, we took the destiny of our Nation into our own hands and reinforced the process of crafting a new direction for our country to accelerate socio-economic development, to improve and expand the delivery of public services and to build new infrastructure such as roads, railways, airports, power lines, water pipelines, housing units and other public facilities”*.

He continued *“We seized the opportunity to harness Government resources and machinery to address the question of inequality in the provision of many public services including education, health care, social grants and other services. This task of nation-building has been, and continues to be tremendously difficult. However, I can confidently say that we are making steady gains towards the achievement of our goals and objectives.”*

It is this conviction that underlies the proposals made in this Budget and MTEF. We must remain seized with the opportunity to determine the destiny of our Nation by deploying and implementing credible socio-economic strategies for the good of all Namibians, while guarding our hard won fiscal sovereignty.

Lastly, let me express my sincere gratitude to all our development partners and stakeholder community for the material, financial and technical assistance rendered to Namibia in furtherance of our socio-economic development. I also thank His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba for his continued trust in me as the Minister of Finance.

I wish to thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister and my Cabinet Colleagues for their support and understanding during the Budget

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**HON NYAMU**

formulation process. My unalloyed gratitude goes to my officials and the NPC Secretariat for the meticulous and hard work expended to prepare the Budget documentation. Let me also acknowledge here the tremendous contribution of our departed Colleague Ms Cecilia Ndishishi. Her passing on will be felt sorely, but her spirit lives on as a fountain of inspiration.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members; it is now my pleasure to table the 2012/2013 *Appropriation Bill* and 2012/2013 to 2014/2015 MTEF to the House for consideration and approval. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for her introduction of the *Appropriation Bill*. Let me also recognise the presence of the Director-General of the National Planning Commission amidst us. Thank you Minister, we will have an opportunity to go through all the punctuation marks and ask you questions as and when the time comes. Any further discussion? Honourable Nyamu.

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**HON NYAMU:** Honourable Speaker, in view of the fact that some of us, if not most of us, have not been party to the preparation of this Budget and in addition to the fact that the introduction speech we have listened to is full of typist rhetoric terms by the Minister, I Move that in order to have sufficient time to analyse this presentation, the discussion be postponed to the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2012.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objections? The further consideration of this Motion stands adjourned until 8 March 2012. The Second Notice of Motion is by the Deputy Prime Minister. Does the Deputy Prime Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

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**DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT BILL**  
**HON HAUSIKU**

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:**  
**DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT BILL**

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds? Any objections? Will the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister table the Bill?

The Secretary will now read the Bill a First Time.

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**SECRETARY:** *Disaster Risk Management Bill.*

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**SECOND READING: DISASTER**  
**RISK MANAGEMENT BILL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Deputy Prime Minister Move that the Bill be now read a Second Time?

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objections? Agreed to. The Deputy Prime Minister has the Floor.

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**SECOND READING: DISASTER RISK  
MANAGEMENT BILL  
HON HAUSIKU**

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, for the opportunity to introduce the Disaster Risk Management Bill.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I am pleased to table the Disaster Risk Management Bill in this Honourable House.

The Bill provides for the establishment of institutions for disaster risk management in Namibia, an integrated and coordinated disaster management approach, declarations of disasters, establishment of the National Disaster Management Risk Fund and other incidental matters.

It is based on the principles of the National Disaster Risk Management Policy, which was approved by Cabinet in 2008 and by this august House in March 2009. The Bill was produced with technical and financial assistance from the United Nations through the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Namibia. We highly appreciate the assistance.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the tabling of the Disaster Risk Management Bill is overdue as Namibia faces increasing levels of several possible disaster risks. The country is exposed to a wide range of hazards, such as all weather conditions, sporadic veld and domestic fires, epidemics and animal diseases as well as deteriorating climatic conditions, that can lead to disasters. In addition, Namibia's extensive coastline and proximity to international shipping routes present a threat to its marine and coastal environments.

Namibia has in place the National Emergency Management System to implement the National Disaster Preparedness and Management activities, which allow us to promptly and timeously respond to any disaster in the country. The system is managed by an Emergency Management unit, which was transformed into a fully-fledged directorate in the Office of the Prime Minister. The directorate is charged with the responsibilities of coordinating the management of disasters in the country with a specific responsibility of protecting the lives and properties through a sound disaster preparedness and management. However, the system lacks legal framework. Thus, the Bill aims to formalise and provide the legal base to

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**SECOND READING: DISASTER RISK  
MANAGEMENT BILL  
HON HAUSIKU**

national structures of disaster management.

Over the past years, Comrade Speaker, the Office of the Prime Minister has been busy setting up appropriate structures that would carry out such responsibilities. The office was also preoccupied with responding to incidents, some of which reached the level of disasters. Among those are the 2007/2008 drought, 2008/2009, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 floods.

Comrade Speaker, the effects of the 2011 flood is still fresh in our minds and part of our society is not yet fully recovered from such devastating events.

There are many social evils, such as poverty and unemployment that increase the vulnerability of our people to hazards that have the potential of becoming disasters. The Bill considers existing coping mechanisms of vulnerable communities, households and individuals by advocating the enhancement of coping capacities in the affected communities.

The following institutions are established:

- The National Disaster Risk Management Committee, chaired by the Secretary to Cabinet;
- The Village or Settlement Disaster Risk Management Committees;
- The Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee; and
- The Directorate Disaster Risk Management.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the provisions of the Bill is based on the principles of the Namibian Constitution which provides that the primary responsibility for disaster risk management rests with the State. Article 95 of our Constitution requires the State to actively promote the welfare of its people. Similarly, under international laws, Namibia is obliged to protect its citizens, assist her neighbouring countries as well as other members of the international community during disasters.

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MANAGEMENT BILL  
HON HAUSIKU**

Section 34 of the Bill gives effect to the provisions of the Namibian Constitution on property right, while at the same time tries to address operational needs for disaster management. The Bill also provides coordinating mechanisms to ensure better coordination during disasters.

Comrade Speaker, one of the main challenges in disaster management in Namibia is coordination among stakeholders. Part II of the Bill, therefore, makes provision to assist us in improving our coordination during the times of disaster. It provides for Disaster Risk Management Framework Programme and Plans for improved institutional emergency preparedness and response capacity at local, regional and national levels and implies an increased commitment to strategies to prevent disasters and mitigate their severity.

Part III of the Bill provides for each level of disaster risk management to have proper framework, programmes and plans developed to ensure that there is effectiveness in our approaches for emergency or disaster management. Commitment is, therefore, required from all stakeholders to mainstream disaster risk management into our development plans.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the Bill before us provides for a range of issues, including among others formal basis support plans, organisational arrangements, preparedness measures, response, actions and so on. It allocates a major responsibility that helps to ensure that such functions are properly implemented.

The Bill recognises diversity of risks and disasters that occur in the Southern African Region and gives priority to developmental measures that reduce the vulnerability of disaster-prone areas, communities and households. Hence the establishment of the Vulnerability Committee under Clause 3(c) of the Bill.

Clauses 42 and 43 of the Bill provides for compensation for death or injury and damage to property, respectively.

Part V of the Bill provides for the establishment of the National Disaster

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MANAGEMENT BILL  
HON HAUSIKU**

Fund and how such a Fund should be managed. The Bill empowers the Prime Minister to make regulations on the management of the Fund.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, the overall goal of the Bill is to contribute to the attainment of sustained development in line with Namibia's Vision 2030 through strengthening of national capacities to reduce risk and build community resilience to disasters, which is consistent with emerging international trends in disaster risk reduction. It provides for emergency preparedness, rapid and effective responses to disasters and post-disaster recovery.

The following stakeholders took part in the processes of the development of the Bill:

1. Ministries, Offices and Agencies;
2. Regional and Local Councillors;
3. Non-governmental organisations and development partners. This was done through national consultative meetings and workshops to solicit inputs.

We would like to appreciate the efforts of all stakeholders who participated in the consultative meetings and workshops which led to the finalisation of the Disaster Risk Management Bill.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, may I now request your support and constructive discussions to enrich the Bill for adoption. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Deputy Prime Minister for the introduction. Honourable Kaura.

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**SECOND READING: DISASTER RISK  
MANAGEMENT BILL  
HON KAURA**

**HON KAURA:** Honourable Speaker, I Move that the Debate be adjourned until Thursday.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Debate on this Motion stands adjourned until Thursday. The Third Notice of Motion is the one by Honourable Kaura. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion?

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**HON KAURA:** I Move the Motion.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Honourable Kaura has the Floor.

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**MOTION ON INCREASE IN OLD-AGE  
PENSIONS**

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**HON KAURA:** Mr Speaker, when I gave notice to increase the old-age pension to N\$1,000 per month, you all smiled because you felt Kaura is at it again. Well, history shall record and remember that for twenty-two years Katuutire Kaura tirelessly campaigned for the increase in old-age pension.

The Honourable Minister just appraised this House that she is going to increase with N\$50 coming next month, but I feel that is N\$450 short of one thousand.

Honourable Members, it is humane and praiseworthy that those who participated in the war of liberation are not forgotten. At least they are provided with a dignified space under the sun. However many of our

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**MOTION: INCREASE IN OLD-AGE PENSION**  
**HON KAURA**

senior citizens today made their contribution to Namibia either as contract labourers, farm workers, domestic servants and so on. Namibia is praised as a clean and beautiful country and it is due to those who laboured under difficult circumstances to make Namibia what it is today.

Honourable Members, we are all cognisant of the world economic meltdown. It is stated in the *New Era* of two weeks ago that the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation sounded alarm bells over the volatility of international food markets.

Namib Mills has announced that the price of sugar will increase on Monday, 27 February, between 7 to 9 %. It is further stated in the *New Era* that the FAO Food Price Index rose by nearly 2 to 214 points in January and oil increase followed closely by cereals, sugar, dairy products and meat.

Namibian experts are warning us that Namibia must expect inflation to move upwards in the next couple of months, with food and transport as the main driving forces along with an increase in electricity prices. The annual inflation for January was at 6.6% and that is quite alarming. I know that we are all aware of the fact that going into the supermarket with a hundred dollars, you come out with a half a shopping bag of food.

The price of meat is unaffordable in all our urban centres. It is, however, important to remind the Honourable Members that senior citizens are not looking after themselves, but they are looking after thousands of orphans because of what we know is happening to our young people

Baby-dumping has become a new phenomenon in our society because of the 51% unemployment rate in Namibia. Children of the young Namibians are cared for by their grandparents that depend on the N\$500 per month that they receive from the State.

In view of what I have stated above, it is imperative that we increase old-age pension to N\$1,000 per month, because by doing so we are addressing the problem of the orphans, unemployment and baby-dumping.

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**HON RIRUAKO**

Honourable Members, I thank you for your anticipated support. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank Honourable Kaura. Honourable Riruako.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Mr Speaker, wonderful things happen without expectations and what is good is good and all of us must bear that in mind, that what is good is good, for us to come and join it.

Mr Speaker, this is a wonderful time for the whole Namibia. They are all expecting this to happen and it happened, but before I am going to say all of it, I have to congratulate the lady, Saara Kuugongelwa. Although she does not listen, somebody will get it to her, as usual. What is good is good, Honourable Minister. We were criticised but we thought that you are going to keep this TIIPEG as something that you can put aside. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Riruako, the further consideration of the Budget was deferred.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** It is a combination of the two. There is something good she mentioned, but I thought she was going to keep that away from her (intervention).

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**HON SPEAKER:** You are doing what I am saying. Speak to Honourable Kaura's Motion.

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HON TJIHUIKO**

**HON RIRUAKO:** No, I am not speaking to Honourable Kaura, this was said by the Government, not by Honourable Kaura. Mr Speaker, there is a big difference between an individual and what was said. I hope that we will learn from the good but we have to continue. We cannot reverse from what we achieved and go back to the old way of thinking, forward ever backward never.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Tjihuiko.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Yes, indeed, the Motion that was introduced by Honourable Kaura is very much relevant and it is actually on time. It is a good Motion at this particular moment because we are now discussing the Budget and obviously it is our responsibility to look at the needs of the people, to amend the Budget and to shift funds from one Budget to another in order for us to address critical issues. Therefore, the question of increasing the pension with N\$50, as the Honourable Minister has just announced, I found it very unfortunate. She could have done better, Government could have done better.

Looking at the Motion by Honourable Shixwameni the other day, looking at the economic conditions in our beautiful country, especially when it comes to the poverty among our old-age pensioners, that is something that cannot be ignored, but I think it is also our responsibility as leaders to look at this critical issue and ask ourselves that, if I were one of them, could I have survived with N\$550? If you look at that N\$550, it is your daily pocket money or the pocket money that you would take for the weekend, not travelling out of Windhoek, just going to see some friends and this is the amount of money that we are happy to give to our old-age pensioners, our own parents and we expect them to survive. (Intervention)

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**MOTION: INCREASE IN OLD-AGE PENSION  
HON TJIHUIKO**

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

Comrade Speaker, I am rising to try and find out, through you, whether I may pose a question to Honourable Tjihuiko of NUDO. Honourable Tjihuiko, I just want to find out from you and from your Party, first your definition of “old-age pension.” That is one. Secondly, your view as a Member of this House and by extension, your Political Party’s view on those of us who are in the public service who, after retirement, in addition to our normal pension that we have worked for, also line up for this N\$550. What are your views? First the definition and then secondly, your views and your Party’s views.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** I do not have to give the Honourable Minister a definition, all what we need to look at is what has been defined in the Act. That is the working document that is guiding us. Therefore, the views of NUDO are irrelevant, what we need to do is to implement the Act.

Secondly, if you have former Members of Parliament who are lining up for the pension, the law does not prevent them to do that and secondly, it is a question of your own conscience to ask whether I am doing the right thing or not. But Honourable Minister, there are people who have been Ministers for the last twenty-two years and I understand that some of them have already registered for the money to be given to the former fighters. They are highly educated people who are earning more than anything who have lined up and registered with the Ministry of Veterans Affairs to pressure Government to give them money that could have gone to those people. That is what we need to look at and we need to change the law so that all these Ministers should be disqualified not to have access to that money. With what you are getting now you cannot compare yourselves with the Colleagues who have been in the bush while you were sitting in the United Kingdom and enjoyed all the fruits and came back with three degrees. That is not fair and that includes myself. That is why I have not registered.

These are the practical issues and it is our responsibility to ensure that at the level where we are now it is uncalled for to go and register for that.

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HON TJIHUIKO**

That is why some of us are saying, looking at what our parents are getting and we are saying that we are happy with the little that has been added and we are putting billions into Air Namibia, how many people are going to benefit from Air Namibia? What is it that we will lose if there is no Air Namibia? Are we not going to fly? How do we address the question of poverty among our people if we cannot even consider our own parents? That is not fair.

Honourable Speaker, that is why I am calling upon all of us sitting in this Chamber... (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Normally someone can only give what you have. You do not give what you see there, that is not yours. Honourable Tjihuiko, do you have extra money to give? Number one, you are not the Minister of Finance, you do not know how much money is in the coffers there. Secondly, you do not even have a bank to say that you can at least take from the bank and give to the people. Do you have money to give?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Deputy Minister, it is uncharacteristic for you not to have fully applied your mind to your own statement or maybe you did not get to the point. I will give you another chance.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Does the Honourable Member have money somewhere else to give in addition to what the Finance Minister can offer right now?

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HON TJIHUIKO**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, at the present moment we have money, this is the money. We are discussing the Budget, we have not yet approved the Budget. What I am saying, let us look at what we have and move chairs within the House. I am not saying that the Minister should come up with another billion, let us touch on the unnecessary, let us look at the priority, let us look at the well-being of our people and cut where it needs to be cut and put it where we need to put the money. That is what I am talking about. (Intervention)

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**HON NYAMU:** Honourable Member, are you aware of the fact that last week or so the South African Government has increased the pension grant of elders to R1,200?

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, I am sure that, looking at this favourably, it can be done by us and I am referring to us, not referring to anybody else. I am saying this is the Budget that we need to approve, it is us and when somebody like Honourable Kaura comes up with a brilliant idea and say, let us look at what we have to give to the old-age pensioners, let us call on the Minister of Finance and say, please look at our Budget, look at the things we can do without. They are there. If you want us to help you where we need to start, we can do that. The money that has been given to Air Namibia, the money that has been given to National Housing Enterprises that are building houses that our people cannot afford, we can do without it be, because at the present moment they cannot even build a house in Okakarara at the rate of N\$400,000. Therefore, what is the sense of giving to somebody to build houses that cannot be occupied?

We are saying, let us look at those areas, let us cut there and give the money to old-age pensions. I sincerely hope that the Minister of Finance will take this very seriously, the Ruling Party will take this Motion very seriously before we approve this Budget. We are looking forward to seeing an improvement in the old-age pensions. I thank you.

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Indeed, Honourable Tjiuiko said most of the things that I wanted to say. I think it is time that we get serious and support the Motion on the increment of pensions and we really need to do it because the current grant being given is indeed nothing else but crumbs from the table of the rich people. There is no one, in fact I unfortunately have to say this, that the N\$50 increment on the pension grant is basically a shock for our Nation. I think we can do much, much better and the pension grant does not need to be at N\$550.

I have the Budget speech here by the Minister of Finance, Pravin Gordhan, it is N\$1,220 now. We inherited the pension system from the South Africans, we have fallen far back in terms of inflation and with the N\$550 you cannot buy anything. You go to a shop with a N\$550, you will definitely come out with probably two bags of maize-meal alone, forget about the other things that you need to buy.

Therefore, I support the Motion and what I want to say further in support of the Motion is that we probably have to revisit our social grant system. We are doing good, let us not run away from that, that we offer N\$20 here, N\$30 dollars there. As the Minister of Finance said, we are amongst the three countries that are offering these grants, but we can improve and still do better.

My suggestion to the Ministry of Finance is, let Government commission study about these many grants that we are paying out to people. Let us look at them in a holistic way and decide what would be the best approach of offering grants to vulnerable citizens of our society. Maybe we can consolidate them, because as we stand now, and as Honourable Kaura said, the grandparents are taking care of the grandchildren and their children. Maybe we have to find a better formula to support the old-age pension headed households in a way that is sustainable, by consolidating the various grants that we are offering as a State to these people. It is an

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**HON MUSHELENGA**

idea that I am throwing around, that we need to look at it, probably reconsider the grant system that we have so that we see whether we cannot consolidate them in a grant that is sustainable, in a grant which does not just throw money to the problem without resolving the problems.

Otherwise I fully support, since it is Budget time, that we need to look at the Budget figures. Honourable Minister of Finance, maybe for the first time we should consider engaging the Committee on Public Accounts or Economics to relook at the figures in the Budget to see where to shuffle the chairs. We do not say budget an extra N\$850 million, as we did last year with the increment of the civil servants, we are saying, can we not push the chairs around the house and see whether we can get a better solution to the problem at hand. However, I fully support the Motion that old-age pensions should be increased to N\$1,000 in order to be meaningful. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Mushelenga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to air my views on the Motion by Honourable Kaura.

Having listened to the Budget speech by the Honourable Minister of Finance, having listened to the motivation by Honourable Kaura, there is something that comes out here and I want this to be clear to everybody so that there is no misunderstanding.

We all agree with the principle of increasing the old-age pension grants. I do not want someone to leave here with the impression that Government is opposed to increasing the pension grant, but where we differ is with how much we need to increase the amount. That is where we differ. I would not know the reasons for Honourable Kaura to come up with the amount he suggested, but I would certainly be able to tell why the Honourable

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HON MUSHELENGA**

Minister of Finance came up with the amount that she suggested.

I first want the Honourable Members to put themselves in the shoes of the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance is like a parent in the house whose children come to her with various needs, ranging from school fees, medical fees, clothing, etcetera and one has to try to give portions of amounts to satisfy at least most of the needs. This is what the Minister of Finance does when she tables the Budget. (Intervention)

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**HON NYAMU:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, I do not know where you were maybe you were too young at the time, but do you know that twenty years ago it was stated that Air Namibia will never, ever be a business proposition. Up to now Air Namibia is ever in bankruptcy. Now the Minister is telling us that they are going to spend so much money on Air Namibia. Do you think that is money well spent instead of contributing to the elderly of this country?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, I will not pre-empt my own intervention on the Budget. Honourable Nyamu is arguing I was too young, I should not argue. Age does not matter. As young as I am, I have made a right political decision.

Honourable Speaker, coming to the amount, perhaps why the Minister gave the amount she gave, so many needs that need to be attended to and not even all the needs have been accommodated in the Budget. Perhaps we also need to see how we improve on the revenue that we are collecting. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture mentioned something about coming to tell. Maybe it is high time to start looking at who needs to get this money. I know some employers do employ their people until they reach the age of 65 and then they go on pension, but I know that when these people reach the age of sixty, they start receiving this amount. This is exactly what is depleting our coffers, because even working people who are above sixty but they are working are receiving this amount. It is

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by law, but it is really a question of how someone can use his or her own correct judgment as to why do you receive a grant that is meant to assist the old-aged who have no means of income. That is where the central question lies.

If we were to be fair to the system of pension grants, then we will not be able to take up so much of the amount that will then be used to increase the old-age pension. Honourable Nyamu talked about the increment on the South African pension. We are not on the same economies of scale. The Budget of COPE is not the same as the Budget of RDP. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:**

May I ask a question? Comrade Mushelenga, do you not see the need to increase this money? I support the idea of increasing the money of the pensioners. Do you not see the need of increasing this money? Maybe if we could deduct from the political parties' money they receive from Parliament, it could enable us to reach the point of N\$1,500.

Secondly, there is this game being played in the National Assembly that people retire from Parliament, they go and take the pensioners' money and when they see that the money is too little, they come back. Do you not think this behaviour also manipulates the situation of the pensioners?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. This is exactly what I was saying, from this side there is that will to increase the amount, but the central question is, where do we get the money? People are talking about money given to NHE as if people do not need houses. Honourable Sioka is raising an important point, maybe we need to abolish the money given to Political Parties so that we use that money to increase the old-age pensions. That will be a fair proposal, I would have expected Honourable Tjiuiko to say NUDO should not receive this money, it should be added to that of the old-age pensioners instead of building houses. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** A small question, Honourable Speaker. I am not surprised that you do not know what is going on in the country as you are the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and always outside the country. Coming to the question, Honourable Deputy Minister, I fully agree with the idea that we have to take the money given to Political Parties and give it to the old-aged pensioners. You will get my support. Secondly, do you know that the Chief Executive Officers of those loss-making Parastatals which are being given millions every year are receiving not less than a million a year? They are getting money from the State to pay one person one million per year. Is that fair? These are the Parastatals that we need to look at and see what they are doing and if at all you would stop that one million to one person, you can bring it back and give it to the old-aged pensioners. We are proposing a way forward. We are not saying nothing has been done, what we are saying is that we need to look at the reality and the reality is that we need to increase, the money is there, cut funding to Parastatals, close them down, let us give the money where it is needed.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, while I do not really want to indulge in discussing the Budget, I would also want the Honourable Members to be fair to themselves in what they are saying, because cutting money of these Parastatals will also have its own social implications. It means you end up with people on the streets who have been retrenched because the revenue of the companies are not the same. Let us not try to play cheap politics here. What will happen to a thousand of people who are going to the streets?

Honourable Speaker, what I am saying is that we must also look at what our responsibilities are as individual Members and a Nation, because we all know that this money is not enough to sustain the old-aged, but there is an obligation on the part of family members to make their contribution to their old-aged family members. (Intervention)



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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** I would like to ask a question. I would just like to quote Chapter 11 of our Constitution, the Principles of State Policy, Article 95(f), Promotion of the Welfare of the people, Page 126. Honourable Mushelenga, Are you aware of the fact that our Constitution puts an obligation on the State to support old-age pensioners? I quote (f): *“Insure that senior citizens are entitled to and do receive a regular pension adequate for the maintenance of a decent standard of living and the enjoyment of social and cultural opportunities.”* Who can enjoy social and cultural opportunities and maintain an adequate standard of living with N\$550?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, two issues. One, what is the intention of Parliament, what was the intention of the Constituent Assembly that drafted this Constitution? Maybe I can understand Honourable Kaura a bit, but I do not think the concerns of Honourable Shixwameni and Honourable Nyamu, who were in this Government and now have a different interpretation, I do not think they have genuine concerns.

Honourable Speaker, what I am saying is, as family members we should not run away from our traditional obligations to take care of our elderly family members. If we are going to do that, we will solve many problems facing the old-aged pensioners.

Honourable Speaker, in view of the fact that there is an intention from the side of Government with regard to increment, but due to the fact that Government is constrained by economic factors, I would really want to plead with Honourable Kaura that for now let us accept the current increment which is included in the Budget and withdraw the Motion. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO**

**HON MOONGO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Mr Speaker, this is an important and serious Motion. Those whose parents passed away are guarded by the spirits of their parents. The spirit of your father who passed away is protecting you and those who still have fathers and mothers must be reminded of Commandment 4 and not only that, but also the principle of Article 94 that they must receive an adequate pension. I do not have a degree to understand what “adequate” means, but what I understand from my “*College of Prison of Konga*” English, “adequate” means enough to cater for the day-to-day needs.

Colleagues, the spirits of your parents who passed away are still guarding you and when you pay your fathers and mothers who are still with you this small amount, their tears will fall and you will not get a blessing. Commandment 4 says you should respect your fathers and mothers. Maybe it is better if you underpay the youngsters, but the elderly who brought you up, who are guarding you, who are between you and God are being underpaid. Colleagues, you are joking. The law says “adequate”, is N\$550 adequate? (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? The Honourable village headman is emphasising “adequate”. Is your revenue from your Uukumwe shops adequate for you and your family?

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**HON MOONGO:** Uukumwe is doing well and it is only a pity that we are not supported by Government. It was not supported by colonial Governments, it is not supported by the current Government and we have enemies who are fighting Uukumwe. However, let us leave that one and let us come to the topic.

Are you ready to see your parents’ tears? I do not even want to discuss the matter, it is shameful. Let us underpay those who are strong and young and look after your old father and mother. (Intervention)

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**HON KAPIA:** Honourable Moongo, may I ask you a question? Honourable Moongo, is Uukumwe paying tax to Government, adequate tax and VAT and what is the tax number?

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**HON MOONGO:** You know Uukumwe started with vendors and the colonial Government never supported me and your Government is still trying to close some of the shops. But anyway, leave that one to the law.

Colleagues, let us find a solution and I think the N\$50 is done with good intentions, but can you look your parents in the eyes when you give them N\$50? Can you face them? Let us look for money which is getting lost somewhere and deduct from that and add to the pensions. Your parents who are between you and God cannot be satisfied with N\$50. They will not bless you, their tears will haunt you. Honourable Kaura, let us leave this, I think it is enough. All these people are well-blessed because of their parents and it is embarrassing, I do not want to hear it. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Riruako.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** I am sorry I thanked the Government, when I heard about it I thought it was N\$500. I really thought it was N\$500 and that we do not have to argue this matter and destabilise the politics of Namibia because of N\$500.

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**HON KASINGO:** On a Point of Information. If I am correct, I think the Honourable Chief has already spoken on this matter.

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HON IILONGA**

**HON RIRUAKO:** I did not speak on this matter.

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**HON SPEAKER:** They are telling me you did. Honourable Iilonga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, since I joined this House on 01 November 1995, the Honourable Member has been coming up with similar Motions. We cannot play with our elderly people and use them as pawns as if playing chess. He never succeeded with his Motions, he always lost. He is politicising the matter by coming up with these Motions. Just imagine, we found our elders here, receiving N\$35. (Intervention)

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**HON RIRUAKO:** On a Point of Order. It is not a matter of getting anywhere, it is a matter of understanding in this House. I am not making it a political issue, as you put it, I wanted the House to agree. I do not want to accuse the Government, let us face the reality, all of us, and find a way how to tackle the matter in order to give credit to everybody. That is the point.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Comrade Speaker, we cannot use the elderly people as pawns or as bait on a hook to catch fish. We cannot do that. If Honourable Moongo says we must respect the Fourth Commandment, if that is the root, the past of the DTA, we could respect them. When we unified our elderly we started with N\$100 and we are now at N\$500 which will become N\$550 plus funerals. We must feel proud of what we provide to our people and not politicise it. That is why sometimes we just need to reject and I do not know what the rules say about the Motion being tabled every year while he did not gain anything. He might think

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they can get support during the election, but the people are happy with their Government.

Comrade Speaker, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare has a policy that every two years they revise and we did not even wait two years.

Last year there was an increment and again this year. We will reach N\$1,000. Honourable Shixwameni, at your retirement age you will receive N\$2,000. Therefore, Comrade Speaker, I respectfully call upon the Honourable Member that we just take note of the Motion as we cannot be kept hostage by saying because it is about the elderly, we cannot reject it. If we allow ourselves to be blackmailed, where are we going to end? Our people know that their Government will look after them and we will increase gradually. The salaries of the Members of Parliament are not equal to those in South Africa. You are earning a sweet salary, but you now want to use the elderly people as bait to catch the big fish.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Ulenga.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, I do not want to be long on this Motion. Honourable Speaker, I think we need to change our attitude. When I look at this Motion and I hope I will be able to address the Motion without having to get into the topic of the Budget, which has been adjourned until a later date, I do not see the need to be controversial on this Motion or to be pointing fingers as regards to the two sides of the House. The fact of the matter is, as was mentioned and as we know, Namibia is one of the only three countries in Africa which provide this kind of service.

I heard Honourable Shixwameni also saying that as a matter of fact there is in this country a programme that is a kind of social safety net that takes care or attempts to take care of the old people amongst other vulnerable

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groups in society. Therefore, the issue here really is not whether the Opposition or Government or whoever in the country is for or is against this kind of service, that is not the issue. Of course, it is a political issue, every matter that is discussed in this House is political, so we are addressing it as politicians and we are going to take decisions as politicians.

However, Honourable Speaker, in support of this Motion I want us to turn around, do not try to ridicule and make it irrelevant as if it is a joke. I can see that people outside are listening to us and it is like we are trying to make jokes and trying to ridicule an issue which is very, very important. Honourable Speaker, I think there is no way that we as Members of this House can pass by the part of the Constitution that Honourable Shixwameni just quoted and the Constitution is very specific on this issue, my dear Colleagues, and that is why this State and this Government is still giving this money to old people. The Constitution has enjoined us as a State to pay not just an allowance, but to pay an adequate allowance. “Adequate” can be quantified. In this country there is no doubt that “adequate” under Namibian circumstances can probably be quantified and determined. That is the issue and that is what we need to do. (Intervention)

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**HON DINGARA:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Ulenga a small question to?

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**HON ULENGA:** No. Comrade Speaker, I know my Colleague over there and I do not want to embarrass him, but really, when we discuss this kind of Motion we need to stop this kind of thing we are doing now of Uukumwe and whatever. This is like destroying the Motion. We must not go into that direction of funny questions and so on. There is no division of the House on the issue, we are talking about an adequate pension to the old-aged.

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Honourable Speaker, without beating around the bush, I think this House needs to agree on an instrument, a commission, a committee or whatever, that needs to go out there and determine what amount is adequate. That is the only thing that needs to be done. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Comrade Speaker, if we are to tie this particular Motion to adequacy of resources, if that is the question, do we have adequate schools for all our children? Do we have adequate police stations? Do we have an adequate number of tractors to plough our lands? We are also responsible for providing education, health facilities, developing the country, etcetera. I am not questioning the issue of increasing the pension, but if we are to tie that argument to adequacy, we do not have adequate resources to address all the challenges we are facing as a new country.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, I still want to plead with my Colleagues, Honourable Minister of Safety and Security, I know that there is absolutely no difference between the two of us on the issue. I know that in principle this Government supports the Motion, because the principle of the Motion is to increase the amount that is paid to the pensioners until it is adequate. Therefore, this thing of all of a sudden questioning the Constitution is just not on. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Maybe we should have agreed on a different language than the English language. We are debating the Constitution now. The Constitution says what it says. (Interjection)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** On a Point of Information.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I did not give you the Floor and when we speak the English language with all the emotions and so on, we are not communicating among ourselves here and we are not communicating with people out there. Let us never pretend that what we say here is what people outside think. As a poor person listening, even if you give him a million dollars, probably I would still feel that it is not adequate. Deputy Minister, you have the Floor.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** On a Point of Information, Comrade Speaker. Yes, this SWAPO Party Government has a responsibility, therefore we started with N\$100 and today we are talking of N\$550 by April. The decision has already been taken, therefore we do not need to have something which I want to claim I am the one who made them to increase. This Government has a policy in order to look at the affordability. When the economy does well, we definitely want to give our people what is due to them, but how are you going to attend to other problems which may arise?

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, as I was saying, we are really getting excited over nothing. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** No, do not repeat yourself. The point you made is a valid point, we have incrementally been working towards adequacy. It is a good point and I want you to move beyond that point and, therefore, what we should be doing.

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**HON ULENGA:** Exactly, I want to move beyond and unfortunately I have to build on the theme I was working on before. I want to go back to the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security and what he said and I just



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want to say that I really agree hundred percent with what he is saying. The issue here is not us confronting each other and when I see the soul and the spirit of the Motion, it is not to attack the Ruling Party. There is no such an idea and when I listened to the Colleagues on the other side, they actually support the principle of the Motion. The Minister there is saying there is no problem with an increase and there is no doubt in this country that resources are scarce. There is no doubt in this House that we are dealing with scarce resources. We are trying to meet many, many needs with scarce resources. If God can give us the wisdom how to deal with these resources in a manner in which we are going to stop all those many holes where it is leaking, that would be a very good thing and that is just what the Motion is seeking, how can we, under our circumstances, meet the requirements of the Constitution?

We wrote the Constitution with the idea in mind that we are going, as far as it is possible, as far as is doable in this country, to meet those needs. Therefore, on that point there is no argument, there is no different. The question now is just how much exactly and what can we do practically on the ground and to answer that question, we need to have people to go out there and say under the circumstances, within the context of what we have and within the context of our economy, N\$500 is adequate or N\$1,000 is adequate. The idea now is, let us go out there.... (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** Where?

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**HON ULENGA:** You say where. You do not live in this House, you do not live in this building. Life is being carried out there. If you do not know where ... (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Ulenga, you are going to filibustering, you have not gone an inch beyond where you were.

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**HON ULENGA:** I am concluding, the Minister is wasting my time.  
(Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
Honourable Comrade Ben, I want to pose a very small question to you.  
Would you accommodate me, through the Speaker?

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**HON ULENGA:** I would have accommodated the Minister if it were not  
for this spirit that the Members on the other side are coming up, trying to  
hide...(Interjection)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Ulenga, can you continue now?

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**HON ULENGA:** Yes, that is right, burying our heads in the sand like  
ostriches will not help us anything. Honourable Speaker, I am proposing  
on this Motion that we have to put up a relevant instrument, like a  
committee or a commission, that must go out and determine what is  
adequate pension under the circumstances. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Uutoni.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank  
you very much. Honourable Speaker, I also want to intervene on the  
Motion by Honourable Kaura. Honourable Kaura, maybe I only need to  
inform you that the Ministry of Finance is a caring Ministry, it is a

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listening Ministry and, for that matter, it is an institution that is being run by a caring mother. That is the reason why today in her Budget Statement she has announced an increment on the pension of N\$50. Immediately when she announced that today, a number of elderly people were rejoicing and I thought Honourable Kaura is also rejoicing because he is part and parcel of them.

It is like Honourable Kaura is telling us we do not have programmes in the SWAPO Party and the Government. We have programmes and these programmes are being renewed. This year we will hopefully have a congress that has to look at the programmes, including this programme, to increase the pension. You do not need to demand an increase with every Budget, we already have a programme and that is why the Minister of Finance, when she tabled her Budget, touched on the programmes that the SWAPO Government has put in place. Therefore, we do not need to worry about that, we have a guiding instrument guiding us. It does not mean that while she is caring, she should not keep within the limitation borders. She has to do this in the context...(Intervention)

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**HON MOONGO:** On a Point of Order. I think the Deputy Minister is misleading us. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** No, he cannot mislead the Chair.

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**HON MOONGO:** Yes, maybe not misleading the Chair, but he is trying to mislead the Nation. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** If he cannot mislead the Chair, he cannot mislead the House.

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**HON MOONGO:** Because he says we must not uphold the Constitution, this is only a SWAPO policy. It is not true, this House is for all parties.

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**HON SPEAKER:** He did not say that. Honourable Uutoni, continue.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** No, I did not say that, Honourable Speaker, but I have mentioned the SWAPO Government. What I am trying to say is, even if the Minister of Finance is a caring Minister, it does not mean that she does not have limitations. She has to do this within the context and the framework of the economy's performance and we have to keep this in mind.

Honourable Minister, your education on the Budget made many of our elderly people to understand how this cake should be shared and they are happy that you announced an increase. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? I am a bit worried, I do not want to be in this confusion, I want to be clear on your statement. You have been referring to the Budget of the Minister and I believe this is a Budget that has been approved by the Cabinet, it is not the Minister's Budget. Are you trying to tell us that the Ruling Party does not know anything about what is in the Budget, it is only the Minister's Budget? Is that what you are trying to tell people out there, that it is the Minister's Budget, we should criticise the Minister and not the Ruling Party, taking the Minister, putting her in a corner and putting the Ruling Party in another corner? Do you want us to blame the Minister of Finance and leave out the Party? What is the point that you are trying to drive home?

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**HON //GAROËB**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** This is what I am saying, when somebody is talking some of the Honourable Members do not listen. I have mentioned the SWAPO Government, of which the Minister of Finance is a member. Therefore, I believe that answer is clear to you. I said the Minister of Finance and the SWAPO Government and he is leaving now, I think the answer is clear to him.

To conclude, Honourable Speaker, I am trying to say that our people understand after the education given by the Minister of Finance that that is how the Budget works. (Intervention)

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**HON MOONGO:** I thought when the Minister of Finance draws up a Budget, she should not contradict the Constitution which says “adequate” and then she only adds N\$50.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** That is not a question directed at me but at the Minister. I want to conclude by saying that this N\$50 is also not being taxed, which is also something good and we are just scared that when it happens one day that the DTA takes over, then we are in trouble because if people are talking like this, it is a problem. With that I conclude.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Chief //Garoëb.

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**HON //GAROËB:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir. I am rising to support my Colleague’s Motion and by rising to support this Motion, I just want to remind the Honourable Members of this House that when we are talking about the senior citizens, we are not talking about our political rivals, we are talking about the people who paved the way for us to sit

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here in this House today. We are talking about the people who did not have the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of their sweat.

My Colleague has already alluded to the fact that we have a constitutional obligation towards these people, not only a constitutional obligation but also a moral obligation. That is why we would plead with those people who are playing with numbers, saying that this is adequate, that is not adequate. We are asking our Colleagues to look at the priorities of our community and if we are really serious... (Intervention)

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

May I ask the Honourable //Garoëb a small question? I just want to get clarity on that aspect, if I may just pose a question to the Honourable //Garoëb. Honourable //Garoëb, you are making a very strong statement which I accept and associate with, particularly when you make reference to the moral aspect. Earlier on I posed the question to somebody else and I would like to repeat this question. The intention of providing pension is very noble indeed, as articulated in Article 95 of the Constitution, but my question is, would you agree with me that it is not morally correct for those of us who had the opportunity and privilege to be employed in the Public Service and also have a dedicated pension for which we have worked, to also go and line up for this old-age pension? Would you agree with me that, when talking about morality and conscience, that that is not proper and, therefore, we should discourage them?

Some of the Members are sitting here and we should discourage them from lining up for the old-age pension. Would you agree with me, Honourable //Garoëb?

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**HON //GAROËB:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir. Honourable Member, I want to agree with you, but it seems to me that a number of people... (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** You will be the first to take the Floor tomorrow on this Motion. The discussion on this Motion is adjourned.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, I would like to appeal to the House that we resume the Debate on the Appropriation Bill on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, rather than the 8<sup>th</sup> that was proposed by Honourable Nyamu. I respect the wish and the need of the Honourable Members to have more time to study the documents, but I believe the tradition that we have established is that we postpone the Debate for a week, which will be a week on the 6<sup>th</sup> and if the Honourable Member would not be ready to speak on that day, I believe that there could be others that will be ready to speak, so that we do not lose more time.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Instead of the 8<sup>th</sup>, we resume consideration of the Appropriation Bill on the 6<sup>th</sup>. With that understanding the House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.02.29 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
29 FEBRUARY 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, I lay  
upon the Table two Reports of the Auditor-General on the accounts of –

1. Town Council of Katima Mulilo for the Financial Years ended 30 June  
2009 and 2010; and
2. Regional Council of Ohangwena for the Financial Years ended 31  
March 2008 and 2009.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member please table the  
Reports? Any other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any  
Notice of Motions? Honourable Ulenga.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON ULENGA**

**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2012, I shall Move –

That this House –

*Debates* the poor and deplorable state of moral, ethical, cultural and spiritual education in the country and how it affects the moral and spiritual well-being of our society, especially the youthful generation of today and the generations to come and make recommendations to the Ministry of Youth, National Service and Culture.

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**HON ULENGA:** I further give Notice that on Tuesday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2012, I shall move -

That this Assembly –

Having due regard to Article 20 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia which states as follows, “*all persons shall have the right to education, primary education shall be compulsory and the State shall provide reasonable facilities to render effective this right for every resident within Namibia, by establishing and maintaining State schools at which primary education will be provided free of charge; children shall not be allowed to leave school until they have completed their primary education or have attained the age of sixteen years, whichever is the sooner, save insofar as this may be authorised by Act of Parliament on grounds of health or other considerations pertaining to the public interest.*”

In view of the deplorable factual state of affairs on the ground, this House debates the provision of compulsory and free education in the country, the funding policies and sources for free education and make appropriate recommendations to the Ministry of Education aimed at the full implementation of the above Constitution and provisions.

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**CLARIFICATION  
HON NYAMU**

**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Motions? Any further Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? The First Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs. Does the Minister move that the Bill be now introduced?

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**HON NYAMU:** On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker. I seek clarification in respect of further discussion on the Budget. Yesterday I postponed the discussion on the Budget and requested the House to allow us time until the 8<sup>th</sup> of March to respond. This request was granted, but today I am being informed that the Minister raised the issue and wanted the discussion to start on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March, which is next Tuesday. As Members of the Official Opposition we had considered the necessity to study the Minister's motivation properly and the attached documents, which are many. We need an extra two days to submit our response and I think you will understand that as the Official Opposition we have a special responsibility to this House, especially in terms of Budget Debate. The country expects us to do our responsibility, the public out there is waiting for the views of the Opposition.

It is precisely on the basis of the fact that we need to study these documents that we have asked two extra days. Therefore, I want clarification on this matter.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Apparently you were not present and your Colleagues who were present failed to inform you. The Minister asked for the Floor to clarify, it was not done behind closed doors, it was done here in the open sitting of the Assembly and she gave reasons why instead of the 8<sup>th</sup> the Official Opposition should respond to the Budget on the 6<sup>th</sup> and the Minister's explanation and reasons given by her convinced the House. That is why the decision was taken and that decision stands.

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29 February 2012 **CONFERMENT OF NATIONAL HONOURS BILL**  
**HON DR N IYAMBO**

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:**  
**CONFERMENT OF NATIONAL HONOURS BILL:**

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** I Move the Motion,  
Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds? Any objections? Will the Honourable  
Minister table the Bill? The Secretary will read the Bill a First Time.

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**SECRETARY:** Conferment of *National Honours Bill*.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be  
read a Second Time?

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**SECOND READING: CONFERMENT OF NATIONAL  
HONOURS BILL**

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** I so Move, Honourable  
Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objections? None. The Minister has the Floor.

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**SECOND READING CONFERMENT OF  
NATIONAL HONOURS BILL  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, I motivate and present the National Honours Bill, 2012, to the National Assembly.

The Republic of Namibia achieved its Independence on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1990, closing the dark chapter of foreign occupation which stretched for over one hundred years and ushering in the dawn of Independence, freedom, democracy and human dignity. The Independence of Namibia did not come about by peaceful means, it was brought about by the prolonged liberation struggle which was fought at different fronts in and outside Namibia by armed men and women in armed forces and at the diplomatic, political and underground levels.

In addition, there are many men and women and many others who made outstanding contributions in the defence and security, diplomatic service, education, academic, health, agriculture, sport and in the politics of this country and in many other various fields of human endeavours whose deeds, actions and achievements may deserve national acknowledgement, recognition and honour.

Since Independence, the President of the Republic of Namibia has conferred national status, honours and awards on the authority of the provisions of Article 32(3)(h) of the Namibian Constitution, which empowers the President to confer such honours as the President considers appropriate on Namibian citizens, residents and friends of Namibia in consultation with interested and relevant persons and institutions.

Honourable Speaker, on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1995 the formalisation of the Namibian Honours Systems was instituted and inaugurated in Windhoek by the Grand Master of the Order of the Most Ancient Welwitchia *Mirabilis*, His Excellency Dr Sam Nujoma, the then President of the Republic of Namibia, in accordance with the provisions of Article 32(3)(h) of the Namibian Constitution.

Although the provisions of the Constitution on conferment of honours, awards and decorations have been amply implemented during the past 21

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NATIONAL HONOURS BILL  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

years of Independence, there is a need to amplify and elaborate by an Act of Parliament, for instance, the provision regarding the interested and relevant persons and institutions the President may consult on the conferment of national honours.

Conferment of honours and orders, awards, medals and decorations at the beginning had its historical origins and is often associated with the security forces, that is the military and the police. The Namibian Constitution directive is, however, that the President may confer national status, honours and awards on Namibian citizens, residents and friends of Namibia who distinguished themselves in any field of human endeavours.

Honourable Speaker, the National Honours Bill, 2012, which I present before the Honourable Members contains principles and policies aiming at the establishment of an all-embracing Namibian Honours System. There are three basic policies contained in this Bill:

1. That the President of the Republic of Namibia consult and is advised on conferment of national honours by a National Advisory Committee composed of persons drawn from State organs or institutions and other nations.
2. That there should be a National Honours Advisory Committee to advise the President on the conferment of national honours; and
3. That notwithstanding consultations and advices, the conferment of national honours is the prerogative and responsibility of the President and is exercised at his or her sole discretion.

The objectives of this Bill are to provide legislation which will serve as a guide to the President of the Republic when exercising the power to confer honours, as contemplated by the Namibian Constitution; to provide legislation to serve as a guide on conferment of the national honours of a State funeral; to provide for the establishment of a National Advisory Committee to advise the President on the conferment of national honours; to provide for the functions of the National Advisory Committee.

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NATIONAL HONOURS BILL  
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I move that this Honourable House deliberates and finally approves the National Honours Bill, 2012 and I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his motivation. Any further discussion? Honourable Von Wietersheim.

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**HON VON WIETERSHEIM:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would like to present a few thoughts on this Bill in front of us. I find the Committee that is suggested, the National Honours Advisory Committee, much to be one-sided. I see the Ministry of Veterans Affairs and the Ministry of Defence as chair and as vice-chairpersons and the Ministry of Safety and Security, the Ministry of Justice are represented. Community and voluntary services is only to a small degree represented by regional and Local Government. Apart from the first-mentioned Ministries, we have the Association of Namibian Veterans and then we have a small representation of the economy by the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and also a small representation by the youth through the National Youth Council. I am missing the representation by the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture covering the field of sport, which I think warrants much attention. I am missing the representation of science and technology, which in our stage of development warrants attention. I also feel that representation of arts and media, including music, is missing as well as education as such. I think there may, certainly at our stage of development, be merits in the education field as well as the health sector that may be honoured in a national way.

I feel that if a committee is put together from representatives of Ministries, I have no serious problem with that, while I think that each representative of a Ministry should also have representatives from that specific sector out of the society. That means, for example, the representative for Youth and Sport should also have from the Sports Council, from the National Youth

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HON VON WITERSHEIM**

Council, which is mentioned here as part of the committee, a team to support that representative of the Ministry.

I said at the beginning that I feel that it is a bit one-sided because of a lack of all these fields of important activities in our society. I would like to quote here what Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan said on an occasion of honouring some of the candidates in his country. *“Those who by their innate abilities and creative energies have been able to make impact in our society even deserve more honour than those of us holding political office. We must encourage enterprise creativity and citizens who have excelled in whatever form. Anybody who by the virtue of what he or she does, does it with such dedication to impact society significantly should be honoured.”*

And there I feel that the criteria are also missing in this proposed Bill, criteria such as persons who make a difference to their community or field of work, who brought distinction to Namibia and enhanced Namibia’s reputation in any field of society or work, who gave excellent and sustained self-less voluntary service, who possess characteristics of outstanding, innovative and entrepreneurial abilities, who improved the situation of those less able to help themselves and who are displaying moral courage and vision in making and executing tough choices.

These are just a few ideas which are actually only touching on what could be represented in a Bill like this.

Honourable Minister, if we look at the subcommittees which can be established and that is the kind of supporting body I would expect to be available to representatives of the Ministry, it again says: *“Subcommittees may be established, consisting solely of members of the committee to carry out any function of the committee delegated or assigned to it by the committee.”* In that case I would like to see that one includes, as I said before, members from society to assist the representatives of the Ministries in the committee.

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HON MOONGO**

A question that I have, it seems as if there is no way to nominate persons who a group of people or an organisation feels worthy of receiving national honours. I do not find any way of maybe nominating to His Excellency the President such a person. I do not know whether this has just been left out or whether this is not intended to be done by the public.

I think I would also in the committee as a whole like to see a representative of the Ministry of Gender Equality to, at this stage of our development, assist in finding a gender balance in looking at the national honours determination. Only then I would think that the Advisory Committee could be called an all-embracing committee as the Honourable Minister has just expressed in his introductory speech. Thank you very much Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO:** Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I congratulate the Minister and the staff of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs who introduced a well-framed and polished Honours Bill. It is overdue, but better late than never.

I would only like to highlight two points in the Bill, one being the establishment of a National Honours Advisory Committee. Women and men and old-age pensioners are not represented. Historically women and old people were discriminated against and they need to be encouraged and enabled to play a full, equal and effective role in the socio-economic and cultural life of the Nation as stipulated in Article 23(3) of the Constitution. I, therefore, request the Minister to consider the inclusion of the abovementioned group to also benefit from the Honours Bill.



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NATIONAL HONOURS BILL  
HON MOONGO**

I thank the Minister for appointing the veterans organisation to be represented because we do not want veterans to suffer again after Independence and I request the Minister to include all victims who suffered as a result of bomb blasts countrywide, the Oshakati bomb in particular and also the victims of bomb blasts in exile because their health conditions and their lives are still deteriorating because of the bomb shrapnel in their bodies. They need proper and comprehensive treatment, which they cannot afford. Remember, these people were once healthy just like you and me, but due to the war they became disabled and suffer from ill-health. Therefore, they need urgent and serious State medical attention.

Mr Speaker, I am also disappointed by the implementation of the Veterans Act, which is selective of nature. Hundreds of true cadres who also participated in the liberation struggle and contributed immensely are omitted from benefits of the Veterans Fund, while the law stands firm that the law must not be selective, the law must not be contradictory and the law must not be discriminatory, but of general application. We need to amend the law of veterans to serve all who participated and suffered in the liberation struggle. Those detainees who did not benefit from the Veterans Fund did not commit any crime in national law, frontline states and international law. They are presumed to be innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

I have a suspicion that this Honours Bill will turn out to be SWAPO political public meetings, using State money, which is prohibited. It should not be turned into political rallies of SWAPO. If you do not want to support my suggestions in the spirit of true reconciliation, in the spirit of justice, the Holy Spirit will wholeheartedly support me. I support the Bill.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Riruako.

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**SECOND READING CONFIRMATION OF  
NATIONAL HONOURS BILL  
HON RIRUAKO**

**HON RIRUAKO:** Honourable Speaker, I listened to my Colleague, the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs and I was promised while in Outapi that the Honourable Minister's secretary will contact me here in Windhoek and until today we have not even met after that long discussion of three weeks in Outapi. Now I listened to the good and sweet words he said here, but it seems we did not follow what we happened to agree upon.

Some people sleep here, they do not go anywhere. They just meet us here and look for travelling money. That I know. Some people somehow do that, but some people have to go to the remote areas in order to go and see how the people live. I have learned a lot and I have met the people who were trained and said, "*please, my people were trained*", your own personal secretary and today those people are not recognised as veterans and after that I went to Lusaka, I met the former President to hand over the troops to join the others. It could not happen. Now whose fault is that? Is it the soldiers' fault or the authority of the Ruling Party? This happened and I am talking from the roofs, I am talking of what happened. Now how do you put these two together?

I have people who left this country with me to go abroad, some of them were trained and you have this information, probably your own secretary. You know the place where they were trained, you were staying there too. Who was who and what happened to them? I found them in jail in Tanzania, I had to fly in from Lusaka to Dar-Es-Salaam in order to free them. It happened that way. Now who blames who? That is how we acted and some people in the hierarchy of SWAPO know what happened and today these people are coming and going, they have tried to do their best. We started fighting here in Windhoek before you went abroad.

When I was joking with the former President, "*where were you when I was fighting in front of the house where you were?*" "*We were on our bellies.*" It was the former President, my late President Kapuuo and Ngavirue, on their bellies while I was fighting in front of their house. (Interjection). I was not present there. I do not talk about those who crawled while we were fighting.

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HON TJIHUIKO**

It remains a fact and these people were trained properly to join the forces and they were trained where your own secretary was trained. You ought not get this information from me, you can get it from him in your own office. Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs, he is in your office with all the information you need.

There is nothing to argue about, the evidence of what happened is there and I do not want to talk to those people who did not participate in this. I am talking to those people who had the guts to fight and those who did not, they went there for education and training, to come back and earn money. I am not looking at the page numbers, I look at the deeds.

Once we talk about the issue we must be participants, we must be party to it and those who were not party to it, must shut up. If you want to do things, you have to do things with your own body and I do not want to appeal to the Minister of Veterans Affairs, I may say I am going to visit his office and then we will put the record straight and after that we will seal the document. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Tjiuiko.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Let me start by congratulating the Minister of Veterans Affairs. The first thing that I have noticed is that it is always nice to have a Minister that listens to the concerns raised and accommodate views expressed within the House. There the Minister has done a marvellous job and he needs to be congratulated.

Minister, let me refer you to Page 4 of the Bill, Establishment of National Honours Advisory Committee. I do not have much objection against the members of the Committee, I am only concerned whether we really need to have all the Ministries being represented in this Committee? Do we

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HON TJIHUIKO**

really need that? We have a Government, we have the structures in place, do we need the representatives from all these Ministries?

Another thing I am really missing here, Honourable Minister, I am sure that our sports colleagues are also representing the name of our beautiful country. They are putting the name of Namibia on the international map. I do not think they are represented there. I do not know whether we know who is doing what in sports, whether football, cricket or whatever. I am saying this, Honourable Minister, because I know of some colleagues, people like Collin Benjamin in football who has been keeping the name of Namibia very high in Germany. We remember Michelle McClean, the first Miss Universe shortly after Independence, a person that has kept the name of this country high. We have Hitman Moses, Agnes Samaria, Frank Fredericks. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Honourable Speaker, I am looking for guidance, whether we are dealing with the Bill or whether we have already started the process of nominating or do we want to be seen that we were the ones who remembered this one and remembered that one.

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**HON SPEAKER:** You are quite correct, Minister, let us first establish the principles and when the time comes and the committee is established, then we can make nominations.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I was just trying to strengthen my point, the importance of the people that I am talking about. I was actually thinking of the Sports Commission to be included in this and I am not sure why the Honourable Minister left it out. That is why I wanted to rekindle.

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**SECOND READING CONFERENCE OF  
NATIONAL HONOURS BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

**HON SPEAKER:** The House shall rise for refreshments.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40**

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**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:20**

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I was just about to conclude, I was actually disturbed by the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security. I would recommend that the Minister considers the Sports Commission. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** On a Point of Information. I want Honourable TjiHuiko to refer to Page 3, subsection (2)(b)(ii). He started well by saying not all Ministries should be represented. The same organisations will not be represented, because any person who does well in economics, socially, scientific, academic, public administration, security or any field of human endeavour in Namibia. It means also sport is covered by that Clause.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, in conclusion I would like to call on the Honourable Minister to consider the inclusion of the Sports Commission and I am also not seeing the Ministry of Youth and National Service and if that could also be included, I would appreciate it, Honourable Minister. Thank you very much.

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**SECOND READING CONFIRMATION OF  
NATIONAL HONOURS BILL  
HON SHIXWAMENI**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I am not going to be long, it seems my neighbour has taken my speech, therefore I will be very brief.

Last year I was one of those who criticised the Minister for having tried to rush the same Bill through this House and I would like to take this opportunity that just as we criticise, when a person has done well, it must be acknowledged and the person be congratulated. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Minister's magnanimity to have a second look at the initial Bill. It is indeed great leadership. Very few people acknowledge that they may have erred and take a second look to see whether they can correct it. He is a good listener and in fact, many a philosopher said it is better to listen than to keep on talking, because by listening you learn quite a lot and that is a virtue.

I would just like to say that the process of conferring honours and recognition has thus far, for the past twenty-two years, not been controversial, not what I know of and I hope that we will keep on this path, that the conferment of honours shall be as it has been, a straightforward process of acknowledging each and every Namibian that has made a contribution to not only the Independent of the country, but also to the process of socio-economic development of this country and that at no point in time, whoever becomes the President of our Republic would be pushed in a corner where he would have to look at political affiliation, ethnicity and tribe in order to confer an honour.

Once again, Honourable Minister, congratulations for purifying the Bill from the mistakes that it had in the beginning and I think we are all happy that we have a Bill that is straightforward in terms of processes and procedures. I thank you.

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**SECOND READING CONFERENCE OF  
NATIONAL HONOURS BILL  
HON MAAMBERUA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Maamberua.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I am also going to join others in congratulating the Minister of Veteran Affairs for the brief and concise Bill. I wish, however, to point out some areas that perhaps could be helpful in enriching the Bill.

Let me start with Section 2(a) on Page 3 which reads: *for the purpose of Section 1, where the President wishes to confer any honour regarding heroism or leadership or acts or achievements meriting recognition of national status upon a person set out in that subsection, he or she may do so after consultation with the committee, which committee must advise the President as set out in Section 9.*” If you read that Section 2 that I am pointing out on Page 3, if that is read together with Section 9(2) on Page 7 that the Bill refers to, it states: *“The committee must act on such decisions and orders of the President as he or she may make regarding the conferment the honours upon any person.”* I see some difficulty there and inconsistency if the President is to confer honours in consultation with the committee, but yet in this Section the committee is under the obligation to act on any decision of the President. It means there is no consultation. We may want to clarify that issue and also try to see if there is a possible provision to be built in that could clarify the actual relationship and that committee should there be a dispute. Suppose the President goes ahead and confers an honour on a person that the committee recommended not to be conferred with such an honour, what then? Is there any arbitration, any mechanism that can help to address that situation?

In Section 5(a) to (m) on Page 4 we have a list of several institutions. It appears as if we are here dealing more with institutions than fields. Hence, I would also join the others who made an observation that the academic field is not represented on that committee. How would we identify who is the best accountant or engineer who has excelled academically if the academic field is not represented on the committee?

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NATIONAL HONOURS BILL  
HON MAAMBERUA**

That is only an example. The others talked about sport, etcetera. I think we need to take that into account. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** On a Point of Information. Sometimes people do not concentrate on what is being said and then they repeat something which has not been omitted. It is stated on Page 3 and it was mentioned earlier on, that it is a person who has made a significant contribution to the betterment of the Namibian nation in the economic, social, scientific, academic, public administration, security or any other field of human endeavour. The Minister is very generous to list so many institutions. This is not an advisory assembly, this is an Advisory Committee. Otherwise we must have an assembly of advisors if we want to list anyone. It is not a general assembly of advisors, it cannot be, it is advising the President and not to debate and we have to understand that it is an advisory committee established with very minimum people to be able to reach an agreement. If you bring too many people, they will not agree and they will debate for a year just to confer an honour on somebody. I thank you.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** I think the Minister is confusing the House. When we refer to the composition of the committee on Page 4, we are saying what is represented there are actually institutions and not the fields that must advise the President. What the Minister is referring to are the individuals who qualify to be bestowed with honours, the individuals and the areas, who come from either academic or sports, who can be conferred with those honours and that is what is contained in what the Minister is referring to. (Interjection)

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Look at Section 5(c).

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HON MAAMBERUA**

**HON MAAMBERUA:** That is what I am saying, people coming from academic, sports and so on, those are the people to be conferred with honours, but the committee consists of institutions and none of these institutions represent the academic field. They represent the security, the military, veterans and so on. (Interjection). No, 5(c) is not specific, it is general.

That is what we wanted to clarify. The institutions are just too many, they do not actually represent the fields that need to be included in order to also assist with that committee. Let me proceed.

On Page 5 it deals with subcommittees and normally when a committee has subcommittees, it is actually to ease the work of such a committee and normally if a committee is allowed to have a subcommittee, it is actually to be assisted by outsiders because of their specific skills, knowledge, etcetera and hence I find it a bit strange that in this particular instance the subcommittee shall consist solely of members of the committee and will not be allowed to source some skills from outside to assist with the work of that subcommittee. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Comrade Speaker, it is not good to send an incorrect message. Section 6(b) on Page 5 states: “...*consist of a member of a committee and such number of other persons who are not members of the committee.*” Now the Honourable Member is saying it will only consist of members of the committee and that is not true.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I want to assure all of you Honourable Members, that this particular Minister of Veteran Affairs is by training a medical doctor with a very precise mind and I have full trust and confidence in him, that

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NATIONAL HONOURS BILL  
HON BEZUIDENHOUDT**

he can defend the Bill that you people are talking about. Please give him the chance, make your contributions and leave it to him, he will explain. Trust me

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you for coming to my rescue, Honourable Speaker. Section 6(1) on Page 5 states: “*The committee may establish one or more subcommittees consisting solely....*” “Solely” is the word used in this document, it is not my own word.

Section 11(1) deals with remuneration and here I need to be enlightened. It states: “*A member of the committee or a subcommittee, if any, other than a staff member of the Public Service, is entitled to receive travelling allowances determined by the Minister with the concurrence of the Minister responsible for Finance.*” Here I have a question as to whether we do not have a general framework within which these travelling allowances are already predetermined by the Public Service or why would we have to have in each and every law a provision that the Minister of a particular Ministry is the one to determine the travelling allowances of people serving on committees of this nature? I would have loved to see a standard framework for allowances, so that we have a general provision in this instance and we do not overburden individual ministers to determine who gets what allowances at what particular time. It would be more helpful if that is not left to individual ministers, but if the Public Service is the one to determine travelling allowances for purposes of committees of this nature. With those few Amendments I support the Bill, if they are taken into account. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Bezuidenhout.

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**HON BEZUIDENHOUDT:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I also congratulate Minister for cleaning up the Bill and a job very well done.

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HON KAURA**

Honourable Speaker, I just want to understand the process of getting to an individual to be considered. Does the President decide on the names of five people and then ask the committee for all information or how would organisations or the public go about it? It is not clear in the English that I read in the Bill where the process starts and goes forward to get to the work of the committee where they can consider nominations to advise the President. That is all I want to understand. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, for the opportunity.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Honourable Kaura.

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**HON KAURA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. In support of the Bill introduced by the Honourable Minister and given the fact that I will not be in a position to serve on the National Honours Advisory Committee, therefore I will give a shopping list to the Honourable Minister so that when the time comes this can come for consideration. In particular I want these honours to be bestowed on people from whom they cannot be revoked, nor would they ever be considered having been awarded fraudulently. These are the people I would put on the shopping list of the Honourable Minister and it is Chief Mandume Ndemufayo, Chief Hosea Kutako, Chief Hendrik Witbooi, Samuel Maharero, Kanesius Henelishi, Jacob Marenga, Reverend Michael Scott, Moses Tjitendero and Moses Garoeb. Those are the names I put on your shopping list, Honourable Minister. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any further discussion? Honourable Nehova.

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**SECOND READING CONFERMENT OF  
NATIONAL HONOURS BILL  
HON NEHOVA**

**HON NEHOVA:** I Move that the Debate be adjourned until next Tuesday.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objections? The further consideration of this Motion stands adjourned until Tuesday, next week. The Second Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Moongo. Does the Honourable Member move the Motion? Any objection? Agreed to. The Honourable Member has the Floor.

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**MOTION ON AMENDMENT OF  
TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES ACT**

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. Honourable Speaker, in my motivation I still acknowledge and accept that traditional affairs must be apolitical and I request all Honourable Members to follow suit, if possible.

Proclamation 20 of 1990 established the High Court of Namibia Act No. 12 of 1920 and granted the right to hear and settle all appeals and finally determine matters brought before any Court, including the traditional courts. I, therefore, request this House to discuss the establishment of a Court of Appeal as suggested by the above proclamation. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Secretary has drawn my attention to the applicable rule in this case and I direct the House to refer to Rule 108. It is entitled, “General Restrictions” and it reads as follows: “*A Member may not, (a) speak against or reflect upon any decision or Act of Parliament except for the purpose of moving that it be rescinded; (b)*

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*anticipate the discussion on any other subject which appears on the Order Paper; (c) use the name of the President or Acting President in a disrespectful manner during a debate or to influence the Assembly in its deliberations.”* The Secretary reminds the Speaker that so far what the Honourable Member has been saying infringes on these prohibitions.

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**HON MOONGO:** I did not mention any name.

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**HON SPEAKER:** No, the intent of what means.

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**HON MOONGO:** I only want an Amendment to the Traditional Authorities Act.

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**HON SPEAKER:** But then you have to come with a proposed Amendment.

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**HON MOONGO:** Yes, this is what I would like to propose.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Do you have an Amendment?

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**HON MOONGO:** Yes, I will do so at the end.

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HON MOONGO**

**HON SPEAKER:** Do the Amendment and let us look at it and then we will take it up.

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**HON MOONGO:** Then I will adjourn the Debate.

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**HON SPEAKER:** It is a bit, not complicated, but I think it has ramifications and I would simply appeal to the Honourable Member not to continue and to consult with me after this meeting. I would need to clarify my own mind on the matter, therefore I appeal to you in good faith that I have an opportunity to apply my mind fully and to advise you how to proceed tomorrow. Let us consider the Motion to be deferred until tomorrow. With that understanding, we continue and I call for the Secretary to read the First Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:  
PROPERTY VALUERS PROFESSIONS BILL**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Property Valuers Professions Bill*.

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the Debate adjourned on Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2012, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement. Honourable Shixwameni adjourned the Debate and you now have the Floor.

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**SECOND READING: PROPERTY  
VALUERS PROFESSIONS BILL  
HON SHIXWAMENI**

**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for giving me the Floor to make a few comments on the Property Valuers Professions Bill.

Maybe I should start off with some general remarks before I come to specific items on the Bill. I should also indicate right from the outset that the Bill has its own difficult areas, but it is a quite straightforward technical Bill that is meant to regulate the property valuers profession. I did not find many contradictions when I went through the Bill because it is more administrative and technical.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the current global economic crisis that still haunts the USA, Europe and countries such as Greece, Portugal, Spain and Ireland, in particular, started with the problems in the property industry, particularly the housing sector. Therefore, when we are discussing the property valuers profession, we have to have in the back of our minds that, indeed, property, if over-valued or under-valued, can easily cause problems to a country's economy.

In our country, I must say, property prices are inflated, more particularly here in Windhoek and, indeed, when one looks at the property market around Ongwediva and Ondangwa, one can see that the prices of properties are skyrocketing and I do not know whether we would in the long-term be able to afford these skyrocketing prices of property, specifically in residential areas.

I was indeed shocked the other day when I read in a daily newspaper that only 66,000 Namibian households can afford decent housing and of that, almost 90% already have housing. This is a terrible scenario we are facing and I do not know whether Namibians, with these skyrocketing prices, would be able to own property in our lifetime. Therefore I believe the Bill on the table is indeed timely.

It is my belief that it is the State's responsibility to ensure that housing and other property prices be regulated and that it is not left to the so-called market forces to level out the prices of property in our country. The Bill

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will end the current manipulated and collusive forces between some estate agents, property valuers and the commercial banks, respectively, because what we have currently is that some banks connive with property valuers to inflate the prices of property in order for people to buy. As a result, some of the properties around the country are over-valued and, indeed, farms are over-priced in this country and it is time that we reign the prices in. We cannot afford farms and they are now being bought through Close Corporations, which evades the ideal that we had that no foreigners would be able to buy land in Namibia.

The commission that Estate Agents receives is outrageous, to say the least. We need to relook at the whole package as to how we ensure that housing and property become affordable in our country. Those of you who bought houses during the past five years would know that if you ask four commercial banks to value a property, you would easily get four different valuations. Then one asks oneself, is this profession regulated? What norms guide it that one could find prices differing between N\$100,000 and N\$200,000, depending which bank is valuating your property? I believe it is time for us to act.

That is why I congratulate the Minister for bringing this particular Bill to regulate the industry, to regulate people working with valuations, so that they are controlled and that they have a code of conduct which they have to adhere to. I cannot accept that if four valuers are doing a valuation on a property, that the margin of difference in terms of price is more than N\$100,000 to N\$200,000 from bank to bank. If the difference was still within the margin of N\$30,000 to N\$50,000, I would still be able to accept it, but our banks have been ripping us off in terms of property transactions in the country and they have been doing this with the connivance of some of the professional valuers and I am not accusing everybody.

One element that we also need to bring in which I found in the Bill, which is not clear, is the component of where we do place professional valuers from our neighbouring countries, because those ones that are to be registered as per the Bill are only Namibian citizens or permanent residents. I would like to have an explanation, because sometimes we



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really cheat ourselves by making use of substandard so-called professionals who are a sham and who end up robbing the customers and endangering our country's economy.

I would like to deal with specific sections in the Bill. As I said, the Bill is basically straightforward and technical. I welcome Section 8(2) on Page 8 of the Bill as indeed a first for the way that we regulate councils and boards. Just the fact that there is a term limitation for council members to serve, namely only two terms and no more, I think creates good room for improvement. There are so many other people there who would like to serve their country, but you find that some people have been serving as directors on Boards and Councils since Independence. When are the other Namibians going to get an opportunity? Therefore, I congratulate the Minister and his team for that, that it is indeed quite a good practice. From wherever we took it, I think it is a good practice.

Section 10(1)(c) on Page 9 deals with the attendance of council meetings. It has been my concern, and I have said it several times in this House, that people are so overburdened, some of them serve on four to six Boards of directors. One wonders whether they really have quality time to analyse the documents of the Councils and the Boards that they serve. This Section ensures that we punish people who just want to be seen as Board members or Council members, in that if a person does not attend two consecutive meetings, the person is removed from the council.

I only have a query on Section 12(5)(a) on Page 11. Standard practice around the world and, I am sure, around Namibia is that meetings are constituted by fifty plus one. I would like to know from the Minister what was the rationale for the Minister deciding that in order for a meeting of the council to be duly constituted, it must have a two-thirds majority in order to form a quorum. There might be special reasons for this and not fifty plus one.

Section 13(c) on Page 12 deals with the establishment of the Education Fund. This is also a welcome move because we need to continuously our people so that we are at the end of the day independent in terms of this

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profession. However, Honourable Minister, these training opportunities sometimes become an opportunity that only a few benefit from, those ones who are Windhoek-based because they are able to read this information in the newspapers or able to go to an office to get the information. I hope the Council will be able to advertise and disseminate information to the regions, so that our youth in the regions are also able to benefit from this particular Education Fund.

I picked up another plus on Page 12 of the Bill, namely that we should be able, at one time or the other, to find an opportunity where we can wean the State-Owned Enterprises. There is no way that we can keep on bailing out institutions year-in and year-out. It is a welcome move that the Bill proposes that the Minister can announce the end of dependence on subventions from Parliament and it should be encouraged, the institution should be motivated to be able to collect money from its members and from other sources, so that no all institutions established by Government only depend on Treasury.

With regard to Page 28, I have been questioning in this House the whole issue of offences and fines and this is one Bill where I find that the fines are quite high. The fines are categorised in terms of sections and I see there is one which is only N\$400 for a specific offence. On that one I would like to ask the Minister what are the criteria for putting that particular fine so very low.

Lastly is on Page 29, the transitional provision. Section 42 simply states, "*this Act binds the State*" and there it ends. It does not say it binds the State in what way and for what offences it binds the State. Maybe the Minister will be able to explain to me and to this House as to what that particular provision means and stands for.

Otherwise, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Bill is a straightforward technical Bill and I support it. Thank you.

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HON MAKHGONE**

**HON SPEAKER:** I thank you. Honourable Makgone.

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**HON MAGONE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Let me also thank the Minister for tabling this Bill and I will start with Page 4, the constitution of the Council, Section 3(c), which reads: “*A member of the public with expertise in property matters nominated by the public.*” I was just wondering how will this nomination take place and whether it is practical. I read that together with Section 10(d) on Page 9. If then the person is withdrawn, the person should be withdrawn by the nominating authority, meaning that the person that was nominated by the public should be withdrawn by the public. How will this happen? Also in Section 10(e): “*Those who are appointed, Section 3(1)(a),(b) or (c) and cease to be in that category of persons.*” If you were nominated and you cease to be a member of the public, then you cannot serve on the board. How can someone cease to be a member of the public?

Section 4 deals with the powers and functions of the Council with regard to registration. In (c)(i): “*The Council must, subject to this Act, keep a register of registered persons and prescribe (i) the form of certificate and the register to be kept.*” Is that “form” the form of registration or the form of certificate or form of application? Is it a type of application? I only need clarification.

Section 6 on Page 6 deals with the powers and functions of Council with regard to the education in property valuation. There I need to be corrected. I looked at subsection (1)(b), that, “*the Council may either conditionally or unconditionally grant, refuse or withdraw approval with regard to all educational institutions and their educational programmes with regard to property valuation.*” Does this mandate of approval lie with the Council or with the National High Education Council? Where does that mandate lie?

Section 7 on Page 7 deals with the general powers of Council and I take it for granted that this body is where the citizens will lay complaints if they

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are aggrieved. Nothing in these functions is saying that the citizens should hand in their complaints at the Council and I feel that should be inserted, to say the Council should receive complaints from aggrieved people.

Section 13(9)(b) on Page 12: “*After publication of the notice referred to in subsection (8)*” and subsection (8) refers to “*the Minister, when satisfied that the Council has strong funds and is able to sustain its operations, then the Minister can withdraw the money received from Parliament.*” Now (b) is stating that after that subsection (7) ceases to apply. Subsection (7) only refers to financial reports to be submitted to the Minister to be tabled in Parliament. I do not see why the financial reports should cease to come to Parliament as it is a monitoring tool and it should continue to be tabled in Parliament. Therefore, 9(b) should fall away.

Section 16 on Page 14 deals with categories of registration. We have four categories, namely, professional valuer, associate professional valuer, valuer-in-training, student valuer-in-training. When one looks at the definition on Page 4, it refers back to Section 17(2)(b) on Page 15. That is saying to be a student valuer-in-training or a valuer-in-training you should fulfil the four requirements under (b). Therefore, there is no difference between the requirements for the two categories, but according to the categories they are different. What makes them to differ?

If my brother here is a valuer-in-training and I am a student valuer, we should fulfil the same requirements, but we belong to two different categories. However, Section 16(3) says: “*A person who is registered in the category of valuer-in-training must perform work in the property valuation profession only under the supervision and control of a professional of a category as prescribed.*” Here they are only talking about the valuer-in-training, only that one should be under supervision of someone qualified. If I am a student valuer-in-training, I can start practising with no control, but the other one is controlled and the requirements are the same. I want to understand why the difference.

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HON KAPIA**

Page 21, Section 28(1)(d): “*If a person charged failed to comply with Section 27(1)(2)(b)*”, however, there is no such Section and on Page 22 the same, subsection (6)(g) also refers to Section 27(2)(b) and perhaps it should be 27(3)(b). A correction is needed there.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this industry needs to be regulated as there are really vultures who are practising in this industry. Prices are determined just as the people wish and when the people are in debt, their properties are undervalued. When they want to buy, then the prices are inflated. Therefore this Bill is important and I supported the Bill. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I want to say to the Honourable Member, you are the first person, since I became Speaker, to have taken me back to those days to remember the first time that the school inspector I have previously annoyed came to our school and asked me a copy of my “*leerplan*” and studiously asked me what I meant with each word and why the next line was following the previous line and why I did not start with the second line at the end of the “*leerplan*” and why the last sentence of the “*leerplan*” was not the first line. Honourable Kapiā.

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**HON KAPIA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to support this very important Bill. A Bill that will address some of the problems which Honourable Shixwameni mentioned that are of serious concern. I only want to add by saying that when we are discussing this Bill, we should also think about the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development when they are going to bring Amendments to some parts of the Bills which could assist us in terms of regulating the prices of land in town and commercial farms.

Honourable Speaker, Section 33 on Page 26 deals with the professional

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fees and there is no benchmark. It is left without a minimum or maximum which is one of the concerns, because at the end of the day you have a very good instrument, but the fees will hamper our people to participate in this exercise as somebody will come up with high fees which will prevent our people from entering the profession. This is a serious concern and maybe the Minister would take this into consideration.

Section 34 deals with the regulations. Yes, we are passing laws and we have regulations. Sometimes these regulations are never formulated and regulations are needed to operationalize the Act. The regulations can be difficult to implement at times. You find that the public are reacting and the leaders join them, forgetting that we passed a law giving the power to a Minister or officials to come up with regulations. (Intervention)

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Mr Speaker, I wonder why we have South African laws of 1920, 1930, 1940 which are still functioning. What was the purpose for those laws to be retained? Is there any explanation? I would like to know why it was retained for us to be in the situation where we find ourselves. You have to explain a law but you do not know where it is derived from, what was the purpose of retaining it.

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**HON KAPIA:** Honourable Speaker, I was talking about the regulations, but when it comes to policies, they are brought to Parliament. However, the regulations are not brought to Parliament even for our information. It becomes difficult to implement these regulations because everybody in the country would jump and criticise, condemn without knowing that Parliament has passed a law and given the power to someone else to formulate the regulations.

I really feel that maybe in the future an effort should be made for these regulations to be brought to Parliament for our information in order for the Members of Parliament to be aware of those regulations.

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Most of my points have already been mentioned and I want to thank the Minister for coming up with this technical and straightforward instrument to particularly regulate the estate agents and the valuers from the banks who determine different prices for one specific property. Our banks do not want people to buy property in Katutura. What is so special for these private banks in Namibia that they do what they feel like? We really have to come up with laws and regulations to control these institutions. Thank you very much, I support the Bill.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Van Der Walt.

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**HON VAN DER WALT:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am glad that we also have technical people here in the National Assembly and because I support this Bill wholehearted, I really hope that the technical side of this Bill will be sorted out before we table it.

I am also very pleased to address this august House in support of this Property Valuer Professions Bill which was introduced by Honourable Alpheus !Naruseb. In his motivation statement Comrade !Naruseb clearly outlined the objectives and benefits of this proposed Bill, namely the creation of the opportune legal framework for regulation of the valuation practice in Namibia; the establishment of the Namibian Council for the Property Valuers Profession, a body which will provide oversight on property valuations, the assurance of standards of best practice guidelines for the protection of the public from unregulated violation practices in the property sector, to mention but a few. These are necessary instruments for ensuring robust property valuation framework. The latter will in turn bring about discipline and professionalism in property valuation and hence, ensuring fair and realistic property values. Unrealistic valuations could lead to either under or over-valuation of properties. Either way the end-result will have serious repercussions on the national economy of our

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beloved country. To put things in perspective, under-valued property means pricing below the market value of the property, which could discourage the business activities in the construction sector and hence, less contributions to the economic growth and development. Conversely, over-valued property means paying higher prices than the market value. This would make housing unaffordable in contrast with our Government's policy of providing access to affordable housing to our nation.

Then I speak especially about Windhoek. This is unacceptable and sometimes I wonder if the municipality as a Parastatal is part of us. Why can we not make a decision as Government, because our disadvantaged people are suffering. We need to give ownership to the communal farmers, but a rental agreement is stronger than ownership. If you rent your farm out to somebody and you go with that rental agreement to the bank, then they will give you a loan to buy some cattle. You must just prove to them that you have land that you rent. Why must our communal farmers be denied this? We are the lawmakers, we need to change these things. Who does this communal land belong to? It belongs to the community and in that community is a headman and that headman can make a decision and say Petrus Jacobus Van Der Walt may rent this piece of communal land from this community and I must be allowed to go to the bank with that rental agreement and say I am renting this land from this community, please give me a loan so that I can make a contribution to the revenue of our country, so that I can become productive.

Honourable Speaker, then also the land around Windhoek. We have disadvantaged people and all of us know where we come from. Why is it not possible that we as lawmakers can decide to speak to the municipality and get it for less money and make it possible for our people to get houses? We spend millions and millions on many things but our people still suffer around Windhoek to get an affordable place to stay in. In the North it is a different story, it is communal area, that is much easier. I am saying we must pay for it, but make it possible for the people to have their own houses.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, higher prices which are not



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supported by the economic fundamentals are likely to be unsustainable and can lead to a housing bubble. This could potentially be a situation already unfolding in Namibia. The introduction of this Bill has come at the most opportune time when housing, particularly housing valuation, has become a topical issue discussed in the corridors and many boardrooms by some policy-makers. Recently the Bank of Namibia, at its annual symposium of 2011, invited academics and practitioners to deliberate on the topic of housing in Namibia. Has the situation changed in the last 20 years after Independence? This was against the backdrop of the existence of demand and supply imbalances in the housing market and the perceived or real rapid increase in housing prices.

The symposium, among others, concluded that the property prices in Namibia had rapidly been escalating and yet there is a limited capacity to meet the demand for housing. This situation, Honourable Members, raises the question as to whether the price increases will be sustainable and affordable in the long-run.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this House, I know about property developers and that is why I say nothing in life is for free, you cannot take anything away from somebody which he paid for, this is for sure, we need to work for something, but what sometimes makes me totally confused is that some of the developers in this country managed to buy land from our municipality for N\$1,50 a square metre and then they do these huge developments and they ask millions for this development. These are the things which confuse me, Honourable Speaker.

I would like to see that we call our municipality to order and say, let us look at the land around our capital city and all the municipalities in different regions sit around a table and say this is municipal land, how much of this land can we also buy for N\$1,50 per square metre to develop for our people? Because if the developer can do that and make millions out of that land, why can we not look after our poor people who do not have housing? This is my problem.

Honourable Speaker, the time has come, we need to stand up and call

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people to order to sort out those things. Our people cannot suffer anymore, we need to make a plan and there is enough land in this country for everyone to make a living and the land which we will give away for our people who do not have houses, will not make anyone of us poorer, believe me.

I know the farm issue is a controversial one and a difficult one, but actually it is not so difficult. If you look at the communal land in this country, if you look at the commercial land and the environmental land which we have, then if I look at the situation then we have no problem, not at all. We have millions of hectares which we can distribute, which we can develop for our people. I read the statistics the other day on how much land is available where.

There are many ways, Honourable Speaker, for us to rectify this problem. We do not need to wait for years to get to the point to sort this out and that is why I believe there is a way to get out of this situation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the bursting of this type of housing bubble poses potential risk for financial stability, collapsing of banking systems with serious consequences for the real economy. Let me in this regard relate to the experience of Ireland, starting in 2007. Ireland experienced a record increase in construction output and land and housing prices. By 2005 to 2006 which was mainly caused by speculative construction and a rapid increase in property prices. However, with the worldwide recession in 2007, prices stabilised and the burst coming towards the end of 2008. By the second quarter in 2010 house prices in the Republic of Ireland had fallen by 35% compared to the second quarter of 2007 and a number of house loans approved fell by 73%.

Honourable Speaker, the fall in domestic and commercial property prices contributed to the Irish banking crisis. Property developers were unable to sell the new houses constructed, hence defaulted in their borrowings from banks.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the construction sector, which

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made a significant part of the economy, 23% of the GDP and 20% of the total employment, was brought to a complete halt with potential ripple effects on the other sectors of the economy. A large number of people lost their jobs, tax revenues were lost, the banking system faced some serious problems. The Irish Government was forced to borrow in order to bail out the banking system. This consequently put them under pressure to repay the borrowed funds at higher interest rates.

As of November 2011, Honourable Speaker, prices continue to fall. Houses in Dublin are now at 51% from peak and apartment prices down over 60%. House prices have so far returned to the year 200 level. Mortgage approvals have dropped to 1971 levels. Honourable Members, this is just one example of a series of countries that went through nightmares as a result of such housing bubbles.

Of course, Honourable Members, it is not good enough to have qualified valuers alone, because many countries that experienced property bubbles presumably had qualified valuers, but in their absence the problem is surely exhibitivite.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, from the demand and supply factors that we are experiencing in the country, there are other factors that are at play in contributing to rapid increases in the housing prices in the Namibian housing market. In a mix are the methods used to dispose of land by the Local Authorities, such as auction techniques. This is also a very serious thing, the auction technique. I do not know if you have seen Carte Blanche on Sunday evening and this I have experienced myself. People bid to chase up the price and then later on the others buy the land for huge prices. This is the business, that is how it works. I do not say it happens here but it can, it happened in South Africa, so we need to look into these things and that is why I support the Bill, Honourable Minister.

In this mix are the methods used to dispose of land by the Local Authorities, such as auction techniques. Market players, property valuers, developers and estate agents could potentially introduce unrealistic housing prices to maximise their profits. In this regard, the

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noble move by the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement to introduce this Bill will put in place some critical measures to address these imbalances and, therefore, it should be welcomed with the fullest support it deserves and should be expedited.

In conclusion, Honourable Members, the role of the regulators, such as the Bank of Namibia as well as other stakeholders, undoubtedly cannot be ignored and is of critical importance in the housing market to ensure that the provisions of the Bill, once enacted, will bring stabilisation in our housing market. I thank you, Honourable Speaker. I support the Bill.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you, quite a robust contribution. Honourable Kazenambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Firstly, let me congratulate the Minister for introducing this important public policy instrument and like all others have said, this is a technical Bill, it is a complex one.

On Page 9 it deals with disqualification for appointment as a member of council and under Section 9(f) it says that, “*as a result of improper conduct be removed from an office of trust*” and then in (g), “*has in terms of this Act been found guilty of serious improper conduct.*” I do not know what is considered improper conduct and what is the office of trust. Is it a church leader, Member of Parliament, traditional leader? It is not specified here, it is general and it will be helpful if that can be clarified and what constitutes improper conduct. Is it theft, is it being drunk? Really, for me it is not helpful, knowing how this industry operates.

Many of the points have been raised by previous speakers and for me the crux of the matter is that the Bill is for property valuers, those colleagues

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who value the properties, but my concern is the inconsistencies in this industry which are unbelievable and others have already spoken about it. For example, there are no standard measures, established measures that says property A, which is in Auas Blick, costs ten million because it has a, b, c features and that is why it qualified to be valuated at ten million. The same property can be in Auas Blick, two bedrooms as opposed with four bedrooms and garages, the one with two bedrooms, believe me or not, will cost more than the one with four bedrooms and there will be no reasons advanced to you why this is the case in the same location.

Again my observation is that twenty-one years down the road, I fail to understand why the huge disparities in terms of valuation of properties. A mansion in Oshakati, Gobabis, Keetmanshoop or Katima Mulilo will cost less than a house in Katutura. It is the same country, same proclaimed towns, but I fail to understand. What criteria are the professional valuers applying, what are the factors and if there are other considerations and factors that are at play, when are we going to address these factors? (Intervention)

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**HON VAN DER WALT:** Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. I understand your query, Honourable Minister, I just want to inform you that it is the same worldwide, that you will have certain cities and certain places in that city which will be more expensive than others. While I was doing my presentation, I tried to say that we must also not handicap our economy because you will always find that Windhoek is very popular, Swakopmund and Walvis Bay is very popular. This is the reason and this we must never lose sight of. That is why it is so important that the Minister must ensure that the measures must be so much in places that it does not harm the economy of our country.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT  
AND CULTURE:** I am aware that a house in Mayfair, London will not

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be the same price as West End in London. The house in Ludwigsdorf cannot be the same, but the disparities are too great when I am buying a mansion with four bedrooms in Ludwigsdorf.

I am aware that a house in Mayfair, London will not be the same price as West End in London. The house in Ludwigsdorf cannot be the same, but the disparities are too great. When I am buying a mansion with four bedrooms in Ludwigsdorf.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I have a brief announcement to make on behalf of the Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration which, in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung is organising a briefing workshop on tomorrow, the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2011 at Hotel Furstenhof from 09:00 to 13:00. All members and the public generally are kindly invited to attend.

The House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.02.01 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
01 MARCH 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Before we get started, I want to share with you the information of yesterday, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia, Professor Lazarus Angula, announced that the commencement of this 2012 academic year that the University had great pleasure in honouring Honourable Professor Peter Katjivivi, Founding Vice-Chancellor of UNAM, for his selfless service rendered to the University during his reign as Vice-Chancellor and even now. The honour bestowed upon Professor Katjivivi was in the form of naming brand-new state-of-the-art lecture theatres at the University after him, that is Peter Katjivivi Lecture Theatres. I am sure with that connection we could have free access to those lecture halls should the Parliament be overdone with more requests for the facilities we have.

We congratulate our Colleague with that achievement which he most dearly reserves.

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

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table two Reports of the Auditor-General on the accounts of –

1. Municipality of Swakopmund for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2011;
2. Municipality of Outjo for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2011;
3. Municipality of Okahandja for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2011;
4. Town Council of Nkurenkuru for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2011;
5. Town Council of Okakarara for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2010; and
6. Village Council of Gochas for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2011.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Deputy Minister table the Reports?  
Honourable Minister of Labour.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF  
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION**

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**  
Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table –

Annual Report of the Employment Equity Commission for the year 2010/2011.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister please table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Today is usually Questions Day, but there is an unwritten law that during the Budget Debate we dispense with questions unless there is an absolutely urgent question, about which we have Rules if there are questions of that nature that would urgently require the House to respond. There being none, the Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**HON VON WIETERSHEIM:** I would like to speak on a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker. My contention is that we have not actually started with the Budget Debate yet and there is no reason to avoid answering the questions at this time while from next week we are actually in the Debate from the 6<sup>th</sup>. I would like to have your opinion on that.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I am telling you what we normally do. I want us to look at the Order Paper and please do not interrupt me again, I have explained that this is the first day, but this is what we shall do.

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Disaster Risk Management Bill*.

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**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:  
DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT BILL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 28 February 2012, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Deputy Prime Minister. Honourable Kaura adjourned the

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MANAGEMENT BILL  
HON DR KAMWI**

Debate and he has the Floor. Any further discussion?

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise in support of the *Disaster Risk Management Bill*, first of all to thank the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister for tabling one of the most important Bills. In his own words he said that it is actually long overdue. I, however, wish to make a few observations for the consideration of the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister.

In Clause 4(1)(f) says plague or epidemic of diseases. I feel that it needs correction. Plague is a disease and the proposal then would be, “*epidemic of diseases or health threat posed by a biological chemical agent or radio-nuclear materials.*” That would fit very well.

The next one is on Page 16, Section 13(c) which deals with the Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee and says, “*one representative who may or may not be a member of the committee, nominated by each of the following associations, organisations or institutions.*” Honourable Speaker, before I propose a number 7, I wish to correct (c)(v). It should read “*the United Nations*” and delete “*International*”. It should be the United Nations Children’s Fund. There is no such thing as the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund and then 6, the Namibian Red Cross Society. Then I advise that the Office of the Prime Minister may consider including the World Health Organisation, the reason being that when you talk of disaster, one would expect disease epidemic, because disaster can be caused by an epidemic of diseases. I would advise here that the international organisations here, which include the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the United Nations Children’s Fund and the Namibia Red Cross should certainly include the World Health Organisation as a UN technical advisor on health matters.

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HON UEITELE**

The last one is on Page 41, Section 40, establishment of crisis committee during state of disaster. Section 40 reads, “*during natural disaster.*” *The Prime Minister, after consultation with the Committee must establish a National Crisis Committee, consisting of (a), the Chairperson of the Committee, who is head of the team; (b) the Permanent Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister and, (c) the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries responsible for Defence, Safety and Security and Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development.* I wish to advise here that the Office of the Prime Minister may consider an inclusion of the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Health and Social Services for obvious reasons, that any disaster of whatever nature has health implications. Therefore, the Crisis Committee should consider the inclusion of the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Health and Social Services. I support this Bill. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Ueitele.

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**HON UEITELE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I also rise to support the *Disaster Risk Management Bill*. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, first of all allow me to congratulate and thank the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for a job well done by coming up with such a long-awaited and very important document, namely the *Disaster Risk Management Bill*. It is long overdue and, therefore, needs the support of the Honourable Members of this august House.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the aim of this Bill is to provide for the establishment of the institutions for Disaster Risk Management in Namibia and to provide for integrated and coordinated disaster management approach that focuses on preventing and reducing the risk of disaster, mitigating the severity in disaster emergency, preparedness, rapid and effective responses to disaster and post-recovery.

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HON UEITELE**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I appreciate the provisions made in this Bill to expand the Motions up to the regional levels and Sections 14 to 18 in the Bill make provision for the establishment of Committees at various levels. Section 14 makes provision for a Regional Disaster Risk Management Committee, Section 15 for Constituency Disaster Risk Management Committees, Section 16 for Settlement Disaster Risk Management Committees and Section 17 for Local Authority Disaster Risk Management Committees. Section 18 also makes provision for the Volunteer Unit Disaster Management Committee.

With all these structure and Motions in place from the national level down to the settlements and local authority levels, I strongly believe and I am convinced that the Motions will be able to prevent or to reduce the risk of any disaster in any given constituency or region.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I wholehearted welcome the provision made in Section 42 of the Bill that deals with the compensation for loss or damage of property.

Section 43 deals with the compensation for death or injury and Section 44 with the indemnity for persons acting under this Act. Previously we had people in various regions that lost their lives and even the lives of their loved ones, but has never been compensated and I, therefore, appreciate all efforts made by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister with this very important Bill that aims to act to promote the welfare of our people and protect the lives of our citizens.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in conclusion, I would request the fellow Members of Parliament not to further delay the adoption of this Bill as it will provide emergency preparedness and effective response to disasters which our people are facing year after year.

With these few remarks, I support the Bill and I thank you.

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MANAGEMENT BILL  
HON MWANINGANGE**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Mwaningange.

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**HON MWANINGANGE:** Comrade Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity. I rise to support and encourage the speedy passing of the Bill on Disaster Risk Management. However, I want to seek clarification on some points and before I do so, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to agree with the measures the Deputy Prime Minister's Office took in this regard. It is a well-known fact that disasters are either natural or man-made. When it occurs it could be of the highest degree, whereby it disrupts the normal lives of the society, therefore it needs proper strategies to be put in place to mitigate it, to measure and calculate, if possible, the gravity of that danger.

Honourable Speaker, having said that, I would like to seek clarification on Section 4, which deals with the committees to be constituted to serve at the regional level, constituency level and, I believe, the grassroots level. Under Section 4(1) on Page 8 is mentioned the Regional Association Committee in Namibia. I want to believe there is an error here or perhaps it should read, the Association of Regional Councils, which is an existing body in terms of the Regional Councils Act, consisting of all 13 Regions.

Honourable Speaker, I furthermore also seek clarity on Section 14 which deals with the composition of these regional bodies. Risk management goes hand-in-hand with other regional emergency management programmes. At regional level there is the Regional Emergency Management Unit and my question is whether this will be a separate Committee on Disaster Risk Management or would it not be correct to make it one body, because the Regional Emergency Management Unit which has committees at community level? Could it not be incorporated into one body, since the functions of those committees at the regional level are the same? I am not talking about the individuals serving in those committees, but their functions, so that it can be uniform.

When a severe drought or flood occur it can be considered as a disaster.

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MANAGEMENT BILL  
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

That is where this Regional Emergency Management Committees work in the thirteen regions of the country. Therefore, I am proposing that to unify them properly, that committee should constitute members of the Regional Emergency Management Committee and Constituency Emergency Management Committees at the village level.

With these remarks, Honourable Speaker, I wholeheartedly support the Bill and I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Nandi-Ndaitwah.

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I also rise to support the Disaster Risk Management Bill.

The Disaster Risk Management Bill has come at the right time, more particularly now that the world is being haunted by the impact of climate change and Namibia, being where it is, is very vulnerable to disasters.

Therefore, a law like this one will assist us to mitigate the impact of any disaster.

As clearly stipulated in the law, the aim is to ensure proper coordination by establishing different structures from the national to the lowest level of our governance, which is the village level. I am fully aware that we in Namibia are increasingly regulating almost every part of our lives, but this particular one is one of those important regulations that we will need.

At the same time, I really feel that when this law is finally operational, we as individuals and institutions should not run away from our responsibility. As clearly stated in the motivation of the Deputy Prime Minister, the idea is just to ensure coordination and not as a nation to run

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MANAGEMENT BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO**

away from our responsibility and always when disaster occur, to ask what the committees are doing. If we allow such a situation, then we are going to defeat the purpose of the Bill that we want to work on. This is a piece of legislation which may even demand that Members of Parliament have a responsibility to make sure that when disaster occurs, they will also make it their responsibility to make their contribution by mobilising the communities in which they live, for them also to make their humble contribution to the management of that particular disaster, depending on what we are talking about or the nature of the disaster.

We have seen during the floods that there were some institutions and individuals who made their contribution to support the victims of floods, but at the same time there were some, even though they had the capacity, have failed to support.

Therefore, my call is that when we have this law and have mechanisms in place, every member of our population must see fit to participate when disaster strikes, so that the impact would be at its minimum. That is the only way we can give meaning to the Bill before us once it becomes law.

Finally, Comrade Speaker, I also feel it is our responsibility as Members of Parliament to educate our communities to understand the importance of this law once it becomes operational, to enable them to respond effectively when the need arises. I support the Bill, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister. Honourable Tjihuiko.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Let me start by saying that this Bill is very late, it could have been presented yesterday, but anyway, better late than never.

We have experienced these disasters year in and year out, knowing there

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HON TJIHUIKO**

is no legal mechanism to assist us to address this issue, yet we sat back and waited for the last how many years now. However, as I said, better late than never. Let me come back to the Bill itself.

Honourable Speaker, we all know that if in Government you do not want to do something or if you want to delay a decision that has been taken, you establish committees. Committees will help you to delay the implementation of any decision. Looking at the Disaster Risk Management Bill and you have ten committees at different levels, I do not know how on earth these ten committees are supposed to coordinate in emergency activities. We will find ourselves in a situation where the national committee is still waiting for the regional committee to submit a report in order for them to take action. The regional committee will wait for the village committee to submit their report in order for them to take action and by the time that the national committee would get a report, either the whole community has been destroyed or there is no longer a need, it has been overtaken by events, as it happened in Mariental, as it happened in the North and the North-East where schools and bridges were destroyed and this one is waiting for the other one to act and to give a report until the next year when we found ourselves in the floods again. That is the risk that we are facing here.

I cannot see the reason why you have a National Disaster Committee consisting of permanent secretaries. Permanent secretaries do not have time, they are so loaded with work, they are there to run the Ministries and now they have been given an additional responsibility. If you look at all the Bills presented in this Chamber, the committees consist of permanent secretaries and then you blame them for not performing. We are shifting all the blame on them and say the permanent secretaries are not performing. How do you expect them to perform? Do we not have other competent Namibians in this country? (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT  
AND CULTURE:** On a Point of Information. Honourable Tjihuiko is



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HON TJIHUIKO**

confusing two things and he smartly playing politics with this Bill, because he knows very well that last year Government acted and did not wait for this Bill, as you are trying to imply. They deployed helicopters to go and address the situation and it acted on a number of occasions to provide boats, mobile health services, mitigating and other responses. This is a legal instrument that legalises our activities in such an event, but for you to try to pinch Government on this is a cheaply misguided approach. Please address the points on the instrument, but not on the emergency actions that were taken, because those were taken and it is a fact.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** I do not blame the Minister because the problem with the Minister is that when you do not have direct access to the people, you will act in the way the Minister is acting. When one of our committees visited the North, it is exactly the report that we were given. Those who were supposed to have requested for the helicopters have taken days because they were waiting for an approval from somebody who is on leave. That is clearly the problem.

What I am trying to say is that let us, taking into account the mistakes we have made, take this Bill, look at it and try to perfect it in the interest of our people. That is all what I am saying, Honourable Minister.

If we look at the committees, the National Disaster Committee consists of not more than twenty-three people. Let us say the maximum is twenty-three. Knowing our system we will not have less than twenty-three because all of them are Permanent Secretaries and all of them have to be there and there could be a situation where permanent secretaries will not agree, as was the case with the dam in the South. Before a decision is taken, the Permanent Secretary does not agree and I am talking about disasters. Seriously, Honourable Speaker, I think we should minimise the committees, there are too many, ten committees dealing with disaster and all of them are dealing with the same thing. If there is a problem in Oshakati, then the Local Authority committee should deal with it and

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HON MAAMBERUA**

report to the next committee and by next year February the problem will reach the national committee, while the village committee is faced with a new problem of flooding. The whole thing will just go up and down, it will not help. I think we should reduce these committees, I am very serious on this and I strongly recommend that it does not serve any purpose except for having a bloated bureaucracy that does not serve any purpose. Let us reduce these committees at least into Local Authorities at regional and to national level. Three committees are enough. This trend is just to give our Colleagues some responsibilities, some allowances to sit in these meetings and travelling allowances and that is all, it does not serve any purpose.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, this Bill could have been presented yesterday and this is one of the Bills that we should by all means try to get through the Chamber so that we get it to the National Council within the next two, three weeks, so that we can have a legal instrument in place that will guide us. With this, I support the Bill.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Maamberua.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I wish from the onset to indicate that I wholeheartedly support this Bill and that is coming from my experience of issues of disasters in Namibia in which I have been personally involved in trying to alleviate the plight of Namibians in various instances, as I am going to elaborate on now.

However, the aim of this Bill is actually to try to strengthen the coordination mechanisms. That aim is somehow also being defeated by the fact of the too many committees that are included in this Bill or in the mechanisms of wanting to strengthen the coordination.

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HON MAAMBERUA**

I would also concur with the suggestion that Members of Parliament should be more people-centred, they should be on the ground to be able to report disasters as and when they occur to the necessary officials and offices and this is the juncture at which I would want to share some personal experiences in this regard.

In November 2007 I found a group of Namibians who languished for about four years along the road between Otjiwarongo and Okahandja. They were actually thrown out from a farm by the name of Otjiku and that was shortly after I was elected President of SWANU. I visited these fellow Namibians who had appealed to all different types of offices to no avail. I wrote a report, I took it to the NBC and they read the report. I wrote a report to various Government offices, again to no avail, until I personally made an appointment to see the Head of State. That is when the instruction was given and within three months these people were resettled on a farm near Otjozondubwa by the name of Okepau. As I am talking these people are now resettled there at Okepau, but to make matters worse, Honourable Speaker, late last year a group of about 200 to 300 former farm workers were thrown out of the farm called Hochfeld and these people were bundled together, put on that farm Okepau where the others were resettled and as I am talking now, these people are languishing under this heavy rain at that farm Okepau.

Late last year I again visited these people, sent a report to more than five Ministries, including the Emergency Management Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister, because these people have no jobs, no proper housing, no medical facilities nearby and are actually suffering heavily, to no avail. Nobody has assisted them except for a few provisions that they received from the Red Cross after I sent a letter to the Red Cross. Currently I am still awaiting a response or they are actually waiting to see how Government is going to assist them. The relevant and Line Ministries are actually aware of this.

The question of the committees, we are now sent back to approaching the Regional Governors and the Constituency Councillors for them to actually give an indication as to whether indeed that is the situation that warrants

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HON MAAMBERUA**

to be regarded as an emergency or not before Government can intervene. I have written letters to those Governors and Constituency Councillors, no response yet.

The same situation goes to the disaster that occurred at the beginning of last year at a place called Otumborombonga when the roofs of various houses in that big village were blown off by heavy winds and rain. Only three tents were availed to that village. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** I think you are doing very well, it is a very good approach, but if the President has to do all these things, why do you not mandate your structures on the ground to do some of this work?

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** People at Omaihi, and this was reported in the media, suffered the same fate, houses and roofs destroyed under the heavy weather conditions that we are experiencing. This far nothing has been done.

The last experience is the buffalo invasion that led to the stoppage of the marketing of livestock in the Omaheke and Otjozondjupa communal areas, stretching from Otjituuo to Otjombinde. Again Government was approached to see if some assistance, such as maize-meal or foodstuff could be sent over there to assist people, because if they are not marketing their livestock, then they have lost their livelihood. The same cycle, the councillors had to be approached. Last week I sent two letters to the Otjozondjupa Governor and the Omaheke Governor and the respective Constituency Councillors to share with them the position of Government that the identification of emergencies should actually come from that side.

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HON MAAMBERUA**

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40**

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**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:20**

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Basically I was just stressing the need for rapid response mechanisms to be put in place in the Bill, because we should not rely on wisdom and foresight and maybe the involvement of individuals like myself and others to alert Government about some of these disasters, but that mechanisms of rapid response be included.

The same way, I also wanted to share with all of you how important it is that parliamentarians, and particularly leaders of political parties, get to familiarise themselves with these types of situations, as we have been doing all over the years. For the past five years, we, every year visited the victims of the flooding in the North, where we can take some provisions to assist fellow Namibians to ease their plight and that is important and that is the kind of attitude with which we have to approach this Bill.

I have mentioned all these different cases not really to put any minister or any office on the spot, but just to indicate the kind of attempts we have done from our side and at this juncture I wish to acknowledge and thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister because most of these letters that I am talking about have been directed to his office and he has been very efficient in responding to these communications. That is the attitude and approach that we need in dealing with each other and I thank you, I support the Bill if some of those Amendments can actually be incorporated, particularly the rapid response mechanisms. Thank you.

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MANAGEMENT BILL  
HON IILONGA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Iilonga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, I rise to give my support to the Disaster Risk Management Bill which is a very important Bill and I thank the Office of the Prime Minister under the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for tabling the Bill.

Comrade Speaker, I will deal with three Sections, the first one being Section 33, then Section 34 and 42. I also appreciate that the Government legal advisors are present.

Section 33 deals with the general power of the authorised officers. When one reads the Section, there is something that really needs to be looked at. It says that an authorised officer may during a state of a national disaster order in writing, direct any person to supply information which is regarded as very important in relation to employees and the existence of availability of any service. The problem arises when one comes to Section 42. Here the understanding is that the authorised officer may request the employee of that certain person to go and assist in a disaster as well as equipment. I want that to be clear because it is not clear from Section 42. Section 42 deals with the compensation for the loss or damage to property. Section 33 deals with information in connection with employees and then you find that if any land or any property of any person has been taken, damaged and removed or destroyed in terms of Section 33, but it does not really give an understanding what these two sections want to say to the public.

Then if you go to Subsection (3) of Section 33, a person who is aggrieved by this order given by the authorised officer may apply in writing to the Prime Minister. We are talking of natural disasters which never tells you it is on its way. If this Section 33 intends to say that there is a place which is not really damaged and it is requested to be used, let it be clear so that if Section 42 is to deal with compensation, then it deals with compensation

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MANAGEMENT BILL  
HON KAAPANDA**

clearly, that we will compensate your employees whom we requested to use in the disaster or we compensate you for your tractors or facilities to be used in the disaster.

Section 34, Comrade Speaker, also deals with the power of the authorised officer to request land and property. It says for the purpose of this Section and Section 42, a competent Court, but Section 42 is not really dealing with a competent Court, it deals with compensation. If they wanted it to deal with a competent Court, they could say Section 42(3) where a competent Court comes in when there is any dispute, then that could be clear in the law.

I just ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Prime Minister that when finalising this Bill they should look at those inconsistencies and also take into consideration the Labour Act. The Labour Act is clear when people cannot claim overtime in emergencies, such as veldfires as well as the issue of Mariental, when the insurance companies took the liberty to exclude Mariental. Thank you and I support the Bill.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Kaapanda.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. My first observation is on Page 8, Information and Broadcasting and Technology. I think here is a mistake which needs to be corrected. Furthermore I want to make my contribution on Page 5, starting with Clause 7. Firstly I would like to thank the Deputy Prime Minister for bringing this very important Bill, as other speakers have alluded to. Paragraph (g) talks about facilitating the implementation of public information and public awareness programme.

Comrade Speaker, information dissemination and information

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HON KAAPANDA**

management is very crucial in the time of disaster. I believe awareness campaign and training of the public needs to be conducted and in this regard, special messages or signals need to be developed that can be introduced to the public so that when they hear such signals, then they know disaster is pending or disaster is about to strike. Of course, we have not so far experienced disasters like tsunamis which come with speed, but we have always experienced floods and people are told that floods are on its way and people start preparing themselves accordingly. However, in the event that we have a disaster that strikes with tremendous speed, we need to develop signals and messages that can relate over the radio or television or cell phone in order to warn the public so that they can be on alert and respond accordingly.

Paragraph (i) deals with channels of communication for community in all issues related to disaster and risk management. It is very important, Comrade Speaker, that for people to be able to receive information regarding an impending disaster, they must be provided with communication equipment or communication gadgets and I believe the Office of the Prime Minister will look into this so that they can receive this information timely. Of course, to make the rescue effort successful, information management and dissemination must be timely and prompt. This information must be received by the affected community timely in order to react accordingly and to know what is happening. Of course, communication is not only important for those affected, but also for the teams in the field. They need to communicate and coordinate their rescue effort and this must be done timely and rapidly in order to save lives.

I already indicated the means of communication where information can be channelled via either television or radio or cell phone.

On Page 26, Clause 18 deals with the Disaster Risk Management Volunteer Units. This can be a very important unit, comprised of volunteers, but I think this unit can only play a significant role in the rescue effort if it is comprised of people with expertise, whether in terms of disaster management or in terms of utilising information technology. Information technology is going to play an important role. These people



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should be able to utilise information technology, they should also have knowledge in disaster management in general so that they can do a good job.

Finally I just want to amplify the importance of information in the management of disaster. It is so vital and it must be strengthened, equipment must be provided and people with skills in utilising such information must also be made available. Therefore, training and capacity-building in utilisation of ICT should be emphasised. With this I support the Bill. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Ulenga.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. I would like to briefly say a few things also in support of the Bill before the House, namely the *Disaster Risk Management Bill*.

Right at the beginning I would like to point out a slight difference here, because listening to the various Colleagues speaking, there seems to be conflation of two things. On the one hand we are talking about disaster risk management and on the other you can also talk about disaster management. The two are slightly different.

Honourable Speaker, several of the previous speakers have used the following expression, “*disaster is the disaster*” as it is self-explanatory, disaster is a disaster, but I just want to point out that actually the Bill is trying to point out ways of preventing disasters by managing the risk of disasters. It is true that we had several occasions in Namibia where we have never successfully prevented risks or dealt with risks and, therefore, we had disasters and we had to deal with disasters and not to manage risk and when it gets to that stage, it is already too late for this Bill to apply because this Bill is all about making sure that accidents do not happen or

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disasters do not happen, but in the case that they happen, then of course they have to be dealt with as well.

Honourable Speaker, we have seen and those who do not read newspapers may even have seen on television that a few years ago there was this horrendous event that happened in the United States of America and this was called Hurricane Katrina. We all remember how Hurricane Katrina happened and in this case you clearly see who got in charge and it is not a committee, it is people who got in charge. When it is a disaster of national proportions, it is the President who takes charge, who does not consult a committee. Actually in the particular incident I am referring to, the disappointment was that the particular President in that country who was in charge never dealt with the issue himself in person, he tried to rely on committees, he tried to rely on deputies, he tried to send people to go and see so that they can come back and report to him. There was disillusionment and, of course, he lost quite a few marks in that regard, if you know who I am talking about.

Comrade Speaker, therefore I want to refer to Part IV of the Bill which deals with the declaration of state of a national disaster. If you read through Clauses 31, 32 and 33 and if you read them together with Article 26 of the Namibian Constitution, then it will be clear to you that it looks like there is some hijacking of the situation here, because whereas this Constitution of Namibia, which is the Supreme Law, is very clear on the issue of disasters, namely that the President gets in charge and declares, if he so feels, by gazette a national disaster, the Bill we have in front of us seems to aim to take that prerogative out of the President's hands and make it an issue of Cabinet.

The Bill, with regard to the declaration of state of national disaster, says in Clause 31: *"If at any time it appears that any disaster is of such a nature and extent that extraordinary measures are necessary to assist and protect the persons affected or likely to be affected by the disaster in any area within Namibia or that circumstances are likely to arise making such measures necessary, the Chairperson of the Committee may recommend to Cabinet (probably through the Cabinet Secretary) that a state of national*

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*disaster be declared to the whole of or any part of Namibia.”*

Here the Chairperson of the Committee must go to Cabinet, but Article 26 of the Constitution says at any time of national disaster or during a state of national defence or public emergency threatening the life of the Nation or the constitutional order, the President may by proclamation in the Gazette declare that a state of emergency exists in Namibia or any part thereof and the whole Chapter IV deals with the President on the one hand and the National Assembly and not the Cabinet. (Intervention)

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**HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Information. Can I draw the Honourable Member’s attention to Article 27(2) of the Constitution?

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I am quite aware of Article 27, it does not talk about national disasters, it talks about the Executive power and the way I understand it, it says that the Executive power is not only with the Executive as it is with the President and the Cabinet. So, the Executive power is shared between the Cabinet and the President. But Article 26 is talking about the President, not the Executive. He is the one to declare national disasters and if you look at Part IV, the whole of Clause 30, it is talking about how Cabinet should advise after having deliberated and gone around in circles and then eventually needs to go to the President and advise the President to declare a national emergency after probably a year. It cannot work that way. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** On the face of it I tend to agree with Honourable Ulenga, but I need to apply my mind to it. It is a Section dealing with emergency and the kind of disasters that we should respond to reside under that article. I tend to agree with Honourable Ulenga, but I need to consult. My own mind tells me that he is right.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, suffice to say, without having to read all the stuff here, perhaps one should read the whole of Clause 30 of the Bill and read it in conjunction with the whole of Chapter IV and Chapter V of the Constitution.

I just wanted to refer specifically again in terms of distinguishing between disaster risk management and disaster management. I want to refer to a horrendous event or incident that happened in Namibia last year. I really expected the Minister of Environment and Tourism to refer to this matter because it happened within her domain. We all read and saw on television how a fire burned and devastated our prime national park, a park that is also famed to be perhaps one of the best, if not the best, in the world and on the African continent, Etosha National Park. There was a fire that came from the neighbouring farms and that fire had as a result caused the destruction of quite a number of hectare of State land in the park and there were figures given in terms of the number of game, including some of the most sought after and endangered species, like black rhino, elephants and giraffe, which perished in the fire. To my memory it looks like there was not even a statement in this House about this fire that devastated this kind of territory.

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**HON SPEAKER:** That we know, what about that incident?

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**HON ULENGA:** The point that I want to make is that here is a fire that comes from a certain farm, there are supposed to be measures in place to stop that kind of incident. This is not only state territory but it is one of the most important features and assets of the country.

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**HON SPEAKER:** And therefore?

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**HON ULENGA:** And therefore it should have been better protected.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD**

**WELFARE:** You are doing very well, Honourable Ulenka. Maybe two questions. You are explaining the types of disasters. Can you mention the disaster which took place in Caprivi of the lightning which destroyed about 78 cattle of Mr Mutakalumuno. What do you call that disaster?

Secondly, when you look at Page 42, how can this man be helped because he lost about 78 heads of cattle? I cannot see where he fits into these sections. Maybe you can answer on behalf of the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

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**HON VON WIETERSHEIM:** On a Point of Order. The Point of Order concerns the quorum, Honourable Speaker. We seem to be conducting business without a quorum.

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**HON SPEAKER:** We are ringing the bells. We are here as Honourable Members and when in your absence we meet as Speakers and Presiding Officers, we say to one another that there are Honourable Members like Honourable Anton Von Wietersheim who has no other interest than the dignity of the House and are going strictly by the Rules. However, we also say, this being a political world, there are also mischief-makers and those ones we should guard against and the way to determine that is to come back to the Rules. We ring the bell for two minutes and with all good intentions, those who are nearby come to the House. By now we should have received everybody who is supposed to be here and that happen not to be the case, in which case we will now take it to the next stage, which is to register those who are present, but also to register who

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are not. Close the doors and then the Secretary will read the names.

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The following 35 voting Members were present including the Speaker; Honourable Uutoni; Nambahu; Ilonga; Sioka; Geingob; Angula; Kawana; Kuugongelwa-Amadhila; Kaapanda; Nandi-Ndaitwah; Kazenambo; N. Iyambo; Ngatjizeko; Kamwi; !Naruseb; Kaiyamo; Isaacks; Namwandi; Mwaningange; Maamberua; Nyamu; Bezuidenhoudt; Von Wietersheim; Nehova; Lucks; Moongo; Ulenga and Tjihuiko.

The following 5 non-voting Members were present:  
Schlettwein; Katjavivi; Swartz; Tjongarero and Jankowski

In terms of Rule 17(c) of the Standing Rules and Orders, The speaker adjourned the Assembly at 17:05, until Tuesday 6 March 2012.

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:05 UNTIL 2012.03.06 AT 14:30**

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

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Reports of Standing Committees?  
Other Reports and Papers? Minister Mutorwa.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT 2010/2011:  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY**

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
Comrade Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of the Ministry  
of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, 2010/2011, for the information of the  
Honourable Members and also for their reference.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Report? Any  
further Reports and Papers? Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the  
Table two Reports of the Auditor-General on the accounts of –

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**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

1. Diamond Board for the Financial Years ended 31 December 2007 and 2008;
  2. Diamond Valuation Board for the Financial Years ended 31 December 2009 and 2010;
  3. Government of Namibia for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2010;
  4. Meat Board for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2009 and 2010;
  5. National Assembly for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2010;
  6. Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2010;
  7. Agricultural Bank for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2009;
  8. Village Council of Tses for the Financial Years ended 30 June 2005, 2006 and 2007;
  9. Village Council of Tses for the Financial Years ended 30 June 2008 and 2009;
  10. Municipality of Swakopmund for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2010;
  11. Town Council of Nkurenkuru for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2010;
  12. Municipality of Gobabis for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2010;
  13. Municipality of Karibib for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2007 and 2008.
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**NOTICE OF MOTION  
RT HON N ANGULA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Maybe I need to elaborate a little bit more. The reason why we during Budget time set aside Questions implies also that no new Questions would be put during the same period, but of course, there would be exceptional cases and in that case either the Office of the Speaker or through the good office of the Chief Whip we would weigh the Questions that must be put, should it be the case. I thought I should clarify that. Any Notice of Motions? Prime Minister

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**NOTICE OF MOTION**

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**HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2012, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to amend the Public Service Act of 1995 so as to empower the Secretary to Cabinet to establish a disciplinary committee, consisting of persons who may or may not be members in cases of disciplinary proceedings instituted against a Permanent Secretary and to deal with incidental matters.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Prime Minister table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Honourable Sioka.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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06 March 2012

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON SIOKA**

**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, each year International Women's Day is celebrated on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March around the world. Thousands of events occur not only on this day but throughout March to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women.

This year, 2012, the International Women's Day theme is, "*Connecting Girl Inspiring Future*". It is our responsibility as leaders to inspire the girl child through education and by empowering them through the promotion of small businesses in our country and this includes women in rural areas.

Comrade Speaker, Namibia ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The signing of this international legal instrument is an important milestone for Namibia to promote and protect the rights of women. Besides the signing of the Convention, the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia provides for equality between men and women and prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex, race, ethnic origin, colour, religion, social or economic status.

Furthermore, I would like to share with you the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Namibia in combating gender-based violence, including human trafficking. The Government has committed itself to address gender imbalances by creating an enabling environment that is safe for its citizens. Through this process the Government has acknowledge the challenges faced in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, in addressing gender-based violence, the Government of the Republic of Namibia enacted several gender-related laws and policies. In addition to laws and policies there are also several initiatives, such as Gender-based Violence National Conference held in June 2007 with the objective to find out the root cause of gender-based violence, to recommend possible strategies to address them.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON SIOKA**

The Conference, amongst others, recommended a zero tolerance campaign for gender-based violence in Namibia. Again as per Cabinet directive, the National Advisory Committee on Gender-based Violence was established and launched in 2008 by His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia. The Committee consists of different stakeholders from the Government, Civil Society, NGO's and the Private Sector, responsible to advise the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare on issues related to gender-based violence and human trafficking in the country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, another step taken by the Government was to conduct a knowledgeable attitude and private study in 2008 on traditional factors that may assist to protect Namibians against violence and discrimination. Another study conducted was the rapid Assessment on Human Trafficking conducted in 2009 with the financial assistance from the USAID (Namibia). This study also recommended an awareness campaign on human trafficking and training of key service providers on human trafficking.

Honourable Members, I am glad to inform you that the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare and other stakeholders have started with the implementation of recommendations from the 2007 Conference with the financial assistance from the Spanish MDG Funds. Many media materials were developed and distributed countrywide. Development of these materials include radio dramas in English, Oshiwambo, Damara-Nama, Otjiherero, Rukwangali, Silozi and Afrikaans. Posters were also developed in local languages, billboard and television and newspaper adverts.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me shed light on the launch of the National Gender Policy 2010-2020 of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. The National Gender Policy was designed with the objective to effectively contribute to the attainment of Vision 2030. I must inform this House that the 2007 Gender Policy was revised and progress was made in the area of legal reform with the development of a legal framework through laws seeking to address gender inequalities and issues of economic and social injustice brought about by

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON SIOKA**

past discriminatory laws and cultural practices.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, despite the progress made, many challenges in programming for gender equality, women in Namibia are still facing increased prevalence of HIV/AIDS, high rate of gender-based violence and the continuous perceived and intra-house inequality.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the staff of the Directorate of Gender Equality and all the stakeholders who provided valuable inputs during the compilation of this Policy. Furthermore, I wish to express my appreciation to MDGF for their support during the formulation of the National Gender Policy.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my honour to announce that the National Gender Policy of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare will be launched by His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2012 at Safari Hotel in Windhoek. Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all women and men to recognise and celebrate this day with us. I also wish to extend my special invitation to the political leaders of our Chamber, like Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab, Honourable Hage Geingob, Honourable Hidipo, Honourable Riruako, Honourable Kaura, Honourable Maamberua, Honourable //Garoëb, Honourable Shixwameni, Honourable Ulenga and Honourable Gowases to join us on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. People are demanding to see their leaders. Thank you very much.

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

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**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:  
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL**  
**HON NYAMU**

**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on Second Reading –  
*Appropriation Bill.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 28 February 2012, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Nyamu has the Floor.

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**HON NYAMU:** Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, at the outset, allow me the privilege to preface this contribution with some remarks.

Convention requires, and indeed it is proper to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance on a well-articulated Budget. After so many years in the driving seat of the country's finances, the Honourable Minister displays a commendable skill to continue presenting budgets that parade under the pro-poor banner, but do not achieve that stated noble intention.

It is to be recalled that the Honourable Minister presented in previous Financial Years what she called the "*pro-poor Budget*". The first time she used this concept to motivate the rationale behind a Budget was in 2007 when she raised the so-called income tax threshold for individuals to N\$36,000 per year. The 2012 Budget year is five Budget years later. Expressed differently, this means that five years ago the income tax threshold was determined, but it has only been adjusted once in 2009 when the Minister increased it by 10% to N\$40,000 per year.

Expressed differently, at the level of bread and butter issues, it manifests itself that whereas one used to buy bread for N\$4,70, you are now paying plus minus N\$7,00 for the same bread. Similarly, in terms of income tax consideration, many individuals are now worse off than they were before the introduction of the income tax threshold.

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**HON NYAMU**

Every year since the 2007 Budget the Honourable Minister has made reference to SWAPO Party-led Government's commitment to a pro-poor Budget. Meanwhile, unemployment has steadily crept up from an estimated 24% then, to the current 34%, if I work on the strict definition of unemployment only. If I adopt the Honourable Minister's own favourite "broader" definition of unemployment, we are all too familiar with the staggering figure of 51.2%.

The Honourable Minister may camouflage her Budget with impressive overviews, technically impressive analyses and endlessly complicated subdivisions to make her programme-based allocations, at least on paper, appear well-constructed and aligned to the needs of people development. However, this does not hide the everyday reality we see around us where communities have settled at dumpsites where they irk out a living from the waste generated by the affluent members of our society – most of them on this side of the House.

Honourable Speaker, the 2012/2013 Budget is themed "*doing more with less.*" It is our view that this is pure semantics. The Budget as presented by the Honourable Minister indicates the money party is over. The SWAPO Party-led Government is at the end of the road of using the Budget, as the past budgets have proved, as a pretext to bankroll the many favours they allow those in their privileged SWAPO Party circles. What is more, our view of the past is confirmed by recently announced tender exemptions.

Regarding the fiscal policy or space, allow me to quote the Honourable Minister. The Honourable Minister stated as follows: "*This gives an indication that an expansionary fiscal policy can be unsustainable and therefore should be applied only when resources are available.*" She made this remark when she introduced her Budget. This sounds impressive, but in plain language it means the Minister herself acknowledges the party is over, the money has been spent and now the brakes are on. All fiscal space has been exhausted. To us it is clear she has announced the end of the so-called "*pro-poor Budget*".

Her idea of pro-poor is noble, but it has not changed the lives of the poor

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HON NYAMU**

from Noordower to Oshikango, from Walvis Bay to Buitepos and to Katima Mulilo. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, through you to Honourable Nyamu. Do you not see the importance of this Budget, because even the public are talking about the Budget, not to mention the Political parties. If we now start talking about Political Parties while the Minister did not mention any Opposition or the Ruling Party, it will reflect badly on you as the Opposition.

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**HON NYAMU:** Thank you, Minister, for your intervention and I repeat, the idea pro-poor is noble, but it has not changed the lives of the poor from Noordoewer to Oshikango, from Walvis Bay to Buitepos and to Katima Mulilo. Year after year the Honourable Minister has inflated the Budget, but not extended it to reach the poor. The so-called pro-poor budgets, to date, have failed to raise the standard of living of the pensioners, who are today worse off than they were in 1990 in terms of purchasing power. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? As you are aware Muharukua is the first Himba and NAMCOL person. Please, I want you to tell this House and the public the meaning of the word “*so-called*” which you have been using several times. I want you to explain the word “*so-called*” because I want to explain to the people the meaning of the word.

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**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL**  
**HON NYAMU**

**HON NYAMU:** I am sorry, I do not remember using that term. The so-called pro-poor budgets to date have failed to raise the standard of living of the pensioners – your grandparents, my grandparents and your parents as well – who are today worse off than they were in 1990 in terms of purchasing power. This is the reality.

Indeed, the Honourable Minister of Finance referred to a philosophical quotation of Kaplan: “*If you cannot measure it, you cannot manage it.*” (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Comrade Speaker, I have a very short question to the Honourable Member on the Floor and I hope this time he will not suffer from memory loss and amnesia. Is the Honourable Member aware that the prices of all commodities increased over the years, that the price that we used to pay for bread in 1940 is not the price that we paid for bread in 1990, therefore it will not be the same price we will be paying in 2030, if we are still alive.

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**HON NYAMU:** I think we need to take some adult education in Economics to understand the meaning of the terms.

Indeed, the Honourable Minister of Finance referred to a philosophical quotation of Kaplan: “*If you cannot measure it, you cannot manage it.*”

In essence, what the Honourable Minister is saying is that if SWAPO Party-led Government cannot measure it, it cannot change it. By her own admission, the Honourable Minister has indicated that the SWAPO Party-led Government simply cannot measure and therefore cannot manage.

It is clear, therefore, that the SWAPO Party-led Government has been managing without measuring.



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HON NYAMU**

**Unclear Targets:**

In last year's Budget Statement much emphasis was placed on the underlying counter-cyclical approach employed in the budgets of 2010 and 2011. I believed the Honourable Minister when she advocated the necessity for Government to step in and mitigate the effect of the global financial crisis, but the targets are vague and the proposed solution is turning into a fiscal nightmare.

As part of last year's strategy, the Honourable Minister presented to us the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG). This was a hastily conceived, poorly structured short-term solution, showing an enormous panic and desperation on Government's side.

It is best shown in the lack of new projects that make use of TIPEEG funding, as well as in the mediocre execution rate. The general policy is positive but the detail is missing. It is still not there in the new Budget, except to say that many existing projects are now listed as TIPEEG expenditure in an effort to make the programme look respectable. TIPEEG, as a mechanism to create new jobs is failing, and Government has admitted that, and as a strategy to create permanent economic growth and jobs, it is unlikely that it will succeed.

**Lost Vision:**

One outcome of TIPEEG that cannot be disputed is the fact that it grew the Budget deficit from 9.8% of GDP to an unbelievable 11.2%. Statistically this looks like only a small overshoot, from just below 10% to just over 11%, but these are percentage points. Those Members of this august House with a head for statistics will immediately realise that the actual deviation is 14.2% and as the statisticians say, that is a very significant departure from the estimated figure.

It is the considered view of the RDP that in order to achieve sustainable long-term growth, two key elements are required:

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**HON NYAMU**

- You need vision, which SWAPO has lost; and
- You need critical, discerning supporters, which SWAPO does not like.

Governing the SWAPO Party way has become entrenched. I even dare to say, using some of her eloquent terminology, it has become structured. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Comrade Speaker, the Honourable Member cannot say that SWAPO lost its vision. I do not know who lost vision. Is it the new Party or the old Party? You were planning for a long time to destroy the SWAPO Party, but you were not successful. It is not good to tell the nation that you want to restructure SWAPO today.

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**HON NYAMU:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Let me continue. There is no longer a vision for an independent, prosperous nation; there is only a view of who benefits and how must we present the Budget in such a way that it appears to benefit the majority? (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** May I ask another question? Judging from the fact that the Honourable Member cannot respond to any of the questions posed in the House, can one deduce from this that he is reading from notes prepared somewhere and of which he cannot take ownership? They are totally out of line and out-dated.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I am listening as Speaker when it reaches the point where the Honourable Member is out of line and I will guide him accordingly. Continue.

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**HON NYAMU**

**HON NYAMU:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The SWAPO Party-led Government is more concerned with maintaining the mirage of growth, than with the real outcome of how the huge Government resources benefit every Namibian. The SWAPO Party-led Government is not really concerned with the poor citizen, it is only concerned with leading the blindfolded to make sure they always vote for the benefactor... (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** On a Point of Information, Mr Speaker. I think the statements by the Honourable Member refer to the fact that the pro-poor Budget did not have an effect and I just want to point him to the latest Namibia Household and Income Expenditure Survey which in fact indicates that the gini-coefficient, which is the measure of distribution of wealth, came down from 0.71 in 1994/95 to 0.6 in 2004 and again to 0.58 in the most recent not yet released information. Equally the per capita income of citizens doubled from 1995 to 2004 from about N\$5,000 to N\$10,000 and it again increased to about N\$12,000 in the recent survey. Therefore, there is an indication that the pro-poor interventions of the budgets in fact did grip and release poverty.

Lastly, extreme poverty is reduced to about 2% of the population and I think that information is important for the public to know. Thank you.

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**HON NYAMU:** Thank you for the information, I have, of course, read that in the papers, but I think you are a long way from your destination.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, my intent in participating in this Appropriation Debate is to comment on several issues. I do not fundamentally disagree with the macro numbers of the Medium Term Outlook. What is telling, however, is how much those numbers have been adjusted from last year's Budget to this year. (Intervention)

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**HON NYAMU**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** On a Point of Order. Maybe I did not hear the Honourable Member properly, but he has used the word “blindfolded” and inasmuch as I can be very magnanimous, I cannot accept that word. Maybe he can explain the context in which he used that word, otherwise I would really insist that he withdraws that word.

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**HON SPEAKER:** That I do, and I do not see why I should ask him to withdraw. Continue Honourable Nyamu

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**HON KAURA:** On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker. The Ruling Party today has 85 minutes to speak. I think they must use that opportunity to express themselves instead of interjecting and in the process on the speech of Honourable Nyamu. You have 85 minutes, use that time instead of interjecting.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** He cannot say all Namibians are stupid.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I will not rule him Out of Order, Honourable Deputy Minister, and you cannot rule him Out of Order either. I will not rule him Out of Order on the point that you have made.

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**HON NYAMU:** I do not fundamentally disagree with the macro numbers for the medium-term outlook. What is telling, however, is how much those numbers have been adjusted from last year’s Budget to this year. The Budget deficit was exceeded, expenses grew faster than expected and the biggest surprise is that both the economy and the State’s revenue grew

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less than projected. As a matter of fact, the growth in Gross Domestic Product is more than 6% less than the revised figure in last year's Budget. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** Where did you get that?

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**HON NYAMU:** Where did I get it? I will show you where I got it if you come to my office, as you used to come to my office when you were a student.

It must be clearly stated, the Budget is the quantified expression of a political process. The SWAPO Party-led Government should not control the lives of the Namibian people in a mechanical way. It is supposed to be the guardian of its citizens. The pervasive poverty around us shows me it has turned into a protector of the few.

Several commentaries had been made on the Budget by analysts, critics and others on the shape and content of the 2012/2013 Budget. Public views are varied as follows:

- "...2012/13 Budget will be the biggest challenge..."
- "...new dinner, old menu..."
- "...lean harvest, ... huge investment..."
- "... the Minister has given very little feedback..."

Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, It is right that the sentiments are varied, those expressed by the public. This shows that we are maturing as a democracy, which SWAPO does not like. It also shows that more and more of our people will become more critical of Government's economic policies. Eventually it will no longer be good enough to present beautiful policies on paper, but will also depend on the implementation and execution. Our citizens have begun to realise that there is an alternative to the SWAPO Party-led Government.

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Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, let me now state the content of the Budget at the risk of reconfirmation. The expenditure, as you know, is N\$40.2 billion. Revenue is only N\$35.4 billion, which suggests there is a shortfall of N\$4.8 billion and another amount needed of N\$4.7 billion.

The Honourable Minister of Finance states, “*we must do more with less.*” However, the actions of the Government points to the contrary.

The reality is that there is a real upside risk that the estimated deficit may again turn out much bigger than projected. The sum total of all the initiatives will increase indebtedness and consequently, the cost of financing debt repayments.

As a matter of fact, paying for the money we have to borrow now, will in a mere three year period increase from 4.8% of Government income to 7%. Again, for those who appreciate the statistical detail, this is a very significant drain on the resources of the State. The real percentage increase is more than 50%.

It is very easy to present these figures in such a way that the impact seems meaningless. The careful analyst will note, however, that the deficit and debt financing estimates depend on a fixed view of GDP.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40**

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**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:15**

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**HON SPEAKER:** We shall resume the business of the House and Honourable Nyamu still has the Floor.

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**HON NYAMU**

**HON NYAMU:** I want to acknowledge the way the seniors on the other side of the House have listened to my speech. It is the *Johnny-come-late* who always want to spoil things, because they are seeking credits.

It is very easy to present these figures in such a way that the impact seems meaningless. The careful analysts will note, however, that the deficit and debt financing estimates depend on a fixed view of GDP. It is exactly in this regard where the Government's financial planners have made their biggest blunders over the recent past since the contraction of the Budget of 2009.

The macro figures for expected Government expenditure moves only a fraction from this year's N\$40.2 billion to just over N\$41 billion, falling again in 2014/2015 to N\$40.2 billion. The curve of this graph is flat. It shows that in Namibia expenses have become outrageous and the only hope there is, is to curb expenditure and wait for Gross Domestic Product to catch up. Hopefully!

When I go back to last year's MTEF projections, the picture that emerges becomes even more unsettling. At the beginning of 2011, the Honourable Minister expected GDP to reach N\$98 billion. Even the revised figures released late last year maintained an expected GDP of N\$98 billion. The "new" revised GDP she gave us last week indicates that GDP will only marginally exceed N\$92 billion. That is one of the core reasons why the Finance Ministry has suddenly slammed on the brakes. The economy grew much less than they projected last year, in fact more than 6% less, while the deficit, as a percentage of GDP, exploded.

A country that continues on this fiscal path will soon breach its own debt ceiling and that means financial crisis of the Greek type of direction, if not worse. This ugly surprise is being forced on us in the Honourable Minister's Budget Statement where she stated she will ask this august House for its approval to increase the debt ceiling from 30% of GDP to 35% of GDP. The Minister is asking us to help her increase the deficit. This is, in my view, unacceptable.

There are several independent economic analysts who warned the

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Government's economic planners that their GDP projections are unrealistic. The Honourable Minister chose to ignore these flashing red lights. As a counter measure she announced TIPEEG which leaves us with lots of more debt, very little fiscal space in which to move and a fraction of the jobs she promised.

Let us assess TIPEEG. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to say a few words on TIPEEG. With a resource envelope of N\$14.7 billion, its application at the level of implementation was doomed a failure. However, arrogance of power is intoxicating so that one does not distinguish fact from self-delusion. The resource envelope is said to increase to N\$18.7 billion, if State-Owned Enterprises are taken into account. Are we doing double entry accounting here? These are the same entities which are beneficiaries from taxpayers' resources. I am talking about the State-Owned Enterprises which had failed us since time immemorial. I remind the newcomers that twenty years ago I warned Government that Air Namibia had no chance of becoming an economical outfit. Up to now this is just draining our coffers.

However, fundamentally the issues with respect to TIPEEG are, and these are some questions we need to respond to:

- What criteria were applied for TIPEEG allocation for different Regions?

The public wants to know because some feel that some regions got a bigger piece of the cake than others. It is the responsibility of the Government to give us full information on what criteria were used.

- The Director-General of the National Planning Commission was reported in the print media saying that for TIPEEG programme, normal Tender Board procedures are exempted. What assurances can be given that participation in TIPEEG will not be restricted to *tenderpreneurs*, Comrades and the politically well-connected businessmen and women, as it has happened in the past?



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- Is exemption the appropriate way to go, given that these are public resources? (Interjections)
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**HON SPEAKER:** Only one Member at a time. Honourable Nyamu has the Floor. The two Deputy Ministers, I have rules by which I can name you and you get out of the House. Take the Floor and make your contribution.

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**HON NYAMU:** Are necessary arrangements in place for quality assurance, quality workmanship, performance guarantees and good public standing?

- How do we prevent undue influence and interference in the open tendering process on regional structures?
- What will prevent TIPEEG from degenerating into a second GIPF?

Indeed, total outstanding debt will increase, post intervention, from N\$27.9 billion in 2011/2012 to N\$34 billion in 2013/2014. The banality of it is even more starkly demonstrated when one looks at the total number of unemployed and unemployment rates, pre and post intervention of TIPEEG.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, we have demonstrated the following:

- The lack of fiscal space limits further expansion;
- Unclear targets lead to poor monitoring results;
- A lost vision compels us to a future debt and stagnation; and
- Pervasive Incongruity robs us of our economic well-being as a Nation.

I thank you.

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HON DR AMWEELO**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Amweelo.

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to, first and foremost, congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, her Deputy, Comrade Schlettwein and the Director General of the National Planning Commission, Comrade Tom Alweendo, for a job well done in the preparation of this Budget, *“Fiscal Sustainability and Job Creation Growth – Jointly Doing More with Less.”*

Comrade Speaker, I would like to focus on ICT in education. In 2010 the ICT Committee visited many schools in the regions, where we observed that many schools in our country are still not yet introduced to the usage of computers, let alone connection to internet. This has created challenges in terms of service delivery with regard to school activities.

Information and Communication Technology have become an integral part of everyday life for many people over the world and will continue to play an ever-increasing role in social and economic development. As the world moves forward, education should take the lead in the matter.

Therefore I would also like to call upon the schools and the Ministry of Education to speed up the International Computer Driving Licence training for teachers in order for them to be able to use ICT equipment. It is encouraging to see teachers using ICT and passing on these skills to their learners. Access and the usage of ICT in Education is no longer a privilege of a few, but it should be viewed as a basic human right, especially for the digital citizen, namely school-going children.

The role of the teacher advisory service in supporting ICTs in schools at regional and cluster level will be enhanced. According to the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto of 2009, training institutions across the country will be encouraged and supported to increase ICT training. Teachers with

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abilities in ICT will be invited to support the in-service training programmes. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question, please? Honourable Dr Amweelo, you are doing exceptionally well and my question is, being a member of the Ruling Party and hoping that you have been part and parcel of the Budget development, are you aware that out of the N\$9 billion that is being spent on Education, only N\$8.9 billion will be spent on the current cost? If that is the case, how do you expect this ICT programme of yours to be implemented by this current SWAPO Party-led Government?

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Access to ICT facilities in public libraries and multi-purpose youth centres will provide opportunities for teachers to encourage their learners to use the ICT facilities for project work.

The influence of education managers, teacher advisory services and inspectors on the uptake of ICT at school level cannot be underestimated. The needs for the groups will be reviewed and a programme developed to improve their skills-base and ability to plan for ICT usage.

The Namibian Government has clearly and positively identified in Vision 2030 that ICT skills and competencies are regarded as core elements of living and participating in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and in the development of a dynamic society. The knowledge society is now more about skills, social networks and leading people to greater economic participation. Education has a key role to play in providing these skills and competencies.

As we move towards a knowledge-based paradigm, as stipulated in Namibia's Vision 2030, "*Integrating ICT education and training into education and training system*", issues of access to the local and global pool of knowledge and information become paramount.

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Learning can be beneficial. Developing ICT as a cross-cutting theme will support the creation and distribution of knowledge to communities in a more equitable manner. In doing so, ICT will act as a tool in driving the development of knowledge and innovation, strengthening the quality and relevance of tertiary education and training and providing access to information in a more integrated and comprehensive manner across the sector.

International experience shows that integrating technology effectively into learning systems is extremely complicated. It involves a thorough analysis of educational objectives and changes, a realistic understanding of the potential of technologies, considering the pre- and co-requisites of successfully implementing ICT for education and the prospect of this process within the dynamics of educational change and reform. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Dr Amweelo, I am not quite sure of the extent to which you are addressing the *Appropriation Bill*. I know ICT is your baby, one of these days I will become one of your pupils, but I am not quite sure whether the Minister of Finance in her motivation underlined the importance of ICT for all the reasons you are mentioning. Therefore, I do not know what value you are adding to what the Minister in motivating the *Appropriation Bill* tried to convince the House to vote for the moneys earmarked for that exercise. Can you summarise what remains to be said?

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Nowadays the role of Information and Communication Technology, especially internet in the Education Sector, plays an important role, especially in the process of empowering the technology into the education activities.

Being aware of the significant role of ICT (internet) in our lives, especially in the educational activities, education authorities should be wise enough in implementing the strategies to empower ICT in supporting

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the teaching and learning process in the classroom. ICT is not just the bloom of the educational activities, but it will also be the secondary option to improve the effective and meaningful educational process. I believe that Namibia's greatest opportunity to create employment and reduce poverty, as stated in the Minister's Budget Statement, rests on the Education Sector.

The ICT sector has the potential to create direct and indirect job opportunities through the optimal utilisation and application of ICT platforms for socio-economic advancement, as mentioned in the SWAPO Party Manifesto of 2009.

The SWAPO Party Constitution stipulates the promotion of the country's advancement in scientific knowledge, technological know-how and artistic creativity. Thus, the Education Sector must embrace the usage of ICTs so that growth could come to our economy. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** How much more time do you think you need to finish your speech? Maybe you did not get my point. I believe the Minister of Education and the Minister of ICT are going to make the points you are making why the request by the Minister of Finance to give money for those projects to be agreed to by the House. You are doing the Minister's work again, but you are also doing the work for the Minister of Education and the Minister of ICT. I know you are the Chairperson of the ICT Committee, but I do not think you should claim the right to motivate. Can you summarise and finish? I hope you understand what I am trying to say.

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** I thank you, Comrade Speaker, but I speak on the basis of empirical evidence of what I have observed and I need to mention this and I think it is my right. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Yes, up to a point. Honourable Amweelo, I am trying to say that when the Minister was motivating the *Appropriation Bill*, she underlined the importance of ICT for Namibia as a country, the Namibian people and particularly in Education. She made that point and, therefore, asked that when the individual Votes are going to be considered, that the House should favourably consider and provide money earmarked by those Ministries. You are again doing the work of the Minister of Finance, but you are also doing the work that the line Ministers should be doing. Therefore, your right is limited to the extent that others should also have an opportunity to speak.

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Thank you, I will summarise, but allow me to mention this point which is very important, Honourable Speaker.

ICT cannot only improve education, but can also play a role in the battle against the HIV/AIDS pandemic. It is an invaluable tool to enhance disease monitoring, drug distribution systems for generic ARVs, training of caregivers, patient education and monitoring and facilitation of the development of support networks for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Comrade Speaker, let me finally focus on a few issues related to renewable energy. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thought you read that part to conclude.

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** In conclusion I just want to summarise on ICT and renewable energy. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** You are making life difficult for yourself and for

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HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

myself, and I am Ruling you Out of Order and I give the Floor to Dr Katjavivi.

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Members of the National Assembly, I wish to make the following remarks by way of reflecting on the Budget.

First of all, I wish to compliment the Minister, the Deputy Minister and their team at the Ministry of Finance, the National Planning Commission and all those who are involved in the preparation of our National Budget. This is not limited to the well-researched information therein but also the presentation of the documentation.

The Budget has been crafted to navigate the country through the unpredictable terrain of global financial uncertainty. It must also be stated that we as a country have also maintained a reasonable macro-economic stability, fiscal prudence and external financial viability. In other words, this Budget is intended to keep Namibia steady on the right path.

As we can all appreciate, it is of course a major challenge to maintain this status quo, in view of the current global meltdown.

Most observers who have kept pace with the trend of events in our country do compliment us for prioritising our spending on key sectors of national building, particularly education and health.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, with regard to the fight against poverty and unemployment; we have noted that the Budget is rightly committed to addressing these challenges. Of course, there is no doubt that there is a need to up the tempo and to better operationalize the TIPEEG Programme.

There was so much expectation at the time when this programme was initiated, by the fact that it is supposed to target our national economic

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challenge. Ideally, that is what the programme is intended to do but because of the associated problems related to its design, the bureaucratic delays in disbursing the facilitation and the lack of technical capacity for the project planning and execution by offices, Ministries and agencies, as indicated in the Budget by the Minister, it is facing hurdles in fulfilling its intention of creating mass job opportunities. These are the constraints that we hope will be overcome to enable the programme to fully achieve its intended objectives.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on the question of road rehabilitation, maintenance, management of the road network and road safety; I wish to bring to the attention of this House the hardship and challenges being experienced by road users travelling on the Okahandja-Hochfeld-Otjozondou road. Because of the mining operation taking place at Otjozondou Mine and the extensive use of heavy trucks travelling from that mine to Okahandja, coupled with the current heavy rains in the area, that road is becoming unsafe in a number of areas.

Furthermore, the mine owners are also contemplating increasing the number of big trucks needed for the transportation of manganese ore. You can imagine what this will mean for the road that is already in a terrible state. In view of this, there is an urgent need to encourage dialogue involving Public-Private Partnership that will involve the mine owners as well as the farming community to engage in consultation with the view to find an amicable solution. From my initial consultation in this regard, the mine owners are willing to attend such a consultation that will involve Public-Private Partnership.

I gather from today's media report (see New Era 6<sup>th</sup> march 2012), that the leadership of Otjozondou Mine is in touch with the Minister of Transport and Works over the matter. I will also certainly liaise with the Honourable Minister over the same subject.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the construction of three major bridges and seven smaller storm water structures along the road



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linking Okahandja to Ovitoto Communal Area and the surrounding commercial farms is very much welcome. The Ovitoto community is anxiously looking forward to the commencement of this important project. We would like to move from the protracted planning phase to the actual implementation of the project during the course of the first half of this year.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration held a workshop in Windhoek to reflect on the National Budget 2012/2013.

For this purpose, we had a panel of distinguished contributors and assessors drawn from the Ministry of Finance, the National Planning Commission, experts from the private sector and academic institutions.

Some of the issues touched upon during the workshop included amongst others, the following:

The reflection by Mr. Leonard Kamwi, an independent economist, highlighted the need to have an inclusive Budget. By this, he elaborated on the urgent participation by the regional setup in designing projects conceived through participatory rural appraisal and related mechanisms so that these projects can be owned by the communities they are meant to serve.

Participants at the workshop stressed the need for evaluation of programmes and projects to ensure that the necessary impact is realised. However, it was emphasised that the criteria used in project development and implementation must be understood by all stakeholders involved in such an exercise.

As the Honourable Minister stated very clearly in her Statement to the House while presenting the Budget, where there are shortcomings, there is room for improvements so that we can do better now and in the future.

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I have the pleasure and honour to inform the House that following the Commonwealth Summit (CHOGM), held in Australia in October last year, during which Heads of Governments agreed to set up the 'Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust' under the Chairmanship of Sir John Major, the former British Prime Minister. The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust has been formed as a lasting testament to honour Queen Elizabeth's legacy as Head of the Commonwealth family for sixty years. What has made her legacy to significantly stand out is that not only is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II one of our longest serving monarchs, but she has also dedicated her entire adult life to public duty and throughout the last sixty years, demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment as Head of the Commonwealth.

The objective of the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust is to focus on areas such as tackling curable diseases, the promotion of all forms of education and culture, and other Commonwealth priorities.

Honourable Speaker, as per the agreement, every Commonwealth country is being represented on the said Trust by an eminent person. In this connection, His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba has appointed me to represent Namibia as one of those eminent persons chosen from each Commonwealth country to serve as a focal point for the local fundraising from industrial, commercial and private sources.

Naturally, I am greatly honoured to serve as our country's representative. In executing this responsibility, I hope I can count on the support of this Honourable House. I thank you, Sir.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Chief Whip and congratulations and, indeed, if we can be of assistance to you, we shall oblige. Honourable Kazenambo.

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HON KAZENAMBO**

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, first let me congratulate the Minister, the Deputy Minister and the staff. Right from the onset, I would like to agree with the reasoning as outlined in the introduction of the Development Programme - Estimates of Expenditure: Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2012/2013 to 2014/2015 which I quote: *“The Development Budget is the vehicle for the Government of the Republic of Namibia to implement the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) that support economic growth; and facilitates the delivery of essential economic, social and security services, particularly for the poorer segments of the Namibian society. The Public Investment includes official Development Assistance or Aid received from the International development partners. The Development Budget provides the funding for key infrastructure that attracts and supports domestic and foreign investment and facilitates the citizens’ access to services and economic opportunities”*.

As we often say that, our Government aims to develop Namibia as a logistic hub, I believe that infrastructure development is one of the effective means to realise this progressive dream and in this light, I would like to use this opportunity and platform to link my take on this year’s Budget discussion to the legacy and negative effects left/caused by the German war of genocide on the people of Namibia who now find themselves scattered in the remote rural areas of Namibia where there is lack of basic infrastructure and social amenities. That is why my contribution will lay emphasis on the need to develop infrastructure, especially infrastructure that supports economic development that would address the plight of the poor in those rural areas.

The legacy of the War of Genocide that was waged by the German colonial troops against the people of Namibia between 1904-1908, has resulted in the deprivation of the affected communities’ economic survival and livelihood. The War of Genocide, just like that of apartheid colonial occupation that followed it, has caused social and economic dysfunctionality amongst the majority of the people of Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my strong conviction that

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the German War of Genocide has inflicted deep political, social and economic scars that may take generations to heal, and of which our current limited Namibia Budget may not address entirely as urgent as it may be desired.

Economically, the German Colonial War of Genocide has resulted in the dispossession of the land and confiscation of the livestock of the indigenous people of Namibia, therefore depriving them of their livelihood. For example, it is said that before the outbreak of the war, Chief Kambazembi used to have about 60,000 heads of cattle as a family in the Waterberg area of present-day Okakarara Constituency of the Otjozondjupa Region. All these cattle were not accounted for after the war.

Socially, the members of the affected vanquished communities were forcefully thrown into concentrations camps, and in the process some of them were indiscriminately separated from their families and relatives. Through this process some lost their language. To top it all, some were forced into exile, while some perished from thirst and hunger in the Kalahari Desert and other areas of hostile environment across Namibia while trying to escape from the annihilating or killing weapons of destruction which did not spare even children and women. They died while escaping from the weaponry of genocide, thus were forced to die from the silent killing weapon of hunger and thirst.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, furthermore, please allow me to answer the question as to why I am linking my Budget consideration to the German War of Genocide. My quick answer to this question is that, more than 21 years of Namibia's Independence, and more than 100 years since our movable and non-movable assets, such as land and livestock, cattle, goats, sheep, donkeys, horses, dogs and cats, were illegally confiscated from us, the majority of the affected communities are still living and toiling in abject poverty, mostly in the overcrowded, over-grazed and unproductive barren communal areas across the under-developed rural areas of Namibia.

In most parts of the rural areas of Namibia where the majority of the

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descendents of the affected people, who were released from the concentration camps, and some who have returned from exiles from countries such as Angola, Botswana, South Africa, etcetera, still live, they do not have any tarred road and do not have any electricity. They are still faced with challenges of lack of potable drinking water both for human and livestock consumption in some instances/cases. Living in the dark rural areas where there is no electricity means that these people are being left behind by the information age or the information superhighway as their children cannot benefit from technological innovations. Education examination results from schools that are based in many of these rural areas where these communities stay leave much to be desired

As far as physical infrastructure development is concerned, lack of tarred roads to some of these rural locations causes delays in the delivery of health amenities and services to these communities.

The roads accidents caused by slippery and overused pot-holed gravel roads that have far surpassed their life expectancy is something of daily occurrence in these rural settings. Access to markets, be it for livestock marketing or procurements and distributions of goods and services, remain a big challenge and a nightmare for these rural-based communities. While this is the situation, the land from which these affected communities were uprooted from, remain a safe haven for the majority of the German absentee landlords and other foreigners who uses it for hunting safaris and tourism hideouts. Some of these farms which are occupied by German absentee landlords have been abandoned, left to get rotten as their owners show no interests in developing or taking care of them, rather than now and then visiting them to shoot an eland or oryx for a toy-horn. These are experiences in a country where the majority of the citizens are hungry for land. The majority of the people of Namibia are hungry for land, not just for the sake of **it**, but because the majority of them were denied opportunities to become industrialists, as they were kept in the Bantustans by the apartheid colonial regime.

As many of them were locked out of the mainstream of the economy from lucrative economic sectors, such as mining, tourism, construction, just to mentioned but a few, the majority of them depended and still depend on

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agriculture, especially subsistence farming, be it livestock husbandry or crop production.

Many of our rural-based communities heavily depend on agriculture, therefore, if we intend to do “*more with less*” as suggested, let us target the development of infrastructure that will support agriculture as a priority economic Sector on which the majority of the people of Namibia depend.

As we speak, many of the people of Namibia in the rural areas are finding new homes in the remotest parts of our country. Many are doing this to find new greener pastures for their livestock and for their survival means. They are playing an important role in our economic development.

Therefore there is a need to help them to help themselves and in the process ease the pressure on Government by building key infrastructure that will enable them to market their goods and services. If we can prioritise the tarred road networks, amongst others, then one will be able to drive around this country and I will illustrate it in my conclusion.  
(Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Maybe something I tried to say to Dr Amweelo also applies here. This is a general view on the Budget as a whole presented by the Minister and after this exercise we will get to individual Votes. Some of the things I am hearing really relate to individual Votes under which some of the things being said will fall. Let us not consume everything, let us look at the Budget and interrogate it on the basis of what the Minister said why she needs the amounts of money allocated in the Budget for the subjects identified, in this case Votes. Let us not exhaust everything, we will still get to individual Votes where some of the things being said here would apply more appropriately.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** I entirely agree with the Honourable Speaker that we

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**HON KAZENAMBO**

have specific Votes and we will make our contributions there, but I think the development of the road network, especially tarred roads, is key to development as we are developing Namibia as a logistic hub. The logistic hub should not only target linking Namibia with the neighbouring countries, but road infrastructure is very critical, especially for agricultural output.

If one today travels from Oshakati to Opuwo and from Outapi to Omakange, the portion that is not a tarred road is less than twenty kilometres. If one could link Outapi to Ruacana to Omakange, it would mean that you could drive from Windhoek to Opuwo either via Kamanjab or via Outapi on a tarred road and this will help those communities to access the market easily.

If you can drive from Oshikango via Omafo and link Okalongo or Outapi, if you develop that portion, it means that the public there will access the markets. If you can develop the road from Okafidi, Tsintsabis via Grootfontein to Okamatapati.... (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** Can you repeat that when we get to transport and roads?

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** If we can do that and we develop a road from Gobabis, Aminuis, like we are trying to do from Katima Mulilo...(Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** May I ask a question? By bringing a map to this House to show what must be done, are you as a businessman trying to get the projects or what are you trying to tell us?

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HON DR KAWANA**

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** No, I am not in road construction, but the point that I want to belabour in conclusion is that we were arguing for a certain road, the Ruacana-Omakange road, but it was said no, it is corruption. However, what I want to say is that we must develop strategic infrastructure that will contribute to the upgrading of our production, especially in the Agricultural Sector.

I thought that we are allowed to speak in general, but now I will wait for the Vote. Thank you for allowing me, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Dr Kawana.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to contribute to the Budget Debate.

First and foremost, I would like to commend my senior Colleague, the Deputy Minister, Director-General and the entire staff for their well-presented Budget.

I heard a few remarks from the RDP, represented by its Secretary-General and I am going to address some of those issues by way of right of reply since I heard my Party being bashed left, right and centre.

Honourable Speaker, regarding the social welfare aspect of the Budget, which was heavily criticised by the RDP, I would like to say the following, that indeed, contrary to the RDP, it addresses the welfare of our senior citizens and it can never be compared with the amount that some of our senior citizens were receiving as far back as 1990, which was indeed discriminatory, to remind the RDP. It addresses the welfare of Orphans and Vulnerable Children because a number of them will now qualify to receive those grants. It provides loans to our youth who are hardest hit by



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HON DR KAWANA**

unemployment. It provides expanded study loans to our youth, because in the SWAPO Party we say education is the best equaliser in society. That is why we allocate more resources to education. (Intervention)

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**HON NYAMU:** May I ask the Learned Doctor a question? Is the Doctor and the rest of the SWAPO Party aware of the fact that we now have thousands of young people who have run to Canada because they do not have an opportunity to further their studies? Are you aware that there are thousands of our children in Canada these days because you are not providing them with scholarships?

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Honourable Speaker, I cannot say I am aware or I am not aware, but I am aware of what we read in the newspapers and for the information of the Honourable Member, we have just discovered that most of those passports which are used are printed somewhere in West Africa. They are not printed here in Namibia and Namibia, being one of those countries that do not need visas, international criminal syndicates have utilised that loophole and as a result even human traffickers are taking advantage of our success to make sure that Namibia is a winning Nation, we are respected by a number of countries and that is why they do not need visas, unlike most developed countries where you need visas. Therefore, we are addressing that situation.

Indeed, in terms of the Budget, as the RDP is aware, most resources are allocated to education which caters for our youth. We have allocated an amount to the National Youth Service in the Line Ministry, so we are addressing that issue.

Honourable Speaker, as I said, we provide funding for labour-based projects which will in turn benefit mostly our youth and women. These and many other interventions, as confirmed by the latest statistics, show

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HON DR KAWANA**

that we are having an impact on poverty. We should keep up the good job, improve on these interventions so that tomorrow no Namibian citizen will look for food at a dumpsite. This is our objective, this is our aim and we are sure we are going to meet that objective.

Honourable Speaker, I have carefully listened to the intervention of RDP. Firstly, its Secretary-General is inviting some of us to call at his office for further clarity or information. My question is, who gives permission to the office of RDP, given the fact that the RDP office is located in a private residence?

Honourable Speaker, we are told that the mighty SWAPO Party must give way to RDP, how can that be possible when even trees are allergic to RDP? The other day an RDP member took the Party to Court after falling from a tree, attempting to hoist the RDP flag. It was established beyond doubt that the tree was enjoying the SWAPO Party flag and, therefore, allergic to the RDP flag. The other time the RDP was taken to Court by putting a SWAPO Party member on the candidates list of the RDP without his knowledge. This was not an isolated case. My question is, how can such a Party claim to have support to rule this country?

The other time at a political rally the RDP did not even know its leader. He was introduced as the leader of the SWAPO Party. To make matters worse, the leader started to make SWAPO Party election slogans, meaning campaigning for the SWAPO Party and when the SWAPO Party had a landslide victory, they complained. I do not understand. (Intervention)

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**HON KAURA:** May I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Speaker, I want to find out whether anybody can lay claim to a tree which he did not plant and which does not stand in his yard. Is that mature for people, adults, to fight over a tree they did not plant, especially the Ruling Party fighting over trees?

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**HON DR KAWANA**

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Honourable Speaker, on the contrary, it was the tree which was refusing the RDP flag.

Honourable Speaker, the RDP refers to the Budget deficit. May I inform the RDP that the Budget deficit of one of the European developed countries is over 160 percent? (Intervention)

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**HON HAMUTENYA:** May I ask a question? Comrade Speaker, I know the tradition has been that once the Budget speech has been presented, people go haywire and say anything under the sun. Now the tradition has been upset apparently by my Colleague here. He came with a speech which talks to the Budget. Whether one likes it or does not agree with it, it was focused on the Budget and now people do not know what to do, the generality seems to have been pushed aside that usually followed the Minister's speech. Therefore, today we are not hearing anything logically constructed, having to do with the Budget, just haywire here on irrelevant things. Maybe they should be given a day to re-orient themselves so that they can talk to the Budget. All those who spoke after Honourable Nyamu today are clearly at a loss, they are not saying anything relevant to the Budget.

Honourable Kawana is talking about RDP operating from private premises. Since when is it a crime for Parties to operate from privately-owned premises? Is that a crime? Even Sanlam is a privately-owned building and there are offices there of many people. Let us stick to the Budget.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Honourable Speaker, we were invited to go there and in fact, I am interested to go and interview the Secretary-General of RDP, but who will I get permission from? That was my only question. There is nothing wrong with that office being located there.

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HON NAHOLO**

Honourable Speaker, since I joined the Parliament the Second Reading means Second Reading, one can speak of anything under the sun and that has been the tradition I know and in the Committee Stage we stick to the details.

Honourable Speaker, the RDP referred to the Budget deficit and they are not happy with it. May I inform the RDP that the Budget deficit in one of the European developed countries is 165%. In North America one powerful country has a deficit of over 100%. In contrast, during the MTEF period, Namibia's deficit is estimated to be 3.33% at the end of the MTEF period in 2014/2015, contrary to what the Secretary-General of the RDP said. This shows that our economy is managed far better than some developed countries. Indeed, we are far, far much better.

Honourable Speaker, we are on the right track. We should only ensure that the Budget resources reach the intended beneficiaries. The youth and women are the hardest hit when it comes to unemployment. Therefore, they should be equitably represented particularly in the Tender Board, including regional Tender Boards of Regional Councils as well as Tender Boards of Local Authority Councils and, indeed, I am going to make these remarks in more detail when the Amendment to the Tender Board Bill is presented.

Other issues will be taken up by most of my Colleagues here who are more than capable to answer the RDP assertions. I support the *Appropriation Bill* and I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister. Honourable Naholo.

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**HON NAHOLO:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in the first instance I would like to compliment the Honourable Minister of Finance for tabling the 2012/2013 Budget as early as possible. This shows that there is commitment to see things done on time during this Financial Year.

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HON NAHOLO**

I would also like to commend the Honourable Minister for enlightening this House about the good intentions and positive developments in Namibia and the African continent at large, namely the Financial Literacy Strategy for Namibians to become financially literate, which is long overdue, the introduction of the Regional Industrial Development Policy for SACU, AU Free Trade Area among the African countries by 2017 and it is my hope that the situation of sending our exports mostly to poor countries will then change immensely. However, I must hasten to caution that the old Free Trade Area principle must be properly regulated in order to safeguard our small and medium enterprises. For all that I would like to make the following remarks on the Budget of 2012/2013.

Namibia is still in economic bondage. We have attained political Independence but we are still struggling to fight economic battles properly. The economic revolution is still to start to emancipate Namibians from the yoke of poverty and all social ills. It is only when we become free economically that we will be able to shape the destiny of the future of this country, but how can we achieve that if corruption and self-enrichment is the order of the day? We see people becoming rich overnight. It is only through the economic policy that Namibia can become prosperous.

We, therefore, have the responsibility to make Namibia a wealthy place for all of us, including those in abject poverty at the moment. We are good at putting up policies, but we are weak in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of those policies, coupled with the tendency of showing off that we are doing well. The interest of our people is very important and it should be the determining factor and the main guiding principle when the Budget is drawn up.

The process of drawing the Budget should be inclusive and transparent. It is a must that all relevant organisations representing the interests of Namibians at all levels should be consulted in the process. For instance, the Civil Society and the labour movement should be part of the Budget formulation because they are more conversant with the needs of the society than anybody else.

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HON NAHOLO**

Honourable Speaker, when I listened to the Honourable Minister presenting the Budget, I was asking myself, “*am I in Namibia or somewhere else in a developed country in another part of the world?*” The presentation sounded like an academic Budget presentation for the elite Namibians and top-class of the society. Therefore, it is difficult to detect that it is a pro-people Budget, hence the following observations:

Adding a N\$50 to the old-aged section of our population is extremely outrageous. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? You were saying here that there is no need to show off. Who was showing off here when RDP was claiming to have three hundred thousand members? Who is showing off between the two? The Government is delivering.

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**HON NAHOLO:** Honourable Speaker, I was just saying and I am very serious, this is the Budget of the Cabinet Ministers. When you were drawing up the Budget we were not there and I do not want to waste my time to entertain questions coming from the Ministers. What you should do is to listen to us as it is now our time to speak. Honourable Speaker, for how long are we going to be treated like a stepchild?

I was saying, adding N\$50 to the old-age pension of our people is extremely outrageous and an indignity of the highest order. Everybody is aware that our pensioners carry a heavy burden on their shoulders to maintain their families due to the level of unemployment in this country.

I was shocked to hear some fellow Members of Parliament in this House clapping hands for the N\$50 increment. I read in one of the daily newspaper where a certain pensioner said that she was happy with the N\$50 because it is better than nothing. Listen to what she said, Honourable Speaker: “*I am glad for what I get, what must I do? There is*

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HON NAHOLO**

*nothing I can do.*” How could this pensioner know if her constitutional rights were not represented in the process of Budget formulation? Somebody else who is well-off, who never missed a single meal in a day has decided for her. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** On a Point of Order. I would like to inform the Colleagues and the public that they should know that we are not discriminating against our elders. They have funeral benefits and imagine how much that is. (Interjection). Honourable Member, I am not giving this information to you alone, give me a chance to speak. There are funeral benefits for our parents to be buried in a dignified manner plus this N\$500 which we are giving. As the economy of the country grows it will be increased, this is not the limit.

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**HON NAHOLO:** Honourable Speaker, I do not know why someone should stand up and use my time, they should use their own time to present their Budget speeches. (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** They do not have to ask you questions, but they have the right to take the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** On a Point of Information. I understand the argument of the N\$50, but we know there is the big question of the Basic Income Grant and we know that if we give a person N\$100, there is an improvement in one community. Here we are talking about N\$550. Why are we saying the N\$550 will not bring about improvement, but the N\$100 per person will bring an

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HON NAHOLO**

improvement?

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**HON NAHOLO:** Honourable Speaker, I was just saying that the pensioners were not there when the Budget was being drawn up. Somebody else who is well-off, who never missed a single meal in a day had to decide for them, which is unfair. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** I just want to inform the Member that “D” in the abbreviation of his Party stands for “Democracy” and he does not show that democratic right to others. That is a contradiction. If we are giving this information and he is saying that the pensioners were not there, the pensioners voted and these people are their representatives. Therefore, they do not need to be there but their representatives need to be there.

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**HON NAHOLO:** Honourable Speaker, as I said, the pensioners are not represented anywhere during the time of Budget formulation. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** On a Point of Information, Comrade Speaker. I want to inform the Honourable Member that in Africa it is only Namibia and South Africa which provide for this benefit to elderly people and possibly Botswana as well. This benefit, as stated earlier by my Colleagues, includes many other benefits, such as education for the vulnerable children, funeral services, free medical services at the hospitals for the elderly people. If you collate that money, it will in the true sense of the word be more than N\$10,000, which accrues to the elderly community. This is a point which must be emphasised and also taking into account that the South African economy is much bigger



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than ours and that is what we can afford. We should not distort the fact that this Government is for the interest of the Namibian people. It is a people-centred Government whether you like it or not and we will continue to provide those benefits to our people and we will not be dictated by opportunists who, if they come into power, will not even provide a cent to our people. You were in power, Kaura, what are you telling me? You were providing N\$50 per month. (Interjections).

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**HON SPEAKER:** The House needs its own dignity and apart from cross-border firing against one another, we have a collective responsibility to maintain the dignity of the Parliament. That is my responsibility.

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**HON NAHOLO:** Honourable Speaker, just to continue, the time is now for the Civic Society to help form an organised voice for our old people. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On a Point of Information, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, from the early ages up to the beginning of 1989, 1988, Honourable Kaura and Philemon Moongo and many others there were in this House. They were here as Members of Parliament, Deputy Ministers, etcetera, and that time people used to get N\$30.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Minister, listen to me too. I am the Speaker, but I belong to the SWAPO Party and it is that Party that put me here, I would not want SWAPO Party Government to be compared to a previous Government. You are not doing justice to yourself, nor to the SWAPO Party and those who support us.

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HON NAHOLO**

**HON NAHOLO:** Honourable Speaker, I was just saying that...(Intervention)

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**HON DINGARA:** On a Point of Information, Comrade Speaker. I have witnessed an event. There is one house where there were five vulnerable children with their mother and she registered all five vulnerable children and they were receiving an amount of about N\$1,000 per month and she was fifty-nine years old. For that whole year they were living better than when they did not receive this money for the kids. When she turned sixty, another N\$500 was added to their family. When they are talking about the pensioners, why are they not referring to all this, because in Namibia we do not only pay the elderly, we pay everybody. Every day in the whole country they are registering kids who are vulnerable and at the end of the registration they receive their money, everybody and we did not say only one thousand kids must receive it. Everyone in the whole land is receiving it, it is unlimited. How much money is that? And all that money is coming to a family. I want them to take note of that, it is not only the elderly, the list is long.

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**HON NAHOLO:** Honourable Speaker.... (Intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** In terms of Rule 17(c), the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.03.07 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
07 MARCH 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**HON SPEAKER:** I have three announcements that I want to share with the Honourable Members. The first one is on the Minister of Finance. The Honourable Minister brings to the attention of the House, in a communication addressed to me which I will read out to you: “*Dear Comrade Speaker, I would like to communicate to the Speaker of the corrections made to the MTEF book that was distributed to Parliament on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012. The MTEF books with corrections have been distributed to the House yesterday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012. This would mean that the earlier distributed MTEF book is withdrawn. The schedule of corrections, which are of an audiotextual nature is herewith attached as annexure.*” Do not put questions based on the earlier document, the corrected document has been distributed.

The second announcement is with a heavy heart to me and to some of you known to the US Representative, Donald Payne, who passed on yesterday. Donald Payne, to those of us whose memories go back several decades, has in fact replaced the earlier great African, Charles Dicks. They briefly served together as members of Congress. Donald Payne was a congressman from the State of New Jersey. He made a name for himself as one of the co-founders of the Black Congressional Congress, but some of us know him better as “*Mr Namibia*”. He devoted a great deal of his time engaging us, visiting our country before elections, during elections, thereafter and at Independence and has remained engaged across the board on matters of Pan-Africanism and Africa’s developmental advancement in general. I will kindly ask the Honourable Colleagues to join me in rising

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
HON DR GURIRAB**

and observing a minute of silence in his honour.

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**THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE**

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**HON SPEAKER:** I want to disabuse us all from what has wrongly become the tradition. The very logic of the Budget, not only being a document that indicates who is going to get what and why, is in the first place and that was the original intention, the policy document. It is a document through which the Government-of-the-day sets out its vision, its priorities, itemise the areas of expenditure and that the responsible Minister of Finance is tasked to look at what is available, identify the sources where the financing would come from and with that confidence table a Budget, and we go through that exercise.

Now there is this mistaken, and quite on the face of it, wrong belief that the Second Reading is an opportunity where we can talk for as long as we want on issues that are supposedly irrelevant to the Budget. You can say whatever you want to say, whatever you feel like talking. The logic is, at the end of the Second Reading the Minister of Finance, whose baby the Budget is in the House, is expected to reply. If every discussion was what the Honourable Members wanted to talk about, do you expect the Honourable Minister of Finance to reply to non-issues? It is a policy statement of the Government of the day and through the Minister of Finance, the Cabinet having endorsed the wish of the President, comes and tells us this is how much the Government has collected and this is how the distribution will take place and on the basis of your contributions to the Debate, Honourable Members, identifying shortfalls, wrong allocations, repetition of the same thing and asking questions, on that basis the Minister would be able to reply. If we instead talk about our family affairs and everything else, which has been the mistaken tradition hitherto, and that waste time, then you cannot expect the Minister of Finance to intelligently reply.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

With these wise words from one of your seniors, not only here, but in the Nation, let us from this Budget onwards cease and desist from wasting the time of the Second Reading, but talk on issues relevant to the Budget, so that when the Minister replies, she would be replying on policies, on development priorities, allocation of funds that should have gone somewhere else, so that she can be guided by what indeed the Honourable Members have talked about. I am done, thank you.

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

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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

1. AgriBank for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2011; and
2. Diamond Board for the Financial Years ended 31 December 2009 and 2010.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member please table the Reports? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Minister of Labour and Social Welfare.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON !NARUSEB**

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to make a statement on the 20 hectare allocation in communal areas and other land issues raised by the Workshop on Land Reform and Resettlement which was organised by the Lutheran Church and different stakeholders late last year.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am rising to explain to this august House and to all citizens of this country the misunderstanding surrounding the allocation of 20 hectare plots in communal areas. First of all, if you allow me, Honourable Speaker, I would like to give a brief on the background and origins surrounding the allocation of 20 hectare pieces of land in communal areas.

Section 23 of the Communal Land Reform Act (Act 5 of 2002) provides that, *“no person is entitled to be allocated and to acquire any customary land right in respect of communal land which exceeds the maximum size which the Minister of Lands and Resettlement, in consultation with the Minister responsible for agricultural affairs, may prescribe for purposes of this subsection.”*

The Act further empowers the Minister of Lands and Resettlement to consult with the Minister responsible for Agriculture, Water and Forestry to determine the maximum size to be allocated in the communal area.

I want to reassure this House and the Namibian people that all the relevant legal processes, including consultations with the said Line Ministries, regional and national consultations with regard to the decision to allocate a maximum of 20 hectares for individual usage in the communal area were done. This process resulted in the promulgation of Regulation 3.1 of the regulations made in terms of the Communal Land Reform Act 5 of 2002. Those regulations as well as the Gazette were presented before this august House in February 2003.

Let me also inform this House that there is no limit in terms of size which may be allocated in communal areas. The 20 hectares is only the limit which Traditional Authorities may allocate, while all applications above 20 hectare are referred to the Minister for approval.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON !NARUSEB**

How did the two Ministers, through consultation, arrive at the 20 hectare? The decision to empower the Traditional Authorities to allocate customary land rights to the maximum of 20 hectares in communal areas was arrived at for the following reasons:

- To protect the commonage from being fenced off by a few individuals for their personal and individual use; and
- To protect the commonage from being depleted through overgrazing.

Honourable Members, you might all agree with me that if no maximum size was set in which Traditional Authorities may allocate, today there would be no piece of land in the communal areas that can be referred to as communal area or commonage. The maximum size of 20 hectares was decided upon to cater for personal individual family use of a homestead, a kraal and for subsistence crop production for those who have and make use of it.

It is important to understand that even those who may have – because it is not a must that you must have 20 hectares – can still use the greater commonage outside their 20 hectares for grazing. That is the intention and the spirit of the Act that we have passed in this House. It is not true and not practical at all that everyone in a communal area will be allocated with a 20 hectare piece of land. The current law states that those who had existing customary land rights before the enactment of the Communal Land Reform Act (Act 5 of 2002), can apply to register their rights in entirety, provided such were properly allocated by their recognised Traditional Authorities.

For the new applications of customary land rights, which exceed the maximum of 20 hectares, they need to do so through their recognised Traditional Authorities, which in turn will send them to the Minister for approval through their respective Communal Land Boards.

The 20 hectares are not meant for private or individual livestock grazing purposes in the communal area, because the communal area is there for everybody within a particular communal area to graze their livestock. It

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON !NARUSEB**

seems the outcry about the 20 hectares in some quarters of our society is based on the fact that some of the communal area dwellers want to fence off land for private grazing, leaving others with no common grazing space, hence the claims that 20 hectares is too small and unsustainable.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I also wish to inform you on the actions being taken by the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement on issues raised by the National Workshop on Land Reform and Resettlement that took place between 10 to 13 November last year.

The Desk for Social Development of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, in collaboration with the Civil Society organisations, hosted a three-day National Workshop on Land Reform and Resettlement at the Tabitha Centre. The workshop discussed a number of land reform issues and came up with the following recommendations:

1. The Land Acquisition Programme is slow and must be accelerated through the expropriation of farms that belong to absentee landlords to complement the willing seller, willing buyer method currently in use. Farms owned by absentee landlords must be identified for expropriation by Government.

Now what is it that we are doing as a Government? This issue was agreed upon at the 1991 Land Conference where it was recommended that Government should quickly take steps to address the issue of expropriation of such farms, therefore there is no need to attempt to reinvent the wheel. This matter is currently being addressed by the Ministry through the drafting of revised expropriation criteria, which will be tabled soon for comment, through various consultations with stakeholders and legal advisors.

2. The current land policies and legislation be reviewed and that the Ministry organises local, regional and national consultations to review the National Resettlement Policy and Resettlement Criteria.

What are we doing as a Government? The consolidation and review of the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act and the Communal Land



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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON !NARUSEB**

Reform Act is one of the Ministry's major programmes under the Second Strategic Plan. The Ministry, through the current Land Bill, which is before the legal drafters for scrutiny, is in the process of amending various Sections of the current legislation on land to plug the loopholes and bring it into harmony with various policies and administrative changes. We are also in the process to review the National Resettlement Policy and resettlement criteria are underway. The National Resettlement Policy is one of the legal instruments that guides land distribution and resettlement programme in our country.

3. The Workshop noted that the reality of land ownership has not changed in Namibia and as a result, communities are demanding the revisiting of ancestral land claims with a view of having the policy adopted by Government as a way of addressing people's land needs.

What are we doing? On the issue revisiting the ancestral land claims, the Ministry is currently being guided by the resolutions agreed upon at the 1991 Land Conference which resolved not to entertain such land claims. Current land policies and legislation are silent with regard to ancestral land claims. That is the situation.

4. The Workshop resolved that the Ministry should develop training for resettled farmers and provide inputs and farming infrastructure.

What is the Government doing? The Ministry, in close collaboration with development partners, initiated a Farmers Support Project in May 2007, which focuses on previously disadvantaged farmers and resettled farmers on commercial farmland. This project was initially financially supported by the European Union and implemented by the Joint Presidential Commission of the Namibia Agricultural Union and the NNFU. In September 2009 the German Government took over the funding and has continued to support the initiative. Currently the Farmers Support Programme is now a project of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, implemented by AgriBank of Namibia in partnership with the three Farmers Unions in the country.

5. A number of unoccupied resettlement farms, especially in Karas

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Region, be identified and strategies worked out to ensure that farms are productively utilised and that water crisis on most resettlement farms be addressed, as most resettlement farms are not productively used due to lack of water.

What are we doing as the Government? The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement is currently implementing major water infrastructure development and rehabilitation programme on resettlement farms. Currently the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is providing assistance to the Ministry with the tendering process and monitoring of actual work done by the contractor. The work which is on-going has since been initiated in the Karas and Hardap Regions. The Ministry is determined to carry out this challenging and complex exercise as expediently as possible in order to ensure productivity on resettlement farms and projects.

6. Security of tenure in both communal and commercial farms be addressed to encourage investment and sense of ownership amongst land beneficiaries.

With the support of the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), the Ministry is implementing a policy review in communal areas, which is intended to address security of tenure in communal areas, among many others. The policy review is also addressing the issue of maximum land sizes that may be allocated in communal areas as well as the management and administration of commonage.

7. The identification if illegal fences in communal areas be expedited and their removal after February 2012 deadline be monitored by the Traditional Authorities and respective Communal Land Boards.

What are we doing as a Ministry on behalf of our Nation? The Communal Land Reform Act is very explicit with regard to illegal fences in communal areas and the Act has not been repealed yet, it is still in force. The Act takes a strong position against the erection of fences on communal lands. No new fence may be erected without proper authorisation of change, in compliance with the Act that we have passed

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HON ULENGA**

in this House. Similarly, fences that existed at the time that the Act came into operation have to be removed unless the people who erected the fences applied for and were granted permission to keep the fences on the land. All fences which existed before the Act came into force have up to February 2011 on which fence owners may apply for the recognition and registration of their fences.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to conclude by urging every occupant of communal area who has not yet registered his or her existing new customary land right, to urgently do so because it guarantees secure tenure in perpetuity for the family. I particularly call upon women and other vulnerable citizens to ensure that their rights are secured by registering them through their respective Communal Land Boards in close consultation and liaison with the relevant Traditional Authorities and I want to thank you for his opportunity and may we all be blessed. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Ulenga.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Speaker, I would like to pose a question to the Minister with regard to the statement that he made. Can the Minister be more clear on the issue of removing of the fences that are still existing after February 2011? The Minister is saying the people must take them off, but when exactly is the Government going to take action to remove these fences which are not registered? Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Moongo.

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HON MOONGO / HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

**HON MOONGO:** I also want to ask a question concerning the removal of the fences. Will the owners be compensated for the removal since it was done in the colonial time? The colonial authorities gave authorisation to fence big pieces of land and therefore, will they be compensated?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Chief Whip.

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to thank my good friend, the Minister of Lands and Resettlement, for that important statement, but I just want to underline one important issue.

The question of providing communities with 20 hectares in some of our communal areas can easily be understood, particularly where there is enough land to distribute, but in a communal area such as Ovitoto where I happen to hail from, honestly speaking, it is extremely difficult. I will give an example of a place like Okasuvandjuwo and Okomakuara, two big villages close to each other. The moment you attempt to do what the Minister is proposing, it would not be practical. I take comfort from the statement when he says this particular policy does not need to be applied all over the country, there are exceptions in cases like the Ovitoto community. Unless we are going to enlarge the communal area to be able to undertake that particular exercise and I really want to plead, because if we do that, we will simply create conflict among the various communities whom we were intending to help and I do not think that is the purpose.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Kasingo

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HON KASINGO / HON MUHARUKUA**

**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have only two issues to raise in the form of questions and the other one is related to what the Professor has stated. Taking into consideration as a State that the issue of ancestral land cannot be entertained and I agree with that, but taking into consideration that many communal communities have lost their land during the colonial era and the increased number of population in those communities, does the Ministry envisage the buying of land and allocating it to different Traditional Authorities?

This is now the third time I am putting this question to the relevant Ministry as it is very, very important. The inhabitants of communal areas across the board are increasing and you are being squeezed. Are you envisaging buying farms in the near future and giving it to the communal areas?

Secondly, when we are talking about fencing, the term should be narrowly interpreted, as each and every homestead has fences because we grow our mahangu and keep our goats there. I would like to know whether the removal of fences applies to that specific situation. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Muharukua.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I thank the Minister for his statement. I am always saying I am from a disadvantaged group and we know Kaoko is a big area and those people do not understand why only 20 hectares should be allocated because their cattle cannot feed on those 20 hectares.

I want the Minister himself or some people from here to go and explain to the issue of 20 hectares to the. Comrade Speaker, our junior members went there and said they have come to demarcate the 20 hectares whether you want it or not and now there is conflict between our officials

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HON TJIHUIKO / HON DINGARA**

and the people of Kaoko. I want the people of Kaoko to understand as the other people do. I invite the Minister to go to particularly northern Kunene to explain it to the people. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Tjihuiko.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, just a small question to the Honourable Minister. Thank you very much, Honourable Minister, for the statement. In your presentation you referred to the Civic Society workshop and Tabitha Centre where discussions took place. The consultation was between Government and Civic Organisations. There is right now an outcry by the various Traditional Leaders who know the situation right on the ground. Would the Minister ever consider to sit down with these traditional communities in the traditional areas to see for yourself the reason why people are complaining about the 20 hectares? I am asking this question because the situation in some areas can really get out of hand because of the misuse of the 20 hectares. People are overcrowded in specific villages and these are now being used as a way of doing things that were not supposed to be done. I think it is critically important for Government to sit down with the traditional communities and see what is really taking place on the ground before we proceed with the implementation of this Act. I appeal to you, Honourable Minister.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Dingara.

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**HON DINGARA:** Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I am happy that the Honourable Minister brought this point to this House today as it is a very burning issue on radio on a daily basis. On the Rukavango Service there is a programme called Mudukuri and the issue of the 20 hectares is

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

discussed every day on the radio service and when you listen, there are so many complaints. I cannot mention all the complaints here unless I make a long speech, but I thought I should maybe advise the Ministry to take time, even a month, to widely consult in that Region. This topic has been discussed every day, year in, year out and I feel the Ministry has to go and consult widely and hear from the people as there is a serious problem with the 20 hectares issue as stipulated by the Act.

I find myself in a situation where I must defend that Act versus the feelings of the inhabitants and the best I can think of is for the Ministry to go to the Kavango for a whole month and consult with the whole of Kavango as a matter of urgency. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Usually Ministerial Statements are meant for quick, brief information sharing. These are matters that would probably require a substantive submission at an appropriate time by the Minister. Maybe these questions are helpful in clarifying issues that are being raised. Honourable Ithana.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Comrade Speaker, I was not going to participate in the current discussion on the Floor, but then I felt compelled to start from where the Speaker started the day guiding the House on how to proceed with issues on the agenda pertaining to the Budget Debate. As we continue discussing this matter, I continue asking myself whether we are in line with the procedures as we know it or whether we are deviating for today only and if not, then I think the House needs to get back to order. However, before we do that, I want to say, considering the interventions by many Colleagues from both sides of the House, I realised that there is a great interest in the matter and probably the Honourable Minister could consider handling this matter differently other than what he attempted to do today.

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HON !NARUSEB**

The crux of my standing up is really to ask the Speaker to get us back to the procedures. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you, I appreciate it indeed. That is what I said, that normally Ministerial Statements facilitate brief questions and to the point. Knowing the nature of the topic of land, if I were to talk about what is on my mind about land, it would probably take a week or so. We all know what land means to the Namibian people given our ugly past and the consequences thereof. I would not go beyond this but allow the Minister to reply to the questions put as briefly as possible, bearing in mind what the Minister of Justice is implying, that there might be some other way to do it. I do not know, I cannot read her mind. Minister, you have the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. The questions were basically questioning the laws that we have passed. There is no two ways about it. We passed this piece of legislation in this House in 2002 and it was promulgated in 2003. That is the issue. If through the process of wanting to live up to the provisions that we have so enacted, it is becoming a challenge to us as lawmakers, then we must say so. There is nothing wrong with the Act, we have passed the Act and if in our quest to live up to the provisions of the Act we realise that there are some fundamental challenges, if that is the issue, then it is perfectly within our capabilities to propose that we change the law. At the Ministry we are already in the process of harmonising the two Acts that deal with land administration in Namibia, which we intend to call the Land Act, because we realised that there are certain issues that we, with the best of intentions as lawmakers, might probably not have looked at, at the time of passing this law.

When it comes to the consultations, we can go and squat in whichever Region for probably six months... (Intervention)

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON DR KAMWI**

**HON SPEAKER:** Minister, maybe you and the Minister of Justice are on the same wavelength, because if indeed what you have said is what the Ministry is busy doing, trying to harmonise the different pieces of legislation, you should rest the case there and I am sure that after you have done that, which you are implying, you would bring the final product here to the House and we will consider it at that stage. Minister of Health.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me start by thanking Comrade Speaker for giving me the Floor to share some information with the Honourable Members.

During the World Health Assembly 2011 it was resolved, amongst others, that as Member States we intensify, maximise, raise maximum awareness in regard to the prevention on non-communicable diseases. This was equally endorsed and encouraged by Heads of State and Government that Member States pursue the resolution taken by the World Health Assembly.

The world we live in is faced with many health challenges. Whether we will be active or be there at all after eighty or ninety years is partly determined by what we put or failed to put into our bodies. It is also partly determined by our physical fitness.

We in the developing countries are faced by communicable diseases and increasingly incidences of non-communicable diseases, for example heart diseases, chronic diseases, diabetes, cancer or road accidents, as is the case now in Namibia. These are again because we have changed our lifestyles of eating refined food, having sedentary work and do not exercise to keep ourselves fit.

This afternoon I have some good news for the Honourable Members.

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HON DR KAMWI**

Tomorrow a team will come here for Honourable Members to go for voluntarily testing. This will be done because of many preventable diseases like high blood pressure, high cholesterol which leads to heart diseases, for example, stroke, high blood sugar, particularly after the age of 35 years, for body mass index. This is to determine our weight in relation to our heights. For example, the normal standard of weight in relation to height is between 18.5 and 24.9. Below 18.5 is under-nutrition, overweight is between 25 to 29.9 and obesity more than 30. That is in terms of the scale.

According to the Namibia Demographic and Health Survey 2006 to 2007, the percentage of women aged 15 to 19 to 49 years with a body mass index over or equal to 25 was 28%. Of these 16.4% were overweight and 11.7% were obese. According to the same report the percentage of obese or overweight women is higher in urban than rural areas, as one would expect. Also of concern is the fact that 16% of women are chronically malnourished and 30% of women aged 15 to 19 years are thin or undernourished.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, we need to adopt healthy lifestyles, exercise, good balanced nutritious food, which includes amongst others fruits and vegetables. Drink 1 to 2 litres water per day, keep our body mass index within limit. These are paramount if we are to maintain our bodies in good health.

Therefore, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I have the honour in my capacity as patron of the FNB Wellness Programme to encourage Honourable Members of Parliament and the staff to join the team tomorrow for Health Lifestyle Testing Day that is organised by the First National Bank of Namibia tomorrow, the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2012 at 10:00 at the National Assembly. The testing will be done in the following areas: blood pressure, sugar levels, cholesterol, HIV/AIDS and body mass as well as to make sure that our bodies are relaxed with a massage which will form part of the package. The testing is open to the staff of the National Assembly as well. Thank you for your kind attention.

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HON NAHOLO**

**HON SPEAKER:** The House shall rise for refreshments.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:45**

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**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:25**

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**HON SPEAKER:** We resume the business of the House. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:  
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on Second Reading –  
*Appropriation Bill.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, 6 March 2012 under Rule 90, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Naholo has the Floor.

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**HON NAHOLO:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, when we adjourned yesterday, the bone of contention was that there is an urgent need for all sections of our population to be represented during the process

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HON NAHOLO**

of Budget formulation. This includes our old-age pensioners, because for too long our old-age pensioners have been taken for granted. Therefore, Honourable Speaker, I feel that the time is now for the Namibian Civil Society to form an organised voice to represent the interests of our old-age pensioners.

The Government should also embrace and fund organisations such as the Basic Income Grant (BIG) if we are serious to move the majority of our population out of poverty. I am deeply convinced that the BIG initiative is the only ideal instrument available at the moment which can succeed in enabling every Namibian to eat part of the economic cake.

The Ministry of Veterans Affairs should finish dealing with veteran issues, as we all know that this task was supposed to be attended to at Independence in 1990, so that by this time there should be no need to have a particular Ministry for this task and I am glad Comrade Nicky Iyambo is listening. Otherwise, should we prolong and only look after the interests of the veterans, this issue will sooner or later culminate into a serious problem of dividing our Nation into two groups, that is, those who were fighting inside the country and those who were fighting in exile, including myself.

The benefits should be distributed equally to all people who were in exile, including those who were accused of being enemy agents and spies. They must all be included in these benefits, because up to now none of them were found guilty of any wrongdoing, neither was there any Truth and Reconciliation Commission put in place to charge them or dismiss the allegations made against them.

In the same vein, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs was supposed to be a directorate in a particular Ministry and not a full Ministry and prolonging its existence would create division and uneasiness among the whole Namibian Nation.

Honourable Speaker, I am very much concerned that since Independence we have left the economic growth in the hands of the private sector.

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HON NAHOLO**

When will the Government play its role of making sure that our economy is growing and sufficient jobs are created for the rest of the population? (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** On a Point of Information. I would like to inform the Honourable Member of Parliament that there is nothing like SWAPO creating division between the fighters from outside and inside. As far as we are concerned, those who went into exile only did so to intensify the struggle. There is absolutely no difference. Whether you were at home or abroad, we are all veterans. The imagination of the RDP that there is a division is perhaps what you want to capitalise on, but it does not exist in SWAPO. That is why when you were in SWAPO you could not recognise it, but us who remained in SWAPO, know that there is no division, that is just a figment of your imagination.

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**HON NAHOLO:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I have never mentioned anything about SWAPO and I know the Honourable Member is always allergic to RDP, but rest assured that one day we will take over and that time is not far off. You will still be protected and if you still want to contribute to the development of this country, you will still be welcome to be a Minister in the RDP Government and that time is not far off.

Honourable Speaker, I agree with the Minister that it is true, we need innovation in service delivery. However, I would like to know what mechanisms are in place within the Ministry of Finance to monitor this good principle. The time has come that our words are followed by actions. Ever since Independence the Government of the Republic of Namibia has been preaching about the reduction of inequalities in income. Also the Labour Act (Act 11 of 2007) as well as the ILO Convention 100 clearly stipulate that work for equal value should be the principle of ascertaining equal conditions of employment and remuneration, but up to now nothing much has been done. In fact, there is a huge gap between the

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**HON NAHOLO**

highly and lowly paid as well as between the rich and the poor.

The underutilisation of the Development Budget is a serious concern. On top of that, the Development Budget should not be used as a campaign tool for the Ruling Party. Therefore, Government should not just come up with projects when they see that they need to convince the people that at least they are doing something for them, whereas in reality it is just being used as a political gain. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Naholo, you are talking about Government using the Budget as a campaign tool. What about the donation of fencing materials and Bibles to schools? What do you call that?

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**HON NAHOLO:** Let me just repeat what I was saying, Honourable Speaker, as I was misinterpreted by the Prime Minister, but I will come back to your question, just wait. You tried to jump the gun, Right Honourable Prime Minister, but I will get to that.

While I commend Government for coming up with these good poverty reduction programmes, I question the seriousness of the latter in implementing the TIPEEG project. There is no excuse for Government to say that the hindering factors... (Intervention)

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**HON DINGARA:** I think the person who is speaking is speaking contrary to the speech of the Secretary-General of the RDP, because yesterday the RDP Secretary-General repeatedly said it is a SWAPO-Government and those of us who are SWAPO were so proud because he said it is truly a SWAPO-Government. However, when the SWAPO-Government succeeds in a programme and the people are happy, then he is worried that it is a campaign. What must we do, because we must

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HON NAHOLO**

succeed so that the people can benefit? I think it is contrary to what his superior stated.

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**HON NAHOLO:** Let me continue, Honourable Speaker, but I just want to help my fellow backbencher, that there is nothing in Namibia called SWAPO-Government. Anyone who is harbouring that illusion needs assistance. What we have in Namibia is the Government of the Republic of Namibia. Stop harbouring these illusions, Honourable Members.

There is no excuse for Government to say that the hindering factors are such as the scarcity of engineering capacity in project preparation and limited implementation and monitoring capacity at Ministries and agencies. (Intervention)

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**HON VAN DER WALT:** I want to ask a question if I may. Are you proud of your Namibian Government? Please answer the question? Are you proud? I am very proud to be part of the SWAPO Party Government.

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**HON NAHOLO:** Honourable Speaker, I say no. (Interjections). I am reading my speech because these disputes will carry on until the cows come back home of saying it is SWAPO Government. There is no such a thing, read your Constitution. Our Constitution does not talk about a SWAPO Government. I do not know what is wrong with the Honourable Members, there is no such thing. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
On a Point of Information. In a democratic State Political Parties are very important vehicles through which the electorate, the population express their desire, their wishes to elect a particular Political Party and give it the

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HON NAHOLO**

mandate to form the Government and when we campaign, we campaign on the basis of manifestos, articulated by specific Political Parties. Once you win the elections, you form the Government on the basis of the manifesto and that Government is called a Government of that particular Political Party for the whole country. Currently in America it is a Government of the Democratic Party. There is nothing to quarrel about. If the RDP one day wins the elections, it will be an RDP-led Government or whatever you will call it. Just proceed with your statement, but do not belabour that point.

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**HON NAHOLO:** I always like to respond, but time is limited, but really, Honourable Minister, under the current circumstances, who won elections in Namibia? The election results are still under dispute. Do you think you have won the elections? Wait for the Court to pronounce itself and then you can be proud. I am afraid that some of you should begin to abandon your dreams to still become Ministers.

Honourable Speaker, what Government should have done in the first place was to produce the engineering principles for the preparation of projects. We all know that our education system is in shambles despite the largest allocation every year compared to other Sectors and our people need help even in small projects. We must at all cost avoid a situation where good projects are brought up and in the end they end up hanging in the air when it comes to implementation.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to end with the following questions:

- For how long will the Government bailout non-performing State-Owned Enterprises, such as Air Namibia?
- How many poor people have access to the agricultural green schemes? As far as I am concerned, these good schemes are not accessible to the poor.



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HON NAHOLO**

- When we talk of National Housing Enterprise building affordable houses, what is the range of an affordable house in Namibia? This benefit is also not within the reach of the poor.
- How many new houses built by National Housing Enterprises in various towns are not occupied because the people for whom those houses were built cannot afford them?

Honourable Speaker, it is true that housing is one of our priorities as a country, but the problem we have is that housing in Namibia is too expensive and not many can afford to own a house. Also those who can afford housing in most cases are in danger of losing them as a result of retrenchments, which are occurring at an alarming rate. Many people buy houses, only to lose them when they lose their income. Our own laws passed in this House are incriminating the society. How come Namibians have to pay a house off over twenty years, while paying off a car within five years? This Honourable House should therefore decide to make it possible for people to pay off their houses within five years. This is the only way Namibians will be able to acquire assets in their lifetime.

Interlinked to this issue is the transport laws which are suppressing drivers with heavy fines, particularly taxi drivers. There are so many taxi drivers in jail at the moment as they are unable to pay the unaffordable fines. For how long will the Government of the day continue to work against its own people?

Finally I want to recommend that if we really want to reduce the socio-economic problems in Namibia, the Government must stand up and build big factories in the Regions to give more people work. Who will take up this responsibility if the Ministry of Finance is not the one to advise? The time has come for rural construction to become the key for development in this country. The Government should not shun its responsibility of taking care of its people and leave it to the private sector to struggle on its own to create jobs.

Honourable Speaker, I once again want to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance for putting the Education and Health Sectors as top priorities.

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HON NAHOLO**

However, I do not want to conclude without touching on what I have observed during the registration of students at UNAM this year. My second daughter has just started her studies at UNAM this year....  
(Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Honourable Speaker, this Government and the Ministry responsible for the Police in Namibia do not put people in prison for anything other than violating the law and the laws are passed in this House. To say there are so many taxi drivers in prison, what have they done? The Honourable Member is aware that so many people are losing their lives on our roads and how can a responsible Government allow that to continue happening? We are doing that to protect the lives of the citizens and visitors in Namibia. That we shall do.

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**HON NAHOLO:** Honourable Speaker, I was just talking about the situation I have observed at UNAM during the registration process when I escorted my daughter there and really, it is a pathetic situation. UNAM lacks leadership in managing the registration of students at the beginning of each year. The university is also sending many students back to the streets when failing only one subject. Why is our highest institution of learning so insensitive towards the students and the future of the country? Is it because there are so many foreign lecturers who probably care less about Namibia and concentrate only on their own survival and that of their families back home in the countries they hail from?

Honourable Speaker, it should be noted that the same students who are sent back to wander around the streets are the most brilliant learners who passed Grade 12 with high points and our hopes are in them to develop this country further. (Intervention)

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HON NAHOLO**

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker. While I do not want to condone what has happened with the registration of our students at UNAM, I do not think it is correct that we should refer to foreign lecturers at our university as the cause for our ills here. Many of us who are products of the liberation struggle got our education through foreign universities, through foreign Government sponsorships and we continue to consider ourselves as products of international solidarity. Therefore, the statement by the Honourable Member does not belong to this House. Thank you.

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**HON NAHOLO:** I do not want to pick up a fight, I have said it and it is me who said it. UNAM needs to learn from other institutions of higher learning in the SADC Region and elsewhere on how to conduct registration. To make all students from all faculties stand in long queues while registering is unprofessional. Students must be given enough time to register. For example, each faculty should have a full week for registering its own students.

Another point I have picked up is the slow pace at which the Ministry of Education release letters of approval for students who have qualified for the loan scheme. Most students first have to pay from their own pockets while they are waiting for the Ministry to approve their applications. My concern is, what happens to the students from poor backgrounds? In most cases they fail to register as they do not have cash at hand. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** On a Point of Information, Honourable Speaker. My Ministry happens to be one of those which assist students to obtain education and what I know is that the university or any vocational training institution simply needs to be informed that this student is going to be sponsored by such and such institution and with that letter the student will not be required to pay anything until the money is released. The information by the Honourable Member seems to be misleading in this respect. Thank you.

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**HON MAAMBERUA**

**HON NAHOLO:** That is very positive, Honourable Iyambo, and I want you to advise your Colleagues to do the same as your Ministry. I know the problem there is the footprints and the legacy of Comrade Nahas.

I, therefore, urge the UNAM Student Representative Council to seriously attend to these problems facing their colleagues. By the way, Honourable Speaker, what is the problem that the Polytechnic of Namibia cannot become a fully-fledged university, so that the needs of the country are attended to effectively? I thank you, Honourable Speaker, may God bless Namibia.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Maamberua.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I rise to make my third maiden speech in this august House, but before I do so, allow me to express my condolences to the people of the Congo who have lost so many lives and also to our fellow citizens in Namibia who experienced a horrible accident two days ago in which about ten lives were lost.

Last year in my contribution to the Budget discussions I said that Political Parties are products of their own experiences and ideas, if not ideological perspectives with which they have been confronted in the past.  
(Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** My sincere apologies that I have to interrupt my Colleague, but before he goes into the substantive issues that he would like to raise, may I ask him a question? It has been a tradition, at least since I joined Parliament, that the Chairperson of the Public Accounts

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**HON MAAMBERUA**

Committee would be the first to contribute to the Budget, but I realised there was a departure since last year. What is your view regarding this matter?

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** I am always ready to take the Floor first, but a question on procedure is to be directed to the Speaker.

In the Namibian context the two oldest liberation movements, namely SWANU and SWAPO, adopted a socialist ideological stance because of the imperatives of the liberation struggle. We thus stood shoulder-to-shoulder, shared political platforms together, languished in and shared prison cells together, defied the apartheid policies and programmes individually and collectively. We all mobilised the international community for various resources, endeavouring to liberate our country for the common good of all our people. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Comrade Speaker, may I ask a question?

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** I have only a few minutes and maybe that should be the last question, please.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** You sound democratic. You said SWAPO and SWANU shared the same platforms, etcetera. You are supposed to define which platform you were sharing, because there are three, namely political, diplomatic and military. I want you to tell the public which common platform of these three did you share with SWAPO, otherwise you will mislead the public.

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**HON MAAMBERUA**

**HON MAAMBERUA:** Yes, we shared all the platforms that you just cited. As refugees and liberation cadres we faced attacks by the common enemy and had to endure untold suffering. As the mother of all the Political Parties in Namibia, SWANU would like to take this opportunity to implore all her offspring in Parliament and outside to receive this marathon submission with patience and deep reflection of the role that this still active mother has played to shape the past and future of this country.

Currently there are several socialist-oriented Parties in the country, some also represented here today. This is evidence that our struggle was not in vain and that our socialist ideological decision was to benefit all Namibians upon attaining Independence. This is a stark reminder that the ideology is not confined to liberation struggle times only, but is a continuum even beyond attainment of the aspirations of the people, for continuous fulfilment of the needs of the grassroots is an imperative.

I would also like to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, and her staff for the energy that they have invested in crafting this fantastic and well-thought Budget document. Of course, there are pitfalls and potholes that need critical examination to improve its content before subsequent approval. As a former Permanent Secretary, I am better placed and privileged to appreciate what it takes to produce a balanced Budget. I will do that in the spirit of solidarity and progress.

At all times we need to remind ourselves that for us to allow the Budget to be developed in an ideological vacuum will not serve the aspirations of our people. The Budget should be on our common socialist principles.

As we are all aware, capitalism is on a dying bed and no one is ready to resuscitate it. (Intervention)

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**HON MOONGO:** On a Point of Information. Is the Honourable Member aware that many SWANU people were maltreated and detained by SWAPO in exile in all those countries? While the Member is saying

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**HON MAAMBERUA**

they were sharing one platform, is he aware of that fact? Is he also aware that SWAPO changed its ideology from socialist to true capitalism and now the majority of them are bourgeois.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** I was saying, as we are all aware, capitalism is on the dying bed and nobody is ready to resuscitate it. During his inaugural speech as the first black President of America, Obama expressed the need for what he called “*a watchful eye over the markets.*” The South African Minister of Finance during this year’s Budget talked of “*regulating capitalism.*” In Davos-the Economic Development Forum capitalism has basically been abandoned. Hence, allow me to urge all our socialist Comrades and Parties in this House to rededicate ourselves to the socialist ideals so that budgets are designed in that context. Budgets are about people. Figures like inflation rates, deficit rates, GDP, etcetera, much as they are important to macroeconomic indicators, remain vehicles towards economic improvements, they cannot be ends in themselves. Excellent macroeconomic indicators that do not translate into enhancement of standard of living of the grassroots and do not reduce poverty and provide tangible jobs are as good as they are on paper and that is it.

It is more than eight years that we have been made to believe that our Budgets are “*pro-poor*” and are aimed at employment creation, yet ever since successive Budgets have year-in and year-out emphasised these noble intentions of poverty reduction and employment creation, no poverty indices and trends thereof have been provided. Much as we take note that there are some indications of reduction in the gap between the rich and the poor, as measured by the Gini-Coefficient which, by the way, is a measure of relative poverty, there is a begging need for figures on absolute poverty in Namibia, which in fact ought to be the target of the Budget.

Whatever reassurance, past and present, about employment creation, the reality turned out to be different. Statistics have shown that unemployment rate stood at about 52%. For this and other reasons,

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HON MAAMBERUA**

Government had no choice but to introduce the so-called TIPEEG in order to confront this unexpected statistical revelations.

Now we look at the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG).

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, due to the in-transparent lack of participatory and consultative nature of the budgetary process in Namibia, TIPEEG was introduced to this House like a volcanic eruption. Hence it has attracted criticisms, such as that it lacks details, background, specifics and so on. Similarly, TIPEEG remains an enigma considering that the Minister of Finance has been silent about the number of jobs that have been created so far through TIPEEG.

In terms of the regional allocations from the Development Budget, the biggest chunk went to Khomas, but look who is constructing in Windhoek. Obviously, companies that do not normally employ Namibians, so what jobs could possibly have been created in Khomas? I have a few examples here. You can see who is doing the National Assembly renovations, the Ministry of Finance, the Office of the Auditor-General, Headquarters of Traditional Authorities under the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, the Gender Ministry and the Anti-Corruption Commission. The same companies right here in the capital city of Windhoek. Therefore, as much as we have allocated a lot of money in Khomas, perhaps we have not looked at whether we are actually creating jobs in Khomas, given the type of companies which are busy constructing the chunk of construction in Windhoek.

This situation confirms our suspicions and doubts of last year where we expressed our misgivings regarding the Government's capacity to create approximately 35,000 jobs in one year and its capacity to raise domestic funding without depriving other sectors of the economy of money and consequently, just giving jobs to another sector. (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** May I ask a very small question? Honourable



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**HON MAAMBERUA**

Maamberua, you mentioned companies that are not creating jobs. The purpose of TIPEEG was meant to create jobs. You have mentioned five big projects that have been given that are not creating jobs. Which are these companies that are not creating jobs and can you perhaps tell us what could have been the reason why the tenders were given to these companies that are not creating jobs?

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Allow me to proceed. Hence the highly secretive missions that went to Europe to borrow from the international capital markets to fund Government's social development programmes, thereby unceremoniously abandoning and negating the well-tested policy of Government of not borrowing on non-concessional terms to fund socio-economic development programmes. That has been the policy since Independence.

I move on to gender-based budgeting. Where has the gender-based budgeting gone? Has TIPEEG derailed our thinking, making us forget this very important aspect of budgeting? Even the economic and Budget analysts have not pronounced themselves on this issue recently and currently.

I move on to issues of health. If we take the Government Accountability Report, Page 123, we are informed under what is called "*a special fund for patients with uncommon diseases*", that this fund was allocated some N\$20 million in 2010/2011. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** May I ask Honourable Maamberua a question? Honourable Maamberua, are you seriously saying that there was a Namibian delegation that secretly went to the international market to borrow money or did I hear you wrongly and if you said so, can you substantiate it because it is a serious charge?

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**HON MAAMBERUA**

**HON MAAMBERUA:** Yes, I precluded my intervention with the intransparent lack of consultative nature of budgetary preparation, the money that was to be borrowed from the international capital markets to fund the Budget and that is my justification. If all the sectors were consulted, then I was not going to talk about secretive missions. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** May I ask my former Permanent Secretary a question? Are you aware that you and I are no longer responsible for the financial management of this country and since we are not the ones who are managing, how can we pretend that we must first be consulted before people collect taxes and levies? Are you aware that we are no longer in charge at the Ministry of Finance?

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**HON SPEAKER:** I did not get the response to the question by the Minister of Youth which was very important and has implications. Did you answer that question?

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** I have answered the question. I was talking about the special fund for patients with uncommon diseases that was allocated some N\$20 million, but they were only able to use N\$491,000. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** On a Point of Information. My serious question on a serious charge was not answered, rather than being manipulated politically and sarcastically. If what Honourable Maamberua has responded that

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HON MAAMBERUA**

there was no consultation on the financial management of how money was... (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** These are not court proceedings.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** No, if I sound like a lawyer it is because I am competent. If RDP lacks that competence, that is your problem. If Honourable Maamberua has answered the question, the public must know that there was no secret mission by this Government to solicit money for any programme in this country, because he has failed to justify it and is hiding under the cover of political dishonesty, that maybe certain processes were not followed, which is normal in administration. That is why this Budget has been brought here.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Honourable Speaker, Budget preparatory processes in modern times are supposed to be transparent and I would urge my Colleague to withdraw the words “political dishonesty.” I think that is a very serious allegation. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, I am rising on a Point of Information, because I think we need to understand each other here. Last year, when the Honourable Minister tabled the Budget, you will recall that at the end of the Budget there is a summary table which informs what the Budget deficit is and how that deficit is funded. In the Fiscal Framework, which was also handed to the Honourable Members, we gave an indication of how the split of the foreign debt stock would be. We indicated what is going to be borrowed from the local market, we even split it into long term and short term

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HON MAAMBERUA**

instruments and we informed that we will go to the international market and we split between bilateral and the open market. That is the first point. Therefore, I do not think it is quite true to say that we were intransparent with that action.

To follow up, we then crafted a borrowing plan which the Honourable Minister of Finance shared with the market and the public. We invited a press conference where we shared that borrowing plan, where we precisely with figures explained what we want to do and it included our quest to venture into the open market.

Honourable Speaker, thereafter we appointed our agents that did market our venture and they did a very thorough job to internationally inform that Namibia is going onto the open market to borrow. There were a number of press statements on that score. It was a very transparent and open process where the public was taken on board with every step that we took.

The last point I want to make is that the rates we got, namely 5.75%, was hailed internationally as a brilliant deal. We, in fact, got the award of the best deal for that year for a developing country of our size and in fact, the interest rate that we managed to get is lower than Treasury Bills at home, which is a concessional loan. Therefore, I think it is just to inform the public that the borrowing plan was a very transparent process and indeed has significant benefits for our economy, because not only did we get concessional or very reasonable terms, we also diversified our borrowing instruments and with that induced stability in our debt stock.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I will only apologise if the borrowing plan conference that is referred to was actually held in Namibia. If it was abroad, as I understand it was, then the Deputy Minister can confirm. Then the digression from the policy, that I talked about, the borrowing of non-concessional for socio-economic development should obviously have been discussed. Be that as it may, can I proceed to the Ministry of Health? (Intervention)

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HON MAAMBERUA**

**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** On a Point of Order. The Honourable Member is making misleading statements and comments and we need to correct that perception.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** It is already corrected, Honourable Speaker. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** No, it has not been corrected. Honourable Maamberua, you were a Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and one of the highest-ranking officials in this Government, running the Ministry of Finance and the Budget was in your hands. Which people did you consult when you formulated the Budget? Now you are telling us there is no consultation.

I further want to inform you that Article 1 of our Constitution states and I want to quote it so that you know as from today that we do things according to the rule of law: *“The Republic of Namibia is hereby established as a sovereign, secular, democratic and unitary State founded upon the principles of democracy, the rule of law and justice for all. (2) All power shall vest in the people of Namibia who shall exercise their sovereignty through democratic institutions of the State. The main organs of the State shall be the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary.”* Article 40(c) states the following: *“Duties and Functions of Cabinet. To formulate, explain and assess for the National Assembly the Budget of the State and its economic development plans and to report to the National Assembly thereon.”* This means the function of formulating the Budget is exclusively the prerogative of the Executive. Honourable Maamberua, that is why you did not consult when you were a Permanent Secretary because you were following the law. Now you want us to deviate from the rule of law and to follow political ambitions and that cannot be accepted.

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**HON MAAMBERUA**

**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, we are living in modern times. Let me continue with the special fund for patients with uncommon diseases.

The Budget for 2010/2011 that was given to that fund was about N\$20 million, but only N\$491,000 were spent and this was only catering for nine patients. The question is, how is it possible that we were able to allocate N\$20 million and yet only half a million was spent to treat only nine patients, particularly when you are talking about those patients with kidney problems who had to undergo kidney dialysis. I feel this was not good performance in terms of those indicators.

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** On a Point of Information. For the information of Honourable Maamberua and Honourable Members, he rightfully said "*a special fund*". What is this special fund? This special fund is meant for cases which cannot be attended to by the Namibian specialists here in Windhoek. It is meant to attend to those cases which we referred abroad, be it South Africa, Germany or wherever we can get such a specialist. Therefore, what we have done is precisely what the fund was meant for and we only attend to those cases that we receive.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** We have many cases, particularly those of kidney problems and we could probably utilise that fund for that purpose so that all are attended to. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** On a Point of Information, Comrade Speaker. I think the Honourable Member is really overwhelmed by kidney dialysis problems. In the case of kidney failure a donor must first be found. The patient can be sent to South Africa, Germany or America, but as long as a donor is not found, there is no use

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**HON MAAMBERUA**

in doing so. Those you are referring to that were kept here is because no donor was found. The Ministry first enquires from the donor banks in the world to find a match. A person cannot simply be sent outside if no donor is found.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** We are not talking about diseases, we are talking about money that was not spent. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** May I ask Honourable Maamberua a question?

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Time is running out, we cannot entertain questions, therefore let me proceed. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** On a Point of Information. I would like to inform Honourable Maamberua and the Nation at large that kidney dialysis is done here in Windhoek.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you, the money was returned. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** On a Point of Information. Honourable Maamberua is completely ignorant. This special fund does not go back to Treasury. For your information, it is saved with Standard Bank and we are receiving interest on it.

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**HON MAAMBERUA**

**HON MAAMBERUA:** Shall I proceed? Recently there was a move in the Ministry of Health... (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Just one small question and comment. Honourable Maamberua, are you prescribing to the notion and practice prevailing among Civil Servant that all the money budgeted for must be spent and no savings should be done? Whenever you ask a Civil Servant if we can make some savings, he or she will say the money is budgeted for and, therefore, it must be squandered. Are you prescribing to that notion?

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** 16% of Namibians have health insurance, according to statistics. One would have loved to see this project being taken on so that we can increase the number of Namibians who are insured health-wise and I think that is a project that has been mooted already also through the Ministry of Health and that is an observation that one makes under health.

I move on to Public Service delivery. As already said, Budgets are about people and not about figures. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Honourable Speaker, I again rise on a Point of Information to correct this fabricated story that the Honourable Member is telling now. That is a project by Social Security, not the Ministry and it is an on-going exercise where together with our Colleagues in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare we are being consulted and we are working on it. What is this hullabaloo all about?

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** I was referring to the project through the Ministry of Health, not by the Ministry of Labour, because I know the other partners and that is what I am saying and, of course, the targets of this project should have been included here.

**Public Service Delivery:** As I already said, Budgets are about people, not about figures. Repeated reminders in the Budget about quality of service delivery are important to send clear messages to Civil Servants. Similarly, since Budgets are policy instruments, quantification of quality indices or service delivery by Public Servants should help the public to evaluate the quality and level of service delivery. We cannot agree more with the Minister quoting Robert Kaplan, that *“if you cannot measure it, you cannot manage it.”* The question which remains unanswered in the Budget is, what is the level of quality of Public Service Delivery at the moment?

**Revenue from Mining:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, notwithstanding the slump in the mining activities due to global economic declined demand for commodities, the contribution of mining to our revenue remains a concern, currently hovering around N\$505 million of taxes plus approximately N\$495 million of royalties for diamond mining and N\$229 million taxes plus N\$300 million royalties for non-diamond mining, which brings the total to about N\$1.5 billion in revenue.

Therefore, I would still re-emphasise the need for an independent study to determine the optimal contribution that mining ought to make to the State revenue.

Even in the midst of economic resources endowment, Namibia is not only technologically backward, but is wallowed in neck-deep poverty and joblessness. These are what have become to be known as the paradox of plenty.

Budget authorities in Namibia must anticipate the soon-to-be-unleashed avalanche of oil into the Namibian market. Please pay heed to what the Catholic Bishops of Congo Brazzaville observed in 1990: *“How can one understand that during the last three decades the frequent start-up of oil*

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*wells that are always important has not been accompanied by any kind of visible sign of economic transformation or rectification of the social situation of our population? Our oil must be an instrument for life and not the death of our people.”* In anticipation of us discovering oil, I think we need to pay need to that observation. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Order. Is it allowed for the Honourable Member to anticipate something which has not happened?

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** I am not anticipating, information came to the House that in about two to three years we will start getting oil.

**Epangelo Mining:** Government intervention strongly advocates industrialisation, but we also need to remember Comrade Pohamba talking about narrow industrial base as a concern in this country. Therefore, Epangelo has been identified as one such enabling vehicle, particularly for value addition to translate into more jobs and higher export earnings. More funding for Epangelo than to Air Namibia should have been allocated.

Government involvement in the private sector, for instance through regulation and equity ownership, should increasingly be conducted.

**Allocation to Education:** Increased allocation to education, in general, and to higher education in particular is welcomed, but such allocation should be targeted with the following objectives in mind:

- Abolishing or drastically reducing student fees;
- Increasing academic research budgets;
- Targeting a few disciplines of national priority.

As for secondary education, the aim should be to target funding to mechanisms that enhance pass rate. At this juncture I should call on

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Government to do away with admission to schools on the basis of neighbourhood. The basis of admission should be public school choice to avoid clustering schools in terms of bourgeois *vis-à-vis* working class divide and in local context, Pioneers Park-based schools *vis-à-vis* Katutura-based schools. Learners should be admitted to the schools of their choice and, therefore, the differentiated contributions to the so-called school development funds should be done away with.

**Contingency Provisions, State Guarantees and Debt Stock:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, last year I warned of potential usage of the contingency provision as an extra-budgetary facility. Unfortunately right now we do not have a breakdown of how the contingency was used, the Minister has promised that this will be distributed, but we have not received that. Alternatively, as a facility empowering the Minister to spend on items not approved by Parliament. I am talking about individual items, I am not talking about global figures.

Evidence is now that the Minister is able to use this facility to even surpass many Votes and in my estimation, in the current Budget about 11 Votes were surpassed or would be surpassed if the Minister would spend that money through the contingency provision. Contingency must mean contingency or unforeseen circumstances which, if not immediately paid for, Government operations will be severely hampered or prejudiced. In fact, appropriating Budget figure or carte blanche of some N\$250 million or so, is to allow the Minister to spend as she wishes and pleases. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** On a Point of Information. The Honourable Learned Economist cannot be allowed to be intellectually dishonest. Can you again mention which are those Votes which will be surpassed, if you are honest?

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**HON MAAMBERUA**

**HON MAAMBERUA:** Office of the Prime Minister, National Assembly, Auditor-General, Home Affairs and Immigration National Council, Mines.

I remain convinced that technically speaking virements between Votes are prohibited. Additional Appropriation Act was meant to regularise this type of expenditure. Now that it has been either abolished or shelved or whatever the case may be, how do we regularise this situation? I think it is very important that we reintroduce mid-year reviews. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** I think the Honourable Member is practically misinforming the public. The contingency provision is appropriated by Parliament. How can he now go and say this money was not appropriated and is allocated without authorisation? That is false and it cannot be allowed to stand.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Maamberua, you should respond to what the Minister of Finance has said. The two of you are speaking the same language, some of us do not understand that tongue. Are you making up the things or are you speaking with authority?

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Honourable Speaker, this is the *Appropriation Bill* of this year with the different figures for the various Ministries, starting with the Office of the Prime Minister getting N\$251 million. As I said, I am still awaiting the figure for this contingency, but for now, if we take N\$250 million, the contingency provision alone will surpass about eleven Votes that are here. I am not saying the contingency money is not appropriated here, what I am saying is, the specific items that end up being given by the Minister are not appropriated here and they have to be regularised and you can only regularise through an Act of Parliament. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** The law allows that an amount is set aside under the Vote of the Ministry of Finance, which the Minister of Finance would allocate to those items that are of an emergency nature or are so important that they cannot wait until an appropriation is made. The amount for that is approved, but the money is spent on the Vote of the Ministry of Finance and that is why these amounts are never allocated to Votes. The Ministries spend and submit their invoices to the Ministry of Finance, which makes the payments and account to Parliament. Therefore, what happened is in terms of our law and it cannot be otherwise.

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**HON SPEAKER:** It was a long time ago that I was in Cabinet, but what the Minister says rings a bell and I remember.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Honourable Speaker, the appropriated amounts under the contingency were to be regularised in this House during the Additional Budgets, as it used to be called, because the reallocation of funds to other Ministries, say Health, Education and so on, from the contingency, need to be regularised in this House.... (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, just a piece of information again. I think what the Honourable Minister is referring to is a provision in the State Finance Act which actually mandates the Minister to administer the Contingency Fund and that is to be budgeted under the Vote of the Ministry of Finance.

The only obligation that the Minister has is to report to this House within that Financial Year when the contingencies were utilised on what it was utilised. There is no provision whatsoever that it must be re-appropriated, it is only a reporting obligation. Therefore, as the Minister has said, it is appropriated, it is accounted for under Vote 09 by the Auditor-General

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and the Report is given to this House within the Financial Year the provision is utilised.

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

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.03.08 AT 14:30**