

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

### **DTA OF NAMIBIA**

Mr K Kaura *(Party Leader)*

Mr P Moongo *(Chief Whip)*

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

Mr K Riruako *(Party Leader)*

Mr A Tjihuike *(Chief Whip)*

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

Mr S Bezuidenhoudt

Mr Hidipo Hamutenya *(Party Leader)*

Ms A Limbo

Mr H Lucks

Mr P Naholo

Mr K Nehova

Mr J Nyamu

Mr A Von Wietersheim

### **REPUBLICAN PARTY**

Ms C Gowases

### **SWANU**

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

## **SWAPO OF NAMIBIA**

Mr B Amathila	
Dr M Amweelo (Mr)	<i>(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  
17 APRIL 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 to make. We have a delegation from the sister Republic of Uganda, whence some of you had come to my country centuries ago. It is a parliamentary delegation of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. They are here on the invitation of our Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs. I had an opportunity to meet them and they have met with some of you and will continue to do that during the next few days they will be spending here in our country. Welcome.

Tomorrow, starting past midnight today, the SWAPO Party will be celebrating its 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday. The SWAPO Party is organising a gala dinner tomorrow evening with its friends and all of you are invited to be present with your families and friends on that important day. When the oldest organisation in the country is going to do the same, we will respond to an invitation.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT:**

17 April 2012

**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON MUTORWA**

**AGRONOMIC BOARD OF NAMIBIA**

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

Comrade Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report, 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2010 to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2011, of the Namibian Agronomic Board for information and reference of the Honourable Members.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any further Reports and Papers? Notice of Motions?

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**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI:** Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 03, 09, 11, 16, 26, 27 and 28 of the *Appropriation Bill* be, in terms of Rule 90(c) of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45.

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

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**RECONSIDERATION: FLEXIBLE LAND  
TENURE BILL**

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**SECRETARY:** Reconsideration – *Flexible Land Tenure Bill*.

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17 April 2012 **COMMITTEE STAGE: FLEXIBLE LAND TENURE**  
**BILL**  
**HON !NARUSEB**

**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement Move that the Assembly now reconsider the Bill?

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE**

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Committee has to reconsider the *Flexible Land Tenure Bill*. The National Council proposed Amendments to Clauses 2, 6, 9, 10 and 16 of the Bill. As requested by the Minister, I now, in terms of Article 75(4)(b) put Clauses 2, 6, 9, 10 and 16. Any discussion?

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we have agreed with the Front Desk that inasmuch as we appreciate the input from our Colleagues in the National Council, we thoroughly studied their proposals and we are of the opinion that this time around we are convinced that the Bill, as it stands, takes sufficient care of the issues they have raised and that if there are issues that we need to attend to, we could rightfully do so in the regulations. I so submit, Comrade Deputy Chair.

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17 April 2012 COMMITTEE STAGE: FLEXIBLE LAND TENURE  
**BILL**  
**HON TJIHUIKO / HON MOONGO**

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Any further discussion?

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HON TJIHUIKO: I need to be guided. The Minister said that he has consulted the Front Desk on the Amendments proposed by the National Council for our consideration, but we have not been provided with the proposed Amendments and also not consulted on the decision taken between the Minister and the Front Desk.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Tjihuiko, can I help you? The Minister stated that he consulted the Front Desk on the actual procedures to be followed in terms of the way forward and that was the basis of the consultations, not on the contents. I hope that would sufficiently reassure the Honourable Member. Honourable Moongo.

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HON MOONGO: I also have a serious problem with the procedures, whether the Front Desk and the Minister can decide on the Amendments without consulting the House. We do not have any Amendments on the table, which seems to be a new procedure.

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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, I am made to understand that the Amendments were distributed. Can I ask the Honourable Minister to elaborate on the issue?

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17 April 2012 COMMITTEE STAGE: FLEXIBLE LAND TENURE

**BILL**

**HON !NARUSEB / HON NYAMU / HON NEHOVA**

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my understanding, after consultation with the Front Desk, was that if the sponsoring Ministry does not agree with the Amendments and is comfortable that it can deal with it in the existing provisions of the Bill and its regulations, we are not going to consider the proposals as advanced by the National Council and this is not the first time that it happens.

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**HON NYAMU:** I will be pleased if the Front Desk would read to us the proposals referred to. On the other hand, I want to state categorically that I do not think the Minister has the authority to represent the National Assembly by making a decision on his own and announce it here. We are entitled to hear every proposed Amendment from the National Council and deal with them one by one, accepting or rejecting them, and not the Minister.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Member, basically the Minister has explained that whatever objection is raised could easily be covered by the provisions of the Bill and that is the basis on which the matter was discussed with the Front Desk. Honourable Nehova.

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**HON NEHOVA:** Honourable Deputy Chair, when the National Council refers anything back to this House, a certain procedure needs to be followed for this House either to accept or reject the recommendations. There must be a procedure in the Rules and even in the Constitution. The way I see it, the procedure was not followed and, therefore, we cannot accept something that we have not seen. We do not know what Amendments were recommended and it is this House that must be satisfied and decide ultimately, not the Minister or the Front Desk. By the

17 April 2012 **COMMITTEE STAGE: FLEXIBLE LAND TENURE**  
**BILL**  
**HON !NARUSEB / HON RIRUAKO**

way, what is the Front Desk?

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Member, for your information, the Front Desk referred to is basically the people in front of you here. I think the Honourable Member raised an important issue. The Minister has explained how he has dealt with the matter and in my view the explanation he gave was adequate. Can I ask him to restate the view he expressed earlier?

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you once again, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Maybe it would not be relevant at this point in time to start pointing fingers. What I will do now is to postpone the consideration of these Amendments until tomorrow, but the fact remains that the Speaker announced in this august House that the National Council made certain recommendations. Based on that, my limited exposure in this House is that it is then incumbent on the sponsoring Ministry to either accept the recommendations or not. I may be wrong, but that has been the trend in the past. If accepted, it refers the proposed Amendments to the Office of the Attorney-General for certification and then it comes back to the House.

Therefore, having regard to the different opinions, I postpone the Debate until tomorrow.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** The matter had to be referred to the House first before you come up with a postponement. The Front Desk does not represent the House, we have to make our own decisions and this was not well done.

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL**

You must bring it back in order to allow the House to accept or to reject the Amendments.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, I think we have all agreed. Can I suggest that those of you who are in doubt read Article 75(4)(b) which explains exactly the procedure we followed a minute ago. The discussion on this item is postponed until tomorrow. I will report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMED:**

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Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE:  
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

17 April 2012

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

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

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objections? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE**

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill*. When progress was reported on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, Votes 01, 02, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 29 and 30 had been agreed to and Votes 03, 11, 16 and 28 had been introduced.

Vote 26 – “**NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**”,  
**N\$160,322,400.00** put for **Introduction**.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to motivate Vote 26, National Planning Commission. The National Planning Commission is one of those institutions which are established under the Namibian Constitution. Just like the Auditor-General, the National Planning Commission is a technical institution which is given a specific mandate by the Namibian

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 26**  
**HON DR KAWANA**

Constitution and the National Planning Commission Act. The main constitutional functions of the Commission are to plan the priorities and direction of national development. The National Planning Commission also coordinates development assistance to Government with social partners.

Against this background, the National Planning Commission also coordinates all Government capital projects and is entrusted with the responsibility of official national statistics.

Any democratic Government which has the welfare of its citizens at heart must know the socio-economic conditions of its nationals throughout the country. In Namibia, such information is provided by the National Planning Commission. The provided information enables the Government to provide services such as schools, health facilities, decent housing, potable water, roads, communication infrastructure, and other necessities of life where they are needed most. In this regard, the National Planning Commission is our compass for good planning and provision of services to our Nation.

In accordance with the new structure that was approved by the Public Service Commission, the National Planning Commission now has five main programmes.

**PROGRAMME I: SUPERVISION, COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

This programme renders support services to the National Planning Commission. It renders in-house support and technical services.

The main activities include managerial oversight, maintaining and safe-keeping of computerised information system, as well as system administration of the National Planning Commission database for internal and external use.

An amount of NS20,780,000.00 is requested for this programme.

**PROGRAMME II: MACROECONOMIC PLANNING**

The main objective of this programme is to facilitate the formulation and implementation of macroeconomic policies, research and development as well as maintenance of macro modelling in the National Planning Commission. The programme also ensures effective formulation, implementation and monitoring of the Development Budget and National Development Plans.

Main activities during the 2012/2013 Financial Year will involve evaluation of the Third National Development Plan; the finalisation of the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4); formulation, and production of economic research reports; and development of a macroeconomic model.

An amount of N\$8,849,000.00 is requested for this programme.

**PROGRAMME III: REGIONAL AND SECTORAL PLANNING AND POLICY COORDINATION**

The programme seeks to explore solutions to socio-economic development needs through economic planning and research at national and regional levels. The expected output on this programme is integrated socio-economic regional development plans.

In order to provide the strategic direction on human resources requirements, the National Human Resources Plan is being formulated. This exercise which started in April 2011 involves assessment of the demand of the labour market and the capacity of the training institutions to respond to that demand. The draft National Human Resources Plan will be considered by Cabinet this year.

In its final version, the National Human Resources Plan will highlight industries and occupational categories where surplus or deficit of human resources supply exist as well as intervention strategies for balancing the demand and supply of human resources.

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 26**  
**HON DR KAWANA**

An amount of N\$9,549,000.00 is requested for this programme.

**PROGRAMME IV: DONOR MANAGEMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The main objective of this programme is to mobilise, coordinate and manage donor external development resources and to develop and maintain a national integrated monitoring and evaluation system for the national development programmes.

The main programme components include coordination of the management and utilisation of the official development assistance; maintenance of the donor aid; monitoring and evaluation of databases; implementation of the Government/Civic Organisations Partnership Policy; oversight for the implementation of the Namibia-German Special Initiative; and the Millennium Challenge Account for Namibia.

During the 2012/2013 Financial Year, management and utilisation of the official development assistance will focus on the mobilisation of development funds for the implementation of NDP4.

During the 2010/2011 Financial Year, the National Planning Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and the Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN). The main objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is to facilitate the engagement of CCN Member Churches and Organisations in the development agenda of the Government through development of community projects. Implementation of the cooperation between the National Planning Commission and CCN will involve feasibility studies, consultations and seminars.

I am also pleased to inform the Honourable Members that the establishment of the National Integrated Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation System has reached an advanced stage. Activities during the last Financial Year involved the introduction of a dedicated monitoring and evaluation directorate in the NPC, and completion of the design of the computerised system.

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 26**  
**HON DR KAWANA**

The computerised model for development planning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting was designed and tested through various working sessions with all the Offices, Ministries and Agencies. The system is due for launching during the first quarter of the 2012/2013 Financial Year.

With this system in place, development planners, policy-makers, legislators and the general public will access online development results through customised reports. The main activities during this Financial Year will include rolling out of the Donor and Monitoring and Evaluation databases.

An amount of N\$38,547,000.00 is requested for this programme.

**PROGRAMME V: NAMIBIA STATISTICS AGENCY**

This programme entails coordination, setting of standards and general management and supervision of the entire statistical system for the production of official statistics. It also involves planning, collection, analysis, dissemination and archiving of statistics.

The enactment of the new statistics legislation last year prompted the reform of the national statistical system. The main activities in support of this reform include the transformation of the Central Bureau of Statistics into an autonomous Namibia Statistics Agency and the development of operational policies for the new organisation.

The Agency will embark on the development of the National Statistical Plan in accordance with the guidelines of the National Strategies for Statistical Development in accordance with the requirements of the United Nations.

An amount of N\$82,597,000.00 is requested for this programme.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the requested NPC Budget consists of N\$118,992,000.00 for operational, and N\$41,337,030 for development projects. This brings the total request to N\$160,322,000. I, therefore,

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 27**  
**HON KAZENAMBO**

humbly request this august House to approve the Budget of the National Planning Commission.

I so Move and I thank you.

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

Vote 27 – “**YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE**”, N\$528,699,200.00 put for **Introduction**.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is my distinct honour to present to this august House, the Budget request for Vote 27: Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture for the 2012/2013 Financial Year.

First of all, allow me to congratulate Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Minister of Finance, the Deputy Minister and the entire team of the Ministry of Finance for having managed to allocate resources to our Ministry.

This Ministry has been mandated to develop and empower the youth and to promote sport, culture and arts.

The proposed Budget allocation for our Ministry this Financial Year 2012/2013, is N\$528,699,000.00.

This amount represents N\$471,916,000.00 for the Operational Budget; and N\$56,783,000.00 for the Development Budget.

Honourable Members, please allow me, to use this opportunity to inform you and the public out there, that during the previous Financial Year

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 27**  
**HON KAZENAMBO**

2011/2012 we also got an amount of N\$46,751,000.00 for TIPEEG Projects. From the abovementioned amount, we have spent N\$32,861,000.00 on TIPEEG projects, and an amount of 7 million was viremented to other projects. Therefore, our Ministry's execution rate on TIPEEG projects implementation stood at 83% by the time of the closing of books for the just ended Financial Year.

The execution rate of 13 or 18% on TIPEEG Projects implementation by our Ministry which is always reported in the media is devoid of any truth.

Honourable Members, I would now like to further seize this opportunity to present Vote 27 programmes, activities and amounts requested for your consideration and support and before I do just that, let me clarify that the institutions listed as State-Owned Enterprises are not necessarily functioning as commercial or profit making enterprises, but rather statutory bodies or institutions that receive financial assistance for their operations from our Ministry.

Honourable Members, the programmes of our Ministry are listed as follows:

**PROGRAMME 1: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

The main purpose of this programme is to empower, encourage and support the full participation of the youth in national development and decision-making.

Main activities under this programme are:

- Youth and Reproductive Health
- Juvenile Justice
- Capacity Building
- Entrepreneurship Development
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects and other Youth Related Activities
- Youth Empowerment
- Commonwealth Youth Programme

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 27**  
**HON KAZENAMBO**

- Subsidies to State-Owned Enterprises (SOE'S) (Statutory Bodies/Institutions) which are the National Youth Service and the National Youth Council

The proposed Operational Budget for the abovementioned activities is N\$207,466,000.00.

Provision of Facilities:

The Capital Projects under this programme are:

- Construction of Gobabis Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre (Omaheke) - Phase 1;
- Construction of Kai//Ganagab Youth Skills Training Centre (Hardap Region) - Phase 1;
- Construction of Opuwo Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centre (Kunene) - Phase 1;
- Renovation, Alteration and Additions to National Youth Council Head Office (Khomas) - Phase 1;
- Construction of Ministerial Head Quarters in Windhoek (Khomas Region) – Documentation.

The proposed Budget allocation for the abovementioned capital projects is N\$30,032,000.00.

The total Budget (Operational and Capital) requested for this programme is N\$237,498,000.00.

## **PROGRAMME 2: SPORT**

The purpose of this Programme is to promote the development of sport in Namibia through mass participation from grass roots to international excellence. The Programme encourages all Namibians to part-take in

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 27**  
**HON KAZENAMBO**

sport activities of their choice locally, regionally and internationally.

Furthermore this Programme is responsible for:

- a) Provision and maintenance of sport facilities in all the thirteen Regions.
- b) Purchase and distribution of sport equipment
- c) Provision of transport to athletes to participate in all sport competitions.

Furthermore, I need to mention here that, sport is a very expensive undertaking especially in a vast country such as Namibia. Therefore, I thus call upon the Private Sector and development partners to come on board and assist us to put Namibia on the global stage for Sport development.

The main activities under this programme are:

- Grassroots Development and Mass Participation
- Creation of a Conducive Sport Environment
- Preparation, Participation and Creation of Sport Excellence
- Grassroots Development and Mass Participation
- Subsidies to State-Owned Enterprises (SOE's) (Statutory Bodies/Institutions) which are Namibia Sport Commission, Namibia School Sport Union (NSSU), Namibia Women in Sport Association (NAWISA), Tertiary Institution Sport Association in Namibia (TISAN). Disability Sport Namibia (DSN).

The total Operational Budget request for the above-mentioned activities is N\$64,005,000.00.

Under this programme we also deal with the provision and maintenance of sport facilities across the country.

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 27**  
**HON KAZENAMBO**

The following are capital projects under this programme:

- Construction of Eenhana Sport Complex - Phase 3;
- Construction of Outapi Sport Complex - Phase 1

The proposed Budget request for the abovementioned Capital Projects is N\$15,000,000.00.

The total Budget request for this programme is N\$79,005,000.00.

**PROGRAMME 3: ARTS**

The main purpose of this programme is to develop and promote our arts and artists on a regional, national and international level, and to develop the creative arts industry for the creation of employment and poverty alleviation, as well as to transform Namibia into a manufacturing country. Creative capital is built through intellectual property, registered designs, trademarks and patents, which could contribute to the country's economic prosperity and entrepreneurial potential.

The main activities under this programme are:

- Arts Education and Training
- School and Community Support Programmes, Liaison, Research and Marketing
- Subsidies to State-Owned Enterprises or Statutory Bodies/Institutions which are: National Arts Gallery, National Theatre of Namibia, National Arts Council, John Muafangejo Arts Centre, Otjiwarongo Arts Centre.

The total Operational Budget request for the above-mentioned activities is N\$58,554,000.00.

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 27**  
**HON KAZENAMBO**

The following is the capital project under this Programme:

- Upgrading of the Boiler House Theatre at the Katutura Community Arts Centre (KCAC), (Khomas Region) – Documentation.

The total Budget for the above-mentioned Capital Project is N\$2,500,000.00.

The total Budget request for this programme is N\$61,054,000.00.

**PROGRAMME 4: CULTURE**

The main purpose of this programme is to identify, develop and promote the culture and heritage of Namibians for the purpose of nation-building, employment creation and the nurturing of national pride, identity and unity in diversity.

The main activities under this programme are:

- Facilitation of Culture Understanding and Tolerance.
- Nurturing of Culture Industries.
- Identification and Promotion of Tangible and Intangible Heritage Conservation.
- Cultural Exchange Programmes and State Sponsored Events.
- Subsidies to State-Owned Enterprises (SOE's) (Statutory Bodies/Institutions) which are: National Heritage Council, Museums Association of Namibia, Pan African Centre of Namibia (PACON).

The total operational Budget for the above-mentioned activities is N\$72,926,000.00.

Development and maintenance of National Heritage Sites and Museums:

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 27**  
**HON KAZENAMBO**

The following are capital projects under this programme:

- Construction of Omuthiya Multi Purpose Culture Centre (Oshikoto Region) Phase 2.
- Construction of the Brandberg National Monument (Erongo Region) Phase 1.
- Rehabilitation of 1959 Heroes & Heroines Memorial Grave (Khomas Region) (Retention Fees).
- Construction of the Eenhana Heroes Memorial (Eenhana Shrine) (Ohangwena Region) Phase 2.

The total Development Budget for the above-mentioned capital projects amounts to N\$9,251,000.00.

The total Budget requested for this programme is N\$82,177,000.00.

**PROGRAMME 5: COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES  
(GENERAL SERVICE)**

The purpose of this programme is to manage the human resource; provide administrative support services; manage the information systems; ensure proper financial and risk management; corporate planning and project management.

Main activities under this programme are:

- Human Resource Management and Development
- Administrative Support Services
- Acquisition and Maintenance of ICT equipment and systems
- Risk Management
- Financial Management
- Planning and Development

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 27**  
**HON KAZENAMBO**

The total Budget request for this Programme is N\$68,965,000.00.

Honourable Members, the total Operational Budget request for our Ministry is N\$471,916,000.00 and the total Capital Projects Budget request for our Ministry is N\$56,783,000.00.

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, before I request this august House to approve our Budget, I would like to thank the Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary, the Special Advisor to the Minister and the entire staff of the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture for assisting me to compile and table this expenditure request of our Ministry amounting to N\$528,699,000.00 for the 2012/2013 Financial Year.

A detailed report containing the activities and achievements of the Ministry for the 2011/2012 Financial Year is attached as an annexure to this speech. I thank you for your kind attention. Thank you.

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

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:55**

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**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:30**

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

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17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 09**  
**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

Vote 09 – “**FINANCE**”, N\$3,294,888,200.00 put for **Introduction**.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members of the National Assembly.

I have the honour to present the details of the proposed Budget for Vote 09: Ministry of Finance. I, therefore, rise to seek your support to approve the proposed Budget for Vote 09. Your approval for our allocation will enable the Ministry of Finance to execute its constitutional mandate and to carry out its functions.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my Minister, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, for giving me the opportunity to present our Vote. It is much appreciated. In the same vein, I want to thank all the Honourable Members for the kind words they had for us during the general Debate. We have been presented with a well-balanced Budget, which allows Government to remain on course for poverty reduction and Public Service delivery, amidst uncertainties in the global economy and their impact on our small, vulnerable and open economy. This Budget again demonstrates consistent prudence in managing Public finances.

The Ministry of Finance is structured into two Departments, namely Revenue Management (to oversee revenue collection) and State Accounts (responsible for Treasury oversight). The Directorate of Economic Policy Advice and Services, which deals with economic policy advice, and the Directorate Administration which renders support functions, which includes administrative and policy guidance for the Ministry and coordinating functions such as PSEMAS and Tender Board are functioning parallel to the Departments). Lastly the Internal Audit and IT divisions report to the Accounting Officer directly.

In pursuit of its mandate and objectives, the Ministry has retained the six ministerial targets over the coming MTEF. These are, to:-

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 09**  
**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

- Achieve on average 95% accuracy of revenue forecast during MTEF period;
- Maintain total expenditure levels below 40% of GDP annually;
- Maintain the average Budget deficit within 7% of GDP over the MTEF;
- Maintain debt stock as a ratio of GDP within 35%, annually;
- Maintain interest rate payments as a ratio of revenue within 10% annually; and
- Maintain contingent liability below the target of 10% of GDP annually.

To realise these objectives and targets, the Ministry undertakes targeted activities under five main programmes. I will elaborate later on these programmes as well as the main programme activities.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY SUMMARY FOR 2010/2011 AND 2011/2012**

On the tax administration, the Ministry has commenced to deal with the weaknesses in the tax system. In this regard, the Ministry has expanded the Directorate of Inland Revenue to cope with the backlog in tax assessments and to ensure that the turnaround time in tax processing is significantly reduced. This expansion will also ensure optimal deployment of human capital and reorganisation of the Directorate to effectively render quality services. A new Directorate to deal with Large Taxpayers is envisaged, and a new Mining tax dedicated office is on the cards. The Ministry will also deploy experienced professionals to assist the Directorate and we have received approval from the Public Service Commission to employ professionals in this regard.

The Ministry has taken a coordination role in border post management. As such, the infrastructure at the border posts has started to be improved, with the construction of suitable offices and conducive accommodation. Coupled with this improvement, the Ministry has established a One Stop

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 09**  
**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

Border Post with the Republic of Botswana to enhance the efficiency in border management. Plans are underway to roll out this arrangement to other borders. The Ascyuda system that reports on cross-border trade has been upgraded to ensure conformity with other SACU members.

The Ministry has continued to monitor the expenditures related to PSEMAS claims. To this end, periodic audits are performed on service providers to ensure that claims submitted for payments are within the approved guidelines. Any discrepancies are refunded back to the State.

The Ministry conducted a Public expenditure review on Vote 10. The aim of this exercise was to improve on the Public Finance Management and to track expenditures so far spent. The outcome of this exercise necessitates the similar exercise to be rolled out to other Offices, Ministries and Agencies.

Overall, we met our ministerial targets for 2010/2011, as summarised below:-

Target 1: Maintain average total debt as ratio to GDP within 25% to 30% by 2012/2013. We maintained at the debt ratio of 15.5% during 2010/2011 and over that Medium Term Expenditure Framework period the ratio was 16.1%, which was well below the benchmark of between 25% to 30%.

Target 2: Achieve 98% accuracy of revenue forecast during the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. We missed this target, but for good reasons. The revenue collection for 2010/2011 stood at N\$23.2 billion and exceeded the Budget estimates of N\$22.5 billion. In other words, the actual collection outturn was better-than-forecast. This translated into under-forecasting of about 3% in relation to the target of 98% forecasting accuracy.

Target 3: Average Budget deficit as a ratio of GDP around 5%, for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. The average Budget deficit-to-GDP ratio over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period amounted to 1.2%, which was significantly lower than the 5%

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 09**  
**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

benchmark adopted for 2010/2011.

Target 4: Maintain variance of less than 2% expenditure on overall Budget ceilings yearly: The implementation of the Integrated Financial Management System with its in-built monitoring functionality ensured that expenditure is kept within the appropriated amounts. The outcome over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period reflects improvements in expenditure control, from a variance of 6 % during 2008/2009 to 2% in 2010/2011. Overall Budget execution for the year amounted to 98.2%, which was within the target band of 2%.

Target 5: Maintain contingent liabilities below the target of 10% of GDP, yearly. The total contingent liabilities as a percentage of GDP for the past three Fiscal Years were kept within the benchmark of 10% of GDP.

#### **PRELIMINARY OUTTURN FOR 2011/2012**

The preliminary Budget execution rate for the Vote reached 88.6%. Out of the total N\$3.6 billion allocated for 2011/2012, N\$3.2 billion were spent.

The preliminary tax revenue outturn as at the end of February 2012 amounted to N\$25.1 billion seen against the Budget estimate of N\$25.7 billion, giving an estimated collection rate of 97.8%. We anticipate that the collection target will be met, or even surpassed, when non-tax revenue and all information for the Financial Year becomes available and is eventually reconciled and that can only happen once the books are closed.

#### **OVERALL BUDGET**

Honourable Deputy Chair, I now wish to elaborate on the proposed appropriation to Vote 09 for 2012/2013 and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for 2012/2013 to 2014/2015.

For the Fiscal Year 2012/2013, the Ministry of Finance is requesting a total amount of N\$3,294,888,000.00 (N\$3.3 billion) to be allocated to Vote 09, of which an amount of N\$3,215,579,000.00 (N\$3.2 billion) is for

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 09**  
**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

Operational Expenditure and N \$79.3 million is for Development Expenditure. The Operational Budget also includes an amount of N\$16.3 million Budget support from the European Union in support of the Public Finance Management (PFM) Programme and related activities.

In addition to the operational expenditure above, an amount of N\$2.2 billion is deemed to be appropriated for debt servicing.

The proposed total allocation for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period amounts to N\$9.5 billion, a slight reduction if compared to the previous Medium Term Expenditure Framework amounts of N\$10.5 billion. The, per year allocations for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework are: N\$3.2 billion, N\$3.5 billion for the second and N\$2.7 billion for the last year in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period.

Of the total Budget of N\$3.3 billion, an amount of N\$478,049,000.00 or 14.5% is for personnel expenditure. Travelling related expenditure or DSA is allocated a total of N\$23.3 million or 0.7% of the total Budget. The remainder 84.8% is for payment of services rendered to the Ministry by suppliers and creditors.

The requested amount will support continuation and improvement of activities of the five programmes for Vote 09 during the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework period.

**PROGRAMME 1: ECONOMIC POLICY ADVICE**

The purpose of this programme is to advise Government on economic policy. As part of this programme, the Macroeconomic Framework and the Fiscal Policy Framework are developed in cooperation with the National Planning Commission and the Bank of Namibia, which are underlying the national Budget formulation.

Through coordination with the Bank of Namibia and the Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA), the Ministry also spearheads the development of financial markets development policy

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 09**  
**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

and legislative review. Some of the main policy and legislative accomplishments entail the following accomplishments:-

Development of a ten-year Financial Sector Strategy, which covers such critical outcome areas for the development of the Financial Industry focusing on financial inclusion, financial safety nets, the development of the domestic capital market, localisation of the Sector and skills development. An implementation Action Plan for the Strategy is now being formulated. The Strategy will be tabled in this House to benefit from the input of the Honourable Members.

The set of laws that regulated the non-banking financial entities is being reviewed and consolidated into the Financial Institutions and Markets Bill (FIMBILL), so that NAMFISA is strengthened to become a risk-based supervisory institution for the non-banking Financial Sector. Further, the above-mentioned developments necessitated further industry consultations on the FIMBILL, which is expected to be tabled before this august House this year. Alongside the FIMBILL modernisation, NAMFISA is also in the process of finalising market standards and regulations to be gazetted alongside the Bill.

In due course, we are also going to provide measures to allow for the establishment and use of e-money accounts. This service innovation will allow for cell phone banking and enhance financial inclusion through expanded access to financial services

Draft Amendments to the Financial Intelligence Act have been finalised and submitted for legal drafting to bring our law in line with international obligations best practices.

The last activity under the programme: Economic Policy Advice, is to *Undertake Research and Special Studies*, and foresees research and other special studies to be undertaken and that will assist the Government in understanding how different economic sectors are performing. One such study to be undertaken is the Study on SME access to finance.

A total amount of N\$17.3 million is proposed for the Medium Term

Expenditure Framework period for this programme, consisting of N\$5.1 million during 2012/2013; N\$6.3 million in 2013/2014 and N\$5,862 million (N\$5.9 million) in 2014/2015.

## **PROGRAMME 2: REVENUE MANAGEMENT**

This programme aims at ensuring an effective and efficient administration of taxes and duties and the collection of Public revenue. It also deals with the security and facilitation of cross-border trade. The two main components under this programme are Inland Revenue Collection and Customs and Excise Management.

The Ministry has finalised consultations on the tax policy and tax administration reforms. The more important interventions under this reform are the consolidation of all tax collections with the Receiver, the restructuring of the Inland Revenue Department, the capacity-building of tax and forensic audit capacities, and a legislative review aimed at closing existing loopholes in the tax net.

Further, as part of the tax administration reform, after a long negotiation process, the Ministry has obtained Public Service Commission's approval to expand the structure of the Inland Revenue Directorate. This will help improve the capacity of the Ministry to enhance timely service delivery and speedy processing of tax returns.

Under the activity Inland Revenue Collection, the Ministry introduced public education campaigns on taxes in order to enhance understanding of taxes and to improve the capacity of the Ministry to enhance voluntary compliance to tax laws.

The Ministry has commenced with an initiative to reform and modernise its system, which include the introduction of risk management systems and enhancement of tax debt collection strategies. The activity also includes decentralisation of revenue offices as well as continuous reviews of the legislations in order to close the loopholes in the Revenue Acts.

Secondly it is also pursuing interventions aimed at broadening the tax

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 09**  
**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

base. This broadening would be achieved through the introduction of new taxes and roping in of all potential taxpayers who are currently operating outside the tax net. To this end, the Ministry has started to implement some of the recommendations of the study and they were included in the recent tax law Amendments passed by this House. The review is continuing and consultations with the relevant stakeholders are being undertaken and we shall be tabling further tax Amendments soon. These second round Amendments included the previously announced environmental taxes, a set of export levies on raw materials and transfer duties on different classes of securities.

We are also reviewing the double taxation agreements that we have entered into to bring them into line with international best practices and to ensure that there is equitable sharing of benefits between the parties.

The following new Amendment Acts have been introduced, and became operational in the previous Financial Year. These are the Income Tax Amendment Act, the Stamp Duties Amendment Act and the Value Added Tax Amendment Act. Further laws under consideration include the Amendment to the Transfer Duty Act, the introduction of the Export Levy Act and the possible introduction of a Securities Transfer Act.

On Customs and Excise Management, the Ministry has continued to roll out the installations of scanners at points of entry. A total of seven scanners have been installed at Oshikango, Wenela, Trans-Kalahari, Noordoewer, Walvis Bay Airport (baggage) and Hosea Kutako International Airport (baggage and cargo), and the cost of such installations, including maintenance, amounts to N\$41.3 million. Preparations are underway to complete installations at Ariamsvlei, Walvis Bay Harbour, Walvis Bay Airport and Eros Airport.

Further, the Ministry is implementing a One Stop Border Post at Kalahari Border Post together with the Republic of Botswana. This concept will see improved efficiency in border and customs procedures and reduce the time spent at borders. The Ministry is also working hard to enhance its law enforcement ability by the deployment of more sniffer dogs.

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 09**  
**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

In the same vein, the Ministry has participated in joint border patrols with neighbouring countries, and also continuously engages other stakeholders on customs administration. The Ministry is currently investigating the introduction of the Single Window concept for customs, which ensures the efficient handling of customs related documents among the various stakeholders. The Ministry also takes a lead coordination role on all border infrastructures, including maintenance and payment for utilities thereof.

Further, the Ministry is engaged in SACU activities, and we have established an Inter-Agency Committee to develop scenarios for the negotiations of a SACU Revenue Sharing Formula. Apart from being engaged with SACU, the Ministry takes part in SADC activities and participates in multilateral trade negotiations both at SACU and SADC level.

On the SADC level, I wish to mention that the Finance and Investment Protocol is now in force and as a Ministry we have aligned ourselves to ensure compliance to that Protocol and all its Annexures.

Other activities under this programme entail trade data collection, tax and customs law enforcement, supply chain security, trade facilitation and negotiations and development of improved infrastructure, systems and processes. Through these targeted activities, we expect to realise improved revenue collection, strengthened outreach, increased compliance, and enhance efficiency in the customs administration.

For the Medium Term Expenditure Framework programme a total amount of N\$2.1 billion is proposed, consisting of N\$630.5 million during 2012/2013; N\$774.1 million in 2013/2014 and N\$696.6 million in 2014/2015.

**PROGRAMME        3:        GOVERNMENT        EXPENDITURE**  
**MANAGEMENT**

The main purpose of this programme is to ensure that Public expenditure delivers results and value for money. It focuses on ensuring that the

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 09**  
**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

utilisation of Public resources meets the needs of the public in an effective, efficient and equitable manner. It entails expenditure planning, approval, monitoring and control.

In the previous Budget formulation process, the Ministry has introduced the programme budgeting, which describes and gives the detailed costs of every programme that is to be carried out in a Budget. This initiative has now been rolled out to all Offices, Ministries and Agencies. The final step required in the programme budget system is to enable the accounting system to report on expenditure per activity and programme. After a series of technical advice missions we have now amended the chart of accounts in order to allow for such reporting and four Votes were piloted already. The aim is to roll out this accounting and reporting system to all Votes.

With the Budget support from the European Union, the Ministry conducted Public Expenditure Review on Vote 10 (Ministry of Education). This exercise has produced a number of useful reform proposals. The Ministry will embark on further Public Expenditure Review programmes on other Votes during this Fiscal Year and we are very pleased that the European Union is still committed to assist us.

As part of the Public Finance Management programme, the Ministry has undertaken to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Government payment cycle. To this end, the first exercise, which is to do an audit of the payment cycle, will commence in the first quarter of the new Financial Year. The Ministry will also improve payment system through effective implementation of the Electronic Funds Transfer system and minimise the issuance of manual cheques.

The review of both the State Finance Act and the Auditor-General Bill has been concluded during the previous Financial Year. The draft Bills have been submitted to the Ministry of Justice for legal drafting, before being submitted to this august House for consideration. Previously, the legislative framework of the Auditor-General was contained in the State Finance Act, 1991, but it will now be a separate legal document, giving the Office of the Auditor-General more autonomy and more teeth. The

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 09**  
**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

State Finance Act is being reviewed to streamline the Treasury functions and to empower Treasury with more powers to manage the Public finances.

During this Fiscal Year, we shall also introduce measures in our accounting system to curb overspending of the approved Budget. The Ministry will undertake capacity-building programmes for financial management in different Offices, Ministries and Agencies. In addition, the Treasury Department will be strengthened and will perform accepted internal audits to all Offices, Ministries and Agencies with the view of ensuring that the Auditor-General reports and recommendation are implemented. I think the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee will be pleased to hear that.

The Ministry has remained concerned about the increase in the number of accounts held by Offices, Ministries and Agencies at commercial banks.

As at 31 March 2012, 232 accounts were held at commercial banks. The increased funds kept outside the State Revenue Fund, and sometimes unutilised for multiple Financial Years, is a cost to the State, as the State must borrow to fund the Budget, when some of such funds are “*parked*” in such accounts. The Ministry is considering reducing funds in private bank accounts to a minimum. The execution rate of especially capital projects is not only a matter of procurement. The matter was discussed here in a number of Votes. They do not form part of the procurement system itself. It includes planning stages which are a matter of other OMAs. However the continuation authorisation Budget allows Offices, Ministries and Agencies to continue to execute their projects unhindered from the first day of each Financial Year. Therefore, the old excuse that the Budget is approved too late does not really hold. The continuation authority is that instrument that facilitates the spending from the first day.

*A provision for contingency* has been made during the current Financial Year. This will cater for unforeseen circumstance that could have a negative impact on the livelihood of Namibian people. The Ministry will enforce criteria for the utilisation of this provision.

A total allocation for this programme amounting to N\$878.9 million is proposed for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, consisting of N\$217.8 million in 2012/2013; N\$351.5 million in 2013/2014 and N\$309.6 million in 2014/2015.

**PROGRAMME 4: STATE ASSET AND LIABILITY MANAGEMENT**

The purpose of this programme is to manage risks associated with short and long-term Government borrowing or lending. The programme aims at managing the cash flows of the State Account to meet Government expenditure. It further undertakes risk analyses to ensure that all cost pertaining to borrowing are kept at a minimum.

During the previous Financial Year, the Ministry successfully raised a US\$500 million Eurobond to finance the Budget deficit for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. This issuance is important as it diversifies its debt instruments and it created benchmarks in the international markets, while minimising the costs of Government borrowing, and taking acceptable level of risks.

The Debt Management Strategy of 2005 is currently under review. In order to align Government's borrowing with the new expenditure ceilings, a new Medium Term Expenditure Framework Funding Strategy has been developed. Instead of focusing only on one Fiscal Year, this Medium Term Expenditure Framework funding plan covers the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. We believe this will give the market a more comprehensive picture of the Government's funding strategy for the next three years.

Further, new debt instruments will be introduced into the domestic market during the 2012/13 Fiscal Year, namely: inflation linked bonds and the retail bonds. Government will also list a bond facility on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, which the Government will use as an additional funding source during the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period. The idea is to list N\$3 billion, and the Government will tap from this facility as and when necessary. Given the Common

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 09**  
**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

Monetary Area arrangements, Namibian investors can also participate in this bond at no foreign exchange risk.

The Ministry will introduce an electronic auction system in an effort to enhance the efficiency in conducting auctions of Government securities and to conform to the best market practices. The current auction system is manual.

A further activity is the management of Government assets by regulating the use, custody and disposal of Government assets in accordance with Treasury instructions. In this regard, we have commenced developing a comprehensive asset register and asset management policy together with the Ministry of Works and Transport.

Regarding State-Owned Enterprise management, the Ministry has signed subsidy agreements with all its State-Owned Enterprises which have received budgetary assistance. We have also circulated to State-Owned Enterprises under our jurisdiction oversight governance agreements, which we shall finalise within this quarter.

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

In the previous Fiscal Year 2011/2012, the Ministry provided an allocation for Air Namibia. The oversight function for Air Namibia has since been transferred to the Ministry of Works and Transport, and the allocation for Air Namibia from 2012/2013 onwards will be reflected under Vote 24.

A total amount of N\$42.8 million is proposed for this programme over the MTEF, consisting of N\$12.8 million during 2012/2013; N\$14.6 million in 2013/2014 and N\$15.4 million in 2014/2015.

**PROGRAMME 5: SUPPORT SERVICES**

The purpose of this programme is to provide administrative support to the

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 09**  
**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

Vote's programmes and to ensure proper financial management, optimal deployment of resources, capacity building and acquisition and maintenance of IT resources, risk management and Tender Board administration and PSEMAS.

The PSEMAS is a voluntary scheme and covers currently 94,602 members and 108,085 dependants. During the previous year, an amount of N\$11 billion was spent on the Scheme. In this Budget, an amount of N\$1.5 billion is earmarked. In order to improve the ratio of member contribution to claims expenditure, the Ministry will review the contribution of members and the member benefits structure, in consultation with the stakeholders. PSEMAS enables its members access to medical services and covers not only current employees, but also pensioners and Political Officer-Bearers and pensioned Political Office-Bearers. A prevailing challenge is the PSEMAS administration, which include unethical behaviours, fraudulent claims and medical service providers who are contracting out from the scheme in order to charge higher tariffs from patients.

This program also caters for managing the pension funds of Judges and those of Political Office-Bearers. This activity came to a close as the administration of pension scheme of the Judges, which was funded from Treasury and administered under this Vote has been transferred to the Members of Parliament and Other Office Bearers Pension Fund, effective as from 31 March 2012. In this respect, the Ministry of Finance transferred an amount of N\$83 million to the Members of Parliament and Other Officer-Bearers Pension Fund, being the actuarial liability for the Judges benefits on the transfer date. With the transfer of the Judges Scheme, the Judges will assume responsibility for contributing to their pension, and the Ministry of Justice will also contribute the employer's contribution.

The administration program also includes the management of our Capital Projects, for which an amount of N\$79.3 million is allocated. These projects include the construction of the Ministry of Finance Head Office and the construction and rehabilitations of the Receiver of Revenue and Customs offices and housing facilities. Our Head Office construction

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 09**  
**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

experienced delays due to the scarcity of some essential materials, mainly steel, but we also had serious quality challenges at the project.

The Ministry also invests in modern IT infrastructure to support the efficiency of its activities. We upgraded the Integrated Financial Management System to Oracle Release 12 recently, and the Customs software was upgraded during the previous Fiscal Year from Asycuda ++ to Asycuda World. As part of the tax administration reforms, the Ministry has tendered for the development of the new Integrated Tax Administration System (ITAS). The Ministry is also in the process of introducing the e-procurement as part of enhancement of the tendering process and also to introduce speed points at border posts to provide for ease of payment by importers.

The procurement system, or Tender Board as it is referred to, received a lot of public interest recently, and rightly so. The Ministry has overhauled the existing Tender Board Act and prepared a new Procurement Bill, which is to be tabled in Parliament during the first quarter of the this Fiscal Year. In the meantime we have also reviewed and amended the current regulations to the Tender Board Act. They have been finalised and are in the process of being gazetted. These regulations are a first step in the enhancement of a system that is responsive to our empowerment needs, our desire to optimise local sourcing and the requirement for national standards in Public procurement. The review of the Tender Board Act was subjected to a number of consultations with stakeholders, and a layman's draft has now been finalised.

Since its inception in 2005, the Development Bank of Namibia has approved a total of N\$432.94 million to support a total of 482 contracts finance/bridging finance transactions. Total Small and Medium Enterprises supported through the approvals are 452. The Bridging Finance ratio is estimated at 4.8, which implies that the Development Bank support helped to induce N\$2,078 billion worth of contract work. We are satisfied that this bridging facility is starting to grip.

On the Social Upliftment programme, Development Bank's programme on providing business development support services to Namibian SMEs

17 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 09**  
**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

availed during the 2011 period N\$ 1.4 million to support an estimated 80 beneficiaries and 4 training/business mentoring intermediaries/service providers (IMLT, SME Compete, IPBF and UNAM Northern Campus Centre).

I wish to reiterate that the Tender Board only oversees the award of Public tenders, and preparation of tenders and the implementation of such tenders is implemented by the Line Ministries. During the last Financial Year, tenders amounting to N\$1.1 billion have been considered by the Tender Board.

The Ministry remains committed to the enhancement of its human capital. To this end, a formal training opportunity is availed to our staff members to study at the University of Namibia and Polytechnic of Namibia. Opportunities for short-term courses are also granted to staff members in specific fields. Further provision for training is made in the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

A total allocation of N\$6.4 billion is proposed for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period, consisting of N\$2.4 billion during 2012/2013; N\$2.3 billion in 2013/2014 and N\$ 1,702,572 N\$1.7 billion in 2014/2015.

Honourable Members, Vote 09 is entrusted with the responsibility of managing Public finances on behalf of Government and the people of Namibia. We remain committed to the principles of prudent macroeconomic management, efficiency in management of State assets and adherence to fiscal discipline.

With these remarks I now Move that this Honourable House considers and approves an amount of N\$3,294,888,000.00 for Vote 09, Ministry of Finance for the 2012/2013 Fiscal Year. I thank you.

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

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON //GOWASES / HON MOONGO**

Vote 03 – “**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**” put for **Discussion**.

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**HON //GOWASES:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Members. I again rise to submit my humble contribution to Vote 03 – National Assembly. My concern is reflected on Page 7, namely that “*Members of Parliament will also be pleased to hear that the renovations to the Parliament Building are gradually coming to an end.*” Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I am amazed and shocked that after 22 years of Independence our Parliament Building does not even have a sign board. If we move around we see that other Government buildings have sign boards or the names are displayed on the buildings, for example, National Council, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Supreme Court, just to mention but a few. Where is our pride? How do we spend our money that we do not even have on the most obvious thing such as a sign board? How will international or local visitors know which building is the Parliament Building? We do not even have the Namibian flag displayed in this House.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I am convinced that these questions will be answered as the renovations to the Parliament Building concludes. I thank you.

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

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I have since last year persistently been asking about the adjustment of Members of Parliament salaries and outdated S&T. We are members of SADC and we have learned from others that they have housing benefits, vehicles and their salaries are better. I do not know what the Committee is doing, it is now the fourth year we are discussing this. We want to know when the

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON MUSHELENGA**

Committee will come with the adjustments. Thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have a few comments and questions on our Vote, Vote 03 of the National Assembly.

I have noted with pleasure that Members of Parliament are now provided with laptops for the purpose of research. Perhaps we should also make provision so that they be provided with 3G devices, because you can only do research if you are connected to Internet, thus they cannot be given only laptops without Internet facilities.

I was making some comparisons between the National Assembly and the National Council Budget Votes and I saw some provisions in the Vote of the National Council that impact on the National Assembly. For example, they have provided for Joint Parliamentary Committees, which I have not seen here in the Budget of the National Assembly. I do not know whether this was not agreed between the two Houses, how come the other House has budgeted for functions that impact on this House and I do not see anything on this one?

I am also concerned about the Legal Services of the National Assembly. I read in the newsletter that one of the legal officers is to be promoted to director. I know that this directorate had been understaffed and that has had an impact on the performance of the Committees. I have mentioned this while I was on the other side and I will continue saying it while on this side, but the National Assembly is not a Line Ministry and we cannot continue to treat the National Assembly, which is a branch of Government, the same as a Line Ministry. Let us fill the vacancies, especially for legal counsels, so that they provide effective legal advice to

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON LUCAS**

the Committees of Parliament for the smooth oversight function of the Commission, which they can only do if they have enough staff and legal counsel serving them. I thank you, Chairperson.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 03 and raise a question and a concern.

As a woman Member of Parliament, I would be interested to know what happened to the Parliament Women's Caucus. I recall that such a body was in existence during the Fourth Parliament, but presently I hardly hear of any activities of the Women's Caucus taking place. Has it become dormant or has it been absorbed into other Committees? I was trying to acquaint myself with the Standing Rules and Orders booklet, but it does not seem to be mentioned there.

My concern is about the security in and around the Parliament building. Deputy Chairperson, we all know that the Parliament Building is a very important structure of Government and I have noticed that it has three entrances, which include one main entrance equipped with security systems. I am raising this concern because time and again I see quite a number of people visiting this building and I do not know whether they enter through the designated entrance or not. As a person who is security conscious I am worried by this and I need to have that assurance that the security of the Parliament Building is guaranteed.

We are elected Members of Parliament, but not all of us are known to our electorates with the exception of Honourable Ilonga and the Attorney-General. When we travel around the country we would like to acquaint ourselves with structures and areas in this country, but when you come to

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON EKANDJO**

a school, you are asked, "*who are you?*", because you are not known. I would like to propose that the National Assembly should reactivate the parliamentary identification cards to overcome this problem.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you. My comment is on the accommodation for Members of Parliament who are not in the Executive, especially those from outside Windhoek. Can the two Houses of Parliament not perhaps budget for flats for Members from outside Windhoek? I understand some of them are squatting or hiring somewhere and if the Parliament constructs flats or a parliamentary village, they could perhaps pay 1% per month.

Secondly is on the issue of quorum. In many international conferences the quorum does not apply, but here the Parliament sits and if a person who belongs to a one-man Party leaves, then we are counted, the bell rings and we have no quorum. Suppose I was the only one representing my Party here, I would not care whether I attend or not, because I would in any case be outvoted. Therefore, why should I be here just to maintain the quorum? Some of the smaller Parties are non-entities and I do not think we should adhere to the Rule on the quorum. We have been talking that maybe those who are amending the Rules should do away with the quorum, because what counts is the presence of those who are making a contribution. It does not help if you have hundred percent attendance while some Members, especially the Opposition, do not speak, they just come and sleep.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I think your first point about the parliamentary village is

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03**  
**HON RIRUAKO**

a good one and the issue of quorum is already being discussed in a major proposal that is enjoying the attention of the House. I will leave that to the Deputy Speaker to deal with. The next speaker is Honourable Riruako.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Deputy Chairperson, some people are mature, they have the liberty of freedom of speech and freedom of understanding. That can be found in countries where people discuss their items to the point where they could agree or disagree. However, if an Honourable Member speaks and whispers while other people talk, that is not the kind of behaviour we expect in this House. Sometimes it is better to think about other people's own feelings rather than your own. The two feelings are combined for understanding, but the feeling of one does not help anything. The fact is that this is a House of talking, a House of discussions and I do not need to have a page. Those who happened to be left behind can keep on asking which page because they do not speak anything here.

We are Members of Parliament, Parliament means talking, talking for the sake of understanding, not joking and joking. This is not a House of clowns, it is a House of people who talk to one another to come to a mutual understanding. This is not a House for entertainment. To say we cannot allow a one-person Party in this House, I am not looking at their numbers, I look at their quality, whether they can speak so that people can understand what they mean. Sometimes you stand up and talk because you are from a majority Party, but it means nothing, it does not befit the place where you are. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** Do you mean Jerry?

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**HON RIRUAKO:** No, I did not mean anything, it is just hypothetical for one to understand what I mean. I heard Mushelenga saying that he was

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON KAIYAMO**

here before he became a Deputy Minister, but he is now in a very strict arena where he cannot say what he wants and there are limitations.

Members of Parliament must be respected. In other countries we have come across this and we have discussed this, I cannot repeat what we have said before. If the Government or the Parliamentarians or the Speaker did not do his job, he must know we are talking about this backward way of doing things.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** I want to support our Vote and underline what Honourable Lucas mentioned. This not only happens at schools, it also happens at roadblocks where you as a Member of Parliament is being harassed for no reason because you are not known. Maybe Parliament needs to have posters around the country so that people know their Members of Parliament.

Furthermore, I have been sitting in that corner for ten years and I know the pressure on that corner. I want to know what is the situation regarding vehicles and petrol for Parliamentarians, because these Members also have to undertake political assignments to the Regions and they cannot afford to do so.

I also want to know how far we have gone to get live coverage of our Parliamentary Debates. Lastly, I sometimes pity the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker when Members of Parliament make their work very difficult because they are not well-versed with this booklet. Maybe we need to have this booklet with us all the time so that we can help Parliament to improve. I thank you, I support the Vote.

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON KATALI / HON KAZENAMBO**

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

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** Thank you very much. I have only two issues I want to raise in respect of the Vote of the National Assembly. The first is that I did not hear what Honourable Riruako was saying when he was speaking.

The second is that we have these screens on our tables which we cannot control and I have seen some Members covering them with papers. What is the real purpose of these screens? Today they are even off and I suspect it is a waste of money because we still receive the printed Order Papers. Do we really need to have these screens that we do not control while also receiving the printed Order Papers? If these screens serve any purpose, I should at least be able to operate it myself, so that I switch it off when I do not need it or scroll to what I want to see, instead of the Front Desk doing so. I support the Vote.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT  
AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to join those Members who spoke about the conditions of service of the Namibian Members of Parliament as compared to others whom I do not want to repeat. Their support services need to be improved, because in other countries the Members of Parliament have everything at their disposal for the simple reason that they are the representatives of the people and need assistance.

We have for a long time been told that a Committee is looking into the

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON TJIHUIKO**

conditions of service of Political Office-Bearers, and although I know it is a conflict of interest, I feel this Committee should now finalise this issue, because some of the benefits attached to Political Office-Bearers sometimes put us in a bad light. Those of us in the Executive are driving GRN vehicles and it was said it is for both official and personal use, but our drivers are already grounded by the traffic officers because it is seen as a malpractice and corruption. Every now and then one has to explain that the vehicle has been assigned to me for both personal and official use and this really bothers my conscience as it feels I am involved in a corrupt practice. This issue needs to be finalised so that people can get what they are entitled to. The public are not aware that we are paying for these cars, they think that we are driving these cars free of charge. Therefore, it would be better for me to buy my own car which I can afford. This Committee must conclude their work because we are not stealing anybody's money, although that perception sends the wrong message. I thank you.

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

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you. Firstly, let me support what was said by Honourable Kazenambo and I do not want to repeat. Honourable Chair, this is a House of Debate, we obviously need to debate and highlight issues and be able to articulate ourselves in such a way that the people who have sent us to this House will understand what we are saying. That is critically important. We are passing laws in this Chamber, but I am not sure whether these laws are known to those who have elected us, because the Bill is brought here, we sit down here for a couple of days and pass the law without consulting the people we pretend to be representing. This has created a lot of misunderstanding.

I know that one would argue that ignorance of the law is no excuse, but if

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON ULENGA**

we are denying them the opportunity to be part of the process, then obviously we are doing an injustice not only to them but to our legal system.

The second point that I want to touch on is our oversight function. Yes, indeed, we have been doing a very good job, but I have seen that we are making many recommendations, some of them very good, but I just do not know what happens to the recommendations made by the Parliamentary Committees. The reason why we are spending Government money, going around, collecting information and making recommendations to this House obviously means that those recommendations must be taken seriously by the various Government Ministries and Departments. Otherwise there is no need for the Parliamentary Committees to go around, using a lot of Government money, come back and present a Report and then nothing happens. That is very unfair.

Finally, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have also come to realise that the salaries of the staff of Parliament, especially the accountants, are pathetic. We cannot expect these people to deal with millions of dollars on a daily basis, but their salaries do not put them in a position to be proud of the job they are doing. I support the Vote.

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

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**HON ULENGA:** Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much. I would like to make a very brief contribution on the Vote of the National Assembly.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, last time when we spoke about this issue I mentioned exactly the issue that I am going to raise now. I really want

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON ULENGA**

to put it in the strongest terms that I can put it, because it has been irking me and it has been irking many Members of Parliament who are not Members of the Executive. I am talking about the sheer contempt shown by the Members of Cabinet concerning the Parliament and its functions, powers and tasks. I think there is no better moment and opportunity to put this matter than the one we are having now.

Starting with the Prime Minister and the others in the Cabinet, they have been showing total disrespect, contempt, cynicism and sometimes even ignorance of the way the Parliament should work and the powers attached to it. Can you imagine that you have Members of Parliament whose offices have been renovated for more than two years without alternative provision for offices – nothing. (Interjection). The Prime Minister is a very important person in Cabinet, I do not want to mention you all because some of you are just followers. (Interjections). There is this thing of harassing people when they are speaking. I do not shout at people when they are speaking. (Intervention)

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** I would really appeal that we do not entertain Points of Order.

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**HON ULENGA:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, what I have said is exemplified. You have, for example, a situation where Members of Parliament are invited to go and commemorate Independence Day in a place like Mariental, but no provision is made for transport, fuel and accommodation, but Members of Cabinet go there on State expenses. Why does the same not apply to the Members of Parliament if indeed all of us are Members of Parliament? Then you hear that especially Members on this side are not interested or do not show respect and national unity in attending these events. The same applies to Heroes Day, Labour Day, important events of the State.

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON DR AMWEELO**

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, lastly, the parliamentary office of the CoD receives an amount of about N\$11,000 per month. I am mentioning this by way of example. When you as a Party receive N\$11,000 per month to run an office and you have been employing a secretary or assistant administrator for the last six months, how do you handle his or her salary with N\$11,000? (Interjection). Is that what you do in your parliamentary office? Do you pay with your membership fees? What the State is saying is that it is responsible for the running of our offices and, of course, it should be like that. I am saying this just as a sheer example and that is why I mentioned my Party. If the SWAPO Party is receiving N\$11,000 or even N\$20,000, especially with the numbers that they have, to run a parliamentary office, then I think something should be done about it. Therefore, I do not just mention it for the CoD, I do it for all the Parties and this is what exemplifies the disrespect that really comes from the other side, because the people who are taking these decisions are in the Cabinet and not with the Parliament.

We have a situation, Deputy Chairperson, where some of us who are called backbenchers are Chairpersons of important Committees. You can take Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security, you can take the Public Accounts Committee ..... (Intervention)

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Members, I think you made your point, but we are limited by the time and I am sorry that it has to come to that. I am now calling on Honourable Amweelo.

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have noticed, especially during the Committee Stage, that the Honourable Members here are sitting for long hours and are experiencing back pains and stress. I am requesting that next time Vote 03 would make provision for gym equipment for Members of Parliament who have been sitting for such long hours.

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON NAMBAHU**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I think it is a wonderful proposal that we have a gym at the National Assembly. Honourable Nambahu.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson. I want to support our Vote, but I have one observation to make and it relates to the status of ideas, proposals and recommendations that emanate from here. When we came in we were very enthusiastic to talk about issues, but when you see that it is of no consequence, it is really very painful. Sometimes when we keep quiet, it is not because we have nothing to say, but because just to talk for the sake of talking is really a problem like the saying goes in Portuguese “*fala à toa*”. Maybe a Committee should be created to decipher the speeches and channel the ideas to become of some consequence. Otherwise it is not really worth it to talk for the sake of talking and good ideas get thrown around, but good ideas get lost.

There seems to be total ignorance about our salaries. The other day I have seen a cartoon in one of the newspapers of some fat Members of Parliament who apparently do not know what to do with their money because it is just too much. Then if you compare with the Chief Executive Officers and other people and with all the risks if this country is attacked, there is not even a risk allowance or anything. It is really pathetic and I do not know whether the Colleagues in that commission are going to work until this Parliament is no more.

Somebody has mentioned the perception people have with regard to our vehicles. Why do we not give Members of Parliament a different number plate so that the public do not confuse it with a GRN vehicle? When you are seen picking up your child, people are putting up long faces while you actually pay for that particular car. I really want something to be done so that people are able to make a distinction.

My last comment is on research capacity. Unless we create that research capacity that we have been talking about, we will not be able to do much.

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON TWEYA**

The facilities that Comrade Amweelo talked about must be comprehensive. The physical wellness of the Members of Parliament must be looked after. I also cannot agree more with the Colleague, the security has deteriorated. Thank you very much.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Let me first support the neighbour here on this very important Vote 03. My first contribution is on Page 2. I just want some clarity, I appreciate the various Committees, the activities and the outreach. It says on Page 2 that 80 percent of the planned activities have been carried out and on Page 3 the first Paragraph starts with capacity-building workshops for Members related to the MDGs, foreign relations, etcetera, and leadership. It goes on to say that about thirty briefings with Ministries and Agencies, such as NHE, IPPR, Shack Dwellers, Parastatals were organised. Field visits: Public Accounts Committee conducted more than thirty public hearings in the Regions. However, it does not say what is the purpose of this, what are the end-results. We now have all these briefings, what is it that we want to achieve? I will take two examples from this.

We know what is the purpose of the Public Accounts Committee, that this Ministry or Parastatals or Local Authority has not done a, b, c, in terms of the Auditor-General's Report. What next? Is it just a routine? Because I have not seen any action thereafter. My question is, we have all these Committees, there must be some kind of consequence. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** Recommendations, you sit on the recommendations.

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17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03**  
**RT HON ANGULA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:**

Honourable Deputy Chair, I do not want to engage in a dialogue with my neighbour here, but the point is, if these Committees, through this House, has a clear mandate that these are the recommendations and if the recommendations are not implemented, this and this would follow. That is what I am driving at. However, if it is merely to make recommendations and nothing happens after the recommendations, what is it that we want to achieve? That is what I am talking about. If the House does not have teeth to bite, why waste time?

On Page 9 it deals with parliamentary coordination and support. It is true that we need to support and coordinate these activities, but really, Honourable Members, we must have a purpose for all these things. What is it that we want to achieve? I would want to believe that we are doing all this to improve the way we do business, to render a better services, but if the people we are serving hear the same song over and over, this beautiful song would suddenly no more reach their ears. Action is therefore required.

Under Programme 4, Parliamentary Committee Services, on Page 12, it is mentioned that *“the activities of the Committees have increased over the years to such an extent that the already overstretched committee clerks are unable to deal with the increased demands.”* We just want to build bureaucracy. Even if we have too many and too big Committees but there is no outcome, what is it that we want to achieve? I rest my case and I support the Vote. We must start thinking outside the box to deliver the results. Thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**  
**COMMITTEE:** Thank you. I call upon the Prime Minister.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I am rising to support this very important Vote, because the

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
RT HON ANGULA**

Vote forms part of Parliament. As we all know, our institutions of governance rest on three legs – the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive. Without any of these legs there will be no checks and balances. Therefore, this is a very important Vote and I would like to thank Parliament, especially the backbenchers who have been participating actively in the Committees, visiting communities, and I am happy that they even interacted with the Shack Dwellers, my favourite organisation, because these are the people who are building houses for themselves and Parliament should know what kind of difficulties this section of our population experiences just to get a roof over a family's head. That is commendable. Those who do not see reasons why they should interact, have perhaps forgotten who voted for them to be here.

They should remind themselves that they were brought here by people and our Constitution says that this institution is a representative institution, we are not here for ourselves, we are here for the people.

Honourable Members, I took the Floor to remind Honourable Members of two institutions which are very important for your welfare. One is the Committee on Privileges. This Committee is supposed to articulate your needs, your requirements and bring these needs either to the Prime Minister's Office or to the Minister of Finance. It is a budgeting process. If they are saying they need transport to go on official missions, it is a budgeting process. These issues should be brought in the budgeting process. If the Minister of Finance does not want to accept you, I am prepared to accept you and make sure that I call her to be present when you make your case on behalf of the Members of Parliament, which is a very important institution.

The other institution we have created here is the Commission on the Political Office-Bearers Remuneration. This commission is chaired by Judge President Damaseb and if, in terms of your benefits, you think that the Executive is not listening carefully to your requirements, please approach this commission and articulate your needs, so that they can make appropriate recommendations to the President for your welfare. Therefore, the claim that the Executive does not take the Parliament seriously is actually unfounded, because at no time has the Office of the

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON KAPIA**

Prime Minister interacted with Parliament in terms of their welfare. I think it happened about four years ago when you were asking for transport and housing allowances and it ended there. Therefore, we are not really aware of some of the issues the Members are complaining about, but the point I am making is that there is no intention on the part of the Executive to look down upon Parliament because Parliament represents the people of the country. Thank you.

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

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**HON KAPIA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support this important Vote. Seeing that my points have been taken up by Honourable Lucas and Honourable Kazenambo, I only want to say that there is not really proper information on the conditions of service of the Members of Parliament and the people regard Members of Parliament as more well-off than anybody else in this country, which is a very bad situation.

I want to put it clearly that even those who were Permanent Secretaries or Under-Secretaries and have become Deputy Ministers are paid less than the current Permanent Secretaries and Under-Secretaries. Ministers are paid less than their Permanent Secretaries. We are paid less than a Deputy Director in Government and then the newspapers and everybody want to say the Members of Parliament are paid big salaries.

When Members of Parliament want to travel to attend national days and State functions, we are informed by the Secretary to the National Assembly that the Secretary to Cabinet has refused to authorise vehicles for ordinary Members of Parliament. When Members of Parliament are invited by students to a university campus in Katima Mulilo or Oshakati, they cannot attend because they are told that a Member of Parliament cannot travel alone in a Government vehicle, five of you have to travel in

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON VAN DER WALT**

a minibus like kids going on a tour somewhere. This is a serious issue, because if one day that minibus is involved in an accident, you would lose more than five Members of Parliament. There is no security for Members of Parliament and this is very serious. They are elected leaders representing the Namibian people.

Honourable Nambahu said whatever they say is not recorded and it is not only that, Members of Parliament are not respected in this country. I do not know who is responsible for this and it is a serious issue. Some of us have been outspoken about the Chief Executive Officers of Parastatals earning more than the President of this country and nobody listens. Thank you very much, I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. You heard the Prime Minister, his door is open. Honourable Van Der Walt.

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**HON VAN DER WALT:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to support this Vote, but when I look at the package of a Member of Parliament, as a businessman I think it is very difficult for them to survive. Really, I will not be able to survive on that if I was not a businessman. The other day I went to Lüderitz for Heroes Day where I was the main speaker and I came to the Secretariat and asked if there is money available and there was no money. Therefore, that trip alone cost me N\$3,500.00 to N\$4,000.00. I do not know how these people will be able to visit their Regions and do their work properly.

Another main concern is the travelling of Members of Parliament. I agree hundred percent with what was said about the minibuses. I will not travel in that minibus, the reason being that a minibus full of people is a heavy vehicle and if there is an accident, many of our leaders will be in trouble.

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03**  
**HON ESAU**

I will drive with my own vehicle and I will pay for it myself, but what about all the other Members who cannot afford it?

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I am very thankful to our Prime Minister who said he is willing to listen to us, but I want to tell the media and the public that the other day I went to my neighbouring farm and we had a braai there. My neighbour said, "*but Piet, you receive a lot of money from Government*" and I was so embarrassed, I said, "*I think this is a misunderstanding*" and he said, "*but how can it be?*" I told him not to believe everything he reads in the newspapers and he asked how much I am earning. It was an embarrassment to tell him what the salary of a Member of Parliament is.

Honourable Members, therefore I support the Vote, but I support what my Colleagues have said. Thank you.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:**  
Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson. First of all, let me register my support to Vote 03. I have a comment on Programme 3, Information Services.

Provision is made under this programme to the amount of N\$8,44 million and this programme is to provide relevant and up-to-date information and also to ensure the dissemination of information to the public. We as Members of Parliament and as Ministers have offices in the various Ministries, but we do not have screens to watch the Debates taking place and come from our offices when the quorum becomes a problem. The Parliament must provide that line and keep us in contact, not our Permanent Secretaries. I support the Vote.

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to support the Vote of the National Assembly. I want to echo the view expressed by the Prime Minister that the reason, in part, for the frustrations that we have with regard to the accommodation of some of the views that we have expressed on important issues affecting this House, may be coming from the fact that we do not have a formal mechanism through which we put forth our ideas and to make sure that they are accommodated in the relevant programmes, especially when it relates to the programme of the House.

In fact, it is us as Members of Parliament and not the Secretariat that should draw up the programme of work for the House on the basis of which the Budget for the House is formulated. However, if we do not have a mechanism by which we put our ideas to the members of the staff and the staff have to improvise on what the needs of the House are and on that basis approach the Ministry of Finance for the Budget, I do not think we can now during the Budget Debate find shortcomings in the programmes of the House. This is not really a criticism, it is just introspection, to say that we need to find time before the Budget Debate to say these are the activities we want the House to implement, these are the needs of the House, then formulate our programmes and then the Budget request of the House would be based on those needs as identified by ourselves.

However, this is not to say that when we have drawn up our list of requests it would be fully met, because we all know that resources are a constraint, but for as long as we continue not to be involved in the formulation of the programme, we will always find ourselves in this position.

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

In fact, I am asking myself the question: Inasmuch as I may agree with many of the things that we are saying here, I am just wondering to whom we are now directing them. It will be difficult for the Executive to improvise on what the needs of Parliament are, Parliament itself is supposed to determine those needs and it would be difficult for the Executive to screen those statements, because we would all have different views and it would be difficult to say the request should look like this.

Maybe after this year's Budget we will find time during the course of the year to make sure that we discuss these issues.

With regard to the issue of the benefits of the Members of the House, I want to applaud the Prime Minister for advising the Members on the approach that could be followed, but I want to clarify one thing, that it is not a matter of the Minister of Finance not wanting to receive the concerns of the Members of Parliament, it is a matter of the mandate. The Minister of Finance is like a finance manager in a company. The finance manager cannot just say oh yes, the secretary is underpaid and there is some money in the kitty, from tomorrow your salary is increased. No, it is not done like that. There is a manager for human resources, the one that deals with those issues. They then agree on the level of the company and then the finance manager is told what has been agreed, from now on this is the salary of the person and you have to pay it. It is a matter of mandate, it is not a matter of the Minister of Finance not being sensitive. I just wanted to clarify that, because on more than one occasion I have been approached with requests related to the remuneration and conditions of service and I have explained that the Ministry of Finance does not have the mandate to do that.

Now we have been assured that the Office of the Prime Minister can receive these concerns and could channel them to the appropriate instances to make sure that they are considered and maybe we should do that. Thank you.

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17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA / HON IILONGA**

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

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I did not want to participate in the Debate, but I was just amazed by what was said and I want to ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister, as the Leader of Government Business in the House, whether it is allowed for a Party represented in Parliament to refrain from participating in a Debate pertaining to the Parliament Vote. Is it on account of the fact that they are still waiting for the verdict on their case or is it just coincidence that they just do not have any point to raise? Thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 03 of Parliament and I want the lawyers to explain to me, if somebody says the Rules and Orders have been infringed, what does that mean or as soon as an irregularity occurs in the customary proceedings, what that means. Then it says a Member may raise a Point of Order at any time, whether he or she has previously spoken or not. This is the Fifth Parliament and now it is ruled that we may not rise on a Point of Order, while we were not informed that this is now a by-law. Rule 113 gives a Member that right. Honourable Ulenga could just insult us freely because he could hide behind the fact that no Points of Order may be raised, while it is not stipulated anywhere that Points of Orders may not be raised in Committee Stage. We cannot support that project which wants to amend the Rules, that a Point of Order may not be allowed and then we already started implementing it while it has not even been considered yet.

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON DR KAWANA**

Amendments must be done procedurally. I support Vote 03 and say procedurally a Point of Order is allowed.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Member, what was agreed upon was basically to facilitate the work of the House. Normally the time allowed for any Member to speak is ten minutes, but we reduced that to five in order to make progress. It is not to stifle the Debate. I now call upon Honourable Dr Kawana.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote. First I would say that in the past I raised some of the conditions of service of our Colleagues who are on the other side of the House, meaning the backbenchers. I raised two issues in the past in this Chamber, one being in connection with their transport. I recommended then that just like in other Parliaments all over the world and more so in SADC, Members of Parliament participate in car schemes and that would be ideal so that they would be able to visit the Namibian Nation in every corner of our country. As a Parliament which is elected on the basis of proportional representation, Namibia as a whole is our Constituency and, therefore, they should have access to that Constituency.

Secondly, I also raised the issue of accommodation for particularly Honourable Members who are from the Regions and I thought that maybe next time it should be considered to build what is termed a Parliament village, where Members of Parliament who come from the Regions could stay during Parliamentary Sessions and be provided with adequate security. After all, they are our national leaders who are entitled to protection, like in any other democratic country.

I agree with the Honourable Minister of Finance that the procedure in the

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03**  
**HON HAUSIKU**

past was somehow maybe wrong. During the Budget hearing the requests for the National Assembly and the National Council should not be left to administrators as that is wrong. The Office of the Speaker must be involved, the Committee on Privileges and Immunities must be involved so that some of these issues are taken into account. I am suggesting that during that process of budgeting there should be consideration for a Sub-vote to provide for participation in public and national days, because I heard here that Members of Parliament were invited to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Independence anniversary, but they were told to go on their own. To me that is most unfortunate. After 22 years there must be a Budget line so that they are able to attend these national days.

Unfortunately I must also explain: The Budget of the Office of the President is very limited and we are only allowed to pay for certain items and those items do not include transportation and accommodation of Members of Parliament to attend national days like the Independence anniversary. I am sorry, Honourable Ulenga, because that Budget is also approved here in this Chamber and, therefore, I just want to clarify that it is not really the Secretary to Cabinet who must rule on that. We have an accounting officer in the Office of the President who has to comply strictly with what is voted for and that item is not there. That item must be provided for in the Budget of this House. I just wanted to clarify that and I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**  
**COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Deputy Prime Minister.

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson. I did not really want to take the Floor, but I think it is important that we accept the fact that our discussion to some extent reflects ignorance in our own procedures.

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON KAPIA**

Let me first support the Vote of the National Assembly and reiterate what the Prime Minister has indicated. He spoke about two Committees. The Committee on Privileges consists of Parliamentarians and the Minister of Finance has clearly indicated that when you come here and complain about work you were supposed to do before to the Budget being processed, to whom are you complaining? That Committee should accept they did not do their job and I think we should undertake to make sure that next time they do their job.

Secondly, Comrade Deputy Chair, when we are invited to Government functions, we follow the same procedure as we do when we go to the Regions. I am sure there is provision for travelling allowances in this Vote in the event that National Assembly Members are travelling to Regions for hearings. Accommodation and daily allowances are provided to the Members and the same when you travel abroad, travelling allowances are provided for in this Vote. Of course, those in the Executive do the same. When I am invited to go and attend to a Government programme, I will go to the Permanent Secretary and apply for a travelling allowance, which is provided for in the Budget of the Prime Minister and all the other Ministries do the same.

When I was invited to attend the Independence celebrations in Mariental, I was provided with an allowance of a day by the Office of the Prime Minister under Vote 02 and I believe that Parliamentarians were supposed to also apply to the Office of the Speaker so that you are provided with a travelling allowance to attend that function. That is the normal procedure. I do not really understand why you will be invited to a meeting of Government and you are told there is no travelling allowance.

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

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**HON KAPIA:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON NEHOVA**

House Committee. We do not seem to understand each other when we are talking in this House, because the situation is only understood by the people who find themselves in that situation. It must be stated clearly here that when we are invited to those national days, either when the President is addressing or when you are invited to go and address the meeting yourself, there is no transport allowance, no S&T, no accommodation. We are using the little money we have. When you see us addressing meetings all over this country on the 21<sup>st</sup> March, 26<sup>th</sup> of August, 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup> May or 10<sup>th</sup> December, we are not doing so with assistance by Government. That must be clear.

When we apply for transport, we are told the Secretary of Cabinet said Members of Parliament cannot travel in a car and we are applying through the Office of the Secretary of the National Assembly and he gets instruction from the Secretary to Cabinet to say no individual Member of Parliament is entitled to a Government vehicle, neither travelling allowance.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you, I think you have made your point. I call on Honourable Nehova.

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**HON NEHOVA:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I am going to be very brief. Honourable Deputy Chair, many of the things we are discussing here have been discussed before, but we found no solution. However, a solution was suggested regarding the staff serving this Chamber and the other Chamber. We said on numerous occasions that the Parliament must be independent with regard to organisation. Parliament must have its own Parliamentary Service Commission so that you retain your staff. This is a special agency and we must find ways to implement this. Of course, we do not have to invent anything, other Parliaments are doing this. Parliaments normally have Parliamentary Service Commissions to decide on the conditions of service and I think we have

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON RIRUAKO / HON KASINGO**

agreed on a programme that we called Agenda for Change. Why has it not been implemented? Cabinet does not want it to be implemented, let us accept it.

The last point I want to touch on is the issue of quorum in the Chamber and in the Committees. Honourable Deputy Chairperson, when the Parliament was initiated in 1990, there was provision for sitting allowances in the Chamber and the Committees. It worked for five or six years and later on it was discontinued. I thought that was an incentive for the Members to attend the meetings of the Committees in the morning and then to come in the afternoon and attend the meeting of the Assembly. Why was that provision abolished? Maybe we can think of that, otherwise we will continue having that problem. We can talk and talk but nobody will come here, unless we go and change our Rules, but will that be the solution? Thank you.

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

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**HON RIRUAKO:** I do not have anything to say, everything has been said. Let us stick to the Rule we mentioned here today and this is the first and the last time we discuss this issue. Whoever said yes, that must be a yes and not a no. I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. I call upon the Deputy Speaker to take the Floor.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you for the comments, questions,

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON KASINGO**

proposals and advice. Before I respond to the questions, as a preamble allow me to remind Honourable Members that the Republic of Namibia consists of three pillars, the Legislature, the Executive, of which the Head of State is the Chairperson of Cabinet and the Judiciary. One can compare these three legs of the State with a house consisting of three pillars. If one pillar is no longer there, the house will collapse. On that basis I would like to respond to the question on the conditions of service of Members of Parliament.

Last year I stood here and made some comments on the conditions of service of Members of Parliament. I would like to remind all of us that when it comes to the conditions of service, we have passed a law here which gives power to the Commission to determine our conditions of service. This includes all of us here, the backbenchers as well as the Executive component. I know that the first commissioners – and many of you will agree with me – have not really done anything, but we have heard that the second Commission has been appointed and the chairperson is Judge President Damaseb. I have trust in him that he is going to do something.

On our part as Members of Parliament, these people have also approached a number of us with questions on what do we want and we even had a one-day Committee to enable them to find out what work we are doing. All in all we have formulated a well-prepared recommendation to this Commission and the Speaker told me that he has also impressed upon the Judge President to consult the President and we will probably within this year hear the results. I am proud that I was part of the preparation of that document. The conditions of service of the entire State is unbalanced. Where have you heard that a Head of State's salary is lower than those in the Parastatals? It is a mockery and we have made a study which we submitted to the Commission and we hope they will soon submit a Report. This was my response to the Colleagues who touched on the conditions of service.

I am happy that *Honourable Ekandjo and Honourable Dr Kawana* proposed that the National Council and the National Assembly should

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON KASINGO**

budget for accommodation. I do not think this should be left entirely to the Commission.

Concerning the use of cars by the Executive, I feel that the issue of different number plates is within the ambit of the Executive and Cabinet could decide how to go about this.

*Honourable Kandy Nehova*, your statement is noted. Concerning the quorum of the National Assembly and Committees, I agree with you and also the other Colleague who mentioned the quorum. When the expert who conducted the one-day workshop with us interviewed me, I also brought to his attention that we need to change the requirements for a quorum of the National Assembly, he however stated that that is not within his mandate because it is a constitutional provision. Other Parliaments have a working quorum and maybe we can amend the Constitution that unless there are serious issues to be voted for, the House can proceed with a simple majority. The simple majority should also include six Members who have been appointed by the President. However, it is up to us to amend the Constitution.

As for the quorum of the Committees, we still have to amend the Standing Rules and Orders and we have deferred that discussion. The sooner we agree on the Amendments, the better for all of us.

I cannot agree more with the Colleague who stated that the Privileges Committee is the one that has to come up with proposals for the Budget Committee. This issue has been discussed in the Committee on Standing Rules and Orders and I am one of those who proposed that there is a need to have a Budget Committee consisting of Members of Parliament, consisting of the Members of the Committee on Privileges and others. By so doing, we could include many of the issues we have discussed here, because at the end of the day the Budget is determined by the technocrats without input from the Members of Parliament.

*Comrade Kawana*, you have on several occasions asked why the Members of Parliament cannot get a car scheme and maybe the Commission can deal with that.

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON KASINGO**

*Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila*, I have responded to your comments that we should have a Budget Committee.

*Honourable Esau*, your comments should be directed to the IT Committee chaired by Dr Amweelo. He must advise the Parliament to ensure that the Ministries are also connected so that they can also view the proceedings of Parliament.

*Honourable Van Der Walt*, your statement and concerns are noted, that it is really dangerous for Members of Parliament to travel by minibus.

*Honourable Kapia*, I take note of your concern and your attempt to make other people understand the situation in which we are. For example, when somebody is in the fire, it is only that particular person who will tell you how tough it is. If you were never in that situation, you would never understand.

*Right Honourable Prime Minister*, I have to thank you for your wisdom and in fact, your intervention is a response to the Honourable Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry who wanted to know what are the end-results of the Committees' work. The end-results are numerous recommendations in the form of Reports which are submitted to this House, but which are never adhered to. Last year I proposed that there should be a unit within the Office of the Prime Minister, headed by the Deputy Prime Minister, to ensure that all the recommendations adopted in the National Assembly are adhered to or alternatively, the Chief Whip of the Ruling Party must be given that responsibility and status. It is really needed because one creates a baby and at the end of the day you let the baby die. These men and women are doing their level best and it is up to us to follow the recommendations. Honourable Prime Minister, I would humbly ask you to discuss this with the Deputy Prime Minister that there should be a unit to ensure that all the recommendations should be adhered to.

Your wise words of praising us is a direct response to the question by my neighbour. I should ask him what are the direct results of his numerous

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON KASINGO**

trips to Europe, Africa and elsewhere. Honestly, we are hurt by his comments. (Interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** It is ignorance.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, maybe it is ignorance and these are the people whom I am saying are supposed to be in the fire to know how tough it is.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Deputy Speaker, there is a Ghanaian proverb which says only the pot can tell how hot it is.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** To conclude, our first Prime Minister was also a backbencher and it is not for specific people to be backbenchers, it is for everybody across the board.

*Honourable Nambahu*, we are looking into the research capacity and I take note of your comments on security, which were also mentioned by Honourable Lempy Lucas.

*Honourable Kaiyamo*, I will impress upon the Police Officers that the members of the public should enter at the front door. The side entrances are only meant for the Members and this goes along with identification cards for Members of Parliament which have been discussed in the Committee on Standing Rules and Orders. I am going to impress upon the Speaker that those should be implemented as soon as possible.

*Dr Amweelo* wants a gym to relieve the stress and this goes hand-in-glove

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 03  
HON KASINGO**

with the Ministry of Health and Social Services. I take note and I thank him. Maybe we can coordinate with other Parastatals to achieve that.

*Honourable Ulenga*, you mentioned total disrespect for Members of Parliament and maybe you can put it in a form of a question to the Prime Minister, but I think you are also not happy with the conditions of services and I have alluded to that.

*Honourable Tjihuiiko*, I have said that we need a unit to look into the recommendations made by Committees.

*Honourable Katali*, Dr Amweelo is the Chairperson of the IT Committee and he will probably ensure that these old machines are replaced with new ones.

*Honourable Riruako*, I have observed in the Pan-African Parliament that the people do not prepare speeches, they just get up and speak as Honourable Riruako is doing. Gambia is known as one of the African countries which has very intelligent people and they just talk without papers. Therefore, you should not be intimidated by people.

*Honourable Mushelenga*, thank you for your remarks. Although the Joint Parliament Committees are being budgeted for under National Council, I do remember that both the Chairperson of the National Council and the Speaker discussed the need to have a Joint Parliamentary Committee and we are thinking of having a Joint Oversight Committee of both Houses.

*Honourable //Gowases*, we have a flag and moreover, we do not need a signboard as this building is well-known. Since the colonial era everybody has known where the National Assembly is. I thank you.

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

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 11  
HON MUSHELENGA**

Vote 11- “**NATIONAL COUNCIL**” put for **Discussion**.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, first I must express my disappointment in the way we treat these Votes, by just wanting to approve them as if we are not concerned about our Colleagues.

I am concerned when I look at the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document, the programme related to the strengthening of the review and oversight function of the National Council. They have budgeted N\$3 million for all the Committees of the National Council, which is well below the Budget of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security of the National Assembly. What message are we sending?

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**HON MEMBER:** The numbers.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** My senior Colleague here is saying “*the numbers*”. How many Members are in the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security Committee of the National Assembly? Nobody will convince me that they will equal about 21 Members of the National Council plus the programmes and activities of these Committees. If we continue to pass laws in this manner, we are sending a wrong message that the National Council is a second-class House of Parliament, which I do not believe it is. Please, let us do the correct thing, let us give enough funds to the Committees of the National Council so that they will be able to perform their duties.

The other issue I am concerned about is that some Members of the National Council lose the benefits they had when they were Regional Councillors and are worse off. I have never seen such a situation, for example, that a Member of the National Assembly becomes worse off

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 11  
HON SIOKA**

when he becomes a Minister. As Regional Councillors they had telephone allowances for their cell phones, but when they become Members of the National Council, they lose these benefits because they are now paid from the National Council Budget and not from the Regional Council. These are anomalies that need to be rectified, because you become worse off when you become a senior.

I see that the National Council has budgeted for the Parliamentary Service Commission which is supposed to cater for both Houses, while the Assembly has not budgeted for this activity. Will only the National Council pursue this issue whereas it is supposed to cater for both Houses according to the Agenda for Change?

Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I painfully support this Vote because I think the funds are not enough for the Committees. Thank you.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 11. My concern is based on the Outreach Programme or Public Hearings. I really support the initiative to explain the laws to our people, but instead of conducting meetings in towns, they should go and address the people in the rural areas who are the ones who do not understand these laws and who are the ones most affected. I wish the National Assembly could also go and explain the laws we are passing here. They do not have any information about these laws. You just find yourself being arrested without knowing what you have done wrong. Therefore, I call upon both Houses of Parliament to address issues in the rural areas. If you go to Katima Mulilo or Oshakati, it does not mean that you are addressing the rural people. Go to,

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 11  
HON DINGARA**

for example, Kanono Village, where you will find the rural people who do not understand the laws we are passing here. It is really important that both Houses take up this issue of explaining laws and I really appreciate what the National Council has done, especially on domestic violence and Married Persons Equality Act, which are very important laws. Even my Gender Committee and Family Matters should do that. I will support them and they should consult my Ministry on where we have gone, so that they do not duplicate what we have done. There are so many villages that we cannot cover all of them. I support the Vote.

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

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**HON DINGARA:** I rise to support Vote 11 and the question I want us to address is, why is it so difficult to do one's work? When you are elected to a Local Authorities, you do not have resources to do your work, then you believe that if you become a Regional Councillor, you would have a bigger area and more power. When you become a Councillor, you find that you do not have transport to do your work as required by the Constitution and then you want to become a Member of Parliament so that you would have the power to do your work. When you arrive in Parliament, you find the power and the resources are not here.

I was speaking to some of the Colleagues from the Cabinet and they also do not have power. I used to hear that maybe the power is nowhere. Last year I stood where I am standing here and I was thinking that if I speak as a Member of Parliament it will be enough, things will be done. I spoke, I said the Councillors are suffering and today they are still suffering. Must I stop talking about that? I think I must continue, but the fact remains that when we are speaking here, we will for the next thirty years continue to repeat what we have been saying if no one here is responsible to record and ensure that it appears in the next Budget. Most of the things we mention here cannot be included in the Budget this Financial Year, but we

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 11  
HON KAZENAMBO / HON RIRUAKO**

must at least see some of the things in the next Budget so that we can speak about new things. Otherwise we will continue to repeat and repeat ourselves.

I was also thinking that we are making ourselves poor, because we have everything in this country. We are not like Singapore which has no resources, only human beings.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I suggest that many of the issues which we have raised during the previous Vote of the National Assembly should be applicable to the National Council, because we are talking about Parliament and Parliament is composed of the two Chambers. Therefore, without repeating what I said in the previous Vote, I will suggest that all those issues that we have raised for the National Assembly should be applicable to the National Council because these Colleagues are called Members of Parliament and that should not be on a cosmetic basis. I support Vote 11.

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

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**HON RIRUAKO:** I do not agree with those who say we have not achieved anything. Honourable Chairperson, I am not here to say we did not achieve anything. Kazenambo was crying and now he is calm and

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 11  
HON KASINGO**

everybody is disciplining himself. This National Council did not mean anything to us as Members of Parliament, but they have reduced the tension, that tension is no longer there. We feel happy and if we go there, we are going to meet some friendly faces. Normally they used to hate us and we used to hate them. You cannot say we did not achieve anything, we did achieve something.

My Colleague, Honourable Mushelenga, we have achieved something. When we were in these kinds of forums, even if it is a Youth League, the type of youth were just like Malema of South Africa. But now I looked at this, everything is gone, I do not know. You can say what you say, but it is a fact, you were so harsh, you did not discipline yourself with words coming out of your mouth. Now today you count your words.

Now is the time for us to accept one another in the same forum and as you are talking now, I think there are some friendly faces among us. You used to hate each other and now you are friendly and you cannot say that we did not achieve anything here. No, we did. Now we have to accept Vote 11. What happens here can happen there too. I can call Honourable Nyamu by name, sleeping does not help. Let us talk to one another, let us accept one another. We are here to find one another, whether we want it or not. This is the time to talk, not the time to sleep.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I think I should defend the Honourable Nyamu, because you have never seen him closing his eyes. I call on the Deputy Speaker.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Members, for supporting Vote 11. I agree with Honourable Kazenambo that everything mentioned applies to both Houses. I talked about the Report given to the Commission and I know the Chairperson and the Speaker were involved in these discussions.

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 11  
HON KASINGO**

*Honourable Mushelenga*, thank you for supporting the Vote and your sympathy to the National Council. I do not know how to comment on the funds budgeted for the Committees, except for saying that the National Council consists of 26 Members while we are 78 and moreover, we are envisaging doing away with some Committees.

I was informed that the issue of cell phones is being attended to and they will also benefit from this to the value of N\$900.00.

I have previously said that although the Parliamentary Service Commission is not budgeted for by the National Assembly, both discussed the need for this institution and the discussions will continue.

*Honourable Sioka*, thank you for supporting the Vote. We take note of your advice and I just have to say that when I read through Vote 11, the Chairperson of the National Council has also visited rural areas and they have also embarked upon taking Parliament to the Regions. Last year September they held their Session in Erongo Region and I was told that they sent a team beforehand to sensitise the community. I agree with you that although we did include the rural areas in our sensitising programme, we need to go to each corner in the rural areas. I think they have taken note that they should contact your Ministry.

Thank you, Honourable Dingara and Honourable Riruako, yes, we have really succeeded in reducing the tension which existed. You would remember that when Kandy Nehova was the Chairperson of the National Council how we fought and at the end of the day we were almost equal. Yes, we did succeed to reduce the tension and we are now Comrades. Thank you.

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

Vote 16 – “**JUSTICE**” put for **Discussion**.

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17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON MWANINGANGE / HON KAIYAMO**

**HON MWANINGANGE:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, first of all I would like to wish the Honourable Minister of Justice well, her Deputy and the entire team of staff. I remember last year I was more critical, but this time I want to reward the work well done by the Ministry.

My comment is on Page 8. It is very important to note that the Ministry has set up what is known as the Namibia Court Information System. This is very important progress made by the Ministry during this time of technology serving all spheres of the socio-development aspects of our country, including the justice system.

In this regard, the Namibia Court Information System is an integrated case and financial management system which has been put in place at the majority of our Courts in the country. This is a great evolutionary move. Having said that, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I would also like to stress that this will smoothen and accelerate the administrative process of justice and will create a conducive environment in the working process. They used to carry suitcases full of files, but today this system will alleviate that difficult situation. Therefore, I believe you will get the support of all those who understand the complexities of the justice process and I believe this will respond to what is commonly referred to as justice delayed is justice denied. I support the Vote and I thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND  
IMMIGRATION:** I have been supporting this Vote as a matter of principle since I came to Parliament and I now do so doubly because we appreciate the work being done on behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs by the District Courts.

The people of Katutura told me that I must express their appreciation for

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON KAZENAMBO**

the legal advice they are receiving from your Ministry.

Lastly, the Law Reform Department must look into the old outdated laws. I support the Vote.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to most sincerely support the Vote of the Ministry of Justice. I know the majority of us in this House have fought for justice and this Ministry deals with justice.

I want to make a suggestion before I raise my concern and I am presenting both my suggestion and my concern on the basis of the submission by the Minister of Justice that the mission of the Ministry of Justice is to be a model provider of accessible and timeous justice for all.

My suggestion with regard to accessibility is that perhaps the Law Reform Commission must look into the issue of accessibility by legal practitioners to services of Government and Parastatals, because Government institutions and Parastatals remain the lucrative Sector for making money. Today, 22 years after Independence, I am not blaming the Minister or the Deputy Minister because they are just policy-makers, but I am passing the message through them to those institutions. Up to today the services of Government are dominated by a few legal firms which are accessing money from Parastatals and Government services at the expense of many upcoming law firms which are employing young Namibians. Many of these young Namibians cannot access these legal house and they are accommodated by these young legal firms which are starved in terms of accessing services from Ministries. We know that the Government Attorneys are overloaded and may be the learned lawyers could come up

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON MOONGO / HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

with a framework so that the bread and the cake is spread fairly and evenly, rather than just a few dominant firms enjoying everything at the expense of others. Please hear my message from Katutura in that fashion.

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

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. First of all I would like to thank the Ministry for doing their best for the Traditional Authorities. I was only disappointed to learn that there was not even a small adjustment to the salaries of the senior Headmen. Not only that, I am also disappointed because they are the founding fathers of justice. The Headmen have been dealing with justice within the communities for ages and now they are being ignored. They were not provided with offices, they are under the trees, they are not even provided with N\$300.00 or N\$500.00. They only survive on their old-age pensions. They have been dealing with justice since they were young until now and now that they are old, they need money to be treated in hospitals. I hope the Colleague will understand my logic. I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable !Nawases-Taeyele.

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**HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I wholeheartedly support this very important Vote and I will start by concurring with the Honourable Minister that domestic violence, drug abuse and violence against women and children have become major concerns in our country.

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON SIMATAA**

Honourable Minister, we have been witnessing continuous demonstrations calling for stiffer sentences for the perpetrators of these crimes, appealing for them not to be granted bail. I fully agree with you that that seems not to deter the continuation of these crimes. Will the Honourable Minister agree with me that maybe this is too serious to be handled by the Ministry singlehandedly and that other Ministries and Agencies should be involved to determine the causes of these crimes and to see how we can join hands and put our heads together to get solutions to these unacceptable deeds which are killing our society. I thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine is to simply join the Minister in expressing concern on the administration of justice when looking at the number of prosecutors needed. Added to that, the Minister says in her statement that even the few who are recruited seem not to be staying that long because they continue to leave for better opportunities and the situation becomes even worse. In my view, there is nothing more important, looking at our Constitution, than the efficient and effective administration of justice, because in that lies the confidence that all of us as citizens have in the democratic governance of the State.

I want to find out whether in the process of allocation of resources we cannot calibrate the process of allocating resources to the entire system of administration of justice, because in my view it does not help to load one part of the administration of justice system with more resources, while you continue to starve the other part. The whole system needs to work efficiently.

I would like to make a plea that when we allocate resources towards the

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16**  
**HON RIRUAKO**

programme of administration of justice, let us try to be balanced, so that we avoid starving one arm while overloading the others, because if we do that the whole system will not deliver.

Lastly, I want to know whether there are initiatives put in place to try and equalise the current discrepancy in the salaries of those who are in the magistracy compared to those who are in the prosecution, because unless you do that, you will continue to have this situation where prosecutors migrate to the magistracy, simply because they are looking for better conditions of service. On that note, I support the Vote.

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

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, we have laws dating back from 1923 and 1980 that are alive according to the Roman Dutch statutes and that is unfair. The Minister mentions that the Rules of the High Court will be changed, the Courts will be computerised, physical infrastructure of the High Court will be upgraded to provide for more Courts and offices for Judges and court staff. This is not my problem, my problem are the colonial laws which you have retained until today. These colonial rules are now being repealed, but read carefully until you get rid of this colonial mentality. Once you discover where you are in cahoots, you can get rid of the disease.

The so-called learned lawyers and Judges are linked to this law, but the law is for the people, it is made by them. You cannot have laws from the colonial era until today and refuse to change. This is your culture, your customs, your people and this must be changed according to that. Even the British do not have written law, they have customary law. You cannot show me where their laws were written and they still believe in that. Why not you? Do you not have customary law? You have to acquaint yourself

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
NANDI-NDAITWAH**

with what you have and if you want to borrow from other people, it may be merged with what you have. I thank you.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support the Vote of the Ministry of Justice.

Honourable Minister, I only have two issues which I believe I am raising for the public interest, namely the Guardian Funds. I just want to understand who are the contributors to the Guardian Fund, how do they contribute and the beneficiaries, and whether beneficiaries really do benefit to the extent that they are supposed to benefit from this fund or whether it is only a few who know and benefit from this.

The second issue is on Page 24, namely Law Reform. I was happy when the Minister informed this Honourable House that the Law Reform Development Commission is now operational with a fulltime chairperson and they are working. When this news became public, it was really celebrated because of the expectations. Comrade Minister, I would want to know whether the Law Reform has prioritised our marriage laws, particularly the different marriages conducted north and south of the Redline. With marriages south of the Redline one has a choice between in community and outside community of property, while the ones conducted north of the Redline are automatically outside community of property. I want you to clarify whether that is still the situation or it has now changed, so that the public knows what is happening. I support the Vote.

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you for giving me the Floor. I rise to support the Vote and I think we must all appreciate that in the many ratings that we undergo as a country, the independent Judiciary is always a matter that carries the day. We consistently get good ratings for an independent judicial process and especially our independent Courts. It is, therefore, very pleasing to see that the rule of law and independent Courts form the basis of providing justice to our society. That is very good.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I however have a concern and the concern is similar to that one raised by Honourable Kazenambo and that is the one of cost and accessibility. There are two interrelated matters that I want to raise, one being the direct cost to enter the judicial process as an ordinary citizen. I believe that for normal citizens it is beyond the limits of affordability to engage a normal legal practitioner to represent you in the High Court. I think it is a real problem that we have and I thought when we introduced the *Legal Practitioners Bill*, which is now an Act, that was an effort to do away with the division between what was then known as attorneys and advocates, so that everyone can represent and that would result in bringing down the cost. My perception is that it did not happen and in fact, cost escalated. That is the first point, direct cost to access the legal system.

The second one is that legal costs also makes it very difficult for small enterprises to conduct normal business. We have a very complicated system and it has developed a procedural mechanism that ratchets up costs. If you want to buy a simple plot to start your business, you are forced to do that through an attorney as a conveyancer. There is very little value added, but the cost is quite significant. If you want to register your business, you have to go through a lawyer. Again it is not an impossible thing but it is expensive for small businesses that already struggle with getting the start-up costs.

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON A TJONGARERO / HON DINGARA**

I just wondered whether we should not revisit the *Legal Practitioners Bill* to address that problem of affordability, because it appears to be a serious problem that needs some consideration and I would be very interested to hear the Honourable Minister's advice on what the future holds for us. With that I support the Vote and thank you.

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

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**HON A TJONGARERO:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson. I rise to support the Vote. I know that as most of us in the House are here to talk on behalf of the people out there and I just want to tell the Minister and Deputy Minister that the Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs visited the South and had a look at some of the capital projects there. I want to thank the Minister for what you have done there. Some of the buildings have been renovated, new ones have been built and even houses and one could see that the people working there were happy. Keep up the good work and also do the same in the other Regions. I support the Vote.

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**HON DINGARA:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to support this Vote from the bottom of my heart, because when we visited Courts in the country, we found a courthouse in Keetmanshoop which is state-of-the-art and which one cannot imagine finding in Keetmanshoop. It is huge and the offices are very beautiful. The Magistrates there are very happy.

When we travelled to Khorixas we were checking in the documents how much money was spent in Khorixas and we did not expect to see something. When we got there we were all impressed with the state-of-the-art building and the same in Tsumkwe. I was so impressed and happy.

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON KAZENAMBO**

Although the one in Otjinene has not been completed yet, I could see it is a unique building. Congratulation Minister.

I also want to refer to the state-of-the-art High Court in Oshakati. Those of you who have not seen it, just go and enter the building or just stand outside and observe. It is also interesting that young Namibians are now taking this career seriously. At eighty percent of the Courts that I have visited one finds young Magistrates and prosecutors and I feel we should encourage the University of Namibia to give them bursaries so that we can deal with this problem of lack of personnel in the Judiciary.

With those few words, I just wanted to support this Vote wholeheartedly.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT  
AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. It was mentioned that justice delayed is justice denied and we have been saying that we have the Legislature, the Executive and Judiciary, but the problem is that those dominating the administration of the Judiciary do not have to face the community, it is the Minister of Justice who has to take the blame.

One finds that cases are continuously postponed, sometimes because the lawyer has not pitched up, and I am sure that there is nobody on earth who would like to have a case hanging over you. We have fought for freedom, justice and fairness, therefore the delay and postponement of cases, which affects others, is not fair. Somehow our Justice Ministry has to put an end to this postponement of cases for even as long as six, sixteen years. As a country which has fought for freedom and justice all these postponements of cases are not fair to our people. It also means the lawyers have to be

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON SIOKA**

paid for years and years. Please, justice delayed is justice denied. I support the Vote.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me thank the Minister of Justice for tabling the Budget of this Vote, which is supported by all of us.

I want to refer to Page 16 where it deals with violence against women and children. The Ministry is also concerned about this issue and I thank you for addressing it. Even though people will demonstrate in whatever way they can, I feel that we are not going to succeed. However, the people out there are saying we need stiffer sentences. We need a law which will stipulate those stiffer sentences to be imposed for culprits who would be found guilty in a Court of law.

Comrade Minister, my question is: Can you outline a few of those stiffer sentences to demonstrate to those people that the Courts are really imposing those stiffer sentences. Maybe if you outline them, they would understand because it seems people are not satisfied with what is happening in the Courts, it seems they are favouring those culprits who are committing this violence. Otherwise I support the Vote.

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

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17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON IILONGA / HON DR KAWANA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support Vote 16.

The functions of the Law Reform Commission are to do in-depth research and analysis of all branches of the Namibian law. That is a very important task given to them. We have laws which are older than most of us here, because Article 141 of the Constitution stipulates that all laws not repealed will remain in force.

Comrade Minister, we still have that notorious law of 1944 which gives the mandate for properties to be repossessed. If today I remove a man or a woman from his or her land in a village, there will be demonstrations, but when an old lady is put on the street, then it is considered to be normal, it is the law. Honestly speaking, I think something must be done as Article 3 on Fundamental Rights states that accommodation, a home, is supposed to be a fundamental right which cannot be infringed upon for the enrichment of another person. A person buys that house for N\$30,000.00 and sells it at a huge profit. Provision is made in the law that you are supposed to get what you owed, but they do not do that. I want this Law Reform and Development Commission to look into this. We cannot speak of Article 3 only when it suits us, but when poor people are suffering we are quiet. With that I support Vote 16.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 16 and also to give additional information after having heard some remarks by Honourable Members, particularly on delayed judgments. Here I am speaking in my capacity as a member of the Judicial Service Commission,

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON TJIHUIKO**

with special reference to the High Court and Supreme Court, to inform Honourable Members that the Judicial Service Commission recently passed regulations requiring Judges to speed up the delivery of Judgments. They are given deadlines and if those deadlines are not met, they have to explain to the Judge President, in respect of the High Court, and to the Chief Justice, in respect of the Supreme Court. This is the information I wanted to give.

However, my Colleague, the Honourable Minister, will be able to respond to the situation at Lower Courts. I believe the mandate of controlling Magistrates is given to the Magistrates Commission. I support Vote 16.

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

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chair. Let me start where I left off last year. My contribution in last year's Budget was mainly based on my practical experience on the ground and I was one of those few who were saying that the conditions under which our justice is being administered in the Regions need to be taken care of. I am happy to see that a lot has been done. Honourable Dingara has spoken from the bottom of his heart and I think I am going to talk from the top of my heart, that a lot has been done in the Regions. The buildings are there, congratulations for that.

One of the things that is still bothering me is the fact that I wonder whether the Budget of the Ministry of Justice is really sufficient to do the things that we want to see done. If you look at Page 23 of the Minister's statement and look at the challenges listed here, such as inefficient professional staff, lack of administrative staff, obviously these are the basics that one would have liked to see. If the administration is not improving, then you need to critically criticise the Minister or the Permanent Secretary. If this has not been taken care of, perhaps as a result

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON NAHOLO**

of insufficient Budget, then one would not expect justice to be done.

I want to recommend seriously that we for once do what we have done with the Ministry of Defence. Let us give a big Budget to take care of the basics in the Ministry and once we have done that and nothing changes, then we should just look for the political head of the Ministry. However, looking at the Budget we have given them last year and this year, I think we need to increase the Budget. That is the first thing I have noted.

Apart from that, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, there are basic things that I would like to see, one being on the delay of cases. Some of these alleged corruption cases have been on the books for quite some time since the time of the ODC. We have the Caprivi High Treason case and after every election there is always a Court case that has never been concluded. I think these are some of the things which give us the impression that, apart from the lack of facilities, there is also lack of political will to see to it that these activities are carried out. I cannot see that a simple election Court case takes more than three years to be concluded. We are now going to the next elections and I can guarantee you that at the pace we are going now, nothing will happen. It is a result of some of these things that one would say it is not a question of lack of facilities, but it is a question of lack of political will to sort things out. I hope that the Minister will do something about it. With those comments, I support the Vote.

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

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**HON NAHOLO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine is just a question to the Minister of Justice and I am not going to refer to a specific page.

Honourable Minister, last year during the election case in the High Court,

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON RIRUAKO**

the Judge President made a Ruling that the Director of Elections committed perjury in his submission to the Court. As far as I know, no prosecution had taken place and if it is true that in Namibia there is rule of law, what is your Ministry doing about this case?

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, but I would have thought if the case is before Court, we cannot deal with it here. Can we just keep that in mind? Honourable Riruako.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, one Honourable Member mentioned lawyers being absent from Court hearings. If the lawyer is absent, there can be someone to attend Court. Even the Judiciary could give the right to the Magistrate to summon someone who is supposed to be there. If he is absent, he must be forced to attend Court. We are at the mercy of the former colonial rules and laws and I keep on repeating this.

Referring to the cases which continue without being concluded, it depends on the Judiciary. One man cannot decide on behalf of the Judiciary. You share ideas and notes and a comparison of the two can bring something tangible. Unfortunately, Honourable Kazenambo is not here, I cannot plead to a lawyer, the law is in the hands of the Judiciary, they can indicate or inform the Court what to do and how. Give the strength to the Judiciary to do that so that you do not have to cry if the lawyers are not there to take the case. Therefore, this law must be changed in order to meet your requirements and needs.

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

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17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16**  
**HON TWEYA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I want to remove the bad taste that my neighbour here misunderstood me and maybe also some other Honourable Members and that is in reference to what we are talking about.

I specifically referred to the House and I want to link it to what Honourable Dingara and Honourable Tjihuike said, I specifically referred to the purpose of the Committees. Honourable Dingara specifically referred.... (Intervention)

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I think that is water under the bridge, we are now on Vote 16.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** And I am on Page 9. (Intervention)

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Then please refrain from referring to the Vote that we have passed already.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** I am on Page 9 and referring to Capital Projects. The purpose of this Committee is to report back to this House. It is important that when those Committees report back the House takes note of that. Not long ago – and that is really what I meant – those same Committees went and reported back on the conditions of the Police and the Military and after those recommendations,

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

the Line Ministry allocated resources accordingly and that is exactly what I meant in terms of the teeth of these Committees and not just Report after Report without action. I, therefore, want to move to the next page in terms of the work of those Committees followed by action.

On Page 23 mention is made of the insufficient professional staff. There are positions on the establishment not funded and at the same time there are vacancies that are funded but not filled. What is the actual problem? Is it lack of skilled people, is it the requirements, such as experience and others? When we give credit where it is due, it is there where we should take this type of Report seriously.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Member, unfortunately the time is up, that is why the microphone is off. I think the gist of your intervention has been taken note of and I am now going to call on the Honourable Minister to respond.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me thank the Members of this august House for the overwhelming support to Vote 16, starting with *Comrade Mwaningange and Comrade Kaiyamo* who commended us and we will take solace and courage from your support. Law Reform is definitely taking this responsibility very seriously. For some time this body did not have a Chairperson and the Commissioners, apart from the Chairman, are on a part-time basis and, therefore, without a Chairman the Commission is disempowered.

*Comrade Kazenambo*, your issue stems from the vision of the Ministry, that is accessibility and timeliness. With accessibility we mean to create infrastructure through which legal services and the administration of justice will be expended and our vision, although we have not reached there, is to deliver that service on time. That is the aim and that is why we have embarked upon putting in place several mechanisms that would

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

expedite the process. I have enumerated them as being case management and others, aiming at eventually bringing us to that point.

Another concern of Honourable Kazenambo is that there are only a few firms which are taking on so many of the cases that they seem to be overwhelmed, because they are not delivering the justice as it ought to be. Obviously, law is an intricate profession, it requires knowledge and experience and those law firms manned by lawyers with many years of experience enjoy the benefits almost to the exclusion of others, but there are others that are coming on board. I just hope that with more lawyers being trained, the administration of justice in the country will one day become saturated to the extent that no one has a monopoly. That is the vision that I have. At the moment there is a kind of semi-monopoly on account of the fact that we have a few lawyers and more so those that are experienced in the practice.

*Honourable Moongo*, I would like to inform you that we have a separation of responsibilities here. The administration of Community Courts resort under the Ministry of Justice, but the salaries and remuneration of Traditional Leaders resort under a separate Ministry. Therefore, please refer that matter to the relevant Ministry and not Justice.

We are gradually providing office accommodation for Traditional Leaders, we cannot achieve everything with the stroke of a pen. Rome was not built in one day, but we are getting there.

*Comrade !Nawases-Taeyele*, thank you very much for your support. The research on escalation of crime in the country is a complex matter that requires experts from other disciplines, rather than just law, such as sociologists, psychologists and others and these professionals are in very small supply. Otherwise we could have done that already, but we will give our support where possible.

*Honourable Simataa*, thank you for your support. The equalisation of the conditions of service of the prosecution and the magistracy is an ongoing process that has already been embarked upon since 2010 and I hope we will soon achieve that. The only difference comes in the experience and

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

qualifications. The magistracy draws its personnel from lawyers who have LLB Degrees, while the prosecution sometimes employs lawyers with B Juris, the difference being that B Juris entails three years of studies while LLB is a five-year Law Degree.

*Honourable Riruako*, thank you very much. We are changing the laws in terms of Article 140 of the Namibian Constitution. They cannot just be changed by the stroke of a pen, but we would also not like to create a vacuum, which is what would happen if we go the route the Honourable Member is thinking of. The Law Reform Commission is responsible for that and they are doing that.

*Honourable Ndaitwah*, the Guardian Fund is a fund for persons who are unable to look after themselves. Whether they are adults or minors, this body is taking care of their properties. If a parent has passed on and left behind minor children, whatever is left behind is assigned to the Guardian Fund to be looked after until the minor has reached the age of 21 in order to claim the benefits. However, the Guardian Fund can facilitate that school fees of such a minor is paid for and all other necessities. The problem we experience is that this office is not so centralised, it is in Windhoek, but now that we have a High Court in Oshakati, we will expand. We want to decentralise it to the extent that people do not have to travel long distances to come and draw their benefits from the Master's Office. The information is also not properly disseminated for members of the public to know how this body operates. In actual fact, I wanted to come with a comprehensive statement to Parliament to explain how the Guardian Fund operates, because this is really a problem particularly for the majority of our people who are in the rural areas. They do not know this facility because before Independence it used to be a programme only for the privileged ones.

As regards the differentiation between marriages north and south of the Redline, the Law Reform Commission is seized with this matter. However, it is a complex system. Our African marital law regime is so complex, we cannot just claim to want to unify the system without analysing the intricacies involved. The system of the others is straightforward, that when the husband dies, the wife and children are

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

taken to be the beneficiaries. People look at the law, whether they were married in or out of community of property. If it is out, the dissolution is dealt with in this matter, if it is in, again in this manner. With ours there are uncles and aunts involved and in some communities the wife will not inherit anything. It is a complicated system. For example, what prevails in the Caprivi Region is not the practice in the former Ovamboland, neither the practice in the former Hereroland or Kavango. How are you going to come up with a unified marital system with all these traditional systems of inheritance? It is difficult and, therefore, the study has taken some time and it is continuing. Maybe I should leave it at that, but it will one day be brought to the House to deal with it properly.

*Comrade Schlettwein*, it is true that money talks for accessibility. Nowadays if you do not have money, you are almost unable to do anything and legal practitioners are doing business. Legal practice is a very lucrative profession and everybody is striving very hard to make it. However, I doubt that the Act will reduce either the cost or the accessibility, because even now when I have a very complicated case before Court, I do not just close my eyes and say this law firm will defend my case. No, you will shop around, listen and learn who are those lawyers who are capable and able to defend the case to your satisfaction. These are the law firms which have so many cases before them. These law firms are very few and that is why I am saying that maybe one day when the legal fraternity is so saturated, we will see the cost going down and accessibility will improved. It is the principle of supply and demand in economic terms.

*Honourable Tjongarero and Dingara*, thank you very much. I feel so empowered to have this Standing Committee of Parliament, because when they travel through the country, they come up with Reports and suggestions to help us know what is happening, because most of the time we do not get the opportunity to go everywhere. Thank you for your observations.

*Honourable Sioka*, stiffer sentence for domestic violence is not the panacea for the crime situation in the country. There are other factors contributing to escalation of crime in the country. Without enumerating

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 16  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

the stiffer sentences, I know our Courts have really raised the bar in imposing stiffer sentences. There was a case where somebody was sentenced to more than the normal lifespan because this person has created such a heinous crime, but that alone will not solve the problem. It is the mindset and the prevailing environment that should be addressed for us to see the crime rate going down. The imposition of stiffer sentences is not really the only remedy.

*Comrade Ilonga* referred to the Magistrates' Courts Act of 1944. The abolition of existing laws can be done by two means, either to be overruled by a Court of Law or through Amendments by the Law Reform and Development Commission. I mentioned that there is a case before the High Court which may end up repealing a provision within the Magistrates' Courts Act if what the plaintiff is seeking will be upheld, that no one will be allowed to claim a debt arising out of something else and using somebody's house as recourse. If that happens, then this provision that Honourable Ilonga referred to will be declared unconstitutional. That is my wish.

*Honourable Tjihuiko*, you spoke while the Minister of Finance was out and when she returned, I wished that you would take the Floor again and repeat what you have said. However, let me just repeat it because you said that the Ministry of Justice should be dealt with in a similar manner that we dealt with the Ministry of Defence. We must be given a big Budget to be able to fill the vacancies and the posts not funded. They are not funded on account that we do not want to fund them, but there is no money. For the first time I am thanking Honourable Tjihuiko.

However, the Honourable Member has made one comment which I really think as an august House we should refrain from. We continue to praise ourselves as a democratic country with an independent Judiciary. We cannot on the one hand tell the world that our Judiciary is independent and on the other hand, we are saying our Judges are influenced by politics. Of course, we are frustrated that cases are delayed, but the Judiciary has taken a position and a stand by introducing a new system whereby the Judges are now the owners of cases brought before them. Before it was the litigants who would set the pace of the cases. Since last year our Judges

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 28  
HON RIRUAKO / HON HAINGURA**

own every case brought before them and they set the pace.

*Honourable Naholo*, thank you for your support, but as the Presiding Officer reminded us, the matter you have raised is *sub judice* and I will not respond to that. However, let us continue to support the system that supports the Judiciary.

*Comrade Mushelenga*, I have answered your questions. The vacancies will be filled provided we receive the funds. Thank you very much, Honourable Members.

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

Vote 28 – “**ELECTORAL COMMISSION**” put for **Discussion**.

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**HON RIRUAKO**: Honourable Chair of the Whole House Committee, we happened to discuss this Electoral Commission and we know how it happened, therefore I think that we have to come across something else which we never mentioned. That time we are going to react. Whatever comes will come on those remedies we put. I cannot scrutinise that until something happens that requires action. I thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**: I thank you, Deputy Chair. I rise to support this important Vote, Vote 28 and I wish to refer to Page 7. I really welcome the N\$41 million for voters’ education. We have voters’ apathy among our people and I want to call upon the Electoral Commission to educate

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 28**  
**HON UEITELE**

especially the people in the rural areas on the importance of voting. In some instances you find that 12,000 people have registered as voters, but only 3,000 Vote.

I welcome the introduction of Braille which will enable the visually impaired people to vote and with those few comments, I support Vote 28.

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

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**HON UEITELE:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chair. I also rise to support Vote 28 of the Electoral Commission and at the same time congratulate them for the electronic voting machine and registration kit.

I concur with what is said in the statement, that the voters' education function is geared towards increased voters' understanding and electoral process and eradicate voters' apathy. Voters' education is further imperative in order to increase the participation of eligible voters in the process of elections. I agree with the abovementioned statement and I also want to urge the Electoral Commission to carry on continuously with voters' registration and that the work of those doing the registration be supervised.

Parliament should probably enact a law that would ensure that during voting days the shebeens are closed, because that contributes to voters' apathy.

Another issue that also contributes to voters' apathy is the number of polling stations. People are queuing and at the end of the day they become tired and decide to go home because the queue is too long. We must increase the polling stations so that people can vote at any point.

Some employers are not taking part in voting and as a result their workers

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 28  
HON NAHOLO**

are not taken to polling or registration points. We must also work out a modality how best employers can be compelled to take their workers to voting points. With this, I support the Vote.

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

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**HON NAHOLO:** Thank you very much. I am concerned about the legal challenges mentioned on Page 5, because every now and then after elections there is a legal dispute, as a result of which the image of the Electoral Commission is tainted. The people do not regard the Electoral Commission as an independent body, but rather as an extension of SWAPO.

Therefore, I feel that the Electoral Commission should simply be disbanded so that we create a new, credible body to run credible elections in Namibia, which would put an end to elections being challenged in court.

I really do not know whether we as a country are ready for the electronic voting machines, because we have even failed to master the manual system. The world is saying we are lagging behind in terms of IT, so are we really ready? My concern is that these machines can be manipulated by the ones operating them, and that is SWAPO.

Another problem I have seen at the Electoral Commission is with regard to the recruitment of personnel. It seems they do not have proper screening and that is why we had one of the commissioners who were supposed to resign because he presented false qualifications.

Dr Diescho, who is one of the few qualified Namibians, also participated in the interviews. Can one really tell me that Dr Diescho failed to make it through the interviews or why was he not appointed? I understand the

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 28  
HON MOONGO / HON ULENGA**

commissioner who has resigned has up to now not been replaced and I want to suggest that Dr Diescho should be given preference. Thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Member, I know we are all free to talk and I did not want to rule you Out of Order when you referred to the ongoing case. You know that we cannot deal with issues that are before Court and I also thought that it is not very appropriate to talk about disbanding an institution that was created for the purpose of carrying out this important mandate. I do not know whether you wanted to mention this for the sake of mentioning or whether you wanted to make a serious intervention. I am not quite sure about which is which. Notwithstanding that, I thought I would let you go on. Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, first of all, I would like to thank the Minister of Finance who allocated funds to the Electoral Commission, but if possible, I want the Minister to consider an increase in their Budget so that they have well-trained, professional staff at the polling stations in order that election rigging can be prevented. We want Namibia to have a good name and that is only possible when our elections are conducted professionally by the Commission. Give them enough funds so that they can do the work properly. Thank you.

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

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Just to say very briefly that I support this Vote fully. One of the reasons why I support it is because there is no way that

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 28  
HON MUSHELENGA**

we can restore the image of the Electoral Commission after all these confrontational situations without providing enough resources for this important Vote. I actually think the money provided is not yet enough. This is a Vote that is very important to all of us as a Nation and it is unfortunate that we have gone through the recent history. I do not want to refer to specific issues.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, the one thing that is most important is trust that needs to be created amongst ourselves. (Intervention). That kind of talk, for example, should be avoided at all costs. We are talking about all of us. I can tell you there is no trust for the Opposition amongst SWAPO supporters, for example, so it is not a question of only one side. Perhaps there is trust amongst the SWAPO supporters for the Opposition, perhaps, but I can speak now for myself, among the Opposition there is no trust and we need to create this again.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, my final hope and what I am looking forward to really and what I want to say to the Minister and to everybody involved is that there will be the proper handling of the current legislation as it is before it is too late, before we get into the era of the preparations for the next elections. I support the Vote and I thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson. It was not my intention to participate in this Vote, but the remarks by Honourable Peter Naholo forced me to rise to put some legal issues in perspective.

I think as national leaders and Members of Parliament we have a responsibility towards upholding the good name and image of our country. When we start making statements as if we are careless politicians on top

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 28  
HON MUSHELENGA**

of drums, we must know the implications of the statements we are making.

The Honourable Member spoke about the institution of the Electoral Commission as being an extension of the SWAPO Party, which I think is a serious statement which cannot go unchallenged. This institution has been put in place in terms of the law passed by this very august House and there are procedures of staffing this institution that are in accordance with this law and these procedures have been followed. I will not talk of issues that are *sub judice*, but there are also decided cases about elections by the Courts.

When a particular Political Party challenges election results and a Court has not found as alleged, one cannot continue to talk of incredible process of elections unless proven in a Court of law. The Honourable Members of the Opposition have an attitude of, once defeated, always crying that things were not fair. It is also not fair for a country and for the image of a country that when you are defeated, you go and cry crocodile tears and say the process was not fair. Please, let us know the impact of the remarks we are making on the country and let us also be honest to ourselves as individuals and as Honourable Members of this House. I wonder whether some Members understand what it means when they are called Honourable Members, judging from the way they are pronouncing themselves here.

Secondly, can someone tell me that the Electoral Commission has failed to register voters? Has the Electoral Commission turned away voters that were supposed to vote and they could not cast their votes? These are substantive issues in which we judge the effectiveness and fairness of institutions. With these words, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I support the Vote.

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

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17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 28  
HON DR KAWANA**

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I rise to support the Vote under discussion. Indeed, Honourable Mushelenga has mentioned much of what I wanted to say.

As Honourable Members who have established institutions of governance, we are bound to respect those institutions. If there is any evidence, there are procedures to be followed and it is not really acceptable for Honourable Members to discuss a case which is before a Court of law, which is contrary to the Constitution which they have pledged to defend, uphold and protect. It is totally unacceptable.

Secondly, as I heard from Honourable Naholo, saying that the Electoral Commission is an extension of SWAPO and that those machines can be manipulated, maybe on direction of SWAPO, that is also totally unacceptable, because it is a fact that most Opposition Members – and maybe I should include RDP – are like mosquitoes or frogs. When you see a mosquito, you know that the rains have come. When you see a frog, you know that the rains have come. After the rain they disappear and that applies exactly to the Opposition. When it is election time, they go to the people and when the elections are over, they disappear for five years. Next time when they appear there, the people do not know them. People might have seen the one who belonged to SWAPO ten years ago, because when you were with SWAPO you were always with the people, unlike now when you only go there for elections. How can the people know you and support you?

I heard now that the funds must be increased so that the election agents of the Political Parties could be given something, but my experience is that the most people who come drunk to polling stations are the election agents of the Opposition Parties. If you give them money, they will never turn up at those elections. I support the Vote.

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

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 28**  
**HON DINGARA / HON KAPIA**

**HON DINGARA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. Initially I did not want to speak, but after listening to Honourable Naholo I decided to do so. It is a known fact that the policies of RDP are guided by the “Notes”. If they were the ones in power, I think they would have refused cell phones because it is not good. They do not even trust television because it is electronic. They do not even trust their cell phones. I think the Opposition Parties need to be informed that we do not have a choice in the world of today, technology is there and even if you refuse, it is not an option, we must move on. There is one company in Windhoek that has decided to destroy their computers because they do not trust them and decided to go back to manual papers. They actually found that nobody knew how to deal with the papers, they are only used to computers. They now want us to be in that situation.

We in SWAPO are the majority and having a two-third in Parliament we will implement it even if you refuse. With those few words, I support the Vote.

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

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**HON KAPIA:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to give my support to this very important Vote. Elections are serious business in any country and one cannot play with elections. Although we have limited resources, we have to ensure that a proper administrative system is in place and move with the times. We cannot stagnate and remain in the world of manual systems while others are moving towards digitalisation and computerisation. There is fear of the unknown in the Opposition and if they want to remain with that fear, they can do so.

I want to propose that the new law requires Political Parties to submit their polling agents on time and when the Electoral Commission realises that a

17 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 28  
HON KASINGO**

Political Party failed to fill all polling stations with polling agents, that Political Party must simply be disqualified, because that is where the problems arise which cause these unnecessary cases. They must simply be disqualified because they are not ready. When you want to go for any election, then you must be prepared. That is why we talk to the Namibian people every day and not only during elections. We must just be courageous enough to be prepared to win or to lose. If you lose, just accept it and try again next time because life goes on. That is really the ballgame which we cannot avoid.

We will face a challenge with the electronic system at all the polling stations, some of which do not have electricity. Maybe we would have to provide solar panels or generators to ensure that all the polling stations are connected and people are able to vote electronic. I support a Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** I now call on the Deputy Speaker to respond.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I thank you everybody for supporting Vote 28 and those who took the Floor. *Honourable Haingura* put emphasis on the importance of voters' education and in their motivation they have promised to do so. They will start doing so as soon as we have approved this Vote and they promised that everybody will be covered, namely people with disabilities and the illiterate in the rural areas. They also stated that the electronic voting machines are user-friendly to all across the board.

There was a time when some of the Opposition members went to India with the previous Chairman of the Electoral Commission and had the opportunity to look at these particular machines. The Members who went there had no doubt that it can work in our situation. It is a pity that *Honourable Naholo* entered politics very late, but let me assure him that this machine will work wonders and as soon as we pass this Vote and the

17 April 2012

## ADJOURNMENT

money is allocated, they will start explaining how this machine works. I am made to understand they will start with us, the politicians, and also go to the villages across the board. I hope you will make use of that opportunity, Honourable Naholo. To say that the Electoral Commission is an extension of the SWAPO Party is rejected and to say that you do not trust this machine, maybe you do not trust your own mind to enable you to understand the machine.

Thank you, *Honourable Ueitele*, you repeated your comment of last year, namely the importance of everybody to take part and the employers to ensure that the workers are registered and be allowed to vote. I am not in a position to say what the law stipulates with regard to cuca shops, but as politicians we should talk to our followers to ensure that during the voting period the cuca shops should be closed. I trust the Namibian society across the board. When it comes to voting, the *memes* and the *tates* of the village are in the queue.

As for the rest of the Honourable Members, your points are taken.

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

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### ASSEMBLY RESUMED

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Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 21:45 UNTIL 2012.04.18 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
18 APRIL 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 Works and Transport.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT:  
ROADS AUTHORITY, 2010/2011**

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** I lay upon the Table, Annual Report of the Roads Authority for the year 2010/2011.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Minister of Finance.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. As we are all aware, our Government has set itself an agenda to transform our Nation into an industrialised one by the year

18 April 2012

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

2030. By that we would have to devise measures to ensure that our country moves in that direction so that we can reach that destination by that target date.

In terms of the SACU Agreements to which our Government is party to, Member States may grant infant industry protection to their infant industries in order to enable them to cope with competition from imported products and develop appropriate capacities within defined timeframes so that thereafter they are in a position to compete effectively.

We have noted with pleasure that a number of investors have recognised the potential that our country offers as an industrial base and have decided to locate their manufacturing firms in our country. One such industry is the Cement Industry which recently opened its doors in our country. I, therefore, have the pleasure to announce that our Government, with the participation of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Finance, as implementing Departments of Government on matters related to taxation and industries development, have decided to grant an infant industry protection to the cement industry and in terms of that the Minister of Finance is to institute a special import tax on the import of cement from anywhere, including SACU Member States.

I, therefore, would like in terms of the powers granted to the Minister of Finance under Section 65 of the Customs and Excise Act of 1998, propose that an additional rate of duty, as specialised below for the respective period indicated, is imposed. Portland Cement's white cement, whether or not artificially coloured, would attract a special tax of 60% between 2012 and 2014, 54% in 2015, 42% in 2016, 24% in 2017 and 12% in 2018. The aim of this, as I have indicated, is to give breathing space to our own cement manufacturing industry to enable them to build their capacities and be able to effectively compete with the imported products.

I want to clarify that this is not a protection given to a specific manufacturing firm, it is granted to the entire industry. It may be that at this point in time there is only one industry, but it does not mean that if there is another Namibian or foreign investor that wants to set up a cement manufacturing factory here that they would be denied that opportunity. It

18 April 2012

**QUESTIONS ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON NYAMU**

only means that imports will be controlled by means of this. If they decide to still import to Namibia, they would have to absorb additional costs that would arise as a result of this additional tax.

What I would like to say in addition to this, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, is to appeal to the owners of this firm and any other firm that would come up, to not see this special tax as an implicit kind of encouragement for them to hike their price and make cement unaffordable to Namibians, because that would erode the benefits that we intended to bring about with the introduction of these taxes. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister for the information. Honourable Nyamu.

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**HON NYAMU:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to get clarity on the Minister's statement on two accounts. Firstly, would this protection of an infant industry not cause other neighbours to imitate us and, therefore, cut our exports to them? In other words, what does she think would be the reaction by other States?

The second is on what she has tried to explain at the end of her statement. Honourable Minister, when you protect an infant industry, you run the risk of creating a domestic monopoly. Can you tell us how you are going to prevent this from happening, that these manufacturers do not increase their prices and exploit the customers internally?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any other observations? Minister of Finance.

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18 April 2012

**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON MINISTERIAL  
STATEMENT  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Honourable Speaker, I would like to respond to the first question as follows: As I have indicated in my introductory remarks, there is a provision in the SACU Agreement to which all the Member States of SACU are parties to, wherein it is agreed that a country can indeed extend protection to an industry that is still in its infancy and that agreement has set the rules in terms of which such protection can be extended. Those rules have been complied with when Namibia decided to extend this infant industry protection.

In addition to that, the rules also call for consultations amongst Member States and such consultations have taken place. Therefore, the Member States of SACU are not aggrieved by Namibia's decision to grant this infant industry protection.

Relating to the following question, this infant industry protection is not indefinite, it is given for a period of time. In terms of the agreement it can be given for eight years and at the end of that period there would be a review, the outcome of which will be shared with other Member States and then a decision will be taken in the spirit of consultation as to whether that protection can be extended if the company would like to have that. What would have to be considered is whether the company has during that period implemented actions to ensure that it has built appropriate capacity to be able to compete with others, because it cannot be tolerated, not by other Member States, nor by Namibia itself, to have companies which are inefficient and would want to exploit the public through exorbitant prices by using infant industry protection, because that would not support our industrialisation agenda.

As to whether they can create a monopoly, as I have explained, this is a special additional tax that would be imposed on imported goods that are produced here, in this specific case, cement. It is not banning the import of cement. If a manufacturer decides to overprice his goods, then it means that their prices will no longer be more competitive than the price of the imported goods and then they would erode whatever benefits could have accrued to them, because it would mean that foreign companies would still be able to import into Namibia and still compete with the products of this

18 April 2012

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON DR AMWEELO**

company. The company would also have to look forward to the end of five years when it will be reviewed. However, I do agree that this is a difficult issue because we are an open market economy, we do not control prices. No specific sanctions exist in law at the moment with regard to that, but as I have indicated, we are urging the firm not to misuse this opportunity that is granted to it and I am sure that our Colleagues at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, who are the administrators of our industry policy, would also remain in touch with this firm to ensure that it does not resort to monopolistic tendencies which will not be in the interest of the country.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Notice of Motions?

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**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 09, 12, 20, 25, 26 and 27 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of Rule 90(c) of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration at 17:45.

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

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**RECONSIDERATION: FLEXIBLE LAND  
TENURE BILL**

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18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: FLEXIBLE LAND TENURE  
BILL  
HON !NARUSEB**

**SECRETARY:** Reconsideration – *Flexible Land Tenure Bill*.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement Move that the Assembly now reconsiders the Bill?

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE**

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Members, I would like to give clarity on the procedure followed when the Bill is referred back to the National Assembly by the National Council, whereupon Amendments were proposed.

The National Assembly shall, in terms of Article 75(4)(b) and Rule 68 of the Standing Rules and Orders consider the Amendment proposed by the National Council. The Report with the proposed Amendments have been distributed to all Members for their perusal. Upon explanation given, the Minister or Member charged with the business shall Move that the Bill be passed as amended or as originally passed by the Assembly. The Bill shall then be referred to the President for his assent.

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: FLEXIBLE LAND TENURE  
BILL  
HON VON WIETERSHEIM / HON MOONGO**

The Committee has to reconsider the *Flexible Land Tenure Bill*. The National Council proposed Amendments to Clauses 2, 6, 9, 10 and 16 of the Bill. The Report containing the proposals was distributed to all Members. I now, in terms of Article 74(4)(b) put Clauses 2, 6, 9, 10 and 16 whereupon the National Council proposed Amendments. Any discussion? Honourable Von Wietersheim.

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**HON VON WIETERSHEIM:** Thank you, Honourable Chairman. To my mind the Amendments proposed are very commendable. I see that special attention has been given to the benefit in terms of Namibian citizens instead of “*any persons*” as contained in the original Bill. The second one is “*in the interest of gender balance*”, which has been lacking in the original Bill.

In Clause 4, I am not sure about the legality that is determined in this proposed Amendment. That would have to be scrutinised by legal advisors. The typographical error is logical that that has to be corrected and I think the new Clause is again in the interest of gender balance and there is no reason not to accept this Amendment, while including elected Councillors, Traditional Authorities and church leaders is a question of practicality about which I do not have a fixed opinion right now.

Therefore, in principle I am in favour of the mentioned Amendments in terms of Namibian citizenship and in terms of gender balance. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I would only like to comment on Clause 6(3) and Clause 6(4) which are dealing with

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: FLEXIBLE LAND TENURE  
BILL  
HON TJIHUIKO / RT HON ANGULA**

discrimination, namely that women have been omitted. Women have suffered for quite long and the Clause should be amended and not be left to the regulations. I appeal to the House that this Clause be amended and that it not be left to the regulations. Thank you.

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

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I concur hundred percent with the sentiments expressed by Honourable Anton Von Wietersheim. I strongly believe that the Amendments by the National Council have added value to the Bill and, therefore, I wish to request the House to approve the Amendments of the National Council. Thank you.

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

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I agree with Clause 2(b) that clearly intends that the flexible land tenure system should exclude non-Namibians. Currently land in Namibia is being abused by absentee landlords who hold large tracks of land and only come here to hunt. I hope that besides the Flexible Land Tenure proposal the Minister will very soon come to Parliament with a Bill limiting the size of a farm to be owned by an absentee landlord. For now I support whatever measures the Ministry is going to take, whether to make these regulations or whatever, but I think we should really move to the point that Namibian land should

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: FLEXIBLE LAND TENURE  
BILL  
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

not continue to be abused by foreigners who sit somewhere while Namibians are living in corridor and have nowhere to graze their cattle. Thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I did not intend to participate in this Debate, but when I read through the Amendments, I felt it is important to note that when the Honourable Minister explained yesterday what the intention is, that he is of the opinion that most of these issues can be better accommodated in regulations and I do feel that that is a way we should consider. If the provisions are just to list what needs to be in an application form, that is the name, the sex, the house address, that is a typical thing that is accommodated in regulations. It does not take away anything from the principle because a regulation becomes part of the Act and is as enforceable as provisions in the Act itself.

I am, therefore, of the opinion that there is no difference in opinion about the principles, it is just in what part of the Act do we accommodate these proposals from the Council and my proposal is to go along with the Honourable Minister and give him the chance to craft the necessary regulations, which will become part of the Act but have a much more flexible nature that is useful in administrating these special tenures. The intention of this Act is to make it easy to get title, to make it flexible to get a title. If we add legal provisions that prolong the bureaucratic process, I think we are not achieving what the Honourable Minister actually tried when he tabled the Act.

Therefore, my proposal is that we agree to the principles, put them in the regulations and then we have a very flexible piece of legislation that

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: FLEXIBLE LAND TENURE  
BILL  
HON DR KAWANA**

addresses these very principles to which we have no objection. I thank you.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I rise to take part in the Debate. I hear what my Colleagues are saying regarding non-citizens, but I feel that there needs to be a thorough study in this area, because as I understand it, the Bill before this august House is really meant for low-income citizens of our country to access property mainly in the informal settlements. If one comes up with a law to say no non-Namibian is entitled to hold title in those areas, they will have to be clearly demarcated in order for the law to apply. Otherwise it will cause problems.

We also need to consider some permanent residents who have been here more than fifty years. Indeed, you may recall that Cabinet recently empowered the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration to grant citizenship to some of those categories of people who have been in this country since the 1930's and we cannot now say those people do not qualify. That is why I am saying we need a thorough study.

I agree that some of these foreigners can cause serious problems. Some of the posh areas of Windhoek have already been bought by non-citizens. Oshikango is the best example where citizens have been pushed aside. Therefore, I fully agree with that, but what I am saying is that we need a thorough study so that when we come up with legislation, it would be specific and non-discriminatory, especially to those non-citizens who have been in this country for a long time, who have contributed to the economy of this country. This area really needs a careful study, we should not rush,

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: FLEXIBLE LAND TENURE  
BILL  
HON !NARUSEB**

otherwise we might find ourselves shooting ourselves in the foot. I so submit.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. I now call upon the Minister to take the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I take the remarks by our Prime Minister very seriously and I would just want to say the following, that it is us as Members of Parliament and Members of the Executive that have the final say in terms of access to land. If we want to propose a new Act or policy directive, we may do so. The Ministry is in the process of looking at the enabling legal framework as well as the policy guidelines and to juxtapose it with our experiences of the past 22 years to come up with something that is workable and consistent with the provisions of our Supreme Law. However, if we as lawmakers and the Executive feel that we have to take drastic steps, we are fully entitled to do that.

Coming to my prepared pronouncement on the subject matter, it is an honour, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, to once again have the opportunity to present to the National Assembly the *Flexible Land Tenure Bill* for reconsideration and discussion following the Report of the National Council to the Honourable Speaker on proposed Amendments to the *Flexible Land Tenure Bill*.

As a Ministry we have internalised and discussed and taken note of the suggested Amendments by the National Council and have taken the proposed Amendments further to the Legal Drafters within the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Attorney-General for scrutiny. The Ministry has decided to take counsel from the Ministry of Justice and is of the

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: FLEXIBLE LAND TENURE  
BILL  
HON !NARUSEB**

opinion that the Bill in its current format is adequately addressing the purposes for which it was enacted and that the proposed Amendments will be comprehensively covered and dealt with in the regulations.

The Bill seeks to accelerate access to, and delivery of secured tenure in informal urban areas to people without any rights to the land that they are presently occupying. It seeks to put in place a land registration system that is just, modern and that contributes to the economic growth and bolsters household welfare of people living within the boundaries of Local Authority and Regional Authority areas.

The concept contained in this Bill will provide a complementary system to the current formal system of freehold tenure, which is cumbersome, expensive and beyond the reach of the urban poor. At the moment urban authorities can only deliver land at high cost owing to strict requirements of survey, planning and registration. This type of framework is elitist and exclusionary as it caters only for the business and middle class at the expense of the low-income group. That is the mischief that this Bill seeks to address.

People living in informal settlements need to know that they will not be evicted from their land without compensation or being offered alternatives. They also further need to know that they can build homes that one day their children will inherit and that their properties will get basic services, such as water and electricity.

In many proclaimed and unproclaimed towns within our communities there is frustration at the inability to survey and register land rights that could be used to access credit for investment and development. These people live with the constant threat of possible eviction from their land and homes. Over 235 informal settlements and about 134,000 families, which translates into about 540,000 people, are affected by this problem. The solution for these families, we as a Ministry believe, lies within the provisions of this Bill.

The *Flexible Land Tenure Bill*, as presented, offers an alternative form of

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: FLEXIBLE LAND TENURE  
BILL  
HON !NARUSEB**

tenure that addresses the core issues of imbalance and discrimination against low-income communities. The tenure system is called flexible because it provides for the registration of different tenure systems, beginning with the starter title, moving into land-hold title and freehold title as and when the individual's financial circumstances would change and demand the gradual movement from one state in life to the next state, as we all do.

As stated earlier in my introductory statement, the flexible land tenure system is meant to respond to the demands for affordable land for low-income communities and its objectives are:

- To create alternative forms of land titles that are simpler and cheaper to administer than existing land titles;
- To provide security of title for low-income persons who live in informal settlements and/or who are provided with low-income housing; and
- To empower the persons concerned economically by means of alternative land rights.

The proposed tenure systems also places emphasis on gender responsive planning, policies and activities aimed at enhancing gender equity and equal opportunities for women as well as men.

At this juncture, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me to go through the sequence of the proposed seven Amendments and inform this august House the decision of adopted by the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Justice.

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: FLEXIBLE LAND TENURE  
BILL  
HON !NARUSEB**

In Clause 2(b), amend this Clause by substitution thereof with the following:

*“To provide security of title for Namibian citizens who live in informal settlements or who are provided with low-income housing.”*

I will not read the motivation by the Colleagues in the National Council, only the Ministry’s response:

*“The proposal to amend Clause 2 would not be the most appropriate way of achieving the policy proposal in the Council’s motivation. However, the issue of whether only Namibian citizens should be entitled to this form of tenure is a policy question which the Ministry will address in their regulations.”*

You have both the proposed Amendment of Clause 6(3)(b) and the motivation. The Ministry’s response is as follows:

*“Relating to the Amendment of Clause 6(3)(b), the proposed purpose can be easily achieved by appropriate provisions in the regulations.”*

Our response to Clause 6(4)(d) is the same, we can take care of it through the provisions in the regulations.

Our response to Clause 9(8):

*“The Amendment to Clause 9(8) is a departure from the policy in the Bill. The reason for the provision in its present form was to simplify the system by avoiding joint ownership. If joint ownership is allowed, the system might become more dispute-prone. The proposal leaves many question unanswered. For example, will the joint ownership be automatic? Can it be excluded by the parties or must the parties conclude a specific contract to that effect? What happens when two people marry after one has acquired a right? What happens if the marriage ends? A further complication is that it is not clear whether customary marriages are covered by the proposal. The property effects of customary marriages are*

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: FLEXIBLE LAND TENURE  
BILL  
HON !NARUSEB**

*not clear. The Ministry would not want the Bill to be complicated by such issues.”*

Our response to Clause 10(5)(d):

The word “*servitude*” is not a typographical error. The word “*servitude*” means slavery. Although the two words have the same origin, namely the Latin word *servus*, which means slave, their spelling is different in modern English. Most dictionaries do not contain the word “*servitude*” because it is a legal term.

Our response to Clause 16:

*“The intentions of proposed Clause 16 are not clear. Whether this policy should be adopted seems to be the decision of the Ministry of Finance. The rule that presently applies is that whether a person is liable for these duties depends on the value of the property rather than the nature of the title. This appears to be a sound principle. The limit for transfer duty is currently N\$400,000.00, which would almost certainly be higher than the value of the rights that we want to be covered under this Bill.”*

Our response to Clause 16(4):

*“The proposal to amend Clause 16(4) can easily be provided in the regulations. It should be noted that this is a technical committee whose gender composition would have very little social impact. The matters to be dealt with in the regulations would be of a technical nature and would not really relate to social or development matters, but however, in line with the current gender policy of our Government, a provision will be provided in the regulations.”*

In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I would, therefore, appeal to this House to consider the *Flexible Land Tenure Bill* favourably in its current format, as it is adequate and its drafting, as alluded to earlier, is meant to simplify issues in consideration of the suffering of the urban poor. The

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: FLEXIBLE LAND TENURE  
BILL  
HON NYAMU / HON !NARUSEB**

Ministry takes note of the Report by the National Council and will respond to the Amendments within the regulations. I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Any further discussion? Honourable Nyamu.

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**HON NYAMU:** I would like to thank the Minister for his explicit clarifications on the proposed Amendments by the National Council. I only want to ask him a simple question: He has used the word “*can*”, that those Amendments can be provided for in the regulations. I want to know what the meaning of “*can*” is in this respect. Does it mean it shall be provided for?

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Honourable Nyamu, in layman’s English it means that it will definitely be looked into and where applicable in terms of the advice that we would be soliciting from our Colleagues in the Ministry of Justice and Office of the Attorney-General, we shall deal with it.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I put the Question, any objection? None. So decided. I shall report the Bill without Amendments.

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMED**

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18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: FLEXIBLE LAND TENURE  
BILL  
HON !NARUSEB**

Bill reported without Amendments.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Having considered the Amendments, the Assembly has now finally passed the Bill and therefore, concluded the business on this item. I shall now, in terms of Article 75(3) refer this Bill to the President to deal with it under Articles 56 and 64 of the Constitution. Does the Honourable Minister wish to say something?

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Honourable Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Honourable Members of this august House for the support they have rendered to the passing of this Bill and also just to assure them that wherever we function we have one aim and that is to serve the people of this country. I thank you for appreciating that reality. I thank you.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:50**

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**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:30**

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**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE:  
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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18 April 2012

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

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

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

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objections? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call on the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE**

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill*. When progress was reported yesterday, Votes 01, 02, 18, 10, 11, 13 to 19, 23, 24, 28, 29 and 30 had been agreed to and Votes 26, 27 and 09 had been introduced.

**Vote 12 – “GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE”, N\$567,988,500.00 put for Introduction.**

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me to congratulate Her

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 12**  
**HON SIOKA**

Excellency Madam Joyce Banda as the first female President of the Republic of Malawi and also of the SADC Region. We in Namibia are proud of the exemplary talents you have shown to take on this task as a leader. I wish African women of especially the SADC Region will emulate your example. Madam Joyce Banda is the second female African President after Her Excellency Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia. We congratulate you for the positions you have taken in Africa.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise to motivate Vote 12 of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. First of all, I would like to thank Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Minister of Finance, and the Director-General of the National Planning Commission and their teams for presenting a well-articulated National Budget for 2012/2013, focusing on priorities of the country. The Ministry appreciate the Budget allocation for this Financial Year and promise to make use of it appropriately.

Honourable Members of this august House, the Ministry has developed a five-year Strategic Plan 2010/2014 to effectively guide the implementation of programmes that will result in the realisation of its mandate and vision. This Strategic Plan contains four strategic themes/programmes, namely Gender Equality, Child Welfare, Community and Early Childhood Development and Operational Excellence.

During the last Financial Year the Ministry, through the four Directorates of Gender Equality, Child Welfare, Community and Integrated Early Childhood Development, Administration and General Services, successfully carried out a number of activities as per Ministerial Strategic Plan of 2010 - 2014.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, Namibia is a signatory to the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. The special areas of focus in terms of this Protocol for Namibia are: economic empowerment and food security for women and children; elimination of gender-based violence including human trafficking; sexual reproductive health issues, including maternal health and HIV/AIDS; education for

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 12**  
**HON SIOKA**

young girls and women especially in areas perceived to be male dominated; increased women's participation in politics and decision-making processes including participation in peace-building and peacekeeping matters in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, Namibia is among the few countries providing child welfare grants to orphans and vulnerable children. I am proud to announce that 135,685 children received grants during the 2011/2012 Financial Year, which represent 87% of 155,000 orphans in the country, and the Ministry is continuing to identify more orphans and vulnerable children to be added on to social grants and we are aiming at 98% during the 2012/2013 Financial Year.

In addition, Namibia was the fourth country within the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to attain the target of 30% women representation in Parliament, which however dropped to about 25% during the 2009 National Elections. The target we are aiming at now is the one set by SADC protocol on Gender and Development to reach a 50% representation by the year 2015. All these matters are packaged for implementation through the National Gender Policy adopted by this august House in March 2010, and launched by His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2012.

Through income generating activities, the Ministry encourages community members to embark upon economically viable projects that will improve their life and that of their families and that are sustainable in the long run. In the preceding Financial Year 2011/2012 the Ministry facilitated the transfer of an amount of N\$1 million to thirteen Regional Councils, earmarked for funding such income generating activities in the respective Regions. In total, 88 income-generating activities, of which 70 are owned by women, benefited from the grant.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, I am very proud that our Ministry have made remarkable progress in the implementation of initiatives by the Office of the Prime Minister. I must inform this House that staff members of the Ministry, senior and middle management cadres

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 12**  
**HON SIOKA**

signed their Performance Agreements on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2012 as directed by Office of the Prime Minister.

The signing of such performance agreements shows the level of seriousness of the management cadre of the Ministry in reaching the objectives of Government and the Ministry in particular.

The Ministry is engaged in the processes of decentralising its functions to all Regions, consultations are already done with all the Regional Councils and other relevant stakeholders in this regard and the process is expected to be completed in this Financial Year.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members, having made these introductory remarks, let me now take the House through the Budget allocation of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare for 2012/2013 Financial Year and outline individual programmes for which the funds will be utilised.

**STRATEGIC THEME 1**

**CHILD WELFARE: THERE ARE TWO MAIN PROGRAMMES;**

**PROGRAMME 1.1 CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION:**

This Programme will embark on Policy development and planning, implementation of different standards and guidelines, provision of professional services, monitoring and evaluation of the child welfare programs, capacity building, and social welfare grants for orphans and vulnerable children and subsidies for residential childcare facilities and Namibian Children's Home.

An amount of N\$363,604,000.00 was requested under this programme for the 2012/2013 Financial Year.

**PROGRAMME 1.2 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENTS:**

The programme is looking at the coordination, management and

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 12**  
**HON SIOKA**

networking of services for children at national, regional and Constituency levels, capacity strengthening, monitoring, evaluation and advocacy for children rights and use of the available services. An amount of N\$89,283,000.00 was allocated for this Financial Year 2012/2013.

The total amount requested and allocated for this programmes is N\$452,887,000.00.

**STRATEGIC THEME 2**

**PROGRAMME 2.1. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:**

Under this programme the Ministry will lobby for increased women representation in politics and decision-making structures, as per the SADC Gender Protocol and Development from the current 25% in 2009 to 50% by 2015. The Ministry will propose new legislation to ensure equal representation of women and men at all levels.

By so doing, the Ministry will ensure that gender responsive laws and policies are developed and existing ones reviewed or amended across sectors.

In addition, the Ministry will implement the National Gender Policy and its Plan of Action; and the National Gender-based Violence Plan of Action.

In that, legal literacy and gender sensitisation workshops using the Capacity Enhancement Tool and the Gerald Egan Model of the Skilled Helper in all the thirteen Regions targeting youth, adults, Traditional Leaders, learners, community members and gender focal persons will be conducted.

The Ministry will further continue to sensitise public on gender issues, HIV/AIDS, Gender-Based Violence, reproductive health, existing gender related laws such as the Combating of Domestic Violence Act (Act 4 of 2003) and Combating of Rape Act (Act 8 of 2000). Furthermore, it will

intensify the Zero Tolerance for Gender-based Violence campaign to sensitise the public on human trafficking, baby dumping and passion killing.

An amount of N\$29,796,000.00 is allocated for this programme.

### **STRATEGIC THEME 3**

#### **PROGRAMME 3.1 COMMUNITY MOBILISATION AND INTEGRATED EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT:**

Through this programme the Ministry will continue to administer and distribute seed money (grants) for income-generating activities, provide training in technical skills and in basic business management, mentorship for income-generating activity participants, and assessment of income-generating activities and promotion of entrepreneurship among disadvantaged urban and rural community members, especially women.

Further it will establish, maintain, monitor and evaluate early childhood development centres infrastructure as well as assist upgrading existing but dilapidated community-based early childhood development centres, with a view to provide sufficient and appropriate infrastructure for the delivery of early childhood development service. This also includes equipping the centres with teaching and learning materials in order to promote access to early childhood development services, and promote a conducive learning environment for our children especially in rural areas.

This programme also addresses issues of early childhood development, care and education of children 0 to 4 years old, with a view to lay a strong foundation for a holistic development of children.

Furthermore, the Ministry intends to avail subsidies to Early Childhood Development centres that meet the set standards to assist caregivers to upgrade their qualifications, improve management and quality delivery systems related to early childhood development, including implementation of standards and regulations.

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 12**  
**HON SIOKA**

The Budget allocated to this programme for this Financial Year is N\$52,770,000.00.

**STRATEGIC THEME 4**

**OPERATION EXCELLENCE**

**PROGRAM 4.1 COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES:**

This programme is providing administration support services, ensures efficient and effective service delivery, mainstreams HIV/AIDS programmes, strengthens coordination and networking at all levels, promotes Information and Communication Technology usage and access, improves staff competence, facilitates the development and acquisition of specialised skilled staff in budgeting, planning, monitoring and control as well as in acquiring services such as renovation and maintenance of offices.

In order to acquire adequate office space the Ministry is busy constructing a new office and renovating the existing offices at Juvenis Building in Windhoek to ensure that all staff members are accommodated at one place.

The amount requested for this programme is N\$32,536,000.00.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, Honourable Members of this august House, I will fail in my duty if I do not acknowledge the valuable support from our development partners. They continue to commit resources through various programmes, such as capacity-building and technical support in legislation, policy development and monitoring and evaluation of our programmes.

In particular, I would like to thank UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, and USAID through the President's Emergency Programme for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). We are thankful for the substantial resources received from the Global Fund program to support caregivers in providing psychosocial support to vulnerable children.

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 20**  
**HON MUTORWA**

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members of this august House, it is now my humble honour to request this august House to approve the Ministry's Budget requested for 2012/2013 to the amount of N\$567,989,000. I thank you.

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

**Vote 20 – “AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY”**  
**N\$2,034,233,049 put for Introduction.**

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

Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the National Assembly. I thank the appointing authority, His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba, for once again affording me this fifth opportunity to present and motivate the financial allocations for 2012/2013 to the Agriculture, Water and Forestry Ministry. Deserved thanks and gratitude are also due to my Colleagues, Comrades and friends, namely the Honourable Minister of Finance, Honourable Director-General of the National Planning Commission, Honourable Deputy Minister of Finance and all the staff responsible for the Budget preparation, presentation and management; also for the professional and dedicated work that you are doing for Namibia and all her people.

I am motivating Vote 20 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry under the theme: “*GROWTH and PROSPERITY through HARD WORK*”

I have to emphasise that food and water are the basic needs for human survival. Only when people have access to water, food and shelter will they be able to work hard in order to contribute to the country's development agenda. Therefore a rich Nation is one that can provide

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 20**  
**HON MUTORWA**

enough clean drinking water, food and shelter to its people.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is mandated to promote, develop, manage and utilise agricultural, water and forest resources sustainably. This mandate will be achieved through the following key strategic areas and they include:

- The need for job creation,
- Improve competitiveness,
- Diversify agricultural practices and products,
- Market development,
- Food security,
- Access to water and sanitation,
- Integrated environmental management,
- Improved regulatory environment, Internal capacity development, training and support,
- Good relations with industries as well as occupational health and food safety standards.

The Ministry believes that it will realise its vision when focusing on its seven Strategic Focus Areas as outlined in the Ministry's Strategic Plan.

The presentation of this Budget is done against the background of climatic change and world economic crisis which affect agricultural production, cost of inputs and export earnings.

With particular reference to the allocation of last year, I motivated a total Budget of N\$2,268,638,000.00 for the 2011/2012 Financial Year for the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Of this total, 40.3% or

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 20**  
**HON MUTORWA**

N\$914,706,000.00 was used for the Operational Budget, while the remaining 59.7% or N\$1,353,932,000.00 represented the Development Budget. Overall, 38.8% or N\$879,296,000.00 was dedicated to the development of the Water Sector to supply water to rural communities and resettlement towns. 55% or N\$1,247,733,000.00 was used for the development of the agriculture sector for livestock and crop production, and 6.2% or N\$141,609,000.00 was used for the development and management of the Forestry Sector.

Let me briefly touch on what we regard as achievements for the Financial Year 2011/2012.

**GREEN SCHEME PROGRAMME**

I am glad to inform this august House and the Namibian public that 850 hectare have been put under production at the Sikondo Irrigation Project with 200 hectare of sunflower produced under rain-fed and 650 hectare of maize produced under irrigation.

An additional 500 hectare at Ndonga-Linena has been cleared and put under production with sunflower under rain-fed pending the development of on-land irrigation infrastructure so as to produce other crops. This shall bring the total hectare of land at Ndonga-Linena to 1,000 hectare under production.

At Uhvungu-Vungu, 500 hectares have been cleared for fodder production for the dairy farm to be established there. Currently, 300 hectares are under production of which 35 hectare are planted with sunflower under rain-fed condition and 265 hectares are planted with maize under irrigation. This brings the total land under production at Uhvungu-Vungu to 800 hectares.

270 hectares of land are under production with maize, potatoes and onions at the Musese Irrigation Project and 400 hectares have been cleared, which shall now bring the total land under production at Musese to 670 hectares.

An additional 90 hectares of land have been cleared and developed at the

18 April 2012     **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 20**  
**HON MUTORWA**

Shadikongoro Irrigation Project. Production on this land will commence during the 2012/2013 Financial Year. A total of 292 hectares will be under production at Shadikongoro.

With regard to Hardap Irrigation Project, the Ministry has successfully converted the Hardap Research Station into a Green Scheme irrigation project. The project has a total of 90 hectares that are already developed, of which 45 hectares are currently under production with maize under irrigation. The Ministry plans to put the whole 90 hectares under production during the 2012/2013 Financial Year.

The rice paddies at Kalimbeza have been expanded to 200 hectares during the 2011/2012 Financial Year. 35 Hectares of rice have been harvested while the remaining 9 hectares are yet to be harvested. Infrastructures, such as storage, rice processing and rice silos, are under construction.

Additional 300 hectares have been put under production with maize under irrigation at the Etunda Irrigation Project. This brings the total land under production to 900 hectares. Three hundred hectares are being cleared and developed in terms of on-land irrigation in order to put it under production during the 2012/2013 Financial Year.

In summary, a total of 1,994 hectares have been put under production and this brings us to the total of 7,010 hectares of land that is developed, of which 4,807 hectares are currently under crop production. This leaves us with a total of 19,990 hectares of land to reach the national target of bringing 27,000 hectares of land under production by 2030. The figures presented do not include the contribution of land under irrigation by the Private Sector.

In addition to the 83 small-scale farmers at Etunda and the Orange River Irrigation Project, ten new small-scale farmers have been placed at Uhvungu-Vungu, 29 at Ndonga-Linena, 13 at Shadikongoro and fifteen at Hardap Irrigation Project. The new farmers who were trained at Mashare Agricultural Development Institute are performing extremely well and many of them are young people.

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 20**  
**HON MUTORWA**

In line with the National Strategic Food Reserves Programme, the Government procurement scheme for grains from both commercial and subsistence farmer has yielded good results. Currently, Government is in possession of 1,000 tonnes of mahangu at Okongo and Omuthiya whereas 6,690 tonnes of maize are stored at Rundu and Katima Mulilo. The Ministry has experienced high demand for grain storage, because the procurement programme and the expansion of the agronomic project have generated the need for more storage capacity.

I am glad to inform this House that during the 2011/2012 Financial Year, the Government drought and flood relief programme has actually utilised grain from the National Strategic Food Reserve facilities and we are currently inviting buyers of grains to procure the excess grain in preparation of the new harvest.

I must also inform the House that construction of the Tsandi silos with the capacity of 3,000 metric tonnes have been completed. Plans are under way to further expand the Okongo and Omuthiya silos capacity to 3,500 metric tonnes each as well as Katima silos to 8,000 metric tonnes. The current grain storage capacity stands at 14,000 tonnes, but once the Okongo, Omuthiya and Katima Mulilo silos have been expanded, the storage capacity will rise to 22,000 tonnes during the 2012/2013 Financial Year. With this storage capacity we will be able to store maize, mahangu, wheat, beans and rice.

With regards to Government support to Dry Land Crop Production, a total number of 65 tractors, 35 walking tractors, 65 disc harrows, 20 mouldboard ploughs, 45 rippers, 65 planters and fertilizer applicators, ten mobile workshops and four threshers were procured and distributed to the crop growing Regions.

It is important to mention that 15,294 subsistence farmers in the crop-growing Regions have benefited from the Government subsidised services, such as ploughing, improved seeds and fertilisers as well as advisory services from extension officials from the Ministry during the 2011/2012 Financial Year. To date, a total of 723 metric tonnes of mahangu were procured from these subsistence farmers.

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 20**  
**HON MUTORWA**

Let me come to crop production and horticultural development.

This programme entails the promotion of horticulture production, development of logistical infrastructure, transport and distribution as well as grading and branding of Namibian produce for recognition in both domestic and external markets. Furthermore, the programme ensures horticulture producers of guaranteed markets and prices for their produce.

The development of Fresh Produce Hubs has commenced at Rundu and Ongwediva and is due for completion in July 2012. These facilities shall be used for marketing of fresh produce, sorting, grading, branding, packaging and distribution in both the domestic and external markets.

The Windhoek Fresh Produce Hub, which is supposed to be the central point for fresh produce sourcing within the country through which export and imports could be managed for ascertaining quality and standards before distribution, has not yet been established due to lack of a suitable site.

I must state in this House that the Fresh Produce Hubs constitute an integral industrial estate and not a retail centre. Within those centres, the following activities are to take place: canning and bottling of those fresh produce whose shelf life is short; drying of produces and the conversion of such produce into jams, juices and other value-added products.

Other services, such as manufacturing of pallets, cartons, boxes and packaging material; servicing and maintenance of trucks including cold storage facilities will also be carried out from the Hubs. Government has the processing and distribution of fruit and vegetable, fish, meat, poultry and pork in mind.

**LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IMPROVEMENT AND ANIMAL HEALTH CONTROL**

With regards to surveillance and animal disease control, the Ministry was able to detect at an early stage the presence of Rift Valley Fever in the Hardap and Karas Regions and contained it successfully, with the result

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 20**  
**HON MUTORWA**

that it did not affect our trade in livestock and livestock products.

I am also glad to inform the Honourable Members and the public at large that the Ministry was able to deal with two incidences of buffalo sightings and we have been able to contain the negative effect on the farmers and could allow the movement of livestock around Okakarara and Otjituo after some days, as per the veterinary requirements.

With regards to law enforcement regarding veterinary regulations, the Ministry has demonstrated the capacity to detect the introduction of unauthorised substances which are sometimes illegally administered by farmers and unregistered veterinarians. This capacity has saved the Meat Sector which otherwise could have resulted in Namibia being closed should we have failed to detect it.

I would like to request fellow Members to advise farmers in their Constituencies not to indulge in illegal activities, such as keeping buffalos and destruction of veterinary fences.

All these efforts have allowed Namibia to be the only country currently in the SADC Region and even in Africa to export fresh meat to the European Union.

Regarding export promotion, the Ministry has reached an advance stage for the export of meat and meat products to the USA. We have also been able to conclude an agreement with the People's Republic of China and have been inspected by the veterinary services of four other countries who are interested in Namibia's meat and meat products.

With regard to the enhancement of marketing of livestock and livestock products from the northern communal areas, the Ministry has put a programme that will see the movement of meat and meat products between the northern communal areas in place, which are the Regions of Caprivi, Kavango, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Oshana, Omusati and Kunene North and south of the veterinary cordon fence before 2014.

Cabinet has adopted the policy for the Eradication of Transboundary

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 20**  
**HON MUTORWA**

Animal Diseases in the northern communal areas. Under this programme, the Ministry has started with the establishment of the Namibia Livestock Identification and Traceability System (NAMLITS) which is a database of livestock registration and movement covering the whole country. We are saying; if we as human beings carry identification documents, then our livestock should also have some kind of identification system. As a result, all cattle in this country shall be identified by means of ear tags.

To date, 830,000 cattle have been ear tagged during phase 1, representing 60% of the cattle in the northern communal areas. The second phase of the NAMLITS in the northern communal areas has been launched by my Colleague, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, assisted by the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2012 in Opuwo and the remaining 40% of the target cattle population will be ear tagged during the second phase.

I must also state that the Ministry has successfully negotiated for the removal of quarantine of animals as a prerequisite for meat export to the Republic of South Africa from the Oshakati abattoir. This means that animals can now be moved from the owners' kraals straight to the abattoir for slaughtering. From Caprivi and the eastern part of Kavango, the Mukwe Constituency and other Constituencies quarantine is still required.

Cabinet has directed the preparation of the dossier to be submitted to the World Animal Health Organisation, applying for the declaration of the Northern Communal Areas Foot-and Mouth Disease free zone with the western boundary fence of the Bwa Bwata Game Park becoming the official separation of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease high risk area of the Caprivi and the rest of the protection zone west of the Mukwe Constituency of the Kavango Region. This is a control mechanism in the event of an animal disease outbreak in the high risk zone. The work has started in earnest on this important undertaking.

The Ministry believes that it is possible that the area west of the Mukwe Constituency up to Kunene North could be declared Foot-and-Mouth Disease free zone, because for the past 40 years there has never been any occurrence of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in those areas.

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 20**  
**HON MUTORWA**

During the year under review major disease events, including the occurrence of Foot-and-Mouth Disease at Masikili in the Caprivi Region were recorded. A total of 37 clinical cases were diagnosed with some 1,510 cattle immediately at risk. As a result, an action in a form of a vaccination campaign in the western part of the Region is underway and so far about 52,666 cattle have been vaccinated and over 65,000 cattle were inspected and we thank the farmers for their cooperation with the veterinary officials.

In line with the objectives of the Policy and in order to succeed with the application for Foot-and-Mouth Disease freedom status for the northern communal areas, the Ministry has negotiated with the Angolan Government to harmonise the animal disease status along the common border. This includes twinning of vaccination and diseases surveillance programmes as well as gazetting of animal crossing points. It does not make much sense if vaccination is taking place only on one side. This decision is awaiting approval by the Angolan Government.

During the year under review, the construction of three auction kraals has been completed at Omuntele in the Oshikoto Region, Oushake in the Ohangwena Region and Nepara in the Kavango Region, whereas the auction kraal at Oshifo in the Omusati Region is under construction.

**INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:**

In order to monitor the surface water flow, the hydrological telemetry network for real-time monitoring of river flow has been expanded. New stations have been implemented in the Cuvelai oshanas near Okatope, Oshikuku, Ogongo and also in the Kuiseb River. Twenty-two stations were upgraded to General Packet Radio Service (GPRS). In total, the Ministry now operates stations at 31 sites, using either or both satellite transmission and GPRS transmission.

**WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION TO RURAL COMMUNITIES:**

In order to supply potable water to rural communities, a total of 204 water

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 20**  
**HON MUTORWA**

points were rehabilitated, 29 boreholes were installed, 36 boreholes were drilled, 16 boreholes were cleaned and pump tested, 15 small pipeline extensions were constructed and 430 water engines were repaired. In addition, 4 earth dams have been excavated in the Karas and Hardap Regions during the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

**MANAGEMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND UTILISATION OF FORESTRY RESOURCES:**

With regard to fire protection and forest conservation, a total of ten quad bikes, three fire trucks and six vehicles fitted with water tanks were procured and distributed. Fire fighting equipment and tools including fire beaters, high pressure pumps, drip torches, wind-driven knapsack sprayers and fire signboards to indicate fire-prone areas were also procured and distributed.

A total of 3,916 kilometres of firebreaks was cleared with participation of 192 women and 1,753 men. This was done with a view to prevent wild fires.

A total area of 4,628 hectares has been cleared through the de-bushing programme. This involved 1,807 temporary youth to carry out that task. Eighteen new orchards were established, covering an area of 67 hectares at various sites throughout the country.

Wood industry promotion is becoming increasingly important in the drive of the Forestry Sector to create employment opportunities. The Ministry has approached eight Town Councils to provide land for the construction of firewood sale facilities. The firewood facility at Katima Mulilo has been completed while other firewood sale facilities are under construction at Ongwediva, Oshikuku, Helao Nafidi (Onhuno) and Okahao.

**COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT:**

During the year under review, ten new cooperatives were provisionally registered while one cooperative was fully registered. In total 38 cooperatives were de-registered. This brings the total number of fully

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 20**  
**HON MUTORWA**

registered and provisionally registered cooperatives to 6 and 71, respectively.

**CAPACITY-BUILDING:**

In an effort to develop capacity within the Ministry, the Ministerial Training Policy was revised and implemented. 29 Students were offered scholarships related to agriculture, water and forestry by the Ministry.

In order to improve animal health and to reduce dependency on foreign expatriates, 24 students are pursuing their Bachelor of Veterinary Science studies at various institutions of higher learning in the SADC Region. Some students are also pursuing studies in the Forestry Sector.

**LEGAL POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

A policy regulating the standards for fresh produce has been developed and adopted by Cabinet and a brand has been developed under the logo NAM FRESH. That is why we have provided these T-shirts and caps depicting the logo that was adopted by the Cabinet, which will be the logo for our fresh produce and we need the Honourable Members to market and popularise that logo.

For the improvement of the agriculture marketing and trade, a strategic plan for the Agriculture Marketing and Trade Agency (AMTA) has been developed and adopted by Cabinet.

A Namibian Agriculture Marketing and Trade Policy and Strategy has been developed and approved by Cabinet.

The *Agriculture Enhancement Agents (Agro-Chemicals) Amendment Bill* 2012 and the *Veterinary and Veterinary Para- Professional Bill* 2011 have also been developed and adopted by Cabinet.

The Ministry has created the capacity to detect Genetically Modified Organisms and a manual has been put in place. Further work is being done to improve the capacity on soil analysis in the country.

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 20**  
**HON MUTORWA**

The Forestry Council has been established in line with the Forestry Act and is operational.

**CHALLENGES:**

Despite the achievements made during the year under review, it is the commitment of the Ministry to address the following challenges:

- Capacity building to accelerate the implementation of the Ministry's programmes. This calls for specialised staff and the Ministry requires additional staff for new undertaking.
- Acquisition and adaptation of technologies to face the challenges posed by climatic change. Today Angola, Botswana, Namibia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Zambia assembled in the old Cabinet Chamber and signed an agreement to put in place a centre for capacity-building in the area of research and science to face challenges resulting from climate change, which was a very important step as a sub-region.

**PROGRAMMES AND ALLOCATION FOR THIS YEAR:**

I am motivating a total Budget of N\$2,034,233,000.00 for the 2012/2013 Financial Year, which is N\$234 million less than last year and we are not quarrelling, Honourable Minister of Finance. I perfectly understand and I am just mentioning the figure for the record.

**CROP PRODUCTION AND HORTICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

This programme requires an amount of N\$489,409,167.00. It has already been indicated what we do under this programme, namely production, storage, infrastructure.

**LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION, IMPROVEMENT AND ANIMAL HEALTH CONTROL**

We are requesting this Honourable House to approve an amount of



18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 20**  
**HON MUTORWA**

**INTEGRATED    WATER    RESOURCE    MANAGEMENT**  
**PROGRAMME**

We are requesting the Honourable House to approve an amount of N\$155,176,667.00 for development and maintenance of a water management system, capable of providing the necessary information for the planning and management of water resources.

**RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION COORDINATION**  
**PROGRAMME**

This is a very important programme which supplies water to the rural communities for human and animal consumption. We are requesting an amount of N\$655,243,667.00.

**MANAGEMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND UTILISATION OF**  
**FOREST RESOURCES PROGRAMME:**

Here we are requesting the Honourable House to approve an amount of N\$174,574,667.00 for the 2012/2013 Financial Year to enable us to carry on with the activities related to this very important Subsector of Forestry.

In conclusion, I finally inform the House that what I have presented is an abstract of achievements for 2011/2012 and the plans for the 2012/2013 Financial Year. I therefore advise the Honourable Members to refer to the Technical Paper for detailed and comprehensive information on the Ministry's programmes, projects and activities.

I would be wanting, if I do not use this opportunity, to thank local and international cooperating partners, farmers, the Private Sector, including Non-Governmental Organisations and Government Agencies for their continued support and confidence to invest in the Agriculture Sector, particularly in livestock and food production, Water and Forestry Sub-sectors in Namibia. We must continue to strengthen these relationships to achieve overall development goals of these Sectors, for the benefit of all the citizens and residents of Namibia. It is the commitment of the Ministry to ensure that the Sector contributes optimally to economic

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 25**  
**HON !NARUSEB**

growth and that Namibia is able to feed itself and export the surplus. We believe very strongly that growth and prosperity are best achieved through hard work.

With these remarks, I now call upon the House to discuss and approve the Budget for Vote 20 for the 2012/2013 Financial Year so that we can implement what we are supposed to implement. Thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Vote 25 –“LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT”, N\$271,527,500.00 put for **Introduction**.

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise this afternoon with a deep sense of appreciation and privilege to introduce Vote 25 for the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement for the 2012/2013 Financial Year to this august House for consideration, support and approval. I also want to reiterate my support for the Budget presented by the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Deputy Minister of Finance and the Director-General earlier in the House. I would further like to extend my gratitude to the Honourable Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Deputy Minister of Finance, the Director-General of the National Planning Commission and their respective Permanent Secretaries and the entire team of dedicated staff for a job well done under very challenging circumstances given the uncertain global economic environment. I wish to add my voice and join previous speakers by soliciting the understanding of the Namibian Nation not to pre-empt the achievements of the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic growth (TIPEEG) despite its challenges. Indeed, it is a national concern for all of us and at the same time we should also appreciate the lessons learnt on how to further accelerate the implementation of programmes and projects under this noble initiative.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, as we move into this new Financial Year, we

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 25**  
**HON !NARUSEB**

should jealously guard against waste and focus our programme and project implementation on the socio-economic activities that will result in a multiplier effect to the economy in order for us to realise growth in subsequent years. As such, in preparing the Ministry's Vote, due consideration has been given to the national call to create employment. In this respect, this Ministry will contribute to the reduction of unemployment by, among others, availing land for farming and other economic activities in addition to fast-tracking the development of communal areas, construction of regional offices in Opuwo, Rundu and Katima Mulilo.

Allow me to restate the mandate of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement before I present and motivate the allocation for Vote 25.

The mandate of the Ministry is to manage, administer and ensure equitable access by Namibians to Namibia's land resources. I wish to emphasise the fact that the predominant economic activity for the majority of our people is subsistence farming. Hence access to land and security of tenure are of primary concern for economic empowerment and the eradication of poverty, especially amongst the previously disadvantaged Namibians. In this regard, the Government has since Independence taken steps to acquire land to facilitate the accessibility to available agricultural land. The Ministry will continue with this initiative through the National Resettlement Programme and the facilitation of the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme. I see many beneficiaries of that scheme looking at me right now.

While implementing the Land Reform Programme, the Ministry is aware that the land is limited and the existence of the ever-present multitude of competing interests and claims for land compounds the challenges to deliver the mandate.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, in recognition of these challenges, the Ministry, in close liaison with public and private stakeholders, is developing Integrated Regional Land Use Plans (IRLUP) for different Regions earmarked to guide land usage in various Regions. Once approved, these plans will be consolidated into a

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 25**  
**HON !NARUSEB**

National Integrated Land Use Plan.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, having said the above, I now have the pleasure to present the 2012/2013 Budget and priorities for the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, together with the highlights of achievements through expenditure in 2011/2012. The 2012/2013 Budget of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, as expressed in its Medium Term Plan, will focus on four key programmes that I will describe below:

**PROGRAMME 1: LAND ACQUISITION, DISTRIBUTION AND RESETTLEMENT**

The 2006 Action Plan for Land Reform set the targets for the acquisition of freehold land for redistribution at 15 million hectares by the year 2020. The National Resettlement Programme would take up 5 million hectares and the previously disadvantaged Namibians would own a total of 10 million hectares.

This programme is on course, because since the inception of the programme, the Ministry has acquired 2,253 million hectares of commercial agricultural land under the National Resettlement Programme.

Honourable Members, it should be noted that the annual appropriation for land acquisition has remained constant at N\$50 million since 2003 despite hefty increases in the prices of agricultural land. In the 2010/2011 Financial Year, Government purchased 301,768 hectares of land at a total price of N\$189,559,640.00. During the Financial Year under review, the size of land purchased has declined to 58,981.3260 hectares acquired at a cost of N\$71,723,190.78 of which N\$21,723,190.00 were funds accumulated in the Land Acquisition and Development Fund (LADF) which have now been depleted. This decline in the amount of land acquired demonstrates the insufficiency of funds allocated for land acquisition. We are fully appreciative of the competing demands on the Treasure, but we are merely just stating what the situation is.

Furthermore, the fact that the Ministry has not been able to reach its target

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 25**  
**HON !NARUSEB**

of 280,000 hectares to be acquired per annum despite having exhausted its Budget is also evidence of the limitation of funds for land acquisition.

With regards to resettlement, 105 beneficiaries were resettled countrywide during the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement continues to provide Post Settlement Support to resettlement beneficiaries, in three areas which are as follows:

**REHABILITATION OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE:**

This involves major water infrastructure development/rehabilitation on resettlement farms. An amount of N\$21 million was spent during the period under review.

**FINANCING SUPPORT**

The Ministry, in partnership with AgriBank, continues to avail a Joint Financial Package worth N\$20 million per annum at subsidised interest rates to resettled farmers. To date 475 resettled farmers have benefited from this loan facility.

**FARMERS SUPPORT PROJECT**

This project started in May 2007 and focuses on previously disadvantaged farmers and resettled farmers on commercial farmlands. The project was financially supported by the European Union and implemented by the Joint Presidency Commission of Farmers Unions.

Since September 2009, the German Government, through the German Technical Cooperation, continued to support the initiative. The Farmers Support Project is now a project of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, implemented by AgriBank of Namibia. In this project experienced Namibian farmers are paired up with new and upcoming farmers to guide them through the process. We have observed change in farming methods and appreciation of farming as a business. Twenty

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 25**  
**HON !NARUSEB**

mentors are currently employed in commercial areas and a total of 524 resettlement farmers were trained during the period under review.

The contribution of the land tax to the Land Reform Programme has been immense. During the 2011/2012 Financial Year, an amount of N\$37,642,113.10 was collected and deposited into the Land Acquisition and Development Fund.

A total of 904 commercial agricultural land owners were exempted from payment of land tax during the reporting period. The exemptions, which are a direct subsidy to farmers, amounted to N\$3,800,000.00. The Ministry developed a Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal System which will be deployed during the General Revaluation of 2012 to produce the new Valuation Roll. A Land Tax Payment Reconciliation System has been developed and is ready to be implemented in this Financial Year. These two systems will enhance the administration of commercial agricultural land and of land tax in Namibia.

An amount of N\$166,962,000.00 has been appropriated to implement Programme I.

**PROGRAMME 2: LAND USAGE**

Namibia is faced with a variety of competing demands for land use. The purpose for this programme is to promote sustainable use of land as a natural resource and to secure economic growth. I am glad to inform you that the Ministry has established the necessary mechanism for inter-institutional coordination of land-use planning and that the Ministry will be spearheading the process of developing an Integrated Land-Use Plan for all 13 Regions.

The Integrated Regional Land Use Plan for Karas Region (KIRLUP) has been completed at a cost of N\$2,316,603.00 and handed over to the Karas Regional Council for implementation. The Hardap Integrated Regional Land Use Plan is in the process and an amount of N\$525,733.00 has already been spent, while the Kavango Integrated Regional Land-Use Plan is planned for this Financial Year.

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 25**  
**HON !NARUSEB**

Under this programme the Ministry is engaged in the development of Small-Scale Commercial Farm (SSCF) models in the Kavango Region. In this Financial Year the Ministry further plans to pilot the development of group farms through provision of water and fencing infrastructure in order to promote tenure security of group rights. This exercise will also be implemented in Kavango where the SSCF is at an advanced stage.

With regard to unregistered land rights in communal areas, the Ministry has mapped 40,000 communal land rights of which 20,000 land rights certificates have been produced and issued. Overall, the Ministry has mapped 75,000 land rights, which is more than one-third of the total estimated 230,000. In this Financial Year, the plan is to register 59,000 land parcels.

Key to the registration processes is communication. Hence, in the last Financial Year the Ministry launched a nationwide communication campaign which will continue into this Financial Year. The purpose of the campaign is to educate the Nation and to demystify the purpose of the communal land registration. We observed that more people are coming forth to register their land rights.

The Ministry has developed training programmes for Communal Land Boards as well as for the Traditional Authorities to equip them with knowledge and skills to issue land rights in a speedy manner, to improve land management and all the aspects of communal land administration independently. The training covers the Oshana, Oshikoto, Omusati and Kavango Regions and is being done with the support of the Millennium Challenge Account.

To conclude my submission on this programme, Honourable Members, may I mention that the diminishing commonage in communal areas due to illegal fencing of large areas continues to undermine the communal usage of land. The Ministry shall, during this Financial Year, implement activities targeted at controlling and eliminating this menace. An amount of N\$35,418,000.00 is appropriated to implement the above programme.

**PROGRAMME 3: SECURITY OF TENURE AND REAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

This programme contributes to the maintenance of the registry of land that affords security of tenure and property rights. Through the mapping, verification and registration of land, the Ministry's objective is to provide the residents in Communal and Commercial land Sectors with increased security of tenure. It is expected that with this increased sense of security particularly of our communal dwellers, they will be able and willing to invest in their landholdings and thereby contribute to economic development in this country.

In the last Financial Year, great progress has been made in ensuring the availability of secure land tenure for the urban poor through the tabling of the *Flexible Land Tenure Bill* in both the National Assembly and the National Council. This Bill is expected to be passed into an Act of Parliament during this Financial Year.

An amount of N\$8,174,000.00 has been appropriated to implement this programme.

**PROGRAMME 4. NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA**

**INFRASTRUCTURE (NSDI) (FUNDAMENTAL DATASETS)**

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, Geospatial Information already underpins a wide range of services and policy decisions in the Public Service delivery. Many excellent and innovative examples exist that demonstrate the benefits of Geospatial Information in Public Service delivery. Traditional Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and image processing software products provide powerful techniques for dealing with applications that are location-based. This, combined with web technology, has very wide applications only limited by how far our imagination can go.

In agriculture, geo-information provides dashboards where various parameters like crop yield, agricultural-water density and average rainfall

18 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 25**  
**HON !NARUSEB**

can be shown for each catchment area. In health application, geo-information adds power of spatial analysis to healthcare related information like disease incidents, available doctors, hospitals, beds, medicine consumption.

The need to widen the scope of geo-information application in our quest for good governance and improved service delivery informed the projects embarked upon in the last Financial Year. During the 2011/2012 Fiscal Year, the Ministry carried out the following activities:

As per the request of the Namibian Police, the Ministry produced police jurisdiction maps for nine Regions, that is, Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena, Caprivi, Karas, Khomas, Hardap, Omaheke and Erongo Regions. These maps will assist the Police in their logistical planning and the investigation of cases according to the appropriate Magisterial Districts.

The process of rehabilitation, reconstruction and densification of the boundary along the rectilinear boundary between Namibia and Botswana was completed. A total of 118 beacons were built and repaired. The observation of these beacons is expected to commence in this Financial Year. This process will be concluded with the signing of a treaty between the two countries.

Fifty four new geodetic control beacons were built in the northern communal areas to support the mass registration exercise. The densification of geodetic controls will improve the accuracy of surveying in those areas and reduce the cost of surveys.

The revision of the topographic maps of Oshana, Oshikoto, Omusati, Ohangwena and parts of Kunene Regions has been completed.

To expand the application of spatial data generated by the Directorate of Survey and Mapping, the Ministry has engaged the Ministry of Defence to assist them in the preparation of tactical maps that are in digital format and that can be used on mobile platforms.

During this Financial Year, the Ministry intends to carry out aerial

photography of central Namibia.

To enable the Ministry to implement this programme and provide the geographic information appropriate for executing the envisaged activities, an amount of N\$25,058,000.00 has been appropriated.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, through Land Acquisition, Distribution and Resettlement Programme, the Ministry managed to employ 170 people from the National Youth Service as caretakers of farms in Regions where commercial farms were bought during 2011 Financial Year. The Land Usage Programme employed 375 people for the communal land registration and the fencing of small-scale farms in Kavango Region. In total the Ministry created 492, temporary jobs during 2011/2012 Financial Year.

The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement is reviewing a number of legal instruments that govern the administration of land in Namibia. These include the Deeds Registries Act and the consolidation of the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act and the Communal Land Reform Act into one Land Bill. The Ministry has also drafted a *Property Valuers Professional Bill* which is currently before this august House for debate.

At this juncture, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would be remiss if I do not mention and extend our appreciation to the continual support rendered to the Ministry by our development partners and donor community. The Ministry is grateful for all the technical contribution and support towards the achievement of its mandate.

I also take this opportunity to appreciate and recognise the contribution of the Namibian commercial farming community to this noble programme and would encourage them to continue to render their support and cooperation to the Land Reform Programme.

In the same vein, I would like to recognise and appreciate the support rendered by the Deputy Minister, Honourable Theo Diergaardt, the Permanent Secretary, Ms. Lidwina Shapwa, the Special Advisor, Ms.

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON MOONGO**

Prisca Mandimika, Management, the entire staff of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement and the Namibian people in general in carrying out our mandate and rendering service to our country.

In conclusion, I would like to state that the process of Land Reform remains an enormous challenge but it is by no stretch of the imagination insurmountable if all the stakeholders pull together. With the above motivation, I wish to request the approval and support of this august House, for an amount of **N\$271,528,000.00** to carry out the programmes of the Ministry in the Financial Year 2012/2013, as elaborated above. I thank you for your attention and anticipated support. Thank you.

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

**Vote 26 – “NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION”,** put for **Discussion.** Any discussion? Agreed to.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** **Vote 27 –“NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE,  
SPORTS AND CULTURE”** put for **Discussion.**

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you very much. The Minister mentioned in his speech the upliftment of the youth, youth development and the provision of schools, but we are approached by students from poor families who have to withdraw from university as a result of lack of funds. How can the Minister assist those poor students? I support the Vote.

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON DR KAMWI**

**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Thank you Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I rise to support the very important Vote 27 and to make a few observations and pose one or two questions.

With regard to Programme I, I commend the efforts of the Ministry to introduce the Youth Friendly Reproductive Health Clinics at Outapi and Eenhana Multi-Purpose Youth Resources Centres. Given the escalating teenage pregnancies in the country, this is highly commendable and I would want to urge you to roll this out through the entire country.

On Page 4 under National Youth Service is mentioned a de-bushing project as part of the TIPEEG initiative and again I commend your efforts on this. However, I would like to know, Honourable Minister, what are the procedures for recruitment. This is a very important programme, but it seems by and large some are not well-informed and what are the rates, be it per hectare.

Under the achievements of Programme 2 – Sport on Page 8, I am interested in what you have done here by introducing this very important programme. Quoting you: *“The Namibia Football Association and Girls Programme in partnership with Sport Coaches Outreach and UNICEF has empowered girls aged 9 to 15 to live a healthy lifestyle through their participation in football and league festivals.”* This is highly commendable, but again would want to know how far have you gone with this programme, did you manage to roll it out to all the thirteen Regions or is it nationally based?

On Page 9, Disability Sport Namibia. I must say the Ministry is doing extremely well with disability and perhaps it is one of the few Ministries that are making us proud as the Ministry of Health and Social Services. I wish to urge that this again be introduced in all the Regions.

With these remarks, I support Vote 27.

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18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27**  
**HON MBUMBA**

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

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Minister of Youth, on Page 2 the mandate of the Ministry is stated as, “*to develop and empower youth*”. Some of us do not look like youth anymore, but the only reason why we have reached this far is because we have grown up leading the youth, therefore, this is also our Vote and we will always continue to promote it.

On Page 7 you mentioned the main activities and the National Heritage Council with N\$72 million plus for culture. One of the places under the National Heritage Council is Nakambale Museum which does not get the necessary attention of the National Heritage Council. Whenever there are visitors, people are running around to clean up.

Near Ondangwa we have the Oluno Rehabilitation Centre and we are ready to help when requested by the Ministry in terms of cleaning and in terms of preparing, because there are three places, namely the church, the oldest building north of Tsumeb, which is being maintained only through the goodwill of the Finnish people. We must take ownership of that building.

Then there is the Nakambale Museum itself where even the decorations and awards given to Bishop Leonard Nangolo Awala are there and it is just in the hands of one local lady.

Then there is the cemetery proper where Martin Rautanen and his family are buried and when delegations from Europe go there, they are asking why is it so neglected. Also buried there is Freedom Taleni Mpingana, sister to Nehale Iya Mpingana, hero of the Namibian people. I propose that we work together and make this a decent place and part of the National Heritage Council. I thank you.

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27**  
**HON VON WIETERSEIN**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Minister will take note of that. Honourable Von Wietersheim.

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**HON VON WIETERSHEIM:** Thank you, Honourable Chairman. Firstly, let me commend the Honourable Minister for also using the format of having a speech and a technical paper, like we did all these years in Agriculture. I think it saves on a lot of time.

Congratulations to the Honourable Minister on the implementation of his TIPEEG share of 83%. What I would like to know is how many employment opportunities were created and how many of those are of a sustainable nature after your TIPEEG share has been spent, Honourable Minister. That means, how many permanent jobs will be remaining?

Then I would like to take a quick look at your Youth Development Programme and there I identified the entrepreneurship development where 238 unemployed youth received training. Under Youth Empowerment you mention a number of trainees, namely about 900, that completed their training and under National Youth Service there was a recruitment of 3,000 trainees. This gives us a total of approximately 6,000 youth under these three categories, which, if you look at the global picture, sounds so few. If we want to seriously address the current state of the marginalisation of the youth, I would say a lot more resources would be needed, because I think these programmes are really very useful and they address the problem points, but they address them in a very, very small way. After all, I think we repeatedly state that the youth represent the leaders of our future and we must not forget that they also represent the providers of our future, meaning that one day when we are sitting back, we need to be provided by those we now need to lead to some useful living possibilities. Thank you, Deputy Chairperson.

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON MAAMBERUA**

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

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to start by congratulating the Minister for a well-presented and concise document, but I would want to address myself to the Budget book, that is the Development Programmes Expenditure Estimates on Page 649. There I see a Budget line called Construction of Lüderitz Waterfront. Maybe the Minister would want to inform us as to how does the Lüderitz Waterfront come under his Vote, because as I recall, the Lüderitz Waterfront was actually started as a project under the Ministry of Finance some years ago and if this is just an extension, then I would have loved to see that perhaps Phase 2 has been shifted to your Ministry. Otherwise we need to get an explanation.

We shall recall that last year around September a Motion was tabled in this House for the renaming of the Independence Memorial Museum to the Genocide Memorial Centre. However, the Motion eventually had to be withdrawn on an agreement that was reached between the Mover of the Motion and senior Government Ministers, including the Minister responsible for Culture and the basis for that withdrawal, which is actually on record in this House, was that the Ministry had given an undertaking that genocide sites in Namibia, among others Hoornkrans, Hamakari, Ozombu zovindimba, Warmbad, Shark Islands, Swakopmund concentration camp, etcetera, would actually be constructed with public funds and the further undertaking to enhance that was that in this Budget that we are now considering the necessary amounts for that purpose were going to be budgeted. However, when I looked at this Budget Vote of the Line Ministry I do not see anything, not even some money for the feasibility studies.

The other aspect was also an assurance that was given that the entrance to the Independence Memorial Museum has been designed in such a way that the horrific experiences at Orumbo rua Katjombondi, the place where the museum is constructed, are going to be in full display to reflect the

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON KAVETUNA**

suffering and inhuman treatment that our people had to endure during and in the aftermath of the genocide. What we are seeing there right now does not show that such construction is actually going to be realised. Contrary to that, I do not know whether the newspapers got it right or wrong, some other statue is going to be erected there. Of course, we have nothing against such a statue to be erected there, but maybe the Minister could clarify whether the undertaking that was given here, particularly within the context of the design of the building, has now been shifted for other purposes or what is actually happening. I hope the papers are actually wrong in that respect.

Finally, a question comes to mind concerning the National Youth Service. Is it possible that we could make the National Youth Service compulsory?

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

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**HON KAVETUNA:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Minister, his Deputy and the entire staff of the Ministry for the comprehensive Budget motivation and the outline. I have some questions that I would like to pose to the Minister.

The first is actually not a question, but a comment on the issue of sport, that in this country we are taking part in nearly every kind of sports code, however we do not perform well in most of them. Why do we not concentrate on only those in which we might perform better, fund them appropriately and then at least bring gold home?

The removal of the National School Sports Union was detrimental to the entire sport fraternity, because the Ministry does not have adequate sport officials to cater for every school and secondly, there is no coordination of activities between the Sport Union and the Directorate of Sport. Therefore

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON A TJONGARERO**

I wanted to request that, if possible, the sport codes that were based in schools be reinstated in schools so that we improve on our performance.

The National Youth Service is doing a good job, but the question still remains how the young people who have been with this institution are being catered for after completing the six months or two years' training. Most of them have been good citizens, but after leaving the National Youth Service they are just back to square one. Is there not a mechanism so that the Ministry could move these graduates from one programme of the youth to another? Otherwise it will just be a waste of resources.

I am very impressed by the Arts Centre in Katutura, but the fact remains that most of the courses provided at that Centre are not accredited by the NQA. What is the process and when will we ensure that most of the courses are accredited by the NQA, so that when the young people leave, their qualifications are at least recognised? I thank you.

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

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**HON A TJONGARERO:** Thank you Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister and I only have a few comments and questions.

According to the census Namibia has 2.1 million people, but Namibia has 52 sport codes and I do not think all people are interested in sport. With 52 sport codes the money budgeted will not be enough. I want to ask the Ministry to restructure and categorise the sport codes, then concentrate on eight or ten codes for a period of five years so that they can perform. If we divide the small Budget between 52 sport codes, nobody will get any medal from any competition.

The Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture has to cater

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON BEZUIDENHOUDT**

for the whole country, but I have observed that the Ministry has only a few coaches for maybe two or three disciplines. What about the rest? If the Ministry wants to have coaches at that level, let there be coaches for all 52 sport codes. Why should we discriminate and have two or three who are coaching only a few people? What about the rest of the country? They do not benefit from that. Either we have coaches for all disciplines or we do not have any.

Lastly, how many coaches were trained by the Ministry, because without qualified, trained coaches we will not get the medals we want and if we cannot train, then import them from elsewhere. I thank you.

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

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**HON BEZUIDENHOUDT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chair. The same message goes to the Minister and his team for the statement as well as the technical document, which is very much appreciated.

First of all, I would like to start off by saying that during the course of last year I raised a concern to the Honourable Deputy Minister Shifeta about the Hage Geingob Rugby Stadium and I thank the Minister, I think the stadium has been saved from debt collectors and we have retained it as a national asset.

Then just a question on the Commonwealth Youth Programme on information dissemination. Where does one get hold of this information other than searching the web?

On the second programme which deals with sport, I would like to ask a question as regards our participation and support to athletes to attend this year's Olympics, which is a hundred days from today. It is probably in

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON SIMATAA**

the document but not specifically mentioned.

In conclusion, I would like to echo the call for focused development as well as a selection of specific sport codes. I can recall that our last Olympics medallist, Mr Frank Fredericks, had pure natural talent and then technical training. If one could find people with pure natural talent and support them through training, I think we can again get medals. I would say if we want natural runners, either for marathon or speed, we should look at the San community. I thank you for the opportunity.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me start my contribution where Honourable Tjongarero and Honourable Kavetuna left off. My recollection is that the Sports Commission put in motion the process of re-categorising the different sport codes we have in Namibia because we felt that 52 sport codes were simply too many and we were, therefore, spreading ourselves too thin, particularly given the limited resources that Government is providing for sports.

Let me perhaps pose the question as to where we are in terms of concluding this particular process, so that we can channel our resources to a reasonable number of sport codes in order for us to be assured of results.

My second contribution, and here I would like to agree with you that the Private Sector needs to improve their level of investment in sport. In actual fact, if we were to sit down and do a summary of Private Sector investment in sport, we will realise that it is primarily the Government that is investing a lot of money in sport. Apart from Government, if we were to do a quick calculation, we would realise that the biggest sponsors of

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON KAAPANDA**

sport are State-Owned Enterprises and here I have in mind MTC, followed by Telecom Namibia and NamPower. The Private Sector is not making a significant contribution to sport and I tend to agree with you that we need to engage the Private Sector. However, before we do that, we also need to acknowledge that there are problems that we still need to address in the area of Sport. No private company will be keen to invest in sport while the current challenges are not addressed.

Therefore, I suggest that we take stock of the existing challenges, see how best we can address them and then engage the Private Sector so that they can play their part in terms of social responsibility. On that basis I support the Vote.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION  
TECHNOLOGY:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to support the Vote wholeheartedly and I only have a question on Page 18 where it is mentioned that identification of tangible and intangible heritage conservation was done in Kunene, Omusati and Oshikoto Regions. I do not really understand what is being meant with “*heritage*.” In Omusati we have a place called Ongulumbashe which is a historical place *vis-à-vis* the history of our liberation struggle and the place is well documented. It is very important because it heralds the new era of our liberation struggle, but Ongulumbashe is very much neglected, there is no development. If you look at the place itself and the way it is documented, there is no commensuration. Therefore, I would like to ask the Honourable Minister why this place is so neglected. Is it neglected because the Omusati Regional Council failed to present a development plan for Ongulumbashe or is it neglected hitherto because the development plan of Ongulumbashe is still in the pipeline? It is such an important place, but nothing is

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27**  
**HON DR AMWEELO**

happening there. I would like to ask the Minister to throw light on this. I thank you.

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

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Firstly, I would like to thank the Minister and the Deputy Minister for their good and straightforward motivation. My concern is on Page 6 of the Minister's presentation under Development of Infrastructure, the upgrading of the boiler house.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I should think that issues related to boilers, escalators and other special infrastructure should be under the Ministry of Works and Transport as they are so technical and dangerous. It is fine that they have allocated funds, but I would advise that when these are upgraded it should be done in consultation with the Ministry of Works and Transport and the Division: Occupational Safety of the Ministry of Labour which is responsible for the inspection of these facilities. Should anything happen, the Ministry of Works and the Division: Occupational Safety will be involved and, therefore, they have to be consulted.

Last December the Parliament and the Embassies had a football match and I want to know why the Ministry could not have a similar programme so that we get some exercise. Last year when we went there we were falling down because we never did any exercise. Thank you, I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** That could be an event that could be used for purposes of raising funds for a good cause and I am sure the Minister will take note of that. Honourable Nambahu.

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18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27**  
**HON NAMBAHU**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My wholehearted support goes to this Vote of the youth. I have three comments to make and it is mainly on Youth Development.

Comrade Minister, under your main activities there is this issue of youth empowerment, but when I look at the National Youth Service Act and others, the definition of “*empowerment*” seems to be lacking. Do we consider the youth empowered if that person is materially empowered and financially independent or what is it? Sometimes when you discuss with the youth, you expect them to have general knowledge on issues, but I find them to be wanting, even on geography. It is not really at the level where our youth are supposed to be. When you ask them about artists and hit songs, you would definitely get an answer, but when it comes to issues of solidarity and social issues affecting our people, it leaves much to be desired. This is also lacking at the morning assemblies at schools. When we used to have morning assemblies out there in the bush, we were told what was happening where and you could have sympathy with other people, but our young people are only talking about Hollywood. I think we as leaders should be very much concerned and the definition of empowerment should be expanded; is it intellectual, economic, financial or is it multi-faceted. We really have to look seriously at this issue of empowerment.

When I came into Government I went around with other Deputy Ministers, because my problem was; how can you go and familiarise yourself outside there when you do not understand how your own Government works. This aspect of juvenile justice is so scattered, it needs coordination, it needs input. Maybe we need to sit down together and see how best we can enrich this programme. Otherwise the one hand only will not be able to produce much.

My last comment is on the multi-purpose centres. It says multi-purpose, but what is at these centres? I do not think there are clubs or gyms for recreation and we condemn the youth when they use alcohol and other substances, yet these centres we have built do not offer alternative activities. By nature the homo-sapiens is a social animal and he needs to

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON BEUKES**

interact with others. That is why people go to shebeens because that is the only place they can interact. It is not so much about drinking although it does take place, but people go there to interact with others in the absence of other assembly points.

I would really like to see some activities taking place in these areas so that our children could refrain from unbecoming activities. With this I support the Vote.

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

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

Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. As the Deputy Minister responsible for the Ministry of Regional, Local Government, Housing and Rural Development as well as Traditional Authorities, allow me to contribute on Programme 4, which is Culture.

As stipulated by the Honourable Minister of the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, the objective of this programme is to identify, develop and promote the culture and heritage in order to nurture national pride, identity and unity in diversity. Considering this noble task at hand, I recommend that this Ministry considers financing traditional festivals or activities that are being held once a year by the respective Traditional Authorities. This financing will further enable struggling Traditional Authorities to be able to conduct their activities in an organised manner and will promote cultural identity, instil traditional values and by so doing, revitalise the culture of respect for adults and maintain norms that are currently eroding or that are fading away. I thank you and I recommend that this Vote be passed.

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON DINGARA**

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

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**HON DINGARA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I want to make a contribution in support of this Vote.

When I hear the word “sport” in Namibia, I can see boxing is doing very well and I think we must congratulate Comrade Tobias Nestor for the efforts he is making to put Namibia on the map around the world. Comrade Minister, convey our congratulations to him.

Coming to soccer and athletics, these are some of the sport codes I take an interest in. Some ten years ago we had some people who were doing very well in soccer and athletics as they could run very fast, which today is no longer the case. I remember Frank Fredericks could run very fast and that our Namibian soccer team could participate in the African Cup, but I do not know what happened thereafter. At Independence there was not really money involved, but I suspect that those who are selecting the players are guided by who must benefit and therefore we end up failing. Looking at the Newspaper Cup, none of the players of the winning teams are included in the national team. Maybe the Ministry should intervene in this matter.

During the December holiday I met some of these youth who are trained at the National Youth Service and I asked them what is happening there as I do not have much information. I was informed that they receive training for six months, after which they receive a certificate. Thereafter they are deployed for practical training of six months and again receive another certificate. I was thinking that maybe the Youth Council should consider issuing one certificate for one year as this would be of more value than two six months certificates. This is the information I got from them and I did not verify it with the institution itself.

With these few remarks, I wholeheartedly support the Vote.

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18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27**  
**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

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

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would also like to add my voice in support of the Vote and congratulate the Minister for the well-articulated motivation of the Vote. I quite appreciate the way they set out the different programmes and the way they have itemised them for us to understand the funds allocated to different programmes, especially the statutory bodies resorting under the Ministry.

I would also like to congratulate the Ministry for the programme on reproductive health. This shows the Ministry's commitment to ensure that gender concerns are fully incorporated in service delivery through its programmes. That is a commendable gesture, Comrade Minister.

However, I want to know to what extent are the gender issues reflected in current methodologies used in design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes of the Ministry, because I see that there is a need for more gender sensitive programmes for the specific needs of girls and young women.

Disability sport is an activity which is very much commendable. However, my concern is the environment, whether it is conducive in terms of accessibility, given how the pavilions are constructed, which leave a lot to be desired. Hopefully some mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that architects will adhere to the regulations in place to ensure that the environment is conducive and accessible for all citizens of the country.

The Minister has also mentioned in his motivation the conducive environment to be created and I hope the Minister has considered accessibility for all. With these few remarks, I support the Vote. Thank you.

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON NUJOMA**

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

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chair. I rise to support Vote 27. I would like to thank the Minister for his well-articulated motivation of this very important Vote. My comment is on Youth Empowerment where it is mentioned that five hundred unemployed rural youth and previously disadvantaged youth have been recruited at Berg Aukas Rural Youth Development Centre in Otjozondjupa Region. I applaud the fact that these youth have been trained and I just wanted to know whether they are trained in agriculture or in other disciplines, because I think agriculture is so important and we put a lot of money into agriculture. I was just thinking aloud that maybe our friends who understand Africa could offer to train thirty or forty youth in countries of the former East European countries. Would that be possible, because I understand that there are people who really want to give these youth practical training. Some farmers in those countries own only ten or twenty cattle, but they produce cheese, yogurt and milk. If they could train some of our youth, the Ministry could make air tickets available and give them a small allowance for them to be trained for a period of one year, because we do not need theory, we need to go and work on the land.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has received these requests and I really want to encourage our Ministries of Agriculture and Youth to take up some of these opportunities.

I also want to congratulate the Minister for the bush encroachment programme where many youth have worked on Government-owned farms. Will it be possible for the Ministry of Youth to empower some of these youth and provide them with implements so that they can do this on a commercial basis, thereby helping the previously disadvantaged and resettled farmers to de-bush their farms? There are business opportunities and we can provide financial assistance so that they can clear the land. This could be a good money-spinner for the youth.

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON TJIHUIKO**

With those few comments I support Vote 27.

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

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I support Honourable Kazenambo's Vote from the bottom of my heart. Honourable Minister, due to the time factor I will only concentrate on the activities recorded for the year 2011/2012. I must start by congratulating you and your Ministry for at least achieving something, namely to empower our young people through these centres. You have trained 940 young people, you have given the necessary skills to these people and my concern is simply what to do with these graduates. That is the question that I want us to think about.

It is crucially important to continuously train, but obviously we should train for the market, we should not train for the streets and my challenge to the Honourable Minister is that, as much as we are training these people, let us also develop programmes that would give experience to these young people. The question that I want answered is that; how do we do it?

Honourable Minister, I have been thinking that the training must go hand-in-hand with practical experience. I am thinking of a programme whereby the graduates will be attached to existing industries. It has happened in the past that students who graduated from Augustineum, the Windhoek Vocational Training Centre and other vocational training centres were attached to industries to gain experience. The big businesses in Namibia were willing to do this and I am sure that at the present moment they are more than willing to have these young people attached to their industries in order for them to gain the necessary experience. That also applies to us as politicians. Why can we not have young researchers attached to the

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON DR AMWEELO**

Political Party offices? We are complaining that we need capacity building and the Parties need people to do research for them, but we have these graduates who can be attached to our offices, thereby gaining the necessary experienced needed in the market. If we do that, I am sure we will not only produce qualified young people, we will be able to produce a qualified, experienced workforce and the question of lack of experience among our young people will be something of the past. Then we will not be tempted to get young people from Zimbabwe who have been properly trained and equipped. We should copy from that experience and do the same with our young people. If this is done, we will at the end of the day be able to develop a workforce which is ready for the market. I am sure that if all these SWAPO offices all over the place attach one or two people, thousands of them will gain experience.

Honourable Deputy Chair, I seriously wish to appeal to the Honourable Minister Kazenambo to consider that element of job attachment and I can guarantee that our industries will be more than willing to help us in developing the experiences needed in the industry. I thank you.

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

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chair. I only want to confirm my request to the Honourable Minister, that last year in November we played against the Diplomatic Corps and this is the result.

We won the diplomats and if you continue with that programme which I requested, we will bring more trophies.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. The message is loud and clear, the cup is

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27**  
**HON KAZENAMBO**

there and that is a major prize to be won. I call on the Honourable Minister to reply to some of the specific issues raised.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Seventeen Members of this Honourable House asked questions and congratulated our Ministry and I thank them for that.

*Honourable Moongo*, thank you for supporting the Ministry. You want to know what assistance are we giving to students from poor families. I have taken note of your question, but Honourable Moongo, the Government of the Republic of Namibia, through the Ministry of Education, is providing assistance to students. However, be that as it may, the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture caters for the youth who do not make it to Vocational Training Centres and universities. We have a programme at Berg Aukas catering for the rural youth which has started last year and the National Youth Service has been training several youth, the majority of which are from marginalised communities such as the San. This programme is closing that gap, but we can still consult and see how those youth from the poor families could be catered for.

Nation-building and development is a question of consultation and it is work-in-progress. Therefore, we take note of your comments and our doors are open to engage you and see how we can take care of your concern through the established system of Government.

*Honourable Dr Kamwi*, thank you for supporting the Ministry. Your Ministry, together with the development partner called NAPA, have been collaborating with us, which is very helpful because the young people were afraid of going to hospital. Some are afraid that their parents will detect that they are engaged in other activities, but through this approach many young people are visiting our Multi-Resource Centres and because these nurses are as young as them, they become more open and put their case across. This is very helpful and the intention is that should resources

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON KAZENAMBO**

permit, the centres will be rolled out to all thirteen Regions of the country. However, so far we are enjoying the support of your Ministry in the form of trained nurses and equipment and the young people are happy with this activity.

With regard to de-bushing, this programme is reported as our TIPEEG project, but basically it resorts under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. We thank the Ministry for having collaborated with us on the directives of Cabinet. Maybe I can use this opportunity to also answer the question that was asked by a former Minister of Agriculture, Comrade Von Wietersheim. (Interjections). I am sure he could not have been a Minister without being a Comrade. I have not come across that in Namibia and since he was a Comrade at one point, to me he remains a Comrade. Notwithstanding that, I do not differ from him politically.

As I said, 210 jobs were created under the de-bushing programme, which may sound small, but it also depends on a number of factors to be taken into consideration. As to the sustainability of these jobs that we have created, some are in other Sectors of the TIPEEG programme and it depends on the type and magnitude of the project, because some of them are handled by companies because of their technical nature, such as road construction and the upgrading of the sport stadiums.

The de-bushing was done through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the procedures followed were as I have explained.

Dr Kamwi referred to Programme 2, Sport. This programme is a FIFA one and it is being done through the National Football Association and the intention is to roll it out to all the thirteen Regions of the country.

*Honourable Mbumba* raised the issue of Nakambale and honestly speaking, I think the best answer would be that I have taken note of what the Honourable Minister has said and it is for us to follow his suggestion and advice so that we see how we can collaborate in addressing this matter and also to see how the church can be included in our heritage conservation. That is all I can say because we are dealing with communities and it is better to listen to the people rather than taking a

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON KAZENAMBO**

defensive position. I have even heard that the sister of Nehale is buried there. My father's brother was named Nehale and when I went to Onaena there where the old man Nehale is buried, I felt obliged to personally do something about the grave of that great leader. However, this is an issue that should be taken up at ministerial level.

*Comrade Von Wietersheim*, thank you for supporting the Vote. You wanted to know how many of these jobs are sustainable and I have said that although some were TIPEEG projects, they were handled by companies and, therefore, the sustainability will depend on those companies.

We used to say that we are the leaders of tomorrow and now we are saying we are the providers of the future. While we are fighting for positions, we should also think of training the providers of tomorrow. That is a new innovation which I will try to conscientise our Colleagues, that it is not only politics, it is not only looking for jobs alone, but we should prepare ourselves to be providers of this Nation tomorrow. I take note of that and therefore, in whatever we are doing, be it job creation through TIPEEG or through our training, the understanding should be that we should be preparing ourselves to be providers of tomorrow and take the places of those who are providing for this Nation today. That is all I can say in responding to you.

*Honourable Maamberua*, thank you very much for your questions and support. The Ministry of Finance is still the custodian of the Lüderitz Waterfront project. However, we are the collaborating Ministry in that project because there is also a museum in that waterfront and as the Ministry responsible for museums we are contributing something. There is also an indoor sport complex and that is why we are mentioned in the documents.

You said that you have submitted the names of sites to the Ministry, but they are not featuring in the documents. I am sure as a former Permanent Secretary of Finance you know how the budgeting process works and we are receiving submissions from various stakeholders on the issue of heritage. However, all I can say is that we did not have funds to budget

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 27  
HON KAZENAMBO**

for all of them, but you may be aware that Ozombu Zovindimba has been declared as a national heritage. It is a process and we will continue considering the other places in collaboration with the Museum Association, which is the statutory body dealing with these issues. We will see how in future, resources permitting, we could budget for this.

Honourable Maamberua touched on a sensitive issue which I have to address, which concerns the Independence Museum. We are also bombarded by journalists whether the statue of the Founding President is going to be erected there. I am not aware of the architectural drawings of that place being altered, as far as I am aware the picture of Orumbo rua Katjombondi is still part of the plans and I do not think the erection of the statue is meant to detract from that. Consultations are ongoing and I can assure you that there are no alternations.

On the issue of the different sport codes in Namibia, we have the Sports Commission of Namibia as a statutory body that deals with this issue. I think it is open to all of us to make suggestions through them and Namibia is a free country, I do not think the Ministry could arbitrarily say we have to get rid of some sport codes. However, as the criteria have been questioned, I think we should approach them.

*Honourable Nujoma* has come up with practical suggestions for the youth and I think that is the way to go. I welcome that, we should get in touch with our Colleagues and see how we can benefit from that. I know very well that during the liberation struggle some of our Colleagues benefited from practical training of this nature in many countries.

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

Vote 09 – “**FINANCE**” put for **Discussion**.

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18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 09  
HON MOONGO / HON MWANINGANGE**

**HON MOONGO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. As usual I have a very short question. It often happens that funds appropriated get lost through corruption in many Ministries. I am a member of the Public Accounts Committee and I am aware that money has disappeared and, therefore, my question is. (Interjections). Maybe you are party to that and got a share. Money was appropriated for church hospitals such as Onandjokwe and St Mary Mission Hospital. Does the Minister have any mechanisms to monitor whether this money is used properly?

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

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**HON MWANINGANGE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I would like to register my appreciation to the Minister and her team for a good introduction. I need some clarity under Programme 2 on Page 7, but before that I would like to concur with you that we should encourage this progress of customs and excise management. The Ministry is doing very well and this is very encouraging, because this is one source of income.

However, I would like to know whether this has been introduced at the newly introduced EPZ of Oshikango. I recall at the very beginning the revenue collection was booming, but I hear that it has been declining and I want to know whether this is true. Previously thousands of dollars were rolling in daily and I do not know what the situation is presently.

A beautiful facility was built at Calai on the Kavango River which has almost been engulfed and destroyed by the floods. Perhaps something should be done to protect it from the water as it is no longer in use and it is very important for customs and excise at the border. Engineers should devise plans to divert the water in times of flood. Thank you.

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 09  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE: Honourable Dr Iyambo.**

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chair. I am registering my support for Vote 09 of the Ministry of Finance and I only have two questions.

Honourable Deputy Minister, you indicated that the Tender Board during the period under review awarded tenders to the tune of N\$1.1 billion. I want to find out what percentage of this money has been made available for tenders won by previously disadvantaged, just for us to know whether we are moving forward or backwards. Are we helping our people or not? I am asking this question because of the cry out there.

Honourable Deputy Minister, your Ministry is responsible for financial institutions, which includes GIPF. Very often we are told that our savings normally leave our borders to develop other countries while we have a lot of problems here. I have taken note of the fact that, indeed, Government does borrow money from the Private Sector here for our Budget. I also know that part of the money is invested in Government Treasury Bills, which is also very good, but I am still of the opinion that a sizeable amount of the money is still leaving this country to develop other countries.

Ever since Independence we have been complaining about a skills deficit in our country. Is it not perhaps possible that your Ministry, being responsible for financial institutions, gather them around so that we create a vehicle for the purpose of creating skills in our country among the people that graduate from UNAM and other places through internships, so that by 2017 and beyond we can actually talk about having a critical mass of skills. I think particularly the Mining Sector has to come on board, because we can speak of industrialisation, but if we do not have skills to deal with our resources, then I think we have a problem on our hands. The vehicle I am talking about should be a vehicle where Government can participate. The question is, would it be possible for your Ministry to

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 09**  
**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

engage the Private Sector and everybody concerned for us to create a special vehicle to develop skills in this country. Thank you very much.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I now call upon the Deputy Minister to respond to some of the specific questions.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairman of the Whole House Committee. First of all, I would like to thank all the Members for their support and I am also very grateful that the questions are limited to only a few at this late hour of the day, not that I say that the Vote is not important. I am sure there are many questions still to be asked, but we are open to receive them at a later stage when it is more proper.

*Honourable Moongo*, your question is whether we are aware that money is lost through corruption and whether we are part of it. It is a very clear question which is answered through the Auditor-General's Reports. I have not seen a Report of late of the Auditor-General which has pointed a finger and said this amount of money is lost due to corruption. I have also not seen that the Ministry of Finance is blamed for that. Therefore, the answer to your question is that we are not aware that this type of misuse of appropriated money is evident.

The second question was whether the subsidies or the arrangement that the Ministry of Health has with church hospitals is audited. The answer is yes, it is and money that is appropriated by this House to the Ministry is audited. Secondly, I am aware that there are agreements in place which hold the respective churches responsible and they are obliged to report on the operations and activities they have undertaken with the money they receive as a subsidy. Actually we are very pleased that the churches are on board to assist us. It is a very valuable assistance we are getting and it is, in our opinion, also very good value for money that we receive. We

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 09  
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

would actually encourage to have more of this type of Public-Private Partnerships going that assist us in delivering these services especially in very remote areas. Therefore we are very happy with that arrangement.

*Comrade Mwaningange*, you asked about the EPZs in Oshikango and whether they bring in money. I think the answer to that is a very clear one, EPZs live in a tax holiday, so they do not bring money. The purpose of creating these tax incentives for these warehouses in Oshikango was to stimulate trade. There were a number of huge opportunities with trading with southern Angola and that is what they are doing, but because of the fact that they have a total tax holiday, they do not bring direct customs revenue to the Ministry, but they bring, through their ripple effects, some advantage and growth into the economy, but it is not a matter of revenue.

We are aware of the situation at the border post at Rundu and Calai. When it was built in the early nineties we were in a pretty dry cycle and the engineers and architects picked a site that now is part of the flood plain and we are now in trouble. We have looked at the situation and we have migrated some of the activities to our Head Office in Rundu, but we are looking at the problem together with Works to find a suitable spot where we can develop a new border post. Your observation is correct and unfortunately we were probably blinded by the drought.

*Honourable Iyambo*, the percentage of tenders to disadvantaged people, I do not have the exact figure of what we allocated to disadvantaged groups and locals, but I can provide the figure tomorrow, we have it in our statistics. It is a significant figure, but just to give you some comfort, the new regulations that I have mentioned in my address and the new *Procurement Bill* will strengthen our ability to ensure that local sourcing and involvement of local groups and our need to empower local groups, especially youth, women and disadvantaged people, will be strengthened. That remains a very high priority in our quest to use procurement as a significant and important tool to develop our economy and to empower our people.

The next question is probably a bit more complex. If I understand it correctly it has two elements. One is how do we make sure that the capital

18 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 09  
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

flight that is still occurring is somehow curbed and that we use some of the money that comes back, if that is possible, to enhance our ability to train. That is how I understand the question. I think with the first element, that is how to curb capital flight, we are now as good as ready to public regulation 29, as it is known by now, which changes the obligations and benchmarks of how much investment is considered as Namibian investments and how much is allowed to go out. We are tightening the screws especially on double listed companies and the like so that we make sure that more of our own savings are retained in the country.

What is also important to note here is that these investments are contractual savings by individuals. They are pension and insurance moneys, so there is an expectation of the saving public to get a reasonable return on those savings. When we engage in bringing back the money to Namibia, we must also bear in mind that even here it must render a reasonable return so that the pensioners have good returns on their own investments. That is important in considering the second part of your question, whether we can use that money to invest in skills development. If that skills development venture would render good returns, the answer is obviously yes, because there is a big need for skills development, but I think what we would offer as an alternative is that if we develop our economy, if our Private Sector is embracing the policies that we have on the table, then through that increase in volume we will have a better ability to satisfy the skills gap and skills need that we have.

Honourable Minister, I think you will probably remember that we spent about 25% of our total Budget in that very aspect where we want to improve our skills development. We have significantly improved vocational training and I think what you are quite rightly saying is that our ability to attach these vocational trainees to the real situation in life, that is in need of attention and I think that is a comment that I can associate myself with.

With those, I think I have answered all the questions and I thank you for your support.

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18 April 2012

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

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMED**

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Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 20:00 UNTIL 2012.04.19 AT 09:00**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
19 APRIL 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? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Veterans Affairs.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT AND ANNUAL  
REPORT: MINISTRY OF VETERAN AFFAIRS**

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Annual Activities Report of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs for the year 2009/2010 and Annual Report of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs for the year 2010/2011.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? None. Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Katjavivi.

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**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI:** Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 12, 20, 21, 22, 25 and 31 of the

19 April 2012

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

*Appropriation Bill* be, in terms of the Rule 90(c) of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration at 12:30. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister of Justice.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, today marks yet another milestone in the history of our country. SWAPO Party, the people's liberator, is today turning 52 years old since its formation. Today on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2012 we are celebrating the birth of this vanguard movement of our people. It was on this historic day 52 years ago that the people of our country, conscious of the weakness of the stratified and isolated tribal-based efforts to dislodge the then racist apartheid regime of South Africa, formed the South West Africa People's Organisation.

Our people consciously transformed and amalgamated the precursor organisations, such as the Owamboland People's Organisation, into the South West Africa People's Organisation, now known only as SWAPO Party, to create a vanguard movement to which peace-loving Namibians could belong without any tribal or gender-based restrictions.

We owe it to those visionary leaders, the founding fathers and mothers of our movement, such as Dr Sam Nujoma, Honourable Herman Toivo Ya Toivo, Rosa Kakurukaze Mungunda, Mzee Simon Kaukungwa and others.

The 52<sup>nd</sup> of this former liberation movement of Namibia, the SWAPO Party, symbolises the significant hallmark in the annals of our historic

19 April 2012

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

heritage, which includes among others the waging of the protracted armed liberation struggle for the Independence of our country from the yoke of colonial apartheid regime, the establishment of a democratic Government of our state, the deepening and consolidation of the gains of our Independence and the furtherance of the democratisation of governance in our country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, today we not only celebrate the birth of our Party, but also are taking stock of how far we have come and the challenges of the future of our Nation. Our Party, at 52 years today, is well aware of the challenges facing our country, that of poverty and unemployment, however we should remain confident that under the able leadership of this Party our future is in good hands, as programmes and projects to address these challenges and the concomitant resources have already been put in place.

On this occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the birth of our Party I would like to call upon all Namibians and SWAPO Party members in particular to take a memory lane 52 years back and remember the principle underlining the formation of the SWAPO Party, that is that the unity of our people must remain sacrosanct and nothing, but nothing, directly or indirectly must take its place.

Allow me, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, to take this opportunity on behalf of His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, the President of our Party, the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Party to wish all SWAPO Party members rank and file a happy 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday of our Party. The guiding message during our celebration should echo the words of the Founding President, Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma, when he says, "*a people united for the common good of all people will always emerge victorious.*" Happy birthday SWAPO Party and happy birthday to all Namibians whose birthdays are coinciding with that of the SWAPO Party. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank you. Honourable Maamberua.

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19 April 2012

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON MAAMBERUA / HON TJIHUIKO / MOONGO**

**HON MAAMBERUA:** Just a word of well-wishing and congratulating the Comrades on their happy birthday and also noting that Kakurukaze Mungunda was shot on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1959 and, therefore, she could not have been a member of SWAPO. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Tjihuiko.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Allow me this opportunity to congratulate the SWAPO Party on their 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday. That shows that you have become a mature Party. That shows that having been a liberation movement, you have done your part, completed your contribution successfully in that area and I wish you all the best of luck and hope that you will accept the fact that your time has passed. As much as we have supported you during the last 22 years, I hope that you will also be able to give us support for the next years to come as an Opposition Party.

On behalf of NUDO and the entire NUDO membership, happy birthday. Thank you.

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

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would also like to extend our happiness and congratulations from the DTA. I hope that they will side with the poor people as they did in the beginning and not to side only with those who are well-off. I wish you a happy birthday.

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19 April 2012

**NOMINATION: MEMBERS OF  
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION  
HON MUHEUA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. The First Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare. Does the Deputy Minister Move the Motion?

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**NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO  
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION**

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** I Move the Motion.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. You have the Floor.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker, Sir. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the year 2012, apart from marking the 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday of SWAPO, marks the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the implementation of the Affirmative Action legislation in the Republic of Namibia. The main objective of the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act 29 of 1998 is to guide employers to rectify the inequities left behind by the discriminatory policies of the apartheid dispensation with regard to the distribution of jobs, income and occupation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, after thirteen years of Affirmative Action implementation the level of progress towards a diverse, equitable and gender and racially balanced workforce leaves much to be desired. The Employment Equity Commission's Annual Report for the review period 2010/2011 revealed that the top echelons of many employers' workforce composition, especially in the Private Sector,

19 April 2012

**NOMINATION: MEMBERS OF  
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION  
HON MUHEUA**

remain proportionally skewed in favour of white employees.

However, I am pleased to report that the Employment Equity Commission is making every effort to ensure that employers who do not comply with the provisions of the Affirmative Action law and those who do not give their willing cooperation are called to account. During the just ended review period the Commission reported that a total of 64 employers appeared before the Courts on charges of non-compliance with the Affirmative Action law. It is absolutely important that employers are made to realise that the violation or disregard of the law has serious penal consequences.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the term of office of the fourth Employment Equity Commission that was appointed by this august House in 2009 has ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2012. In light of this fact, the Minister has consulted, in terms of Section 6 of the Affirmation Action (Employment) Act 29 of 1998 with the relevant stakeholders on the identification of suitable men and women who should form the fifth Employment Equity Commission to build on the progress made thus far. In terms of the Act, members of the Employment Equity Commission are appointed to serve for three years. The Minister, therefore, has the honour to table the names of the following persons for your approval, as they appear on the Order Paper.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this being my motivation on behalf of the Minister, I pray that the House approves the nominations as they appear on the Order Paper without further ado and questions. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Any further discussion? Honourable Tjihuiko.

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19 April 2012

**NOMINATION: MEMBERS OF  
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION  
HON TJIHUIKO / HON MUHEUA**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, for the opportunity. I have one question to the Honourable Deputy Minister when looking at the list of people who have been presented to this House for approval.

I see “*representing racially disadvantaged persons*”. Honourable Deputy Minister, I want to know, who are these racially disadvantaged persons apart from those who were previously disadvantaged through the South African laws that are now being represented by a democratically elected Government through the various structures that we have put in place? Who are these specific people who are being represented by these people and I also want to know, do these racially disadvantaged people have a structure which you have consulted to nominate the people to represent them?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any further contributions? Deputy Minister.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Honourable Speaker, I think it is a valid question by the Members. As I said, we have consulted widely with all the affected and relevant stakeholders. There may not be a structure or an organisation representing the racially disadvantaged people, but we deemed it fit and necessary that they should be represented on this board and thus their inclusion.

I am not hundred percent sure as to who the racially disadvantaged persons are and maybe the Honourable Minister would like to assist me here. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any further discussion?

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19 April 2012

**NOMINATION: MEMBERS OF  
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION  
HON !NARUSEB / HON TJIHUIKO**

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

Honourable Speaker, I thought that was the most obvious situation that would not need any question from Parliamentarians, for that matter. Racially disadvantaged Namibians are there and in terms of our law, the Minister responsible for the administration of the Employment Equity Commission is tasked to identify and nominate these people to Parliament and we did that. If you want to find out who exactly is racially disadvantaged or formerly racially disadvantaged, I think you can come to me and I will show you, many of them are here and they look like you and me. These are the people who are to be represented and to be identified by the Minister in terms of that law. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Tjihuiko.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Speaker, the previously disadvantaged people are being represented by the recognised, registered Trade Unions. I cannot think of anybody, apart from being represented by the elected Government, to represent the interests of all the Namibians through the policy of national reconciliation. To have two people to represent a specific group of people that does not exist, I think is a result of racially-loaded minds of people that there are people who are different from those who are being represented by the State and the Trade unions. I cannot see why we should have this group of people representing anybody, because there is nobody that they are representing at all.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Minister of Lands and Resettlement.

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19 April 2012

**NOMINATION: MEMBERS OF  
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION  
HON !NARUSEB / HON MUHEUA**

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir. I am of the opinion that the Line Ministry is merely carrying out the provisions of the Act. If we want to question the Act that we have passed, then we probably need to say so, but the Minister is basically executing the provisions of the Act and the Act expects him to take care of the people so enumerated in the provisions of the Act. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Deputy Minister, do you want to say anything?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Members and also Comrade !Naruseb for that clarification. I think we should not be faulted for trying to be as encompassing as possible in terms of the Act. I thank everybody.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I now put the Question, that the Motion be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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

19 April 2012

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

**RESUMPTION OF  
COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Committee Stage -*Appropriation Bill*.

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

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE**

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill*. When progress was reported yesterday, Votes 01 to 11, 13 to 18, 19, 23, 24, 26 to 30 had been agreed to and Votes 12, 20 and 25 had been introduced.

**Vote 21 – “PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES”, N\$447,368,900.00 put for Introduction.**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me to congratulate the Honourable Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for her continued good work in her capacity as the Minister of Finance together with her Deputy Minister, Honourable Callie Schlettwein. We wish them and their dedicated team of staff, all the best in their endeavours.

**PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUDGET**

At the beginning of the last Financial Year, I requested this august House to approve a sum of N\$442,335,395.00 for the Namibian Correctional Service, which included the Operational and Development Budget. In this light I will briefly reflect on some achievements made in the implementation of the Budget:

**SAFE CUSTODY**

Namibian Correctional Service has successfully managed to keep safe custody of offenders sent to prison. The Offender Risk Management Correctional Strategy which was launched by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia at the Elizabeth Nepemba Correctional Facility in March 2011 continues to be the strategic cornerstone of the Namibian Correctional Service.

Through this strategy all offender populations at Windhoek Central Prison and Elizabeth Nepemba Correctional Facility went through the initial security classification and each offender has been assigned a specific level of security, that is maximum, medium, low-medium or minimum in accordance with the level of risk each offender poses to society. The initial security classification was followed by regular security review and reclassification procedures to enhance case preparation for decision-making, for example transfer, work release programme or parole.

Classification of offender populations is one of the most important functions of any modern correctional agency. It serves as a management tool to minimise the potential for institutional misbehaviour and violence;

19 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 21**  
**HON UTONI**

mitigates the probability of escape and directs resources to where they are most needed.

The murder incident of 18 January 2012 at Windhoek Central Prison is, however, very regrettable. The incident could have been prevented should the staff working in that particular unit where the incident occurred acted according to policies and procedures. Investigations are underway by both the Namibian Police Force and Namibian Correctional Service to determine, *inter alia*, the circumstance surrounding this unfortunate incident.

Four hundred and seven recruits were recruited and trained to increase the number of custodial staff. In addition, a security training course was conducted for all officers responsible for security at the thirteen correctional facilities with the purpose of strengthening the security regime of these institutions and complement the above referred strategy.

The construction of new correctional facilities and staff accommodation and major renovations of existing prison institutions are on-going and have progressed very well. The rate of implementation recorded is 90%.

The automated Offender Information Management System has been installed at all thirteen correctional facilities and training was conducted for all the system users. This electronic database is designed to capture a broad spectrum of offender-related data, such as sentence-data, bio-demographic information, criminal history, risk-assessments, programmes/treatment information, and release tracking of offenders for community supervision.

## **REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES**

As the Honourable Members may recall, I last year reported that the Namibian Correctional Service has taken very concrete steps in achieving successful rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

This will require well-selected, specifically trained, highly motivated and focused staff. Last year some eleven professionals were recruited and

19 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 21**  
**HON UTONI**

appointed for both Windhoek Central Prison and Elizabeth Nepemba Correctional Facility and their training will be conducted in the course of this Financial Year 2012/2013.

The consultant and staff of the Rehabilitation and Reintegration Directorate have started with some consolidation work including the re-institution of a National Training Team which can eventually assume all of the training responsibilities to advance the Offender Risk Management Correctional Strategy into the future.

### **STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

Honourable Members, in the previous year I informed this august House that a number of our staff are on the degree course in Criminal Justice (Correctional Management) and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Criminal Justice which the Namibian Correctional Service jointly developed with the Polytechnic of Namibia and is fully funded by the Namibian Correctional Service. This programme is running very well, and at the moment the first eight out of the eleven officers who were in the third year last year are waiting to graduate and obtain their degrees this month, April 2012; thirteen officers are in their third year; ten officers in the second year; and another ten in the first year. Of those officers waiting to graduate, five have registered for the Honours in Criminal Justice (Correctional Management) this year. There were four officers doing a Degree course in Social Work with the University of Namibia and are now doing their internship.

### **AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION**

The Divundu Rehabilitation Farm continues to support the national efforts on food security significantly, particularly in maize and wheat grain. The Namibian Correctional Service continues in a sustainable way to supply maize meal to all its institutions with some significant level of surplus. Honourable Members, you might be aware that last year the Namibian Correctional Service donated 500 tons of maize meal to the Emergency Unit of the Prime Minister's Office.

### **ASSISTANCE TO CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES**

Honourable Members, last year the Namibian Correctional Service instituted a cleaning and minor renovation campaign in flood affected areas by utilising offenders for this purpose. Seventeen schools, two State Hospitals, one Magistrates Court, one Regional Council office and one (1) Traditional Authority office, one crèche, one Youth Resource Centre and one Orphan Project around the country benefited from this campaign.

Five hundred desks and three hundred chairs for the Ministry of Education (Khomas Education Region) were repaired by the Namibian Correctional Service workshop. The workshops now have the capacity to repair and manufacture school and other Government furniture at a low cost and in the shortest possible time. This has only been possible due to the deliberate efforts by the Namibian Correctional Service to commit to its social responsibility.

### **HEALTH CARE**

Over the past few years, the Namibian Correctional Service has embarked on sustained efforts to improve health in its institutions. This is done in partnership with key stakeholders who have been contributing significantly to the combating of serious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and other diseases. These stakeholders are Centre for Disease Control, United Nations Office on Drugs Crime and Global Fund through the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

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

### **CHALLENGES**

The challenges are many, but I selectively want to reflect on the following very few crucial ones:

- a) The lack of the right human resources, both in numbers and in the right kinds of skill sets.

- b) Continued strain on financial resources which forces the Namibian Correctional Service to sometimes cut on the already limited supplies and materials.
- c) The bureaucracy involved in the tender procedures which always results in the delay of procuring stores and construction and renovation work.

**BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 2012/2013 FINANCIAL YEAR**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members, I would now like to take this opportunity to introduce Vote 21 of the Ministry of Safety and Security: the Namibian Correctional Service for your consideration.

The Ministry is requesting a total Budget of N\$447,369,000.00, of which N\$362,672,000.00 are for the Operational Budget and N\$84,697,000.00 are for the Development Budget for the Namibian Correctional Service.

Honourable Members, please note that this figure represents only a 1.29% increase in the Budget compared to the last Financial Year.

We have identified four programmes for the Namibian Correctional Service in the 2012/2013 Financial Year. I shall now explain the specific allocation for each programme as follows:

**PROGRAMME: SAFE CUSTODY**

An amount of N\$362,062,000.00 is allocated.

**PROGRAMME: REHABILITATION**

An amount of N\$58,408,000.00 is allocated.

19 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 22**  
**HON ESAU**

**PROGRAMME: REINTEGRATION**

N\$9,168,000.00 is allocated.

**PROGRAMME: COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

N\$17,731,000.00 is allocated.

In conclusion, I now have the pleasure of requesting this august House to approve the sum of N\$447,369,000.00 for the Namibian Correctional Service and I thank you.

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

**Vote 22 – “FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES”,  
N\$257,463,300.00 put for Introduction.**

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I am most delighted to take this opportunity to present Vote 22 of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources for the kind consideration by the Honourable House and its approval. I am confident that this august House will diligently and expeditiously deliberate on this important Vote and without unnecessary delay give its consent for immediate implementation.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, in the same vein, allow me to express my profound sense of appreciation and warm congratulations to our distinguished Comrade, Honourable Sara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Minister of Finance her Deputy, Comrade Calle Schlettwein, the Permanent Secretary as well as her staff. The Director-General of the National Planning Commission and his staff also need to be

19 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 22**  
**HON ESAU**

congratulated for a job well done in presenting a fair and a balanced Budget under these challenging economic conditions confronting not only Namibia but, indeed, the entire globe.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, it is my sincere belief that we as Government will be able to Implement all the plans and projects that we have set for ourselves especially capital projects in order to address our developmental objectives which will translate into economic growth hence more job opportunities and poverty reduction.

Honourable Chairperson, the amount to which I seek the House support is a total of N\$257,463,000.00 million for 2012/2013 Financial Year.

This amount will be used by my Ministry in its quest for the sustainable management and administration of our fisheries resources and the promotion of aquaculture development which is aimed at improving the livelihoods of our people through increased food security, poverty reduction and for the ultimate economic development of our citizenry.

Allow me Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to now provide an overview of the performance of the Fishing Industry during the last Financial Year.

In the midst of the global financial crisis and its effect on some of the Fishery Sub-sectors, the overall business environment within the Fishing Industry has improved. The beginning of the year 2011 has seen an appreciation of the Namibian Dollar against the major trading currencies, that is the Euro, Pound and US\$. This appreciation has resulted in the reduction of earning for the fish and fish products exporters. However, the Namibian Dollar depreciated against the major trading currencies towards the end of 2011 and this, coupled with considerable improved fish sizes, led to favourable market prices for some fish and fish products.

In addition, fuel and diesel is another commodity that has an impact on the Industry's performance, because it constitutes a large chunk of operational cost of our fishing companies. During the reporting period, diesel prices increased five times, averaging at N\$9.12 per litter at coastal pump price.

19 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 22**  
**HON ESAU**

This translated into an increase of N\$2.39, compared to N\$0.33 in 2010 for the coastal pump, which is a huge increase.

In addition, fishing companies operating from Lüderitz had to endure a 6% rail tariff increase, due to the fact that they are serviced by inland depots. This translates into a 1 to 3c per litre more compared to Walvis Bay. This increase had a huge negative impact on the growth of the Fishing Industry in 2011. We have also witnessed, with great concern, the increases in the fuel price lately this year. It is our hope that the trend will not continue henceforth.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the fishing industry's Gross Domestic Production contribution, for the year 2011 is not yet availed by the National Planning Commission. Therefore, I would like to report on the GDP contribution by the Sector during 2010. The Fishing Industry contributed 3.7% to GDP compared to 4.6% in 2009, which translates into a 0.9% decrease. This was as a result of a decrease of 0.6% and 0.3% in fishing and fish processing on board and onshore, respectively. The final value of exports in the Fishery Sector stood at N\$4 billion in 2010, a reduction of 15% compared to 2009 when the final value at export stood at N\$4.7 billion. This was due to reduced prices for most of the landings and fish products.

Honourable Chairperson, allow me to elaborate on our specific programmes, as follows:

We are requesting an amount of N\$257,463,000.00 for 2012/2013 Financial Year for the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources to fulfil our mandate.

Out of a total of N\$257,463,000.00 allocated to Vote 22, an amount of N\$204,463,000.00 is earmarked for Operational Activities, while only N\$53,000,000.00 will be directed towards Capital Projects.

The allocated amount will be utilised as follows:

**PROGRAMME 1: SURVEY AND STOCK ASSESSMENTS**

The main purpose of this programme is to assess the status of the fish stocks as well as that of the marine environment to provide scientific advice to the Government on the sustainable utilisation of such resources. Surveys to assess the population dynamics and distribution of commercially important stocks, such as hake, monk, horse mackerel, pilchard, crab, rock lobster, seals as well as those of the marine environment, were conducted during the 2011/2012 Financial Year. Most of our commercially important fish stocks were found to be in healthy growing states, while others, such as pilchard, still need to recover to a sustainable level where they can make a significant contribution to the economy.

During the 2012/2013 Financial Year the Ministry shall embark on the completion of the Horse Mackerel, Seals and Pilchard Management Plans. The Hake Management Plan, which was completed during the 2011/2012 Financial Year, shall serve as a template for the remainder of the Management Plans.

As you might be aware, the Ministry is in the process of acquiring a new multi-disciplinary research vessel, which is currently under construction in Finland. Hence, during the 2012/2013 Financial Year the Ministry will send officials to Finland to oversee the final stages of the construction of the research vessel. The crew and scientists will also take part in the quay and sea trials for the vessel to ensure that all equipment is performing, before delivery of the vessel to Namibia. After the vessel is delivered to Namibia more resources will be required for its maintenance and upkeep.

Honourable Chairperson, to fulfil our responsibilities, under this programme, we are seeking support to the sum of N\$49,632,000.00 for the 2012/2013 Financial Year.

**PROGRAMME 2: HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**

The programme is aimed at enhancing human resource development at all levels in the Ministry.

During 2011/2012 the Ministry has achieved its accumulative target of 30 trained staff members. The Ministry has trained more than 149 staff members to acquire various skills during the last Financial Year in order to address the strategic needs of the Ministry. In addition, the Ministry, through the Namibian Maritime and Fisheries Institute, has trained personnel in Navigation, Engineering and basic Safety in order to comply with the International Convention of Standard of Training and Watch-keeping for Seafarers. Skills and capacity development are still required in different disciplines of finance, administration and other relevant areas.

Honourable Chairperson, an amount of N\$3,396,000.00 under Vote 22 has been allocated to this important programme for the 2012/2013 Financial Year.

**PROGRAMME 3: MARINE AND INLAND MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE**

The purpose of this programme is to ensure that fishing and fisheries related activities within the Namibian Exclusive Economic Zone and inland water bodies comply with the country's fisheries legislations. The Ministerial Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Programme is supplemented by the Fisheries Observer Programme since 1992.

The Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Programme remain an important and effective fisheries management tool. Through this programme Namibia has managed to protect, conserve and enhance the sustainable harvesting of our living marine resources. A good example in this regard was the patriotic action by the Namibian fisheries legislation enforcement units against the foreign intruders who entered our country in July 2011 with the intention to disrupt seal harvesting at Cape Cross.

19 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 22**  
**HON ESAU**

Honourable Chairperson, the Fisheries Observer Agency and the Namibian Maritime and Fisheries Institute are the two Statutory Institutions rendering the service in the Fisheries Sector. Like In the past, some of their resource requirements are catered for under this programme. N\$602,000.00 is budgeted for Fisheries Observer Agency, while another N\$602,000.00 is provided for the Namibian Maritime and Fisheries Institute during the 2012/2013 Financial Year.

In order to carry out activities under this programme during 2012/2013 Financial Year, we need an amount of N\$85,854,000.00.

**PROGRAMME 4: PROMOTION OF MARINE AND INLAND AQUACULTURE**

The purpose of this programme is to develop aquaculture farming activities at coastal and inland areas by utilising intensive methods under macro and micro scales for marine and fresh water species.

We have completed three major capital projects during the 2011/2012 Financial Year, namely; Kamutjonga Inland Fisheries Institute in the Kavango Region, our Regional Office in Katima Mulilo and the Ongwediva Hatchery in the Oshana Region. We are expecting projects at Noordoewer and the upgrading of the Fonteintjie Fish Farm in Keetmanshoop both in Karas Region. In addition, a new Regional Office in Rundu, Fish and Vegetable Market in Katima Mulilo, as well as Leonardville Fish Farm in Omaheke Region to take off in the 2012/2013 Financial Year.

The Ministry has also commissioned feasibility studies for Onakalunga Fish Farm in the Ohangwena Region as well as Rehoboth Fish Farm in the Hardap Region.

Furthermore, I am pleased to report that the implementation of the South-South Cooperation Programme in support of aquaculture development between the Republic of Namibia and Socialist Republic of Vietnam is now in full swing and we will witness increased activities under this programme during the 2012/2013 Financial Year. This programme will

19 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 22**  
**HON ESAU**

end by the calendar year 2015.

The cooperation is within the context of our national programme on food security, and has been funded by the Kingdom of Spain for an amount of N\$14 million. In the same vein, the African Development Bank has provided Namibia a grant, to the tune of N\$3.5 million to develop a Master Plan on Aquaculture for Namibia. The Plan is at an advance stage and once completed, a blueprint will be shared nationally with our populace and Parliament.

Our Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource has consulted the University of Namibia to develop an Aquaculture Certificate program. An amount of N\$12 million will be invested under this project over the next three years. I would like to thank the Kingdom of Spain for such unwavering support they have rendered to us in the Fishery Sector over the years.

Honourable Chairperson, the Mariculture Sector is still dominated by the oyster and abalone production in Walvis Bay, Lüderitz, Swakopmund as well as Oranjemund. Last year has been a good production year due to more favourable environmental conditions. The hatcheries in Swakopmund and Lüderitz are well established and producing oyster and abalone spat for Namibian farms which has reached 17 million oyster spat in 2011 in Swakopmund. Furthermore, I commissioned a fish farm at Oranjemund town early this year, which will culture Steenbras and other species. Moreover, the Ministry continues to assist the Eco-Fish farm to sustain its activities in Mariental, at the Hardap Inland Aquaculture Centre.

Furthermore, coastal land for onshore mariculture activities was availed by the Municipality of Walvis Bay at no cost, and will be used as an aquaculture development zone. We would like to thank the Walvis Bay Municipality for taking that bold and welcomed step to support our Ministry in its endeavour to build the Aquaculture Industry.

In order to carry out activities under this programme during the 2012/2013 Financial Year, an amount of N\$59,328,000.00 is needed.

**PROGRAMME 5: COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

The purpose of this programme is to provide administrative support to the Ministry's programmes and to ensure proper financial management, optimal utilisation of resources, such as human, financial, information technology and maintenance, logistical management, and capacity building.

Honourable Chairperson, the main activities to be carried out under this programme are: the extension of the Head Office building to ensure that the Ministry's staff members are housed within the same complex. The programme also focuses on the general administration of the Ministry and the implementation of the Ministerial Strategic Plan, and the Performance Management System. It also ensures that the human resources under the auspices of the Ministry are timely remunerated and related statutory expenses and utilities are paid.

Honourable Chairperson, in response to mitigate the effect of HIV/AIDS in the workforce and to create awareness on the deadliness of the virus, the Ministry has also allocated a portion of its Budget under this programme to HIV/AIDS related activities. In order to carry out activities under this programme during the 2012/2013 Financial Year, an amount of N\$42,767,000.00 is requested and your support will be highly appreciated.

**PROGRAMME 6: POLICY AND ECONOMIC ADVICE**

The main purpose of the programme is to advise the Ministry on socio-economic performance of the Fishing Industry and also to analyse the social-economic impact of the allocated total allowable catch (TAC) on the Fishing Industry.

Honourable Chairperson, this programme focuses on providing detail analysis of the performance of right holders in terms of investment, employment, socio-economic contribution to the community, and the extent of their participation in the Fishing Industry. This is done to achieve maximum benefit from the living aquatic resources to ensure the

19 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 22**  
**HON ESAU**

development of our country's economy.

A total of 178 new fishing rights in various commercial fisheries, excluding pilchard and orange roughy, were granted during 2011. This granting of fishing rights is broad-based which covered all Regions In Namibia.

During the 2012/2013 Financial Year the Ministry will review the Inland Fisheries Act and Regulations, and the Marine Resources Act and Regulations. The policy documents which brought the two sets of laws into existence will also be revised accordingly.

I am also pleased to inform you that last year the Ministry participated in various international fisheries expos to benefit from the best practices from other fishing Nations.

In order to carry out activities under this programme during the 2012/2013 Financial Year, your support is sought for an amount of N\$142,488,513.00.

**PROGRAMME 7: NON TAX AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION**

The main purpose of this programme is to verify landings and collect quota fees and fund levies which constitute the main revenue to the State from the Fishing Industry.

Quota fees are directly remitted to Treasury by this Ministry, and therefore represent the main form of value transfer from the Fishery Sector to Government for redistribution to other Sectors of the economy. These fees are set in such a way that they reward those processing on land. This is because processing on land creates much more jobs than processing and freezing at sea, and job creation is one of the key objectives of our Government of the Republic of Namibia.

In order to carry out activities under this programme during the 2012/2013 Financial Year, we are seeking your support for an amount of N\$1,599,000.00.

19 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 31**  
**HON DR N IYAMBO**

In conclusion, I would like to highlight a point of concern regarding phosphate mining activities that might have some negative environmental impact on the marine living resources. There is a need for more consultation with all stakeholders involves addressing and giving comfort to our concern.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to express my indebtedness to you all, my fellow Members of Parliament, and I will remain forever thankful for the understanding you have shown and thank you prematurely for the overwhelming support for my Vote. Now allow me to submit, Vote 22: Fisheries and Marine Resources for 2012/2013 for consideration and approval. I thank you for your attention.

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

**Vote 31 – “VETERAN AFFAIRS”, N\$1,061,099,000.00 put for Introduction.**

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I am taking the Floor to motivate Vote 31 for your kind consideration.

I firstly want to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, her Deputy, the Director-General of the National Planning Commission and their competent staff for a well-balanced Budget which is aimed at addressing the needs of the Namibian people.

Honourable Members, before you are the Annual Reports for the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 Financial Years, which give detail account of activities undertaken by the Ministry of Veteran Affairs. Those Annual Reports have been presented for information references. The activities in the Annual Reports are based on the strategic plan that guides the Ministry in the execution of its mandate. In addition, the implementation of our

19 April 2012    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 31**  
**HON DR N IYAMBO**

strategic plan is informed by experiences we learned from other countries, such as the Republic of Mozambique which we visited recently.

As I present this Budget, I will first concentrate on the main outputs achieved during the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

In the 2011/2012 Financial Year we were allocated N\$1,220,360,956 that has been spent on the following activities:

Since 2008, 35,927 applications for veteran status were received. In addition, 1,650 applications from the children of the liberation struggle were also received, bringing the total to 43,509. Of the above figures, 27,000 have been granted veteran status and 5,738 dependents of deceased veterans and 1,650 applications were received from the children of the liberation struggle and were referred to the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture.

**PAYMENT OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:**

The payment of the N\$2,200.00 continues to be paid and to date 8,830 veterans are receiving this monthly assistance, which amounts to N\$19,426,000.

**PAYMENT OF ONCE-OFF GRATUITY:**

The payment of the once-off gratuity, as approved by Cabinet in 2010, is a form of recognition for veterans' contribution to the national liberation struggle. Each veteran who carried out activities between 1959 to 1987 will receive N\$50,000, while those whose activities were between 1988 and 1989 will receive N\$20,000. During this period the Ministry paid N\$781,450,000 to 15,629 veterans for the lump sum of N\$50,000.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANTS FOR VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS OF VETERANS:**

During the 2011/2012, 668 applications were received, of which 264 were granted study grants at an amount of N\$2.5 million.

**HOUSING FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS:**

A total of 45 houses were built for veterans in all thirteen Regions to date.

**INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS FOR VETERANS:**

The overwhelming number of 1,800 applications for individual veteran projects were received. Due to budgetary constraints only 817 could be approved and paid with a value of N\$83,993,937.00.

The execution rate for the Ministry of Veterans Affairs for the Financial Year 2011/2012 is 98%. Honourable Members, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs is requesting the Honourable Members of this House to support the requested amount of N\$1,061,099,000 that is budgeted to enable the Ministry to carry out its activities for the 2012/2013 Financial Year. In order to carry out the Ministry's mandate, which is to initiate, promote and implement projects and programmes which address the socio-economic needs of the veterans, including keeping the history of the national liberation struggle alive, an amount of N\$1,061,099,000.00 is requested for the 2012/2013 Financial Year for debate and approval by this august House.

**BUDGET BREAKDOWN:**

The Ministry's allocation is as follows:

An amount of N\$1,046,711,000.00 is allocated for the Operational Budget purposes and an amount of N\$14,388,000.00 for the Development Budget. In order to carry out the activities under its mandate, the Ministry has the following three main programmes: Veterans Welfare Programme, Liberation Struggle Heritage and Coordination and Support Services. I now proceed to elaborate on the activities of the above-mentioned programmes in detail.

**PROGRAMME 1: VETERANS WELFARE PROGRAMME:**

We have the following activities under this programme:

Support package to veterans – N\$1,034,774,000.00. The objective of this programme is to coordinate the designing, monitoring and evaluation of activities that are aimed at improving the welfare of veterans of the national liberation struggle. An amount of N\$243,836,000.00 has been allocated for the payment of the veterans' monthly subvention of N\$2,200.00 for approved veterans, which amount is not taxable.

An amount of N\$2,500,000.00 is allocated to Education Grants. The amount of N\$700,000.00 has been allocated to cater for the burial and erection of tombstones once a veteran dies. The number of veterans that may die within a Financial Year cannot be predicted.

N\$7 million is budgeted for medical assistance and counselling. Under the provision of psycho-socio needs for registered veterans of the national liberation struggle we aim at assisting veterans physically and psychologically, more so for purchasing prosthetic and mobility aids for disabled veterans at Government institutions and facilities.

**PAYMENT OF THE LUMP SUM ONCE-OFF GRATUITY TO VETERANS:**

This is the second year in which the lump sum is being paid. About 20,000 veterans have so far been paid and an amount of N\$750 million has been allocated in this Budget for the continuation of this activity, which will probably end in the course of the next Financial Year.

**VETERANS ASSOCIATION:**

An amount of N\$1,100,000.00 is allocated to cater for the activities of the Association. It is expected that more income will be generated from projects under the Association's supervision.

**IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION OF VETERANS:**

This is a continuous activity to register all would-be veterans and dependents of deceased veterans in order to produce a National Veterans Register and to have profiles of veterans. The amount allocated is N\$250,000.00. Subsequently, the Ministry introduced a few new sub-activities under this main activity, known as the Impact Assessment on Assistance given to Registered Veterans. This assessment started in 2010/2011 and will end in 2013/2014, which will confirm the number of registered veterans in the country and whether or not they are still alive. The Ministry will also be able to find out the number of dependents or children of deceased veterans who are now over the years of being dependents.

**PRODUCTION OF VETERAN CARDS:**

The Ministry will start printing cards for registered veterans possibly this Financial Year.

**CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS HOUSES:**

The Ministry will continue constructing and renovating houses for eligible veterans throughout the country. For this purpose N\$2 million is allocated. The estimated cost for one house currently is about N\$500,000.00, that will give approximately four houses in one Financial Year. This is less than the projection to build one hundred houses per Financial Year over the five-year period. We hope the situation will improve as more funding becomes available.

**INDIVIDUAL VETERANS PROJECTS:**

The Ministry continues to receive overwhelming numbers of applications for funding of individual projects, which is an indication of the interest from veterans to engage in economic activities of their choice. N\$20 million is allocated for this activity.

**DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, PROJECT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME:**

This activity has been allocated N\$14,380,000.00 to cover the following activities: Feasibility studies for projects; acquisition/construction of offices for the Ministry of Veterans Affairs Head Office and Regional Offices; Agricultural Support Programme in crop production; Poultry Farming for Veterans in Oshana Region; Brick-making Project in Ondangwa; Veterans Bakery in Eenhana; Veterans Recreational Activities in Omusati.

**PROGRAMME 2: LIBERATION STRUGGLE HERITAGE:**

For this programme an amount of N\$3,648,000.00 is allocated for the following objectives: Acquiring historic material of the liberation struggle through negotiations with organisations and individuals; identify sites and places where the activities of the war of national liberation took place in order to erect monuments or marks of any kind; establish an electronic and manual archive where information of the liberation struggle and documents can be stored and training given to those who will work in that system; reservation, erection and construction of monuments or landmarks at the identified places where the activities of the war of the national liberation movement took place.

**PROGRAMME 3: COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES:**

The purpose of this programme is to provide administrative support to the ministerial programme in order to improve service delivery to veterans; ensure incorporation of well-being programmes to ministerial activities; enhance competencies of ministerial staff for service delivery and ensure effective management and control of financial resources and deployment of resources. An amount of N\$22,677,000.00 is allocated for the following activities:

Capacity-building; monitoring and evaluation; veterans' sensitisation; general administrative services and personnel expenditure.

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON JANKOWSKI**

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is against this background that the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, Vote 31, is being presented to this Honourable House and I am requesting the support and approval from the Honourable Members for the amount of N\$1,061,099,000.00 for the 2012/2013 Financial Year.

Honourable Members, I anticipate your full support for Vote 31. I thank you for your attention.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you for your presentation. We adjourn for tea break.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 11:00**

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**HOUSE RESUMES AT 11:15**

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Whole House Committee is called to order.

**Vote 12 – “GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE” put for Discussion.**

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**HON JANKOWSKI:** Thank you very much. Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to support and express my appreciation to the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. It is really a wonderful programme that provides for our women and children – and men. Therefore, I support Vote 12. It is my humble request that the Minister considers internship programmes for students who are studying psychology and child psychology, in particular. At the moment our students who study this noble profession find it difficult to access internship programmes that will enable them to complete their bachelor’s and master’s degrees. What happens is that the Private Sector exploits the situation by employing these students at meagre salaries.

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON WITBOOI**

These are professionals who only need practical training.

With regard to institutions that provide early childhood development, I kindly request the Minister to provide a list of accredited institutions. We are spending a lot of money to enrol our children for early childhood development courses and if we do not have a list of accredited training institutions, then it becomes money spent in vain. It is, therefore, my humble plea that the Minister and the Namibian Qualifications Authority provide a list of these institutions. I also want to applaud the women who took up the responsibility of providing early childhood education when the pre-primary and early childhood education was abolished a few years ago.

As a member of the IPU Namibian Group, I also kindly request the Minister and female MPs to follow the activities of the IPU Coordinating Committees of Women Parliamentarians. This is an important structure of the IPU.

Honourable Minister, I salute you for the wonderful work you are doing. I also thank your Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and the entire staff of the Ministry for the wonderful job they are doing. Let us protect our women and children. I thank you.

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

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**HON WITBOOI:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me use this opportunity to wish the SWAPO Party a Happy Birthday. I can see the Opposition is just as happy as we are and that is an indication that they are happy with the SWAPO Party leadership. Keep it up and make sure that the SWAPO Party leads as it did in the past.

It is stated on Page 4 that the commendable 30% of women representation

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON WITBOOI**

we have achieved has dropped and this is a worrisome trend. Therefore, we should do something drastic to increase women representation. We are mature enough to work out a strategy. We are strong, we know the tactics, therefore we can do it.

Regarding income-generating activities for women, the Ministry should ensure that women at the grassroots benefit from this programme. There are still people who are not fully aware of these programmes. The staff members in the Constituency Offices must do more to raise awareness among the communities in the far remote areas about income-generating projects in order for them to benefit from this.

I commend the Minister for a job well done when I look at the number of children who received grants during the 2011/2012, however we found that many children in the Regions still do not benefit from these grants due to the lack of national documents. Honourable Minister, a serious concern is that some of those receiving the grants are misusing it. The children do not have clothes or food as the parent or guardian who receives the grant stays in Windhoek, for example, while the child is staying with the grandmother or an aunt in the Oniipa Constituency and the benefits never reach that child. Is the Ministry aware of this situation?

I, therefore, suggest that the Ministry puts in place a monitoring system to prevent this misuse, so that the money reaches the beneficiaries and be used for the intended purpose.

Last but not least, I would like to congratulate the Minister on the upgrading of the dilapidated community-based early childhood development centres. They really need our assistance. The centres will definitely promote early childhood development to lay a strong foundation for future education. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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

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19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON HAINGURA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** I rise to support this people's Budget, because it includes men, women and children and I also want to wish the mighty SWAPO Party many more years and our leadership to continue leading this country until Jesus arrives. I only want to comment on three issues.

Firstly, I want to comment on the 50% representation for women. We have analysed where we went wrong and now we only need to take each other's hands and move ahead from the 25% to 50%. The good news is that we have all the instruments in place and if implemented, we will achieve 50-50. In 2002 and 2007, our Party already talked about bringing more women into the decision-making body. Comrade Minister, we support you fully in this regard.

Another issue I want to comment on is the grants for orphans and vulnerable children. The Government is doing its best to help these children in our communities, however, at times the money is not reaching the beneficiaries. I want to propose to the Minister to implement a monitoring system for the money to really reach those children.

The Ministry has introduced many income-generating activities, but as we are going around this country, we find that many poor people do not benefit from this initiative and maybe the identification of people receiving this income should be strengthened so that most of our rural women and men should benefit from these activities.

With those few words, I support the Vote of the Ministry and thank you for a job well done.

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

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19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE / HON LIMBO**

**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all allow me to congratulate the Minister and Deputy Minister for a job well done and their commitment to ensure that gender equality is achieved in our country.

Much has already been said, however I only wish to mention one of the social issues which are of national concern in our society and which we sometimes find too sensitive to mention, namely the issue of prostitution. As we know, it is only the most marginalised women who turn to the streets to become sex workers for their survival. These are women with few or no other choices, who are often poor and addicted to all kinds of substances. We sometimes view prostitution as a hindrance to gender equality and I know that we do not have the power to completely stop the men from buying sex from women, but it is for us to set standards in our country on a different trajectory in terms of setting standards on gender equality so that young men and women understand prostitution as something that works against gender equality.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I would like to ask the Ministry if they could perhaps consider providing comprehensive exciting services for women who want to relinquish this trade, so that we do not have to use prostitution as a social safety net. I would urge the Ministry of Finance to add to the Budget of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to enable them to work on these kinds of programmes.

With these few words, I support this Vote wholeheartedly. Thank you.

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

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**HON LIMBO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First of all, I would like to take this

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON DR KAMWI**

opportunity to congratulate the Minister, the Deputy Minister and the entire staff of the people's Ministry.

Firstly, I am pleased that even the men represented in this House are in support of the 50-50 representation, therefore I believe that by 2014 every Political Party will do better than what we have now.

Honourable Members, we have many social problems in our country, the reason being that our women are not yet empowered. We know that if we empower our women, many things will change. Therefore, it is about time that all of us support the Ministry. I also know that the Minister of Finance has tried her best, but looking at the problems the Ministry is faced with, we maybe need to consider an increase in the Budget next year.

I would like to end with quoting the President of Liberia when she said: *"The vision of women is one of inclusion, not exclusion; peace, not conflict; integrity, not corruption and consensus, not opposition."* That tells us that if we empower our women a lot will be done in this country of ours. I, therefore, support Vote 12.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members. I rise to support Vote 12 and to make a few observations and pose one or two questions.

I commend the Honourable Minister and her Deputy for the efforts being made in addressing gender issues. Your support to HIV/AIDS and reproductive health is highly commendable. However, I wish to make an observation and this regards *"that thing."*

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19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON MUSHELENGA**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I suppose there will be an explanation of “*that thing*”.

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:**  
Comrade Chairperson, we read in the newspapers about a wedding of a son and mother in Mpumalanga in South Africa. We have read of a retired reverend in Namibia having a child with his daughter and then this issue of some fathers raping their own daughters. I have been wondering how the Ministry is handling these quite worrisome issues. Do you have a programme whereby you are working together with the church to address this moral concern? I support the Vote, thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I thought the Honourable Minister’s comment is something that really requires a collective approach. It is not just a ministerial approach, but Government, Private Sector, all stakeholders will have to be involved in this issue. It is absolutely a challenge and it is not a unique development in Namibia, it is a worldwide phenomenon. I just want to reinforce the sentiments that the Honourable Member was just expressing, if it is going to be of any comfort to the Honourable Minister. Honourable Mushelenga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am going to be very brief.

Honourable Lucia Witbooi mentioned the use of the grants. When I was still serving on the Committees, we were able to find out that some of these grants do not really reach the intended recipients, namely the children. Perhaps the Ministry can look at not only a policy mechanism but also a legal framework to serve as a deterrent to those who misuse

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12**  
**HON KAVETUNA**

these funds, so that you come up with some punitive measures towards those who are given these funds and not using it appropriately for the intended beneficiaries.

When I went through the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and its programmes they appeared to be a bit biased towards women, while this Ministry is supposedly ours. I know, for example, there are organisations, such as Men For Change, which are doing very good work to educate men about issues of domestic violence and working on the mind change. I, for one, would have expected such organisations to be reflected in the Budget.

I see, for example, that N\$2 million have been budgeted to run a national media campaign on zero tolerance for Gender-Based Violence and I thought organisation like Men For Change that are really doing good work would also have been catered for under this Budget.

With these few words, Honourable Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, I do support your Vote and I thank you.

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

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**HON KAVETUNA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am, indeed, delighted to rise this morning to put my weight behind this Vote of the mother Ministry of all Ministries in this country. You are doing an excellent job and we as Members of Parliament and leaders of people who go down to the villages can see how extensive your services are.

I wish to make some observations, starting with Child Welfare and Protection. My Colleagues have mentioned the grants to orphans and vulnerable children and I concur with them that many are still excluded because apparently the grandmother registered herself as the mother of the

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON KAVETUNA**

child while the mother is in Windhoek and then when the mother passes away, that child cannot benefit because the grandmother is still alive.

We really need to find a solution to the problem of baby-dumping. We must increase the windows where we can drop unwanted babies or alternatively, maybe it is high time that this House reviews the abortion law.

My Colleague has mentioned the issue of prostitution. There are some good practices in Europe where the customer who buys the service is the one being arrested, therefore nobody will buy the service.

The money that the children receive as a result of maintenance orders is very little and cannot maintain the children. Therefore, I want the Minister to put a benchmark and say 5% of the salary when the person pays maintenance at the Court, so that at least we can pay for the child's schooling.

We have grandparents raising children while the parents are living here in the capital. Therefore, we should have a provision that the grandmother can claim maintenance for the child from the mother or father.

Women representation has already been mentioned, but there are two critical issues that I wish to underline. The previous policy made provision for a Gender Commission, but seven years down the line it has not been established. Appoint people with power within your Ministry to be the gender focal persons, so that we can talk about gender equality effectively.

Regarding Gender-Based Violence, the current situation of multi-sexual partners is contributing to the high rate of HIV/AIDS and I feel the Ministry should also have a campaign against this as it is really making life very difficult. Statistics indicate that 61% of people with HIV are women. This is not a true reflection because most men do not go for testing, therefore we have to encourage men to be tested so that we could have statistics reflecting the true situation.

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON KATALI**

I do agree that the Ministry is doing its utmost best to assist women with income-generating projects, however the truth of the matter is that they still remain in poverty after receiving assistance from the Ministry. Is it possible that the Ministry annually identifies a big project, such as clothes manufacturing, where we can allocate millions so that we have big factories that would recruit many women.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Ministry for the strides made in early childhood education by taking it into the centre of your Ministry and supporting that initiative. I support the Vote.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** Thank you Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would also like to support Vote 12 and ask the Honourable Minister a question.

It has been said time and time again that this Ministry is for gender equality and child welfare and I want to know whether this is really an appropriate name for the Ministry. In the Honourable Minister's speech she was trying to reflect gender, but I think she found it very hard to do so. The only words that I have been hearing yesterday afternoon here are "*women and children*", the "*girl-child*". I think this is just in order to avoid saying "*women and girls*", but that is what is meant. Would it not be better for this name to be changed to the Ministry of Women and Girls? Thank you.

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

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19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON BEZUIDENHOUDT / HON KAZENAMBO**

**HON BEZUIDENHOUDT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I only have two issues on Page 9, namely that the Ministry will sensitise the public, also including the Combating of Rape Act (Act 8 of 2000).

My concern is that we have seen that young boys use their cell phones to video tape some unsavoury incidents and then spread that image among their friends, which is a very unhealthy way of using a cell phone. Therefore, when the Ministry is sensitising on rape, they should also include that type of unsavoury behaviour so that people are discouraged from this practice. When in future the legislation is reviewed, that specific offence should be included.

Secondly is the new phenomenon of baby-dumping. I know it is a problem and a massive national challenge and we need to put our heads together to work out a strategy how to combat this. I would echo what was said previously, that we need to review our adoption legislation to open up an avenue for unwanted babies, so that they can be put up for adoption. I thank you very much.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT  
AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Firstly, let me register my sincere support for the Budget of the Minister for the mothers and maybe for the fathers. On Page 3 of the Minister's speech she mentioned economic empowerment and food security for women and children, elimination of gender-based violence, including human trafficking and sexual reproductive health. The issue of sexual reproductive health has been properly dealt with by experts

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON KAZENAMBO**

in the field, but I am going to make a few remarks on the issue of human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a serious issue and I am pleased that the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare as well as the Ministry of Safety and Security have placed it at the top of their agenda as they are important partners in human trafficking. However, we have cases of prostitution, of people who stand at the bridges on the way to Okahandja and on the corner of the Kalahari Sands Hotel. Maybe I am the only one who notices them or maybe it is personal interest or whatever way you want to look at it. However, the point remains that even if I am the only person who is driven by personal interest, these people are standing there and I know they are not waiting for Kazenambo Kazenambo alone. It is a serious issue in terms of health, because you do not know where Kazenambo goes after making use of that service and do I reveal that to my partner or do I just keep quiet? Therefore the issue of HIV becomes serious.

With human trafficking those poor young ladies and men are taken by truck and dropped at some destination inside and outside this country and one does not know how those people are protected because it remains illegal in this country for them to make their case. Somehow the good religious people and others must come up with a formula to protect these vulnerable people. This country needs to pronounce itself to protect those young people who are forced into that situation. I know it is unacceptable in religion, but we need to be realistic, the people are standing there and we are talking about human trafficking.

Prostitution is illegal in this country, Kazenambo has been vilified for talking about it, but I see the advertisements in the newspapers that "*I am 20 years of age, I am looking for what-what*". How legal is it for people to advertise themselves in the newspaper and what is the difference from those who are standing on the corners? To me it is a contradiction and hypocrisy. As far as I am concerned this is legalised prostitution, those who advertise themselves openly. How do you regulate and control something that you have not legalised? How do you do it legally?

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Otherwise you are embarking on illegality. These laws are draconian, they are based on non-reality, they are biased and emanate from colonial laws.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to commend and support my sister Comrade Doreen Sioka, and her Deputy, Comrade Angelika Muharukua and their team of officials for the daunting task they are carrying on their shoulders. The responsibility to deal with matters pertaining to women as the last ladder in the strata of our society and their children is indeed daunting. The reason why the Ministry was out of the realisation that women and children are at the receiving end and the caring Government of the SWAPO Party decided that in order to assist these two Sectors of our society, Government must provide an institution through which they can be assisted and that responsibility is given to the two Comrades. Therefore, we must support them in whatever they are doing.

Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we are living in an era where the norms of society that used to keep us with integrity and dignity are eroded, completely eroded. We have young girls growing up under nobody's tutorship and, therefore, they find themselves in difficult situations where they find themselves mothers, without knowing that they were going to be come mothers. It brings shock and shame and, therefore, they do what we do not expect them to do, because they are not being guided.

The other day I was listening to a lady, an American feminist, who was talking about what they used to do. They created organisations called Big Sister where sometimes they have talks with young girls and tell them how they

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON RIRUAKO**

should behave themselves in order to protect themselves against things like unwanted pregnancies and contracting HIV/AIDS. Nowadays those are the issues that are eating at the existence of our young girls. They are in poverty and, therefore, they find themselves in situations just because of those problems.

When we consider issues pertaining to this Ministry, we should not trivialise them, they are quite serious and they are at the core of our existence as a society. Therefore, I want to tell my two Colleagues that the responsibility they have is daunting, but they can find support from many of us sitting here from across the gender divide. That I know for sure. There are men of goodwill in our country and we rely on your support so that we make the Namibian society a caring society. I thank you.

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

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, we have a problem with the out-of-wedlock children, children without fathers. Who planned this relationship? Is it two people or one person? If it is two people, then tell us how planned to have that child. It is both, it cannot be one-sided.

We hear women saying their children are not maintained and supported. When you started the game, what was the arrangement? This must be spelled out. If you talked about something that comes on the earth and you agreed, it cannot be nobody's problem afterwards. Both sides should discipline themselves and tell the Parliament what we ought to do with these unwanted children. Who created them? We want those answers and it must be spelled out. (Interjections). You cannot talk about "*ouami*", it is her problem and his problem.

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON DR AMWEELO**

Let us sit down as a society and find out how to tackle this problem. It has become a problem by itself, we cannot put it aside without even thinking about it. We live it and we are supposed to take care. How did it happen and how are we going to organise ourselves as a Nation?

Talking about the prostitutes, we did not come with solutions on how we are going to tackle the problem of those people who are walking around, looking for men and men who are walking around looking for women. It goes to both sides. We need your advice and your vision before we sit down and find a solution. There must be a symposium to look into this matter. We cannot keep on joking about it, it will not solve the problem. Joking never achieved any objective and I am not here to listen to you who do not have any insight. This is a fact, take it seriously, it is one of our problems and you keep on talking and talking and you keep on joking and joking. What is happening now is going to destroy you. HIV/AIDS is there and if you ask where, you know where.

I have been listening to you all, you did not come with any kind of solution. Now let us sit down, have a symposium and think about this kind of irregularity. I support the Vote, but at the same time I am very sorry for a Nation that does not think about its own problem. How can we eliminate this kind of undesirable habit? It is not the joke of the day, it is the insult of the day. I support the Vote, but those are remedies that are supposed to be taken care of. I thank you for listening to me and this time you disciplined yourselves a bit because I touched on something which you cannot deny.

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

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to thank the Honourable Minister and support Vote 12. Most of my items were taken by Honourable Kazenambo, but I am left with one point only which is based on the

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON MOONGO**

empirical study done five years ago along the SADC borders referred to on Page 3.

With regard to human trafficking, etcetera, I was one of those who conducted a joint study and when we went to the borders, we were told that men, especially truck drivers, tell the females that they will pay more for sex without Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). If the lady declines, they offer another one thousand and have sex without protection. That is very dangerous.

We have truck ports along the borders and we even have one here, thus my question to the Minister is whether we have a programme to educate both young girls and truck drivers and not only to educate them, but also to distribute Personal Protective Equipment, namely condoms? If not, you need to have that programme as it is very important. I support Vote 12.

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

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you very much. I would like to register my support for this Vote and speak on the welfare and protection of children.

Colleagues, this Ministry has been in existence for a long time and we have failed to come up with a master plan to educate the fathers. I want to call on all men not to ignore the upbringing of their children. We as community leaders find that people are denying fatherhood and when summoned to appear before us, they are giving their names there because we educated them. I call upon the Ministry to cultivate a procedure on how to behave and to also educate the women not to misbehave. You should not only talk and talk, we need practical action now. We need a project which will give employment to the young sex workers so that we see whether they are mentally indoctrinated or can be brought back on the right track. Otherwise this Ministry will not produce any positive action.

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON TJIHUIKO**

By 2030 we want zero sex workers in Namibia and we need a project that would make men take responsibility for their children. We need action and not only talking in circles. I support the Vote.

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

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me start by saying that this is indeed a very important Ministry, we all need to support it, but my contribution will not be based on the men, women, boys, girls, I only want to concentrate on one section, namely the young ladies and I do not want to go very far, what is it that we are doing to make sure that young women are empowered? I believe that the reason why you see them under the bridges is because of economic conditions.

Let us look at the hotels and restaurants in Windhoek, Swakopmund. Wherever you go you would see these young people working very long hours at these places, but how much are they earning? Even if you look at the salaries of our own staff members here at the restaurant who are serving us professionally, you would be surprised that these people are surviving on that income. Therefore, unless we empower those who are close to us, do something so that they can get a salary that would enable them to meet the basic necessities that any women would love to have, we will be talking in circles. Let us do a study on how much they are earning, starting at these restaurants. I will be surprised if they are earning more than N\$600 per month. What does a young woman do with N\$600, a person who wants to look like other ladies? Obviously they will be tempted to get an additional income and where do they get the additional income? That is where the question of prostitution comes in, the question of doing things that we do not want them to do.

I believe that the Ministry can specifically look at the young ladies

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON KAZENAMBO**

working in hotels and restaurants and see how much they are earning and then let us do something about that.

Secondly on a lighter note, I support Honourable Kavetuna on the one man, one woman principle, which is very important, but I am a bit concerned and I know that the Honourable Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare will help us with that. The survey that has recently been published shows that 51% of the population are female, 49% are male. I read in the newspaper the other day that His Excellency the President of one of the countries is now marrying an additional wife. How do we handle this explosive social problem we are facing, unless we look at the possibility of the Tjihuike's and the Kazenambo's being allowed to add one more wife so that we can sort out our problems. We might end up having a social problem that would lead to people doing the things that we are saying is illegal, a woman getting married to another woman just to have a companion. Minister, I want you to have a look at that and with that, I support your Vote.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT  
AND CULTURE:** In supporting the Vote, I wanted to clarify that I am not directly blaming the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare on the issue of prostitution, but as the Honourable Riruako has said, this is a societal problem. I know it is a religious society, I respect religion and customs, but the reality is that times have changed. If you step out here you would find young children on sale as a result of social evils and 22 years after Independence it is regarded as illegal. Even if these people are abused, they have nowhere to report because they were involved in an illegal act. That is the bottom-line.

If prostitution is legalised, you are at least creating a legal mechanism for

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12**  
**HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

these people. I have been repeating this, I have been vilified before and I am ready to be vilified again. I am saying that if you legalise prostitution, you are creating a legal instrument for these persons. If you steal my cow or my goat, you have committed theft and I can report you, but I can pick up a young lady or a child they have nowhere to report because their action is equally illegal and these people are suffering in silence. There are children of ten years, fourteen years old who are being molested for pornography. As a country that was founded on the principle of freedom and justice for all, we have to create a mechanism for people to have recourse to justice. As of now these people are subject to abuse and they are suffering in silence – not that I am condoning prostitution, far from it. I am now condoning prostitution, but I am saying that prostitution is taking place in my country and we should create a legal mechanism. People are being trafficked, young children are being abused and the question remains that if newspapers are advertising the same and they are not being arrested, what about those poor people who are standing at bridges. When they arrive in South Africa, Angola, Botswana or Katima Mulilo, they cannot go to the nearest Police Station and report that Kazenambo has picked me up on this agreement and he has abused me. With these words, I support the Vote.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**  
**COMMITTEE:** Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. It is indeed the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare and not that of Women Affairs. We must recognise that there is a situation which has resulted in women being far behind in development and, therefore, in every effort that we make to try and assure gender equity, we would be forced to have special initiatives that target women as part of that gender equity

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

promotion programme. That does not make the Ministry the Ministry of Women Affairs.

If we are to seek to remove women issues from prominence on the agenda of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, then that Ministry will no longer be able to achieve its mandate. I, therefore, want to commend the Minister and her team and I am happy to see that there are also male compatriots in the senior management of the Ministry. That goes to show that there is also a growing awareness amongst our males that gender equity does not mean subordination of men or domination of men. It just means equity and human beings by their nature are desirous of equality and equity and we cannot have justice and development if we do not address issues of gender equity and that gender equity is in the interest of everyone. After all, we are members of families, we are members of our societies and we have fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters and as parents we have sons and daughters. Therefore, we can argue in this House as men or women, but at the end of the day we are all equally affected by issues of gender inequities.

Having commended the Ministry for the efforts that it is making, I want to hasten to add – and to defend myself as Minister of Finance – that if we are to ensure that gender issues also receive due prioritisation within budgeting, we will have to work together as communities to make sure that we come up with innovative initiatives that would enhance our response to the gender equity situation in the country. Allocation of resources alone will not do it, because you must assure yourself that yes, in fact our response is as effective as it could possibly be, so that when you allocate those resources, even if it means increasing your deficit, you know that you are going to make an impact.

I am happy to see that there is also interest shown by civil society in this regard and I am especially impressed with the initiatives that are being made by some community-based organisations to bring young girls back from the street, to lure those currently engaged in prostitution back to ordinary life and for them to abandon the life of prostitution. I think that is commendable and I am sure that if the Ministry has not done so already, it would find a way to create some form of cooperation with these

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12**  
**HON KASINGO**

organisations so that we can bring back more of our children from the streets.

I would also want to say that, of course, prostitution would also aid the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV/AIDS, and I hope that wherever we get to interact with these young girls on the street, we should also put them through a kind of awareness training. If they are arrested by the Police, it should not just be a matter of being locked up, they should actually be assisted to be more aware of the dangers they are exposing themselves to by engaging in prostitution. It is not only those on the streets that should be targeted for this kind of programme, I think that we should generally create awareness amongst our communities and this is not only a task for Government, it is also for Civil Society, including Traditional Authorities, because the church does play its part. When we were growing up there were these *Etine and Etiyali* sessions, *Etiyali* for the young girls and *Etine* for the mothers. I do not know whether there was ever anything for me, but if there was, I think we should try to revive those kinds of practices, social study kind of thing.

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

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I just want to comment briefly on the increase in domestic violence, passion killing and baby-dumping. The increase in these social ills is an indication that the social fabric of our society is collapsing and I do not think any law can deter these types of crime because it deals with killing others and also killing yourself.

I would want to put the blame on the neglect of our traditional norms and traditions. I am happy to note that in this House we are blessed with the custodians of culture and traditions in the persons of Honourable Riruako,

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12**  
**HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

Honourable Moongo and the youngest, Headman Mushelenga. On a serious note, I would like to give these people homework and when we start with the next Session, they will come and report to us to what extent did they have meetings with their subject on this matter. Honourable Chief Riruako will be the Chairperson, Honourable Moongo will be rapporteur, Headman Mushelenga will be the secretary. With that, I support Vote 12.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First, let me thank my Colleague, the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, the Deputy Minister and their staff for the manner in which they are handling this important Sector in our country and for all that they have done.

Considering that the Minister has covered many of the issues, I did not have the intention to speak, but I will use these three minutes to say something on the issue of gender.

Of course, one can think that when you talk about gender, then you should forget the focus, because with gender we are talking about different roles which are being played by people in the society and we all know that in those different roles, women have for many years been on the receiving end and we have not yet reached a balance. That is why we have to ensure that as we are moving forward, we pay special attention to women and then to make sure that there will be a time when we will reach that balance.

When we talk about gender mainstreaming, we cannot only look at the terms of representation. Representation is very crucial because it is one

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON IILONGA**

which is very obvious and one needs it because you make an inference. Then we are talking about gender budgeting and I think the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security is an expert on this as he introduced this concept when he was the Minister of Finance. He was even asking that it should be compulsory that every year this time when we are reporting on the Budget, I have to indicate how did women benefit from my Budget throughout the year. That is what women budgeting is all about and how men also benefited and then you can see whether they are benefiting equally. That is all what he was telling us when he was the Minister of Finance.

On the issue of prostitution, I know where we are and where we are coming from and this is a very, very sensitive issue, particularly as it has a moral responsibility to it. At the same time, you cannot run away from the reality that it is taking place in our country and we must really sit down soberly and see how we can handle this situation.

When I was the Minister of Women Affairs and Child Welfare we contracted the University of Namibia to make a study on prostitution. The findings are there, we have seen it. Honourable Helmut Angula could say prostitution is one of the oldest professions, which is true, but looking at our social set-up and believes and cultures, how do we handle this situation? We cannot just say it is immoral, we also need to look at other countries.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND  
FORESTRY:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 12, which is a very important Vote as it is dealing with gender. We have a Ministry dealing with gender, but we are forgetting how we were brought up, like to say

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

*“Iilonga, you cannot be in the kitchen, you are a man.”* If we have to address the issue of violence, we have to address both equally.

When it comes to prostitution, it is not only talking about women, there are also men involved. This is a sickness which needs to be treated. I want to ask this House, if we say it is as a result of unemployment, what about the botsotsos? You cannot tell me they are stealing because of unemployment. We as parents fail to educate our children at home, telling them that people are sometimes even killed by committing sodomy. The Finnish Church was telling us that Sodom and Gomorra were destroyed as a result of that which we now want to protect. They never came back to tell us that what they told us that time was not true, this is now the truth. I support the Vote.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Thank you, in Sweden prostitution is a criminal offence, however they punish the buyer rather than the seller. That is just to illustrate that we need to reflect on how to deal with this issue. Some countries initially at their Independence legalised prostitution, but when you are found practising it without a licence, you are in trouble. As we stand here, prostitution in those countries stands at almost zero because no one wants to register. We need to study those instances. We cannot sweep this issue under the carpet, we really need to apply our minds and see how best it can be managed. Otherwise, as it stands now, it is getting out of hand and becoming worse with HIV/AIDS. That is really my point, I am not saying we should legalise it, but we cannot sweep it under the carpet, we must conduct a study and see what could be done under the circumstances. Otherwise it will remain a problem. I support the Vote.

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 12  
HON KAPIA**

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**

**COMMITTEE:** Thank you. I think we have to take note of the fact that so many of you who spoke made reference to prostitution. I think we should agree that this issue has more or less been exhausted. You are calling for investigation and further study and maybe the issue will come back to the House for a proper Debate for appropriate action to be taken. Let us not repeat the arguments. Honourable Kapia.

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**HON KAPIA:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I do not want to speak on prostitution because Honourable Ilonga has mentioned my points and I do not want to repeat it. I only want to touch on the gender Budget, as mentioned by Honourable Ndaitwah. It is good that all our Ministries take this into consideration when budgeting and not only gender budgeting, but also gender balance in the staff establishments. If we are serious we must start somewhere. We cannot expect other institutions and Political Parties to do so, but it is not reflected in the recruitment by the Ministries.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Gender also wants to look into the gender balance in some key positions and I am happy that the Ministry of Safety and Security reported here on men and women serving in peace-keeping missions and that women are in the majority. I know the Ministry of Defence is doing the same and we want to see other Ministries doing the same when recruiting.

In conclusion, I support Vote 12. Thank you very much.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**

**COMMITTEE:** I call upon the Minister to respond.

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19 April 2012

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

**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Most of the people spoke on the issue of prostitution, baby-dumping and abortion.

Yesterday Honourable Jankowski and I spoke about these issues and I even gave her advice on how she needs to go about it, but I will repeat today here that if people are taking those types of courses, they can approach other Ministries. All Ministries are in need of psychologists, not only the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. The most important people we are in need of are social workers.

I feel the Reports on gender issues in the IPU should also be given to the Ministry so that we can include them in our programme.

*Comrade Witbooi*, on the issue of IDA and the fifty percent representation, we did very well last time, but in the 2009 election we did not do well. I need the support of the SWAPO Women's Council and the women in RDP that we work together. I have written letters to the secretaries of the Parties to assist me that we amend the Electoral law, but only two Parties responded, being APP which gave me a good explanation and that they are going to assist us if we happen to succeed. However, SWANU does not have any clue about women in their response, because they referred me to consult with SWANU women. I do not believe that they have any women at all in their Party. (Interjection). You said in your letter that I should go and consult women about gender. Is it for me to go and consult the women of SWANU? Why? I am not your Party member. That is why I want to amend the Electoral law to make sure that if you do not have a zebra-list, you should not qualify to come to Parliament or to stand for any election. That is what I will fight for and I invited Political Parties to a workshop on the 10<sup>th</sup>, although even my Party did not respond. RDP, NUDO, UDF and RP did not respond, but please respond because we want to amend the law before the 2014 elections.

Regarding income-generating projects, the Ministry has a programme which I mentioned here. I said that of the about 88 people who have

19 April 2012

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

benefited from IDA, eighty are women. It is not discrimination, we are doing this because men are better off and women are looking after the families. It is the same as saying that when you educate a woman, you are educating a Nation.

It was said that there are children who are not benefiting from the grants. We are experiencing problems in the identification of these children. We cannot register somebody we see in the street and maybe we have to improve the working relationship between the Ministry of Gender and the Ministry of Home Affairs on the issue of birth certificates. They have requested us to provide them with our programme and we have already distributed it to the Regions.

You gave the example of somebody who is staying in Rehoboth and another one who is here in Windhoek. The one is receiving the grant while the other child is not benefiting. This is bad and if they have reported to the Regional Offices, I think we will soon receive a Report about the situation.

*Comrade Haingura*, thank you for your support. We will work together to reach 50% representation of women. I know we have the capacity to do it if you support the Amendment of the Electoral Act. Please attend the workshop on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May so that we amend the law. I do not want this quota system, I want the zebra list. That is the only way to achieve our goal.

SWAPO had a system whereby the President would appoint thirty-one members to Parliament and that was another opportunity for women to be considered. I think if we go back to our old system, the women in SWAPO will be in the majority.

You mentioned that some women do not know about the IDA, but I believe they do as the programme is already in place and we are trying to address the issue.

As for prostitution, I think we need a thorough Debate on this topic.

19 April 2012

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

I remember that when Dr Libertine Amathila was here she tried to convince the House, but this very same House rejected that we have to consult the Nation. I support the idea of consultation, we should not do things on our own and impose laws on people. We also do not have statistics on how many foreigners are engaged in this industry of sex workers and how many Namibians. I have heard that the majority of them are foreigners because of the peace and stability we enjoy in Namibia. In other countries they are beaten, which does not happen here in Namibia. Therefore, they come to Namibia to do their business. We may end up making a law for three or five people as the majority of them are foreigners.

Thank you, *Comrade Agnes Limbo*, for your support. When the Committees visit the Regions they should consult the people to hear what they are saying about this issue of prostitution. I tried it once when I was still the Deputy Speaker and they nearly arrested me in Caprivi. However, let us try to do that.

You said that we have to work together so that women should be empowered. It is true, Namibia is a rich country where we can empower our women. For instance, when you go to Zambia, there are women breaking stones and selling them to people who are building houses. Namibia is very rich in stones at the coast, here in Windhoek and even in Kavango and Caprivi. Anybody who has gone to Impalila will know that the stones are there, we break them and sell them instead of waiting for these big machines to crush them. Women can do it and Zambian women are becoming very rich because of these stones. We have trees and plants and that is why many foreigners are coming to Namibia. It is because of this wealth which we ourselves do not see.

*Comrade Kamwi*, you mentioned a very disturbing issue of a father sleeping with his daughter or a son marrying a mother. We are told by the Bible that it is a sin to sleep with your mother. You will even go and pay *lobola* to the father of your mother, your grandfather. The world is becoming sick because of those people who are telling us human rights are taking over from the Bible.

19 April 2012

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

I remember something which happened in Uganda. Two men who got married were arrested and a journalist from America asked why they were arrested if they have human rights. The pastor of that church started praying for that American journalist, “*God help you, it is a sin*”. We were taught by them and instead of neutralising the statement they gave to us, they prayed for the guy because they saw this journalist as somehow not normal, because he is no more following the Bible and the Bible is the biggest constitution of all the constitutions we have. We were given this constitution by God and now we are violating this constitution of God in the name of human rights. I do not want people to kill one another, but other things which are stipulated in the Bible are being violated by these types of people.

Everybody should take courage and shame the very person who sleeps with a daughter or son. If all of us and the Committees can go and talk about this type of behaviour to be stopped, I think the people will hear.

We are working together with the CCN which has a programme on this issue and I call on the churches to do more and try to lead us in the ways of the Bible.

*Comrade Mushelenga* also mentioned grants not received and I have explained. He mentioned that grants are misused and I once addressed the issue. We have a programme and we are addressing the people on the issue of the grants.

*Comrade Kavetuna*, you mentioned polygamy. That is a tradition and there is no way we will stop it. My own uncle is married to twelve wives. According to the census the population consists of 51% women. Who will marry them?

It was mentioned that the maintenance grant of N\$150 is too low. Sometimes the things we women do are so shameful and we should not always bash the men only. This is becoming a business, one woman will have eight children with eight different men. The men are queuing to complain about this maintenance issue. To me it sounds like a type of

19 April 2012

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

business and we should refrain from this, unless we allow polygamy so that they go and enjoy the property or the money of the father. We should discourage our women from doing this, it is not good and what is more, they are contracting HIV/AIDS. Who knows how clean these eight men are? We are trying to save your life.

*Comrade Katali*, you said that gender equality only refers to women, which is not true and Honourable Ndaitwah has explained. Women have been second-class citizens and we want to bring them on par with men, however we are catering for both men and women. I have mentioned that I have four Directors in my Ministry, two are men and two women.

*Comrade Kazenambo* mentioned prostitution and I have responded to that. The Ministry also has programmes on human trafficking. You would see a woman and her husband selling their own daughter to a truck driver. The girl does not want to go with the truck driver, but she is forced to sleep with the truck driver. Sometimes the children are taken without knowing where they are going and what is going to happen.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Can I respectfully ask the Honourable Minister to pick up the pace and quickly summarise, because the list you are going through is going to be long and judging from the mood of the House, they are with you, there is no controversy, it is a very straightforward Vote. Just summarise and do not go through the entire list.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** They were repeating and I have to repeat. I take note of what *Honourable Bezuidenhout* has advised us. *Comrade Kuugongelwa-Amadhila*, thank you very much, but we will continue insisting on gender budgeting since we are faced with many problems.

*Comrade Ilonga*, we have to stick to the Bible because we are given that

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON A TJONGARERO / HON UTONI**

authority. The Government is also mentioned in the Bible, that the Government is responsible.

Honourable Colleagues, I thank you all for your support.

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

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

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**HON A TJONGARERO:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to thank the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and his staff for a very well-written document and I have only one question.

Honourable Minister, when reading about so many hectares and tons, etcetera, I do not follow it properly. Can the Minister please tell us how far we have come sustaining ourselves with our products? Are we nearer to saying we are now self-sufficient or are we still far? You are doing a very good job with the production of vegetables and so on, but is it enough for us or not? I support the Vote.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Comrade Deputy Chairperson, my remark has to do with water supply and sanitation to rural communities. Comrade Minister, I am concerned about

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON UTONI**

the bureaucratic kind of system when it comes to water supply to the rural communities, but let me start with the coordination of activities between NamWater and Rural Water Supply.

I understand most of the water pipes to the rural areas belong to NamWater. However, I understand Rural Water Supply has the responsibility to connect members of the community to those pipes which belong to NamWater. Many of the communities have water points and the majority of people sometimes do not pay in time and fall into big arrears. When NamWater finds out that a water point has not paid, they cut the water, including the water of the private people who have paid. Even if you have paid, your water will be cut and this is a problem which maybe needs to be looked into.

Another issue is the cumbersome process and bureaucratic system when somebody applies for water supply either to a given water point or privately. You have to go to Rural Water Supply offices, fill in forms and then you are told to go to the chairperson of a given water point in that village and pay some money there. Then that chairperson has to give you authorisation and you have to return to the Rural Water Supply office to pay some money and only then will you be connected. This is a cumbersome process.

After you have been connected, you have to take your water readings to the chairperson of the water point, but sometimes that chairperson lives far from you and you have to walk that distance. The chairperson has to verify that the reading is correct and then again refers you to the Rural Water Supply office to pay. We really need to review that cumbersome process which is also costly.

Honourable Minister, I just want to ask whether you had time to watch the *Open File* programme on NBC the end of February or beginning of March which showed how our people were fighting for water in the area of Onamatanga, if I am not mistaken, in the Okahao Constituency. There was water scarcity there and a farmer used to collect enough water in containers and people had to queue. People were fighting and it depended on how strong you are for you to get water. If you have not seen that

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON MUHARUKUA**

programme, you could perhaps ask the NBC privately and then watch it.

When the Deputy Permanent Secretary was asked to comment, he was saying that it is so expensive and he did not even give an answer that maybe in the next two or three years they will solve that problem. Does it mean that we are not going to do anything to address that terrible situation? I do not think we can continue that way. I support Vote 20 and I thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD  
WELFARE:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson. I rise to thank the SWAPO Party for continuing to celebrate their anniversary after 52 years and to invite my brother from Epupa to come back home. SWAPO is waiting for you to come back home.

Honourable Minister, the people of Kunene thank you for giving them tractors. This year we did not get rain in Kunene. Some areas still have grass but there is no water for the animals there and I want you to take note of that.

Comrade Minister, we have a problem with boreholes in the Epupa Constituency. Some people who had mineral rights made a borehole and some people who are calling themselves Headmen or Chiefs said that borehole belongs only to them, the other communities are not suppose to use it. I want you to instruct your office in Opuwo to investigate whether that borehole belongs to the Government or to those who are denying the other communities the use of that borehole.

With these few words, I support Vote 20 wholeheartedly.

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19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON TJIHUIKO**

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

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 20 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, but before I do that, let me highlight one or two things that are of concern to me.

Honourable Minister, I am sure that the Government of Namibia has been putting a lot of money into these Green Schemes. When we visited these Green Schemes two years ago, we came across mountains of maize that were packed there and not being used while some were starting to rot. I remember in my first contribution to the Budget Debate I raised the issue of coordination, but yesterday there was an article in the newspaper that Namibia needs to import 192,000 tons of maize this year. In the Minister's speech it was highlighted that we have enough grain and maize in the silos in the Kavango Region. Is there a lack of information to the extent that these reports are appearing in the newspapers while we have these stocks piled up in the Kavango Region? I would appreciate if you could say something about that, because this is what I have been saying, that if there is no coordination and sharing of information, we will have a problem of the right hand knowing what the left hand is doing.

On the question of water, Honourable Minister, I still insist that the day we have decided to commercialise water, we have collectively made a mistake. I am not pointing my finger at anybody, we have collectively made a mistake to commercialise water. Even during the colonial time water was highly subsidised. To commercialise water is like commercialising the army or hospitals. It is not on, we need to look at whether it is in the interest of our people to commercialise water and to make our people pay for water.

I am farming in the Okamatapati area and I am paying NamWater for my water. Right now we have a serious problem with water at my village. The people we are dealing with are the officials from the Ministry of

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON TJIHUIKO**

Agriculture. These are the people who are repairing pipes and spending money for NamWater to make money. We as Government are subsidising NamWater to provide clean water to our people, but what we are paying is out of reach of our people. We need to seriously look at that issue, we cannot continue ignoring it.

The third point I want to make is that I do not personally have a problem with NamWater, my only problem is that they are doing nothing except collecting money. I have personal experience. In 2006 I applied to NamWater for a water connection, which I did not get up to now. Three days ago I got a bill from NamWater for N\$400 that I should pay for water that I have used, but there are no pipes to my place and no connection. I went to NamWater, I told them that I do not have a water connection to my place. I went to Okakarara office, I even went to the head office here in Windhoek, but up to now I am getting those bills and it is increasing. It started with N\$200 and as I am talking to you now, it is round about N\$400. What happens to the people in the villages? They are paying for water that they have never used and it is a fact that I can prove. My grandfathers and grandmothers in that area are paying for a service that they have never received. Let us do something about water and my recommendation is that this thing of writing off water debts. Where would NamWater get the money?

The Minister of Finance mentioned something like N\$444 million in her Budget speech that was budgeted for water. Let us pay these debts with that money and then take over. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry must take over the provision of water as an essential service to our people. The Parliamentary Committee under the chairmanship of Honourable Peya Mushelenga made a recommendation on behalf of the community which was very clear, that Government should please help us, take over water supply, subsidise it the way we are doing with Air Namibia, because it is even better to subsidise water because more poor people will benefit. How many of our people are benefiting from Air Namibia being subsidised? Even ourselves sitting in this Chamber do not even fly Air Namibia. Why should we continue subsidising Air Namibia instead of subsidising water for our own people? It does not make sense to me.

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON UEITELE**

Honourable Minister, with those few remarks, I support your Vote.

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

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**HON UEITELE:** Thank you, Deputy Chair of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to support Vote 20 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and my contribution is based on Page 16, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination Programme.

One of the issues of Rural Water Supply is the bulk water supply to rural areas, as also mentioned by Honourable Uutoni. It is unfair to cut the water supply because two or three people in that community did not pay and I want to propose that they install water reading metres so that they do not disconnect the water supply of those who have paid. Now Rural Water Supply just disconnects the whole line and as a result, those that paid suffer the consequences.

I also want to refer to the de-bushing project. I have heard that the Ministry of Agriculture has a project that is intended to assist farmers with de-bushing of their farms, but I want the Minister to enlighten us and also for the farmers to know where they can apply for de-bushing. At the same time I also want to know whether it is the Ministry of Agriculture that is responsible for the de-bushing along our borders. The border from the Kasamane Border Post up to Buitepos needs to be de-bushed so that one can see what is going on there.

I also call upon the Ministry to assist the people in very dry areas, such as Epukiro, Otjinene and Otjombinde. Even if those people drill, they do not find water and I remember that during 2010 I was advocating for a water pipe to be laid to those areas in order for them also to be supplied with water.

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

With this I support the Vote and I thank you.

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

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**HON VON WIETERSHEIM:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. There is a long list of topics that I would have liked to discuss with the Honourable Minister amicably, but of course it is not the right time and place now. There is one certain issue that I would like to take up and I must add that it is not least the lack of transparency and sometimes strange actions from the side of the Permanent Secretary's Office that this point is really worrying. It concerns the conservation agriculture.

You mentioned the number of tractors that you have acquired as well as various implements and also that there would be additional tractors and implements acquired for this purpose. Apparently there was a conservation tillage project which convinced the Ministry about two years ago to go the way of conservation agriculture. Unfortunately there seems to have been bought equipment and tractors that do not quite fit the purpose of conservation agriculture and at the same time, these tractors and equipment were reportedly imported from, amongst others, Brazil and the whole transaction was done without any tender applications or Tender Board authority.

I would very much like the Minister to comment on this whole process to get clear and correct information. Apparently, it would also be possible to produce some of these implements locally, to have it manufactured locally instead of getting it from somewhere else and at the same time having it manufactured to the correct specifications.

In the same context the Permanent Secretary very arrogantly referred to an EU support which could be available for conservation agriculture to the amount of 23 million Euro, which the Ministry seems to reject and the

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20**  
**HON DR AMWEELO**

Permanent Secretary feels we do not need that money because we can feed ourselves, stating that we will produce enough food. That also refers to the question that was asked here, while I would also like to just direct the Minister's attention and question him on what Honourable Tjihuike mentioned, the deficiency of 191,400 tons of cereal that we would have to import according to our estimates. That is all I want to raise for the moment. Thank you.

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

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I only have two questions, one from the Minister's speech. Honourable Minister, I agree when you are saying that the Wood Industry is becoming increasingly important and you also said that it will create employment and I agree. However, I feel that if we continue to emphasise the promotion of employment in this Wood Sector, it could create a problem with regard to climate change whereby we have a problem with desertification and degradation of the environment.

Every Saturday I ride on my bicycle to Brakwater and see that there are no trees left in that area because the people are cutting down trees in order to sell firewood. Honourable Minister, can you not acquire other technology in the market which can be introduced to the rural areas as a substitute for the use of firewood? If we continue cutting trees for firewood we will experience problems. The alternative should be low-cost and easy to use.

My other question is with regard to your technical document, namely the monitoring, utilisation and control of water resources. It is very important to monitor water levels, but we are all aware that Namibia is a dry country and our water evaporates very quickly. There are so many studies conducted here in Namibia, that we have a lot of underground water. Is it

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

possible to acquire technology to monitor the underground water to sustain the levels, because one day this water will be gone and that would be a problem. Could you maybe acquire other technology which could be used to monitor the water levels especially in the area of Oshikoto. I support Vote 20.

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

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I want to congratulate the Minister and his entire staff for a well-crafted Budget. His Ministry is very important since it is producing food for the Nation.

On Page 16 of his speech the Minister referred to water and sanitation and I want to look at this from a gender perspective. Since gender equality is not guaranteed because there are women in Parliament, it is more a question of how gender sensitive and gender aware the Parliament is in terms of its policies and infrastructure in place. I would like to draw the Minister's attention to the social norms that result from reinforcing poor service quality. The productivity of women to survive is compromised by multi factors, including the inadequate access to water and sanitation facilities. The hours that women are spending to fetch water each day leaves them with less time to pursue economic activities and it reinforces employment segregation that limit women to the lowest paid and most unstable jobs.

The sustainable solution, therefore, is not to tackle the disadvantages that women and girls are facing, but to render those disadvantages irrelevant by improving institutional quality, such as schools to be equipped with safe and proper sanitation facilities that will discourage girls from leaving school. At this moment the situation in the rural areas is pathetic when it comes to water and sanitation, especially for young girls and women in

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20**  
**HON NAMBAHU**

schools. Perhaps you need to look into this and if the Budget is not enough to look at all these, we would like for more to be added so that girls and women and also young men are catered for in this programme. I support the Vote wholeheartedly. Thank you very much.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson. I want to support Vote 20 and I am really sorry that it is being discussed towards the end, but we have to do justice. I know people are tired, but we have to inject some life into the discussion.

I want to congratulate the Ministry on the programme of livestock improvement. If you go to the communal areas you can see the results, that we are now injecting new blood into the typical traditional animals and you can see the results. Congratulations to the SWAPO Government.

I also congratulate you, Honourable Minister, for including the cooperatives in your Budget speech. It talks about the failure and deregistration of cooperatives. It would be very interesting if we at some stage be provided with the reasons as to why there are failures and deregistration of these cooperatives, whether a law is also needed to back the efforts being made. I know it has to do with people wanting to do things alone and not collectively, but we have to fight against this culture and educate our people that it is necessary to do that and even do comparative studies of other countries to see how these things are done. Some of us grew up in countries where these things are very much prominent.

Let me come to irrigation. I would also like to see an experiment where a mahangu field is put under irrigation. Why is it that people do not irrigate

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20**  
**HON AMATHILA**

mahangu? Honourable Katali will never do it on his own because he believes that he will die if he irrigates a mahangu field. Why is it that we cannot experiment? Even the Colleagues from Kavango have a lot of mahangu, but you never see somebody irrigating mahangu because of the taboos. Why is it that we cannot experiment with these things and see whether it can work or not. This is a challenge I want to leave with you.

Then I want to know why the Master Water Plan is not in place so that we can know how much underground water we have in our communal areas and maybe exploit it to irrigate the mahangu fields.

Lastly I want to refer to the birds that are eating the mahangu. Do the scientists not have a method to combat this, because this is also linked to poverty and kids are prevented from attending school as they have to guard the mahangu fields against these birds? When some of these things affect Europe, there are all kinds of research, which is not the case when these things affect us. It is the same with diseases. If diseases are prevalent in the First World there are all kinds of medicines, but money is not being set aside for diseases which are prevalent in this part of the world. Why is it that we are not also embarking upon research and find solutions to the problems that are actually eating away at our progress? With those remarks, I support the Vote.

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

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**HON AMATHILA:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Colleagues, I am rising to sincerely thank the Minister of Agriculture. I am convinced with a steady progress he has made, especially when it comes to the question of the Green Schemes. There has been a steady increase in the attempts to make us self-sufficient in the food that we consume. The congratulations go not only to the Minister alone, but also to his staff and his people in the field.

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON AMATHILA**

When looking at Page 4, I was reminded of something that Honourable Tjihuike also mentioned earlier, namely the construction of silos in order to preserve what we are producing. This is one of the biggest risks that we are going to run, namely the post-harvest losses that occur with all the success that we are attaining.

Two years ago I was exposed to a situation where in Kavango the people produced a lot of maize, but then you found this maize just lying uncovered in the fields and storing places where rodents and insects had a field day in consuming that. The only silos those days were in Katima, so the maize had to be transported from Kavango to Katima for storage.

I hope that situation has improved and I think this is one of the reasons why the Minister is putting emphasis on the construction of silos. They had only one truck at their disposal and when you are making those serious attempts and efforts to produce so much food, each and every project should be mobile and have the capacity to store its own food rather than relying on the storage capacity of another project.

Then there is another risk where the post-harvest losses come to the fore. When you are constructing a silo, you have to construct it with a rotor inside which enables the grain inside the silos to be moved around all the time, otherwise the grain which faces the sun is destroyed in the process. Otherwise one has to construct the silos in such a way that at least the rising and the setting sun will not impact on the silos.

I would like to encourage the Minister and his staff to continue in their efforts of becoming self-sufficient in the food that we consume. I thank you.

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

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19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20**  
**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chair, I will be very brief. I have two issues, but before I raise these issues, I want to confirm that I do rise in great support of this Vote.

Honourable Deputy Chair, agriculture is not only a Sector that is relied upon to produce food and make sure that water, the other basic commodities, is available, it is from an economic point of view also that Sector where the greatest number of jobs are created in our economy and my point is in connection with that.

Comrade Deputy Chair, we are worried that agriculture's contribution to GDP after the past few years has in fact been dropping and with that, obviously, also its job creation potential. Having said that, we are very pleased and we applaud the Ministry for their efforts to develop not only a production potential in agriculture but also the potential to add value to agricultural produce. I think the concept of the agricultural hubs in the centre of the town where an integrated approach is followed that allows the produce to be brought to those hubs and attach value chains to those hubs is a very laudable way to go about to produce value-added products in our country.

If you go to, for instance, the Food Lovers Market and you try to find a Namibian product in that chain, you will struggle. It is not there. We are importing meat while we are net surplus producers of meat. We do not see our export dates which the Honourable Minister made available to Parliamentarians the other day. They were lovely, a first-class product, but why can we not buy them? Why must I, if I buy dates, buy an imported product from Tunisia or Algeria while we have our own products here? I think it is a principle that we have to follow. If we want to create jobs in agriculture, the principle of producing locally and consuming local stuff must be promoted and we must also allow ourselves to do that.

If you look at corned beef, we are buying our own corned beef back from an agent in South Africa. Why is that? We should produce it here and market it here and we should be the agent to market it in SADC, not the other way around.

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON KATALI**

For the export of fresh beef a similar scenario needs to be followed. We should be the principal agent to sell that instead of moving through agents in neighbouring countries. I know our economies are integrated, but if we want to use agriculture as a principal job creator, then surely the value chains must be managed in the local economy and not from the outside.

Leather is another industry where I know we are exporting almost all our hides either in a raw or a semi-processed form, whereas we have our own tanneries that are under-supplied with raw hides. We are actually importing hides to feed our tanneries and the investment in these value addition processes is not fully supported. That is the drive of my point, I applaud the Ministry for their efforts to bring about value addition and I think TIPEEG as a targeted intervention into agriculture tries to beef up production potential, tries to create the necessary infrastructure that allows processing and I think the Ministry is doing very well in latching onto that and making sure that agriculture is not only looking at food production and food self-sufficiency and household food security, but also it must again be the most important job creator in our economy. I thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. As a farmer this is music to my ears. Honourable Katali.

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry for a well-presented and motivated Budget. Honourable Minister, the issue that I am going to mention is not new to you, nor is it new to the management and this is with reference to the extension of the irrigation project at Etunda.

I would like to thank and applaud the Ministry for the development brought in that area. Obviously, when everything is going to be

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20**  
**HON KAZENAMBO**

implemented it will add value to the local people in terms of employment and also the whole country in terms of food security. However, the area that is being extended cuts across an area and the people of Oshipinga, Onangombe and Okapa ka Angula now find themselves on the other side of the project and cut off from the clinic and three schools serving that community. At the southern end of the project, provision has been made for livestock to reach the borehole. Children will have to walk a very long distance to reach school and the same goes for access to the clinic. I have mentioned this before and it seems there is no synergy between the Ministry and those implementing the project. I have not heard of either the Ministry's officials or the political head visiting that project to see for themselves what the communities are complaining about.

Maybe provision can be made for pedestrians so that livestock can use the longer route. Otherwise I really do applaud the work being done by the Ministry of Agriculture as mentioned in the different programmes and projects by the Honourable Members who spoke before me. I support the Vote. Thank you.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members. I rise to support Vote 20 of the Ministry of Agriculture and my comment is on water supply and sanitation to rural communities.

I agree with the statement by the Minister and having said that, Honourable Minister and your staff, I want to refer to the water supply to the rural area of Okamatapati and the water debt. I know the politics and the history of this issue, but be that as it may, as a person who has vowed to myself that I will never generalise in my life, I know there are some

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON MOONGO**

people who may be guilty in this situation, but I also know that there are also some people who are not. I do not think there is any human being who likes to live with debt and, therefore, it is painful when you inherit debts, even from your parents or grandparents. This is the situation in the Okamatapati area and I know this because some of my close relatives live in the Okamatapati area. They are the Karamatas living in Okamatapati and I am a Karamata too.

I feel Government needs to do something about this issue of debt and this is my appeal. If there are some efforts underway to do so, then fine, but if this issue is still pending, it needs to be addressed. I will not join in the language of Honourable Tjihuike that we are subsidising Air Namibia, but I am saying that the pot which is on the fire is the one feeling the heat and in this case I happen to be the pot.

When the media implicated me in things that I have not said, some people believed it and I was being ostracised. After I had my turn, it is now moving to those who believed what the media has said about me. Unfortunately this is life and honestly, when it affects you it is painful, but when it affects another person you enjoy.

I am saying that some of the people of Okamatapati with water debts may have been guilty, but some of them are innocent people who are caught up in the situation and I appeal to the Government that we address this issue. With these words, I support your Vote.

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

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I would also like to congratulate the Minister for doing a lot with little money. In agriculture you cannot do much with little money, because you need costly machinery for your operations.

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON BEZUIDENHOUDT**

However, I was shocked when the Minister proposed yet another increment in the water tariff after the poor communities have not been able to pay. I feel we should get rid of the middleman in the supply of water so that water can be supplied directly to the poor people at a lower tariff. You are now proposing an increment after the water supply to so many people was cut.

I am from the rural area and I can tell my Colleague that the people do not have money, therefore we should do away with the middleman. Let the water be supplied directly by the Government to the poor so that the tariff can be lower. I support the Vote.

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

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**HON BEZUIDENHOUDT:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I wish to congratulate the Honourable Minister on the fresh produce hubs as well as the capacity-building programmes. I think the Nation will reap the benefits thereof.

I see under the proposed programmes, specifically on the cooperatives, that there are six fully and 71 provisionally registered. My question to the Honourable Minister is; what are the challenges facing the provisionally registered to become fully registered?

Then on the rural water supply and sanitation issue, Honourable Amweelo asked the Minister to look into various technologies. There is one which was extensively tested in Bangladesh. It costs about US\$2,000 and it can produce clean potable water for a community of a hundred people within a cycle of 24 hours and it can clean any source of water by just dumping the pipe, putting it through the machine and then the water becomes drinkable. With these words, I thank you very much for the opportunity.

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

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

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am supporting Vote 20 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. You are doing good work, Comrade.

I want to congratulate the Minister and the Deputy Minister for the successful work done in the genetic analysis endeavours and the subsequent registration of the Gelape, Namibia's sheep breed. It is indeed work that you need to be applauded for.

Your target is to reach about 1,000 ewes in the station. How many people are earmarked to benefit from this number and is it people in a particular area of the country or the whole country? One would think the southern and western parts of the country are the appropriate one. Is this number sufficient or will it still be increased?

Secondly, I wish to refer to the development of the livestock beef processing. You want to do something in the areas of Kavango, Ohangwena, Omusati and Oshana. I would have liked to see what you plan to do particularly for Caprivi. We know that for years the Foot-and-Mouth Disease has been ravaging that area and I thought by now we should have had a beef canning facility there that could cater for the Police and the Army. I would appreciate it if you could shed some light on that issue.

Some years there has been some work done to fill up the aquifer around Windhoek to provide sufficient water for years to come. I do not know whether that work has been completed or still on-going. I would like you to shed some light on that, if you have some information. I thank you sincerely for the good work that you and your staff are doing and I wish you to continue.

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

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

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would also like to congratulate the Honourable Minister, his Deputy and the staff members for the efforts they are making in accessing not only services to our people, but creating new infrastructures that are boosting the productivity of our people. I particularly wish to mention the establishment of silos in particularly the north of the country, which I think is a booster to crop farmers because for some years now they have been selling their excess products.

However, Comrade Minister, I have realised that farmers are walking long distances to reach the centre where the silos are and I just want to know whether there are plans to create low-capacity silos at capital centres of the Regions, taking into consideration the distances.

Secondly, I would like to mention the issue of veterinary services where the same situation applies. For example, where I operate from the nearest centre is about 100 kilometres and when your animal is sick, you are forced to travel that long distance to reach the centre. In actual fact, there are people who are even further away from that centre. Are there also plans to distribute these centres so that each Region should at least have a small veterinary centre, just like the hospitals we have, clinics and referral hospitals. I would like to congratulate you and wish you the very best so that at the end of the day Namibia becomes a truly developed country with facilities nearby. Thank you.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Having exhausted my list, I now call upon the Minister to respond.

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19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON MUTORWA**

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

Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson. I would like to thank the seventeen Honourable Members who took the Floor for their contributions. *Honourable Agnes Tjongarero*, thank you very much. In terms of food self-sufficiency, food is quite a broad concept and we have not yet reached hundred percent food self-sufficiency, but in terms of the basic foods that the average citizen utilises, we are optimistic that we are making very steady progress and we will soon probably announce where we are.

*Honourable Uutoni*, you raised very pertinent issues with regard to the supply of water and the coordination between the bulk water supplier and the Ministry and I must agree with you that that is one issue that we are currently addressing, particularly as you have stated, where people who are dependent on a particular pipe with different water points are punished. At the technical level we understand the limitations, but what we are now doing, and I have already given directives two months ago to both the colleagues in the Directorate of Rural Water Supply and NamWater, is to investigate the feasibility of supplying individual water meters. We also need to improve the collection of the money the people are paying. Currently the system seems not to be working, but it is a task that we are dealing with and that we need to finalise soon. However, I think the colleagues are paying attention to this matter.

The same applies to the issue of the cumbersome process whereby you are sent to Rural Water Supply to fill in a form, and then you are sent with the form to the chairperson of the Water Committee. We are trying to streamline that process, but please give us some time, we are trying to make life easier for people.

I did watch *Open File* and I was definitely disgusted. Immediately thereafter I called the responsible officials to give me more information. What we have discovered is that in that particular locality there are not sufficient boreholes to supply water to the people and currently, as we speak, the information available to me is that more boreholes are being drilled.

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON MUTORWA**

I would like to find out more about this businessman. I do not know where he gets the water, whether he paid for it and then sells it to the people. That we still need to find out. Where does he get the water? Is it safe drinking water and if so, does he pay or is it rainwater?

*Honourable Muharukua*, you thanked us for the tractors. You are hundred percent correct, on Monday I did receive the Crop Assessment Report for the whole country and particularly the crop producing Regions. I shared it with our top leaders, the President, Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister. It is true that the rainfall in the Kunene Region has not been good and I am sure we already have our ears on the ground to prepare ourselves to deal with grazing problems or to reactivate the necessary Government mechanisms if people need food.

With regard to the borehole that was drilled by a certain company, I can explain the procedure to this Honourable House and to the general public. When a contractor who builds a road or a contractor doing exploration drills a borehole for water has finished and left, the procedure is that that particular infrastructure is handed over to the Ministry of Works and Transport as the custodian of all Government properties. In the case of boreholes the Ministry of Works and Transport will then liaise with us as the Ministry responsible for water to ensure that that borehole is transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. I am not saying that was done in this particular case, but thank you very much that you have raised it, we will go into the details of that particular issue. However, it is not correct that an individual will immediately grab this borehole and then use it at the expense of others. That is not what the procedure should be.

*Honourable Tjihuiko*, I have been in this position for four years and I think you started with an exaggeration when you said that when you visited some of our Green Schemes two years ago, you found heaps and heaps of rotten food. I think you exaggerated. In the four years that I have been there, we have not experienced a problem of rotten food. No, that is not true.

Many Colleagues have mentioned the commercialisation of water. Let me

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON MUTORWA**

simply state that when the Government realises that we are not achieving our objective with a particular law or policy, we as leaders in both the Legislative and Executive arm of the State have the duty to come back to the drawing board and review that and if we reach that point that we have to come back and debate whether we need a commercial entity dealing with bulk water supply, then we will have to deal with it at that stage. However, for now NamWater is a legal entity which was put there by us as Parliamentarians and it is a fact, it is there.

Honourable Tjihuike, if you received an account for N\$400, but there is no connection to your place and you are a leader, I do not think I can sympathise with you. I would have sympathised with somebody lower in terms of social responsibility and status. If you were sent from this place to that place by officials and you do not know what to do and you waited until today to ask me this question, I do not think you are a good leader at all. Go to Dr Shivute, the Chief Executive Officer, and tell him you are not going to pay that. Do not wait to come to Parliament here with an issue like that one.

Concerning the writing off of water debts, everybody knows the history of this issue and I am not going to bore this Honourable House by repeating it, but suffice to say and some of the Honourable Members who did take the Floor did admit that at that stage when the problem started, there were also not-so-honest politicians who jumped on the bandwagon and confused the citizens involved. They used this particular matter for political expediency, actually telling people not to pay, which was wrong. I think when we demand that the debt be written off, we also need to acknowledge that a mistake was made by certain politicians in certain Political Parties.

You will remember that even when the President delivered the State of the Nation Address last year this question was raised here by the President of the DTA. Now certain things have been done, people have been supplied with individual water meters and some people have paid, but there are those who are still refusing to pay. Maybe the time has come for us in the Ministry to work together with the Regional Governments to identify the specific individuals and by saying this, I am addressing my officials,

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON MUTORWA**

because we have to settle this matter in one way or another. We have to go and get the specific details of the individuals involved, the reason why they are failing to pay, are they genuinely not able to do so and then only will we be able to address it. The writing off of the debt cannot be done collectively, we have to look at the individual cases. I think you have a point, it is back in our court and I am urging the officials to look into this. I do not want our President to be confronted with the same question next week when he comes, because the President will point a finger at me, "Minister, what are the details?" Maybe we need to get the details and only then will we know how to move forward in dealing with the specific cases of the people involved.

*Honourable Ueitele*, you mentioned the de-bushing to assist farmers. Let me inform the Nation through this House that the original idea was to work out a scheme with the little money that was on the Budget of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. The original idea was for us to engage the Farmers Unions, which we actually did, to work out a scheme whereby the Government would then subsidise the farmers to de-bush specific farms. I must assure the farmers that that particular idea is not off the table, but in the wake of the TIPEEG programme, Government has to look where to start and when we considered it as Government, it was decided that maybe it would be prudent, with the high unemployment rate particularly among the young people, to utilise the N\$14 million and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry was tasked to work together with the Ministry of Youth, particularly the National Youth Service, contract them and utilise this money to de-bush Government farms.

Again I must say the original idea is not off the table, bush encroachment on many of the farms is a real problem and we need to work out a formula with the farmers, through their Unions, to see what the Government's contribution will be to deal with this particular issue. However, we must emphasise that commercial farms are individually owned; people should not fold their hands and wait for Government. After all, what amount of the profits of these commercial farms comes to the Government as tax? I must emphasise so that the wrong message is not sent, when it comes to commercial individually owned farms, Government is working out a

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON MUTORWA**

scheme to assist through a subsidy, but the farmer should still have a responsibility.

*Honourable Von Wietersheim*, you started off by saying that you have a long list of issues. I expected you as the second Minister of Agriculture in this country not to hesitate. If you have ideas, do not wait because once you raise an issue in Parliament, which is a political House, then the response you may get may not be on factual information, but I will have to colour it with politics too. I am inviting you, with the expertise that you have, you were the second Minister of Agriculture in this Government, to approach me at any time so that we interact and discuss.

Let me be frank with you, you talked about conservation agriculture, we are not anti-conservation agriculture, we cannot be, but let me further tell you that recently there have been very vicious articles in the newspapers in which individuals were attacking us on various issues and I think you spoke on behalf of those who have this agenda and that is fine, I have no problem with that, you are a representative of the people. However, let me respond as follows:

Yesterday there was an advertorial in the *New Era* and I was the one who told my officials that we need to respond to these articles and that response was published yesterday in *New Era* under the signature of the Permanent Secretary. It is not Ndishishi's statement that appeared yesterday, that was the collective response of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry to the attacks and criticism that we have received and it was a very elaborate statement, explaining this accusation that we imported tractors from Brazil without tenders, which is not true. I would like to urge not only Honourable Von Wietersheim, but all of us and the general public, that the statement that appeared yesterday is the statement of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry on the specific accusations relating to conservation agriculture. In actual fact, it further demonstrates that we are committed to conservation agriculture and other forms of agriculture.

Yesterday there were representatives of six countries here in Windhoek and we have signed a declaration to establish a centre that will concern

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON MUTORWA**

itself with capacity-building for scientists in advising us as Government in all kinds of things in the Agricultural and Water Sectors. That again is a demonstration of our commitment.

Politically let me say, Honourable Von Wietersheim, and I am saying this because you also talked about the EU support that the Permanent Secretary apparently refused: No, it is not true and you know that in any Ministry, the Minister, in terms of Article 40 of the Constitution, is individually and collectively accountable to the President and to this House for whatever is happening in the Ministry. Therefore, I am number one, the buck stops with me. Honourable Ilonga is number two, the Permanent Secretary is number three, the Deputy Permanent Secretary is number four and so it goes.

With regard to this EU support and I am going to elaborate and I think the Honourable Deputy Chair will allow me as I have to state the facts.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE:** If you could deal with this and then summarise the rest.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
I understand, but really, in terms of our Rules the Committee Stage is supposed to deal with details, but when issues are raised, people colour it with all kinds of things and, therefore, it is only right for the sake of the HANSARD.

When Honourable Katjavivi was Director-General of the National Planning Commission, money was earmarked for rural development. Now because the policy on rural development within the Ministry of Regional and Local Government and House was not ready then, the Director-General called the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development and our officials and we were asked what is it that we can

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20**  
**HON MUTORWA**

do because we should not lose this money. Maybe you have a programme in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry that has the objective to address this question of rural poverty and maybe we can try and see how we can utilise this money in that programme. Then we started with the negotiations at the technical level. Yes, we do have a programme and our programme was this rain-fed dry-land crop production programme where we assist the subsistence farmers to produce. However, then we got bogged down. Why? Because we were saying the programme does exist, so let us see how we get this money and use the same programme and move forward. Obviously, those who give the money wanted feasibility studies and other things and at the end of the day we could not agree and we could not be faulted on that one. This you can go and ask anybody, including the head of the European delegation.

It is, therefore, not correct to say that it is Ndishishi who has stopped it. It is definitely not correct. Therefore, as the Minister I must take the Floor and state the facts as they are.

The same applies to this conservation. People have ulterior motives politically and say that agriculture in communal areas must be as it was fifty years ago. That is the agenda of some people. They say do not use structures there, just use the oxen and we are saying no, the world is moving and we need to move. If you read these articles in the newspapers carefully, that hidden message is there and that we will never support. What is good in this part of the country should definitely also be good in any outpost of the country.

*Honourable Amweelo* spoke of climate change, desertification and the use of wood. We have an afforestation programme, but let me also emphasise that it really is a question of balance between conservation and sustainable utilisation. If you look at our rural areas, wood is something that is utilised for energy on a daily basis, but you are right, it is a question of finding a balance. However, you cannot tell people not to use wood because then you are not being fair. It is a question of balance. My Colleague was quoting the Bible and in Genesis we are told the good Lord created everything and said, *“now use this, but when you use it, use it in such a way that your generation and your children’s generation will*

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON MUTORWA**

*also have it.*” It is a question of balance and I agree with you.

***Honourable Manombe-Ncube***, we are making some progress with the supply of water and you are right, sanitation is a real problem and that is why we are working very closely with many Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Regional and Local Government and Housing to address the issue of sanitation.

***Honourable Nambahu*** thanked us for the programme on livestock improvement. The reasons for the failure of cooperatives are many, but one of the reasons is exactly what you intimated. A cooperative is a more democratic grassroots-based organisation where even the process of decision-making must be collective. We have seen that once a cooperative is started and is producing something, then some strong people will emerge and those strong people will try to push out the others and then it is a recipe for failure. That is one of the many reasons and you are right in suggesting that we look at this and also learn from good practices elsewhere to address it, more so in this year which is the International Year for Cooperatives, declared by the United Nations.

I think mahangu can be irrigated, there is no problem there and it can be done.

The Water Master Plan must be submitted to the Cabinet and this House during this year and I know they are working on it.

Maybe Honourable Ndaitwah can give an answer on the issue of the birds. This world is quite complicated, everything is good and the Lord will tell you that the birds and the animals do not worry about where the next meal will come from. If you have produced then the birds are happy too. That is life.

Thank you, ***Honourable Amathila***, your concern about post-harvest losses is legitimate, but we are trying to address that by expanding the silos. We are even erecting some silos on the Green Schemes itself, such as at Etunda, in order to minimise the post-harvest losses. You are also correct that they must have their own transport to transport what they have

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON MUTORWA**

produced. So far we are not yet there, but that is the ideal.

*Honourable Schlettwein* is right about the contribution to GDP and that is why we have the hubs to try and stimulate the domestic market. You mentioned the exportation of meat and last week I was in Cape Town and looking at some of the facilities of Meatco. The meat from the northern communal areas is transported as carcasses with trucks and the facilities in Cape Town will do the cooking and canning. It is done there and workers are employed there. Then that meat will end up at Woolworths and other places. I do not have a problem, my problem is why it is so problematic to have something like that. Maybe a certain percentage of what you do there should happen in Katima Mulilo and Oshakati.

*Honourable Katali* spoke about access roads at Etunda and we will attend to it, because it is not only at Etunda, we have the same situation at Ndonga-Linena. This is a legitimate request and it is a question of the Ministry attending to that.

*Honourable Moongo*, you are shocked about the increase in water tariffs and I think I am also shocked, but for the record, the issue of subsidising water for the poor is a concern and the Cabinet has already last year taken a decision, directing the Ministry to do a proper study that will inform the further decision by the Cabinet as to how we are going to subsidise the poor. It is not a simple assignment because you have to define who are poor, but that study is ongoing and once finalised and Cabinet has taken a decision, I think relief will come in terms of assisting the rural poor by subsidising their water.

*Honourable Bezuidenhout*, we will follow up on the technology from Bangladesh and see what we can learn from there.

*Honourable Iyambo*, I do not have the specific details about the thousand ewes, but I think they are meant for the southern Regions for the start. I have just explained about beef processing in Caprivi.

*Honourable Ithana*, I agree with you on the long distances. As we all know our activities as Government are integrated planning. In this

19 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 20  
HON MUTORWA**

particular case we are working closely with the Colleagues from the Ministry of Works and Transport, for example, in assisting us. We give the details of the production centres and where the large concentration of farmers are who produce mahangu or livestock and if it is identified that there is no road infrastructure, the Ministry of Works and Transport will work out a plan to have a road. Once you have a road, many business people will be willing to even use their own trucks to transport, but for now it is still a challenge.

You are also hundred percent correct about the veterinary service centres, because currently the main laboratory is here in Windhoek and if your horse or cow has died, samples need to be sent to Windhoek. The same applies to soil. Farmers want to have their soil tested, but the laboratory is in Windhoek. However, we are addressing it now.

The towns of Ondangwa, Outapi and Eenhana have already availed land for us where we are going to put up big veterinary offices and clinics. At least then people will not need to travel every time only to Windhoek. Those are the plans we have in place and once implemented, I think it will be a relief in some respects. Thank you, I am sorry that I had to speak so much, but I had to put the record straight. Thank you.

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

Vote 25 – “**LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT**” put for **Discussion**.

Any objection? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMED**

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19 April 2012

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:34 UNTIL 2012.04.24 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
24 APRIL 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:** Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Excellencies and invited guests, Dr Magda Robalo, WHO Resident Representative, in terms of Rule 117 and 118 of the Standing Rules and Orders and bearing in mind the established international practice by which the Secretary-General of the United Nations is accorded the status of Head of State or Government and considering the Director-General of WHO as his legitimate representative, I hereby welcome Dr Margaret Chan to the Chamber of Parliament and extend best wishes on your and my behalf to her. Welcome.

I had expected that the Chairman of the National Council and Members of the Council would be here. That was confirmed to me and to underline that expectation and understanding that the pertinent legislative and policy issues that Dr Chan will share with us affect both Houses of Parliament and the country as whole. Indeed, some Members are here and I appreciate that. Thank you very much. I, therefore, now have the honour to invite Dr Chan to address the National Assembly.

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**DR CHAN:** Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Members of Parliament, I am honoured for many reasons to address this country's Parliament. Namibia is a young country moving in smart ways, in the right direction, especially with evidence-based strategies for improving health. You have accomplished a great deal already, especially in the past decade and you aspire in well-articulated long-term plans to do a great deal more. You have the focus right – poverty and poor health go hand-in-hand. They are the iron fist that puts the brakes on development.

24 April 2012

**ADDRESS  
DR CHAN**

The world learned something profoundly important last year as it watched the Arab Spring unfold and witnessed social protests all around the world.

When deep social inequalities are ignored by Government policies, public resentment festers and then explodes in protests that can threaten a Nation's political stability and security. Protests against inequalities in income levels, in opportunities, in access to services can topple Governments.

Namibia's ambitions are clearly stated and that is, "*to develop an industrialised economy, to give citizens, all citizens a quality of life that matches that seen in the world's best governed places.*" Central to that ambition is a deep sense of political duty to realise the aspirations of your citizens and a deep commitment to the principles of fairness and social justice.

As stated in Namibia's Third National Development Plan, and allow me to quote: "*The State actors in both political and administrative positions are directed to ensure the effective delivery of public services to our citizens and realise value for money in Public expenditure.*" You have plans to stimulate economic growth, but you also have plans to ensure that the benefits of this growth are fairly and evenly distributed. This is enlightened policy, this sets Namibia apart. You are going against the grain, avoiding some tempting mistakes made by many very rich and very poor countries alike and that is, to put absolute faith in economic growth as the be-all, end-all and cure for all.

Market forces create wealth and generate benefits, but they have no rules that guarantee the fair distribution of these benefits. All too often efforts to promote economic growth create big benefits for the privileged few, but bypass masses of the poor. Market forces acting alone will never solve social problems. Only enlightened whole-of-Government policies with equity and explicit objectives can reduce social injustice. Decades of experience tell us that this world will not become a fair place all by itself, health systems will not automatically gravitate towards greater equity or naturally evolve towards universal coverage.

24 April 2012

**ADDRESS  
DR CHAN**

Economic decisions within the country will not automatically protect the poor or promote their health. Globalisation will not self-regulate in ways that ensure fair distribution of benefits. International trade agreements will not by themselves guarantee food security or job security or health security or access to affordable medicines. All of these outcomes require deliberate policies decisions.

A recent Report of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) underscores the importance of making equity an explicit policy objective. As documented in the Report, income inequality in wealthy Nations has reached the worst levels seen in nearly 25 years. That Report further concluded that societies with the least inequality had the best health outcomes, regardless of the levels of spending on health. In other words, money alone does not buy better health, good policies that promote equity have a better chance.

As I said, Namibia is moving in the direct direction, in smart ways, with impressive results, and impressive speed. You are making good use of Government regulatory powers to rein in health-care costs and ensure that patients receive safe and effective medicines at the most affordable prices. To get that promise of “*value for money*”, the country operates a centralised procurement system for medicines and medical supplies. Care in the Private Sector has been regulated since 1994 by the Hospital and Health Facilities Act.

Your National Drug Policy, which concentrates on a limited number of essential medicines, provides comprehensive guidelines and regulations for the public, but also for the private Pharmaceutical Sectors. These provisions are perfectly in line with the WHO Recommendations on National Drug Policies.

Experts inform me that this country maintains reasonable vital statistics of births and causes of death, but it is not always able to reliably investigate all causes of death. Most important, however, is this country’s potential to have one of the best systems of vital statistics in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Ladies and gentlemen, last month Namibia celebrated 22 years of

24 April 2012

**ADDRESS  
DR CHAN**

Independence. In commemorating that event, President Pohamba reported on a number of Government supported development initiatives, like the provision of housing and farmland and safe drinking water, rural electrification and the extension of health and education facilities. Such initiatives put the country on the right track to reduce poverty. Above all, they promise to improve health outcomes by tackling the many root causes of ill-health that flourish alongside poverty.

As someone who has worked in public health for more than 35 years – (“*Well, I look young but I am not*”) – I have deep admiration for the achievements and the long-range ambitions of this country’s leaders, its Ministers of Health and Social Services and the authors of Vision 2030.

This is a transformational vision, it aims to transform the economy, transform opportunities for employment, transform systems for health and education and build the requisite capacities and infrastructure for sustaining progress. In doing so, it promises to transform the quality of life for all citizens.

As noted in the latest National Development Plan, experience all over the world has shown that a more equal distribution of income contributes to more rapid, stable and sustained economic growth. I could not agree more.

My staff, who have read this very detailed Vision, informed me that it is exceptional in many ways. It is long-range and far-sighted, not a quick-fix for someone’s single term of office. A country like Namibia that inherited massive structure weaknesses has no place for quick fixes. It is people-centred, the public was widely consulted as the Vision took shape. This was the question: “*What can political leaders do to help this country’s citizens realise their aspirations for a better life for themselves and above all, for their children?*” This is a pro-poor Vision, it is deeply distressed by social inequalities and deeply committed to reducing them through wise investments. It fully appreciates the role of good health as an engine of economic development.

It is ambitious, it aims at nothing less than reversing the colonial legacy of

24 April 2012

**ADDRESS  
DR CHAN**

income inequality and poverty. As so clearly stated, Namibia wants to become, “*the leading public provider of quality health and social services in Africa.*”

Above all, the Vision is convincingly frank and honest. The picture it paints of this country’s current and future challenges is by no means a rosy one. As Peter Katjavivi, the former Director-General of the National Planning Commission and now the Chief Whip of the National Assembly said in a recent media interview: “*We should not hide the facts. At the end of the day the facts will speak louder than words.*” It takes great self-confidence to be frank and honest about setbacks and failures, structure weaknesses, huge obstacles and missed targets and this is commendable.

Political self-confidence, when supported by the people, breeds courage and that translates into high ambitions and bold actions. You are working against some world-class odds. Much conspires against success. Namibia has been handed a heavy, heavy historical legacy.

At Independence this country had two economic systems, two health systems and two educational systems – one for the rich and privileged and one for the poor and powerless. The majority of the population was excluded from the productive economy. Namibia has one of the highest levels of income disparity in the world, Namibia is ranked as a middle-income country, yet nearly one-third of the population survives on incomes that fall below the international poverty line. Most eke out a living from a very small area of arable land. Prevalence rates of HIV/AIDS are amongst the highest in the world, fueling a related tuberculosis epidemic. It is no surprise that Namibia also has one of the highest rates of tuberculosis in the world.

In 2010 more than 11,000 TB cases were newly notified. Of these, well over half were co-infected with HIV. The country is further burdened by a high prevalence of drug-resistance strains of tuberculosis.

Diagnostic facilities of patients with multi-drug resistance tuberculosis are inadequate. One central laboratory does culture and drug susceptibility testing for first-line drugs, but susceptibility testing for second-line drugs

24 April 2012

**ADDRESS  
DR CHAN**

must be conducted in South Africa.

Factors of geography and climate conspire against you. Namibia is one of the driest countries in Africa. A chronic food shortage forces a heavy dependence on important foods, including staples. This food deficit is aggravated by frequent droughts and floods and express as high rates of chronic malnutrition. Most exports are in the forms of commodities which are exposed to large and unpredictable fluctuations in prices.

Namibia is the second most sparsely populated country in the world and this makes the delivery of health services extremely difficult and costly.

Like many other African countries, health care in Namibia is crippled by a very low density of doctors and other health care staff. This critical shortage is further strained by the demands of chronic care for large numbers of people with HIV/AIDS or is needing directly observed treatment for tuberculosis.

In some rural areas staff are so overworked that they cannot attend training sessions to improve their skills. Most donor support is for the infectious diseases, leaving other priority problems underfunded. Let me issue a stern warning on this issue: Monitoring shows that conditions like hypertension, diabetes and cancers are on the rise. Get on top of these chronic non-communicable diseases as quickly as you can, especially through approaches that stress population-wide prevention. I know this is already high on your agenda. WHO staff in this country, in the region and in the head office in Geneva stand ready to support you.

You import most of your food. Watch out for processed foods that are loaded with fats, sugars and salt, but very low in essential nutrients. These cheap and convenient foods will aggravate childhood under-nutrition and quickly bring to you an epidemic of obesity in older children and adults.

Increasing rates of obesity and overweight are the warning signal that bad trouble is on the way. It arrives as a devastating wave of heart disease, hypertension, stroke, several diet-related cancers and most especially diabetes.

24 April 2012

**ADDRESS  
DR CHAN**

As many countries in Asia have learned, the cost of caring for a disease like diabetes can easily devour the benefits of modernisation and economic growth. These are the diseases that break the bank. For example, chronic care eats up a full 75% of the 2.6 trillion dollars that the US currently spends on healthcare each year. How many countries can afford to spend 2.6 trillion US Dollars on health every year, and yet many problems are not solved.

We must never forget, these chronic diseases, especially diabetes and stroke, account for half of all global disability, adding considerably to their social and economic costs.

Ladies and gentlemen, against this background of heavy challenges and constraints, of historical problems and injustices, your achievements are all the more impressive.

Namibia has received international recognition for its success in rolling out Anti-Retroviral Therapy for HIV/AIDS. Within a year this country more than doubled its targets set for coverage, which is now amongst the highest in Africa. Thanks to the good preventative measures, more and more babies are being born HIV-free. Government provides 50% of the financial resources for the HIV/AIDS response. Such a high level of Government commitment is rarely seen elsewhere in Africa and is a major factor behind this success.

Attendance at antenatal clinics is high, as is delivery in health facilities. Nonetheless, maternal mortality remains unacceptably high. No woman in the 21<sup>st</sup> century should die when giving life. I know that prompt access to emergency obstetric care is a problem, as is this country's shortage of skilled birth attendants.

Rates of neo-natal and childhood deaths also need to decrease faster to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

The management of tuberculosis has improved in significant and commendable ways, reducing the country's estimated TB burden substantially within a decade. People co-infected with TB and HIV are

24 April 2012

**ADDRESS  
DR CHAN**

being managed much more effectively. Increased coverage with Anti-Retroviral therapy has unquestionably had a positive impact on the country's tuberculosis epidemic. Again, within just a decade deaths attributed to malaria have been cut by well over 80% and the malaria map has shrunk dramatically with transmission now largely confined to the northern parts of the country.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services has recently articulated careful plans to make Namibia malaria free in the near future. These are realistic plans, fully aware of the added demands of an elimination goal and they are good plans with a good chance of success. These are whole-of-Government plans that engage Ministries responsible for Home Affairs, Immigration, Finance and Customs.

This country, long a vocal advocate for regional integration, knows very well that Namibia can never become and remain malaria free until action is taken beyond its borders. Namibia is now leading the so-called Elimination 8 or E-8 initiatives. This is a group of eight countries in southern Africa that are pulling together to eliminate malaria.

Namibia is one of the four countries, joined by Botswana, South Africa and Swaziland, that have already achieved low levels of malaria transmission. They will be pulling with them an additional four neighbours with a more difficult malaria problem, namely Angola, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Public health is trained in compassion and driven by passion. This country's health policies show an abundance of both.

For passion you need to look no further than the words and deeds of Minister Kamwi. I am not here to blow your trumpet, but it is fair for me to say, in an op-ed published in the Wall Street Journal, the Minister wrote very passionately about malaria, the lives malaria has claimed and the development that malaria has stunted in Africa. He argued heatedly for freedom to fight malaria the right way. Doing so means a multi-pronged attack is needed, using not only bed nets and medicines, but also the judicious use and spraying of insecticides to keep mosquitoes out of

24 April 2012

**ADDRESS  
DR CHAN**

buildings and out of people's homes.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have a final comment. Various studies from international bodies ranked Namibia as a middle-income Nation with bright economic prospects. OECD has praised this country for its prudent macroeconomic policies and favourable growth momentum. Some observers have asked, why should a country like Namibia that is basically on its way up undertake such a massive Government-sponsored development effort? The task is hard, but the answer is easy: Because it is the right, enlightened and farsighted thing to do, because it is an act of a good, compassionate and passionate Government.

Last week Time Magazine ran a cover story about the remarkable comeback of Colombia, once known for drugs, guns, gangs and murders, as a regional power in the Americas. In an interview, Juan Manuel Santos, the country's President, attributed this economic and political rebirth to policies that distributed resources, especially mining and oil revenues, with greater fairness in what he described as, "*a sort of Affirmative Action for the poorest regions.*" As he advised: "*Use the markets as much as possible and use the State as much as necessary.*"

In a sign of the times he concluded with the following observation: "*When you ask people in the US, Europe and Japan today if their children will have a better future, they say no. In Colombia they are saying yes.*"

On Namibia's Independence Day last month, one media outlet sent reporters out on the streets in this country to get personal views of what Independence means for Namibia, what Independence means for its people and their shared future together. "*Liberty is a treasure*", said one citizens; "*things have changed*", said another. "*Today we have development opportunities and a future in absolute freedom.*"

In some concrete terms people cite visible signs of development and improved infrastructure, flourishing trade and the growth of tourism. As one academic observed in this country, "*development is taking place because of our own initiatives, we fought hard for our freedom and this means a right to manage oneself and do it the right way.*"

24 April 2012

**VOTE OF THANKS  
HON DR GURIRAB**

As part of the ceremony, 22 white doves were released to fly in the sky in absolute freedom to commemorate the country's peace, tranquillity and harmony.

I think we can all conclude that the people of Namibia are saying yes, the future looks bright for them and for their children and this is a country that has taken charge of its destiny.

I wish you and the health of your citizens all the best and I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Dr Chan. We earlier had a brief moment together before we came in here and on that occasion you threatened that you will be frank and thorough and that is what you have done. Congratulations.

On behalf of both Houses of the Parliament of Namibia I want to extend our goodwill and renewed mutual support to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon. We will do as much as we can with your support and cooperation. The mountain is high and thick at the base, but we have the determination to continue our hard work and struggle until we fully meet the needs of the people and that they would be the witnesses to what we do as leaders of this country.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr Richard Kamwi, not only for bringing you here, but on his own score for the best that he can and is doing for our country and to pledge to him that Parliament will be behind him and giving him the support he needs. With that I will ask the Deputy Speaker to escort our honoured guest out of the Chamber. Once again, welcome to Namibia and thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Honourable Amweelo.

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24 April 2012

**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON DR AMWEELO**

**TABLING: REPORT ON 126<sup>TH</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY**

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Honourable Speaker, I would like to table the Report of the Namibian Parliamentary Delegation on the 126<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, but before that I would like to give a summary of the main agenda in the Reports.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the august House, I rise to table for note-taking and information the Report by the Namibian Delegation on the 126<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly and related meetings held in Bern Switzerland from 14 to 20 October 2011.

Honourable Speaker, please allow me to briefly highlight the main agenda and items in the Report. The Report includes the following items:

1. Choice of emergency item: Namibia was the initiator of the emerging item, the plight of the people of famine-stricken Somalia and the relief efforts by IPU Member Parliaments.
2. Report of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs.
3. Panel Discussions by the First Standing Committee on Peace and International Security on the agenda item, "*Promoting and Practising Good Governance as the means of Advancing Peace and Security – Drawing Lessons from Recent Events in the Middle East and North Africa.*" The Draft Resolutions attached to the Reports were adopted with Amendments at the IPU Assembly held in Kampala, Uganda from the 31<sup>st</sup> of March to the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2012.
4. Panel Discussion by the Second Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Sustainable Development on the agenda item: "*Redistribution of Power, not just wealth; ownership of the international agendas.*" The Draft Resolutions attached to the Report were adopted with Amendments at the IPU Assembly held in Kampala, Uganda.

24 April 2012

**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON DR AMWEELO**

5. Panel Discussion by the Third Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights on the agenda item, *“Access to Health as a Basic Right; the Role of the Parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children.”* The Draft Resolutions attached to the Report were adopted with Amendments at the IPU Assembly held in Kampala, Uganda this year.

The Report also includes the deliberation of the Governing Council and further highlights support assembly seminars which serve as a capacity/building tool for Members of Parliament. The seminar includes:

1. Effective capacity-building programme for Parliamentarians;
2. Promoting the rights to development, the role of a Parliament;
3. Parliamentarians and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Ideally the Report should have been tabled in the House for consideration, however, considering the National Budget programme and the fact that the Draft Resolutions of the Standing Committees have in the meantime been adopted with Amendments in Kampala, Uganda, the Report is tabled for note-taking and information. Key Line Ministries were consulted on the Report before and after the Bern Assembly and before the Kampala Assembly.

I encourage the Honourable Members to study the Report and I Move to table the Report for note-taking and information.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Any further Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Finance.

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24 April 2012

**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA / HON KAAPANDA**

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

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** I lay upon the Table, Reports of the Auditor-General on the accounts of the National Assembly for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2011 and the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2011.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Honourable Kaapanda.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT:  
NAMIBIA TELECOM HOLDINGS**

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Annual Report of Namibia Post Telecom Holdings Limited for the year 2010.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Minister Mbumba.

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24 April 2012

**NOTICE OF MOTION  
HON MBUMBA**

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** I give Notice that on Thursday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2012, I shall Move –

That this National Assembly –

*Ratifies* both the United Nations and OAE Conventions for the Suppression or the Financing of Terrorism and on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day

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**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:  
PROPERTY VALUERS PROFESSION BILL**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Property Valuers Profession Bill.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the House adjourned on Thursday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2012, in terms of Rule 19 of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any further discussion? Does the Minister of Lands and Resettlement wish to reply?

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24 April 2012

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

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir. In the interest of fairness I wanted to look at the issues raised, but I equally welcome the hint from the Honourable Members of this House that we conclude the business today. If that is the case, I want to most sincerely register my appreciation for the Honourable Members and their remarks and observations which, I believe, were aimed at improving the piece of legislation that we have put before this House for its attention. I thank you and I want to thank all of us that we are at all times mindful of our responsibilities in our quest to serve our Nation to the best of our ability. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned for refreshments.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:42**

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**HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:30**

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**HON SPEAKER:** I now put the Question that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill a Second Time.

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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24 April 2012

**CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL  
HON MOONGO**

**RESUMPTION OF SECOND READING:  
CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on Second Reading –  
*Correctional Service Bill.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the Debate adjourned on Wednesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security, that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Moongo adjourned the Debate and he has the Floor.

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. This *Correctional Service Bill* is essential because it is aimed at preparing people for a normal life without crime. However, let us start educating the community at large before they commit crime by establishing training centres in every community and then we train people to understand the community laws and national laws and how to prevent crimes. If we educate the community crime will probably be reduced. (Interjection)

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Start with your shebeens.

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**HON MOONGO:** You can hear he is against development. Shebeens are promoting development and are paying school fees. Is the SWAPO Party Government ready to be blamed if the current Budget fails to solve the following persistent problems in the correctional services?

24 April 2012

**CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL  
HON UEITELE**

All well-disciplined officers who worked for more than twenty years are not promoted, while newcomers get promoted. On what basis are promotions taking place in Correctional Services? The lower rank officers are underpaid and there is not enough transportation. When a doctor prescribes special food for an inmate, it is not given to that sick person in prison. There are not enough blankets and uniforms and during December the prisons are overcrowded. Have you found a solution for all these problems?

When prisoners are released, why do they not receive the money they worked for while in prison? Explain what is the good reason that there is not enough accommodation for new officials and new prisoners. If the Minister is going to solve these problems, I will support the Bill. I thank you.

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

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**HON UEITELE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I rise to support the Namibia *Correctional Service Bill* tabled in this august House by the Minister of Safety and Security, Honourable Nangolo Mbumba, and at the same time want to make a small contribution to the Bill under discussion.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, when the Minister introduced the Bill he made it clear that the purpose of introducing the Bill is to ensure effective provision of rehabilitation and correctional functions, which I support. I am also in support of the implementation of an Offender Risk Management Correctional Strategy that is aimed to assess and to document the differences in order to enhance the correctional facilities and give direction to efforts aimed at possible successful registration.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, my contribution is based on

24 April 2012

**CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL  
HON UEITELE**

Page 55, Section 77(1)(c), which deals with “*visitors, receiving letters, procurement of necessary and other privileges received from outside the correctional facilities, such as food, unfermented drinks, bedding, clothing, literature and other life necessities that may be permitted under strict examination.*”

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not know how strict this examination will be. Some of us had the opportunity to visit the correctional facilities as ordinary citizens and also as relatives of inmates and also in our capacity as national leaders. We have observed and seen how some visitors smuggle in alcohol, drugs, sharp objects, screwdrivers, etcetera, during visiting hours. These are smuggled in through porridge, *oshikundu*, *omaere* or cool drinks. They also hide objects inside loaves of bread.

I remember when the members of PLAN were caught, most of them were imprisoned in Gobabis and my father used to conceal letters inside a bar of Sunlight soap. Therefore, I want to propose that *omaere*, *osopa*, bread, matches and lotions be prohibited, because you find inmates who are very active, but you cannot understand where this inmate gets all this energy.

Honourable Members, the Government of the Republic of Namibia and in particular the Ministry of Safety and Security has proven itself that it has the capacity to feed all the inmates with three meals per day in all correctional service facilities. Therefore, I do not see the need for relatives to take food into the cells because the Ministry is taking care of the inmates. We have seen that most of these inmates have committed petty crimes in order for them to benefit from these meals given by the Ministry. I strongly believe that the prohibition of food from relatives and friends will ease the workload of correctional officials and enhance the security of some vulnerable offenders within the Correctional Services.

Against this background I propose that the receipt of foodstuff be prohibited in all Correctional Service facilities and with these few remarks, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I support the Bill and I thank you.

24 April 2012

**CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL  
HON NAHOLO**

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

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**HON NAHOLO:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for the opportunity to make my humble contribution to the Debate. Let me also thank the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security for introducing this Bill which aims to provide for the establishment of the Namibia Correctional Service and for matter incidental thereto.

I am particularly going to focus on Part VII of the Bill, which deals with discipline of correctional officers.

Honourable Speaker, since dealing with discipline of the personnel is a sensitive and emotional issue, I would like to state from the outset that any disciplinary measure at any given workplace should be in the form of correction. Every time you need to give a person a second chance in order to improve in their work ethics, conduct and behaviour at work. Nobody should be allowed to take advantage of the offence committed by others, no matter who is the individual involved. Mind you, we are living in this world where there is hatred, nepotism and all sorts of discrimination, be it racial or tribal discrimination, witch-hunt and abuse of power. Therefore, all disciplinary actions should be taken fairly, consistently and in accordance with the rules and procedures. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Comrade Naholo, what disciplinary actions are supposed to be taken against a person who fights over trees which he knows does not belong to him?

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**HON NAHOLO:** He is Out of Order. Section 52(12) says, “a person

24 April 2012

**CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL  
HON NAHOLO**

*who, having been summoned to appear before the disciplinary board to testify or to produce a book, document, thing, record or other evidence relevant to the inquiry, without reasonable cause; (a) fails or refuses to appear before the disciplinary board at the specified time and place is guilty of an offence and on conviction liable to a fine not exceeding N\$8,000 or to imprisonment to a period not exceeding two years or to both such fine and such imprisonment and if such person is a correctional officer, he or she may in addition to such fine or such imprisonment or to both such fine and such imprisonment, be subjected to disciplinary proceedings in terms of Section 50(h) or (i).”*

Honourable Speaker, as we all know, charity begins at home. These people are correctional officers, how can we expect them to correct others if they themselves are not given the chance to be corrected? Instead of correcting them where they committed an offence, we are giving them harsh punishment and in this case, double or triple punishment. Such a law, if allowed to be passed, is too harsh and anti-people. For a person to be fined N\$8,000 plus imprisonment and again subject him or her to disciplinary proceedings is really harsh. These are our own people. From where do we get these ideas and how much does the concerned person earn per month?

Section 51(13) says: *“Where a senior correctional officer admits under Subsection (6) to have committed the disciplinary offence in question or where at the conclusion of a disciplinary inquiry under this Section the disciplinary board is of the opinion that the senior correctional officer concerned is guilty of a disciplinary offence, it must, after having heard evidence in mitigation, report its findings and the evidence in mitigation to the Commissioner-General and it may recommend that anyone or more of the following disciplinary measures be imposed by the Commissioner-General upon that correctional officer, namely (a) a verbal warning; (b) a written warning.”* Here I just want to enrich the measures that should be taken and I would like to add two more measures just to be able to help the persons to improve in their conduct.

My addition here is that a person should be given a severe written warning and also a final written warning, just to help the persons to improve their

24 April 2012

**CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL  
HON NAHOLO**

conduct. It is said there should be a reduction in rank, a person should be demoted. There is another one which I do not agree with here under (c), a fine not exceeding one month's salary. We are fining even our own employees, we want them to pay. I do not know who is being paid here, is it the Government? It sounds like this is a private company because it should not be allowed in an independent country to fine your own people. This is only done in private companies, not in the Public Service of a free and independent country.

In Section 54(9) the same should apply as in Section 51(12). Also Section 54(10) should apply as Section 52(12). Section 54(13)(a), which reads as follows: "*Subject to Subsection (14) confirm, alter or squash the finding by the Presiding Officer.*" For the sake of consistency, let the word "*squash*" be replaced by the word "*set aside*".

Section 54(17) says: "*The provisions of this Section should also apply where a junior correctional officer committed a disciplinary offence while he or she was a senior correctional officer.*" Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Minister needs to explain this, otherwise I see double or triple punishment once again. Really, a person was a senior correctional officer, but now we are talking about a junior correctional officer. How did one become a junior correctional officer when he or she was a senior? I assume that a demotion has taken place in the process, but is that what we are trying to encourage in the Government of the day, demoting people at random, left and right?

Section 57(10) should also apply as Section 51(12). Section 57(12) says: "*Where the Commissioner-General on consideration of the record of proceedings, referred to in Subsection (11), is of the opinion that the correctional officer concerned is incapable of performing his or her duties efficiently or is unsuitable to remain in the Correctional Service, he may reduce in rank or discharge such officer from the Correctional Service and must in writing notify him or her of such decision.*" To be honest, I am deeply shocked and highly disturbed to hear this as a people's Deputy.

Honourable Speaker, does this mean in a free country we can still afford to hire and fire our own people? Where did our learned Minister copy

24 April 2012

**CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL  
HON NAHOLO**

these ideas? Is it from China or where? I am saying, let there be a mechanism in place to measure people's performance of their duties, for instance, performance appraisals, on-the-job training programmes to allow our people to sharpen their skills and gain more experience instead of demoting and discharging them from work.

Let me once again stress that our rules of procedure must be more pro-people than anti-people at all cost, Honourable Speaker.

Section 58(5) says: *“A correctional officer, suspended in terms of Subsection (1) or (2), is in respect of the period of his or her suspension not entitled to any salary to which he or she would otherwise have been entitled to as a correctional officer if he or she had not been suspended, except to the extent as the Minister may, at the request of such correctional officer, direct otherwise.”*

There we go again. Honourable Speaker, in terms of our laws, the accused is always deemed to be innocent until proven guilty by a Court of law. If the salary of the correctional officer concerned is withheld while under suspension, then he or she is already presumed to have been dismissed from work even before the disciplinary inquiry is convened or the Court's decision is made. This is an unfair labour practice. People everywhere must be suspended with full pay, be it a Minister, a Permanent Secretary or a Director.

We seem to be happy to reintroduce draconian laws through the backdoor in a free country. How can people who were fighting for freedom introduce oppressive types of laws or have you forgotten already?

Section 54(7) says: *“Subject to Section 52 or Section 55, as the case may be, if a correctional officer who was suspended is, pursuant to a disciplinary inquiry, reduced in rank, he or she must be paid the salary applicable to the rank to which he or she is reduced from the date when the disciplinary measure or reduction in rank becomes effective.”* It sound good, but it is only when it is done to somebody else, not to yourself. I wonder how a Minister will feel once you are reduced to the rank of a Deputy Minister. How would you feel?

24 April 2012

**CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL  
HON IILONGA**

Honourable Speaker, the sentiments expressed under Section 57(12) should apply here.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, the inmates who are serving prison sentences are also people like us. Therefore, the same principle I have discussed under Section 52(13) should also apply to Section 89(1), which deals with sanctions for major disciplinary offences by offenders. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, I rise to support the *Correctional Services Bill*.

Comrade Speaker, I just need to get clarity under Section 49 which deals with miscellaneous and other offences. It mentions a person who is a correctional officer or if any other person employed gives anything prior to the authorisation of the Commissioner-General will be regarded as an offence. It means the Commissioner-General can permit somebody to be given intoxicating liquor or tobacco or habit-forming drinks. That needs to be cleared up, which ones the Commissioner-General can authorise so that it not be regarded as an offence.

We want to rehabilitate the people who committed crimes in order to be released back into the community. I want to find out why the name has changed from “*prisoner*” to “*offender*.” Are we saying that “*prisoner*” is bad and “*offender*” is the right word? If I put it in my home language, offender is termed “*Omunandyo* or *Omuyoni*” meaning the guilty one. Does offender mean someone who has not yet been found guilty, like those trial-awaiting prisoners? If the offender is the one who has been charged and found guilty, imprisoned and serving his or her sentence, that

24 April 2012

**CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL  
HON MBUMBA**

would be in order. I compared it to Omunadhorongo and Omunandyo, but the Honourable Minister says it is Omuyoni. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Member. Any further discussion? None. Does the Minister wish to reply?

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Because of time I do not have the luxury of saying that I am going to study the questions. In the first place, let us agree that here we are dealing with the *Correctional Service Bill*, which means we are talking about the Department responsible for Correctional Services for those who have been tried already and are incarcerated. That should be very clear.

The other thing we must understand is the vocabulary, the semantics, the change in terms of attitude and what the purpose of this Bill is. First it is to make it a correctional system. Anybody can make a mistake, anybody can find himself on the other side of the law. The process is that the law must take its course, the procedures must be followed and a sentence must be served.

As far as the respect for traditional laws, modern laws and religious laws is concerned, here we respect all systems, but what we want to do is to follow the laws that are based on our Constitution and our constitutional setup. I cannot one day judge you on the basis of the Namibian Constitution, then tomorrow I judge you on the basis of my traditional law and next time on the basis of another tradition. We must accept now that we live under one constitutional dispensation, that of the Namibian Constitution and if we accept that, then all the other things must follow suit.

On the issue of visitors, I know there are many people who have more

24 April 2012

**CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL  
HON MBUMBA**

knowledge of the inside and the outside of our correctional system, but I cannot compete with you. However, one thing we do not want is for you to help somebody who has violated the law, who is now in a correctional facility and you are even encouraging him or her to continue doing certain illegal things. We are not supposed to have drugs anywhere in the country, now you are taking it to prison and also intoxicating substances.

We have a history in terms of politics, people have put information inside the Bible, inside a dictionary and those things we know. Those officers who are responsible for the correctional service in Namibia know about them. People even conceal cell phones in places which I do not want to mention in Parliament and the type of things people try to sneak into correctional facilities.

As far as *Honourable Naholo* is concerned, he basically wants to write a totally different law. Let us understand that there are three or four institutions in the State. If you join the Army, my good friend, you live by the law of the Army. There is no compromise, I do not care whether your parents or grandparents were Kings or Chiefs, I command you if I am the commanding officer of that unit. The Commissioner-General of the Correctional Service, appointed by the Head of State on the recommendation of the Security Commission, has the authority to command those officers under his care. The Minister is responsible to do that in line with the law and all the fairness you have mentioned. The procedures have to be followed. If I am demoted and become a Member of Parliament, I will receive the salary of a Member of Parliament, no two ways about that and if I am fired, I go to Olukonda and I do not receive any salary.

Therefore, we have the Army, the Police and the correctional services. It cannot be that one day you are a nice Commander and a nice guy and another day you do this, drink this and smoke this and then I come back for mercy. We bring up our children in the most peaceful conditions, we give them what our families and society can afford. When you reach the age of 18 or 21, you become an adult and you are responsible for anything you do yourself, no longer your parents and there cannot be socialism for those who work for the Government, that mercy is repeated and repeated.

24 April 2012

**CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL  
HON MBUMBA**

When I lose my job as a construction worker, I do not go for mercy, I lose my job. When I lose my job as a restaurant worker or anything, I lose it. These people are introduced to the law, they are trained for a number of months, they get continuous retraining, they understand the Act and the procedures. If somebody violates those procedures, they know what follows and there is nobody who is going to penalise an officer who has done his or her work, and as long as the procedures are understood and they are applicable to everyone, whether junior, middle level or senior. If the Commissioner-General himself violates the law, he is not above the law, the procedure has to be followed until he is referred back either to the appointing authority or the Security Commission – full-stop.

*Honourable Ilonga*, I do not want us to play with words, which one is the inmate, the prisoner or what. I think the words used in the Bill are those words that are now being used in similar Bills in all those countries whose policies and programmes are aimed at rehabilitating the offenders. I have seen a young person who was caught near the border without an ID, looking after cattle. We do not know whether he is Angolan and those kinds of things are difficult to handle, but once the procedures are followed and the person is sentenced, he serves his two or three months and is released, but then all the other processes are also followed, that you have your ID, that your identity is recognised and so on. Nobody relishes putting another person in prison, not at all. Nobody relishes arresting anybody, not at all, but I do not think there is a country which does not have a correctional service system, none. Not the State of Israel, not Great Britain, not the United States of America, not South Africa, not Eritrea, not Ethiopia. Utopia is yet to come.

I, therefore, appeal that by Thursday we go to Committee Stage and adopt this Bill as it is. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister. I now put the Question that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill a Second Time.

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24 April 2012

**BASIC POOR HOUSEHOLD INCOME GRANT  
RT HON N ANGULA**

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF MOTION: IMPLEMENTATION OF POOR  
BASIC HOUSEHOLD INCOME GRANT**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on the implementation of a poor basic household income grant.

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**HON SPEAKER:** When this Assembly adjourned on Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2012, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Shixwameni, that the Motion be adopted. The Right Honourable Prime Minister adjourned the Debate.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. First I want to express my heartfelt condolences to Honourable Shixwameni who is the Mover of this Motion. I made a Ministerial Statement on this issue on behalf of the SWAPO Party. For now let me only draw the attention of Honourable Shixwameni to the speech of Honourable Ngatjizeko, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare.

On Page 4 of that speech the Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare has detailed the number of people who are benefiting from the current social grants. 166,521 persons are receiving N\$550 per month. Honourable Shixwameni, as a good mathematician, knows that this figure represents a sizeable percentage of our population and it demonstrates that

24 April 2012

**BASIC POOR HOUSEHOLD INCOME GRANT  
HON SHIXWAMENI**

the Namibian Government is a caring Government.

On the same page the Honourable Minister is proposing the review of the National Pension Act (Act 10 of 1992) and he wants to replace that Act with a new Bill called *Basic Social Grants Bill*. The Minister has accommodated you because the word “*basic*” is captured in the new Bill. Therefore, my appeal to the Honourable Member is to allow the Minister to introduce the *Basic Social Grant Bill* and see whether it meets your requirements in terms of your Motion. I am appealing to you that perhaps you should put your Motion in abeyance until this Bill sees the light in this House, so that we can look at it and see whether the Bill meets your expectations. If not, then you can negotiate with the Minister to make sure that your expectations are met through this *Basic Social Grants Bill*. The Minister might even be in a position to put the word “*poor*” in there since he is saying that he is going to review the current universal social grants to see whether they can be targeted to the poor. At least you might also get your word “*poor*” in there. That is my appeal, that you are on the same wavelength as the Minister and perhaps wait for that Bill to be introduced here. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Prime Minister. Any further discussion? None. Does Honourable Shixwameni wish to reply?

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Honourable Speaker, thank you. I did not have the opportunity to study the statement of the Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, I appreciate the small contribution by the Prime Minister on this particular issue. I think it is an issue that is not like the Prime Minister is saying, might accommodate me as we are speaking about our people. However, I would like to adjourn the Debate until Thursday in order to read the Minister’s statement.

24 April 2012

**MOTION ON ABUSE OF ALCOHOL  
HON MOONGO**

**HON SPEAKER:** The Motion stands adjourned until Thursday. The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE:  
MOTION ON ABUSE OF ALCOHOL IN NAMIBIA**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Debate on the abuse of alcohol in Namibia.

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**HON SPEAKER:** When the Assembly adjourned on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012 in terms of Rule 10, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Ulenga, that the Motion be adopted. Honourable Kaura had the Floor at that stage. Honourable Moongo wants to take the Floor.

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**HON MOONGO:** Honourable Speaker, since my Colleague is addressing a serious matter, I would like to take the Floor on his behalf.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I accept some of the facts. As everybody knows, this is a topic which attracted much attention, but I accept some of the facts mentioned by previous Members of Parliament who spoke before me, but some of their points are irrelevant because nobody can convince me that shebeens are the cause of evils such as rape, school failures, violence and killing. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Order. Is it allowed for a

24 April 2012

**MOTION ON ABUSE OF ALCOHOL  
HON MOONGO**

Member who is known to be profiting from alcohol to come and defend alcohol in this House? Is that not a conflict of interest?

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**HON MOONGO:** NBC and other media in the country are allowed to promote these things, but I do not want to dwell on that.

Some of the evils at the shebeens take place because the owner of the business did not invite a prominent person, such as his father, to come and open it. Therefore, he did not have the blessing of the image of his father and, therefore, he has bad luck and problems all the time.

You may not know it, but historically whenever the *Omagongo* season starts, you have to take the marula first to the Chief or the King's house so that he polishes it so that people can enjoy the season without any problem. Not all of you know about that blessing and many of you disrespect all those norms and traditions. I appeal to all of you to respect it. Those who just open a cuca shop always have trouble. (Intervention)

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** According to your explanation you are saying the Traditional Leaders have the power to take alcohol out of alcohol. If I give you a bottle of whisky and you do as you are saying, will the whisky become diluted?

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**HON MOONGO:** It is a pity that he is not a Headman. I do not want to lecture him because he is not even a Sub-headman. I will keep the secrets of the Headmen for them only. They know how to polish it so that it may not cause trouble. (Intervention)

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**HON NYAMU:** May I ask my Colleague a question? Honourable Member, you are proud in identifying yourself as a Member of Parliament

24 April 2012

**MOTION ON ABUSE OF ALCOHOL  
HON MOONGO**

as well as a Traditional Leader. Do you not think that the two positions are not in accordance with the laws of this country that separate politicians from Traditional Leaders? Do you not think you are in fact violating the principle of separation of Traditional Leaders from politicians?

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**HON MOONGO:** I am here to educate you and if you do not want to accept my education and norms, you will find yourself in bad luck. Be careful. Let me continue. (Intervention)

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**HON MWANINGANGE:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Moongo just a simple and straightforward question? How many of the *cuca* shops and *shebeens* in your area have received your blessing as a Traditional Leader? Just tell us how many did you bless so that there are no crimes?

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**HON MOONGO:** Maybe you should listen a bit, I will come to that point. I will only accept that all of those heinous acts are caused by the naturally reckless social morality and the lowering of standards of the principle of right and wrong amongst the society. I only support the point of self-control and responsible drinking of alcohol. Although Namibia has many firearms, people must have self-control and use weapons responsibly. If so, nobody will be killed. Also, there can be more vehicles in Namibia as long as we have self-control and are responsible drivers.

Traditional norms and cultures usually have more traditional drinks, many pots and many *calabash* to entertain the community at traditional events, but no one becomes drunk. They are controlled to behave responsibly by their Kings and their Chiefs and as a Headman I used to have traditional drinks while at the same time I have a *shebeen* near the house and I have 22 people in my house and nobody is a drunkard. (Intervention)

24 April 2012

**MOTION ON ABUSE OF ALCOHOL  
HON MOONGO**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** On a Point of Order. Honourable Moongo is misleading this House about the information regarding the control of alcohol in traditional societies. In the traditional society where I come from, when the marula wine festival comes you are supposed to carry a weapon and there will not be any crime happening, because they know if you carry a weapon, the likelihood is that you are going to fight somebody. Now you are saying that because they do this and this, the drinking will not cause crime. You are misleading the public, the Traditional Authorities have rules, that during the time of excessive drinking nobody should carry a weapon and no trial will take place in case the Headman is drunk. That is what we know.

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you very much for the information. It was peaceful during the season just because of that. I urge those at my house who drink to do so responsibly and the majority of them do not even drink. I have more than 22 people at my house and in the surrounding nobody is a drunkard and you are welcome to come and witness it. The shebeens near my house have never caused any evil, there was not a single fight for how many years now. When you come there you find the people are enjoying themselves. (Intervention)

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**HON UEITELE:** May I ask Honourable Moongo a question? You said that people are drinking responsibly at your shebeens. Do you not think that they drink at your shebeens and then they cause havoc at other places?

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**HON MOONGO:** Whenever a criminal comes from another place and comes near the house of the Chief or Headman, he will not cause any trouble there. He will only cause trouble very far from the Headman. I support the Motion.

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24 April 2012

**MOTION ON ABUSE OF ALCOHOL  
HON WITBOOI**

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

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**HON WITBOOI:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise to make my contribution on the Motion.

Given the seriousness of alcohol abuse as a national problem, I would like to make my contribution to the Debate. We cannot over-emphasise the negative impact alcohol has on human beings. Alcohol misuse is a major problem in Namibia. They see alcohol abuse as a normal thing. Every day we read reports in the media about cases of deaths, accidents, rape and many more caused by alcohol abuse. Domestic violence has become a daily occurrence in our society. Today people abuse alcohol as if it will no longer be available the next day. Alcohol alone is already a big problem in Namibia, but we must not exclude drugs, because when the two are combined, Namibia is definitely heading for a crisis.

Alcohol amongst the vulnerable groups, the pensioners and the youth, is a great concern to our Nation.

Honourable Speaker, in some villages you find that during the school holidays when the children have gone to the farms the shebeens are quiet, meaning that the school children are the main customers. Honourable Members, children sit at shebeens in their school uniforms. Alcohol is associated with sexual behaviours that put people at risk with HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Alcohol use is not a new thing in our community, it has been there since the biblical times, but back then it was used with circumspection and respect. For instance, men would dig holes in the field, brew alcohol and drink it there. What we are experiencing these days is suicide in slow motion.

It is a matter of great concern that our people are enslaved by alcohol. Alcohol is available twenty-four hours. You find people at drinking places as early as six o'clock in the morning. They would assume responsibility for other people's drinking houses. They draw the water

24 April 2012

**MOTION ON ABUSE OF ALCOHOL  
HON KAVETUNA**

alcohol is to be brewed with, make fires at those houses, cook food in exchange for alcohol and stay there the whole day. By the time they go back to their houses, they are too drunk to meet their own domestic responsibility. That is the extent to which people have fallen into the grip of alcohol. What we must remember is that those are valuable people with skills and capabilities this country needs.

Therefore, it is crucial that we intervene and do so quickly as this is a case of emergency. In our efforts to remedy the situation, we must look at the accessibility to shebeens. For example, shebeens must be removed from the residential areas to a place reserved for it. The nearer the alcohol outlets, the more people drink.

Secondly, we should also look at the operating hours. The lower the operating hours, the more people drink and we can mention the registration of shebeens, prohibition of loud music to be played there.

Honourable Members, we can even go so far to ban advertising of alcohol on television, even ban advertising on the Internet.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is only through serious intervention that we can save our countrymen and women from drowning and thereby help our country to make the best use of the few people it has. That is an issue that only we can change. The community, our electorate, rely on us as the lawmakers. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Kavetuna.

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**HON KAVETUNA:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to support and add my voice to this important Motion tabled by Honourable Ben Ulenga on the abuse of alcohol in Namibia, with more emphasis on the issue of alcohol and health.

24 April 2012

**MOTION ON ABUSE OF ALCOHOL  
HON KAVETUNA**

Alcohol is a weapon of mass destruction and its accessibility can worsen the situation in any sphere of our country. It should not be taken lightly at all.

The Honourable Member eloquently narrated the history of this evil tool and I deem it necessary to educate the Nation on the consequences of today's abuse of alcohol on the future generation of our country and the effects of alcoholic parents on the development and the future of their children.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, parents play an important role in their children's development throughout their life cycle. It is attested that alcohol abuse can interfere with parenting skills and maternal relations, thereby affecting children's development and adjustment. Parents who abuse children place their children at risk of alcohol and other drugs as well as psychological problems. Both genetic and environmental factors affect children's development and may increase the risk for future alcohol use of a specific child.

The physical effects on children of alcohol dependent parents all bear those close examinations. This may even start to manifest itself before birth. Parental alcoholism may affect the foetus even before the child is born. In pregnant women alcohol is carried to all of the mother's organs and tissues, including the placenta where it is easily processed through the membrane separating the maternal and foetal blood system. When a pregnant mother drinks an alcoholic beverage, the concentration of alcohol in the unborn child's bloodstream is at the same level as her own. A pregnant woman who consumes alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to a child with foetal alcohol syndrome. The foetal alcohol syndrome is a situation where the child is born with alcohol content in his blood and sometimes the child is born under the influence of alcohol and is one of the three top known causes of birth defects and death among babies.

Children of alcoholic parents either prenatal or later in life, if they themselves develop alcoholism, also fall prey to one or more of the following physical conditions inherited from alcoholism: Problems with

24 April 2012

**MOTION ON ABUSE OF ALCOHOL  
HON KAVETUNA**

gastro-intestinal issues, such as ulcers, gastric and pancreatic cancer; cardio-vascular complications which are responsible for 15% of all cases of hypertension and most of the cases of heart diseases among children. They can also develop neurological problems, especially the condition that is called korsakoff psychosis, a permanent inability to learn new information and finally, structural changes in the brain associated with severe cognitive impairment dementia. The child will be taught but the child will not comprehend anything and these cases are very evident in this country. Endocrine malfunction which lead to impotence and testicle atrophy in most of the men. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** May I ask Honourable Kavetuna a question? I just want to know, is alcohol also sexually transmitted like HIV/AIDS?

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**HON KAVETUNA:** I think I need to arrange a class on what sexually transmitted diseases are, but alcohol cannot be transferred through any sexual intercourse.

Alcohol dependent parents play a pivotal role in shaping their children's drinking behaviour, though genetically-speaking researchers have discovered that alcohol dependency runs within the family. A classical study by Godwin revealed that children of alcohol dependent parents are at an increased risk of becoming alcohol dependent themselves. In general, if one or both the parents are alcoholics, the likelihood of alcohol dependence of a child increases about three to four times.

Although the ramifications of living with an addicted alcoholic parent are variable, nearly all children from alcoholic families are at risk for behavioural and emotional difficulties and live with psychological and physical scars as a result of parental alcoholism.

From prenatal influences, leading to learning and memory problems to the

24 April 2012

**MOTION ON ABUSE OF ALCOHOL  
HON KAVETUNA**

vulnerabilities in behavioural control, aggression in adulthood, a significant number exhibits psychological and inter-personal difficulties. It is important to recognise that all issues of alcohol are not resolved simply because a child becomes an adult. Early intervention in childhood is prudent for prevention of future addiction problems in adulthood. In our case as a country there is absolutely little or none of this intervention. This situation is putting our country in a more awkward position as we are destined to sit with a Nation destroyed by alcohol.

Parental alcohol misuse damages and disrupts the lives of countless children and families in all areas of our society. Alcohol does not have class. The more rich, the more alcoholics, the more poor, the more alcoholics. It does not have any social class. It bleaches the lives of the whole family and hence the development of the children is affected by the parental problematic drinking. It is time to take the next step and prioritise support in order to meet the specific needs of the children of alcoholic parents as well as providing support directly to the parents and themselves.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to request this House to critically review all laws that entail the issue of alcohol in our country and to come up with lasting solutions to this devastating and destructive element of our society. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The House shall now adjourn until tomorrow at 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2012.04.25 AT 14:30**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
25 APRIL 2012**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Today the Head of State, His Excellency the President will come and address us. Allow me to go and invite the President who will be accompanied by the Speaker. In the meantime please remain standing.

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**WELCOMING ADDRESS**

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**HON SPEAKER:** The business of the House is called to order. Your Excellency, Comrade President, Honourable Chairperson of the National Council, Your Lordship Chief Justice, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Invited Guests, fellow Namibians, in accordance with Article 32(2) of the Constitution, the Cabinet shall each year during the consideration of the official Budget attend Parliament. During such Session the President shall address Parliament on the state of the Nation and on future policies of the Government and report on policies of the previous year and shall be available to respond to questions.

Your Excellency, let me take this opportunity once again to welcome you back to the Parliament Building, in general, and to the National Assembly, in particular.

Honourable Members of the Parliament of Namibia, it is now my distinct honour and privilege to invite His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba to address

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA**

Parliament on the state of the Nation. Your Excellency.

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**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS**

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**HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Chairperson of the National Council, Your Honour the Chief Justice, Honourable Members of Parliament, Honourable Regional Governors, Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps, distinguished invited guests, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen, fellow Namibians.

I am honoured to stand before this Joint Session of our Parliament to address our people on the State of the Nation. I will use this occasion to report on the implementation of Government policies in the passing Financial Year, reflect on Government's planned activities in the new Financial Year and to underscore our resolve to make Namibia stronger, more prosperous and more united for the benefit of all our people.

Namibia as a Nation was born out of a painful but heroic history. Our ancestors endured unimaginable cruel treatment, dispossession of their properties and their wealth, mass murder and dislocation from their land. The remains of some of those who died were taken out of the country and denigrated through so-called scientific experiments. However, through the power of the patriotism they heroically resisted foreign domination. They were determined to protect and defend our land and our heritage to the bitter end. We pay homage to their bravery and gallantry. In their honour our Government has decided to repatriate the remains of our heroes and heroines from Germany last year. More remains of our heroes and heroines will be repatriated from Germany and other places outside Namibia in the coming years. We salute the patriots. We are inspired by their unbroken spirit which has sustained our struggle until final victory and the attainment of freedom and Independence 22 years ago.

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

With the completion of that heroic task, a new mission for economic emancipation of our people has commenced. Today we are continuing with that struggle. Our focus is on the eradication of poverty, provision of adequate social amenities to all our people, education and training as well as the strengthening of the economy so that it can generate more jobs for greater prosperity of all Namibians.

Achieving these noble goals is no means an easy task. As such we must work together and in unity as a Nation. I have said it before and I will say it again, we must always strive to ensure that no Namibian citizen is left behind in our development efforts. In this context, our development approaches should be motivated by the belief that all Namibians have a direct stake in the development of our country. We have, therefore, ensured that the policies and programmes that Public institutions implement are responsive to the needs of the different Constituencies that make up our country. This has been our Government's focus over the years. It remains our focus during the period under review, namely the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, Namibia is not an island, our economy is intertwined in many ways with the global economy. As a result, the unfolding economic downturn and the global financial crisis have negatively affected our economy, especially the local export oriented industries. That is the reality of globalisation.

In order to shield the economy from the effects of the global economic turmoil, our Government adopted accommodative fiscal and monetary policies. Public expenditure was significantly expanded to support domestic demand and reinforce job creation. This expansion did not take place under undue pressure on our fiscal position. Also our Public debt position did not worsen, thanks to a strong financial position of our Government.

In order to further enhance the administration of our Public finances, a Public financial reform programme has been introduced. It includes measures such as widening the tax base, strengthening the administration

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

of tax and the development of an integrated tax policy reform programme.

In addition, the Public procurement regulations have been published. A new *Public Procurement Bill* is also receiving attention and will be tabled in Parliament this year. The revisions in the procurement system are aimed at enhancing its contribution to the economy by supporting economic empowerment of more Namibians and strengthening efficiency and the governance in Public procurement. I direct that these measures be implemented without delay.

It is a priority of our Government to raise capital from domestic sources in order to fund the Budget deficit. We believe that this approach has an added benefit of supporting the development of local capital market and injecting liquidity into this market.

Last year other sources of raising capital were considered, including Namibia's successful issuing of Eurobond. This enabled our country to raise funds at competitive rates and also diversify our funding sources. At the same time, it raised Namibia's profile among the international investment community. In these times of economic uncertainty we shall continue to safeguard our macroeconomic stability by ensuring that our fiscal operations remain sustainable.

Related to these reforms is our drive to strengthen our industrial policy environment to serve as a catalyst for more robust economic growth, job creation and economic empowerment of more Namibians. Towards this end a comprehensive industrial policy for Namibia has been finalised.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, while successes have been recorded in a number of areas, challenges do exist. We must, therefore, remain steadfast. Let us focus on our energies and our attention on addressing the challenges that confront our people and our communities around the country on a daily basis. Here I have in mind the importance of meeting the basic needs of our people, such as access to adequate shelter, food, education, water, electricity, health care, better roads and other public services. I also have in mind the need to strengthen our economy to attract more investors and to grow steadily in order to

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

create more jobs. This requires better coordination in our overall planning framework and for our Public institutions to utilise the available resources more prudently.

Moreover, we should not only be ready to learn from successful examples of other countries in our continent and elsewhere, but also from the lessons of history. Similarly, it is important that our planning process become more dynamic and flexible and where necessary we should be able to adjust and even depart from practices that do not yield the desired results. We must be able to adapt our policies as institutions change. After all, it is not wise to keep doing the same thing all the time and expect different results.

The National Budget is one of the most important tools in the execution of our national development agenda. It is, therefore, important that the Budget is not only well-prepared, but also thoroughly executed.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, we have a duty to always strive to build an inclusive, tolerant, safe, peaceful and prosperous society. This requires the energy, ingenuity, creativity, hard work and the contribution of the entire population. We can achieve our goals through hard work, which is the only path to success and prosperity. There are no shortcuts. With this in mind we must all join hands and work together towards a common goal. I encourage all our people, especially the youth, to embrace the efforts of hard work. In this manner we can turn the challenges that we face into opportunities and we can translate our words into practical actions in order to make a difference.

Our leaders at all levels must lead by example in their respective capacities. Leaders must stand at the forefront of the battle to root out corruption, crime and other social evils. At all times leaders must conduct themselves as the role models. We must all strive to provide the needed leadership so that our country can move forward with confidence.

At my inauguration as second President of our Republic in 2005, I expressed my determination to fight corruption. I invited the Namibian

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA**

people to join me in this fight. This is because I believe that we can build a prosperous Namibia on the bedrock of honesty, transparency and accountability. These are the values that should guide our actions at all times.

In the same year our Government operationalised the Anti-Corruption Act of 2003. The Anti-Corruption Commission was established one year later in 2006. The Commission is charged with the task of rooting out the evil of corruption from our society.

Moreover, in order to underscore our resolve, we amended the Namibian Constitution to make the Anti-Corruption Commission an independent institutional body. Today the Commission is a constitutional body which is truly independent.

Namibia is one of few countries in the world which has an Anti-Corruption Commission that is established in terms of the Constitution. Our Government remains fully committed to fighting the cancer of corruption. Once again I call upon all Namibians who have information about corrupt and other unethical practices to bring such information to the attention of the law enforcement agencies, including the Anti-Corruption Commission. This is a joint fight to which all Namibians have a duty to contribute. It will not help to only level criticism from the side lines, get into the arena. Help to turn our work into practical action to make a difference. The fight against corruption must be broadened and continued on all fronts. It must be waged without fear or favour.

In this regard, I direct the Ministry of Justice to expedite the tabling of a strong and comprehensive legislation on the protection of the whistle-blowers. I believe that such a law will greatly enhance Anti-Corruption efforts by protecting persons who disclose information on corrupt activities from being victimised.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, throughout history the people of Namibia have stood together to overcome many adversities. Our ancestors stood and fought together against colonialism and occupation of our country. During the national liberation

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

struggle we confronted and prevailed against apartheid colonialism as a united force. We can only claim our destiny if we remain united as a country, as a Nation, as a people, irrespective of gender, the ethnic groups we belong to, the Regions where we come from, the religious beliefs that we profess or the colour of our skins. We are one people, we are one Nation, let us live by these enduring values and desist at all times from engaging in activities that have the potential to tear our social fabric apart. We should not allow the evils of tribalism, ethnicity or racism to rear their ugly heads in our society or to distract us from the task at hand. Let us crush them so that they do not reappear.

My message to the Nation today is: *“Let us spend our energies on finding solutions to the challenges that confront our people on a daily basis.”* That is the responsibility of each and every Namibian, especially for those holding positions of leadership in our society.

National unity is the most effective weapon against poverty, hunger and underdevelopment. National unity will enable us to develop all corners of our country. National unity is the cornerstone of stability, peace and security in our country. It is a precondition to Namibia’s development. Therefore it should be the duty of every national leader, community leader, Traditional Leader, church leader, regional leader, Local Authority leader, village Headman and, indeed, every citizen to promote the motto of one Namibia, one Nation. As a united Nation we must reject tribalism with the contempt it deserves.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, I strongly believe that it is neither justifiable, nor sustainable in the long run for our country to be rated as the Nation with one of the highest levels of income inequality in the world. We should join hands to bring to an end this appalling distinction. In order to promote equity, the wealth of our country should be harnessed to benefit not only a small minority, but also the majority of the population who have endured poverty, hunger, homelessness and other forms of disposition for far too long.

It is for this reason that the Government has introduced the New Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework. This is an important tool in our

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

response to the socio-economic plight of our youth, women, the rural poor and our citizens in informal settlements. Their pain and suffering must be brought to an end. I call upon all stakeholders within the Government and outside to contribute to the full implementation of this initiative.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, the time is ripe and the moment is now for our Nation to do all that we can to place our country on the path towards greater social justice and prosperity. Our Government's strategy to realise the strategic national development goals has always been built around six main pillars, namely capacity building through education and training, development, expansion and maintenance of physical and communication infrastructure around the country, maintenance of robust economic growth, supported by sound macroeconomic policies, labour relations, value addition, industrialisation and broadening the manufacturing base of our economy, provision of equitable and higher quality public services and social amenities, empowerment and socio-economic upliftment of formerly disadvantaged communities, especially those in the rural and peri-urban areas and the maintenance of social and political stability, peace and security in all parts of the country.

We remain committed to pursuing these developmental course by ensuring that all our policies and programmes are geared towards the achievement of our set goals. Towards this end I re-emphasise the need for greater coordination of implementation activities in order to avoid duplication of efforts and wastage of limited resources.

In my statement of the State of the Nation Address last year I reflected on some of Government's major developmental and policy initiatives. These include:

- The adoption and commencement of the implementation of the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG);
- The on-going expansion of the roads and rail infrastructure;

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

- Implementation of the Education Training Sector Improvement Programme (ETSIP) to improve and strengthen our Education and Training Sector in terms of quality, equity and the provision of textbooks to our schools; and
- Improvement in the provision of public services, such as health care, housing and sanitation, potable water as well as provision of electricity to households through rural electrification programmes.

I can report today that our Government has been working hard to implement various projects that were funded under 2011/2012 as well as those on-going programmes funded under the Medium Term Expenditure Framework of the three-year rolling Budget. Despite many challenges posed by the global economic crisis as well as other internal and external dynamics, our Government has recorded many successes during the period under review.

On TIPEEG I can report that the roll-out and the implementation of this initiative have started. While a number of bottlenecks were initially encountered, the implementation process has picked up speed and gained encouraging momentum. According to the latest information, 26,960 jobs have been created under the Development Budget, inclusive of TIPEEG. If the recurrent Budget is taken into account, more jobs will be created.

Funds have been transferred to various institutions, such as Offices, Ministries and Agencies as well as Regional Councils and Local Authorities to execute developmental projects. Steps were taken by a number of Government institutions not to return funds to the Treasury that were not yet utilised by the end of the 2011/2012 Financial Year. Rather, such funds will be transferred to the Regional Councils and the Local Authorities to enable them to carry out developmental projects. This will translate into the creation of new jobs, development of infrastructure and improvements in the delivery of public services to our people. Our Government has also taken a decision to incorporate the implementation of TIPEEG into the Fourth National Development Plan, NDP 4. The aim is to enhance internal efficiency, bringing about a deeper harmonisation in the implementation of national development programmes and achieve the

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

desired outcomes more speedily.

We should leave no stone unturned to achieve a robust and improved implementation of TIPEEG so that it can meet the expectations of the Namibian people, especially with regard to the creation of new jobs.

Similarly, the implementation of infrastructure development projects during the period under review also progressed well. Hundreds of kilometres of roads have been upgraded to bitumen standard, while gravel roads have been constructed in many areas. The newly upgraded roads are changing the face of road transport in Namibia for the better.

Another important component of modernising our road infrastructure is the maintenance of existing bridges and the construction of new ones in different parts of the country. I am pleased to report that the new bridges will be built in different parts of the country during this Financial Year as well as during the 2012 to 2013 MTEF period.

During the period under review several feeder roads in the rural areas were also completed, using labour-based methods. This is part of the strategy to combat unemployment, impart practical skills to unskilled workers and thereby empower communities. This investment in road infrastructure has already and will continue to facilitate faster and safer movement of the people and goods on our national road arteries while enhancing trade and commerce.

I wish to use this opportunity to call upon all stakeholders to promote road safety. Let us stop the loss of lives and injuries on our roads.

With regard to the expansion of our rail network, I am happy to announce that the railway line from Ondangwa has reached the Oshikango Border Post. As a result, Namibia now has a railway network covering the entire north-south stretch of the country, from Ariamsvlei Border Post to Oshikango. This is a great achievement by our Nation. The completion of this project has opened up new opportunities for trade and commerce between Namibia and her neighbours, both to the south and to the north. It will also help to reduce the number of heavy trucks on our roads and,

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA**

indeed, minimise the damage that they cause to our road infrastructure. It is another demonstration that indeed we are turning challenges into opportunities and our words into practical actions in order to make a difference.

The envisaged construction of the Trans-Kalahari railway line, in which our two countries are participating, will link the Namibian railway network to that of Botswana in the east.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, our focus on the improvement and provision of quality education and training to our people remains firm. We are committed to ensuring that our education system attains success at all levels. In order to succeed, effective complementarities must be created in our education system from the pre-primary phase right through to the tertiary level. This implies that the pre-primary and primary phases of our education must be adequately staffed, resourced and equipped in order to lay a strong foundation for our children to perform well in the higher school phase. This requires increased attention to improving the capacity of our teachers to teach effectively, especially in the critical subjects of mathematics and science. It requires greater motivation for school administrators and education planners as well as the involvement of parents, guardians and communities in the education of Namibian children. It also requires the households and the educational activities to instil a high level of discipline in all our school-going children. There should be no doubt that discipline is an important element in the success or failure of our education system. Without discipline, hard work and respect for teachers and school authorities, the passing rate in our schools will remain disappointing.

In the same vein, our higher schools must produce competent learners with strong literacy and numeracy skills, who are capable of undertaking tertiary education or to successfully complete vocational training programmes. Similarly, our tertiary education institutions must produce graduates with the needed skills and competence to successfully participate in a modern economy. We must train innovative graduates from tertiary institutions who can help to develop our country.

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA**

Equally important, Namibia needs a comprehensive and a well-articulated plan to develop our human resources capacity. Such a plan should set clear and concrete targets with respect to the categories of professionals that we need to train, outline the required financial resources and spell out explicitly all that we need to do in the area of capacity-building in order to achieve the desired goals.

I directed the National Planning Commission to finalise without delay the development of the National Human Resources Plan that will provide the policy parameters and the strategic directions for our country's human resource development. The preliminary results of 2011 National Population and Housing Census were released this month. They indicate that there are now 2.1 million people in Namibia. These results are an important tool for our Government to plan more effectively and accurately in the provision of public services, such as education, health care, potable water, electricity, housing, infrastructure and other services to our people.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, recent reports about Namibia's low international ranking in the utilisation of Information and Communication technology (ICT) is a cause for great concern. Our country cannot afford to lag behind in this area because it is vital to the competitiveness of the broad ICT roll-out plan to ensure that more of our people, especially the youth, have access to ICT training and skills. Last year I reported in this august House that through MTC and Telecom Namibia our country has made massive investments in the West Africa Cable System (WACS). We were told that WACS would revolutionise the ICT landscape in this country. Now we want to see the results. We want to see our Small and Medium Enterprises using the Internet to communicate with the suppliers and to market their products and services to the country. We want to see our learners in all parts of the country using the Internet to conduct academic research and communicate with their teachers and fellow students. We want to see increased use of ICT in our health facilities and even in households across the Nation. Our people must start to benefit from the promised ICT revolution.

I am pleased to report that our Government has allocated approximately N\$300 million to provide free Internet connectivity to public facilities

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA**

such as schools, hospitals, Government buildings and airports, starting this Financial Year. I am also pleased that a programme has been initiated by the Ministry of Education to introduce computer education in schools. These are steps in the right direction. I, therefore, direct all relevant institutions and stakeholders to put the needed measures in place so that the investment we have made in WACS can bring about the promised benefits to our country. We expect a lower cost and a broader availability of ICT services in all corners of the country. Other Nations have done it and I believe Namibia can also do it.

Honourable Speaker Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, the provision of quality, affordable and accessible health care remains an important priority for the SWAPO Party Government. Hence, during the review period Government continued with the renovation of existing health facilities and the construction of new clinics, health centres and hospitals. Our Government also made funds available for the establishment of specialised medical units and the procurement of ultra-modern medical equipment for our health facilities. In this regard we have equipped the Cardiac Unit and the Cancer Unit. Today we are saving substantial amounts of money as more and more patients suffering from diseases such as cancer and heart ailments are treated here at home instead of sending them to other countries for medical care. This is part of our national strategy to improve health care in the country.

The improvements in the health care delivery must go hand-in-hand with improved hygiene and better maintenance of health care equipment at all our health facilities. Our public health facilities are places where the health of our people is to be promoted and nurtured. They must, therefore, be at the forefront of promoting basic hygiene. The current situation where basic hygiene has been neglected at some health facilities around the country must come to an end. I direct that the cleaning of public buildings and their surroundings be improved without delay. In addition, urgent repairs to the existing dilapidated health facilities and other public buildings should be carried out, again without any further delay.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, the majority of our people live in rural and peri-urban areas where the

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

provision of public services and social amenities, such as potable water, electricity, housing and sanitation, remain inadequate. We need to do more in order to expand physical and communication infrastructure, such as roads to those areas. This is very important and an urgent imperative.

To address these challenges, our Government has designed specific interventions and allocated resources to improve social and economic development in our rural and peri-urban areas. The aim is to turn our plans into practical action in order to make a difference.

Last year Parliament approved the Local and Regional Economic Development White Paper for Namibia. The document outlines a strategy for boosting economic development activities by Local Authorities and Regional Councils. In the current Financial Year Government has allocated an amount of more than N\$402 million in subsidies to Local Authorities. I am happy to report that within the next five years all schools in the rural areas will be electrified.

In terms of the five-year Rural Electrification Distribution Master Plan, which was launched this month, the Ministry of Mines and Energy will work closely together with Regional Councils and Local Authorities in order to identify priority areas that require urgent attention. In addition to the schools, other facilities in the community, such as clinics, marketplace, churches and households within identified radius of electrification projects will also be electrified. This is part of the on-going anti-poverty and rural development measures that are aimed at improving the living conditions of our people. Other measures include the provision of potable water, housing, land agricultural extension services and social support to the elderly, people with disabilities and the veterans of the armed liberation struggle.

Substantial resources are allocated to these Sectors in the current Budget and during the 2012/2013 to 2015 MTEF period we particularly need to expedite the land acquisition programme in order to resettle more people. This must be accompanied by support measures to help resettle the farmers to become productive. Similarly, we must expand the reach of

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

agricultural extension services in order to improve the productivity of subsistence farmers.

I am pleased to report that Government support to the veterans of the liberation struggle has gained momentum. To date thousands of veterans have received lump sum payments. The Ministry of Veterans Affairs has also approved funding for a number of projects initiated by veterans under the Veterans Support Programme.

We should continue to adopt policies aimed at protecting our environment and our eco-systems. In this regard, the Mining, Fisheries, Tourism and Agricultural Sectors should enjoy top priority. As one of the country's most negatively affected by the impact of global warming, Namibia will participate in the Rio-20 Environmental Conference in June this year.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, peace and stability are vital prerequisites for social and economic development. It is for this reason that our Government is committed to the maintenance of peace and security in all parts of the country. Resources have been made available and will continue to be allocated to our criminal justice system to carry out their mandate of protecting the lives and property of our people, the territorial integrity of our country and to maintain law and order.

The aim of the national struggle was to liberate every inch of Namibian territory. With Independence, Article 1(4) of the Namibian Constitution defined the international boundaries of our country. As such, our boundaries are recognised internationally and the territorial integrity of Namibia is non-negotiable. Thus, no individual or group can unilaterally change them. It is our duty as Namibians to promote national unity, not to have a retrogressive tendency of secession. Let us all embrace unity and focus our energies on developing our country. Our survival depends on greater unity rather than division.

At the regional level SADC is working towards deeper integration. African leaders are also working hard towards continental integration within the framework of the African Union. I believe that we can learn

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

useful lessons from the continental euro where closer integration has been achieved.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, our Government is concerned about the increasing cases of crime, such as murder, robbery, as well as violence against women, children and other vulnerable members of our society. Incidents of women and girls who have been raped or attacked occur too frequently. Our Government will intensify efforts to combat this scourge and bring all perpetrators to book. In this regard, we will continue to strengthen our criminal justice system. The on-going campaign to increase public awareness about the dangers of Gender-Based Violence will be intensified. I once again call upon Namibian men to desist from barbaric behaviour of attacking our women and children.

We are concerned about the rampant alcohol abuse in our country. Let us impose the existing laws in order to prevent this problem from spinning out of control. During the period under review the Namibian Police recruited and trained new members of the Police Force. These Police Officers have already been deployed to different parts of the country in order to help combat crime. We will continue to provide financial and other resources to our Police so that our people can continue to live in peace and safety.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, our bilateral, multilateral relations are mirrors through which the image of our country is reflected to the outside world. We should, therefore, continue to pursue a foreign policy that strengthens our Nation's standing in the community of Nations and reflect our values as a Nation in line with the principles of our Constitution. We must continue to stand by the principles of solidarity, promotion and the maintenance of international peace and security and peaceful resolution of conflicts. During the period under review we will pursue the objectives of our foreign policy through our participation in the activities of international, continental and regional organisations.

Presently Namibian men and women from the Namibian Defence Force

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

and Namibian Police are serving as peacekeepers in various United Nations and AU missions around the world. We are proud of these fellow Namibians for holding our flag higher in different parts of the world. For the past seven years Namibia served as a member of the Committee of Ten of the African Union Heads of State and Government. This Committee is tasked with championing the African common position on the reform of the United Nations Security Council.

For a period of one year, from August 2010 to August 2011, Namibia served as the Chair of the Southern African Development Community. During our tenure Namibia played a vital role in helping to generate sustained momentum towards the resolution of the political stalemate in Madagascar. It is encouraging that the Malagasy parties had initialled the roadmap that will pave the way towards the holding of democratic elections in that country.

In June last year I had the singular honour to co-chair the historic Tripartite Summit, comprising of COMESA, East African Community and SADC. At the same summit negotiations were launched for the establishment of the largest free trade area on the continent of Africa.

We noted with concern the unprecedented political upheavals that occurred in North Africa and parts of the Middle East in the last twelve months. In the Horn of Africa the region experienced devastating drought and famine which led to the death of many people. The recent overthrow of the civilian authorities in Mali and Guinea Bissau has cast a dark shadow on the efforts to strengthen democratic governance on our continent. We are also concerned about the escalating conflict between Sudan and South Sudan. We, therefore, call for a peaceful solution to the conflict. Reason should prevail so that the current conflict does not evolve into full-scale warfare. Namibia will continue to constantly call for restraint and for the speedy resolution of all conflicts in order to spare the civilian population from harm.

On a positive note, Namibia has congratulated His Excellency Macky Sall on his victory in the presidential elections and for the peaceful transition

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

to power in Senegal. We also expressed admiration for the peaceful transition of power in Malawi to Her Excellency Joyce Banda, the second woman President on the continent following the untimely death of President Bingu wa Mutharika on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2012. Late President Bingu wa Mutharika was a champion for food self-sufficiency on the continent. We pay homage to this great son of Africa.

Let us also pay homage to a great Pan-Africanist, the former President of Algeria, Achmed Ben Bella, who passed away earlier this month. May I kindly request all of you to rise and observe a minute of silence in memory of these great leaders?

**THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, fellow Namibians, our Nation is on the move, we have taken irreversible steps towards building a safer, more inclusive, united and more prosperous society. We must continue to hold hands and work harder to achieve our common objectives. The challenges we face must be turned into opportunities for development, advancement and empowerment of our communities.

Our words and our policies must be turned into practical actions in order to make a difference. The successes in our policy implementation endeavours must be measured in terms of the number of Namibians that are lifted from poverty, the number of young people who graduate from our tertiary institutions, the number of new employment opportunities that are created in our economy, the number of local entrepreneurs who are assisted to run their businesses sustainably and, indeed, the overall improvement in the living conditions of our people.

Going forward, our Government will continue to put the interests of our people and our Nation at the centre of all our development endeavours. We will work not only harder, but also smarter. In order to achieve our stated goals and objectives, I direct all Offices, Ministries and Agencies to ensure that all planned projects and programmes are implemented on time and within Budget.

25 April 2012    **QUESTIONS - STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS**  
**HON ULENGA**

I have also directed that Regional Councils and Local Authorities be provided with the necessary support in order to capacitate them to successfully undertake developmental activities in their respective localities. I call upon the Private Sector to work with the Government in order to strengthen the economy so that we can successfully combat unemployment. I call upon the law enforcement agencies to do more in order to combat the evil of crime and to bring all perpetrators to book. I call upon our teachers to continue teaching with dedication and skill so that we can achieve academic excellence at all levels of our education system. Indeed, I call upon the Nation to work together and in unity to help build a better Namibia not only for the present, but also for the future generation. By working together we can ensure that the state of our Nation remains strong,

Yes, there are challenges, however, these challenges should be seen as an opportunity of our Nation to advance forward. Similarly, we should not only speak convincing words, our words must be turned into practical actions in order to make a difference. We are determined to ensure that we address the socio-economic needs of our youth, women, the rural poor, senior citizens, orphans, workers and our people who live in the rural areas and informal settlements.

We are determined to make Namibia a winning Nation. One Namibia, one Nation. Long live the Republic of Namibia. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Your Excellency, President of the Republic of Namibia, allow me once more on behalf of our Parliament and the people of Namibia to thank you most sincerely. I allow the opportunity for those who would wish to engage the President after his State of the Nation Address to do so. Honourable Ulenga, you have the Floor.

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**HON ULENGA:** I thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I do not want to say I came in late, but the gong that normally goes at the

25 April 2012    **QUESTIONS - STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS**  
**HON ULENGA**

commencement of Parliament was not as loud as usual today.

Comrade Speaker, I would like to thank the President very much for a very well-worded speech that was eloquently put forward. However, it has become a tradition to engage the President on this kind of occasion and I hope the President will be kind enough to provide some perspective on the following issues:

Comrade President, I appreciate your stance on corruption and I assume the vast majority of this country is behind you on that particular issue. The GIPF saga has been raging for the major part of the last six years or so. Instead of allowing this very mysterious matter to be investigated by independent instances, you, Mr President, has chosen to have it investigated by a body very close to Government. This has created the impression that the President wishes to keep the process under control. Mr President, why do you not allow for an independent inquiry into the GIPF issue?

The next issue that I want to engage the President on is the question of education. Like other Nations, Namibia also has its own vision which has been proposed by Government and adopted by the whole Nation. This is called Vision 2030. We see other Nations pulling out all the stops to achieve their decided visions, yet in Namibia we seem to be doing the opposite. This Budget year, Mr President, is proposing almost N\$9 billion for the Education Vote and it is not without some amount of pride that your own Government like to cite that this is the highest amount allocated to a single Vote. While that is in order, every single year since Independence around half the number of those who write Grades 10 and 12 exams fall out of the system. The popular word used is that they have failed, "*I have failed Grade 10, I have failed Grade 12*", but what in actual fact happened is that the Government failed these people. The Government failed those kids who are writing Grade 10 exams, the Government failed those kids who are writing the Grade 12 exams for over the years not providing enough space and enough equipment and enough aids for a proper education that would have led to their passing and on this account I can say the President himself said that it is only within the next five years that we can expect full electrification of all the

25 April 2012    **STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS - QUESTIONS**  
**HON MAAMBERUA**

schools in the rural areas, after an electrification campaign that has taken the most of the last 23 years.

Mr President, my question with regard to this is very simple, namely that when can the Nation expect a turnaround in the Education Sector and when shall the Sector be fully funded by the State, especially with regard to primary education?

Finally, the third issue that I would like the President to provide some perspective on, Mr Speaker, is the important issue that the Nation is grappling with, namely the question of reparations.

Mr President, your Government simply refuses to take up the very important demand for reparations from Germany for the genocide and other atrocities committed during the colonial era against our people. The Government refuses or desists from taking this demand up as a national demand. Instead of leading these demands from the highest level of our Nation, namely from the Office of the President, Government seems happy with the relegation of this important matter to the level of a so-called cultural issue that involves only a few Traditional Authorities and not the whole Nation.

My question is, why is this and when can we expect the Government to lead from the front in this matter of the national demand for reparations, restoration and restitution of our people? Mr President, I would very much like you to make some comments on this issue. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:**    Thank you, Honourable Ulenga.    Honourable Maamberua.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:**    Thank you, Comrade Speaker.    Comrade President, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you very much for your

25 April 2012    **STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS - QUESTIONS**  
**HON MAAMBERUA**

broad perspective on national issues that you have just elucidated. I would also like to take this opportunity to underscore my understanding of who you are and that is a listening President. I am saying that because after having spoken to you at the State House regarding the Hochfeld farm evictees, these people are now being assisted by Government and I think that probably has come about as goodwill from Government.

I however have three questions and the first one is that you have been in power now for about seven years or so and when you came to head the administration, you had undertaken to address the following issues: corruption, crime, unemployment, to name but a few, but we do notice that today crime against women and children remains unabated, corruption is rampant and unemployment, particularly amongst the youth, is about 70%. Those were the statistics that were denied here, of course, but of late reconfirmed by the World Bank.

Comrade President, what is your administration going to advise the women, children, the youth and all of us in terms of your undertaking that you made at the beginning of your term? Are you going to advise them that your efforts have been in vain and, therefore, Namibia should pin its hope on some other administration to come after the next election?

Comrade President, you talked about the return of the skulls from Germany and in that context I want to pose a question and also say that the first genocide of the twentieth century was committed in Namibia and, in fact, that was probably the first genocide ever committed in Africa, yet there is no statue, monument in recognition of this genocide in Namibia. What message are we sending to the world? We know that genocide is actually committed in nine stages, the first stage being pretext and the last stage, denial. If we do not have symbols, statues or monuments to indicate that actually the first genocide in Africa was committed in this country, is Namibia not going to be accused of being an accomplice in the last stage of genocide, which is denial?

Thirdly, Comrade President, you said that provision of health care is a priority of your administration. It has been recognised that interpretation services in health provision is very important. Comrade President, I

25 April 2012    **STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS - QUESTIONS**  
**HON SHIXWAMENI**

wonder whether we have a language policy at our health institutions and I would like to pose the question as to whether you would once again agree with me that some interpretation services, because of the outcry at some of the State's health institutions, like Katutura Hospital, Opuwo Hospital, Grootfontein Hospital, etcetera, has reached my office and probably the offices of some Comrades around here, could actually be instituted? I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER**    I thank Honourable Maamberua.    Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:**    Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Before I put my question, I would like to join my Colleagues in expressing appreciation for the very wide-ranging statement by His Excellency, President Pohamba. Indeed, you covered quite a lot of areas of interest to the Nation, which the Nation needs to hear. I would also like to thank the President for his openness and straightforwardness in terms of addressing the issues the way that they are.

Your Excellency, in your statement you addressed many of the issues that I wanted to raise, therefore I will only concentrate on a few items that I would still like to address.

I would like to say, helping to build a better Namibia should indeed be the business of each and every Namibian. This is a clarion call that we all need to echo, a clarion call that needs to re-echo in all the villages and suburbs of our country.

Coming to the questions, the first is on the conflict of interest in the Public Service. It seems to be the unofficial policy in most Government departments that, "*scratch my back and I will also scratch yours.*" Your Excellency Mr President, do you not think, that indeed the time has arrived for an open public register of the economic and trade interests of all public officials, from Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Permanent

25 April 2012    **STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS - QUESTIONS**  
**HON SHIXWAMENI**

Secretaries, Directors and Deputy Directors, Chief Executive Officers, General Managers and other Senior Managers of Parastatals, so that the Nation should be able to see openly and publicly as to who exactly owns what, so that they know that when a person is appointed to any position, what his specific status is, so that when he exits, the Nation exactly knows whether the person has enriched himself or not.

The next question is on TIPEEG. It is now two years on with one year to go and I appreciate the fact that Your Excellency has articulated that it will be integrated within the National Development Plan 4, but judging from the success thus far, the Minister of Finance about a month ago said that TIPEEG has created 9,000 jobs and today, four weeks down the line, we hear that it is 26,000 thousand jobs, how confident are you, Mr President, that this programme called TIPEEG is going to improve the lot of the young people in Namibia? Many critics out there are saying that TIPEEG is rather empowering the already well-off and the already empowered. How are we going to change that perception to ensure that indeed the marginalised, the unemployed and the poor benefit from the TIPEEG programme?

My other question is on the land issue. With land grabbing now becoming a common thing around the country and the right for resettlement, do you not think, Mr President, that we need to have a priority list in terms of who needs to be resettled? Personally I would not resettle a Minister, I think they can go to AgriBank or commercial banks and get loans approved. Do you not think that it is time that we rearrange the priority list so that the people that really are in need of land, who do not have anything to buy land with should benefit first instead of allowing the elite and the well-to-do to benefit from the resettlement scheme?

My question that is also linked to this is; why should people who are earning big salaries enjoy priority in terms of resettlement?

Another question is around a constitutional matter. Our Parliament here is dominated by Cabinet. In terms of oversight functions that poses a serious challenge as to how Parliament oversees the Executive, because they are a dominant force around here. Do you not think that it is time to free

25 April 2012    **STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS - QUESTIONS**  
**HON S TJONGARERO**

Parliament from the domination by Cabinet by making sure that you have the free reign of power to appoint people outside of Parliament to be Ministers and that Parliamentarians stick by their job as Members of Parliament in order to oversee the Executive properly?

Related to that is the question as to whether 22 years after Independence we as a Nation should not have a national constitutional review conference to look at the loopholes and bottlenecks in our Constitution in order to make sure that we perfect it and adjust it to the modern circumstances of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Lastly and on a lighter note, Your Excellency the President, I would like to ask you personally, having been a freedom fighter, as to whether it is not time that Namibia should change the name of our capital from the colonial name, Windhoek, to either Otjomuise or /Aegams?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable S Tjongarero.

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**HON S TJONGARERO:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Your Excellency the President, I have to thank you and congratulate you very much. I do not have a specific question today, but as a Member of the Economics Committee I travel all over and visited Ruacana and saw the improvements there, visited Tsumkwe and saw the solar plant and I was very pleased to see these developments. However, what I missed in Your Excellency's State of the Nation Address is the very important issue of renewable energy and I want to express hope that our Government will commit itself to do more in the area of renewable energy.

Secondly and lastly, I would very much like to see planning to fight desertification and how we can utilise those parts of our beautiful country, being the Kalahari Desert in the east and the Namib Desert in the west. That is all from my side.

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25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS - ANSWERS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. That was the interaction from the Opposition benches, Your Excellency. You have the Floor.

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**HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA:** Thank you very much Comrade Speaker for giving me the Floor to respond to the questions posed by the Honourable Members of our Parliament. I believe these were not questions by the Honourable Members themselves, but from those who sent them to Parliament.

*Honourable Ulenga* asked about the GIPF and I do not know whether it is a proposal that an independent investigative team be set up because he believes whoever is currently investigating the GIPF are close to the Government. I just want to inform Honourable Ulenga that this is not exactly the case, we have asked investigators from outside to come and assist the investigation, obviously working together with our investigators and they have started some time ago with their investigation. The last information I received is that the investigation is going very well and there are even indications that perhaps very soon we will engage the prosecution to take steps against certain people. Therefore, it is on course and we hope it will be completed soon. Therefore, let us wait for the final report by the investigators, it is on its way. I am told it was a very difficult exercise, but I think they are now at the point of a breakthrough. That is why I am saying perhaps the prosecutors will be asked to prosecute those who need to provide answers. They are leaving no stone unturned and the public and the leadership will be informed.

With regard to education, Honourable Ulenga is saying the Government has failed. I want to say no, the Government did not fail. If there are failures, those failures are being attended to. You will recall that in 2010 the Minister of Education secured a special amount of money to attend to some problems. Yes, there had been some problems and we will continually have problems, but it does not mean that the system has failed. Again, you may recall that last year we had a Conference on Education which made recommendations and the Ministry is implementing the recommendations made by that Conference on Education. Therefore, the

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS - ANSWERS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

system has not failed, I think we are doing very well particularly when it comes to the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference on Education.

As to the matter of genocide, the Government is looking at the aspects of the demand by our people for reparation, etcetera. The Government is not sitting with folded hands, something is being done on that matter.

*Honourable Maamberua*, you mentioned corruption, crime and unemployment. In my speech I spoke about corruption, I spoke about crime and I particularly referred to women and children. I also spoke about unemployment and why TIPEEG was instituted. With regard to corruption I can only appeal to the leaders of this country to assist the authorities responsible for investigating corruption. We have the Police, we have the Anti-Corruption Commission itself. One reads about corruption, but the citizens are not forthcoming to say that Pohamba is a corrupt person, so that Pohamba is investigated. Their problem is that they do not know who is corrupt. Why are people not reporting those who are corrupt to these authorities? If this is done, I can assure you that people will be investigated and if they are found guilty of corruption, they will be brought to book. In my speech I asked the Minister of Justice to speed up the Bill to be brought to Parliament on the protection of whistle-blowers on corruption so that they are protected.

Corruption does exist but we fail to determine who the corrupt person is in order for us to investigate that person, because we are not getting information. Let us have information and let the leaders inform the people they are representing that they should give information on corruption to the Police or to the Anti-Corruption Commission. That is my appeal.

As to crime, let all of us fight against crime. Let us unite and fight crime. Indeed we have crime, but let us stand together and fight crime and corruption.

I said that since last year 26,000 people have been employed, but that is not only under TIPEEG. In actual fact, TIPEEG is being implemented by five or six Ministries and they have made progress through their activities

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS - ANSWERS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA**

in employing some people. Maybe the number I have mentioned can be rounded off to 27,000 people who got employment. This is not a small number and I am sure this year the number will increase. Thus, I feel that we are not doing too badly on that score.

As to genocide, you talked about the erection of monuments and I am in agreement with you, more so when I sometimes wake up and look at the monument in front of our City Hall and I look at the horse-rider. The time has come for us to erect our own monuments. The person on the horse depicts that they have defeated us and that place is where our people used to be hanged. We now have to put up a monument in the form of a building and that building needs to have some monuments nearby. Let us not put up monuments only here in Windhoek, but also at Ohamakari and other places. I support that proposal. I hope my colleagues who are assisting me in running the administration will take note of your proposal and my support for your proposal.

You have also spoken about the language policy, with more reference to the practice in hospitals. According to the Constitution of the Republic, local languages can be spoken and used in institutions such as hospitals. However, you have a point, because a San person from the rural areas comes to a hospital in Windhoek, he would have difficulties explaining to the doctors what he is suffering from. It is not only a question of the language policy, but I feel we can just implement some of the things that the Constitution has authorised us to do, namely to speak our own languages. However, the point you have raised is very important, that someone might come to hospital and the nurses and doctors do not understand what he is saying. I know it is a very difficult situation, but I think we can discuss that and see how we can find a way out in order to keep on assisting our people.

When one goes to the hospital in Windhoek, you would find many people from different communities who speak different languages and they can easily assist those who do not understand English, Afrikaans or German, for example. That can be done.

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS - ANSWERS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

*Honourable Shixwameni*, “*scratch my back and I will scratch your back.*” Although I did not use the words “*scratch my back*”, my statement is very clear. You are actually talking about corruption and I said we have to fight corruption. At one point I saw you addressing a meeting and you were talking about corruption. If you as a leader see that there is corruption, do an investigation and report those individuals instead of just talking about corruption, yet you are not assisting in identifying those who are corrupt. Why can you not inform the Police or the Anti-Corruption Commission who are responsible to do investigations? I want to appeal to you, Comrade Shixwameni, to assist the system that is dealing with corruption in the country.

You made a very good proposal about having a register for people to make declarations. For your information, Ministers and Deputy Ministers do that, but your proposal extends even to those who are in the State-Owned Enterprises and I think it would be good if we consider that, that all those who are going to be employed in sensitive positions, declare what they have. In a way I think this proposal should not be thrown away and should be considered.

I have talked about TIPEEG and you also mentioned land-grabbing. We have an Act which deals with the communal areas and those who are grabbing land illegally should be dealt with. Land-grabbing should not be allowed, it is illegal. Then you spoke about those who are receiving salaries who should not benefit from resettlement. I do not know whether this is correct, but I think my Colleague dealing with the administration of land is here and I am sure he has taken note. Your proposal should be a subject of discussion to be looked into.

I know most of the people, including myself, have farms. I have a farm, bought through the programme of AgriBank and I know many of my Colleagues who happen to have farms did the same. That is something that has been put up by the Government to assist those who want land. They will have to pay for that land, it is not free of charge and many of them have been paying back to AgriBank.

As to the Cabinet dominating the Parliament, I invite Honourable

25 April 2012

**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS - ANSWERS  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA**

Shixwameni and others to read the Constitution of the Republic. You cannot become a Minister or Deputy Minister if you are not a Member of Parliament. This is what the Constitution says and obviously, you would find those Ministers and Deputy Ministers in the Parliament. This is not that perhaps the President wants it, no; it is the Constitution that made provision for that. You are a Member of Parliament and you have the right to propose an Amendment of the Constitution. If it is done, then you will have a less dominated Parliament by those from the Executive.

For the change of the name Windhoek, I think you have the support of the Speaker of the National Assembly. A proposal can be made to have it changed. We replaced the name South West Africa with Namibia, we changed many names of street. As you were speaking, you reminded me of the name Lüderitz. Do we really need to have our port called Lüderitz? Who is Lüderitz, in the first place? Then we have a Region called Caprivi. Comrade Shixwameni, I extend your proposal to cover other areas, such as Lüderitz and Caprivi. There are many names that could be changed and I would definitely second the Speaker of the National Assembly who was the first person to support this. I think something has to be done and anybody can make a proposal and the proposal can be brought to Parliament for the Members of Parliament to endorse it.

*Honourable Tjongarero*, it encourages us if a Member of Parliament, especially from an Opposition Party, mentions what he sees the Government is doing. It is really encouraging and I feel very much encouraged that you are talking about things that you see. Some of the people say this Government is not doing anything. You see them moving between Kamanjab and Opuwo on a road constructed by the Government and when they move there, they do not want to say anything, they keep quiet.

You spoke about renewable energy and I think my Colleague, the Minister of Mines and Energy, has been engaged in trying to find a solution to renewable energy. Honourable Members, this electricity that we are using is from South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia. Ruacana only provides us with a little electricity at the times when Angola receives rain. Van Eck Power Station assists, but it is very expensive to maintain. We have two

25 April 2012

**VOTE OF THANKS  
HON DR GURIRAB**

others, one in Walvis Bay, which are also very expensive. The coal supplied to Van Eck is not locally produced and the diesel supplied to the power station in Walvis Bay is also not locally produced, therefore they are very expensive. When I hear that wind energy could be developed, especially at Lüderitz and Walvis Bay areas, and you see the wind blowing, I think our Minister responsible should be looking at this.

Desertification is tough in the sense that the country does not have enough water to plant trees. If we had enough water we could have done it. I understand if you go to Israel, the desert has turned into productive land. They have the Jordan River, but our situation is not helpful. We have water in the Kavango and Zambezi Rivers, but we need proposals from the Opposition Parties.

You know I have a system of consultation, I consulted you as leaders of this country. Yes, I know UDF, for reasons known only to themselves, have this year declined to come for consultations, but I am talking in general, that you also have to propose and particularly when I invite you, exchange views about our country and people. We cannot throw good ideas away when you bring them to us and I request you as members of the leadership of this country collectively to make some proposals, so that together we attend to the problems of this country and its people. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank you very much, Your Excellency, on behalf of my Colleagues, both of the National Assembly and the National Council. You do this in an admirable and a different way. I take it that as a former Member of this House for a long time in different capacities, you add value to the work of Parliament and help us to do the work for which the people have sent us here. You take time to answer the questions put to you by the Honourable Members of the Opposition and that is how it should be. It is by the kind of answers provided that we share both their concerns and also educate the larger public. We do not need to agree, but it is the manner in which we treat this kind of engagement. Once again,

25 April 2012

**ADJOURNMENT**

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for coming back to Parliament for us to take full advantage of your presence here.

Before I ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the President and myself, I want to ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Speaker, with the wisdom, information and all the enrichment we received from His Excellency the President, I am quite sure we all want to reflect on them so that when we come back tomorrow we are invigorated. Tomorrow is the last day of this Session; therefore I propose that we meet at 09:00 so that we deal with the remaining business on the Order Paper.

I Move that the House adjourns until tomorrow at 09:00

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

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:50 UNTIL 2012.04.26 AT 09:00**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
26 APRIL 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:** Friday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2012, will be the commemoration of Cassinga Day. To that end, the Khomas Regional Council has extended an invitation to all of us to attend an event in that connection at the UN Plaza, Soweto, Namibia. The keynote speaker will be the President of the Republic of Namibia. I am told the programme has been distributed to you all.

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**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

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**HON SPEAKER:** I have just received a note from the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, informing me and the House that Chief Alfons Kaihepovazandu Maharero passed on last night at 19:00 at the Central Hospital in Windhoek. We note with sadness the passing on of this great leader of our country, not because of his name but because of the person that we have come to know him to be. We shall rise and observe a minute of silence.

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**THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE**

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26 April 2012

**TABLING OF REPORTS  
HON SCHLETTWEIN / HON DR AMWEELO**

**HON SPEAKER:** Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select 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, Reports of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of:

1. Ministry of Information and Communication Technology for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2011; and
  2. Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2011.
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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Deputy Minister table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? None. Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Amweelo.

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**MOTION ON THE BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice, that the proceedings on Votes 21, 22 and 31 of the Appropriation Bill be, in terms of the Rule 90(c) of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted if still under consideration at 12:30. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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26 April 2012

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON NGHIDINWA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:**

Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members. First of all I would like to use this platform to thank you, Comrade Speaker, for granting me the Floor this morning to inform Members of Parliament and the public at large on the implementation of the cessation Clause for Angolan refugees.

I hope that all of us in this Chamber are aware of the fact that peace and stability have fundamentally returned to Angola and a democratic Government has been installed. Those Angolans who sought refuge in other countries, including Namibia, are expected to return to their country and join their Government for the development of their country. With this idea in mind, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Headquarters has decided to invoke the cessation Clause for Angolan refugees that was supposed to be implemented by the 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2011 but has been postponed to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2012.

Honourable Speaker, the invocation of the cessation Clause by the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 this year makes stakeholders to intensify the activities towards the promotion of voluntary repatriation for Angolan refugees. From the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration's perspective a one-day round table conference was organised at Oropoko Lodge in November 2011 with stakeholders from Parliament, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Justice and the Namibia Central Intelligence Services, the UNHCR to map out the preparation for implementation of the cessation Clause.

In preparation for the implementation of the cessation Clause, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, together with stakeholders, have

26 April 2012

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON NGHIDINWA**

intensified its campaign activities and to a certain extent go and see and come and tell this by those refugees who have to be repatriated and those who have been repatriated already or undertaken by Namibia as a mechanism to promote voluntary repatriation.

I also led a delegation from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration to Pretoria, South Africa for a meeting on the comprehensive strategy for Angolan refugees convened by the UNHCR Regional Headquarters for Southern Africa between the host or receiving countries of Angolan refugees on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February 2012. These are Zambia, South Africa, Namibia and others.

During this meeting emphasis was made for Angolan refugees to make use of the remaining period to take up the voluntary repatriation exercises. Since some of the refugees have acquired some properties in the host country, the Pretoria meeting agreed that those Angolan refugees who accumulated properties will be allowed to be repatriated with their personal belongings without weight and size restriction.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to make use of this platform to reiterate my usual call when I always address the refugee community Osire Refugee Resettlement that peace has come to Angola and circumstances that made them to flee has ceased to exist. Hence, they are encouraged to register for the UN voluntary repatriation exercise. This is very important because the only time for them to decide is between now and the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2012, which is the last date for voluntary repatriation exercises.

The implementation of the cessation Clause will have negative impact on the Government of the Republic of Namibia in terms of maintaining Angolan refugees simply because UNHCR will no longer provide financial assistance to the Angolan refugees. The World Food Programme will stop providing food rations and the Ministry of Home Affairs and immigration will remove them from the refugee database and their profile will be handed over to Immigration to be dealt with in accordance with the Immigration provisions.

26 April 2012

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON NGHIDINWA**

I would further like to inform you that the Ministry, together with stakeholders, is exploring the mechanisms to allow Angolan learners, especially those who are in Grade 10, 11 and 12, to remain in the country after 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 to continue and complete their studies. As we are sitting in this Chamber this morning, officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, the Angolan Embassy and the UNHCR are at Osire Refugee Settlement conducting registration for the voluntary repatriation exercise. I am happy to inform you that the registration exercise is going on and yesterday afternoon about 400 Angolans had registered already and many of them have now indicated their willingness to return to their motherland, Angola.

Honourable Speaker, the Ministry observed that there are some farm owners in the surroundings of Osire, Okahandja, Otjiwarongo, Okakarara, Outjo, Otavi and Grootfontein who employed refugees to work on their farms, which is not allowed by law. According to our law, every foreign national, including refugees, who are employed in Namibia must apply for an employment permit from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and convince the Ministry that such a foreign national has expertise that cannot be found locally in Namibia. It is against this background that I am requesting farm owners, including my Colleagues here, who might have employed refugees to refrain from that practice and encourage them to come to Osire Refugee Settlement and register for the UN voluntary repatriation exercise before the deadline or if they want them to continue working for them, they must come and register them to get work permits.

This is important because soon after the deadline, which is 30 June 2012, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration will send immigration officers to all farms and those who might be found employing refugees without valid permits, will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Immigration Control Act (Act 7 of 1993).

Finally, I would once again like to request Angolan refugees who might be spread in different corners of this country to make use of this opportunity at their disposal to register for the voluntary repatriation exercise, which is being advocated by both the Government of the

26 April 2012

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON NGHIDINWA**

Republic of Namibia and the Government of Angola, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and other UN Agencies.

It is my conviction that those Angolan refugees who did not register themselves yet for the voluntary repatriation exercise will do so within the remaining limited timeframe. We have limited time, we have to transform the remaining two months and two weeks to enable ourselves to meet the deadline.

With these few words, it is my hope and belief that those Angolan refugees who did not register themselves for voluntary repatriation will soon do so. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister. The First Notice of Motion is the one of the Minister of Safety and Security. Does the Minister Move the Motion?

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**RATIFICATION: CONVENTIONS ON  
PREVENTION OF TERRORISM**

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** I Move the Motion.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Minister has the Floor.

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26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON MBUMBA**

**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. In the first place, let me join you in expressing my sympathy and sorrow on the passing away of Chief Alfonso Maharero. I am expressing that to his family, to the Maharero Royal House and to his Traditional Authority. Because of the position I have as Minister of Safety and Security, I was maybe one of the first to hear the news and I had to transmit it to higher authority, which is a heavy responsibility. Thank you very much for that.

As a matter of urgency I would like to motivate the ratification of the following two conventions:

Honourable Speaker, it gives me great honour to motivate before this august House the ratification of two very important international conventions to which Namibia for some time now has been signatory, but has not yet ratified them. These two conventions are, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, signed by the Republic of Namibia on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2001 and secondly, the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, signed by the Republic of Namibia in 1999.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Namibia is part of the global village and as such is an integral part of the international community. It is not immune, therefore, from acts of terrorism as we are witnessing them in other parts of the world almost on a daily basis. In order to protect our beautiful country, Namibia, our people, our peace, democracy and our financial stability, we need, through thorough domestic laws, to criminalise the acts of terror and the financing thereof.

Furthermore, Namibia has been a member of the Eastern-Southern African Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) since 1999. In becoming a member of ESAAMLG Namibia signed a Memorandum of Understanding in which she agreed, among other things, to fully implement the Financial Action Task Force, forty recommendation on money-laundering and nine special recommendations on terrorism financing. Namibia further agreed that she will subject herself, like all other countries, to mutual evaluation by its peers.

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON MBUMBA**

Honourable Speaker, targeted review was conducted by the Regional Review Group of Financial Action Task Force International Cooperation Review Group. This Group noted in a report issued in June 2011 that Namibia's key anti-money laundering and combating of financing of terrorism deficiencies happen to include among others:

- Not all the relevant United Nations conventions and protocols under the Terrorism Financing Convention have been ratified and thus could not be implemented by Namibia. On Financial Action Task Force Special Recommendation 1, which deals with ratification, Namibia most regrettably received an overall non-compliance rating, lacking of having a lawful criminalising terrorism financing.
- On Financial Action Task Force Special recommendation 2, which deals with the adoption and implementation of national laws to criminalise terrorism financing, Namibia in 2005 equally received an overall non-compliance rating.
- Lack of mechanism from freezing and confiscating terrorist assets. On Financial Action Task Force Special Recommendation 3, which deals with adoption of legislation instruments which enables Namibia to adopt mechanisms and freeze and confiscate terrorism assets, hereto Namibia in 2005 received an overall non-compliance rating.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, being branded by international organisations or agencies as non-complying is no small matter. The reputation and good name of our country is at stake, we need to know that non-compliance with international conventions will endanger our financial institutions, our transfer of funds to our embassies and diplomatic missions. For these reasons the Ministry of Safety and Security, the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Affairs are urgently looking forward to the ratification of the UN and OAU Conventions on Combating of Terrorism and the financing thereof. Therefore, the urgency.

The Cabinet Committee on Defence and Security and International Relations approved and referred the matter to Cabinet, which has now

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON MBUMBA**

given its approval for submission to this Parliament. Further to that, the Ministry of Safety and Security has, in consultation with all stakeholders, formulated a national counter-terrorism and financing of terrorism policy which has equally been approved by the Cabinet. The policy recommendations are currently being incorporated in a draft bill that will soon be finalised for submission to this Parliament. We can then debate all those matters, but ratification must take place.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, I wish to bring the following matters to your attention that are contained in the Convention for which we recommend the following reservations to be made by Namibia at the time of submission of the ratification instrument to the United Nations. We have here two Conventions, one of the UN, one of the Organisation of African Unity. The Organisation of African Unity specifically wants to reserve that people who are fighting for their liberation and Independence, people who are under colonialism or occupation have the right to resist by any available means. That one has to be clear and, therefore, we have to have reservations and that is also the reason why we want the two conventions to be approved at the same time.

Matters that require reservation are: The Conventions, on the other hand, also seek to prohibit the financing of conduct prescribed and prohibited in other international instruments to which Namibia is not yet a signatory. The practice among States is to exclude those treaties that the State has not signed or ratified and to make the necessary declaration upon ratification of financing convention. This has been done by a great number of countries and does not bring adverse consequences to our Republic.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the ratification instrument be worded in such a manner as to exclude the instrument Namibia is not party to. The wording could be in the following: *“Concerning Article 1(2)(a) of the Convention, the Government of the Republic of Namibia declares the following: “The following Treaties are to be deemed not to be included in the annex:*

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON MBUMBA**

1. *The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons including Diplomatic Agents, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 14 December 1973*
2. *International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 17 December 1979;*
3. *International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism Bombing adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15 December 1997.*

Until those are signed by our Government and ratified we are not yet party to them.

**LEGAL BASIS FOR EXTRADITION:**

The Financing Convention in Article 11(2) provides that: “*When a State party which makes extradition conditional on the existence of a Treaty receive a request for extradition from another State party with which it has no Extradition Treaty, the requested State party may in its option consider this Convention as a legal basis for extradition in respect of the offences provided for in the Convention. Extradition shall be subject to the other conditions provided for by the law of the requested State.*” We have to have a law in line with that before we can proceed.

The position in terms of Namibian law, as it stands today, is as follows: The Namibian Extradition Act provides that subject to the provisions of the Act, extradition can be made to countries with which Namibia has an extradition agreement or which have been specified in terms of the Act. The term “*extradition agreement*” has not been defined to include a multilateral agreement, such as the conventions in question. This means that in respect of countries with which we have no agreement and which have not been specified under the Act, extradition or offences stipulated in the particular convention will not be possible.

In light of the obligation to extradite or prosecute imposed by the

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON MBUMBA**

Financing Convention, this would mean that Namibia would have to prosecute individuals sought by countries not covered under the Extradition Act of 1996. A decision needs to be taken as to whether or not Namibia wants to widen its extradition basis to include multilateral conventions not only on the international, but also the regional and sub-regional level. This would require an Amendment to our Extradition Act.

It is recommended that the matters related to extradition should be dealt with within the framework of our own domestic legislation.

The Organisation of African Union Convention, which is now the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism:

Namibia has signed the OAU Convention on 14<sup>th</sup> of July 1999 but has to date not ratified this Convention. The African Union Convention provides in Article 3 that: *“Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1 which defines “terrorism”, the struggle waged by peoples in accordance with the principle of international law for their liberation and self-determination, including armed struggle against colonialism, occupation, aggression and domination by foreign forces, shall not be considered as a terrorist act.”* The Financing Convention, on the other hand, does not recognise an exemption to terrorist acts based on the struggle for liberation, as described above. In fact, most of the UN Conventions do not recognise such exemption with the exception of the Hostages Convention, which provides in Article 12 that: *“Insofar as the General Convention of 1949 for the Protection of War Victims or the Protocols additional to these Conventions are applicable to a particular act of hostage taking and insofar as State parties to this Convention are bound under those Conventions to prosecute or hand over the hostage-taker, the present Conventions shall not apply to an act in the course of armed conflict, as defined in the General Conventions of 1949 and the Protocols thereof, including armed conflicts mentioned in Article 4, Paragraph 4 of Additional Protocol of 1977 in which peoples are fighting against colonial domination and alien occupation, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.”*

A decision is required as to whether Namibia wants to stand by the

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON SHIFETA**

exemption provided for in the Organisation of African Unity Convention and declare a reservation upon ratification of the Financing Convention similar to the one made by Egypt or Namibia will not do that. In this event other States are likely to record an objection to our reservation on the basis that it constitutes an impermissible reservation, as no such exemption is recognised under the Financing and other UN Conventions. Alternatively, Namibia should adopt a similar position to that of South Africa, which in its Protection of Constitutional Democracy Act has incorporated the OAU position on the liberation struggle. It has, however, not recorded a reservation under the Financing Convention with respect to this subject.

The recommendation is that the OAU's position on liberation struggle is incorporated in the Anti-Terrorism Bill currently being drafted. That should be Namibia's position.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, I am now submitting on an urgent basis that the two conventions, including the reservations I have just mentioned, be approved and ratified. I so Move, Honourable Speaker and I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I thank the Minister for his motivation. Any further discussions?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,  
SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. First let me welcome the official Opposition back home after a holiday yesterday.

Honourable Speaker, let me support the ratification of this Convention, however I have some comments to make. I welcome this ratification. Sometimes African leaders who have been forced to walk the agenda of the so-called powerful Nations, especially when they come with very technical terms, such as terrorism, military intervention, and use these technical terms to confuse us aimed to interpret that on their own terms

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON SHIFETA**

and in most cases we find ourselves walking the agenda. This happened on several occasions and sometimes we are made to support them on international platforms, which cause Africa to suffer because we sometimes tend to undermine our own sovereignty. We are forced to walk the agendas of those powerful Nations when they want to settle their disputes with those they perceive to be uncooperative or an obstacle to their agendas.

Therefore, it is good that the Minister made clear our reservations and also the exclusion of some of the interpretations in the international arena, because for instance, the word “*terrorism*” depends on the way you interpret it. Even “*liberation struggle*” is interpreted to be terrorist organisations.

For a Government to brand an organisation or an individual as a terrorist depends on the interpreter and I might term that organisation as a liberation movement or as an organisation that fights for rights, but the others might term it as a terrorist organisation. Therefore, in applying this we must be careful and we should not undermine our sovereignty. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** May I ask a question? It is good that the youth are expressing themselves and are aware of the dangers of ratification without proper scrutiny, but before I ask my question, let me condemn the despicable move yesterday in front of the Head of State by the walkout of RDP, led by DTA and all these others. We condemn it and it is a move in bad faith as His Excellency has always been consulting with the Opposition and this is what they give in return. Therefore, we may consider that this continuous consultation should be looked at seriously and critically and we will do so. It is very immature and childish.

I just wanted to say that it is good that we scrutinise these conventions. Today’s terrorist is tomorrow’s freedom fighter. My question to you is whether you are aware that Nelson Mandela and many other freedom fighters were still on the terrorist list of the US Congress. They were

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON SHIFETA**

there, I do not know whether they have been removed as well as SWAPO.

We might still be on that list as terrorists. If we deal with Cuba and North Korea, we may be branded as supporting terrorism, but these are the countries which have supported us. Cuba even came to participate in the war for national liberation, assisting SWAPO, sacrificing thousands of Cuban lives for this country. Now we ratify this and those are some of the things I want our young people to be aware of and to critically scrutinise these conventions, because tomorrow we might shoot ourselves in the foot and we are being used, as you say, put on the agendas of others.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,  
SPORT AND CULTURE:**

It is true and the facts speak for themselves. We had the recent experience of Libya which is testimony to that and we only now realise that we have been forced to walk the agenda of other people while the damage has already been done. Therefore, we should reject any attempt by those so-called powerful Nations to use us as Africans to castigate African leaders in the pretext of being terrorists. We must use our own term the way we understand terrorism and then we define that. We must look at our own interests as Africans and Africa should equalise its international relations. We should not only be used when they want to pass their resolutions and then be caught in a situation where we are working against our own interest. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD**

**WELFARE:** On a Point of Information. Comrade Deputy Minister, you are talking about Africa recognising itself. How are we going to make them realise that we are Africans with the things that happened yesterday with the Head of the Republic when he was telling the public what the SWAPO Government is doing and the Opposition Parties walked out?

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**HON SPEAKER:** I am beginning to wonder, Minister, whether before you came to the House you had not had consultations in Cabinet on what

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON MAAMBERUA**

you are now asking Parliament to do and whether we have not signed these conventions whose ratification you are now seeking in the House. I am getting confused.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** I am about to conclude now. My intervention was to be cautious as we see what is happening, especially where some of those powerful Nations are not only trying to undermine others but also undermining the principles of international law. That is my caution, because from our side we as Africans deal with other Nations, especially the powerful Nations, in good faith, but in most cases it tends to be contrary to the other part. We must always be careful with these technical terms so that we are not forced to walk the agenda of others. With this, Honourable Speaker, I fully support the ratification of this Convention. Thank you very much.

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

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. First of all, I also wish to extend my condolences to the Tjamuaha and Maharero people for the loss of the late Alfons Kaihepovazandu Maharero.

My first question is whether it is possible for Namibia to write to the UN to state categorically that we have adequate laws to deal with all these issues pertaining to the financing of terrorism and, therefore, there is no need for Namibia to ratify these conventions?

We are being asked to ratify this Convention on an urgent basis and I have not been informed what is the urgency in this matter. Moreover, this Convention was only tabled two days ago in this House and we are

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON MAAMBERUA**

expected to ratify it already today.

Honourable Minister, Article 2(2)(a) on Page 2 reads: “*An act which constitutes an offence within the scope of and defined in one of the Treaties listed in the annex.*” We only have a list of annexures, but the Treaties themselves have not been attached. I think we will find it very difficult, without having scrutinised those listed Treaties, to actually fully inform ourselves what we are to ratify.

Also, given our own history as clearly expounded by the Deputy Minister of Youth and also the Minister of Foreign Affairs, we have to be very sensitive when it comes to ratifying these kind of Treaties. We will recall that a few years ago and also recently two senior politicians of this country have been threatened with the appearance before the International Criminal Court under the system of the UN and that is because Namibia has ratified the Treaty on the International Criminal Court. Therefore, given our own background, it is very difficult for us to just ratify a Treaty like this one on an urgent basis.

We are being informed that we should just ratify this Convention and then inform the UN about our reservations. If that is possible, so be it, but why can we not inform the UN that we have reservations before we ratify it and whether they can confirm that indeed our reservations will be taken on board. In that event we can ratify the Convention, because once we have ratified, how would it be possible to now register reservations? (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Honourable Speaker, I am rising on a Point of Order and soliciting some clarity through what I will say. I am always of two minds when it comes to these Treaties and documents coming to us for ratification. On the one hand, it comes from the UN and I want to believe that it has been adopted at that level after due diligence was applied in terms of what this world body wants to convey to us, however, on the other hand one has to look at the

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON MAAMBERUA**

risk that we would run as Nations of the world, particularly as small as we as Namibia are.

Nowadays the financial institutions have mechanisms to trace money as it circulates, where it was deposited, who is depositing it and also in terms of the overall functionality of our financial institutions, starting with the Bank of Namibia. What are the implications if we do not ratify Treaties of this kind and stand alone as opposed to the things that we all know, that at one stage we were all referred to as terrorists. But what are the implications? Is it not probably better to ratify it as members of the UN and deal with the consequences? What do we gain through too much talk and delaying the process, whereas we know at the end of the day, being members of the UN, we have to subscribe to the resolutions of the UN.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 10.25**

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**HOUSE RESUMES AT 11:05**

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**HON SPEAKER:** The business of the House shall continue. Honourable Maamberua, you still have the Floor.

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Honourable Speaker, maybe on the observation that was made by Minister !Naruseb, I think that observation is what makes Africa what it is today. We ratify these things in a rush and later on we are in trouble and the International Criminal Court Treaty is one of such clear examples where some of the big powers have not ratified that Treaty while Africans have done so and now it is mostly Africans who are facing the International Criminal Court justice system. Therefore, we

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON KAURA**

have to be very careful when confronted with these types of Treaties or Conventions.

Having underscored that, perhaps one would want to understand the urgency of the matter. I have reservations seeing that the annexures have not been attached and we do not know which ones we have already signed and what the details are. If I understood the Minister correctly, legislation relating to combating of terrorism will be put before this House that would encompass our own definitions and scope of what we regard as terrorism. If that is going to help Namibia to stand on its own legal framework even within the broader framework of this one, then perhaps that could be our opportunity to define, redefine and look at what we shall subject Namibia to and not necessarily to this.

Thirdly I want to know whether those exceptions or reservations would be accepted by the UN, because then I shall not have a serious problem to ratify this. Of course, again I only arrive at that position on the basis of those reservations and those questions. If they are answered to my satisfaction, I still reserve my right to vote on this at the end. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. I shall give the Floor to Honourable Kaura.

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**HON KAURA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, a few years ago I read a book known as *The Economic Hitman* and reading that book it revealed to me that this global village we live on is owned by a few countries while the rest of us are squatters.

Honourable Speaker, we talk of financing terrorism. Terrorism, based on our experience, is financed in Washington, London and Paris. That is where terrorism is financed and in particular against our own leaders,

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON KAURA**

against Kwame Nkrumah, Ben Bella, Obote and so on. That is where terrorism is financed against our own people and whether we ratify this, would Washington, London and Paris stop financing terrorism? Terrorism was financed in Korea, Vietnam and Iraq and it continues. Even today it is financed against Cuba. Miami is the place where terrorism against Cuba is being financed. Are we going to stop America from financing terrorists in Miami against Cuba? Are these big powers going to stop financing terrorism? They are the biggest financiers of international terrorism.

Even today as we are sitting here an unpopular leader is kept in power in Bahrain because there are American bases there and he is financed to carry out terrorism against his own people and it is financed in Washington.

When we talk about financing terrorism, Namibia does not have the resources to finance terrorism internationally, but it is financed in Washington, London and Paris and how are we going to stop that? It will continue unabated whether we sign it or not sign it. If we sign it, then we give them carte blanche to continue financing terrorism.

Under Article 3, which was read by the Honourable Minister, under the Convention on the Prevention of Combating of Terrorism, 1999, *“notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1, the struggle waged by people in accordance with the principles of international law for their liberation or self-determination, including armed struggle against colonialism, occupation, aggression and **domination by foreign forces....**”* The domination by foreign forces has not yet stopped, it continues unabated and it is financed in Washington, London and Paris.

We are ratifying this Convention so that the domination of foreign forces can continue. Honourable Speaker, I am at a loss to support this because I do not know what would it help to support something which is going to be used against you by the big powers and we are only squatters in this global village. Thank you very much.

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26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON HAUSIKU**

**HON SPEAKER:** Deputy Prime Minister.

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, we all agree with the sentiments expressed by my former neighbour, Honourable Kaura, but it is important to look back and consider the future and how strong we are to express the sentiment continuously.

In my vernacular there is a saying that when you get to catch frogs, you must be very careful because there is a huge snake that makes the same sound as the frog. I see my brothers and sisters here clapping hands for Honourable Kaura and I fully support Honourable Kaura.

Comrade Speaker, the reason why I have taken the Floor is to briefly say the following: One is that we are being requested to ratify two Conventions, namely the International Convention on Suppression of Funding of Terrorism, which is a United Nations Convention and, indeed, I know that we are a longstanding member of the United Nations and our Independence was won through the assistance of the international community through the United Nations. The second Convention is the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. We all agree that, indeed, Namibia and its leaders were labelled as terrorists during the liberation struggle and Comrade Nujoma has indicated that even now it is possible that we are still on the list of those big powers.

However, being members of this international institution also means having responsibilities in terms of adhering to its decisions, rules, including Conventions. Indeed, we have the option by law of entering reservations and I want to emphasise that.

The second issue which I want to draw the attention of Members of Parliament to is the duration of time from the signing of the Conventions and the request for ratification today. In my calculations it is eleven and thirteen years, respectively and, indeed, the question is why we took so long. The answer is that we know these are sensitive issues that we have

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON HAUSIKU**

to scrutinise thoroughly and consult. Those years were not deliberately allowed to pass, lot of consultations and scrutiny were done. Hence the indication from the Minister that at the time of deposing the instrument of ratification, there are certain reservations that are going to be entered.

We also went as far as indicating the overall exclusion by the African Union Commission of those organisation and Nations which are fighting for the liberation of their countries. There is a very clear indication that those ones are excluded and I think, would we not have been independent by now, we would have fallen under this category, we would have been excluded because we were fighting for our Independence.

Comrade Speaker, I think we have to welcome the exemptions and explanation by the Minister to make sure that yes, we are ratifying but indeed we are protecting the interest of our Nation and the interest of those who are not yet independent. In that case Namibia has been conducting a policy continuously on an annual basis to make a very strong statement on the issue of Western Sahara, Palestine and, indeed, also on the Cuban Embargo. That is why I strongly feel that we should welcome the exemption of those struggling for Independence.

Comrade Speaker, I was just talking to the Minister during the break and the Minister of Finance will confirm that this Convention has consequences for Member States that may not fulfil the requirements of signature and ratification. In our case the Minister has already indicated that we have already three times been rated and declared as a non-compliant State. You must know that when you are today dealing with banks here, including our national bank, they are linked to other international institutions which we cannot control. The suppression of financing terrorism is one of those institutions that all banking institutions have to watch out for. (Intervention)

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**HON KAURA:** May I ask the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, I just want to find out, if you are aware of the fact that Iran has invested in the Rössing Uranium Mine and as a sovereign State we are prevented from paying dividends to

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON HAUSIKU**

Iran for the investment they have made in Namibia. America is the one who is preventing a sovereign State from dealing with another sovereign State, to pay for what they have invested in their own countries because the American interest is more important than our own interest. Are you aware of that and is that fair?

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Kaura, I know it is not fair. You will remember 1981 when we went to Geneva and what discussions we had there. Of course, it was not fair, but we had to endure everything there just to arrive where we are today and you know exactly what you said in that meeting. That time we were convinced that America is using some of our nationals to say those things. You are right, Iran has invested in Rössing Uranium, but did they do that during our time? I think they did so even before the time we did not want any mine of that nature to be opened here. They did so simply because they were a friend of America and they were pulled in, and now that their leaders are saying no to protect their own interests, the same country is saying get out of there. I know we are negotiating and talking about these things, it is ongoing, but we have to get a way of not harming our own position. That is what international politics means and I think we are doing just that and we should know that there is a way of getting out of this fix.

Comrade Speaker, I was saying we should welcome the entering of exemptions, specifically at the time of depositing the Instrument of Ratification. The Minister of Safety and Security has indicated that we already have three ratings of non-compliance. The Minister of Finance got a letter quite some time ago where our national financial institutions were told that if they do not comply, their names will be on the blacklist and I do not understand that, I am afraid of being blacklisted. It will not be fair for us to be a member of the UN and a member of the AU and to have signed a Convention while continuing falling under that threat of being blacklisted.

Comrade Speaker, the Minister has indicated that we now, after eleven

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

years of signature, need to move on with ratification with the understanding that if there are issues that we want to be listed as reservations, we should do that and we do have that option. The Minister has already indicated what we ourselves want to enter as reservations and, of course, the AU too.

I want to conclude, Comrade Speaker, by just indicating that the Head of a Member State goes and signs and then you come back and write a letter and tell them we have enough laws. Things do not work like that. My brother, even if you become the President one day, I do not think you will do that.

Our call, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, is that the concerns expressed may be legitimate, but we should also acknowledge that the Ministry has taken enough time to consult and that they have proposed the normal way of protecting interests in this situation by entering reservations. Comrade Speaker, I thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Minister of Justice.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I have registered my desire to participate in this Debate long before the Deputy Prime Minister. Had I known that he was going to speak, I would probably not have registered. However, let me also at the start register my sincere condolence with the family, the community and the Traditional Authority over which the late Chief Alfons Maharero presided. We are with them in this dark hour of the loss of their father, their leader and Comrade.

Secondly, I would like to register my support for the ratification of the two Conventions. However, I must be quick to mention the fact that when we take the Floor to express ourselves on the matter, it is not on account of a

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

principle decision to object, but to express our views as we see world affairs today.

Comrade Speaker, what is prompting some of us to participate in the Debate is the fact that so far, unless somebody tells me otherwise, the UN had been unable to define what terrorism is, because they say a terrorist of my friend is a freedom fighter of mine and, therefore, it becomes very difficult to define what terrorism is. Therefore, many of us and many of our friends found themselves being characterised and accused of being terrorists. This term has been used by friends and foe alike to denigrate, insult and deny the rights of others to exercise their democratic rights.

When we fought for our Independence, the inalienable right of every Nation to fight for its rights, we were condemned and characterised as terrorists and, therefore, when we argue against some of the pronouncements by certain countries, it is on account of historical experiences we went through.

Honourable Nujoma mentioned the fact that the names of icons such as Nelson Mandela were probably until yesterday still appearing on the statute books of certain countries as terrorists and hence our discomfort with characterising everything as terrorism. If the international community could have the courage to define this term, then everybody will be put at ease.

I am, however, comforted by Article 3 of the OAU Convention on Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. At least this article attempts to exclude what others term as terrorism. This article reads as follows: *“Notwithstanding the provision of Article 1, the struggle waged by peoples in accordance with the principles of international law for their liberation or self-determination, including armed struggle against colonialism, occupation, aggression and domination by foreign forces, shall not be considered as terrorist acts.”* At least that gives comfort, but then that is only confined to this Convention. If the UN can be convinced to craft some of its Conventions in a similar manner, then that will give comfort to the other Nations with that experience.

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Comrade Speaker, Namibia is a member of good standing of the United Nations, we cannot be faulted at any stage for not cooperating or not wanting to cooperate with the United Nations and we pride ourselves to be children of international solidarity. We want to be seen as such because we have benefited from that approach and we would not want to be seen as being an obstacle to good governance, good international relations and good cooperation. We also do not want our financial institutions to find themselves isolated in international commercial affairs. That is not the intention.

However, the appeal here is that the international community should return to multilateralism. Unilateralism being used by powerful Nations is sending wrong messages, so that at time we may be throwing out the baby with the dirty water, just on account of the fear that we may create a monster, as we have done. We have ratified the Convention on the International Criminal Court and I know at that time I was the Attorney-General and I advised contrary to what was done, because that Convention was also treated in an urgent manner. Now we as a continent are being haunted by that Convention. Other Nations, powerful as they are, are not members and when I attended a meeting in Uganda on the review of this Convention, before member Nations could even get an opportunity to speak, observers were listing themselves to speak first and Africa objected and we were right to object, because if they are not members of this body, why in the world should they lecture us?

Therefore, let us also be careful, but not careful to the extent that we cannot ratify, we should ratify, but let us also engage in the process of unpacking some of these Conventions. They are loaded, they can have very serious implications on our Constitution, on our laws. We as SADC are being condemned for having recommended that the SADC Tribunal be reviewed, just because somebody has sneaked in a provision that makes our Supreme Court inferior to a Court our Parliament has not agreed to. Since we have the opportunity to review that, we decided to review it.

I know many of our Members did not have the opportunity to know what had actually transpired, but it is for a good cause for SADC Region, it is not as bad as many of us think it was. It was meant for a good cause,

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON MUHARUKUA**

because we cannot have our Supreme Courts subjected to any Court that we have not agreed upon. We do not have a Privy Council although we are members of the Commonwealth and I am just saying at the conclusion of my intervention, in addition to the support that I give to my Comrade that we ratify the Convention, that we should take serious interest in reading and unpacking some of these Conventions because they may land us in big trouble. I support the ratification. Thank you.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members. Before I say something on the document before us, I want to express my condolences to the Maharero-Tjamuaha family on the death of their Chief Alfons Tezee Maharero.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, as you are all aware that I am not educated, but having been a Member of this House for quite long I have learned a lot in this House. We know that women are the majority in the world, but we are the minority in decision-making. I remember that in 2008 when the President of the Republic went to open the tar road between Kamanjab and Omakange, he said that you can learn from your arms, when the left is doing something, the right must know what the left is doing. The Deputy Prime Minister said Namibia is a member of the international community and we know our Head of State attended those meetings and our Head of State inherited this document from the Founding President. Today all of us said we are going to read this while we have not done so for eleven years. You cannot say you are a member of the international community and you are going to ask for a subsidy for the people to eat and now you refuse to do that. I rose here to support the Convention and I want to know why all the time we have long discussions on issues already discussed by our Head of State. Are we against him?

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON NYAMU**

Namibia is today 22 years old, some of us are Members of Cabinet and this document did not come to Parliament without going through Cabinet. When we were in the Cabinet we approved and the Cabinet is chaired by the President of the country and now we are against the Chairperson of the Cabinet.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, as a woman I want to say on behalf of the woman that we as the majority cannot be the minority in decision-making. If the President has approved of something, I do not want the members of the SWAPO Party to be against that. I thank you.

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

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**HON NYAMU:** Honourable Speaker, first and foremost, I want to join those who have expressed sincere condolences to the family of Chief Alfons Maharero and the people of Otjinene, in particular, for the loss of this prominent citizen of our country.

I also took the Floor to briefly reflect my deep feelings regarding our role in this House with respect to ratification of international Treaties. We have had a culture of being prompt in ratifying these Treaties without proper scrutiny. I am not aware of a body in this country which scrutinises these Treaties, not even when I was in the Cabinet, so I am speaking of experience. When a Minister decides to bring these ratifications here, we comply. As many other speakers before me has stated, we later end up regretting it.

I am not raising this point to suggest that we do not go ahead and ratify this particular proposal, because it is not us, let us admit as a small country, underdeveloped and poor that we do not have authority, we do not make decisions on our own on everything we do here. Let us be sincere to ourselves, that somebody somewhere is pushing for the ratification of some of these Treaties.

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON NYAMU**

Honourable Kaura mentioned that we are just tolerated squatters in this global village. (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question? You talk about somebody somewhere, but when we are sitting here, we are sitting here to represent the people. That is a bad thing to say, because yesterday when the President answered questions, he said that you can mention things and it will be investigated properly. Tell us who is pushing this and then we can investigate properly.

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**HON NYAMU:** Thank you very much for your question. Let me just repeat what Honourable Kaura mentioned earlier, that there are owners of this global village who are the masters and they are the ones who are pushing. I do not have to mention by name, you know the owners of the globe we live on.

As a small country I want us to be sincere, honest and open to ourselves, that we ratify international Treaties not because we are totally convinced but because somebody is pushing us and we really have no escape, we have no way to defy the owners of the village, otherwise we are kicked out of the village. We all know the recent events in Africa, you can be kicked out of this village if you disobey the instructions.

Honourable Pendukeni Ithana gave a comprehensive analysis of what happens with respect to these international Treaties. Although he contradicted himself later, I think the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister also admitted that we are sometimes doing things because we are forced to. Namibia should be the first country, if we are able to do so, to reject such a Treaty, because we were the first to be characterised as terrorists on this African continent. The South Africans enacted a law in order to imprison our people, especially on Robben Island, it was called the Anti-Terrorism Act. We were the first victims on this continent of these laws

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON RIRUAKO**

and for us now to be seen spearheading and enthusiastically endorsing these proposals is a paradox, to say the least. However, as I said, I will go along with the Minister, not because I am persuaded, but I admit that as partners we have no alternative but to comply. Thank you.

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

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**HON RIRUAKO:** It is well and good that we agree to disagree. Honourable Nyamu said it is high time for us to unite to disunite. (Interjections). Yes, this topic is the first indication that we have to unite to disunite. Above all, now we go to the first step. The next step would be that what happened now has forced us to unite for all on behalf of the Nation and not on behalf of individuals.

Mr Speaker, it sounds well to walk out, it sounds well to be here and to hear what is the next step. We are surrounded by the fear of aura of power. Now we agree to disagree and that forces us to be one Nation. We do not want everyone to be an individual on his own, but the fact remains that we are forced by sixth sense that tells us where we are heading things - look that way. There is no other loophole to get out, the only way is to stand together and face whatever comes.

It is quite fair for us to say yes, we have to disagree. The United States Government refused to sign the international law at The Hague. I was there, they disagreed openly, but we do not have the power to disagree and this is why we have to agree to disagree.

It is a fact of life for everyone to face and it is high time that we know that we are weak and it is better for us to be united. I know we have our own problems here, we have to face it and settle it in a way, but in our own way and not in an alien way.

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON MBUMBA**

Mr Speaker, we have to open our eyes and minds and for the sake of our existence we have to do this. (Interjection). You keep on joking, but you lack the quality of discussions, I am sorry to say that. Now it is high time for us to say yes and to say until here, now look for another option for us to find our own way of living. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Does the Minister wish to reply?

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank all Honourable Members who have participated and also those who have decided to support in silence.

In the first place, I am not discouraged by some of the comments, I am actually encouraged because we have vigilant Members of Parliament who sincerely want to protect the interests of their country and there is no disagreement about that. I am not given the assignment to defend Conventions, my responsibility is to make sure that we live in a secure and safe country, which we all want.

*Honourable Shifeta* expressed concern about cohesion and other things, the question of sovereignty, the protection of ourselves, the interpretation of things. We have to distinguish that here we are talking about physical violent terrorists that come to your place and blow it up, that I send money to a particular organisation to do criminal things in another place.

*Honourable Kaura* mentioned the capitals of Paris, London, Washington and others and even Copenhagen. Would you be happy if they send money to Namibia for people to do things that are totally unacceptable and intended to dismantle the Republic? We are not elected to this Parliament to agree on dismantling the State or changing the borders of the country, as was said by the President so clearly and eloquently yesterday. So yes, we have some friends who are not liked by big powers and Cuba is one of them, but Cuba is not doing illegal things outside their borders. All the

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON MBUMBA**

things they have ever done, whether in Angola or with us or wherever, are in agreement with the authorities of those countries and, therefore, they should not fall under the issue of terrorism.

I learned one thing and I do not like boxing as much as Hage Geingob does, but I like one rule about boxing. Before two boxers start fighting, the referee only issues one instruction: Defend yourself at all times, do not be in the ring and when knocked down, say it was unfair. We truly live in an unfair world where people with power look at people like Maamberua and me and think these guys are small. Therefore, I always have to protect myself.

Coming to *Honourable Maamberua*, one thing is certain and that is that small countries cannot afford to be stupid, small countries cannot afford to be hiding somewhere in the bushes of Africa or the desert of Namibia and think that Conventions that are internationally approved will not affect them. Therefore, we are saying the best thing is to discuss in this Parliament a policy on how to deal with this issue. We have an Act against terrorism and the financing of terrorism, we have a banking system and if those countries we love to hate or hate to love see that our system of financing is used by other countries to finance terrorist activities, violent activities, then the Bank of Namibia is blacklisted and then all financial systems are stopped. What type of defence mechanism do we have against that?

Therefore, we are doing this not to please anybody, not to succumb to somebody. It is not on the instruction of anybody that we are coming here, we attend international organisations, they make rules and regulations, they agree to form Conventions and then we cannot say we are pushed by other people, we are part and parcel of that.

As I said, I want us to distinguish between the politics of blackmailing people by name and the true physical violence and the financing thereof.

People say we live in a global village, which is true, that there are big owners and small owners. We are characterising ourselves as squatters. One thing I am convinced of, one thing I am prepared to suffer for is to

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON MBUMBA**

say, whatever power they have in the world, we will not be squatters within the land of the Mahareros. We should not! They might do things to penalise us, but this is our village, this is our land and we should protect ourselves by being smart, not by being dumb and stupid. Therefore, we are doing this to protect our interests.

The *Deputy Prime Minister* has tried to explain and to help. We have these two Conventions, the African Convention is clear and have already helped us to protect ourselves. We are modelling our own law on that basis, but we will never give somebody who fought for Independence of this country to those international forums where they should be tried. What for?

I remember telling one of my Colleagues who work with me when Iraq was attacked and Honourable Nyamu is good on the history of Iraq, he was convinced that whoever invaded Iraq would be defeated, and I was telling this Comrade when Namibia has then only been independent for about ten years, that as young as we are, having tasted the Independence for only a few years, if a country ever comes to Namibia and wants to colonise and occupy us, I think they are going to get it. I am still convinced of that and what happened? Those who invade other countries will always pay the price in blood and in money, no matter how big they might be.

The unity of our country is worth fighting for, the big countries will do what they want. The definition of terrorism, as the Honourable Minister of Justice has said, is a difficult one, because it comes down to who is the naughtiest in the class. Comrade Nyamu, when we were in the same class, who was the naughtiest? I know Comrade Nyamu had another friend, Benjamin Shipanga, who was very naughty like him, but they were always together.

There are people in this country who think Angola is our closest neighbour, there are people who think Zambia is the very closest neighbour and there are people who are saying we cannot survive without South Africa, South Africa is our closest neighbour. This classification by word of mouth we understand, but if somebody comes here and starts

26 April 2012

**RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS  
HON MBUMBA**

waging a war against where they come from and somebody comes here, transfers the money through our system to go and commit crimes, we should have mechanisms to stop that.

*Honourable Muharukua*, you are a mother and protector, I have nothing else to say *okuhepa mamma uandje*.

*Comrade Nyamu*, you have your position on the role of Members of Parliament. I have no problem that we should scrutinise the Treaties and do our homework, but it should not be that we ratify and regret. I do not believe anyone can kick us out of our little village.

As for *Honourable Riruako*, today we have one obligation and one obligation only in the interest of our country, not to be blacklisted, not for our Embassies not to be able to get their money, not for foreign currency to be frozen, to agree and accept and ratify these two Conventions and wait to discuss the policy and the Namibian law against terrorism. I appeal that we ratify and I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I now put the Question, that the Motion be adopted. Any objection? Agreed to. Before I call for the consideration of the First Order, Chief Riruako wants to put something on record.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Dear Members, I have to say this before you: Chief Maharero was not as talkative like us, but he had a will of his own. In a way people enjoyed on their own way and if you asked him what happened, he said somewhere, somebody influenced him. I am here to mourn him, he is my nephew, I know, but what happened is not that I will be happy because some people did all the way misuse him. My God will help me to say this before you, that those who happened to do this to him, God knows, He is a giver and He is a merciful God and he knows what happened. I thank you.

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26 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISASTER RISK  
MANAGEMENT BILL  
HON HAUSIKU**

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

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**COMMITTEE STAGE:  
DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT BILL**

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**SECRETARY:** Committee Stage – *Disaster Risk Management Bill*.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister Move that the Assembly now goes into Committee?

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE**

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Whole House Committee has to consider the *Disaster Risk Management Bill*.

Clauses and the Title put and agreed to.

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I shall report the Bill without Amendment.

26 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISASTER RISK  
MANAGEMENT BILL  
HON HAUSIKU**

**ASSEMBLY RESUMED**

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Bill reported without Amendment.

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**THIRD READING:  
DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT BILL**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister Move that the Bill be now read a Third Time?

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. Any further discussion? None. Honourable Deputy Prime Minister.

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** Comrade Speaker, I wish to thank the Honourable Members for their support and for passing the Bill.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** The Secretary will read the Bill a Third Time.

26 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: PROPERTY VALUERS  
BILL  
HON !NARUSEB**

**SECRETARY:** *Disaster Risk Management Bill.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE:  
PROPERTY VALUERS PROFESSION BILL:**

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**SECRETARY:** *Committee Stage – Property Valuers Profession Bill.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Minister Move that the House goes into Committee?

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

---

**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE**

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26 April 2012

**THIRD READING: PROPERTY VALUERS  
BILL  
HON !NARUSEB**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Committee has to consider the *Property Valuers Profession Bill*.

Clauses and the Title put and agreed to.

I shall report the Bill without Amendment.

---

**ASSEMBLY RESUMED**

---

Bill reported without Amendment.

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**THIRD READING:  
PROPERTY VALUERS PROFESSION BILL:**

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

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. Any further discussion? None. Honourable Minister.

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26 April 2012 **COMMITTEE STAGE: CORRECTIONAL SERVICE  
BILL  
HON MBUMBA**

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Honourable Speaker, I just want to thank the Honourable Members for the support that they have rendered for the passing of this Bill. Thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** I now put the Question, that the Bill be now read a Third Time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill a Third Time.

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

---

**HON SPEAKER:** The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

---

**COMMITTEE STAGE:  
CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL**

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**SECRETARY:** *Committee Stage – Correctional Service Bill.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** Does the Minister Move that the House now goes into Committee?

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

26 April 2012

**THIRD READING: CORRECTIONAL SERVICE  
BILL  
HON MBUMBA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

---

**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE**

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Committee has to consider the *Correctional Service Bill*.

Clauses, Schedules and the Title put and agreed to.

I shall report the Bill without Amendment.

---

**ASSEMBLY RESUMED**

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**CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Bill reported without Amendment.

---

**THIRD READING:  
CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL**

---

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

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

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26 April 2012

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

**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Who seconds? Any further discussion? None. Honourable Minister.

---

**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Honourable Speaker, I wish to thank the Honourable Members of the National Assembly for having worked so hard to pass this lengthy Bill.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I now put the Question that the Bill be now read a Third time. Any objection? Agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill a Third Time.

---

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Secretary will read the Fourth Order of the Day.

---

**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE:  
APPROPRIATION BILL**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Committee Stage -*Appropriation Bill.*

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

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

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26 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 21  
HON NAMBAHU**

**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

---

**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE**

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill*. When progress was reported yesterday, Votes 01 to 20 and 23 to 30 had been agreed to and Votes 21, 22 and 31 had been introduced.

**Vote 21 – “PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES” put for Discussion.**

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I want to register my support for this very important Bill and just make one or two suggestions.

I know the Colleagues at Correctional Services are doing a good job, but some psychologists have made suggestions and I would want the Minister to make a Ministerial Statement on those findings on the correctional programme. There was a lot of data collected that could be useful to us to combat crime. There have been many studies, but we do not seem to use them in our strategies to combat crime. This is all I wanted to suggest.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Does the Honourable Minister wish to reply?

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26 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 21  
HON UTONI**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I just want to thank *Honourable Nambahu* for the suggestion that we should come up with more information to inform the House. We will come back and give more information related to this. Thank you.

---

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

**Vote 22 – “FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES”** put and agreed to.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** **Vote 31 – “VETERANS AFFAIRS”** put for **Discussion.**

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to support the Vote of the Nation. I want to thank the former Minister, Comrade Tjiriange and the current Minister for a job well done.

Comrade Minister, I am from a Region where the war was waged. We lost some Colleagues and up to now we do not know where they are. In that Region four Himbas were taken by the Casspirs of the then South African Army. The victims of the liberation struggle are still there and nobody visits them. Even in Opuwo itself nobody visited those people. One day Opuwo was attacked and the civilian population went to the mountains to my uncle's cattle post and he gave them meat and then they came to Opuwo in Katutura to a place we call Okahama. After they got that meat from my uncle, they went to Okahama where yours truly (Mrs Muharukua) started the first SWAPO branch in Kaoko. The people in

26 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 31  
HON NAMBAHU**

Okahama on that day welcomed their brothers and since that day they have been suffering. I recently went back to go and visit my brothers in arm, I found that their heads are white, they told me they are old now, the beatings and torture has taken its toll.

Comrades, I nominated somebody on your behalf whom I said is going to register those people and I said they must bring their names and when they do, I will bring a copy to you, Honourable Minister, to help you to do things smoothly. I support the Vote wholeheartedly.

---

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

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, I wholeheartedly support this Vote and I have only one or two suggestions to make to the Minister regarding projects for the veterans.

Comrade Minister, our people have this mentality that when one person bought a white Iveco minibus in the North and it was prosperous, then everybody looked at that Iveco making money and thought that that is the only business there is. At the end of the day that exercise may not be as viable as it was initially. We might end up with all the veterans in villages buying tractors and the viability of that venture might be jeopardised. I know it is a new Ministry, but maybe some skills could be built in there to properly advise, so that our people are advised that they do not venture into projects that are already saturated and, therefore, the exercise would not be viable. I want to suggest that proper advice is given so that the projects are not over-saturated and our own people we intended to help end up being disadvantaged by the venture they are entering. Otherwise I wholeheartedly support the Vote.

26 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 31  
HON TJIHUIKO**

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

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have two comments and let me start by thanking the Ministry for having done a marvellous job in supporting our brothers who were at the battlefield while we were at school, enjoying the comfort of the European capitals. I think they need to be supported not only financially, but also morally and psychologically.

I believe that being mature people, having taken that huge responsibility of fighting physically to liberate this country, we should also respect their personal views on whatever they are doing. I was a bit disturbed by an article that I read in the newspaper where a picture was painted about the improper way they were using the allowance. All of us can do good things and bad things. I do not think it is right that a picture is being painted of grownup people not doing the right thing. Therefore, as much as we need our privacy and respect, let us also give them their privacy and respect so that they do things the way they want to do it.

Secondly, Honourable Deputy Chairperson, during the struggle there were not only two groups, those who were inside and those who were outside the country, there were also people who were in countries, like Botswana, who have contributed immensely by supporting our people going through Botswana. Minister, I would like to see a special programme being developed to support in one way or another the people now residing in Gam. These people are part of our liberation struggle, they were supporting us when we were going through the process, they have assisted our leaders to get out of the country and, therefore, I think it would be good for us to be seen to be doing something for them as well, having a special tailored programme to support them. With that comment I support the Vote.

26 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 31  
HON DR N IYAMBO**

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

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Thank you very much, Honourable Members, for your interest in Vote 31 and all the Honourable Members who supported this Vote in silence.

*Honourable Muharukua*, I think what you referred to in your first question is probably monuments to be put up for people who have sacrificed at certain places, if I got you correctly. You said people got lost somewhere there. Indeed, we need information on where incidents may have taken place during the war for the Ministry to see what to do at those places, including the graves of our fallen heroes.

I think in your second question you were referring to the possibility of registering some Comrades in Kunene and that you wish to submit the names to us. Yes, indeed, bring their names and we would then look into their particular situations.

*Honourable Nambahu*, thank you very much for the advice on the projects that the Comrades want to undertake. Normally projects are selected by the veterans themselves, but it is true that we give advice and we will continue to do so.

*Honourable Tjihuiko*, thank you very much for your first comment. In every situation you have people behaving differently and it is true that perhaps when you confront people too openly, it could make one unhappy. That we understand and thank you very much for the advice.

Regarding your second question about our people in Gam, those who might have played a role in assisting people to leave the country, it is quite in order. A veteran is not restricted only to Namibians and in this case these are Namibians. The veteran's role has been played by various

26 April 2012

**COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL**

people not necessarily in Namibia or in the neighbouring countries like Angola. If people can demonstrate that this is what they have done and this can be documented, which is not easy, it will be investigated very thoroughly to see if they meet the test. Otherwise, thank you very much for what you have said and I am sure you will convey the information. I thank the Colleagues for their support.

---

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Any objection? Agreed to. The Committee further has to consider the Bill.

Clauses, Schedule and Title put and agreed to.

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**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I shall report the Bill without Amendment.

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMED**

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Bill reported without Amendment.

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**THIRD READING: APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

26 April 2012

**THIRD READING: APPROPRIATION BILL**  
**HON SCHLETTWEIN**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. Any discussion?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:** On behalf of the Minister of Finance I want to thank all the Members for participating in the Committee Stage of the *Appropriation Bill* and as usual it was a very fruitful and exciting Debate and I thank everyone for supporting the *Appropriation Bill* for 2012/2013. Thank you very much.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Secretary will read the Bill a Third Time.

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**SECRETARY:** *Appropriation Bill.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** In terms of our Parliamentary Calendar for this year, the House will break for the month of May. The work of Cabinet will continue unabated, the activities of the Standing Committees will continue unabated. This is an opportunity for us to engage with our electorate, the people who have sent us here, so that when we reconvene, we would not be guessing what is in the hearts and on the minds of the people, but what we say and do would be quoting their minds and hearts. The House will reconvene on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 and any business which will lapse will be re-introduced. We are not adjourning the House as we do at the end of the working calendar, this is a recess. I shall now give the Floor to the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House.

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26 April 2012

**ADJOURNMENT  
RT HON ANGULA**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Honourable Speaker, I want to congratulate, commend and thank the Honourable Members on both sides of the House for working so hard that we need a break now. I Move that the House adjourns until the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2012.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 13:18 UNTIL 2012.06.05 AT 14:30**