

**LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

SPEAKER

Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr)

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

Prof Loide Kasingo (Ms)

THE CABINET

MINISTERS

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

Dr G H Geingob (Mr)	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Mr M Hausiku	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister)</i>
Mr N Angula	<i>(Defence)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Presidential Affairs & Attorney- General)</i>
Ms S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila	<i>(Finance)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Dr D Namwandi (Mr)	<i>(Education)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Labour & Social Welfare)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Information & Communication Technology)</i>
Mr U Herunga	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Veterans Affairs)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Lands & Resettlement)</i>

Dr R Kamwi (Mr)	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms R Nghidinwa	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr I Katali	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr C Schlettwein	<i>(Trade and Industry)</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>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Defence)</i>
Mr E Uutoni	<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>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Ms J Kavetuna	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport & Culture)</i>
Mr W Isaacks	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr S Simataa	<i>(Information and Communication Technology)</i>
Dr E Kaiyamo (Mr)	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr K Nguvauva	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Ms P Beukes	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Vacant	<i>(Finance)</i>
Ms S Makgone	<i>(Education)</i>

SECRETARY

Mr. J Jacobs

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

DEPUTY MINISTERS IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Mr K Nguauva *(Works and Transport)*
Mr T Diergaar *(Lands and Resettlement)*
Ms H Nicanor *(Veterans)*

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

ALL PEOPLE'S PARTY (APP)

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

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

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

DTA OF NAMIBIA

Mr K Kaura *(Party Leader)*
Mr P Moongo *(Chief Whip)*

NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA (NUDO)

Mr K Riruako *(Party Leader)*
Mr A Tjihuike *(Chief Whip)*

RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (RDP)

Mr S Bezuidenhout
Mr Hidipo Hamutenya *(Party Leader)*
Ms A Limbo
Mr H Lucks
Mr P Naholo
Mr K Nehova
Mr J Nyamu *(Chief Whip)*
Mr A Von Wietersheim

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Ms C //Gowases *(Chief Whip)*

SWANU

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

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

Ms S Kuugongelwa– Amadhila *(Minister)*
Mr B Amathila
Dr M Amweelo (Mr) *(Deputy Chief Whip)*
Mr N Angula *(Minister)*
Dr H Geingob (Mr) *(Prime Minister)*
Dr S C Ankama (Mr) *(Deputy Minister)*
Ms P Beukes *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr E Dingara
Mr J Ekandjo *(Minister)*
Mr B Esau *(Minister)*
Dr T-B Gurirab (Mr) *(Speaker)*
Ms P Haingura *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr M Hausiku *(Deputy Prime Minister)*
Mr U Herunga *(Minister)*
Mr P Iilonga *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr W Isaacks *(Deputy Minister)*
Ms P Iivula-Ithana *(Minister)*
Dr N Iyambo (Mr) *(Minister)*
Mr J Kaapanda *(Minister)*
Dr E Kaiyamo (Mr) *(Deputy Minister)*
Dr R Kamwi (Mr) *(Minister)*
Mr P Kapia
Prof L Kasingo (Ms) *(Deputy Speaker)*
Mr I Katali *(Minister)*
Ms J Kavetuna *(Deputy Minister)*
Dr A Kawana (Mr) *(Minister)*
Mr K Kazenambo
Ms L Lucas *(Deputy Minister)*
Ms S Makgone *(Deputy Minister)*
Ms A Manombe-Ncube *(Assistant Whip)*

Mr N Mbumba	
Ms A Muharukua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr A Muheua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms T Mushelenga	
Mr B Mwaningange	
Mr T Nambahu	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr D Namwandi (Mr)	<i>(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 P Van der Walt	
Ms L Witbooi	

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)

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

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

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

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
12 FEBRUARY 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Today, the 12th of February 2013, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, will officially open the Seventh Session of the Fifth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia.

Honourable Members, I now suspend the Business of the House and ask leave to go and invite His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia to the Chamber, accompanied by the Honourable Speaker. In the meantime please remain standing until His Excellency the President's procession enters the Chambers.

WELCOMING ADDRESS

HON SPEAKER: Excellency Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, First Lady Madam Penexupifo Pohamba, His Excellency Dr Sam Nujoma, Founding President and Father of the Nation, Right Honourable Dr Hage G Geingob, Prime Minister, Honourable Asser Kapere, Chairman of the National Council, Honourable Petrus Damaseb, Judge President, and The Bench in full, Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Invited Guests, Fellow Namibians, Media Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Chairman and I warmly welcome all the distinguished guests to Parliament and its precincts. We thank you all for your presence and wish

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**WELCOMING ADDRESS
HON DR T-B GURIRAB**

everybody a Happy New Year 2013. In this we are joined by our respective spouses, Mrs Rev Maria Kapere and Mrs Joan Cecilia Guriras.

Dr Abraham Iyambo was a beloved and esteemed Member of Parliament. He was a Member of Cabinet and a SWAPO leader. With that I defer to the President of the Republic to say more.

The Joint Sitting of Parliament is mandatory. It is an established tradition now 23 years into Namibia's democratic order. Rule 15(d) of the Standing Rules and Orders of Parliament calls for the presence of the Head of State, Members of Parliament and the Judiciary to assemble together on the occasion of the official opening of Parliament at the beginning of each year. Today, 12 February 2013, provides for this solemn occasion for the President of the Republic formally to open the Joint Session of Parliament.

The Constitution states, "*All power shall vest in the people of Namibia who shall exercise their sovereignty through the democratic institutions of State*", the principal ones are the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. The three together constitute the Joint Session.

This year's opening theme is, "**Connecting Parliament with Public: Ensuring Accountability and Public Disclosure.**" With that as a guide commences the Seventh Session of the Fifth Parliament. The Children's Parliament and the youth generally will be included, as appropriate, in the purposes of this theme throughout the year.

All that having been said, I am joined by my Colleague, Honourable Asser Kapere, Chairman of the National Council, as I now respectfully invite His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, kindly to address this Joint Session of Parliament. Excellency!

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**OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

OPENING ADDRESS

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA: Your Excellency, Comrade Sam Nujoma, Founding President and Father of the Nation, Right Honourable Dr Hage Geingob, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, Honourable Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly and Madam Guriras, Honourable Asser Kapere, Chairperson of the National Council and Madam Reverend Kapere, Your Honour Petrus Damaseb, Judge President, Honourable Members of Parliament, Madam First Lady and my dear wife, Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Distinguished Invited Guests, Members of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We are gathered in this Chamber to witness the official opening of the Seventh Session of the Fifth Parliament of our Republic...

Before I continue with my statement, I kindly request you all to rise and to observe a minute of silence in remembrance of Dr Abraham Iyambo, our late Minister of Education and Member of this House, who passed on last week.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, it is indeed a great pleasure and honour for me to be in the Chamber of the National Assembly to officially open the Seventh Session of the Fifth Parliament. Our Parliament is the citadel of Namibian democracy. Its contribution to the process of democratisation has, in a profound manner, shaped the political aspirations of the Namibian people.

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**OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

After 22 years of Independence, there is no doubt that democracy has become a hallmark of the Namibian society. We cherish the privilege that we have to live in the new democratic dispensation. The wheels of democracy that we set in motion at Independence continue to turn. They have become the force that drives our existence as a Nation. It is, therefore, our collective duty to continue consolidating the democratic organs and institutions in our country and to make them more accessible and meaningful to our people.

In this light, the deepening of our parliamentary multi-party democracy to date speaks volumes about not only the political will, but also about the moral conviction and determination of the Namibian people to live in a society that is characterised by the principles of order, peace and justice.

We should be proud that the consolidation of democracy in post-colonial Namibia has been a success. In the relatively short period of 22 years we have managed to put in place a system of governance that has proven to be stable, workable and sustainable. Parliamentary Debates have not only continued unimpeded over the past 22 years, but have also assumed a pleasing degree of maturity.

Since Independence, our Parliament has passed a large body of legislation, which forms an important basis for the development of our country. The role of our Parliament in this context is indeed crucial. I can state with pride that we have succeeded to build a Constitutional State with organs that ensure the separation of powers, namely, the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary.

Despite these achievements, democracy is an on-going process as our Nation strives to fulfil the vision of the founders of our Republic. That vision was to build a truly democratic society, which is based on equality of all citizens before the law and the enjoyment of fundamental human rights and freedoms as enshrined in the Namibian Constitution.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, I have no doubt that all of us are deeply concerned about the future of our country. Collectively and individually we have an obligation to address the many challenges facing

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**OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA**

our Nation. The magnitude of poverty and unemployment, low living standards, lack of access to food, housing, potable water, quality education and health care are daily reminders to us all of an unfinished agenda in achieving economic and social justice for all our people.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, our country has been independent for the last 22 years. It is, therefore, time to deliver and meet our people's expectations in an efficient and effective manner. Good governance and democracy demands that we articulate and represent the needs and aspirations of our people. Thus, our Parliament should forge closer cooperation with our people, especially at grass roots level.

It is our duty, as their representatives to remain proactive in dealing with present and emerging challenges that face our Nation. Our Parliament should not only serve to deepen democracy, but it should also monitor developments and hold to account the Executive in implementing the mandate entrusted to them by the electorate.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Parliament should ensure people's participation in democratic governance by facilitating the full articulation of their aspirations, values and choices in the development process. The well-being of the people should be at the centre of all development efforts. In this way we can ensure that the empowerment of our people becomes a reality. Let us, therefore, combine our efforts and deliver better services to our citizens. Let us build a fairer, secure and more prosperous Namibia.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, the theme of the Seventh Session of the Fifth Parliament is: “**Connecting Parliament with the Public: Ensuring Accountability and Public Disclosure.**” This reflects our commitment as a Nation to strengthen our democratic institutions and to entrench transparency in our country. This is vital for the promotion of democracy and good governance.

Similarly, it is vital that our Parliament should not stand in isolation from the voters whom it represents. Rather, it should forge closer ties with the voters so that they can make inputs into the law-making process.

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**OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

I am informed that during this year several new pieces of legislation will be tabled before Parliament, including:

1. *Agricultural Enhancement Agents Bill;*
2. *Audit Bill;*
3. *Child Care and Protection Bill;*
4. *Communal Land Reform Amendment Bill;*
5. *Gaming and Entertainment Control Bill;*
6. *Marriage Bill;*
7. *Public Procurement Bill; and*
8. *Urban and Regional Planning Bill.*

I believe that in the process of debating and refining these laws, our lawmakers should interact with communities on a regular basis to seek their views and their opinions about the challenges that confront them. This will help to enrich the law-making process and make our law more relevant to the people for whom they are enacted.

It is also equally important to ensure intra-parliamentary cooperation. In this regard, Parliamentary Committees must work harder to ensure close cooperation between the two Houses of Parliament.

I would like to specifically mention the work of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, which has the task of reinforcing accountability on Accounting Officers in the execution of their accounting responsibilities. Other Parliamentary Standing Committees, especially those with the responsibilities of addressing the pressing needs of poverty alleviation, promotion of economic development and stimulation of job creation, must also work harder to find effective solutions to these problems that are facing our people.

I must hasten to add that while passing laws is necessary, it is not sufficient in itself. Our Parliament must pass laws that are to improve service delivery and bring about a positive and lasting impact on the lives of our people. If we fail to provide basic necessities to our people, our inaction will be tantamount to abdication of the sacred duty bestowed upon us by the electorate.

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**VOTE OF THANKS
HON KAPERRE**

Democracy would be meaningless if our people were to remain poor and without enough food to eat. The right to vote would be meaningless if the elected leaders do not deliver on their promises of a better life and provision of public services to the people. All old laws which impede development and progress must be repealed and done away with. They have no place in an independent and democratic Namibia.

As we work together and strive to deliver better services to the Namibian people, I take this opportunity to wish all our lawmakers a productive Seventh Session of the Fifth Parliament.

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

HON SPEAKER: I thank His Excellency for his important and inspiring address and as the work of both Houses of Parliament shall soon commence in earnest, we shall bear in mind all that you have said, Excellency, as instructions to us.

Before I give the Floor to my Colleague, the Chairperson of the National Council, to do his usual, I want to inform the Members of both Houses to take note that there will be a workshop on Thursday and Friday, 14 and 15 February, respectively, in this very Chamber. Chairman of the National Council.

VOTE OF THANKS

CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL: His Excellency Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia and First Lady, Madam Penxupifo Pohamba, Honourable Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly and Madam Guriras, His Excellency, Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma, Founding President, Father of the Namibian

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HON KAPERRE**

Nation and Leader of the Namibian Revolution, Right Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hage Geingob, Right Honourable Marco Hausiku, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic, Your Lordship, Petrus Damaseb, Judge President and Members of the Judiciary, Honourable Members of Parliament, Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Distinguished Service Chiefs, my lifelong partner and Comrade, Reverend Maria Kapere, Distinguished Guests, Members of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my singular honour and privilege to express on behalf of the Speaker of the National Assembly, myself and, indeed on behalf of the Parliamentarians and the people of Namibia our sincere gratitude to His Excellency Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia for gracing this delightful and celebrative occasions of the opening of the Seventh Session of the Fifth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia, albeit at a time when our hearts and minds are saddened by the empty seat of our departed Colleague, the late Honourable Comrade Dr Abraham Iyambo.

Your Excellency, the opening of Parliament has become an annual ritual that signifies the renewal of Members of Parliament's commitment to the process of law-making and a promise to serve with vigour and determination the electorate they represent in this august House so as to realise their hopes and aspirations.

After having listened to your message, Your Excellency, I am confident that Parliament is very much ready to work and serve in tandem with the Executive and the Judiciary to ensure that this august House makes laws that address the social and economic challenges facing our Nation. We, therefore, thank you, Your Excellency, for having touched on the importance of the relationship between the Legislature and the Executive, with particular emphasis on the exercise of the oversight function in an engaging manner. I agree that this, indeed, is the only way that Parliament and the Executive could respond in unison to the needs of the Namibian people for the sake of effective implementation of Government programmes and policies through improved service delivery.

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**VOTE OF THANKS
HON KAPERRE**

Furthermore, Your Excellency, Parliament has noted with gratitude your well-founded call for Parliament to further extend its consultations to the Namibian Nation at large, including the most remote areas of our beautiful Republic. We once more embrace your consistent calls for Parliament to enact laws that has direct meaning to our people. It is true that laws emanating from our Parliament should be responsive to the challenges of unemployment, rural development, social welfare, housing provision and other real bread and butter issues.

Indeed, it is with conviction and pride that I assure you, Your Excellency Comrade President, that both the National Assembly and the National Council share and support your vision of growth, development and prosperity of our people, especially the poor and marginalised. Therefore, we are appreciative of your insightful and encouraging message which, no doubt, will guide us in our future deliberations.

At this point in time, Your Excellency, I would like to extend on behalf of everybody here our congratulations on your unopposed re-election as the President of the SWAPO Party. This noble achievement is a clear demonstration of the confidence and trust vested by the people of Namibia in your inspiring and encouraging leadership style. Congratulations, Your Excellency!

Again we salute you immensely, Your Excellency Comrade President, for sharing this day with us because your presence here does always symbolise the confidence and trust that you continue to have in the legislative arm of our State.

Furthermore, I am equally delighted and honoured to acknowledge the presence in our midst of His Excellency Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma, Founding President, Father of the Namibian Nation and leader of the Namibian Revolution. Your Excellency, you remain our Nation's beacon of hope, unity and peace. Thank you, once more, Father of the Namibian Nation for your presence amidst us today.

I am also grateful to the members of the Judiciary, under the leadership of Judge President, who faithfully celebrate this day every year. Your

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**VOTE OF THANKS
HON KAPERÉ**

presence signifies the excellent harmonious and mutual relationship that exists between the three branches of the State.

In the same vein, I wish to express gratitude to the Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Service Chiefs, Permanent Secretaries and other senior Government officials, special guests, members of the media for gracing this annual event with your presence and your constant support over the years.

Last but not least, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the members of our protocol and security services, cultural groups, learners and our parliamentary staff who worked diligently to make this occasion successful.

Finally, Honourable Speaker, I would like to request all invited guests with invitation cards to join the Honourable Speaker and I to a reception with His Excellency the President in the Parliament garden as soon as the President and his entourage leave the Chamber. May God bless you!

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Chairman of the National Council for his eloquent Vote of Thanks to one and all. With that the House stands adjourned.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:06 UNTIL 2013.02.19 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
19 FEBRUARY 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

HON SPEAKER: I kindly invite the House to observe a minute of silence in prayer, meditation or celebration of quality of life of Namibia's departed shining prince, Dr Abraham Iyambo, Minister of Education.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

HON SPEAKER: Having done that, I invite ideas on how we may devote a period set aside to celebrate and remember Dr Abraham Iyambo in this Chamber as we start our work. The Right Honourable Prime Minister, Dr Hage G Geingob, whom I congratulate and welcome back to his original seat in this august Chamber, may suggest ways how we may do that.

WELCOMING ADDRESS

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I welcome you all back to the Business of the House with best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year, 2013. Last week's official opening of the Joint Session of

19 February 2013

**WELCOMING ADDRESS
HON DR GURIRAB**

Parliament launched the theme of the Seventh Session of the Fifth Parliament: ***“Connecting Parliament with the Public: Ensuring Accountability and Public Disclosure.”*** The President unfolded it with these words, among others: *“This reflects our commitment as a Nation to strengthen our democratic institutions and to entrench democracy and good governance.”* It demands commitment and implementation as our collective duty. Better Parliaments make better democracies.

Parliament is where our conscience ought to be always. I link this article to Article 45 of the Constitution which speaks of the representative nature of the National Assembly. It demands: *“The Members of the National Assembly shall be representative of all the people and shall in the performance of their duties be guided by the objectives of this Constitution, by the public interest and by their conscience.”* That is my point.

The duties of outreach, such as taking the Parliament to the people, accountability, as just stressed, and transparency in what we as Member of Parliament think, do or omit are the issues that should be alive on our minds. Disclosure must rise above *“nothing to declare mantra.”* As the golden saying goes, *“what may be hidden under the crevice of darkness will be revealed in the sunshine of the daylight.”* The starting point for all Parliamentarians is here where we are sworn in. The rule should thus apply uniformly to us all. Disclosure is mandatory, so we remind ourselves as elected representatives of the people.

Children’s Parliament is where we expose the future leaders to such ideals, values and injunctions from their early introduction to public policy and social virtues. I will pose questions for this Honourable House to reflect on as we now get down to the dealing with multiple questions and challenges of serving the people. Land is one and the other is quorum. They are at present sacrosanct because they are in the Constitution. By reasoning around and above them have now reached the front burner and boiling is intense. I will elaborate on what I mean, but for now, Honourable Members, I thank you.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Any Petitions? Reports of Standing Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

1. Village Council of Kamanjab for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2011;
2. Village Council of Berseba for the Financial Year ended 30 June, 2011;
3. Village Council of Leonardville for the Financial Year ended 30 June, 2011;
4. Town Council of Rehoboth for the Financial Year ended 30 June, 2011.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Von Wietersheim.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

QUESTION 1:

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 28th of February 2013, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services the following:

1. Does the Honourable Minister recall my Motion titled, “*Providing for Namibian Care-providers*” of which I gave Notice on the first day of the Sixth Session, starting in September last year, well in time for Budget considerations with regard to the over twenty thousand Caregivers providing Voluntary Health Care and support all over Namibia?
2. Although the Honourable Minister delayed his comments on that Motion on Namibian Caregivers to the very last day of the Sixth Session, in fact to the last minute so that eventually time did not permit him to respond properly, I would like to know which immediate steps the Honourable Minister felt compelled to undertake in the light of the information provided by my Motion.
3. In particular the Motion called for the implementation as a matter of urgency of the National Policy on Community-Based Health Care of 2008 in order to be operational countrywide not later than end of March 2013. Can the Honourable Minister report on progress so far or does he feel that the policy dating from 2008 has still not matured enough to be implemented?
4. The Motion called for negotiations with experienced and proven organisations in the field of Community and Home-Based Care programmes to continue managing and supervising the delivery of CHPC programmes as well as being responsible for monitoring and reporting. Can the Honourable Minister inform the Assembly about the progress in this matter?
5. The Motion called for the retention of the services of those dedicated and proven Voluntary Care-Providers under all circumstances and to afford them the recognition due, for their selfless service. Has the

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

Honourable Minister taken this request which originates from the caregivers and their organisations themselves seriously and can he report progress on this issue to the Assembly?

6. Lastly, the Motion called for urgent identification of budgetary requirements for the implementation of all the above and for timely submission of the Ministry's request for respective Budget Allocations in order to be fully operational from the end of March 2013. In the light of the timely tabling of the Motion with regard to the Budget Cycle and the critical importance of the nationwide service of Namibian Caregivers, can the Honourable Minister report on satisfactory progress on this matter?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Question?
Honourable Moongo.

QUESTION 2:

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, and welcome back to the people's House. I give Notice that on Thursday, 28th February 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry:

It is a natural fact that global warming has caused floods and continues causing drought in many parts of Namibia.

1. Can the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry agree or deny that the communities of Omatjete Constituency in the Erongo Region have serious concerns on how their livestock will survive through the dry season?
2. It is high time that I propose to the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry to allocate all the resettlement farms in the Erongo Region and extend it to other resettlement farms in other Regions

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

countrywide to be used for grazing purposes this year.

3. I would also like to find out from the Honourable Minister as to how many Regions and Constituencies are currently affected and devastated by the heavy drought in the country in terms of livestock grazing and human consumption?
4. I would also like to find out what practical plan does the Minister have in place to cater for and prevent extreme hunger and poverty in Namibia this year.

QUESTION 3:

HON MOONGO: I further give Notice that on Thursday, 28 February 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Works and Transport the following:

It is a fact that it was a very good idea that the government provided some tractors to veterans in order to plough the communal land for the poor disadvantaged communities.

1. Can the Minister of Works and Transport agree or deny that Namibia does not have mechanical experts for the different types of tractors provided by the Ministry of Veterans Affairs?
2. If yes, when is the Ministry going to start training local mechanics so that they are also able to repair these foreign types of tractors as part of the Black Empowerment Programme?
3. Is it not high time that the Ministry of Works and Transport can request the programme of Black Empowerment from the Ministry concerned so that they can provide loans to the existing local garages in order to expand their garages in order to accommodate enough new spare parts for those many Government tractors?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SHIXWAMENI**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Honourable Shixwameni.

QUESTION 4:

HON SHIXWAMENI: Honourable Speaker, before I put my Question, I would like to extend my congratulations to the new Prime Minister for his appointment by the President. I give Notice that on 28 February 2013, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister:

1. How much was spent on consultancy fees at the various Ministries, Agencies and Offices over the past three years?
2. Of the whole total amount, how much was spent on foreign consultants and how much on local consultants?
3. How many political and other advisors and consultants do we currently have in Government?
4. How qualitative and productive are the political advisors to the Ministers and Governors and is Government satisfied with their service and advice?

Furthermore, with the rain falling in drops and drips during the current rainy season and farmers feeling the worst of drought, has Government sent out teams to assess the situation around the country as relating to a possible drought situation in the country? If so, does Government have a plan on the table to deal ably and efficiently with a possible drought throughout the country?

QUESTION 5:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I give Notice that on Thursday, 28 February 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Information and Communication

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SHIXWAMENI**

Technology:

1. Given the patchy reach of cellular phone networks around the country and in particular in the rural areas, what is Government and in particular MTC's plan to roll out the cellular network to cover the whole of Namibia?
2. When will all language radio services be receivable in all parts of Namibia?
3. Are there problems why the cellular services and the various language radio services cannot be expanded to cover the whole area map of Namibia?
4. If there are, can the Minister state what the problems are and what monetary value they need to be resolved?

QUESTION 6:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I give Notice that on Thursday, 28 February 2013, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources:

The implementation of TIPEEG projects and accompanying allegation, therefore:

1. How many fishing companies are registered with the Ministry of Trade and Industry as either private limited companies or Close Corporations and for VAT purposes with the Ministry of Finance?
2. Why and how does the Minister give fishing rights and concessions to non-registered fishing companies, as has been reported in various newspapers?
3. How many companies have not paid their fees and levies or are in

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SHIXWAMENI**

arrears of paying their levies to the State and what plans does Government have to get the fees paid or have their licences or quotas rescinded or them even blacklisted?

4. How many of the companies given fishing rights and quotas have sold their rights or quotas to foreign companies?
5. How many are handling their total allowable catch or processing on land in Namibia and how many are just catching and taking the fish abroad?
6. How many workers are currently employed in the Fishing Industry and how many have been retrenched over the past two (2) years?
7. Is there a minimum wage in the Fishing Industry and if not, why not?

QUESTION 7:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I give Notice that on Thursday, 28 February 2013, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture:

1. Given the high level of school dropouts at both Grade 10 and 12 levels who are joining the ever-growing unemployed and sitting idle in villages, street corners and at shebeens; apart from the few privileged ones of about a thousand out of twenty thousand who get enrolled in the National Youth Service annually, what plans do Government have for our youth to get economically empowered and uplifted for them to become productive citizens and real future leaders of our country?
2. Can the Minister detail those plans and how government intends to work in the next two years to fulfil this plan?
3. Does the Ministry have a database on the Grade 10 and 12 pupils who are currently unemployed?

19 February 2013

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Maamberua.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MAAMBERUA: I give Notice that tomorrow, Wednesday, the 20th of February 2013, I shall Move that:

On the basis of several Reports and my own visits around the country, witness is hereby given of a looming drought in Namibia and the Head of State, Comrade President Pohamba, has also raised his concerns about it:

In the light of above, I Move that this Assembly:

Debates and discusses the possible ramifications of the looming drought in most parts of Namibia;

Requests affected Ministries to brief the House about anticipated impacts on their respective Sectors and the mitigating steps being taken. For example; possible impacts on educational performance, on health and disease effects, on trade, economic and budgetary effects, agronomic effects, etcetera.

Resolves to request the Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration to monitor the situation on its behalf and to update the House regularly until the situation has improved. I so Move.

HON MAAMBERUA: I give Notice that tomorrow, Wednesday, the 20th of February, I shall Move that:

On the basis of the constitutional oversight mandate of this House and also on account of information of Monday, the 18th of February this year, a

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON NAHOLO**

local daily reported that Government has run out of cash. It was also reported that the Contingency Fund would not meet the required amounts. Also that some Ministries now have to use money allocated for capital projects to honour the 8 percent salary increase for the Public Servants.

Therefore, that this Assembly:

Debates and discusses this very important matter of our national accountability.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you are a former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, why would you be subjecting the House to rumours?

HON MAAMBERUA: No, this is the paper quoting the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance. I am not saying it is rumours, the paper is quoting the Permanent Secretary of Finance. I am careful when I bring these things to the House. The Ministry can deny it through the same channels, no problem.

Resolves to request the Honourable Minister of Finance to present every year a mid-year Budget Performance Status Report so that we are in a position to follow.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motions? Honourable Naholo.

HON NAHOLO: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 21st of February 2013, I shall Move –

19 February 2013

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

That this Assembly –

Debates the need to do a roll call of the number of all professionally qualified Namibians.

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

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Speaker, I hereby give Notice that on Thursday, the 21st of February, I shall Move -

Whereas the Board and Management of the National Airline, Air Namibia, are utterly incapable for the last ten years or longer to at least reach a break-even situation in its business operations;

And whereas the responsible Line Ministers and Cabinet Colleagues in the Executive seem to be just as incapable of reaching decisive consensus on how to effectively address this increasingly embarrassing and resource-draining development and before more of our scarce resources are redirected into the bottomless pit called Air Namibia away from our commitment towards pensioners and other social grant recipients, from education and training, from health and social services and so many other urgent necessities in our poverty stricken country;

And whereas the reputation of our National Airline, Air Namibia, is now rapidly developing from a token of national pride to one of national disgrace, if not disaster;

I, therefore, Move:

That this Assembly –

Discusses the situation of Air Namibia, its Board and its Management in

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON SHIXWAMENI**

depth and formulates recommendations to the Executive on the future handling of this intolerable national failure.

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Motion. Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Honourable Speaker, I would just like to preface my statement by thanking the Government for introducing free Basic Education. I think we all embrace one another for congratulating the implementation of this constitutional right that has been denied to our children for 23 years. However, it is said, better late than never. For that the Government must be congratulated.

I give Notice that on Thursday, the 21st of February 2013, I shall Move:

Since free education has been a constitutional right for the past 23 years but only implemented this year, yet still limited to primary education only, that this Assembly:

Debates the need for the extension of free education to secondary school level, that is Grade 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, and inclusive of a first diploma or degree level at tertiary level;

Debates the need for our Government to send more students to study at university and other institutions abroad; and

Resolves to recommend to the Executive to implement the directives that are adopted by this House.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Minister of Finance.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 26th of February 2013, I shall Move –

That leave be given to introduce a Bill to appropriate amounts of money to meet the financial requirements of the State during the Financial Year ending 31 March 2014. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? I will exercise my authority and at this stage ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to say one or two things and I will let the Chief Whip reply.

**TRIBUTE TO RT HON DR GEINGEOB
BY HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am happy to be back here, but before I can say anything, let me first thank all those who preceded me, starting with the first Prime Minister Geingob, second Prime Minister Theo-Ben Gurirab and the third Prime Minister, Nahas Angula, for paving the way and laying the groundwork on which I am now stepping in today. I will try to follow their footsteps and do my best and take it over from where they have left.

Secondly, I think democracy in Namibia is growing and taking roots, starting from the Party level, especially my own Party, that after people have been talking for a long time that there is no inner-party democracy, I think SWAPO Party has proven beyond any doubt that we have internal party democracy in SWAPO. We had congress which was hotly contested and there were three candidates, especially in the post I was contesting in, very dynamic people, but I said way before elections, talking first about Pendukeni, that she is a lady who grew up in front of me, my student, but in democracy this is allowed that a student can challenge a teacher.

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**TRIBUTE TO RT HON DR GEINGOB
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Then I said about Comrade Jerry Ekandjo, that I did not grow up with him, but I said he is truly a SWAPO cadre and I said when people are going to elect, they will elect a leader who will unite the Party and the people of the country after having been elected. I was talking about no person must feel left out in this country, no Region, no race, no tribe and, obviously, after victory, which was a sweet one, I held hands there in the hall. Jerry, not only did we hold hands, when we were celebrating outside the hall, he came and joined us. As I was saying, he is truly a Party cadre.

With this and your welcoming remarks, I would like to thank the Colleagues who elected me and the President made it very clear, if either Comrade Jerry or Comrade Pendukeni had won, one of them could have been the one where I am standing today. He said this promotion of mine is consequential, it is actually a sequel to the Congress. So, whoever would have been elected the Vice-President of SWAPO, since he or she is going to be the candidate to challenge those fellows there, would be appointed Prime Minister so that he will be in line of successor as number two in the Party and number two in the Government. That is why I am back to this old seat of mine. I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Chief Whip, on behalf of all of us.

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. Permit me to extend my warmest congratulations to the Right Honourable Dr Hage Geingob for having assumed the Office of the Prime Minister, especially after having gone through, as he confirmed, a hotly contested leadership race. I also take this opportunity to wish him well.

Honourable Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that the elevation to the Office of the Prime Minister speaks volumes in terms of the trust and confidence that the Right Honourable Dr Hage Geingob enjoys in the eyes of Namibians, the SWAPO Party and especially the appointing authority,

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**TRIBUTE TO RT HON DR GEINGOB
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba.

Honourable Speaker, this again does not come as a surprise to many of us in this House. To me personally this is an acknowledgement that is aimed appropriately and deservedly. Honourable Dr Hage Geingob, your long and dedicated service to this country is well-known to many of us in this House and beyond.

The famous American Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, was highly praised over his memoirs entitled, "*Present at the Creation*". In that renowned book, Acheson described his role in Government and diplomacy after the Second World War period. Our Colleague, our own Dr Hage Geingob, was not only present at the birth of the Republic of Namibia but has, indeed, been a key player in the creation of the Namibian Nation and its subsequent development. In other words, you were not just present at the creation, but played a crucial role at the time throughout to this day. We believe that you will continue to dedicate your life ensuring that Namibia has even a brighter future.

As we congratulate you, Comrade Geingob, upon ascend to this important office, we also take the opportunity to greatly thank Honourable Nahas Angula, the former Prime Minister, for a job well done, for his service to the Nation and to wish him well in his new assignment as our country's Minister of Defence.

I also take the opportunity to wish success to all our Comrades who have been reassigned the various Offices in Ministries and Institutions.

On a special note, I equally extend my warmest congratulations to our newly appointed SWAPO Party Secretary-General, the Honourable Nangolo Mbumba.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me also extend my best wishes to you all as we start this new Session of our Parliament. I thank you.

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**TRIBUTE TO RT HON DR GEINGOB
HON TJIHUIKO**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Chief Whip. Well spoken for all. Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, allow me two minutes just to congratulate the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Since the Right Honourable Prime Minister has two positions, one being the Prime Minister and the other the Vice-President of SWAPO Party, I wish to congratulate him on the one of the Right Honourable Prime Minister. I wish him good luck in the position and I hope that the Prime Minister Question Time will come back. On the second one, I hope he is not going to make history by being the first SWAPO President to be the first Leader of the Opposition after the next election. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: On that very creative note, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:39 UNTIL 2013.02.20 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
20 FEBRUARY 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: The Business of the House for today is called to Order. The list goes as follows: We shall have swearing-in tomorrow and those details will be made known to us.

Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

- (i) The Veterinary Council for the Financial Year ended 31 March, 2011 and
- (ii) The Performance Audit Report on the Administration of Government Student Loans of the Ministry of Education, the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund, for the Financial Years ended 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Other Reports and Papers?

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON KAAPANDA**

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT:
TELECOM NAMIBIA LTD**

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, Annual Report of Telecom Namibia Ltd., for 2010 and 2011.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Report? Notice of Questions? Honourable Moongo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 8:

HON MOONGO: I give Notice that on Thursday, 28 February 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Safety and Security:

1. Is the Minister aware that there are big problems with the Minister's drivers, very persistent, unfair and exploitation of the highest order of the drivers who are employed and are being underpaid? What is the good reason that such drivers who are driving Ministers are not paid other benefits like other employees, as provided for in terms of the Labour Act (Act 11 of 2007)? Such drivers are entitled to be paid overtime and double pay on Sundays and public holidays. Other benefits like night shifts and adequate overtime should also be paid as per the relevant provision of the aforesaid Act.
2. I want to know whether or not the Minister will adjust the salaries and

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

benefits during the current Financial Year and if not, can the Minister explain?

QUESTION 9:

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Speaker, I hereby give Notice that on Thursday, 28 February, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology the following:

1. I wish to know from the Honourable Minister, the rationale behind the continued subsidisation of another bottomless pit called NAMZIM papers, which owns and publishes the weekly regional newspaper, Southern Times, which is regarded as a non-entity in our print media set-up and, therefore, does not attract meaningful and profitable advertisements and sponsorships.
2. In the light of the above, can the Honourable Minister explain how he will enforce an improvement of the situation after Government subsidisation has, according to the last published audit, accumulated N\$32 million while the company also owes New Era Publications more than N\$14 million and Zimbabwe Newspapers another N\$3 million?
3. Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that NAMZIM is registered under the Companies Act and is technically bankrupt? What is the Honourable Minister going to do about that?
4. In addition, is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that NAMZIM during the year last audited deducted Pay-As-You-Earn taxes amounting to more than N\$1.1 million from its employees, which it did not pay over to the Receiver of Revenue? What is the Honourable Minister going to do about that and, for that matter, I am wondering what the Honourable Minister of Finance is going to do about that.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SHIXWAMENI**

5. To add insult to injury, Honourable Minister, the Board of Directors of NAMZIM is now proposing substantial increases of 30% to 38% in their annual fees and sitting allowances, which is not only contrary to the principle of remuneration for performance, but is far above the directives of the State-Owned Enterprises Council. Will the Honourable Minister accept and defend this?

6. Can the Honourable Minister inform this Assembly in detail what the Board of Directors, under the chairmanship of Mr Ben Mulengeni, are actually doing in terms of meetings per year, travelling, etcetera, to justify their proposed increases from N\$98,000 to N\$136,000 per year for the Chairperson, from N\$96,000 to N\$132,000 per year for the Deputy Chair and from N\$92,000 to N\$120,000 per year for each of the other co-Directors, which increases the total remuneration for the Board of Directors from N\$562,000 to N\$738,000 per year, basically from half a million to three-quarter of a million, while the company is being directed deeper into bankruptcy with every passing year and our taxpayers' money is thrown after it for good measure?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Question? Any further Notice of Questions? Honourable Shixwameni.

QUESTION 10:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I give Notice that on Thursday, 28 February 2013, I shall ask the Honourable Deputy Minister of Education the following question:

1. Is the Ministry aware of the fact that thousands and thousands of children in the rural areas are still walking up to sometimes five to seven kilometres in one-way direction every day to attend primary school?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON SHIXWAMENI**

2. What plan, if any, does Government have to address the situation urgently, in order to ensure that there is at least a school in each village?
3. How many, for lack of a better word, stick-and-thatch schools are there around the country and in which Regions are they?
4. How many pupils, 23 years after Independence are still being taught under trees and in which Regions is this phenomenon still in existence?
5. Is there a plan by the Ministry and Central Government in general to do away with this phenomenon of teaching children under trees?

QUESTION 11:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I give Notice that on Thursday, 28 February 2013, I shall ask the Deputy Minister of Education:

1. How many private schools are there in the country and are they all registered with the Ministry?
2. Do they all get subsidy from Government? If not, how many of them receive a subsidy and can we have the names of those private schools which receive subsidies from Government?
3. What amount does each subsidised school receive from the Public coffers and what else in terms of services does the Government give these private schools?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Questions? Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? I will myself

20 February 2013

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON !NARUSEB**

be introducing an unopposed Motion tomorrow on the subject of alarming sexual relations. Ministerial Statements? Honourable !Naruseb.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I rise this afternoon with a deep sense of appreciation and privilege to introduce the Draft Proclamation by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia to incorporate defined portions of unalienated State land as part of existing communal areas to this august House for consideration, support and unanimous endorsement.

Honourable Speaker, the purpose of the proposed proclamation is simply the addition of four settlement farms in Karas, Hardap and Erongo Regions to communal areas.

The National Land Conference of 1991 noted that communal areas sustain the greater majority of Namibian farmers, especially poor subsistence farmers. The Conference, therefore, concluded that communal areas should be retained, developed and expanded where necessary. This was due to the fact that the majority of the Namibian people lived in overcrowded communal areas which are not even developed in terms of water infrastructure.

In line with the 1991 Land Conference resolution, the President of the Republic of Namibia is now considering the expansion of three communal areas in three Regions, namely, Otjimbingwe communal area in the Erongo Region, Vaalgras communal area in Karas Region and Hoachanas communal area in the Hardap Region where farms bordering these areas are currently acquired under the Agriculture (Commercial) Land Reform Act (Act 6 of 1995). The four farms are as follows:

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON !NARUSEB**

- a) Portions 1, 2 and remaining extent of Farm Haichas No. 190 measuring 12,870 hectares in the Karas Region for the Vaalgras Traditional Authority;
- b) Farm Klein Swartmodder No. 135, measuring 7,426 hectares in the Hardap Region for the /Hei !Khauan Traditional Authority;
- c) Farm Uitdraai No. 35, measuring 5,945 hectares in the Erongo Region for Tsaoaxudaman Traditional Authority; and
- d) Farm Kamandibmund No. 83, measuring 4,649 hectares in the Erongo Region for Tsaoaxudaman Traditional Authority.

Assessments carried out by the Ministry in the three communal areas revealed that there are more livestock in those areas exceeding their carrying capacities. This overstocking is causing overgrazing in these areas, especially around water points.

The proclamation and addition of the four resettlement farms onto communal areas will enable responsible traditional authorities to allocate the farms to the farmers from their communal areas, thus relieve grazing pressure from overcrowded communal areas.

Section 16(1) of the Communal Land Reform Act (Act 5 of 2002) states that: *“The President, with the approval of the National Assembly, may by proclamation in the Gazette declare any defined portion of unalienated State land to be a communal area.”* Cabinet Decision No. 18/16.10.12/004 took note and supported the proclamation and addition of the four resettlement farms to the communal areas. Given the fact that Cabinet already endorsed the planned move, the President of the Republic of Namibia, with his letter of the 19th of February 2013, directed me to approach this august House in terms of the Communal Land Reform Act for your endorsement and approval.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Attorney-General was consulted and advised that as soon as the farms bordering communal areas are acquired, it becomes the property of the State and subsequently can be

20 February 2013 **QUESTIONS ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**
HON TJIHUIKO

incorporated into the already existing communal areas as prescribed in Section 51 of the Communal Land Reform Act (Act 5 of 2002).

The three Traditional Authorities of Vaalgras, Kai//Khaun and the Tsaoaxudaman were also consulted and endorsed the proposal for adding the acquired farms to their communal areas. Once proclaimed, the farms shall accommodate more people under the Communal Land Reform Act as compared to individual farming units under the Resettlement Programme. The Programme will in the near future be extended to other areas such as Okombahe and Omatjete communal areas in the Erongo Region and Ovitoto in the Otjozondjupa Region.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I therefore, at this juncture wish to request the unwavering support of the Honourable Members in this House for approval of the proclamation and addition of four resettlement farms in Karas, Hardap and Erongo Regions to communal areas and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for his statement. Any questions? Honourable Tjihuike, do not belabour the point, but just ask specific questions.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I have listened carefully to the Minister's Statement, I have heard what he has said, but I have not seen the document from which he was reading. Can I adjourn this Debate until tomorrow to enable us to obtain the document so that we can take an informed decision?

HON SPEAKER: It is not a Motion, it is a Ministerial Statement.

20 February 2013

**QUESTIONS ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON RIRUAKO**

HON TJIHUIKO: How do we adopt a Ministerial Statement?

HON SPEAKER: I can ask the Minister to make a copy of the speech available. You can use the procedures that exist in the House by way of questions, by way of any other Motion, take on the Minister on what he said. Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: My question has been answered, the Minister said he will give us a copy and then after that we can ask questions, if we have to.

HON SPEAKER: With that we proceed with the business scheduled for today. The Secretary will read the First Order.

**COMMITTEE STAGE - RECONSIDERATION:
NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION BILL [B. 5 – 2012]**

SECRETARY: Committee Stage: Reconsideration – *National Planning Commission Bill* [B. 5 – 2012].

HON SPEAKER: Does the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney-General, Move that the Assembly now reconsiders the Bill?

20 February 2013 **COMMITTEE STAGE: NATIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Any objections? It is moved that the Assembly now goes into Committee and the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
The Committee has to reconsider the *National Planning Commission Bill* [B. 5 – 2012].

Clause 4 put.

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Since this Bill was here last year, tabled as Bill No. 5, it went to the National Council and the National Council proposed what is before the Honourable Members. I took it up with the Director-General of the National Planning Commission who is satisfied with the Amendments of the National Council and hence, those Amendments have to be considered by this Honourable House.

Honourable Chairperson, in the Bill, substitute Clause 4 for the following Clause:

“Objectives:

20 February 2013 **COMMITTEE STAGE: NATIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

The objectives of the Commission are to:

- (a) Spearhead the identification of Namibia's Socio-Economic Development priorities;*
- (b) Formulate short-term, medium-term and long-term National Development Plans in consultation with Regional Councils;*
- (c) Develop, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure effective implementation of the National Development Plans;*
- (d) Evaluate the effectiveness of Government Socio-Economic Priorities;*
- (e) Coordinate the development of Government Socio-Economic Policies to ensure consistency; and*
- (f) Mobilise, manage and coordinate International Development Cooperation.”*

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 12 put.

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY
GENERAL:** Honourable Chairperson, in Clause 12 –

Substitute Sub-Clause (3) for the following:

“(3) Without prejudice to the generality of Sub-Section (2), the Director-General must –

- (a) Table the short-term, medium-term and long-term Development Plans for Cabinet's approval;*
- (b) Appraise Cabinet at regular intervals, which intervals must not be*

20 February 2013 **COMMITTEE STAGE: NATIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

more than six months, on the progress being made with regard to the implementation of the National Development Plans and where necessary to suggest corrective measures to ensure full implementation of National Development Plans;

- (c) Appraise annually but not later than six months before the end of each Financial Year, the Ministry of Finance on the status of the economy and the possible macro-economic interventions as input in the preparation of the Budget;*
- (d) Make recommendations in connection with proposed Capital and Development Projects and Programmes and related and consequential expenditure to the Minister of Finance for purposes of the preparation of the Annual Budget and in consultation with the Minister of Finance supervise the application of moneys appropriated for such Capital and Development Projects and Programmes and related and consequential expenditure;*
- (e) Brief the Prime Minister for Parliamentary Debates on economic planning and national development issues laid before the National Assembly and National Council;*
- (f) Liaise with the private sector, organised labour and civil society organisations with the view to promote partnerships in the pursuance of the Commission's objectives;*
- (g) Supervise over and direct the work and staff of the Commission; and*
- (h) Request any relevant information from any Office, Ministry and Agency of the Government which is necessary to fulfil the mandate of the Commission."*

I so Move, Honourable Chairperson.

Amendment put.

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COMMISSION BILL
HON NYAMU / HON P MUSHELENGA**

HON NYAMU: On Page 2, Paragraph (e), I propose that the National Assembly and National Council at the end of the sentence be replaced by “*Parliament*”, period.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Chairperson, this basically means the same thing, because those Reports will be laid on the Table of the National Assembly as well as on the Table of the National Council. The two Chambers constitute the Parliament, so it is virtually the same thing. I did not want to tamper with the formulation proposed by the Colleagues and I am satisfied that they are within the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Honourable Mushelenga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, from the legal viewpoint the current reading is quite appropriate, because some of these Debates may be taking place in only either of the Houses, National Assembly or National Council. If one uses the word “*Parliament*”, it means they can only brief the Prime Minister on the Debates that have taken place in both Houses. Therefore, I will suggest that we leave it as it reads currently, because by saying Debates in the National Assembly and the National Council does not necessarily mean that any Debate will take place in both Houses, it can be in either House. If we use the word “*Parliament*”, then it means we will be forced to have this Debate in both Houses and failure to do that, the Commission cannot brief the Prime Minister.

I, therefore, appeal to my senior fellow legislator to allow the current legal reading to remain as it is. I thank you.

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COMMISSION BILL
HON RIRUAKO**

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

I recognise Honourable Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Chairperson, we have a way of handling matters differently from other countries in our country and what is the difference between National Assembly and Parliament? It is an irony, it is the same House. What are you really trying to say? Correct yourself and come back to us and tell us what you want.

Honourable Chairperson, it is impossible for us to borrow our way of living to other countries which have *coup d'etat* after *coup d'etat*. Nobody is really relaxed and think what is actually the right one. Why punish our minds that way? It is unfair. Parliament is the House for talking, we are supposed to talk until we relieve our tension and become strong-minded. We have been hanging onto ways of living of other countries with *coup d'etat* after *coup d'etat* after how many years.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Are you discussing the Amendment?

HON RIRUAKO: I am talking about what I am talking, you can hear me.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I hear you speaking about *coup d'etat*.

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HON DINGARA**

HON RIRUAKO: We are supposed to leave the Parliament alone and get away with National Council. Am I wrong or what are you trying to say?

Honourable Chairperson, we are here to tell the truth and to correct ourselves where we are wrong, but you do not have to challenge us on that and the fact is that those who want both Houses to remain and those who do not want it, they can decide where they want to belong. I know it is expensive to keep it in order to allow the people to relax, get rid of their tension, lead yourself out of misery. That is the way of life. However, I am not here to condone what other people are doing, I can correct my wrongdoing and what is wrong here, but do not compare to Nigeria or something else. This is the way you are supposed to live, Kazenambo, and your Colleague this side too. I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Any further discussion? Honourable Dingara.

HON DINGARA: Comrade Chairperson, I want to support the Amendment because it is emanating from the heading and those who have again proposed an Amendment to this, did not read carefully. It says, *“without prejudice to the generality of Sub-section (2), the Director-General must brief the Prime Minister for Parliamentary Debates on Economic Planning and National Development issues laid down for National Assembly and the National Council.”*

Since I came here, we have not come together to debate in one House. It is still the same, they debate, and we debate. Therefore, the Prime Minister will be briefed by the Director-General so that these two Houses

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COMMISSION BILL
HON DR KAWANA**

can debate economic issues. I think that is the only way, although it may mean the same, because the word Parliament is already inserted in the same sentence and for the sake of the two Houses to debate separately. That is why it is National Assembly and National Council. You cannot say it is Parliament. The way it appears here is very much correct and that is the only proper way that it should appear.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I think we understand it to be like that.

Amendment Agreed to.

Clause 15.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Chairperson, substitute Clause 15 for the following Clause:

“Annual Report:

- (1) The Director-General must as soon as practicable after the end of each Financial Year but not later than 30 June of each year, compile a Report on the Commission’s activities during the preceding year for approval by the Commission and such Report must contain a Report on Regional Activities for that Financial Year;*
- (2) The Prime Minister must cause a copy of the approved Annual Report to be laid on the Table of the National Assembly and the National Council.”*

Amendment put and Agreed to.

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HON MAAMBERUA

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I shall report the Bill with Amendments.

ASSEMBLY RESUMED

Bill reported with Amendments.

HON SPEAKER: Having considered the Amendments, the Assembly has now finally passed the Bill and, therefore, concluded the business on this item. I shall in terms of Article 75(3) refer this Bill to the President to deal with it under Articles 56 and 64 of our Constitution. The First Notice of Motion is the one of Honourable Maamberua. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion? Who seconds? Any Objection? Agreed to.

**MOTION ON MID-YEAR BUDGET
PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me in the first place to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance for her good efforts in steering and ensuring that the Budget is tabled in February for the second consecutive year, this will allow the *Appropriation Bill* to be passed, hopefully before the beginning of the next Fiscal Year.

Honourable Speaker, in terms of Article 45 of our Constitution; “*The Members of the National Assembly shall be representative of all the people and shall in the performance of their duties be guided by the*

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HON MAAMBERUA

objectives of this Constitution, by the public interest and by their conscience.”

Honourable Speaker, on the basis of public interest and being guided by my conscience, I introduced this Motion and, therefore, this Motion seeks to enhance and promote transparency and accountability in our budgeting process and outcomes. Adequate and comprehensive information-sharing is, therefore, paramount in this process.

Compared with many other young democracies in the world, Namibia has done tremendously well in the sphere of compiling comprehensive information and this includes: the Budget Framework, Economic Framework, Accountability Report, Budget Statement, Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, Development Programmes Estimates and Expenditure. However, for Namibia to attain a level higher than where it stands now and, indeed, to improve on its accountability and transparency status, some more work needs to be done. I have the following in mind here:

- (a) The establishment of a Standing Committee on the Budget;
- (b) Tabling of Economic Framework in the House for discussion before the tabling of the Budget as it is the practice with many other advanced jurisdictions, particularly in our region, South Africa is an example;
- (c) Presenting a Mid-Year Budget Performance Review, which is actually the reason – *detré* of my submission. This Mid-Term Review has several advantages and it is in line with Article 126 of our Namibian Constitution.

What is envisaged in a Mid-Year Review of the Budget is a discussion about the changes in the economic outlook since the Budget was enacted. This also includes an extensive discussion of the economy that includes a revised focus of estimates for the full Fiscal Year and its effects on the Budget. Thus, in order to ensure that programmes are being implemented effectively and to identify any emerging problems, it is necessary to conduct a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Budget's

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HON RIRUAKO

Execution, six months into each Budget year.

In addition to covering expenditure and revenues, the Mid-Year Review should also examine year-to-date performance relative to targets set in the Budget and such issues as cost increases due to inflation or unexpected events, should also be identified and appropriate measures proposed.

The Mid-Year Review is intended to promote accountability and sound management. Ultimately the objective of all of us being here in our oversight responsibilities, representative as well as legislative capacities is to ensure that public interest is upheld. In the final analysis, Honourable Speaker, it will only assist the system if adequate monitoring mechanisms are put in place so that we do not hear performance of the Budget through the media, but through structures and other means established by ourselves.

Therefore, my Motion is proposing that we introduce a Mid-Year Budget Performance Review, starting this coming Fiscal Year. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am, therefore, appealing and calling and counting on all of you, Honourable Members, to support this Motion. I so Move and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member. Any further discussion? Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Maamberua, I have heard you. Now you have grown up to the point where you can say your steps were not correct and I thank you for that, because now you know the pros and cons and how we are supposed to go. What is good is good, but you are the man responsible for finance and now we have to toe the line, as you put it.

Honourable Speaker, we cannot say things without correcting and obeying the law attached to it. This is the day we are supposed to know our

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HON MOONGO

footsteps, how to handle the Annual Budget. From now on you are supposed to report to us after six months, how far you have progressed and what is missing. You keep quiet, we hear it in the public and why not in the House or in the Committee?

Honourable Speaker, we are supposed to listen to you and follow what has happened. Some of your managers are exemplary, but to maintain law and order in the activities attached to it, you must be a watchdog. Do not call on other persons, you are responsible for that. Now you are open to tell us where you are wrong, where you did not do your job properly, now you are going to do it in public. Honourable Speaker, I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, it is my understanding that the law says we are the representatives of the people of Namibia, but when it comes to information from the Government, they prefer the media to be the representatives of the Namibian people instead of the Parliament. That is not the correct procedure and we have to call on the Government in order to give information timeously to the Members of Parliament who are the only authentic representatives of the people.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: May I ask the Vice-President of the DTA a question? Honourable Moongo, are you also contesting the presidency of DTA?

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HON NGHIMTINA

HON MOONGO: That is not the topic on the Table and you can come and ask that question to me in my office so that I can explain to you.

I really feel it is unfair to give first-hand information to the media and not to the true representatives of the people of Namibia. That is not the correct procedure and, therefore, I feel it is high time that we call upon the Government to stick to correct procedures and to be transparent. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister of Works and Transport.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I think the idea could probably work, but not in the process where we are, and these Budget Cycles we have. We are going to table the Budget next Tuesday and it is going to be approved in June, July of this year and the Mid-Term for us is September. What are we going to report? Unless we change the whole system and on the 1st of April we already start with the implementation of the Capital Projects and everything, we cannot report on anything. We are now only going to report on salaries and not on the development of the country itself and the Capital Projects. This is the issue we have to look at. Are we now going to report and say a Capital Project is going to start next year or next month while all the tenders have not been completed? Only if we change the Budget Cycle in our country, your proposal will be valid, whereby on the 1st of April we start with the implementation of the Budget and during September we can report. What can we report on, presently? Are salaries now Capital Projects?

At one stage I mentioned here in Parliament that we are in a predicament with our Budget and we have to think about how to implement everything. If the Budget is approved in July, one only has August, September, October and November. December and January are holiday months. February is the only month everybody is back, while in March we are

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HON NAMBAHU

winding up the old Budget. How can we deal with all these issues? Propose to change the Budget Cycle of the country, then automatically what you are saying can be accepted. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade Speaker, I wanted to make a few comments on the motivation of this Motion by saying that, I equally, as Honourable Nghimtina, have a problem with the excessive reporting.

The Mover of the Motion has been a Public Servant and he knows the workings of the Public Service. Reporting for the sake of reporting is actually a problem and obviously, when you do not have anything to report on, experience has shown that it is problematic just to have people dedicated to writing Reports.

The other proposal he made is a Committee on the Budget at Parliamentary level. I would hasten to ask how many Members Honourable Maamberua is able to contribute from his Party to this Committee. Even if your Party's membership is hundred percent, you will still not be able to meet the quorum of that Committee that you are proposing. We already have a number of Committees and you are not even proposing the abolishment of one, but rather to expand the Committees. I have already seen that one-member Parties in the Parliament have problems with membership in the Committees.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question, please? The Parliamentary Standing Committees are not Party-based Committees. You can have three

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HON NAMBAHU

Committees where you are not a Member and it does not affect the work of the Committee. Do you not think that the proposal by the Honourable President of SWANU is trying to improve the system and not to have Members in the Committee? Do you not see it in that way?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I did not really get your point, but what I am trying to understand is; are you proposing it for SWAPO members again to have Committees where you are not present?

HON MAAMBERUA: Yes.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: That is good then. The Honourable Member has already answered himself and I will not bother to go very much into that.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Order. SWAPO comes into the Committees sometimes without a quorum and this is what happened. On the Committee, you do not belong to a certain Party. We come there without a quorum and we go because some of the SWAPO members are still campaigning. This is what happened.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I do not know what happened after I left, but Honourable Chief, when we were together on a

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

Committee, we did not have many of those problems. I do not know what is the situation after I have left that side. However, the point is that sometimes we make proposals and someone accused me one day here that I still talk like a technocrat, not a politician. When you talk about something, it is only proper to also know the procedure and how it is going to work in practice.

It is also only fair that when we talk about budgetary issues, to also look at the resources that we have in place and how we are going to implement that which we are proposing should be done. If we already have problems with the quorums in the existing Committees, we should probably talk about merging some Committees rather than expanding the number and then experience problems with making them function properly. I would rather want a person who wants to improve the system to question and when you allocate the resources, try to see what mechanisms are in place to actually implement those proposals that you are making cost-effectively. In the absence of that I would not see much substance in the Motion being brought forward, because reporting for the sake of it will only lead to too many people being subjected to report-writing without actually saying a lot, without meaning anything. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I wanted to postpone the discussion of this item to Thursday, next week, on account of the fact that Tuesday, I will present the Budget to this House and I would want to, during that time, be preoccupied with finalising the Budget and then make my contribution.

HON SPEAKER: I am sure there is no objection to that. I thank everybody for productive contributions and ask the Right Honourable

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Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I Move that this House now adjourn until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:50 UNTIL 2013.02.21 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
21 FEBRUARY 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

**NOMINATION OF MEMBER
TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, the SWAPO Party, in terms of Article 48(2) of the Constitution, nominated Ms Teopolina Mushelenga to fill the vacancy in the National Assembly resulting from the passing away of the late Minister of Education, Honourable Dr Abraham Iyambo. I have the pleasure to welcome our Chief Justice, His Lordship Peter Shivute, to this august House and I now call on him to administer the Oath or Affirmation to Ms Teopolina Mushelenga.

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE administers the Oath to Ms Teopolina Mushelenga.

HON SPEAKER: I now declare Ms Teopolina Mushelenga as a duly elected Member of the National Assembly and I congratulate and welcome her back to the National Assembly. On your behalf, dear Colleagues, I thank the Chief Justice, His Lordship Peter Shivute, for once again obliging to come and carry out this duty for us. We thank you, Chief Justice, and I now ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the Chief Justice out of the Chamber.

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TABLING OF REPORTS
HON MAAMBERUA / HON MANOMBE-NCUBE

HON SPEAKER: I acknowledge in the public gallery the presence of 25 Senior Management Development Programme participants from the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM). These are senior management cadre from various Government institutions. You are welcome, this is your Chamber, one day some of you would be sitting where they are sitting. I will still be here welcoming you.

Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Maamberua.

**TABLING: REPORT ON THIRD WAAPAC
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts on the Third West-African Association of Public Accounts Committees General Meeting and Conference for note-taking.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers? Honourable Ncube.

**TABLING: REPORT ON EXCHANGE VISIT TO
PARLIAMENT OF KENYA**

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I lay upon the Table, the Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Gender and Family Affairs on an Exchange Visit to the Parliament of

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

Kenya for note-taking. Before I do that, Honourable Speaker, if you could allow me to highlight the purpose of the visit.

The Committee on Gender and Family Affairs has undertaken an exchange visit to the National Assembly of Kenya from the 6th to the 10th of August 2012. The purpose of the visit was for the Namibian Parliamentarians to exchange views and experiences with their Kenyan counterparts on matters relating to the plight of orphans and vulnerable children.

The Namibian delegation comprised of Honourable Ueitele, Honourable Swarts, Honourable //Gowases and Honourable Shixwameni, which was led by Honourable Sylvia Makgone as the head of the delegation and accompanied by the staff member Agnes Mukono.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to congratulate the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Gender Equality and Family Affairs, Honourable Makgone, who has today been promoted by His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba to Deputy Minister of Education. I consider her promotion as a promotion of all of us in the Gender Committee. I can personally testify with conviction, having Honourable Makgone as my Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Gender Equality and Family Affairs, that she is not only a dedicated, insightful and highly disciplined person, but also someone you can rely on, who is confident, highly motivated and who remains calm under pressure. To the Honourable Minister, you have a strong woman at your side that you can always rely on and I am sure you will make a strong team.

On behalf of my Committee we would like to congratulate Honourable Sylvia Makgone and wish her all the best on her journey. We are certain that she will be a great asset to the Ministry of Education.

On this note, I lay upon the Table the Report. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister of Finance.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA / HON DR NAMWANDI**

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Report of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of the Town Council of Arandis for the Financial Years ended 30 June, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Reports? Further Reports and Papers?

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF NAMIBIA
COLLEGE OF OPEN LEARNING**

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table –

- (i) The Annual Report for the year 2011/2012 of the Namibia College of Open Learning; and
 - (ii) Annual Financial Statements as at 31 March 2012 of the Namibian College of Open Learning.
-

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister please table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? Honourable Tjongarero.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON A TJONGARERO**

**TABLING: REPORTS OF COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES, SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

HON A TJONGARERO: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table-

- (i) Report on the Exchange Visit to the National Assembly of Mauritius by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development for note-taking; and
- (ii) Report on the Motion on *Housing and Transport Conditions of Urban Workers in Namibia* by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development for consideration.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Honourable Kaura.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 12:

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 28th of February 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Honourable John Mutorwa, the following:

1. In the *Namibian* newspaper of February 21, 2013 on Page 5 appears an

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON ULENGA**

article that reads as follows: “*Non-compliant Meat Producers to Lose Out.*”

2. It is further stated a directive from the Directorate of Veterinary Services of February 4, 2013 placed a 40-day quarantine requirement for cattle to be marketed to the European Union.
3. This requirement is nebulous and needs the Minister to elucidate the specificities of this requirement.
4. Communal farmers south of the proverbial red line do not have quarantine camps and they are at a loss what this directive implies.
5. Can the Minister please shed light on this 40-day requirement?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Question? Any further Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Ulenga.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 26th of February 2013, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Discusses and debates the living, social and economic conditions of the former returned refugees and displaced persons and communities, with special reference to the Gam community of the former so-called Botswana-Herero communities who were displaced in the north of the country as a result of the liberation war, as well as those who were

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HON DR GURIRAB**

imprisoned for long periods by the colonial regime, so as to assess their general well-being and their progress regarding the intended aim of their successful social and economic absorption into the larger Namibian community.

That after the Debate the Motion be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources, Social and Community Development for further scrutiny and report-back to this Assembly.

UNOPPOSED MOTION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? If not, as promised I have an Unopposed Motion which I now Move in my capacity as Speaker. However, before I do that, just to give sense of where I am going, I want to make the following remark. That-

- Men's vicious sexual violence or Gender-Based Violence against women, girls and even baby girls has intensified world-wide.
- This abomination has indeed taken on a very ugly form of gang rape, inhumane abduction and brutal murder.
- We are all witnesses to this kind of barbarism and inhumanity in the world at large, in Africa and right here in Namibia.
- I hear, read and see how some men, some boys as well, use ridiculous and deceptive cultural euphemisms to blame the victims – women and girls – for being women who deserve respect and for what they want in life for themselves as human beings.
- We as Parliamentarians must be brave defenders of women's rights

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and speak up against their tormentors without fear, favour or prevarication. Hence this Unopposed Motion by myself as Speaker.

Unopposed Motion on Gender-based Violence (GBV):

This Motion calls for His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia through this House: To-

- (i) Encourage and facilitate the speedy and effective implementation of the National Plan of Action against Gender-based Violence 2012-2016;
- (ii) Encourage and facilitate the implementation of recommendations from Parliamentary Standing Committees, research reports, workshops and various national and international meetings on preventing and responding to violence against women and children;
- (iii) Ensure that effect is given to international conventions, instruments and best practices concerning measures to combat violence against women and children;
- (iv) Provide for measures to proscribe organisations that encourage violence against women and children; and
- (v) Commit Members of Parliament to play a leading role in combating violence against women and children by speaking out against this problem at every possible opportunity and mobilising their Constituencies around this issue.

I. In respect of the Speedy and Effective Implementation of the National Plan of Action on Gender-Based Violence 2012-2016:

- (i) Parliament pledges its support for the four outcomes of the National Plan of Action on Gender-Based Violence, namely, (1) Reduced Gender-Based Violence as a result of

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prevention initiatives; (2) Improved services for survivors of Gender-Based Violence; (3) Increased understanding of Gender-Based Violence in Namibia; and (4) More efficient interventions as a result of improved coordination and monitoring.

- (ii) In Particular, Parliament resolves to utilise its powers to assist with measures aimed at the efficient implementation of this National Plan of Action.

II. In respect of measures to implement recommendations from Parliamentary Standing Committees, research reports, workshops and various national and international meetings on preventing and responding to violence against women and children:

Many sound recommendations have been made in various forums for improving the implementation of existing Namibian legislation and policies aimed at combating violence against women and children, for improving the response of institutions such as our Woman and Child Protection Units, our criminal justice system and our social worker response and for mobilising the Nation in its entirety for both genders to eliminate the forces of evil that perpetuate domestic violence in any form that it may manifest itself.

Amongst the relevant laws and policies which required improved popularisation and implementation measures are:

- Combating of Rape Act (Act 8 of 2000);
- Combating of Domestic Violence Act (Act 4 of 2003);
- Maintenance Act (Act 9 of 2003), which can help to reduce economic vulnerability which can contribute to vulnerability to violence;

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- Criminal Procedure Amendment Act (Act 24 of 2003), which is aimed at reducing the trauma of Court proceedings for victims of Gender-Based Violence;
- Provisions in the Labour Act (Act 11 of 2007) prohibiting sexual harassment in the workplace;
- Provisions on Child Protection in the Children's Act (Act 33 of 1960), which are expected to be replaced and strengthened by the forthcoming *Child Care and Protection Bill*;
- Provisions on Gender-Based Violence in the National Gender Policy (2010-2020) and accompanying Plan of Action;
- Provisions aimed at protecting children from Gender-Based Violence in Namibia's National Agenda for Children (2012-2016), which contains a commitment to ensure that all children are safe from neglect, violence, abuse and exploitation; and
- Provisions on the prevention of sexual violence against learners in the Code of Conduct promulgated pursuant to the Education Act and in the Education Sector Policy for the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy.

Parliament resolves to collect existing recommendations and calls upon key role players to report on implementation measures, with a view to ensuring that Namibian laws and policies on this important topic are more effective in combating violence against women and children.

III. In respect of International Conventions, instruments and best practices concerning measures to combat violence against women and children:

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Parliament resolves to investigate the implementation of recommendations made in the form of comments from the Committees which monitor compliance with the various International Conventions and instruments and to assess the adoption of international best practices in this area.

IV. In respect of measures that encourage equality between men and women and between boy-child and girl-child, in order to discourage violence against women and girl-children:

Inasmuch as research shows that inequality between men and women is a key factor which encourages violence against women and girl-children and given that the Namibian Constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, Parliament resolves to investigate measures –

- to address the situation where some Committees and Institutions deliberately place women and girl children in a status lesser than that of their male counterparts in social, economic and decision-making roles;
- to encourage social and economic equality between males and females in the family context; and
- to sensitise men and boy children to respect the dignity of women and girl-children in all contexts, and to sensitise women and girl-children not to rely upon men as a source of material wealth.

V. In respect of the commitment by Members of Parliament to play a leading role in combating violence against women and children by speaking out against this problem at every possible opportunity and mobilising their Constituencies around this issue:

Parliament resolves to raise the issue of violence against women

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and children regularly in their Constituencies and to actively encourage Traditional Leaders and key Institutions, such as schools and churches, to intensify their involvement in prevention initiatives.

I so Move, Honourable Members.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, this is an issue where we shall have to talk and think together to map the way forward. Violence against women and children does not seem to be confined to Namibia, it seems to be part of a new culture in southern Africa.

I read an article in the *Johannesburg Star* of South Africa of Tuesday, December 4, 2012 and I was shocked and I want the Honourable Members to share this shock with me, Honourable Speaker, by reading to you: The article is entitled “***Mothers have Nobody to Turn to:***”

- ***NOVEMBER 17, Joburg:*** *Samantha Sibindi, 20, is arrested for stabbing her newborn baby 10 times with a pair of scissors. Her case was postponed to January for further investigations. She has been charged with murder and concealment of birth.*
- ***OCTOBER 17, Vryburg:*** *Vinolia Siwa stabs four of her children in the neck with a steak knife and drowns her two-year-old. She tells the court that depression, financial problems and abuse at the hands of her children’s father drove her. Judge Ronald Hendricks later sentenced her to 12 years for each of the murders. The sentences will run concurrently.*
- ***OCTOBER, Soweto:*** *A three-year-old boy is strangled by his mother.*
- ***APRIL, Benoni:*** *A woman is arrested for throwing her three-month-old baby to the ground several times, killing him.*

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- **MARCH, Kagiso:** *A woman is arrested for stabbing her one-year-old daughter to death. The little girl was found with five stab wounds to the chest.*
- **DECEMBER 2011, Cape Town:** *Mitchells Plain mother Zulpha Jacobs kills her two-year-old son by pushing his head into the sand and suffocating him. She tells the court she was not thinking clearly, had no one to turn to and felt it would be best for him. She is serving a 20-year jail term for murder and defeating the ends of justice, as she had reported her son missing.*
- **OCTOBER 2011, Eastern Cape:** *An 18-year-old girl is arrested for killing her one-year-old child in Mqanduli, south of Mthatha.*

Honourable Speaker, this morning as I opened *the Namibian* newspaper; I came across, what you have just alluded to; “*Double Murder in Court.*” “*Mathias Kalunga kaShindenge (42) from Ongha Village in Ohangwena Region has appeared in the Ohangwena Magistrate’s Court on two murder charges. He is accused of killing his wife, Selma Nalooliwa Imbili (30) and her lover, Fransisco Tavares Juye (39), on February 14 at Omafo.*”

Honourable Speaker, we read these things in newspapers and put the newspaper aside, but knowing that you are going to deal with this topic in Parliament, I just picked up some of these newspapers, I had it for some time, because what is happening in South Africa shocked me. Here is a situation where mothers are committing infanticide, killing their children and baby-dumping in our own country has become the norm. This is a multi-faceted situation. Whether this is the socio-economic condition of our people or whatever, I just do not know. What is leading our people to these acts of brutality – mothers committing brutalities against their own children, men committing brutalities against women and children?

Just last week, Thursday and Friday, as we were having a workshop in this very same hall, we were dealing with various aspects and incidence of poverty by Region, percentages of poor households and this again shocked

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me. We came across the percentages of poor households here in Namibia and I just want to find out, are these crimes being committed because our people are poor or what kind of socio-economic conditions are leading to these situations?

For example, I will read the breakdown per Region for 2009-2010:

Region:	Percentage of Poor Households:
Caprivi	41,7%
Erongo	5.1%
Hardap	17.2%
Karas	15.3%
Kavango	43.4%
Khomas	7.6%
Kunene	16.8%
Ohangwena	23.7%
Omaheke	20.9%
Omusati	20.6%
Oshana	13.5%

What goes through my mind and the question I am asking myself is this: Is poverty a contributing factor to crime against women? However, when I see Caprivi with 41.7% of poor households and Kavango with 43%, these are the two highest, the poorest of the poor, but my cursory observation in reading newspapers is that I do not think there is a high crime rate against women and children in Caprivi and Kavango. That is my own cursory observation. I have not done any research, but just looking at newspapers.

In our areas where we are doing well, areas such as Erongo with 5.1% and Khomas with 7.6, where we have the lowest poverty rate per household, is where these crimes are committed.

My question is; what is the reason for this? Where people are doing well they are committing more crime against women and children. Where they are poverty-stricken there is less commission of crime against women and

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children. I want us to interrogate this and investigate the statistics, Region by Region and get to the core cause of it. Actually it is not poverty, it is something else and what is that something else?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD

WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question on that very important point he mentioned? Honourable Kaura, do you not think that one of the reasons could be the many people migrating to cities and towns and the phenomenon of empty promises to young people that they will get jobs here and then they become victims in the cities rather than in the rural areas? Could that not be the case?

HON KAURA: That could be the case. As you were asking that question, I was thinking of a book by Alan Paton, "*Cry The Beloved Country*", where young people left the countryside for the cities and there was a moral decadence among these people and they ended up committing these heinous crimes, which they would not commit when they were in the countryside. I think I agree with you in a way.

I ask myself these questions, Honourable Speaker, what did Independence and self-governance do to us, now that we are free and governing ourselves? Why is our society breaking down to the level where these things are happening? Things we did not see in 1990 are slowly escalating.

HON DINGARA: May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? The Honourable Member was analysing and asking himself whether poverty is causing this evil. Then he found that in the poor Regions these evils occur less. I want to find out from Honourable Kaura, was he trying

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to say that it is better to be poor so that there is less crime? We hate crime and we hate poverty and now he is saying, there is less crime where there is poverty. I am trying to find out why he chose poverty as a factor?

HON SPEAKER: Let us try to be technical as my Motion was very technical. Polemics will come later.

HON KAURA: I just want us to think together because I am trying to find the cause of all this. When we were frustrated and oppressed, we did not commit these crimes, but now that we are free we are doing these things. I am reminded of what the South African Government used to say to try and justify Apartheid and colonialism.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Honourable Speaker, I am seeking guidance from your office. This is supposed to be an Unopposed Motion and we are only supposed to express our support for the Motion and pass it. I can see a situation where we are debating the Motion and if there is no time, I will have to ask for an adjournment of the Debate so that I can contribute later. Can we treat it as an Unopposed Motion that all the Political Parties represented in this House accept and endorse what the Speaker has said so that we can move forward with the Business of the House?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura, you are a mature veteran, find some other time to bring a Motion on that.

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HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I am just thinking in support of the Motion. I cannot just stand up and say I support the Motion and sit down. I am thinking together with the Speaker and I want us to think together with the Speaker.

I just said that the colonial Government used to say that black people are not capable of governing themselves and I remember Robert Sobukwe countering that by saying; “*It is our God-given right to govern or misgovern ourselves*” and we as youngsters were inspired by those words and continued to be inspired and be on the road to find self-governance. We have attained self-governance, but in the words of Chinua Achebe of Nigeria, he says “*Things Fall Apart.*” Now what happened that things have fallen apart? Things have fallen apart, we are killing our own women and children in this country and in southern Africa and that is why I am asking the question, what happened to us as a free Nation?

Unfortunately it is the first Motion by the Speaker in 23 years, maybe we do not know how to address it.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. This Unopposed Motion is so critical in nature, and of course, touched the heart of everybody. Therefore, we have to sit down and find a solution. Why do the Muslims wear those long garments? They cover themselves that way so that temptation could be minimised. (Interjections)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Mushelenga.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to contribute to an Unopposed Motion in a manner that a contribution to an Unopposed Motion should be.

Honourable Speaker, firstly, I would like to thank you for moving a very important issue that cuts across political affiliation in this House. It also shows the level of seriousness of Government, that someone in the position of Speaker would stand up to move such an important Motion. One can only concur that we need to encourage and teach our society that it is high time to change the mind-set. We can no longer afford to continue perpetrating Gender-Based Violence committed against women and children. Be it at the home level, our citizens need to appreciate that families and homes are supposed to be places of peace, not where people beat and batter each other.

Again, we can only concur with you, Honourable Speaker, that we need to tell our mothers that having gone through nine months of pregnancy, the children they gave birth to are precious and do not deserve to be dumped and stabbed and thrown in dustbins.

Honourable Speaker, I agree with you, we need to encourage our society that it is high time that we bring to an end the physical assault, rape and all sorts of violence against women, not only at homes, but elsewhere, because if what is happening is to be perpetrated for years and years to come, we are going to have a violent society and such a violent society does not contribute anything to humanity. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Riruako.

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HON RIRUAKO: Mr Speaker, too much uncontrolled freedom is the problem. You wanted freedom but this freedom is beyond matter. This is the problem we are facing. Why does Botswana not have this kind of problem and why here? It is quite obvious; there is too much uncontrolled and unchallenged, freedom. Now you are supposed to face what you created. This is the way it is, but you wanted the freedom to kill and not freedom to heal. Now you are killing because you wanted the freedom to kill. For a long time, “*freedom*” was a sweet word and you accepted it. Now take and swallow it, you got it. You created this on your own. I challenged it, I said no, you said yes. Now you are crying. What is happening here will not happen in Botswana. Let us think about how to live without killing. Punish those who are killing, but punish correctly and after that nothing is going to happen. You will realise that afterwards, not now. Talk about it if you want to talk about it, but you do not have the right to talk about something you cannot even stop.

HON SPEAKER: Chief Whip.

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to thank you for presenting this Unopposed Motion on Gender-based Violence against Women and Children. It is indeed a timely Motion demonstrating the concern felt by this House. All of us are very much aware about this particular challenge that is confronting this country in terms of violence perpetrated against women and children.

As you rightly outlined in the Motion, we are all being called upon to do our very best to contribute towards the solution. We are required to mobilise the country as a whole and to identify the appropriate stakeholders to be seized with this particular issue. I am sure it is not something that can be done overnight, but as a country, as a Nation we are required to find a solution to some of these challenges.

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Honourable Kaura alluded to socio-economic factors that perhaps do play an important role in this regard, but I believe that regardless of whatever factors, we simply need to come together through the various Standing Committees of Parliament, through other stakeholders, to ensure that we come together to address these particular challenges and I think the Motion is very clear in terms of what steps are needed to be taken to do something about this urgent matter. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Chief Whip. The House will adjourn for tea.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:25

HON SPEAKER: We resume the Business of the House. I have been doing some listening and some consulting. Honourable Kaura may have a point that my action is unprecedented, unprecedented only because this is a young Parliament, but it is not unprecedented in terms of Parliamentary life. But because it is the Speaker's Motion, a Speaker who belongs to everybody, it should not assume the flavour of a party-political line. However, there is also equally a sense that people want to take the Floor to support the Motion, but I appeal to you to treat it differently from the regular Motions, because otherwise I have to answer to you and I do not want to do that. That is why it is the Speaker's Motion. With that understanding, Honourable Utoni Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, I rise

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to support the Unopposed Motion you have introduced in this House, which is timely and important as we know that our society is afflicted by all these vices of poverty, unemployment and many challenges.

Comrade Speaker, before I say what I intend to say, let me congratulate the Honourable Minister of Education, Comrade Namwandi, and the Deputy Minister Makgone and also to welcome Teopolina Mushelenga, a Colleague and friend to this House. Congratulations, you are most welcome.

Comrade Speaker, while listening to the Debate it struck me that the situation is becoming worse in our society, thus when Honourable Kaura was quoting all the statistics of South Africa and Namibia, I started to wonder what the reason is for the increase in violence against women and children, poverty and all these things. Then it struck me that we should also examine our current situation, because we have inherited an Apartheid system which was very vicious and we have inherited all the difficult things you can imagine, such as poverty and unemployment, which has gone on for decades, if not for centuries. Therefore, we have to resolve how we can overcome that deficit which has created the inequality in our region – inequality in South Africa, inequality in Namibia.

The peculiarity of the system which we have inherited; we say we have a mixed system, a capitalist and socialist kind of arrangement, but it is typically capitalist and we know in a capitalist system the rich gets richer, the poor gets poorer. How do we overcome that situation?

I know that the Speaker has cited most of the intervention programmes the Government has put in place in terms of legislation, such as the Combating of Domestic Violence Act, the soon-to-be-tabled *Child Justice and Protection Bill*, the Married Persons Equality Act, all of which were introduced in an effort to limit this widening gap and also to provide for social safety nets. The Minister will table the Budget and she will talk at length on what the Government intends to do. We know the safety nets in place at the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare and although I do not want to defend the Government here,

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I say that Government has done its part.

However, then we have to look at how we ourselves conduct our businesses. At the NBC, for example, we have programmes such as “*Dangerous Women*”, films depicting violence. Our young boys see how a person shoots another one and they would like to emulate these things. When the father negligently leaves his gun there, the child shoots somebody. All these things we learn from television.

Even worse are the Social Networks on the Internet, which expose children to sex, pornography and violence. You just log onto the Internet and it is there, explicit violence, and we learn all these things from the developed society.

We are talking here about violence in our country, but there a person just decides that he is going to take revenge against society, goes into a cinema with a machine gun and gun all those people down. A person will go to a school and gun down the children. You will also remember what happened in Norway, Connecticut and everywhere.

I feel we need to interrogate some of these things, but basically I will go back to my belief that the capitalist system in itself will not solve all our problems. If you look at countries such as Cuba and the former Soviet Union where some of us grew up, these things were almost non-existent. Today in Cuba you will see domestic violence, or people fighting after taking too much of *havana libre*, yet all these things are alien to that society.

Colleagues, I do not intend to water down this important resolution, I think it is the responsibility of Government, Civil Societies and all of us to take up this challenge and see what we can do. However, we also need to interrogate the system we have inherited which breeds violence.

With these few remarks, I thank you, Honourable Speaker for giving me the Floor.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I want to express my support for this very important Motion and also join my Colleagues in congratulating those who have ascended in their positions and promotions.

Comrade Speaker, I only want to make a few remarks regarding this important Motion. This is one single serious evil that is affecting our society and it is only befitting that it is addressed from one of the highest Offices in the land, in the person of the Speaker.

We have been given the task in the SWAPO Party think-tank to analyse some of these issues and we have produced some papers which could be availed by the former Secretary-General of the Party. They were presented at the Party conference and I believe they are now public documents. I was one of the presenters of these papers and maybe that is where I earned my nickname which apparently was *Mr Moral Decay* as that was the topic I presented. Honourable Kaura mentioned "*moral decadence*" and that is something which we really need to address.

Allow me, Comrade Speaker, to highlight some of the conclusions we arrived at during our research into this evil. One was that we have this syndrome of passing the buck. Everybody is saying it is the other person who should come up with a programme to address moral decay. If your child misbehaves at home, then the school is blamed. If a child misbehaves at school, then the parents are blamed. If the child misbehaves in the street, the church is blamed and the church again blames the parents. Everybody is passing the buck and no one comes up with a proper programme and own up to this problem, and come up with our very own programme to these effects.

The Political Parties are blaming the Government, yet while they have all their youth and women wings you would hardly find programmes in place to combat all these evils. They find it easier to point fingers at others, that

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those ones were supposed to come up with a programme and not them. The Traditional Leaders, and we are not saying this is intentional, but we have allowed that gap to develop and we see it as a problem to be addressed by someone else.

Until that time that we own up to this problem and each and every role player comes up with a programme to address it, the problem will not be solved. People who do these kinds of things belong to certain institutions and nothing is done by those institutions.

Sometimes the Ministry of Justice is told to come up with stiff sentences, that they should kill these people, but where did these people grow up?

They did not grow up within the confines of the Ministry, they are only brought to justice once they have offended, but all along society has been living comfortably with these people. Instead of interrogating where and what went wrong with these citizens, the society is quick to point a finger at the Ministry, as if the sentence will repair the damage that has been done.

Sometimes we think that by sending people to the Correctional Services we have done it and we do not interrogate what is happening at these places and when they come out, we do not have a proper programme to rehabilitate these kinds of people.

The same goes for social workers. If something goes wrong we say, no, go to the social worker; with domestic violence, go to the social worker; with drug abuse, go to the social worker and yet we do not have forums where these social workers actually give feedback to society as to their findings and their frustrations.

People are asking, who was responsible for the upbringing of people like this? As you are here, who is bringing up your child? It is Hollywood. I am not the only one bringing up my child, he is watching all these kinds of programmes mentioned by the previous speaker and yet we are not of the

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same mind to agree on our approach and have some kind of moral guide for our society.

Comrade Speaker, studies have been done and findings have been made and in order not to reinvent the wheel, I would wish to request that these documents are made available, so that whoever is going to deal with this Motion could also use those documents as a starting point to see whether we can cure this problem, because we have really lost a generation, education-wise. When I grew up, we did not attend the morning parade just to be told which class to go, you were told what kind of patriotic aspirations and values you should have and we had our role models. I thank you very much. This is just what I wanted to share with the House.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker for tabling this very important Motion on Domestic Violence. Before I summarise what I want to say in support of your Motion, allow me to congratulate the two fellow women, namely Honourable Mushelenga who re-joined us and my Colleague, Sylvia Makgone, who has been elevated to Deputy Minister of Education and Honourable Namwandi as Minister of Education. The other congratulations will come later.

Yes, indeed, as a society we are engulfed in a violence against ourselves. Last year, I received a visit from the Parliament of Botswana. Botswana is one of the SADC Member States which is known to be non-violent and they do not have many robberies. I told them that we are doing well, but we have many cases of domestic violence, passion killings, etcetera, and when I asked them whether they also experience these things, they said; yes, they did experience it and have apparently put in place a commission of inquiry in which they included Traditional Leaders.

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I also visited Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on several occasions. Ethiopia is one of the most densely populated countries and it is also known to be poor. When you go on the streets, you find these beautiful women with their beautiful babies who ask you for money, but you will never be robbed in Addis Ababa, never. I asked a colleague from the Ethiopian Parliament how they managed to have a non-violent society and she told me that they had gangsters and they came up with a strategy to deal with those gangsters. I am mentioning these two extreme cases so that we do not just sit here in Namibia, but also go and look at how other people deal with this similar situation.

Yes, there are many questions we have to ask ourselves and the most important one is, why this violence against ourselves? Is it perhaps the effect of war, is it perhaps the collapse of the social fabric, as alluded to by my Colleague or is it a result of the diminishing religion teaching in our homes, church and school? There are many questions and I agree that we must sit around the table to get to the reason. I know we have made laws to curb these evils, but it does not have a deterrent effect on the perpetrators.

The church has also failed. The Traditional Leaders who are supposed to be the custodians of our culture and wisdom have also failed. We ourselves have failed and that is why I end by saying, there is a need for us to sit around the table to get an answer to these questions. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Ncube.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. First and foremost, let me congratulate the Speaker for tabling this Unopposed Motion on this deep-rooted issue of grave concern, not only in Namibia, but happening all over Africa and the Diaspora.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, domestic violence in Namibia is a severe problem and the gravity of this problem is seen in our yearly statistics where the Ministry of Health and Social Services reported over a hundred thousand cases of trauma each year. Greater efforts should really be made to eliminate this.

Honourable Speaker, most victims do not ask for help or perhaps the social environment may not be good enough to support the victims and some of the victims of violence hold the traditional concept that it has a domestic shame and should not be publicly reported. They also do not have an effective way to ask for help or are afraid of revenge.

Last week my neighbours were fighting and I called the Police. When the Police came the lady was saying, "*no, there is no problem*", which really means that she was afraid that her husband might take revenge.

It is vital that the Speaker, as he has already done through this Motion, the President, the Prime Minister as well as all political leaders exercise a strong political will to tackle Gender-Based Violence. As the Chairperson of the Committee on Gender would, together with my Colleagues, like to call upon the President of the country, His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba, as Head of State to take immediate action to ensure that all incidents of sexual violence and harassment of women and children in Namibia are effectively investigated and perpetrators brought to justice until the pervasive climate of impunity for such acts of Gender-Based Violence ends.

Women, children and men in Namibia will continue to face violent attacks while their attackers brazenly go unpunished. Legal and institutional reforms in Namibia should be introduced to stop repetition of such crimes and to end this impunity.

I do not know where this Motion of the Speaker is really going to end and where it is going to take us, but I think that laws of this kind should be added to those already in existence to criminalise harassment. I do not think that we have a law that criminalises harassment, although there are

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also other laws similar to harassment, but a specific law on harassment should be introduced that is aimed at toughening the penalty of harassment through dealing with it as a crime of definite definition. It should also take the necessary action to stop such outrageous behaviour which constitutes unprecedented violation of human rights and human dignity.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, men, women and children in Namibia should not remain silent; the victims of sexual assault and harassment should speak out. We should remember that we are part of the international community and party to numerous International Conventions on the rights of women and children. Therefore, the international community will look at Namibia as an example and see whether we adhere to the international standards. I do not want us to now debate this Motion and then leave it in a vacuum, but I would suggest that it should be taken out to the communities, for the communities to give their inputs and if possible, also to the relevant Committee to conduct consultations with the communities for their inputs on what should be done, so that this issue of grave concern can be tackled amicably. I rest my case with those few words and I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Dr Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I rise to join the other Colleagues to support the Motion and to thank the Honourable Speaker for coming up with this Motion. This is indeed one of those Motions which find support across the Floor of the House and I also concur with the Speaker that this is a non-political Motion and the subject matter affects our society, our mothers and children and, therefore, deserves support.

Honourable Kaura gave the example of the two poorest Regions in

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Namibia and, indeed, correctly stated that incidences of domestic violence are much lower in those Regions compared to others. Perhaps part of the reason why that is the case, in my view, is that African cultures are very strong in those two Regions and one of the contributing factors in our society is that we are forgetting our African cultures.

In countries such as China, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore people respect their cultures and notwithstanding poverty in some of those countries there is harmony in their societies. That is one aspect we should really interrogate, because as was stated by one of the speakers, our children are being raised by Hollywood as opposed to the parents, the churches and the teachers, because they are hooked to televisions and most of those materials come from Hollywood and some of them are not really conducive to the environment of raising children. As Honourable Kaura is fond of saying, “*monkey see, monkey do*” and this is really the end-result.

Honourable Speaker, I was tempted to rise and contribute to this Motion because the Speaker referred to two pieces of legislation which were aimed at addressing the subject matter under discussion, namely the Combating of Domestic Violence Act and the Maintenance Act. It so happens that as Minister of Justice then, I was privileged to introduce those two pieces of legislation.

The other aspect, I believe, is alcohol and drug abuse. I was really amazed by the Reports of the Police where they said Namibia is now a consuming Nation as opposed to a transit country for drugs. As for alcohol abuse, obviously we know most of these violent crimes do take place in shebeens and the Honourable Speaker is right to say we need to interrogate and find solutions to some of these very unfortunate events in our country.

As regards punishment, I agree with those Honourable Members who support this aspect, but sometimes the perpetrators commit suicide and now you ask yourself whom are you going to punish? That is why we have to go beyond punishment in order to find a solution to this very unfortunate experience that we are facing not only in Namibia, as the

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Honourable Speaker correctly said. I, indeed, support those who said this Motion should be referred to the relevant Committee which will undertake a comprehensive study in the country and come up with further recommendations that would enrich the recommendations of the Honourable Speaker. Once again, Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank you for introducing this Motion. I support the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I must say though I saw some indications of a Motion of this nature coming, I took time doing other things and, therefore, forgive me if I do not present a properly worked-out document dealing with all these issues in their proper order.

I must thank those Colleagues who have spoken before me, because I could see, even from the last speaker that this matter seems to be full of paradoxes and contradictions. One thing that we learned from society and even from nature is that things happen unevenly. Even where, sometimes the causes and the results seem to be clear, you still find some unevenness. For example, where physical poverty is said to be worst, when you look at the statistics it looks like, but violence is not that bad in the places where we think the cause of violence is uppermost.

Therefore, I do not think we should look for clear, straightforward answers, but I think those who say we need to take a long relook at ourselves, not only as a Nation, but as a global society are right. As a global society because everything has now merged so much that sometimes the effects of capitalism in England are felt here and sometimes the problems of under-development in Namibia may be felt in America. Therefore, we are now a society rolled together, so much so that if action is not taken at the global level, some of us may turn out to be burdened with these kinds of problems for a very long time.

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Comrade Speaker, I was actually going to say “*long live our Speaker*”, if that can be said to people other than kings and emperors and that God forbid that this House never takes its hand up against the Speaker in terms of firing him, because like he said at the beginning, he is really the Speaker of all of us. Let us hope there is going to be the same Speaker for a very long time to come.

Just recently there was this very eminent case of a guy called Shaduka. I am mentioning the name because it has now gone beyond personality, it has become a kind of social symbol. We are held up by so many so-called controls and measures which sometimes allow us to let things happen with impunity. When you follow the whole case, the way it opened and developed and ended, we are still handling violence with kid gloves, silk gloves, but it is very difficult.

You talk about poverty, there seems to be two kinds of poverty. There is the physical poverty, but it also seems to be leading to even a worse kind of poverty, which is moral poverty, even intellectual poverty, the poverty for knowledge and understanding, poverty of love, and sometimes where society is poorest, is not necessarily where moral poverty will be found.

Part of my experience was actually to be a bit controversial and counter the statistics read by my Comrade here, especially after listening to Comrade Kawana. African societies are also very, very violent. In many of these areas of the country you do not hear some things, but others you hear. The beating up of women is prevalent everywhere in Namibia. The humiliation of women, making them wear long dresses, pull out pants and trousers because they are women is very prevalent. There was a time when a certain Committee of this House went to a certain Region and it was told, because it only wanted to see a specific part of the community, namely women, that the men are not going to release their women to be seen by this Committee. (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: Talk about the recent minis-skirts in Rundu.

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HON ULENGA: I was coming to that. I was very insulted at the beginning of the year when somebody called me and appealed to me to congratulate the Police as a public figure for their action in Rundu, for having arrested young women apparently wearing some kind of thing, I do not even know what. The picture on the front page of the *Namibian* two days ago said it all even though there is some story of racism. There should not be any excuse whatsoever for violent action against anybody, but it is true, we are a very violent society and it is also true that colonialism has been a very big factor. Wars that we ourselves had to fight have also made us very violent. There is adoration for violence, it does not matter whether it is against women or against men. I think there is also one big need of action. Why do we love people who are violent, people who take action and who kill?

I have pulled the trigger myself, it is part of my history and sometimes I feel that part of my carelessness is because of that, because I have seen things and I know that things can happen, but that is something that is always there in a person's mind, when he has seen so many things, that anything can happen, so what? However, it is part of our history and we need to act against it, we need to make sure that this moral poverty, this moral bankruptcy that allows the impunity that we seem to allow with regard to violence against innocent, vulnerable people be stopped.

Without having to talk too long, Comrade Speaker, this House needs to act in its own small way to stop what is happening, at least in our country. Let us start with censure measures, let us do something. Let those who commit violence against other beings be listed, for example, like it happens in other countries, let them be branded. Let them not be allowed, for example, to take Public Office. I hear that some of us, even in this House perhaps, stand up and beat our husbands and wives. So, what do they say, what starts at home? Charity. I think we can do something specific. We can pass a law here that says that people who commit domestic violence should be barred from certain things. I know that we do all kinds of other bad things and you will say, if you act against this one, why do you not act against the other kind of evil? However, we need to start somewhere and of course, we may be criticised. You may criticise

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me for saying this, but we will all be criticised for doing anything, everywhere we go. So, that cannot be an excuse for us not to start doing something.

Let us stop the stigma and shame that goes with bearing children, that goes with pregnancy while you are not married. Even as parents we promote those things, *“if you get pregnant you will never come back to my house.”* What do we expect? Let us change that kind of situation.

I support the one who mentioned political will. I was in Rwanda with some other Comrades recently and there you see some examples of political will. When you come with your plastic bag you will leave it at the airport. There is no single plastic bag in Rwanda and there are many other examples, including safe houses against violence. People will say that country is this and that, but let us start something. Let us say violent people will not be allowed into bars, etcetera. Then we can say we are doing something about violence against, especially the vulnerable people.

I support the Motion, Comrade Speaker. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Tjihuiiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Let me start by just declaring that I support your Motion without any reservation, because this is one of those Motions that really touched on each and everybody.

What we are now trying to do is really to express our concerns about what is taking place around us. It is so painful that nowadays even your own wife is scared of being with you in the house. She does not know what will happen to her next because this violence is taking place in our own houses. You lock the door and then you kill your wife inside the house.

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Therefore, the question of whether it is outside or wherever is immaterial nowadays.

I think that we have become that animal where our own wives, our own mothers and children are afraid of us and the situation has reached that point and we need to look at ourselves and ask what has actually gone wrong. Something has gone wrong somewhere.

Honourable Speaker, we have talked about the laws that we have introduced. You can introduce more laws, they will not solve the problem. There should be something that can be done for us to address that issue.

One of the Colleagues has mentioned the question of alcohol abuse. As much as we are trying to ignore it, it is one of the contributing factors. Our society is sick. If you go to any town in this country, any township in this country, you will see a complete misuse of alcohol by all ages. That is one issue that we really need to look at if we want to do something. It is not a question of, if the shebeen is open 24 hours it is only then that they will be able to support their families, it is not true. We can have hours of trading and then we must close. It is a question of our colleagues in that Sector and the law enforcement agencies and us, the community, to put our heads together and say no, it cannot be business as usual. We need to do something about that.

On the question of freedom, your democratic right and freedom to do whatever you want to do, of course, that is guaranteed in our Constitution, but let us try to protect ourselves first, because there are so many people who do not care about your democratic right and freedom.

Honourable Ulenga was referring to the miniskirts. It is my right to wear whatever I want, but take note of the fact that there are people who do not care about your freedom or your rights and that will happen to you. If a Police Officer is saying; *“please, help us to help you, do not expose yourself too much, because you are creating more problems for yourself and for us because we will have more on our hands to handle, because*

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there are those who do not care about your rights”, we should not start criticising the Police Officers as is happening now. Maybe I read a different newspaper where the Police Officer did not say you should not do it, it was more in the form of advising. They are now being criticised and the same people who are criticising the Police Officers will come and say they are not doing the job that they are supposed to do. These are some of the factors that we need to look at. (Intervention)

HON KAURA: Honourable Tjihuike, on the issue miniskirts, that they could maybe present temptation, why for example, with our traditional people like the Himbas and that amount of great exposure, why is there no danger of them being attacked? Why miniskirts?

HON TJIHUIKO: I think the difference is the environment in which you operate, your mind-set. If you leave this Chamber and put on a Himba dress, all of us knowing that this is Honourable Katuutire Kaura, people will not look at you the way they are looking at a Himba man. It is a different environment and we need to understand and appreciate that, that we cannot behave normally under abnormal situations and I think in the situation where we are now, we cannot compare ourselves with the Masai or the Himbas because one would expect them to be like that. However, when it comes to a young lady here in Windhoek wearing a Himba dress and walking down Independence Avenue, it will be different. That is the only difference that I see in that.

Let me conclude, Honourable Speaker, by saying that there was reference to Caprivi (intervention)

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker,

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may I ask Honourable Tjihuiiko a question for clarity? Honourable Tjihuiiko, can you explain to the House the difference between your wife and your own wife?

HON SPEAKER: Can you repeat that?

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: The difference between our wives and our own wives? He has been saying; “*our own wives*” and “*our wives*”. I just want to know what the difference between the two is.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, let me touch on the issue of Kavango and Caprivi. I believe that if there are Regions in Namibia which still stick to their traditional values in the real sense of the word, it is Caprivi and Kavango. You see the type of respect that is being shown to the Traditional Authorities and obviously the people in those areas have not lost their traditional and African values the way we have changed in the central part of the country. That is perhaps why the crime rate, especially on this issue, is a little bit lower in the Caprivi and Kavango than in the central part. Here we are not behaving like Africans, we are behaving like Americans, we are too westernised and that is the difference.

On the question by the Honourable Minister, I believe that you do not have “*your own wife*”, you have a wife, because you do not own a person. I might have said that because my English is poor.

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Pendukeni Ithana.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am rising in the House for the first time this year and if I say Happy New Year to everybody, take it in good faith.

I would also like to thank and congratulate the Honourable Speaker for raising this very disturbing issue timely, early in the year, but I hope we will be able to do justice to the question.

Before I say what I want to say, let me also take the opportunity and congratulate my three Comrades, Comrade David Namwandi, for the promotion to a fully-fledged ministerial position, Minister of Education and Comrade Makgone for the promotion to the position of Deputy Minister in the same Ministry. Comrade Teopolina Mushelenga, a veteran of this House who has just taken sabbatical leave, welcome back.

Comrade Speaker, listening to the contributions by various speakers made me think and think and think and every time a Member rose and made a contribution I asked myself, "*what is next?*" I am caught up in the web of the rules, because the Motion is an Unopposed Motion, but the issue the Speaker has brought to the Floor of this Parliament is so important. I know all of us are sitting in our seats, itching to make a contribution, but we just do not know how to really go about it.

With all these contributions being made, are we adding to the statements of the Speaker? Is that going to become one comprehensive document or what is going to happen? Despite all that, I want to be ruled Out of Order if need be, because I want to make a contribution and I know that there are others who would want to debate this issue. It is just so important that we debate this matter without any limitations whatsoever and then come out with the conclusions that we can now say, that it be taken to whichever institution for further refinement.

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Comrade Speaker, I do not know whether I can Move a Motion on a Motion, latching onto your Motion, that we open this Debate for further discussion. I want to be guided, because I looked into the Rules, but I did not manage to find a Rule to get me out of this dilemma I find myself in. Will I be allowed to be guided?

HON SPEAKER: The Motion is open-ended, it stands by itself as a wakeup call to you and to the society at large. It is a Motion which can be referred to the relevant Committee and be further interrogated and out of which either policy consideration could be given, legislative consideration could be given. All those options are open, but in itself it stands by itself as it is now. Any possible action by way of policy, further interrogation of specific aspects of it by the relevant Standing Committees or policy direction might be contemplated in Cabinet or some legislative action in a particularly formulated targeted law, all those options are open. A very clear directive.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Yes, Comrade Speaker, but that does not help my situation and probably the situation of others, because we want to make contributions. Can I postpone the Debate?

HON SPEAKER: No, we must dispose of it now.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: That is why I wanted to have an opportunity to Move a Motion on this Motion.

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HON SPEAKER: A separate Motion?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Yes, a separate Motion out of this Motion for us to be able to debate this Motion properly.

HON SPEAKER: That can be done.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I am not ready today, but I can Move that next week.

HON SPEAKER: I do not see any contradiction. We must dispose of this Motion here today and when you are ready to formulate an independent Motion, bring it. Any further discussion? Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Allow me to also join others who congratulated the Colleagues for their recent promotions to ministerial positions and also to re-welcome Comrade Mushelenga to the House. I wish to register my support for the Motion. However, I would also want to join others who proposed that this Motion be referred to the relevant Standing Committee for further interrogation,

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because the dimensions and dialectics around this issue are so immense that it needs in-depth analysis. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Bezuidenhout.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I will be very brief. We are a society in trouble with this specific theme we have here, but it is not insurmountable, we only need to think positively. Although it is a negative issue we have to deal with, we need to see light at the end of the tunnel and I wish to illustrate what I mean.

It is in the DNA of Namibians to take on insurmountable tasks and be successful. If we deny that, we would not have been independent today. If one compares the whole fight for Independence to this issue and see which one is bigger and more impossible, then there is hope out there. We just need to really apply our minds, take tough decisions and take society with us.

For example, the challenges of clever worldwide multi-media marketing is challenging us, we need to find a way of dealing with this issue, because what the previous speakers said about Hollywood is the glorification of violence and we need to counter that as a Nation so that we instil the right values in the next generations to come and bring up our children with the right values and attitude to counter the negatives they are exposed to.

We need to re-look and re-engineer our social system, how to do rehabilitation, how to treat offenders, how to treat victims and in that whole process there will be many tough policy decisions to be taken which may make us unpopular, but that should not be the yardstick whether to be popular or not. The yardstick should be the success of reigning in this scourge in our society.

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When I was a young student of the Greek language at one stage in my life, we had to do a paper on what is now translated into English as euthanasia, the softening of the killing, the softening of the thinking of killing, but in the original text it is just the softening or the lowering of whatever subject you are looking at.

When our media report on these issues, they report it as passion killings. That is to give a glorification to the insult that was done to an individual. They call it passion killing and we have to say no, something like that does not exist. It is very paradoxical. If we keep quiet, we allow this concept to foster and to grow in the minds of our children and society.

We also need to revisit at our education system, what can be added, what can be taken away and how can it be measured. Our constitutional responsibility is to build this country, not to break it down or allow it to be broken down by Hollywood or subtle messages. Our responsibility is to build a Nation and that is what we must do. We must counter everything that is negative and that is why the Speaker called on us to use every possible opportunity to speak out, to educate and to highlight this issue.

At the stage when we deal with this matter, I would like to recommend that maybe Parliament should consider to commission a television series about this issue to be screened on our television and also use our radio programmes, to teach people that passion killing does not exist, it is murder, so that our people are engaged in positive messages about this negative issue and that we do not allow it to spill over to our children's children. Otherwise we may end up as a failed Nation fifty, sixty years from now. However, it is not insurmountable, we only need to put the shoulder to the wheel and do the right thing with focus and commitment. I will come back on the next Motion. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. With that the House has considered the Speaker's Unopposed Motion and with that the work on it

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NGHINDINWA**

has been done. Any Ministerial Statements? Honourable Nghidinwa.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: First of all I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister Namwandi, the new Deputy Minister of Education and Honourable Mushelenga with their appointments.

Comrade Speaker, as I listened to the contributions to this very important Motion you have tabled, I thought I could just support it and just mention a few things which I put in my statement which I want to share with the Colleagues.

Honourable Speaker, as we are waiting with hope on the Budget to be tabled on Tuesday by Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Minister of Finance, I would like us to prepare ourselves on how we are going to implement gender budgeting which has become a powerful tool for gender mainstreaming, to empower women and to address gender inequality in terms of distribution of benefits and burdens among both men and women.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare has realised that among the root causes of Gender-Based Violence, the most problematic issue is gender equality and less empowerment of women. We are not talking at the level of decision-making, but to empower women to have something. We realised that our biggest problem is this new disease of dependency syndrome of women depending on men. That is why I do not want to read my whole statement, but just to emphasise some issues mentioned in this Ministerial Statement, the empowerment of women and to call on Non-Governmental Organisations, the churches, Traditional Leaders to support the fight against Gender-Based Violence. Comrade Speaker, I thank you.

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**MOTION ON DROUGHT
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON SPEAKER: With the intimations that were made it will come in the form of another Motion, resulting from the Speaker's Motion. The First Notice of Motion is by Honourable Maamberua. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

MOTION ON DROUGHT

HON MAAMBERUA: I Move the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any objection? You have the Floor.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, with the indulgence of the House and also considering the late hour, my reading will take me some seven minutes and then I will be done. The structure of the Motion is such that it can be attracting non-opposition.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, with regard to drought visits around the country to places such as Aminuis, Otjituuo, Okamatapati and reports coming from Omatjette, Kunene, Otjimbingwe, etcetera, even the Windhoek vicinity, Rehoboth, southern Namibia, that picture does not look good. It bears witness to looming drought in Namibia. The Head of State, Comrade President Pohamba, has also raised his concern about it.

Drought is variously defined. The agricultural drought exists when soil moisture is depleted to the extent that crop yields are reduced and on the other hand, it is also defined as; meteorological drought is a prolonged and abnormal moisture deficiency, because expected rains have not fallen.

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**MOTION ON DROUGHT
HON MAAMBERUA**

This year we seem to be confronted with meteorological drought.

Drought affects many of our sources of livelihood and is more devastating to especially people living in rural areas, eking out subsistence farming. Considerable hardships are normally consequences of drought. It causes widespread food shortages, loss of income as livestock would have perished. Even draught animals like donkeys, horses or even oxen are normally destroyed. It takes long to recover from drought, because of the lasting effects of environmental degradation.

Therefore, Government needs to plan its interventions, not just over the period of actual meteorological drought, but be prepared to deal with the aftermath of drought. The general perception is that Government needs to intervene in providing food aid to affected households and feed to affected livestock. However, drought brings about complex and multi-consequential effects. There are too many negative linkages with unique and specific requirements, for example –

- (a) Communities that depend on conservancies could suffer loss of income and livelihood as a result of loss of game and tourism.
- (b) Nutritional levels in the country could decrease, health conditions deteriorate and subsequently, health situation in the country deteriorate and even some gains we have had could be reversed.
- (c) Due to loss of income at household levels, school-going children need to be fed at schools, necessitating Government to beef up its school-feeding Budget and that has an impact on the public purse.
- (d) As livestock conditions deteriorate and numbers reduce, export earnings are lost and in turn negatively impacting on the economy.
- (e) As drought permeates many Sectors, the actual bearer of all these impacts is the State coffers. This, therefore, becomes a vicious cycle.

Honourable Speaker, to prevent the country from getting into this

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HON MAAMBERUA**

vicious cycle, early interventions by Government are urged, including monitoring and evaluation. This year the Government could anticipate improving on school-feeding programmes, provide cattle feed subsidies, increase allocations to pensioners and orphaned and vulnerable children, because this category is the most vulnerable and could be affected by drought most severely.

- (f) Implement the resolution of Parliament of writing off the NamWater water debts, to name but a few initial steps that could be taken by Government.

The most long-lasting consequence of drought is incidence of poverty, therefore, as we are dealing with drought we must simultaneously and consequently revise our anti-poverty strategies. As representatives of the people, Members need to be regularly updated about challenges, more especially those of catastrophic nature that are facing the people.

In the light of the above, therefore, Honourable Speaker, I Move –

That this Assembly –

- (a) *Debates and discusses* the possible ramifications of a looming drought in most parts of Namibia; and
- (b) After discussion *resolves* to request the Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration to monitor the situation on its behalf and to update the House regularly until the situation has improved. Alternatively, that the Office of the Prime Minister regularly updates this august House about the drought situation in Namibia until the situation has improved.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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HON MAAMBERUA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The Motion has been Moved and it will go on the Order Paper. On that note the House stands adjourned.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2013.02.26 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
26 FEBRUARY 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: The First Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Finance. Does the Honourable Minister of Finance Move that the Bill be now introduced?

**INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING:
APPROPRIATION BILL [B.1 – 2012]**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I Move, Honourable Speaker.

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

SECRETARY: *Appropriation Bill* [B. 1 – 2013]

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL

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

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now read a Second Time? Who seconds? Objections? Minister, I give you the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in fulfilment of Article 126(1) of the Namibian Constitution, it is my honour to present for the consideration of the National Assembly, the 2013/2014 Budget and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework of 2013/2014 to 2015/2016

Over the past decade, we have witnessed peaks and troughs of the global economy, booms and busts in commodity prices and prosperity and collapse in international financial markets.

However, throughout these turbulent times, the Namibian economy has stood its ground. During the last decade, real economic activity grew on average by 5.0 percent, real investment grew by 6.7 percent, inflation advanced at a manageable 6.1 per cent, the Budget Deficit averaged 0.9 percent of GDP and Namibia's foreign reserves grew by about N\$10 billion. However, unemployment and poverty remained high.

In this Budget, our Government is looking ahead not only over the next few years, but also over the next generation. We are taking major steps forward to build on the strong foundation we have laid since Independence. We are avoiding foreseeable problems while seizing new opportunities in the global economy. The reforms we present today are substantial, responsible, and necessary. They will ensure that we are focused on enabling and sustaining Namibia's long-term economic growth.

For that reason, Namibians have every reason to be confident about the future. Our confidence is based on the distinctive values and principles that the Government and our people have espoused. These include, amongst others, safeguarding political, social and economic stability, growing an inclusive and innovative economy, stimulating

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

entrepreneurship and organisational efficiency, and promoting competitiveness, openness and job growth.

WHAT THIS BUDGET OFFERS

This Budget is about investing in our future. It is about enhancing our competitiveness as a Nation. And, it is about improving the living standards of our people. The theme for this Budget is “*Growing the Economy, Optimizing Development Outcomes*”, and it reflects the people-centred and development oriented Budget policy, which our Government has consistently and persistently pursued over the years.

We have retained a relatively strong fiscal position, although not as strong as four years ago. This is a considerable achievement given the difficulties the global and domestic economy has faced over the past three years.

We have been able to achieve and maintain this position because of the resilience of our economy, the effectiveness of the policy instruments we have deployed and because of good fiscal management. This fiscal outcome is significant because it helps us to pursue two main strategic priorities of Government in this Budget.

The first objective is growing the economy through strategic infrastructure development, improving its competitiveness and creating jobs. The Budget as the key instrument of fiscal policy should increasingly be seen contributing to this national objective.

Secondly, the Government is committed to efficient delivery of services to all Namibians. The Budget is especially specific in its resource allocation to critical sectors of the economy, especially economic and social sectors in which the country continues to face structural and competitiveness challenges.

Collectively, these objectives are about building a brighter future for Namibians from all backgrounds and walks of life.

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Honourable Speaker, four years after the onset of the global financial crisis and consequent economic downturn, there has been considerable debate on how to resuscitate economic growth, both globally and at the individual country level. The approach involves a policy choice between two alternative cases: a growth stimulus or consolidation. It is my view that the choice depends on the country's individual circumstances, its fiscal condition, the strength of its macroeconomic fundamentals and any socioeconomic challenges it may face.

The policy choice for Namibia is clear. Although our fiscal position is not as robust as it was four years ago, it nonetheless remains relatively strong. We, therefore, have limited room to pursue moderate fiscal expansion to stimulate growth and expand service delivery in a targeted manner. Concurrently, however, we have to ensure that public spending is kept in check and public debt stabilises within sustainable levels.

Namibia is a relatively small open economy, with a high trade-to-GDP ratio, given our export orientation and high import bill.

Developments in the global and regional economy, therefore, have a significant impact on the domestic economy via trade, investment and financial linkages for which timely and targeted domestic policy response is warranted.

In this context, Honourable Speaker, allow me to give a snapshot of developments in the global and domestic economic environment under which this Budget has been prepared.

ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE IN 2012/13

Developments in the Global Economy

Four years after the start of the global financial crisis and consequent economic slowdown, economic recovery has now taken hold, and it is projected to strengthen gradually in 2013 and going forward. However, the risks to fledgling growth have neither disappeared nor subsided.

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The global economic recovery is thus projected to proceed slowly, improving from 3.2 percent in 2012 to 3.5 percent in 2013 and 4.1 percent in 2014. This projected gradual recovery is expected to be led by developing and emerging economies. However, improved economic recovery is largely premised on the efficacy, credibility and timeliness of supportive policies in the Euro zone, the United States of America and Japan, as well as policies to shore up domestic demand in China.

This subdued global economic environment has negative implications for the Namibian economy through the external trade transmission channel, particularly in the export-driven Sectors, such as Agriculture, Fishing, Mining and Tourism.

Honourable Speaker, following a significant fiscal expansion, our Government took a conscious decision to commence with gradual fiscal consolidation.

The Medium-Term Expenditure Framework that I lay before this august House retains the direction of fiscal consolidation. But it provides for measured and targeted fiscal expansion, ensuring that expenditure allocations are maintained in real terms, and giving a boost to growth-impacting infrastructure development and job creation.

Developments in the Regional Economy:

The economic outlook for the Sub-Saharan Africa is positive. Indeed, Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to grow at its pre-crisis average rate of around 5 percent over the 2013-15 period.

Limited exposure to financial trouble in Europe and improvements in commodity prices, robust increase in Foreign Direct Investment and supportive macroeconomic policies account for this robust growth in the regional economy.

That said; although the situation appears to be normalizing, risks to growth continue to loom large. Weak demand in China and the degree of fiscal consolidation in the Euro Area and the United States could

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potentially bite into the region's growth prospects.

In fact, recovery for Africa's largest economy and Namibia's main trading partner, South Africa, is proceeding at a slower pace than anticipated as a result of weak external demand and consequent low growth in industrial exports.

Developments in the Domestic Economy:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in regard to the domestic economy recovery has taken hold, but it continues to be threatened by the adverse external environment. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 4.8 percent in real terms in 2011, which was better than anticipated. However, this pace of growth was lower than the 6.6 percent recorded in 2010. For 2012, growth is estimated to have slowed further to 4.0 percent.

The primary industries contracted by about a percentage point in 2011, relative to a rebound of 14.3 percent recorded in 2010. This was mainly due to contractions in the Mining Sector which declined by about 8.5 percent. However, the Sector is estimated to have expanded by 4.0 percent in 2012 and it is projected to grow by 3.0 percent on average over the MTEF period. Improvements in commodity prices and increased investment in the Mining Sector are expected to anchor growth in primary industries over the medium-term.

In the secondary industries, growth in 2011 was positive though at a lower rate of 4.1 percent, compared to 9.4 percent in 2010. This came in spite of activity in the Construction Sector expanding substantially during 2011, buoyed by a supportive expansionary fiscal policy. The secondary sector as a whole is estimated to have rebounded strongly, with an annual growth rate of about 6.7 percent in 2012, and an average of about 6 percent for the MTEF period.

Tertiary industries were the main driver of growth during 2011, with the sector surpassing the 4.1 percent achieved in 2010 to expand by 4.3 percent. A moderate growth of about 3 percent is estimated for 2012 and this is projected to improve to about 3.3 percent on average over the

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MTEF period. Moderate growth of 0.6 percent in investment was witnessed in 2011, which represented a slowdown from the 9.2 percent achieved in 2010. However, investment activity is estimated to have picked up, with a growth of 10.8 percent estimated for 2012 and an average of 8 percent projected for the MTEF period. Planned capital investment in the Mining, Energy and Water Sectors is expected to boost investment over the Medium-Term.

Exports are projected to grow at an average rate of 5.6 percent during the MTEF period and to overshadow growth in imports. The projected increase in exports is on the back of increased outputs from primary and secondary industries.

Inflation averaged 6.5 percent in 2012, progressively higher than 5.0 percent and 4.5 percent recorded in 2011 and 2010 respectively. High oil prices, which have ripple effects on the Transport Sector, have significantly contributed to the steady increase in inflationary pressures.

The Balance of Payments (BoP) recorded a small surplus during 2011, owing to a surplus recorded on the capital and financial account. This was an improvement from the deficit recorded in 2010.

A supportive monetary policy regime was maintained in 2012 and 2013, with the Bank of Namibia cutting the repo rate from 6.0 percent to 5.5 percent in August 2012. This policy environment has helped to support domestic demand.

Private Sector credit has increased steadily, reflecting Private Sector and investor confidence in the economy.

Foreign reserves stood at N\$14.9 billion at the end of 2012, which was equivalent to 3.4 months of import cover. While this level of reserves is sufficient to maintain the currency peg and complies with international benchmarks, measures to boost reserve levels should be pursued over the Medium Term.

The South African Rand, to which the Namibia Dollar is pegged, has

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depreciated significantly against major trading currencies during the last year. While depreciation augurs well for the Export Sector, it nonetheless makes debt servicing and the import bill more expensive.

On the fiscal front, Namibia maintained an expansionary fiscal policy stance during the last five years as a countercyclical measure to cushion the economy against global headwinds and to address structural challenges facing our country. This policy stance has served our country relatively well. As a result, the domestic economy expanded, albeit moderately.

We have been able to expand expenditure and increase service delivery at a time when spending austerity and structural adjustments have impaired the delivery of public services and exacerbated social conditions in some parts of the developed world.

Revenue Outturn:

Total revenue and grants for 2012/2013 is estimated at N\$37.1 billion, which is an improvement over the N\$35.4 billion originally estimated in the Budget. The favourable outturn is on account of better-than-expected performance in domestic tax revenue streams, as well as in some categories of non-tax revenue.

The estimated revenue outturn represents about 24 percent improvement from N\$29.9 billion collected during 2011/2012. The rebound in revenue performance is ascribed to the favourable economic performance, effectiveness of the tax administration reforms as well as the recovery of the SACU Common Revenue Pool.

The SACU Common Revenue Pool recorded a surplus of N\$9.07 billion in 2010/2011, of which Namibia received N\$2.5 billion during 2012/2013.

Expenditure Outturn:

Honourable Speaker, in line with the fiscal consolidation path adopted in the 2012/2013 Budget, the total expenditure allocation of N\$40.1 billion

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for 2012/2013 amounted to only a 4.2 percent increase over the N\$38.5 billion allocated in 2011/2012. This consisted of N\$31.1 billion in Operational Expenditure and N\$6.7 billion for Development Expenditure, with statutory expenditure including interest obligations amounting to N\$2.4 billion.

The Total Budget execution rate for 2011/2012 stood at 95 percent. Operational Budget execution rate stood at 95.5 percent, while the 10-Page Development Budget utilisation rate stood at 92.9 percent, marginally higher than the rate of 92.1 achieved in 2010/2011.

During my 2012/2013 Budget Statement, I emphasised the maxim that; *“Under-utilization of budgetary allocations, especially those of a development nature should be seen from the perspective of lost development opportunities, the cost of borrowing and how they could have found alternative uses in the economy”*. This principle cannot be overemphasised.

The preliminary revenue outturn for up to early February 2012/2013 amounts to N\$31.1 billion, equivalent to 87.8 percent of the N\$35.4 billion estimated in the Budget.

The preliminary expenditure outturn including expenditure commitments for 2012/2013, amounts to N\$32.6 billion, representing 86.4 percent of the N\$37.8 billion appropriated expenditure.

Operational Expenditure execution rate is estimated at 88.4 percent, while the Development Budget utilisation rate, including TIPEEG allocations, is estimated at 76.6 percent by February 2013.

Provisional Budget Deficit:

The Provisional Budget deficit is estimated at 2.8 percent of GDP in 2012/2013 or some N\$3.0 billion, which is better than the 4.6 percent projected in the Budget. This is due to anticipated better revenue outturn.

Honourable Speaker, needless to state, a prolonged episode of high

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Budget deficits has adverse implications for debt dynamics and the Sustainability of growth in expenditure.

Debt Stock and Contingent Liabilities:

While the estimated debt stock for 2012/2013 of N\$27.5 billion or 26.3 percent of GDP falls well within the 35 percent benchmark, stabilization of growth in public debt is an important medium-term policy for Namibia. Contingent liabilities stood at an estimated N\$2.1 billion, or 2.6 percent of GDP.

The imperative to maintain the direction of fiscal consolidation and, at the same time, fund critical national priority needs, calls on Government to strengthen revenue mobilization strategies and increasingly harness measures to improve internal efficiency, reduce waste and realise internal savings as important facets for public finance management in the Medium-Term.

STRATEGIC POLICY INITIATIVES

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the record of achievements we have made as a country and the successes we have scored to date are a result of concerted policy actions in various fields of human endeavour.

In public finance and the Financial Sector, Government undertook several policy initiatives and reforms.

Public Finance Management Reforms:

Government has initiated reforms in core areas of Public Finance Management (PFM) with the objective of strengthening Public Finance Management Systems, increasing transparency and accountability and enhancing value for money.

In recognition for our endeavour, we have been rated as the second best country in Africa by the globally recognised Open Budget Survey. This standard of excellence should be retained, and further improved.

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The roll-out of programme-budgeting under this Budget seeks to promote results-based management and accountability. To further strengthen public finance management, the Ministry of Finance will spearhead the roll-out of public expenditure reviews to key Budget Votes.

Public Finance Management Law Reforms:

The Public Finance Management Bill that is soon to be introduced is aimed at promoting good financial management in order to maximise service delivery through the effective and efficient use of limited resources.

The Bill adopts an approach to financial management which focuses on outputs and responsibilities, rather than the traditional rule-driven approach.

Public Procurement Reforms:

The Public Procurement Law has been revised to give effect to local economic development and empowerment. Many of the new rules are already being applied under the existing Tender Board Act.

The new Bill is being subjected to legal review and I am optimistic that it will be finalized for tabling this year.

Public-Private Partnership (PPP):

With the comprehensive Public-Private Partnership policy now finalised and approved by Cabinet, Government will formulate PPP Guidelines that will eventually guide and regulate PPPs in the Public Sector.

Cash, Asset and Liability Management reforms:

We have also initiated activities to review the national Debt Management Strategy, alongside measures to strengthen the cash management system to closely monitor and better manage associated risks.

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SOE Governance:

State-Owned Enterprises have been in the news for many reasons – both positive and negative. I do not believe in the notion mooted recently that SOEs are out of control. In fact, the SOE Governance Council has made rapid strides to fulfil its mandate by developing common policy guidelines for operations at these SOEs. This will eventually lead to an improvement in SOE performance and in the critical services that they are mandated to provide.

Now we need to implement these guidelines and put measures in place to monitor compliance in order to address poor performance that unfortunately prevail in some of these SOEs.

Financial Sector Policies:

In the Financial Sector, we have initiated key reforms.

The Namibia Financial Sector Strategy:

Honourable Speaker, in order to drive the financial inclusion agenda for Namibia and bringing about a conducive environment for the development of an inclusive Financial Sector, I have launched the 10-year Namibia Financial Sector Strategy and Action Plan mid-last year, whose implementation has already commenced.

Alongside the Strategy, I also launched the Financial Literacy Initiative, which serves as a national platform for financial education to the population. We have rolled-out the literacy campaign to various Regions of the country and intend to expand the campaign in various dimensions of financial discipline. I wish to extend the Government's appreciation to all platform partners for their collaborative efforts in this respect.

Honourable Speaker, it is gratifying to note that the efforts to spearhead reform and innovation in the Financial Sector have paid dividends. Latest assessments have indicated that the level of financial inclusion has generally risen. In addition, innovative and *pro-poor* product offerings

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tailored to the needs of low-income and previously unbanked individuals are entering the market. Since last year, all commercial banks have introduced the Basic Bank Account which offers low or no bank charges for certain services.

Progress has also been made on standards for cash deposit fees for individuals and Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.

Another important development was the licensing of the SME Bank in December 2012, an institution that is expected to enhance the financial inclusion and development agenda of the SME Sector in Namibia.

Capital Markets Development:

With respect to Capital Markets Development, the Government borrowing strategy has historically been geared towards the development of the Domestic Capital Market. About 70 percent of Government borrowing needs is sourced from the domestic market through the issuance of bonds and treasury bills.

I am also pleased to share with you that in November last year the Government listed and issued the first non-South African sovereign bond on the JSE to the value of N\$850 million. This initiative has diversified the pool of investors of Government securities and also increased the level of interest of foreign investors in Namibia.

Legislative Reforms in the Financial Sector:

Legislative Reforms have also been initiated to strengthen the supervisory regime and enhance competition and compliance. However, financial innovation and technology-driven product offerings come with added oversight responsibilities.

In this regard, Government has gazetted regulations governing electronic payments to ensure that technology-driven product innovation adheres to best standards and practices. The new Financial Intelligence Act was passed by this august House last year, alongside the Prevention and

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Combating of Terrorist Activities Act. Both pieces of legislation have the complimentary effects of aligning our regulatory environment to best international practices and enhancing the potency of the law to deter and eliminate money laundering opportunities and the funding of terrorist activities.

FIM Bill and NAMFISA Bill:

Together with Namfisa, we have gone through an arduous but rewarding exercise to overhaul and modernize the regulatory apparatus governing the non-bank Financial Sector.

Because of the voluminous nature of these Bills and their relative significance, we have decided to undertake consultative workshops with Members of Parliament to familiarise the Honourable Members with the principles and content of the Bills prior to their tabling.

We have also finalized Amendments to regulations relating to domestic asset requirements. Regulation 28, Regulation 15 and a new Regulation 29 are with the legal drafters for clearance before gazetting. The amended Rules will serve as important instruments for mobilizing domestic savings to finance development through minimum local investment thresholds and help stem excessive capital flight.

The Banking Institutions Bill:

In addition, recent events in the regulatory and supervisory environment warranted us to embark on an intensive review process, which resulted in a *Banking Institutions Amendment Bill*.

This bill will aim to introduce limits on shareholding and regulate foreign ownership in domestic banks to ensure greater certainty in the application of ownership matters relating to banks, which is fundamental in safeguarding financial stability in the domestic banking system.

The Bill is at an advanced stage and will be released for public and stakeholder consultation during the course of this year.

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Public Accountants' and Auditors' Board legal reform:

We are also reviewing the Public Accountants and Auditors' Act to align it to international accounting and auditing practices. We are making good progress with the necessary amendments to the Act.

BUDGET ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, these developments I have so far highlighted bear testimony to the fact that Government has allocated considerable resources and undertaken a broad range of reforms to bring about improved delivery of services, promote economic growth, job creation and social welfare.

I now would like to highlight some of the key budgetary achievements to date.

Economic Sectors:

In the Agricultural Sector, crop farming output improved during 2011/2012 due to expansion of activities, completion of several projects under the Green Scheme and better rainfall. However, poor rain conditions being experienced this year are expected to adversely impact on production. Increased export of beef from the Northern Communal Areas was recorded due to improvements in animal health and compliance with international standards.

Construction of several storage facilities and the Fresh Produce Hubs at Rundu and Ongwediva were also completed.

In the Tourism Sector, the number of tourist arrivals exceeded 1 million in 2011, with over 160 new accommodation facilities opened in 2012, creating close to 1,000 jobs, and several infrastructure development and rehabilitation of tourism facilities are underway, with some projects expected to be completed this year. However, economic developments in Europe and North America are set to impact negatively on the sector.

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Port infrastructure and Expansion:

Modern port infrastructure is critical to enhance the flow of goods and making our national ports preferred hubs for increased regional and trans-Atlantic trade. During the year under review, good progress was made with regard to Walvis Bay port expansion, development and expansion of the Walvis Bay Container Terminal and rehabilitation of the tanker berth, and Lüderitz Boatyard extension.

Water:

Provision of clean water supply has been expanded to an increasing number of Namibians. In particular; the expected construction of Neckartal Dam in Karas Region and Walvis Bay Desalination Plant are expected to increase bulk water supply for industrial use, households and irrigation.

Several projects for rehabilitation of bulk water supply infrastructure in urban and rural areas were completed and flood hazard mapping activities now underway will enhance national preparedness and adaptation to climate change.

Energy:

Secure energy supply is an important utility for households, businesses and capital investment alike, especially in the Mining Sector.

In this Sector over 150 schools and Government facilities in rural areas have been electrified since 2011/12.

Technical assessment for the Baynes Hydro Power Project has been completed, and consultation with affected communities will pave the way forward for this important project.

Increased investments have been made in respect to ensuring a secure power supply to the Mining Sector and the port of Walvis Bay.

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The preparatory phase for the Kudu Gas Project is now underway and commercial arrangements with upstream partners are being pursued.

Transport Infrastructure:

Development and maintenance of the rail and surface road networks is an important facet in the process of our economic development and social transformation as well as with respect to national competitiveness and trade facilitation.

Important transport infrastructure projects that have been completed include:-

- Phase 2 of the Rundu-Elundu road upgrading;
- The Okahandja-Karibib road rehabilitation;
- The upgrading of the Gobabis-Otjinene road;
- Okahao-Omakange road, and
- Phase II of the Northern railway extension project.

Budgetary allocations to Economic Sectors have been complemented with investment funds from our Development Financial Institutions.

The Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) has disbursed loans amounting to N\$383 million during 2012 bringing the DBN's total loan book to N\$1.4 billion. In 2012 alone, DBN financing activities supported over 341 projects, creating over 1,980 new jobs, 2,988 temporary jobs and retaining 2,717 jobs.

Since its inception in 2004, DBN funding has supported the provision of over 41,175 direct and indirect jobs, especially in the SME Sector.

N\$235 million of the bank's loan went towards SME funding. The

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funding supported tenders to SMEs worth N\$972 million.

The opening of a dedicated SME Bank in 2012 is expected to usher in a new era of expanded provision of accessible finance, especially to the SME Sector.

AgriBank has expanded its loan offerings to the Aquaculture Subsector. Loan disbursements increased by 8 percent to amount to N\$276 million in 2012, benefiting over 640 commercial and small-scale farmers and enabling previously disadvantaged Namibians to acquire land. Over 5,000 jobs were created and maintained during 2012.

The provision of affordable housing for the majority of our population remains a challenging priority for Government, given run-away property prices and the scarcity of serviced land. The National Housing Enterprise (NHE) has built a total of 970 affordable houses during the last two years, worth about N\$300 million with close to 3,000 jobs created.

Social Sectors:

Education is a key growth and productivity enhancer. In this Sector; the year 2013 commenced with the phasing-out of the mandatory Development Funds contribution to facilitate for universal primary education. Additional educational facilities were developed and upgraded to cater for increasing number of learners, and enrolment to, and completion rates for basic, tertiary and vocational institutions also increased annually.

Honourable Speaker, let me acknowledge the enormous contribution that the Late Dr Abraham Iyambo has made to spearhead educational reform to greater heights and articulate development needs for the Sector. His sudden passing on has left an indelible mark, but his indefatigable spirit lives on as a fountain of inspiration to deliver the results.

In the Health Sector we achieved progress in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis and in rolling-out of Anti-retroviral drugs, with coverage rate in excess of 85 percent. Construction and renovation of health facilities in

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various parts of the country, and increased local ownership for programmes previously catered for by the donor community was also achieved.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG):

TIPEEG intervention entered its second-year of implementation during 2012/2013.

The Development Budget execution rate up to February 2013, stood at 76.6 percent, with about 13,885 additional jobs created.

This number of jobs is an underestimate due to irregular reporting, and should be seen against 27,235 jobs created during the first year of implementation.

The need for timely reporting, monitoring and evaluation in regard to the implementation of TIPEEG cannot be overemphasised.

MEDIUM-TERM ECONOMIC OUTLOOK:

Honourable Members, while our economy is projected to grow above the global average, growth rates are expected to be moderate, given the difficult global economic environment. GDP is projected to grow by an estimated 4.3 percent in 2013 and remain relatively flat at 4.4 percent over the MTEF. This relatively low growth trajectory has corresponding effects on revenue outlook over the Medium-Term.

Domestic economic policy interventions should of necessity be directed at lifting economic recovery and bringing about inclusive growth.

FISCAL OUTLOOK FOR THE MTEF:

The medium-term fiscal outlook is premised on the projected economic performance. Government fiscal policy remains grounded in fiscal counter-cyclicality, promotion of economic growth, and social welfare, as

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well as long-term sustainability.

During the next MTEF, fiscal policy will be hinged on three fundamental pillars:-

- maintaining the direction of fiscal consolidation, with moderate, but targeted expenditure expansion aimed at consolidating economic recovery, safe-guarding macroeconomic stability and the sustainability of fiscal outcomes. The focus is to give substance to national development priorities and retain sound latitude of fiscal buffers as a contingency measure in the event that the global and domestic economic environment deteriorates.
- Stabilizing growth in public debt by utilizing a policy mix of expenditure management, revenue mobilisation and enhancing internal efficiency; and
- strengthening efficiency in tax administration and revenue collection to support revenue growth in the Medium-Term and beyond.

Revenue Outlook and Medium-Term Initiatives:

Total revenue collection for 2012/2013 is estimated at N\$37.1 billion, equating to about a 4.8 percent upward revision from the N\$35.4 billion originally budgeted revenue. The upward revision reflects better performance in domestic revenue streams during the year, particularly Individual Income Tax and some categories of nontax revenue.

For 2013/2014, revenue is projected at N\$40.1 billion, about 8.2 percent growth from the estimated revenue for 2012/2013. During the MTEF, revenue is projected to grow by an average of 7.3 percent annually to reach N\$45.6 billion by 2015/2016.

The projected improvements in revenue is on account of initiatives to improve the tax administration regime, the introduction of alternative sources of revenue, recovery in the SACU Common Revenue Pool and projected higher collections as the domestic economic recovery gathers

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steam.

Expenditure Outlook:

Total Expenditure for 2013/2014 amounts to N\$47.6 billion, equivalent to a 19 percent increase from the N\$40.1 billion allocated in 2012/2013 or about 41 percent of GDP. Over the MTEF, total expenditure is projected to average N\$48.7 billion and hover around 37.3 percent of GDP.

Operational Expenditure is set at N\$37.2 billion, equivalent to a 19.8 percent increase from N\$31.0 billion allocated during the previous year. This increase is mainly due to adjustments in the Public Civil Servants Wage Bill, including job evaluation and regrading.

The Development Budget will increase by 21.3 percent to N\$8.1 billion, from the N\$ 6.7 billion allocated in 2012/2013 to give impetus to growth-enhancing infrastructure development and create jobs.

Budget Balance and Financing Options:

Honourable Speaker, a Budget outlay of N\$47.6 billion, comprising N\$6.6 billion total additional expenditure above the ceiling contemplated in the 2012/2013 MTEF is significant and calls for the effective implementation of programmes to realize intended outcomes and ripple effects in the economy.

The Budget deficit is projected to increase to 6.4 percent of GDP, from 2.8 percent estimated in the 2012/2013 MTEF and average 4.6 percent of GDP during the MTEF. In nominal terms, the deficit will increase from N\$3.0 billion in 2012/13 to an estimated N\$7.4 billion in 2013/2014 and average around N\$5.8 billion during the MTEF.

Government intends to finance the deficit through a combination of drawdown on accumulated cash reserves and borrowing mainly from domestic sources.

Debt Outlook and Management:

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As a result, total debt will increase from N\$27.5 billion in 2012/13 to N\$32.4 billion in 2013/2014 and reach an estimated N\$44.5 billion by 2015/2016. As a proportion of GDP, debt will increase moderately to 27.8 percent in 2013/2014 to reach an estimated 30.7 percent by 2015/2016.

POLICY INTERVENTIONS FOR THE MTEF:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, a people-centred Government should address the bread and butter issues confronting the citizens. The Budget and Budget policy should impact on daily lives of Namibians through the increased service delivery, the promotion of economic activities and the optimization of social welfare.

In this Budget, the following tax policy changes are proposed:-

Corporate Income Tax:

Reduction of the non-mining company tax from the current rate of 34 percent to 33 percent in 2013/14 and further to 32 percent in 2014/15. The rate reduction has an objective of encouraging economic agents to invest and produce.

Individual Income Tax:

Increase of the tax threshold and reduction of Individual Income Tax rates and income tax brackets changes to relieve the general tax burden on individuals and to assist our citizens in affording the basic amenities of life. In this regard, the following tax brackets and rates are proposed:-

Below N\$50,000	0%
N\$50 001 -- to -- N\$100 000	18%
N\$100, 001 -- to -- N\$300, 000	25%
N\$300, 001 -- to -- N\$500, 000	28%

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N\$500, 001 -- to -- N\$799, 999 **30%**

N\$800, 000 -- to -- N\$1, 500, 000 **32%**

over N\$1,500,001 **37%**

Transfer Duty and Stamp Duties:

Reduction in transfer duty brackets and rates are proposed as follows:

- N\$0 -- to -- N\$600,000 **0%**
- N\$600,000 -- to -- N\$1000,000; 1% of the amount exceeding 600,000
- N\$1000,001 -- to -- N\$2000,000; N\$4,000 plus 5% of the amount exceeding N\$1,000,000
- On value exceeding N\$2,000,000, N\$54,000 plus 8% of the amount exceeding N\$2,000,000.

Reduction in Stamp Duty brackets and rates are proposed as follows:-

N\$0 – N\$600, 000 **Exempt**

Where the value or consideration exceeds N\$600,000 for every N\$1,000 or part thereof of the value or consideration that exceeds N\$600, 000; **N\$10.**

The reduction in duty rates is aimed at encouraging our citizens to acquire property – especially houses – in an environment of runaway prices for properties.

Total aggregate cost for the tax adjustments is estimated at about N\$1.2 billion and this is built into the revenue forecast for the MTEF.

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As part of our on-going tax reforms, Government will undertake a series of measures to improve tax administration and to strengthen revenue performance going forward.

During this session of Parliament, I will table the Export Levy Bill and announce export levy rates on the export of raw materials. I will also table an environmental levy tax proposal to be levied on certain environmentally harmful items, including the Carbon Dioxide Emission Tax on motor vehicles.

Excise Tax/Sin Taxes:

In accordance with Article 21 of the SACU Agreement of 2002, new excise duty rates will be announced by the South African Minister of Finance tomorrow on the 27th February 2013, and will come into effect in Namibia on the same day through a notice in the Government Gazette issued in accordance with the provisions of Section 54(1) of the Customs and Excise Act of 1998.

Strengthening the Competitiveness of the Economy:

Namibia's sound economic policies continue to enjoy favourable international recognition. Both Moody's and Fitch ratings have reaffirmed Namibia's credit ratings with stable outlook Baa3 and BBB-, respectively. These ratings denote expectations of low default risk and continue to contribute towards achieving competitive borrowing terms both domestically and internationally.

In the area of the overall competitiveness of our country, we should remain cognisant of the remaining challenges to economic competitiveness and persist to address them. The Global Competitiveness Index of 2012/2013 ranked Namibia 92 out of 144, lower than the 83rd rank achieved in 2011/2012. We need to work harder in areas of policy and institutional reforms, streamlining Government administrative procedures and reducing red tape in order to improve our attractiveness.

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Namibia ranked satisfactory on four pillars namely, macroeconomic environment, institutions, financial market development and infrastructure.

Promoting financial inclusion and modern legislative environment:

As part of promoting the financial inclusion agenda for Namibia, and implementing reforms in the Financial Sector, Government will develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework during 2013 to guide the implementation of the Financial Sector Strategy.

Legislative reforms in the banking and non-bank Financial Sectors will also be undertaken.

EXPENDITURE PRIORITIES FOR THE MTEF: GROWING THE ECONOMY AND INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE:

The funding priorities in this Budget and next MTEF are, therefore, clear.

Economic Growth, Employment Creation and Poverty Reduction:

In order to reduce poverty, the economy needs to grow and to create jobs at an accelerated rate. Structural change is also needed in the composition of growth if policy intensions are to translate into tangible results. To this end, additional resources are provided for in this MTEF.

Agriculture:

A total of N\$7.1 billion is allocated to the Agricultural Sector over the MTEF. The resources are to fund:-

- expansion of the Green Scheme Project, to bring more land under irrigation;
- to strengthening animal health and productivity programmes, and horticulture development and construction of grain storage facilities and veterinary clinics.

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Environment and Tourism:

A total of N\$1.8 billion is allocated to the Environment and Tourism Sector over the MTEF. The resources are to fund, among others:-

- Community-based tourism development,
- Development of tourism facilities, and
- Implementation of environmental management and adaptation activities.

Infrastructure Development: Public Sector Investment Programme:

In accordance with National Development Priorities, N\$8.2 billion is provided to the Transport Sector over the MTEF for, among others:-

- Expansion of the port of Walvis Bay;
- Rehabilitation and railway infrastructure management, and
- Development and maintenance of national roads infrastructure

The National Airline receives additional support to maintain its operations. I must emphasize that the perpetual lifeline extended to Air Namibia is a cause of national concern for me as much as it is for the Nation. A lasting solution is warranted.

Energy:

Energy is critical to fuelling national development and industrialisation. Additional budgetary allocations are made to promote provision of secure energy for industry and households.

Water:

Provision of bulk and potable water remains a core priority to ensure

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adequate supplies for households and industry. In this regard an amount of N\$1.1 billion is allocated during the MTEF for rural water supply and strategic water supply infrastructure. The major projects envisaged are the construction of the Neckartal Dam in the Karas Region, Walvis Bay Desalination Plant, water extension pipelines and earth dams.

Private Sector Development and Initiatives for diversifying the economy:

The adoption of the National Industrial Development Policy provides a national blue print for the diversification of the economy and to address domestic supply-side constraints. Government is currently seized with the review of Namibia's incentive regime whose conclusion will form part of the programmes of action for industrial development.

Human Resources Development and Skills Formation:

As a Nation, we have accorded top priority to education. Education receives the lion's share, amounting to N\$10.7 billion in 2013/2014. This amount corresponds to 23.7 percent of the total Budget. Over the MTEF, the allocation to education amounts to N\$35.2 billion.

The allocation to education will fund, among others:

- provision of universal primary education,
- improvement of accommodation facilities for teachers,
- expansion of hostel accommodation, especially at institutions of higher learning, and
- increased funding for the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund and Vocational Training loans to cater for increased access.

Health:

Increased funding is provided to the health sector to improve health

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facilities and to bring health services closer to the people. Over the MTEF, the allocation to health amounts to N\$15.4 billion.

The main activities funded comprise:-

- strengthening disease control and prevention as well as clinical health care services programmes;
- improvement of health facilities and recruitment of personnel and
- sustaining programme activities previously funded by donors.

Social Safety Nets:

In this Budget, resources are made available to strengthen the social safety nets, both in quality and quantity.

- An amount of N\$3.9 billion is allocated for old-age pension over the MTEF to cater for increased coverage of our senior citizens. Old-age social grants are further increased by N\$50.00 to N\$600.00 per month.
- Allocations are made for emergency relief owing to impacts of natural disasters and climate change, and
- Resources are also made available for the support programmes for the veterans of the liberation struggle.

Defence, Safety and Public Order:

Honourable Members, since Independence our Nation has enjoyed peace, security and rule of law which are the defining hallmarks of our democracy and of our freedom. A combined amount of N\$8.0 billion is allocated to the Public Safety and Security Sector in 2013/2014, comprising National Defence, Police, Justice and Correctional Services. For the MTEF period, the combined allocation amounts to N\$27.3 billion.

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- Allocations to the National Defence are mainly to cater for upgrading the facilities and enhance Namibia's participation in peacekeeping missions as part of the United Nation's membership responsibilities.
- Allocations to the Police are to cater for construction of new Police Stations, accommodation facilities and recruiting and training new members of the force.
- N\$546 million is allocated for the administration of justice, construction and renovation of Court structures and reducing the backlog of cases in our Courts, and
- N\$587 million are allocated to Prisons and Correctional Services.

Youth Development:

During this MTEF, allocations to youth development and empowerment programmes are strengthened to promote entrepreneurship and ensure that our youth develop their talents and that they always remain at the centre of development.

Last year, our Nation shared in the joy and triumph of Namibia's golden girl, Johanna Benson for clinching the Paralympic gold medal. We should continue to discover and develop the talents of our sportsmen and women to their fullest potential.

During this MTEF:-

- Allocations to the Youth, National Service, Sports and Culture for the MTEF amounts to N\$1.9 billion.
- As part of this allocation, funding is provided to the National Youth Credit Scheme to support young entrepreneurs who want to start income-generating activities.
- Further to these allocations, the increase in allocations to the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund and Vocational Training loan

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facility is aimed at encouraging more youths to access tertiary and vocational training institutions and thus enhance their employability.

Housing and Improved Sanitation:

The provision of housing and basic sanitary amenities is an important priority to improve the living standards and quality of life for our people. It is on this premise that His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba constituted a national Task Force on housing to propose a long-term model for addressing this national problem, focusing on core factors of land acquisition, servicing, property development and financing solutions.

A total amount of N\$1.9 billion is allocated to the Ministry of Regional, Local Government, Housing and Rural Development for 2013/2014 alone to cater for, among others, the servicing of land and improved sanitary standards in urban, peri-urban and rural areas.

Over the MTEF, the total allocation amounts to N\$5.8 billion, reflecting the urgency for, and consistent action to arrest the situation.

In addition, a total of N\$320 million is allocated to NHE over the MTEF to provide for the construction of low-cost housing.

Allocations are also made to support Build Together, Social Housing and related programmes.

Further, Pension Funds and regulatory authorities are investigating the viability of pension-backed home loans for their members. The amendments to the Transfer Duty Act, Stamp Duty Act and the reduction of Personal Income Tax proposed in this budget should also be seen from the perspective of assisting our people to afford the basic amenities of life, especially the acquisition of housing.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the 2012/2013 Budget and MTEF scaled-up resources and maintained expenditure commitments in

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real terms to bring about improved service delivery and optimise development outcomes.

The 2012 MTEF also contemplated the commencement of a Fiscal Consolidation Programme to rein in the Budget Deficit and stabilize growth in Public debt, amidst adverse and uncertain external global economic environment.

The fiscal and economic environment has not significantly changed and the risks underpinning economic recovery and the country's fiscal position have neither disappeared nor subsided.

We are, however, keenly aware of the persistent challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality facing our country and our people's aspirations for a better life.

The Budget that I am tabling today echoes these aspirations. We have tough decisions to make to ensure additional resources are available in order to accelerate service delivery, stimulate inclusive growth and contribute to the improvement of social welfare.

However, the intended outcomes go beyond budgetary allocations and lie in the timely execution and implementation of the funded programmes. There is no substitute for hard and smart work.

With respect to the outcomes of the year-to-date Budget, the Accountability Report of Government gives an account of achievements realized with appropriated funds.

Use of Contingency Allocations for 2012/2013:

During the current Financial Year, an amount of N\$171.3 million was allocated as a contingency provision. This amount was fully spent to meet the emergency needs as presented by Offices, Ministries and Agencies.

Government will mobilize resources from internal savings to cater for increased coverage of senior citizens this year. I have distributed the list of

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activities that have benefited from Contingency Provisions.

CONCLUSION:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in formulating this Budget, we had to make crucial choices and trade-offs, and the outcome of this process clearly reflects our policies and priorities.

- We are choosing to protect and foster employment.
- We are choosing to invest in our children's education.
- We are choosing to strengthen the health services and our social services.

Although we wish to do more, we are responsibly choosing not to burden our country with more than what it can bear. After all, our families would have to pay the price of our choices if we were irresponsible.

In this Budget, we have increased the incentives to create employment, we have chosen to decrease the burden of taxes, and we have given our families and our pensioners more support.

While the approach in recent years was to stimulate economic activity by expanding public spending, we have now chosen to reassure people, to boost confidence, and to give the private sector some space to contribute towards economic expansion and job creation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. The preparation of the Budget relied on the hard work of many people, both in the Ministry of Finance and in other Offices, Ministries and Agencies. It strongly depended on understanding, goodwill and support of my Cabinet colleagues. Members of the Treasury Cabinet Committee have shared in the difficult task of assessing spending proposals and reviewing policy options.

And, most important, I sincerely thank His Excellency, President

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Hifikepunye Pohamba for his sterling leadership and trust vested in me to serve our country and people as Minister of Finance. I thank the Right Honourable Prime Minister for his counsel and support

My unalloyed gratitude goes to our development partners and stakeholder communities for all-round support offered to Namibia in pursuit of our socio-economic objectives.

Honourable Speaker, it would be remiss of me if I did not express my deepest gratitude to Honourable Calle Schlettwein, Minister of Trade and Industry, for his enduring support and outstanding contribution during his tenure as Permanent Secretary and as my Deputy Minister of Finance.

I most sincerely thank the Director-General of the National Planning Commission, my officials, officials from the National Planning Commission Secretariat and staff of the Government Printers for their hard work and limitless energy dedicated to the preparation and publication of this Budget. I sincerely thank Offices/Ministries and Agencies which provided valuable information for the preparation of this Budget. In addition, Governor Ipumbu Shiimi and his staff at the Bank of Namibia have always availed themselves when macroeconomic policy coordination was of utmost importance and I thank them too.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it now gives me pleasure to invite the Members of Parliament to consider, in terms of Article 126(2) of the Namibian Constitution, the *Appropriation Bill* and the accompanying documents tabled before this august House today. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister of Finance for her motivation and I thank the House for cooperating with her. Any further discussion?
Honourable Nyamu.

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HON NYAMU: Honourable Speaker, I rise first, of all to express my great thanks for the well-presented and well read *Appropriation Bill*. I was advised that that was her last Budget submission. (Interjections) Honourable Speaker, I Move that the discussion on the *Appropriation Bill* be adjourned for an appropriate period of time, so that the public, individuals, can make their submissions, particularly the Opposition Parties, to be able to respond. I Move that the Debate be adjourned until the 12th of March 2013.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I very much appreciate the wish of members of the House to acquaint themselves with the content of the documents I presented here, but I think we have to take note of the fact that even the Constitution contemplates that there must be a limit in terms of the time that is available for the Parliament to consider Financial Bills, of which the Budget is the most important. A postponement of the consideration of the Budget to the 12th of March is excessive and absolutely not necessary, especially given the fact that we have adopted a Medium-Term financial planning system where the financial plans of Government are unveiled to this House two years in advance and what we have every year is just an adjustment on the Annual Allocation, which really never exceeds 20 to 30 percent. Given that, I would like to implore the Honourable Members to agree that consideration on the Budget is postponed until Tuesday, the 5th of March instead of the 12th of March 2013.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, in light of what the Minister has advised, I Move that we postpone this discussion until Tuesday next week.

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HON SPEAKER: The further consideration of the *Appropriation Bill* stands adjourned until March 5, 2013. With that I once again thank the Minister and her team of collaborators for the enumerated Budget and a job well-done. As is customary at this stage, we are invited by PricewaterhouseCoopers and Standard Bank as our hosts to join them in the courtyard for refreshments.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:55

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:36

HON SPEAKER: The Business resumes. Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? Honourable Mutorwa.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, for giving me the Floor to make a Ministerial Statement to give some information to the general Public.

The Ministerial Statement is about the European Union's Forty Day Residency Compliance Requirements.

For some years now, the European Union has provided a very welcome market for our agricultural products, including Namibia's world renowned beef. It is our hope and wish that the said economic relationship will

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continue and even grow further.

The issue of the EU's forty day residency compliance requirements for the export of beef products to the EU market, has made and is still making newspaper headlines in Namibia and beyond.

It is absolutely important to emphasise that the requirement for a 40-day residency comes from the European Union and not from the Directorate of Veterinary Services. These measures have been put in place, as we have been informed by the EU for meat exported from Namibia as well as, possibly, from other countries that export beef, lamb and game to the EU. This requirement is placed on meat to be exported to Europe in order to safeguard the EU's territories from possible incursion of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. Fair enough!

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, while it is an acknowledged scientific fact that trade in animals and animal products from cloven-hoofed animals poses a potential risk of spreading FMD from the exporting country to the importing one, in the case of our country, Namibia, we maintain an FMD free zone. This FMD free zone is recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health. This international recognition is as a result of a wide range of risk management measures that we as a country put in place and should maintain at all times.

Some of these measures are the **Bio-Security Measures:**

FMD zoning in which the country is subdivided into areas that are recognised as infected are three in the case of Namibia. The infected zones include Caprivi and the eastern part of Kavango, particularly the Mukwe Constituency and the Ndiyona Constituency. This zone is the infected zone. Then we have the protection zone which is all the areas west of the Ndiyona Constituency up to Kunene, to Opuwo. All these areas are protected zone. That is for the past many years there has not been any outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth. Then we have the free zone which is obviously all the areas south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence or the Red Line.

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- We also have check points for controlling movement of animals, animal products and by-products as well as other materials that may pose a risk for FMD transmission.
- Maintenance of border and internal fences is also done to prevent entry of potentially infected animals from outside our borders.
- Import controls of animals and animal products through permits and physical presence of ports of entry.
- We also do mass bi-annual and tri-annual FMD vaccinations in infected zone.
- We do animal movement control through the Namibia Livestock and Identification Traceability System.

Other measures are **Disease Surveillance Programmes** which includes:-

- farm inspections are done by Animal Health Technicians (AHTs);
- investigating disease reports received from farmers,
- biannual Animal Health declarations made by commercial farmers,
- community, herd health and extension visits and many other measures.

What are the forty day residency requirements?

The issue of the 40-day residency requirements is additional to all these measures that I have just enumerated put by the European Union and it is our honest opinion in the Ministry specifically, and Government generally that these requirements are over and above the national requirements. They are also over and above those requirements set by the International Trade Standards and recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health.

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The prescribed requirements, therefore, essentially in practical terms require our veterinarians to attest in the EU health certificate that accompanies our meat consignments to Europe to the effect that:

1. The territory from which the animals that are slaughtered for the EU has been free of FMD and Rinderpest for twelve months. I must also inform this Honourable House that the issue of Rinderpest is no more an issue, because it was already eradicated from the world in 2011. A declaration was made at the FAO.
2. The animals have not been vaccinated against FMD in the past twelve months.
3. Regular surveillance demonstrating the absence of FMD infection.
4. The animals have remained in the territory since birth or for at least three months before slaughter.
5. No animals have been introduced during the last three months from areas not approved by the EU.
6. Animals are identified and registered in the national system of identification and certification of origin.
7. They have remained for at least 40 days before direct dispatch to the abattoir where they are received, slaughtered and their meat processed and packaged separately from animals products not destined for the EU market.
8. They have been transported directly from holdings in vehicles that are cleaned and disinfected before loading to an approved abattoir without contact with other animals which did not comply with these requirements.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, to practically implement these

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requirements, the Directorate of Veterinary Services in the Ministry, after having consulted the EU inspectors that are currently in the country, has issued a new circular to all Livestock Industry role players and to the DVS staff, because in the Ministry we have convened a meeting when these requirements came to light. We convened a meeting with the role players in the industry on the 21st of February and it was after that successful meeting where the general consensus of those that attended the meeting on behalf of their organisations was that these requirements are definitely impossible and impractical and it was after that meeting that a new circular was issued, V.9/2013, dated 21 February.

At least in this new circular, after having consulted, it takes away the requirement of establishing isolation camps on farms or on communal areas. Again, as I said, this came after consultation and this was, and rightly so, the fundamental main issue of concern to farmers and the the Livestock Industry. The EU inspectors, at least verbally, clarified that it is permissible to mix compliant animals on the farm with other non-compliant animals that may not have been resident on the farm for forty days and still qualify for the EU animals, provided they come from the FMD free zone. The requirement for isolation camps for animals destined for the EU market would have made it difficult, if not impossible, for communal farmers to market their livestock directly to abattoirs and still meet the 40-day residency requirement.

Consequently, they were automatically going to suffer lower prices at Meatco to the tune of 25 percent at least. Commercial farmers, on the other hand, would have been required to establish isolation camps, which would have been an expensive undertaking indeed.

What are the practical consequences and impediments of these requirements? I hear my brother Shixwameni talking about colonialism and I think I agree, just listen to my conclusion.

Let us as lawmakers and leaders of this country note the following:

The forty-day residency- compliant animals going through an auction to an abattoir, in terms of these requirements will still not be allowed to mix

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with animals that would have not met this requirement at their last farms or communal area of residence. This requires us to practically organise auctions at which only compliant animals will be allowed or to ensure clear separation of the two groups of animals.

At the abattoir, non-compliant animals and their products will still have to be kept, processed and stored separately from the compliant ones and this would mean separation of livestock in lairage or waiting pens and products in cooling and freezing storage facilities, respectively.

Special transport will still have to be arranged for compliant animals, which will be required to be transported directly to an abattoir. This means that vehicles carrying animals from a farm can only go from a particular farm directly to an abattoir and cannot pass through any other farm to pick up other animals whether they comply or not. Surely this may prove costly for farmers, particularly those in communal areas who may not be in a position to make a full load of animals on their own. This may also prove costly where long distances are involved.

The Ministry of Agriculture, particularly through the Directorate of Veterinary Services and I am sure the Honourable Members in this House too after I have made this statement, cannot at this stage understand the logic of allowing compliant and non-compliant animals to mix at the farm, but not during transport and auctions. Surely as the Directorate responsible for veterinary services and the Ministry, we need to consult further on these issues with the EU.

Finally, it is the Ministry's position that the requirement for 40-day residency should not apply to the OIE recognised Foot-and-Mouth Disease free zone, as all animals resident inside it are of the same animal health status, identified and traceable. No animals of a lower disease status are allowed into the free zone anyway. In addition, measures are in place to protect the zone, as I have enumerated, which is under constant disease surveillance. The EU, therefore, needs to be consulted with a view for the area south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence to get derogation on the 40-day residence requirements.

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What are my concluding remarks as the sector Minister responsible?

Surely it is regrettable to observe that after 23 years of political freedom and Independence there are still some Honourable Members in this House who seemingly believe that this Government is not protecting the interests of its citizens. That is unfortunate. The fact of the matter is that, it is not requirements emanating from the Ministry, but a requirement emanating from the partner with whom we trade.

The facts and truth are that the Government of the Republic of Namibia, through the Ministry of Agriculture, shall continue to protect at all cost Namibia's FMD free zone status so as to protect, as we already said in 1991 at the Land Conference chaired by our Prime Minister then, "*to preserve Namibia's access to cattle export markets.*"

I am also duty bound to inform the general Public, through this august House, that it is also the responsibility of the Government of the Republic of Namibia through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, to give practical effect to Resolution 19 of the National Conference on Land Reform and the Land Question that reads as follows: "*The majority of small farmers who live in the Northern Communal Areas (NCAs) are prevented from selling their livestock in the commercial zone and to foreign markets, on account of the veterinary restrictions (the Red Line). This restriction excludes them from substantial economic benefits. Conference resolves that the stock control fence – the so-called Red Line – must be removed as soon as possible, but has to be kept in place for a period in order to preserve Namibia's access to the cattle export markets. During this period the Government should set up quarantine camps to allow farmers in the Northern Communal Areas*" – and when we talk about the Northern Communal Areas some people think we are talking about one area, but we are talking about at least eight Regions, some of which are wholly, some partially, "*(the whole Caprivi Region, Kavango, Ohangwena, Oshana, Oshikoto, with the exception of the area south of Oshivelo, Omusati, Kunene with the exception of the area south of Werda Gate, Otjozondjupa, specifically parts of Tsumkwe Constituency.*"

We are, therefore, currently implementing what we call in the Ministry,

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approved by Cabinet, the Northern Communal Areas Livestock Freedom Project, whose success will largely depend on our own efforts, but largely on the international empathetic understanding and support, notably from the World Organisation for Animal Health, because at the end of the day we have to make our case at this body to say that part of the Northern Communal Areas in the protection zone at least should be considered to be declared as an FMD free zone. We have to prepare a dossier and that is why I am saying that the understanding of that body is very important. Hopefully we will reach there. Only when we have succeeded will we be able to say that at least economically we have liberated our cattle in the Northern Communal Areas.

Let it also be clearly recorded in the Hansard that the conceptualisation, design and practical actualisation of the Veterinary Cordon Fence or Red Line many years ago before the 21st of March 1990, was a political act and political decision taken to suit the political agenda programme of the political powers at that time. In this regard, I am quoting from a book written by somebody called Johann Rawlinson whom I think was in Namibia when I read that book, because he starts off this sentence by saying: *“For various reasons, including the effective control of FMD, and in view of the stringent market requirements, the northern areas of Namibia are separated from the rest of the country by a Cordon Fence.”*

For various reasons. Therefore, it was not exclusively the issue of dealing with the animal diseases, there were other reasons as well.

What is it that I am seeing or at least we in the Ministry in this thing? It is an economic struggle, nothing else. Some people will say neo-colonialism. I am quoting: *“Whatever role Europe decides to assume through the EU or at national level or both, there is no doubt that Africa is determined to redress the pernicious deed of the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885 and its terrible aftermath. The business-as-usual approach in relations between these two continents must change if Africa is to avoid becoming a forgotten continent. A new pan-Africanism must be based on the fulcrum of collective self-reliance and self-sustainment so that Africa’s 800 million citizens will be motivated to participate fully in these efforts. A psychological paradigm shift must also be developed that will deliver*

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the peoples of Africa from the naïve belief that their salvation will somehow come from outside the continent. It also requires treating Africa as a player, not a pawn, not a prostitute.” I am quoting from a very authoritative person, the name of the book is “The EU and Africa from Eurafrique to Afro-Europa, edited by Professor Adebayo Adedeji. That is the moral of the story. We come here and we talk, we throw accusations but we lose sight of the big picture.

That is the issue, Comrade Speaker that I felt I needed to give this information about what is this thing called EU 40-day residency requirement. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I can sometimes be amazingly sensible. I am glad that I allowed you to convince me to allow you to make a Ministerial Statement today, because I wanted to advise you strongly to do it next week. You did it, I wanted to take off from where you left off, but unfortunately I am sitting in this chair. Honourable Kaura.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank the Honourable Minister for answering the question which I was going to pose on Thursday this week. You have really answered it convincingly. My question to the Honourable Minister is: I saw negotiations taking place with the Peoples Republic of China to buy Namibian meat. Why do we not divert it to China instead of continuing with Europe with their colonial draconian laws that are hamstringing our production and really destroying the Meat Industry by making it so costly to produce? Why do we not look for other partners in China or wherever instead of hanging on to our colonial past? I thank you, Honourable Minister.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable former Prime Minister.

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HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister for the information and I declare my interest in the matter. My question to, especially the Minister of Trade and Industry is: Is there no way to challenge this imposition within the framework of the World Trade Organisation, because this is a form of non-tariff barrier which is being created by the European Union against meat exporters. Is there no way of challenging it within that framework? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for allowing me to make a comment on the Ministerial Statement.

Firstly, I want to most sincerely appreciate and thank the Minister and the Ministry for the position that they have taken on this matter and I also declare my interest as a meat producer.

I think I will agree with Comrade Shixwameni and the Minister that this is a neo-colonial mentality, it is ridiculous, it needs to be rejected with the contempt it deserves. For Europe to continue treating us as if we are in the stone-age era or as if we are people with no conscience who do not worry about diseases, who are not health conscience, is an insult of the biggest order. That should not be tolerated in this era.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease is right there in Europe, let alone Mad Cow Disease. Foot-and-Mouth Disease was eliminated in Britain around 1995, 1996. Foot-and-Mouth Disease has been detected in some parts of Europe just recently and by recently I mean in the years of post-Independence of Namibia, not during the time when we were still under colonialists. We want to know what measures Africa is asking about how they control their Foot-and-Mouth. We keep on buying products from Europe and I wonder where these products are inspected. Who is the African, who goes there to

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inspect their filthy abattoirs and even filthy manufacturing houses? We studied in Europe and America and we travelled this world. The perpetual insult of portraying Africa as disease infested and backwards – and my message is going straight to Europe and their partners – this world is no longer at the stage of barbarism. Please spare us the insult. We deserve to be treated with respect. We treat others with respect and we deserve to be treated with respect.

There are instruments, the World Trade Organisation, the Animal Health body that you have referred to, the World Health Organisation, etcetera, instruments that are supposed to regulate and monitor trade and health issues, but it is a pity that inspectors, because this is what I heard and that is where my worry is, that inspectors from Europe who are officials, come here and talk to Ministers of a sovereign State. Have they passed through the United Nations or are they inspectors who just wake up in Britain or in Spain, climb on a plane and land here and then start dictating to a sovereign State which is accredited to international organisations that deal with trade and health matters? Once they land here, please deport them, they are criminals. They are insulting us! They must follow proper procedures, please. We should no longer tolerate to be insulted in this fashion.

In conclusion, this is a form of making money schemes for their exploitation. They must please, spare us the insult. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I would like to thank my friend, the Honourable Minister, for clarifying this issue. Indeed, I join the Honourable Members who have spoken before me on this subject matter, just to tell Europe that African beef, especially from SADC, is much better than horse meat. Our beef is what we call free

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range, they do not contain any chemicals, any artificial substances, very clean and, therefore, these measures are nothing but a colonial mentality.

I would like to join my Colleagues who have spoken before me, that they must be rejected collectively, not only by Namibia, but collectively by those countries which export to the European markets. I do not know, Honourable Minister, whether these unnecessary measures are only intended for Namibia, for SADC or for Africa or whether they are applicable to all exporters of beef to Europe, but this is a restraint of trade and I agree that our Ministry of Trade and Industry together with his colleagues in the region must take up this matter, because I do not agree with it.

It also confirms that the sooner we strive to get alternative markets, the better for our economy. I am one of those who do not have anything to declare, I do not own a commercial farm, nor do I own cattle in the communal area, so I am just a peasant who just returned to Namibia in 1989 to take part in the Independence process of our country. However, this is really insulting and I think this time around we need to stand very firm, because as a developing country and not only Namibia, but Africa, is experiencing this kind of mentality and it is most regrettable. The end-result of these measures is that you pay hundred dollars to comply and the price of the product will be fifty dollars. So what is the point really? There is no point in these measures and I think the time has come for Africa to stand firm and say enough is enough and tell Europe that the 21st century belongs to Africa. Let us just stand firm.

HON SPEAKER: There are six of you on the Floor. The issue is not only emotive, but serious and I want all the voices to be heard. Honourable Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I really want to thank the Minister for making this

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HON NYAMU

statement and it goes well with the words of Bob Marley when he said “*emancipate yourself from mental slavery*”. I think that is what I could hear from the statement by our Minister.

Regarding that 40-day residency requirement, I was telling my Colleague here that this “*meat apartheid*” would even have required those vehicles carrying separate meat not to overtake each other or prescribe them even to use different roads. Africa is being portrayed as people who are not health conscious and if Europe was so developed and watertight, what went wrong that they have not prevented horse meat scandal in Europe? However, they are coming here as if we are a protectorate to instruct in this way.

I have always asked myself the question that sometimes my senior Colleagues never liked us to ask those days, which is to quantify how much we get from this market which we believe to be so huge. If we quantify the amount of money that we make from this market and compare it with the measures that we need to take, can we say how much it is, so that we can really talk like people who are talking economics. We perpetually believe that without that we will go on our knees, but I do not believe that. How many of our people do benefit from this kind of market? I would want those kinds of questions to be answered. We must find a way of quantifying that in this House so that we can be backed by evidence. This is just my fundamental question.

We worked so hard to actually please these colleagues, to the extent that we forego our sovereignty and we do not heed Bob Marley’s words of emancipating ourselves from mental slavery. I think that is a step in the right direction for us to free ourselves from this kind of slavery.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The statement by the Minister reveals a lot and many of the Colleagues who have taken the

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Floor before me have expressed surprise and anger.

You will be surprised and angered by the actions of the EU or the West, for the matter, if you forget that they rule this world. They act as rulers of the planet, whether you accept it or not. They impose their laws, additional laws on top of their laws, Amendments of their laws and what have you because they rule this planet. We are the squatters. You suffer because you are a squatter and not only in respect of this particular subject we are discussing, agriculture or trade, in multiple facets the West acts as rulers of this planet.

We can cry, crying has not solved the problem. We have to think deeper and find a proper response. I do not have it, but crying is not the solution, they will continue to do that as long as they have the dominance over our lives.

Having said that, I just want to ask one small question to the Minister: Why is it that this law of 40-day residency covers the North as well as the area that is free of these diseases? Why the North when we know at this point in time that the North does not export beef to Europe? How is it that it covers the whole country? I am puzzled that it covers the whole country while there are already boundaries which prohibit the movement of meat and related things for export to Europe. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Van Der Walt.

HON VAN DER WALT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for the opportunity. I also want to thank the Honourable Minister for what he presented to the House and to the Nation in terms of our Meat Industry.

Honourable Speaker, as much as Europeans want to wish us away and we want to wish them away, it is not possible. They do not have a chance anymore to cooperate with Africa in the future, times have changed, this is

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the 21st century and I think a couple of years ago they already experienced this when our Prime Minister Hage Geingob refused to sign an Economic Partnership Agreement under pressure and we continued with negotiations at the ACP and on that level defended the ACP countries in terms of the Economic Partnership Agreement.

Honourable Speaker, I also think it is time for Europe to take the plank out of their eyes before they look at the splinter in our eyes. As many of my Comrades have said, they have eaten horse meat for the last four, five years already and they just discovered it now and now they want to dictate to Namibia while our Meat Industry for many years never disappointed them. However, what really disappoints me is that, when I visited Europe and went to a butchery, and it was not even our Namibian meat which is hormone free meat, it was 45 Euros for a kilogram of steak, which is N\$450. Where does the money go? Does Meatco make the money, because the producer does not receive that money? Secondly, is it the transport which is so costly or is it the Europeans who are making the money or what is going on?

Honourable Speaker, I sometimes also deal with the WTO which is a global organisation that is laying down rules for Nations. Its role is to supervise and liberalise international trade, also to regulate trade and tariffs. The WTO is not profitable organisation, but committed to improving sanitation and conditions and this is the right platform to discuss this matter at high level. On my mission now to the WTO in Belgium, I will make an appointment with Honourable Minister Mutorwa so that we can discuss this matter at that forum in-depth.

As I said, Honourable Speaker, if you look at America; many of us ask, why does President Obama not give so much attention to Africa? The answer is simple: The Americans have South America and Canada, Europe does not have anything else except Africa for the future. The world has become so integrated these days that in the next hundred years from now on, if one Nation wants to declare war against the other one, we will end up shooting our own children. It is for them to make sure that their relations with Africa remain in good faith and with that I rest my case.

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HON SCHLETTWEIN

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister Schlettwein.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Speaker, thank you for giving me the Floor. In fact, I would have wished to give my first statement as the Minister of Trade and Industry in a different environment, but I think the Minister of Agriculture shared with the House and the public a very serious issue that needs to be addressed in a very serious manner.

The first thing I wanted to share with the House is that, what the Honourable Minister of Agriculture has brought to us, is a typical example of those policy issues in the EPA that we identified as more harmful than helpful. It is a matter where the EU as a partner uses unilateral decision-making of changing the rules without us being informed about it, without us having an influence of that decision and that decision is solely to our detriment. It in fact dictates domestic policies through the backdoor, because if you analyse the Minister's statement and the effects of that, the EU through its policies determines how we can change the Cordon Fence. It dictates to us how we should fence our farms, it dictates to us how we should transport our cattle and as I said it was unilaterally done. This is one of the areas where we say it is a better way to agree on these matters mutually and in advance instead of changing of goal post.

Mr Speaker, it is important to state that because here we have a situation where we have from a tariff point of view, free access to the market, however, on the non-tariff issues we have no say, the EU can come, and this time they came with a phyto-sanitary issue and said well, in spite of having tariff free access to the market and quota free access to the market, now we impose this on you and *de facto* it undoes your access to the market as a whole.

This is one of the issues that they brought. When is the next one coming? Do we know? Probably not. What makes it so serious, is that the bulk of our prime beef production is geared towards that one market. If we slip here, it will have some very negative effects immediately. So, the notion

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for looking for truly alternative markets is a very important one. For now we have access to the extra group of countries, that is the non-EU European countries like Norway, Switzerland, and Luxemburg. It is a small quota, but they even pay better prices than the EU, however, there is a snag to it, because the phyto-sanitary conditions that they need to give you tariff free access are latched onto the EU set of rules. That is why I say we must look for truly alternative markets, not *quasi* alternative markets.

We have also approached China, the United States, Singapore for access and all these areas we have made good progress to get access to these markets, but there are still hurdles and I think we will hopefully have a breakthrough this year still with China. I think the Honourable Minister for Commerce from China was very positive, he said there is no principle problem, it is a matter of a very short time and we will have that access and it is a huge market that will not only take prime cuts, but also cuts that are not acceptable in the European market in the meantime.

There was a question from the Honourable Minister of Defence whether it is worthwhile to look if that unilateral decision-making is challengeable at the WTO or anywhere else. I think one must look into it. The basic elements of these challenges are that they must have some kind of discriminatory elements in it and I think the Attorney-General was correct to say we must see what happens in other areas that also have access to the market, whether they have the same conditions imposed on them or not. If that is not the case, then I think we can look at it and I will do that.

There is one matter that we must also do immediately and that is what the Honourable Minister himself suggested and that is to apply for derogation of these measures immediately. I think we have a very good track record in many of these areas and in my opinion I think there is a chance that derogation would succeed and that would give us some breathing space immediately, which I think is needed.

Comrade Speaker, lastly, and to come back to the EPA negotiations, we as Namibia, as SACU, as SADC, as Africa in fact received confirmation that our stance in the EPA was in fact the correct one. Initially we were a very

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lonely voice and it was not appreciated very much, but at the last Africa-ACP Summit, the Summit had consensus that that position is actually the correct position that is now considered by all ACP countries as the position to take and that is that EPA must be a truly development instrument that has no provisions that harm our prospects of developing into an industrialised Nation. I think it is important that we take that on board and that we leverage that consensus of all ACP countries to make our voice heard and that the Europeans understand that we are not alone in this battle anymore, we are not a small speck in the landscape, in that battle we are now a much larger group that has more leverage. We must utilise that. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Even during the struggle we were sometimes able to do that. Honourable Mwaningange.

HON MWANINGANGE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I would also like to contribute to what the Minister has presented to this House.

First of all, I would like to join those who are saying that Europe is twisting our arms too much. When they see that our products are essential for the European market and economy, they start tightening their rules. I remember I discussed EPA with a colleague from Tanzania and he said that our problem in SADC and Africa at large is that we do not trade among ourselves, with those products on which the Europeans are imposing excessively strict rules and laws. There are some African countries that are dearly in need of beef. Why do we not reduce our exports to the European markets and then explore the trade possibilities in Africa? I feel that we are letting ourselves down as Africans and most Honourable Members were underlining that we are letting ourselves down. We must make the Europeans suffer if they put those strict laws against our products.

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HON SHIXWAMENI

I know that there are some products which we cannot process, however we can process meat and the by-products such as the hides, horns and hooves here. We can acquire the technology from other African countries which do not impose these strict laws against some of our products.

Secondly, I want to put a question on the prohibition of meat crossing the Red Line. Comrade Minister, it is always said that beef from the North should not cross the Red Line, but what about chicken, goats and pigs? When one carries a pig or a goat in your car, you are prevented from doing so. These are all things which were imprinted in our minds by colonialism. Namibia has been free for 23 years and we put all the measures in place. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for the opportunity. My thinking is that this Assembly stands united and rejects all neo-colonial measures and I feel we should send out that message while the inspectors are still here and before they are put on the Air Namibia plane to Brussels, so that the message be delivered that the Namibian National Assembly condemns such draconian and neo-colonial measures.

There is no way a man or a woman can allow a stranger to come into his/her house and start setting the rules of the house. We should be able to set our own rules as Namibians, of course understanding the importance of international trade, understanding the importance of our relationship between the EU and ourselves as a Nation. However, I think what is of great importance is that the EU starts understanding and accepting African Nations as sovereign Nations, that African Nations, colonies as they were, are now free sovereign Nations that dictate their own destinies. That message should go out very clearly to the European Union, to tell Brussels that we are no longer colonies, we are free Nations.

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HON P MUSHELENGA

I would like to support the statement made by the Minister of Agriculture and strengthen his hand in persisting and insisting on the position that we should not be dictated to as a sovereign Nation and by extension to also Cabinet, that Cabinet stands firm and strong on this particular position that we shall not be dictated to.

The inspectors have already done their inspections. I do not know what they want from us, because they have been inspecting abattoirs to see whether they meet European Union standards. Now they want to dictate what must happen on the farm, how you must transport your cattle. That is really ridiculous and insulting for the Europeans to come and tell us those things and I am not afraid, I will say let them go home and leave us alone. Let us explore the South-South Cooperation. We have been talking a lot and I agree with Honourable Mwaningange that as Africans, as people who have been living in the South we have been talking too much about this South-South Cooperation while there is a lack of that practical cooperation on the ground.

There is the Chinese market and also many other markets. The Indonesian market is also quite big. The Asians are a market onto themselves that can surpass the European Union. Therefore, we need to put that South-South Cooperation into practice and not only in words. We also need to engage in inter-African trade, take it seriously and start trading among one another.

Honourable Speaker, I want to support the Minister, the Cabinet and all those who said we should tell the Europeans to mind their own business and leave us alone. No, neo-colonialism! Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Mushelenga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I will try to be very brief.

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HON P MUSHELENGA

Honourable Speaker, having listened to the Honourable Minister talking about the EU's forty-days residency compliance requirement, it raises very important fundamental questions:

One, for how long have we been selling our beef to the EU and what has been the quality? We have been selling beef of very good quality and then all of a sudden the EU comes up with these requirements. Is it perhaps because of this horse meat they found in their market, which did not even come from the African continent or what is it?

Secondly, when one looks at the World Organisation for Animal Health, they have recognised our meat to be of very good quality. Does this mean that the EU as a continental organisation, does not have regard to the standards set by larger multilateral institutions? This leaves very much to be desired.

That tells you, as the previous speakers were saying, that it is a question of mentality. Here you want to come and trade with Africa, yet you have this mentality that their products are of poor quality whereas they did not dictate this over the past years. In my culture there is a saying that; "*if you do not like the live chicken, do not eat the meat of the chicken as well*". If the EU all of a sudden thinks that our beef is of poor quality whereas we have been selling them the best quality, why make things difficult? Why do they not go and look elsewhere to buy beef? Why bother to make things difficult here? They can just as well look elsewhere to go and buy beef if they really think our beef is not of good quality. It is quite an irony that they come here in numbers as tourist and eat this very beef here which is as good as when it is in the European markets. This is the message that we should give them.

HON SPEAKER: Before I hit the hammer, this is not a Motion, but a Ministerial Statement. The Minister will be leaving, because he has urgent business elsewhere tomorrow. I wanted him to have the last word before we adjourn. I would appreciate if you could say Amen.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON MUTORWA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Yes. Honourable Speaker, I support what Honourable Shixwameni said and our Government should support this position. Even when we travel to Europe we should make it very clear when we meet them. With these few words, I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, the objective of providing the information has been achieved and the objective really was that, yes, give the information, but let us also as Political Leaders reach consensus in understanding the deeper political issues. For that I would like to thank the Honourable Members and also you, Comrade Speaker, for having allowed me to make the Statement.

I feel the question by *Honourable Nyamu* deserves a response. The others the Minister of Trade and Industry has answered. Comrade Nyamu has asked why now, also include the North. If you carefully analyse these requirements, it is not the Northern Communal Areas as I have enumerated them, because those are already excluded, but the target is now making life more difficult for the communal areas south of the Cordon Fence, such as Okamatapati, Aminuis, etcetera.

Comrade Speaker, thank you very much, I think it was good that at least now we have a bigger picture. We should not fight our small wars amongst ourselves, but look at the bigger picture. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

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HON SPEAKER: On that note the Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2013.02.27 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
27 FEBRUAR 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: The Business of the House is called to Order. I now want to formally welcome and congratulate the Minister of Education, Honourable Dr David Namwandi and his able Deputy, Sylvia Makgone to their seats. I meant to say that when the issue was so hot at the State House. Even though I mentioned their names, I did not want to say more than what I was hearing. I confirmed and confirmed again, it is a fact and those who helped me, have even found places for them where they would be seated permanently so that when I talk about them, I can look at them. Congratulations, Honourable Ministers, but I said nice things about you.

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

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 13:

HON //GOWASES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on the 28th of February 2013, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON TJIHUIKO**

1. What processes are followed in filling a vacancy to ensure transparency and a balanced Public Service?
2. Why does it take months to fill a single vacancy?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Question?
Honourable Tjihuiiko.

QUESTION 14:

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on the 7th of March 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Education the following questions:

1. The Nation wants to know whether it is true that more than 400 learners at Jack Francis Primary School in Fransfontein are relieving themselves in public open spaces since their toilets at the school stopped functioning eight years ago.
2. Can the Honourable Minister please confirm the report in one of the English daily newspapers that even girls at the same school are subjected to unhygienic conditions and daily embarrassment for them to help themselves in public whenever Mother Nature calls?
3. Can the Honourable Minister explain in simple English, why it takes more than eight years to repair a single toilet? Is that because of lack of resources or is it perhaps lack of political will from the Ruling Party to help the poor in rural areas?

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON TJIHUIKO / HON SHIXWAMENI**

QUESTION 15:

HON TJIHUIKO: I give Notice that on 7 March 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural

Development the following questions:

1. Is it true that after 23 years of Independence the people of Fransfontein still use bucket toilets?
2. Until when would these Namibians be subjected to this inhuman treatment by the Government that they have elected to improve their living conditions 23 years ago?
3. Is it true that the contractor who has been appointed to collect the waste does this once a month? Why is it not once a week?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Questions? Honourable Shixwameni.

QUESTION 16:

HON SHIXWAMENI: I give Notice that on Thursday, 7 March 2013, I shall ask the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following questions:

1. How many of our villages and settlements are still using the bucket toilet system?
2. Is it justifiable that after 23 years of Independence our people are still using the bucket system and/or relieving themselves in the bushes?

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON SHIXWAMENI**

3. When does Government plan to completely do away with the bucket system in our country and build proper toilets for our people?

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Question? Any further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Shixwameni.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON SHIXWAMENI: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 7th of March 2013, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

1. *Debates and discusses* the need for the decriminalisation of the possession of raw and uncut diamonds and abolish the German colonial Proclamation of 22 September 1908 as an out-dated colonial law which has no place in a free and democratic Namibia where the free enterprise principle applies in a mixed economic State.
2. That this Motion be referred to the Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration for further inquiry.

ON SPEAKER: Any further Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statements?

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAMWI**

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

Honourable Speaker, thank you for giving me the Floor.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise this afternoon to give some information on another push by the Ministry of Health and Social Services to curb maternal and child mortality in this country.

Honourable Speaker, over the past year or so, maternal and child mortality in our health facilities has made headlines in our local media and prompted His Excellency the President of the Republic, Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, to launch a Commission of Inquiry into the affairs of the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

The Nation has now been informed that the Commission has since concluded its work and handed over its Report.

Before the unfortunate sequence of these regrettable events, my Ministry had already identified maternal and child health as one of the areas where we were not making progress, for reasons we all know.

Despite the fact that over 80% of pregnant women are delivering their babies in health facilities, an excellent coverage by developing country standard, and 70% of pregnant women are attending four or more antenatal care visits during pregnancy, again one of the best coverage on the African continent, funding to improve maternal and child health remains insignificant.

Therefore, infrastructure to be used by pregnant and delivering mothers remains inadequate and skilled manpower to deal with complicated cases was and still is very scarce. To respond to this challenge with the assistance of our partners, my Ministry organised a Maternal and Child Health Conference in 2008 and launched a Road Map for Accelerating the

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAMWI**

Reduction of Maternal and Neonatal Mortality and Morbidity in February 2010.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, during the course of time several events took place. In 2009 we launched the African Union-led Campaign to Accelerate Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa. In short this is called CARMMA.

In 2010, we established and appointed a National Committee on Maternal and Neonatal Death Review. Over sixty health workers were trained on life-saving skills and emergency and obstetric care to improve skilled attendance at birth and reduce maternal and new-born mortality. These are just a few examples of interventions put in place to stem the tide on maternal and child mortality.

With support from all partners, chiefly, the World Health Organisation (WHO), we embarked on an aggressive advocacy and resource mobilisation effort. In early 2011, we were informed that the European Union was dedicating 10 million Euros, that is approximately N\$100 million, to help Namibia accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 through a partnership with WHO to support primarily technical.

Honourable Speaker, the consultations and planning process for putting the European Union funding to good use has been on-going between the Ministry, the WHO and the EU. I am pleased to inform this august House that this morning we launched the Programme for Accelerating the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality in Namibia, in short what is now known as PARMaCM. PARMaCM or the Programme for Accelerating the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality in Namibia, is to be implemented by the Ministry of Health and Social Services as part of our on-going interventions, with technical support received from the WHO and funding from the EU.

I would like to use this opportunity, therefore, to thank my senior Colleagues who joined us this morning and witnessed the launch of PARMaCM.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAMWI**

What is this PARMaCM all about? PARMaCM, the Programme for Accelerating the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality in this country, will complement the resources from the Government of the Republic to provide quality maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health services. The project aims to, amongst others, improve access to skilled care attendance through training of nurses and midwives and medical doctors in life-saving skills, including neonatal care; expansion of integrated management of new-born and childhood illnesses, provision of immunisation services, nutritional interventions to mothers and children, improving adolescent-friendly health services, provision of all necessary medical equipment and supplies.

The programme will also improve transportation and referral facilities, strengthen the District Health Management Teams of selected districts, offer support to training institutions and apply proven strategies, like provision of maternity waiting homes and community mobilisation. We are optimistic that in a short period of time, Namibia may hopefully be on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, which are: Improving Maternal Health and Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality by three-quarters and two-thirds come 2015.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, whilst acknowledging the fact that all the abovementioned services will be offered by health practitioners, without the support of the stakeholders the intended objectives of this programme may not be met. There will be a need for pregnant mothers and children to report themselves to the nearest health facilities in order to access these services. It is for this reason that I am appealing to Honourable Members of Parliament, Honourable Regional and Local Councillors, the Church and Civil Society to please support the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

I want further to appeal to men, my male folks, please accompany your spouses when they go for antenatal and post-natal services. It is critical for us to work together. Together we may see a glimmer of hope. Thank you very much for your continued support.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON EKANDJO**

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for the information. Minister Ekandjo.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, Namibia will hold the Bantam Weight World Boxing Title Fight between Paulus The Rock Ambunda and Pung Luang Sor Singyu of Thailand this Saturday on the 2nd of March 2013, at the Ramatex factory complex, starting at 18:00.

I have rose to inform the Honourable Members, in particular, and the Namibian Nation in general, about the scheduled World Boxing Championship Title Fight taking place on Namibian soil and in the same vein, invite and encourage them to attend and support “*The Rock*” to emerge victorious. His victory will be a Namibian victory that would make Namibia a title holder of a World Champion Boxing Belt.

Paulus “*The Rock*” Ambunda, is one of the best athletes Namibia has managed to produce to the level of world class boxing championship, currently ranked number one in the world by the World Boxing Organisation (WBO). He worked his way to achieve accreditation to fight for bantam weight world boxing title fight currently in the hands of Pung Luang Sor Singyu of Thailand. Pung Luang Sor Singyu, is the current holder of the Bantam Weight Boxing Championship and will make his first title defence. Paulus Ambunda has previously represented Namibia at different levels as an amateur boxer, putting Namibia on the international sporting map. Ambunda is one of the best boxers in the world as an amateur and professional. As an amateur he represented Namibia during Zone 6, All-Africa Games, Africa Championship, Commonwealth and Olympic Games and brought a lot of medals to the Land of the Brave.

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As a professional, he won the National Title, WBO Africa Title and WBO International Title and was voted Namibia's Sportsman of the Year twice. He is currently rated number one in the world and a mandatory challenger to the world title. He is a member of the Namibian Defence Force and challenging for the world title on the 2nd of March 2013, a win will make him the world champion and become the third world champion coming from our country after Harry, "*The Terminator*" Simon and Paulus "*The Hitman*" Moses.

This fight is being administered by the Namibia Professional Boxing and Wrestling Control Board, which organises fights for professional boxers. The board is a sport body with its own act and constitution, assigned the duties of organising professional fights in the Republic of Namibia. The night of the fight will see a hive of boxing activities that will feature precursory to the big world fight. At 18:00 on the same day, boxing will start with eight fights which will feature top Namibian boxers, some of who will be contesting international boxers from within different countries within the African continent.

The MTC Nestor Sunshine Boxing and Fitness Academy, is to be highly commended for successfully negotiating and convincing the World Boxing Organisation and other world boxing bodies to grant Namibia the rare opportunity of staging a fight of this high calibre. This is an achievement of historical proportions in the sporting fraternity of Namibia. The commitment of the Academy is highly commendable and answers to clarion call of devotion to the service of the Nation. The entire Namibian Nation should, therefore, throw its weight behind their noble efforts. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister. We shall be there. The Speaker has received some tickets and depending upon the behaviour of some of you, you may be beneficiaries. Any further Ministerial Statements? None.

The First Notice of Motion is the one of the Honourable Naholo. Does the

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Honourable Member Move the Motion?

**MOTION ON ROLL CALL OF PROFESSIONALLY
QUALIFIED EDUCATED NAMIBIANS**

HON NAHOLO: I Move the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any Objection? Agreed to. The Honourable Member has the Floor.

HON NAHOLO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is indeed an honour and I am really grateful to be granted this opportunity to motivate the Motion on the Roll Call of Professionally Qualified Educated Namibians, the gathering of knowledge-based cadres.

First of all, I would like to join the Honourable Speaker in congratulating the newly appointed Minister of Education and Deputy Minister of Education. I really wish them well and every success in their new positions.

Secondly, I wish to commend the Ministry of Education for implementing the Free Education for All in the primary phase. May the soul of the late Honourable Dr Abraham Iyambo rest in peace. He was the first ever Minister of Education who has taken a stand to stop the illegal practice of asking parents to pay for a constitutionally guaranteed free education.

Martin Luther King once said: *“We are accountable not only for the*

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words which we have said, but those that we did not say but supposed to be said.” Honourable Speaker, I submit that the government should be bold enough to pay back all the money they have been cheating the parents with for the past twenty-two years. At the same time, those individuals who served before as Ministers of Education must be charged either with poor performance, incompetence or gross negligence in the application of the Namibian Constitution. They must be made to admit guilt and accept responsibility for their own deeds without fear or favour.

Honourable Speaker, I want to remind the new Minister of Education that all basic education should be free according to the main policy of education, *“Towards Education for All.”*

I remember many years back, while still at the Unions and also very recently with the founding of the RDP, that we have been calling, together with various organisations and individuals, for the full implementation of policies on education as adopted at Independence, but to no avail. I know that next year, 2014, is the national elections year and the Ruling Party has a tendency of trying to do good things in the period before elections, just to continually blindfold the electorate and immediately after elections they would turn against their own supporters and take strange and oppressive measures, such as destroying their shanty houses, *kambashus*, with bulldozers and throw away their *kapanas*.

However, saying this in passing, allow me, Honourable Speaker, to go straight to the motivation of my Motion.

I have christened this Motion the Roll Call of the Professionally Qualified Educated Namibians, the gathering of our knowledge-based cadres. I have no better assemble of words that I can equate with what I want to put forward. My latest investigation indicates that in more developed countries the percentage of adults and youth with the equivalent of college or university degrees rose to more than 30% in recent years. I must say here that it is a sad story for Africa. The majority of countries that spend the most on education have the most educated populations. Namibia is one of such countries that allocate more funds to the education system,

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therefore, there is a need to do a roll call of all professionally qualified educated Namibians. This practice would be necessary for the sake of the development process in the country. At the moment nobody knows the exact number of the professionally qualified educated Namibians.

There is also a tendency in this country to view educated cadres as a threat, especially amongst us, the politicians. Before I continue, allow me to quote the Founding President of Tanzania, the late Julius Mwalimu Nyerere: *“Intellectuals have a special contribution to make to the development of our nation and to Africa and I am asking that their knowledge and the greater understanding that they should possess should be used for the benefit of the society of which we are all members.”*

Also Nelson Mandela, the Founding President of South Africa, said: *“It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when nice things occur. You take the frontline when there is danger, then the people will appreciate your leadership.”*

My analysis of these statements by our greatest leaders of Africa is that, as leaders we should put our educated cadres on the forefront to guide us in steering the country forward. Let us not be afraid of them or treat them as a threat or enemies to us and our positions.

It is for this reason that we need to know how many Namibians we have educated or trained so far, for us to be able to lead them effectively and efficiently. My sentiments are fully supported by what is highlighted in the Statistics Act (Act 9 of 2011) which provides for the development of the National Statistics System. Up to now we all do not know how many citizens have after Independence acquired certificates, diplomas or degrees, including doctorates, PhDs. In fact, we do not even know where they are employed in case we want to consult them. Ever since these people graduated, there has been no attempt to gather them together and combine or create a knowledge-base that can be used to steer our country forward.

Since Independence there has never been any attempt to bring them

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together from all fields of study in order to discuss how the country should be developed after the Apartheid regime has left in 1990.

Honourable Speaker, if there was that kind of gathering I need to be informed. However, I am aware of scattered gatherings for each profession here and here. This Motion requires and seeks answers for this august House to be informed of:

1. How many Namibians have acquired professional qualifications in various fields since Independence?
2. At which stage should a person be categorised as professionally qualified?
3. What is the status quo of qualifications in Namibia, that is, how many certificates, diplomas, degree holders do we have in Namibia since Independence?
4. Very importantly, how many degree holders do we have in Namibia? What types of degrees and in which fields were they obtained? How many doctorates (Ph.Ds) has the country acquired so far and in which fields?
5. How many professionally qualified people are wandering around in the streets at the moment? I know some of our graduates have still not yet found employment due to the lack of employment creation incentives in the country. Of course, I know in yesterday's Budget Speech the Minister promised to increase the employment creation incentives and we will wait to see what happens in real life.

On the contrary, we hasten to import expertise from outside and claim we do not have the skills at home. How can we say that we do not have skills at home, if in the first place we do not take stock of those skills and knowledge that we have and see where we can development further?

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6. I also know that some of our educated cadres found themselves on the streets due to discrimination on political grounds. For example, I know a lot of Namibians who, because they supported Comrade HH in 2004, lost their jobs. These people are still marked or blacklisted and cannot find a job under the current system. I, myself was also a victim. In my party, RDP, we have so many members with even Master's Degrees wandering up and down the streets in search of employment, which they cannot get because they have left SWAPO and have aligned themselves with the group that will bring genuine change in the running of the affairs of the State in this country.
7. I remember one of my Comrades in RDP who was told by an employer that they cannot keep this Comrade in their organisation because they rely on the political system for their project to survive in Namibia. Hence, they cannot have somebody who is not from SWAPO in their top management.
8. It is not only in RDP that we have such cases, but it is everywhere throughout the country. We, therefore, need to be informed of how many of our citizens are in the streets due to political pressures and tribal discrimination in employing people.
9. To continue with the questions that need answers, at Independence of the country so many Namibians returned home from exile. Most of these people got educated through friendly and peace-loving countries of the world. We need to know how many they are, with the exception of those who passed away already after returning home and what qualifications they possess. This can also include those ones who went abroad to just study on their own or through various scholarships.

Honourable Speaker, in the light of the foregoing, I Move that this Honourable House discusses this Motion and resolves to request the following institutions:

1. That the Office of the Prime Minister compiles a detailed list of all intellectual Namibians produced so far, where they are at the moment

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and makes a proper presentation to this august House as soon as possible.

2. That the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) is charged to establish a database with immediate effect of all professionally qualified Namibians. It is only when this information is known that the country would be able to know and plan properly for the fields that are still lacking educated Namibians and which fields are over-supplied with graduates. This will help Namibia to start relying on our own human resources for genuine development.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, once we know and have all the relevant information, there is then a need to call for a national gathering of representatives of all professionally qualified educated Namibians from all fields of life to come together and come up with strategies to assist Government in shaping the future of our country.

Finally, I want to end my motivation of this Motion with quotes from these exemplary leaders of Africa. Nelson Mandela said: *“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”* Julius Nyerere said: *“If true development is to take place, the people have to be involved.”* Namibia should, therefore, pave the way for our educated cadres to sit down and find ways and means of helping those dumped into the streets by our education system. Fearful politicians should stop seeing intellectuals as a threat. May God bless Namibia. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Member for his motivation. Any further discussion? Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Speaker, I want to ask questions. Is it good and well for all of us to open our eyes to what is the right direction?

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But what prevents us from doing so? We went through the same gate, everyone on this side was SWAPO. Where did this knowledge and direction go? Everyone was a member of SWAPO. What changed their mind now? All of us have to open our eyes. I am not beating about the bush, I am not one of you, I am quite ambitious have my own opinions.

I do not want to deceive the world and the whole society of Namibia, I do not lie, I stand for what I stand for. Whoever wants to prevent me, join me and my principles, join my direction and if you fail to do that, you do not have to tell me what to say.

This is the time for us to open our eyes for what has happened. Now we are in the holy area for us to discover how and where we went wrong and now we have to follow the right direction.

I appreciate what Mr Naholo said, it was well put and well-designed. When are these decisions going to work? We are supposed to change our minds and follow the right direction for a good society and good governance. Those people up there who are called journalists, were deceiving the world, they have tried this and that way, but they do not tell what is supposed to be told to the world. I am not here to deceive anyone, I am here to say what the right direction is. All of us have to join one another, those who were not for that and those who were for that. Let us find a way out. What is the way? Honesty and fairness is what all of us need. I am not blaming anyone, all of us went in the wrong direction, but now is the time to say thank God that you are there, you found the way out and thank Him, He who is the holy one for all of us. Amen.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kawana.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND
ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.
I rise to take part in the Debate concerning this so-called Motion.

Honourable Speaker, I think the Honourable Member needs to be educated. While he was reading his so-called Motion, I could see that even Members of his own Party were sinking down in their chairs because they do not agree with what he is alleging. I think from now on we have to agree with the Members of the Opposition that if a Motion is genuine and not bashing the majority, more than two-thirds majority of this House, we assure you if that Motion is based on the national interest, we will sing the same song, we will go along in the same direction. However, should you make the mistake to bash the Ruling Party on issues which are not even true, your Motion will lapse before it has been debated.

Honourable Speaker, you were one of those leaders in exile together with the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Nickey Iyambo, Honourable Nahas Angula and Honourable Katjavivi. When we were in exile, some of us were youngsters and Agnes Limbo and Doreen will attest to this, because we went into exile the same year. When we left the country we were determined just to go and fight, we did not want to hear anything about education, but our leaders told us ...(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Hold onto your train of thought. The House shall rise for refreshments.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:00

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HON SPEAKER: We resume the Business of the House. Honourable Kawana you were on the Floor and I give you the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, I was really very disappointed by the motivation of the Honourable Member, especially his allegation that the leadership of SWAPO does not recognise those who are educated. That is most unfortunate. In fact, according to his statement he says they have been persecuted and that is the culture of SWAPO. That is also most unfortunate.

Comrade Speaker, as I said, you were one of those sons and daughters of this soil who campaigned very hard at the United Nations to get assistance for Namibian citizens, regardless of their political affiliation, to get education. Honourable Nahas Angula, the former Prime Minister, was for a long time the Secretary for Education and there were so many scholarships and I know those scholarships were not only reserved for SWAPO Party members. A number of SWANU members who were in exile benefited from those scholarships.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister, Dr Hage Geingob, was the Director of the UN Institute for Namibia and the students who were there were not only SWAPO members. So, this culture of inclusiveness started even in exile.

Some of us were young those years, we were eager to get hold of a gun and fight and come back home, but the leadership said, "*no, you young people, you are wrong, after liberating the country you have to run it and to run a country you need skills.*" That time Honourable Hidipo Hamutenya was assigned to go to the front to get those youngsters who initially refused to go to school and to make sure they go to school. That was a Central Committee decision chaired by the then President of the SWAPO Party, His Excellency Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma. Honourable Hamutenya found me at the front. It is upon that mission that some of us

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left the front because SWAPO considered education as more important than even the gun, because to run a country you have to have educated people so that that country can be a winning Nation.

Therefore, to say the leadership is persecuting educated people is most unfortunate. We have a number of people who were educated by SWAPO here, a number of them doctors. Indeed, for your information, after Independence we sent some patriotic Namibians who are not even SWAPO members and I can cite maybe two or three. One is Dr Zed Ngavirue. He was never a member of SWAPO as far as I can recall. From Director-General of the National Planning Commission, he was even assigned to one of the most important stations in Europe as our Ambassador to the EU, a very important portfolio. Then we had Dr Huaraka Tunguru. We sent him to the United Nations, New York, most important station. He was never a member of SWAPO. Former Honourable Schimming-Chase, we sent her to Germany, she was an Ambassador.

This propaganda that is being spread by the Honourable Member here is very unfortunate. That culture of SWAPO, developed by the SWAPO Party leadership, is manifesting itself today after Independence. We said education is number one priority above any other priority and when you get a scholarship, you do not indicate whether you are a member of SWAPO. That statement is really most unfortunate. We have educated our nationals regardless of political affiliation.

Honourable Member, yesterday you heard that our Education Budget is more than N\$10 billion and it is not reserved for SWAPO Party members. You are just tarnishing the good name of this Republic with that kind of propaganda. Each and every citizen, regardless of political affiliation, is playing an important role to build a winning Nation for Namibia. Therefore, that propaganda must be rejected with the contempt it deserves. I so submit.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Iilonga.

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HON IILONGA**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. This so-called Motion by Honourable Naholo, is unfortunate. If I were the Speaker, I would have ruled him Out of Order as he is misleading the public out there. I was expecting the Honourable Member to call for an audit on qualified Namibians. The heading of the Motion was sound, but when he started introducing the Motion he diluted the entire Motion.

Honourable Naholo, just take the newly established Medical School. We have some compatriot Namibians who regarded themselves as being left out, but 99% of students at that school are those who used to think the way you are thinking and never wanted to associate themselves with the education of the SWAPO Party Government.

First we had the Academy and then we had another one in Pioniers Park which is a university today, which was full of some of our compatriots and afterwards it became empty. They went to where they thought they would get better education. However, they have come back to that institution. It was done exactly the way you are propagating it. That is why people were not encouraged to enter education under the SWAPO Party Government.

As regards free education, we have to be honest as Members of Parliament and not tell people lies. There is no way people were paying for education. They were contributing towards the school development funds, but the principals of schools were directed by the SWAPO Party Government that no child must be denied education because he or she cannot afford to pay for the development fund. What happened is that the principals implemented what was not allowed by the Government, namely to prevent any Namibian child to study because he or she cannot afford. The same goes for uniforms. Even up to now they are chasing away children who cannot afford uniforms.

Honourable Naholo, you are supposed to inform your members in disguise who during the day pretend not to be members of any Party, but during the night they are with you, planning to come up with this uncalled-for Motion. In my view we do not even need to continue with this Motion, it

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just needs to be thrown away and that is it.

HON SPEAKER: The people out there would not have known all the information you provided if we did not accord you the opportunity to do exactly what you have done. That is the purpose. They now have the opportunity to listen to both sides of the story. That is how it works. Chief Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I do not know how to term the Motion by Honourable Naholo, but it looks like it is a concocted Motion, perhaps ill-thought and when something is ill-thought, it usually does not make much sense and becomes meaningless.

I do not what the Honourable Member really thought of because it is really a conglomerate of many things put together and not coherent, honestly speaking. I would say that if it had had national interest, this Motion could probably have received some good attention, but because of lack of tangible substance, one questions; what is it really that my brother, Honourable Naholo, wants to bring forth? I cannot make sense out of it so far.

I think the Mover should have brought out issues that would have bound us together, that would have helped us to debate to create an atmosphere of understanding, not only here but to the public at large. I would say that the Mover perhaps does not really seem to read a lot, because all the things that he is trying to portray here are things that are readily available. The database, for example, there is a database centre, one should read and access this. Who does not know? If you do not know, I think you should ask first before you come up with such allegations.

It is said that ignorance is not an excuse. If you are in one country and break the laws, hoping that you would get away with it, you will not.

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However, what I am trying to say is that, my brother, you know very well that educated people, *per se*, have capacities. If you are talking about educated people, in fact educated people are not necessarily to be employed, they are to create employment opportunities, because they are educated, they have the capacities. They only have to create opportunities for themselves to be assisted wherever it is possible.

I think there is also a need for us to learn to consult each other. When creating a Motion you want people to deliberate on issues of significant importance that has the Nation at heart. Therefore, when you create a Motion, speak the truth. If you speak the truth everybody would contribute, "*yes, he is speaking sense, he is saying the right thing, we should deliberate on things and find a solution.*" That would have been the situation.

At the moment there is nothing on which to touch, because these are unfounded allegations and I feel, should you have consulted, perhaps that could have helped. At the moment I do not see that it is going to go very far.

Also in our approach to Motions in this august House, we should be patriotic, patriotic in the sense that we should not try to break what has been built, we should try to improve upon what is there. Then we say; "*yes, we are building the nation*". Currently I can see that there is lack of either understanding, that is why there is lack of substance and coherence within this Motion. The Motion maybe needs to be reconsidered carefully and then be brought back here, but as it stands currently, it does not make any sense and needs to be rejected. I am sorry – I do not have to be sorry, I am just saying it should be rejected as far as I am concerned and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Dingara.

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HON DINGARA**

HON DINGARA: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker, for the opportunity. I feel it is good to regard the paper, as Honourable Kawana was saying, a so-called Motion, because when I was listening to Honourable Naholo, when he was introducing the Motion, it took him five minutes to get to the Motion. After five minutes he said that was in passing. After saying that was in passing, there was still nothing that one could get that the outcry is about this and he wants this to be done. I tried to listen but I really did not get it. When a Motion is tabled it must be very clear, however his motivation was different from the heading.

I was asking myself, why some people, when something good is done by someone else and they feel it is too good, they also want to benefit from that so that they can make a name. When free education was announced by the Ministry, it was so overwhelming in the minds of every Namibian, such that Honourable Naholo decided that he will now make a point on that basis.

HON LUCKS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question?

HON DINGARA: Let me just continue for now, I do not want to accept a question.

HON LUCKS: Just a short question. Are you afraid? Thank you very much, Honourable Member. You just said when the Government announced free primary education after 23 years, now the Member over there said it has been free since Independence. If it has been free, why has it now all of a sudden been announced that it is free? I do not understand, was it free or was it not free?

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HON DINGARA: When I was listening to Honourable Naholo, I was trying to find out what he was driving at. All I could find is that he was trying to ride on the back of a very good decision by the Government, but unfortunately he destroyed himself through his own Motion and not only him, he also destroyed his Party to a certain extent, as people will think that is the position of his Party. I could see while he was speaking that the others were not happy with what he was saying.

Comrade Speaker, education was our dream and we cannot achieve everything in one day. I once said here that it does not matter how much we wish, the determining factor is the resources available. Even if you want to fly, you cannot fly today, you can only do so when the resources are available. It is only God who can decide that it does not matter how big the earth is, I will just say a word and it will be created, but for us as human beings and the Government the resources at our disposal will determine what can be done. For now we can afford to say no School Development Fund, but the next stage is still coming. Our wishes are bigger than what you see. The Budget is so small, therefore let us just wait and see what the SWAPO Party will be doing.

I stood up, Comrade Speaker, just to reiterate what my Colleagues have said, namely that this Motion be rejected at the level higher than any rejected Motion has ever reached. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Utoni.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. My intervention will be very brief. As others have already indicated, the Honourable Member did not do well and did not prepare his motion very well and that is a problem to himself and to his Party.

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The question that I want to pose to him is: Does the Honourable Member really want to say he does not recognise the graduation of students from UNAM, Polytechnic and IUM every year? Does he not recognise that? He asked how many people are qualified in Namibia, yet there are statistics and he deliberately did not want to make use of those. Why?

Honourable Member, I think you have not done your homework. While listening to you, I thought you wanted to applaud the SWAPO Party Government for its efforts to mobilise the Namibian people from age 6 and above to study hard and the people of Namibia heard the voice of the SWAPO Party Government. As we are speaking the Namibian people are so proud of this Government for having mobilised them, that we now have doctors. You are saying you do not know whether we have Namibian doctors, but frankly speaking, are you honest? You did not even go to UNAM and the Polytechnic. Let us be honest and tell the Nation the truth.

SWAPO did not only mobilise people to study. If you ask the question, how many politicians in Namibia were produced through this good governance and democratic system under SWAPO Party, the answer is that there are many today. That is why you have so many Political Parties in Namibia and next year they are going to form new Political Parties. The SWAPO Party has done a lot, just go and do research. I want this Motion to be totally rejected. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Katali.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I am going to be brief, simply because there is no use to debate on the so-called Motion. I would just like to address some issues with Honourable Naholo.

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HON KATALI**

Honourable Naholo, this is an Honourable House. The mere fact that we are from different Political Parties, does not mean it is a platform to bash each other in this House through Motions. As the Honourable Members have indicated earlier, the heading of the Motion and the motivation differ totally and I think you should learn from the criticism.

HON NAHOLO: How is it different?

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: It is good that you now start asking questions because you do not know. That is very good, that is what Honourable Chief Ankama told you, that it could have been better if you had asked. Had you asked beforehand, you would not have gotten this criticism.

I am telling you now that the statistics that you want, have nothing to do with the persecutions that you have been talking about. It has nothing to do with all the allegations that you were levelling against your own Party. You have been a SWAPO member, it is your Party. Honourable Riruako indicated to you that you are just one and the same, it is your own Party. If you really want us to discuss issues, do as others are doing.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy a small question? Honourable Minister, you made a very important point in front of the cameras that the Honourable Member is still a SWAPO member. Can you please verify that? Is he still a SWAPO member?

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HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: He is there, you can ask him the question. However, in relation to what I have said, you may meet somebody who has been in Namibia who is residing in another country and he will say Namibia is his home. That person is not currently there, but he has been there.

You tried to use some of the phrases, “*free education*” and I think many others have said it. For your information, primary education in this country has been free since 1990. When it is said education is being paid for, is when the parents are paying for the classrooms, the tuition, the teachers and everything. That is when education is being paid for.

The School Development Fund is not a school fee, it is not an education fee, let us understand it. What has been taken away and rightly so, is the School Development Funds, because it has been misused. It was used as if it is a criterion for a learner to get education, but the policy of Government has been very clear throughout and let us not try to exaggerate this issue that education was not free and it is only free now. Let us just speak the truth and the truth is that the Development Funds have been done away with. Why can we not face the reality which is the truth? (Interjection). I am a teacher, I have been administering Development Funds.

What the Motion really wants, is to take stock of, apparently, the professionals. When you collect statistics it must make sense, it must tell you something and you must be able to use the statistics that you collected. If I understood correctly, you want these people to be identified and then grouped somewhere in order for them to talk about issues. That is where I see you want to go.

Currently as we are here we have a platform. As we are here we are already educated.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? If you follow history properly you would probably be aware that there were Parties that were formed in this country along intellectual lines. Do you not think that those statistics and the roll call are maybe meant for that Party to recruit intellectuals only?

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: That was the thinking when the Party for intellectuals was created. Now they find themselves not being able to do anything on their own and now they want to bring in a larger group because they feel isolated. You are not isolated, you are isolating yourself.

What I was saying is that, this platform here is for educated people and what we discuss are issues. When you go to UNAM, when you go to Parastatals and Government Offices, they are all manned by educated people and these people are not prohibited to bring up issues. You do not necessarily need to bring them together and say these are educated people, they already know that they are educated and the statistics you are asking are there. There are publications, human development index and many others. If you read the reports of the National Planning Commission, they took stock of different skills and professions. These things are there and if the statistics are there, what are we to debate on?

HON KAZENAMBO: Comrade Katali, you are making good progress, if you are a leader of a Party that since its formation has been involved in Court cases against other Parties and now locked in a serious, bitter Court cases with its members, will you have time to go and read statistics?

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: By the words of Honourable Chief Ankama, ignorance is not an excuse. Therefore, I

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cannot just look on while the Honourable Member is saying these things just because he does not know that the statistics are available, I have to tell him to go and read the statistics and then there is no need for a Debate here on the statistics on professionals.

You said we should go to UNAM and see how many graduates passed there, but those statistics will not help you. If you know that, since Independence UNAM had so many graduates, then what? Some of them have died, they are no more, therefore, what will these statistics tell you? Nothing? It is just a list of graduates, but then what? That is why I say when you collect statistics, they must inform you of something, they must direct you to what you want to achieve and this did not come out of your so-called Motion. Therefore, Honourable Speaker, there is nothing to debate here. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Simataa.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Initially I did not want to take the Floor because I wanted to avoid running the risk of contributing to the Motion and then indirectly glorifying a Motion which, on the basis of merits, as many speakers have indicated, does not deserve to even be considered. I am even wondering whether we cannot perhaps make history in this House by determining certain benchmarks that Motions must meet, because we spend time debating Motions for the sake of ensuring that the public is not fed with half-cooked information. Maybe in the near future we need to put our heads together and agree that for us to spend quality time in this Assembly, there must be a benchmark against which Motions must be tested and if they pass the test, then there are merits for us to debate the Motion. If we do not do that, Comrade Speaker, I am afraid the public out there will conclude, and rightly so, that we are not worthy of the little

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pennies that they are giving us and I think they are already saying that. Therefore, we need to collectively protect the credibility of this Assembly.

HON RIRUAKO: On a Point of Information. May I say this, Mr Speaker, I know everything is spoiled by what happened in this House, but we are mature enough to be over what happened, to run this country for good and for bad. We are not here to play cards. He, who wants to play cards, does not have any room for knowledge. He can cooperate and say I am sorry for what I said, but we are here in the House to rescue the situation and respect the House every day we enter into it. Also, to take issue with those who are not in our will or our desire, but in the will of the Nation, we are beyond that. I know what happened, but for the sake of the Nation it is our desire to come together with those who understand what is supposed to be done.

HON SPEAKER: I am trying to get what the Point of Order is.

HON RIRUAKO: I am saying we are here to rescue the situation, we are not here to destroy the situation. We are here to acknowledge the Nation, but not for the sake of an individual.

HON SPEAKER: I am going to revert the Floor back to Honourable Simataa.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Thank you, Comrade

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Speaker, I am lost in terms of what the Honourable Chief is trying to raise with me. Nevertheless, let me continue from where I left.

Having said what I said; let me latch onto the points that were made by Honourable Ilonga and Honourable Katali on the issue of free education, because when the Honourable Naholo started with his motivation, I was also lost. I even thought he was speaking on the Motion Honourable Shixwameni has given Notice of, but I was not surprised because we have been reading in the newspapers that he is one of those members who, after the bold step initiated by the late Minister of Education and embraced by Government, has been claiming out there that this Government has over the past 23 years contravened relevant provisions of the Constitution, which is not true. Therefore, this is the point that needs to be contextualised.

Once again, let me repeat what others have said. Since Independence to date, primary education in Namibia has been free and continues to be free. What has been abused is a genuine legal provision in the current Education Act that introduced School Development Funds for very good reasons, but typical of any given system where human beings are given the responsibility to apply and manage that system, it is human beings who have gone overboard, abused the legal provision and used the legal provision to prevent fellow Namibians from accessing education.

Therefore, what has been done now, not by the Opposition, by the Government, is to say we are going to take this bold move and remove all these user-fees legalised by the Education Act, which of course needs to come back here so that we can amend it. So, indeed, education has been free.

Coming back to your Motion, I think the intention of your Motion is good, but the presentation, I am afraid that, if those of us who have been teachers were to mark it, I do not know what grade we would have given it. Inasmuch as I am a kind teacher, I do not know what grade I would have given, because it would not have even qualified for to be ungraded. The intention is good because we need to know what is the extent of the

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human capital that we have in Namibia.

On that score, let me indicate that we are together, but you have spoiled the process of cooking the Motion because you have taken all the spices that your partner placed on the shelf and mixed them in the pot. That concoction that Honourable Chief Ankama referred to cannot even be tasted, let alone be presented, but the intention was great and we were together there.

Then you levelled accusations. If we were to ask from the Ruling Party here how many of us have professional degrees, including the Opposition there, all of you would have risen. Therefore, you are contradicting yourself because in this holy House of Debates where you are presenting the Motion there are so many of us who have degrees, a clear indication that what you are saying in essence does not hold water. We have medical doctors here, we have professionals here, we have engineers here,

HON MEMBER: How many are they?

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** They are many.

Unfortunately, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Naholo spoiled his Motion. I think he wanted to introduce the Motion, but behind that was his desire to offload his anger and his understanding that this Government has been violating the Constitution. I am glad that he is in agreement with what I am saying. (Interjections)

HON SPEAKER: It is the obligation of the Speaker to look at the speaker on the Floor and as a result of that I missed what happened here.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Speaker, what the Honourable Speaker missed is that Honourable Naholo conceded to the statement that I made, which is very true.

I know that we are left with one year to go before the next election, but my advice to the Opposition is that we minimise some of this political sniping. It is too early for that, let us focus on things that need the indulgence of this House, that need the indulgence of the Nation in terms of debating, analysing and finding solutions. I know SWANU has already started, even giving statistics on the number of Motions they introduced in Parliament. I saw that on television, seeing is believing. It is too early, Comrade Speaker.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Deputy Minister a question? Is the Deputy Minister aware that SWANU is the Party which has been at the forefront of politics in this country and, therefore, we are always in the lead with new political developments and others now can follow?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Speaker, I do not want to delve into history, therefore I will invite my Colleague to a private discussion and then we can dwell on history.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: How many members of SWANU do we have in the country? Do you perhaps have the number? Can they fill a bus or a combi when they travel, the oldest Party in the country?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: To give an honest answer, they could only fit into two sedan cars. I met their convoy on my way back from Mariental, there were only two sedan cars.

HON MAAMBERUA: On a Point of Order. Comrade Speaker, the Deputy Minister has been trying to respond to the Motion, but after the question was asked by the Minister of Youth, the Deputy Minister has resorted to mis-information. SWANU is a giant that is not measured in terms of numbers, but in terms of mental capacity that transforms, changes and influences the direction in this country. That is what SWANU's strengths are. Of course, we have one seat at the moment, Namibians of all walks of life, across the entire spectrum of the Namibian territory are now joining the Party amass. Just follow the news. It is a piece of information, Honourable Speaker, I am now informing the Honourable Minister and the Nation at large. You have evidenced and witnessed for yourselves what transpired last weekend and you now await more things of that nature to happen. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Let me continue, Honourable Speaker and I am about to conclude. Part of what Honourable Naholo wants to achieve through this Motion, if he has been following developments in terms of the human capital that Namibia needs, he would have realised that we as a Government have already been working and towards the end of last year the Director-General of the National Planning Commission presented to Cabinet the National Human Resources Development Plan which I have been praying for since I came to this Chamber. Therefore, the future needs of Namibia in terms of human capital will soon be addressed.

If you look at all the contributions that we have made and the information

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we have provided, I think this Motion, sincerely speaking, was not necessary if only the Honourable Member would have done his homework in terms of seeking information first before advancing this Motion. On that note I want to join those who have requested that we collectively put this Motion where it correctly belongs and that is in the dustbin of Motions in this Chamber.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Shifeta.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:

Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, maybe the intention of the Motion by Honourable Naholo was good, but the presentation was not done in the way that a Motion is supposed to be presented in order to meet the requirements of a Motion to be introduced in this Parliament.

I do not know what really this Motion seeks to achieve. The Honourable Member mentioned many ingredients and I became confused about what he really wanted to say. Then he started making very serious allegations and some of us do not want these allegations to go unchallenged because they will be recorded here. As members of the Ruling Party we are ready to entertain any Motion from the Opposition, provided that it is done in a very honest manner, not with ulterior motives to achieve something else. We are ready to do that, but I think the Honourable Member should go and reorganise himself and come back and remove some of this rubbish from this Motion. (Interjections). “*Rubbish*” is not something that is unparliamentary. Let me just mention some of the allegations the Honourable Member has made.

One of the allegations is that apparently non-SWAPO members are denied jobs. His Party members are told if they are not SWAPO members they are not going to be given jobs. That is now apparently a Party of educated

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people, they are supposed to know their rights. This country has a Constitution, this country has other laws. This country is a law-functioning State and for somebody to come and say their members are denied jobs is a serious allegation. The protection of human rights and administrative actions in this country are contained in Chapter 3 and if a Member feels that his or her rights has been infringed upon, you have the right to approach a Court and place evidence there. That issue will be addressed. Unless you come and say the Court has denied you your right, then you have a point. You can even go to the Police and lay a criminal charge. Those are the actions I am talking about.

Therefore, that was not supposed to be part of your Motion because it is an administrative issue and you ought to know what you are supposed to do if you have that case. Do not give the impression to the public that the SWAPO Government is denying others who are not members of SWAPO jobs. That is even criminal, it is not something that can be tolerated.

The Honourable Member should go and polish his Motion if he wants it to be entertained here. Therefore, I follow the previous speakers, that this Motion does not meet the requirements of our standards set and we have other things to discuss. Next time when you bring a well-polished Motion here we are ready to entertain that. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I also did not intend taking the Floor, but the title of the Motion created some expectation, however when it was motivated I heard something else.

Therefore, what I want to say to Honourable Naholo is, that you made a mistake. When you are obsessed with finding fault, that is an inevitable

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conclusion, because your obsession is to find fault, it is not to present factual issues or evidence based on formulated discourse. On that score alone you erred and so you did terribly.

You really missed an opportunity to bring about a very sound, intellectual and academic paper, but what you did was to bring about something that is not evidence-based, not supported and not properly elaborated and reasoned. Obviously there are problems in this country, but are you now saying that educated people are not being utilised properly or deployed in positions? Where is that taking place? Is that taking place in the Parties, in the Private Sector or in the Government?

I know you would not go to Court because the Courts require evidence and I do not think you have a good history of presenting evidence when you are asked to do so and Honourable Shifeta should not expect the Comrades to go that way because there they ask questions and fresh memory has it, that we were not very good in doing what the Courts asked us to do. Therefore, they are not likely to go that route.

If you want to bring a proper Motion, you could maybe withdraw this one. It also reflects badly on the Party, because how did it pass your caucus? How was it approved by those who approve things? You formulated something, the title is saying this and the content is saying something else.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker, may I please ask Honourable Nambahu a question? Honourable Nambahu, do you not think you are asking for the impossible, because the Honourable Member whom you are asking whether he went to the caucus just came out of suspension and that suspension was as a result of not consulting the president of the Party and the Honourable Member is not familiar with this issue of caucus.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I think you have hit the nail on the head. Internal democracy would have sanitised this Motion and directed the Honourable Member to do the right thing. I taught only for a few months in my lifetime and this paper would not have been graded, because there is no balance between the title and the content and Professor Katjavivi would probably come to my rescue.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: May I ask a question? Was there ever any Member in this House who was bashed like the Honourable Member, in the history of this House or is he maybe the first one?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I cannot really recall any intellectual lynching of this magnitude, but on a serious note, it would have been very good if a proper matching of the title with the content was done. I know that even companies in this country send people to school and when they come back and become a threat to their own organisation, they will not find employment there. So, if you were not so obsessed to find fault with SWAPO, you would have researched, cast the net wider and actually presented problems that are afflicting our society. Now that you are obsessed with finding fault with SWAPO and are so disgruntled, your judgment has been blurred and you cannot come up with a proper scientific research.

On that note I would appeal to your leadership to discipline you, reformulate this Motion and bring it back so that you are not an embarrassment to the Party to which you belong. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Lucks.

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HON LUCKS: Honourable Speaker, I want to Move that the Debate be adjourned until tomorrow.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Comrade Speaker, it was not my intention to partake in this Debate because I thought many of those who spoke before me on this issue have expressed the general feeling and understanding of what had come out of this Motion and made a recommendation which is overwhelmingly supported, that this Motion be rejected.

Looking at the Order Paper, I am seeing other Motions lined up which may contribute positively to nation-building and which may also educate the public on very pertinent issues, but we are now wasting time by even wanting to postpone the Debate on this same issue that is overwhelmingly rejected to another date. Are we doing justice, Comrade Speaker? I want to Move and I do, that this Motion be rejected now.

HON SPEAKER: I am following the Rules, but if that is the wish of the majority, Honourable Lucks, why do you not take the Floor now?

HON LUCKS: Honourable Speaker, in the interest of time, because the Mover of the Motion still has to reply, I would like to give him the opportunity to do that. So, I have nothing more to say.

HON SPEAKER: The position is that there has been a call for the division of the House. Who supports the request for the division of the House? The House shall therefore stand divided. Those in favour of the division, please rise. Those against? Abstentions?

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**MOTION ON AIR NAMIBIA
HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

In favour: 31
Against: 3
Abstentions: 6

The Motion is rejected

MOTION ON AIR NAMIBIA

HON SPEAKER: The Second Motion is the one of the Honourable Von Wietersheim. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: I Move the Motion.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds the Motion? Any Objection? None. Agreed to. You have the Floor, Honourable Member.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. By now a few things have overtaken some of the issues I am addressing, amongst others; the promise by the Honourable Minister of Finance during her Budget Speech regarding this issue, but I am not going to refer to it in order not to pre-empt the discussion on the Budget.

Honourable Speaker, we entered the current Fiscal Year, which is about to end soon under the proud banner of “*Fiscal Sustainability and Job Creating Growth – Doing More with Less*”. It was spelled out during the last Budget Presentation that the slow global economy might have an impact on Namibia, but that we could meet our goals if we focus our

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efforts and do more with the resources we have. Spending was intended to focus on Sectors with high growth and job creation potential, whilst improving important social services to all in society and protecting the most vulnerable.

These very noble intentions were circumvented in the same breath by the announcement that a new business plan for Air Namibia was developed to turn around the airline business to profitability and that two long-haul aircraft were acquired for Air Namibia as part of the turnaround business plan and on closer scrutiny it became clear that the expense for this assistance amounted to another N\$500 million.

As we are all aware by now, this was not a unique emergency bail-out due to unforeseeable circumstances, but literally another one of many in a series of Government interventions which since 1990 to 2000 have accumulated to a staggering N\$3.6 billion.

Comparing this N\$500 million intervention with some of the so-called key spending highlights listed by the Ministry of Finance for the current Financial Year, it becomes clear that with more support to those key Votes we could have moved faster and further towards doing more with less within the framework of what should be our foremost national priorities, such as towards vocational education, which only received N\$270 million, to the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund, which only received N\$114 million, towards SME development, only slightly over N\$100 million or towards crop production and horticulture for food security, which received N\$337 million. Amongst these, was the ailing airline really the highest priority, especially with a known history of accumulated State financial aid of N\$3.6 billion and the notorious history of turnaround efforts promised year after year without success.

The following quotes from previous Budget statements will serve to illustrate the history of incessant failures:

2004/2005: The Minister announces that; *“Air Namibia will undergo a comprehensive restructuring and re-alignment process this year”* and referring to other State-Owned Enterprise as well, the Minister states that

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“the Parastatal Sector is a potential source of revenue for Government, therefore we need to turn around our loss-making Parastatals to become profitable so that they can contribute to government revenue.”

2005/2006: The Minister reports that; *“the reform efforts at Air Namibia are generating positive results.”* But a year later;

2006/2007: The Minister admits that; *“Air Namibia remains a concern as its financial situation continues to deteriorate. As a small operator, Air Namibia needs to enter into strategic alliances to benefit from the economies-of-scale.”*

2007/2008: The Minister announces that; *“We commissioned an independent study in October 2006 to assess the viability of Air Namibia as a business in an effort to restructure the company. The report of the consultants has been tabled with Government and internal consultations are on-going.”*

2010/2011: Another more general reference is made to State-Owned Enterprises where it stated that; *“The financial performance varies among State-Owned Enterprises with a number of them still making losses and depending on Budget Transfers. Progress is being made to establish mechanisms for enforcing accountability by State-Owned Enterprises and performance agreements for State-Owned Enterprises will be phased in, starting this year. This will enable Government to hold SOE's management accountable to their performance.”*

We have heard over the years about comprehensive restructuring and alignment, we have heard about the need for strategic alliances, we have heard about independent studies to assess viability and restructuring of the company and we have been told that mechanisms for enforcing accountability will be phased in. I am convinced that each one of the above has merits in addressing the misery of Air Namibia, but none seems to have been considered with the serious intention of implementing it with all its consequences. Instead another so-called new business plan for Air Namibia worth N\$500 million was implemented by way of our 2012/2013 Budget, following the same old pattern we have been following for over a

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decade. What about the strategic alliances? Many airlines these days are operating as strategic alliances and there are established airlines of good standing that might just be interested to enter this market. First coming to mind as an example for the international route is Air Berlin, which only recently stopped serving this route, as well as Lufthansa, when keeping in mind our main European hub, Frankfurt. But others, like Ethiopian Air or Turkish Airline may be offering interesting alternatives.

What about the various reports of various consultants or were they just greasing their pockets without delivering, as seems to be the order of the day by now? And what about accountability? Finally last year the Line Minister fires those responsible and before he can be congratulated on this exceptional deed of bravery in this land of non-enforcement, he has to withdraw his decision. It makes you wonder who is being coveted and protected in their cushy jobs while being incapable of professionally running a business like Air Namibia.

At the same time, every opportunity is used to wine and dine (while Rome is burning), such as on the occasion when the new aircraft arrived and nearly half a million Namibia Dollars of our scarce resources is blown on a welcoming party at Daan Viljoen.

HON SPEAKER: You will continue tomorrow.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2013.02.28 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
28 FEBRUARY 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: The Business of the House commences. Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable !Nawases-Taeyele.

**TABLING: REPORT ON DECENTRALISATION
IN KARAS AND HARDAP REGIONS**

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table for note-taking and information, the Report on the State of Decentralisation and Regional and Local Government Service-Delivery in Karas and Hardap Regions, following the public hearings conducted during the 7th of May to the 4th of June 2012.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to briefly highlight the main findings contained in the Report.

Decentralisation and service-delivery is very close to the heart of the people in our Regions and I am sure that it is also close to the hearts of us as the representatives of the people.

During the occasion of the Official Opening of Parliament on the 12th of February 2013, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba alluded to the importance of the service-delivery and I wish to quote the President; *“I have no doubt that all of us are deeply concerned about the future of our country. Collectively and individually we have an obligation to address*

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**REPORT ON DECENTRALISATION
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

the many challenges facing our Nation. The magnitude of poverty, unemployment, low living standards, lack of access to food, housing, potable water, quality education and health care are daily reminders to us all of a unified agenda in achieving economic and social justice for our people.”

The President further stated; *“Let us, therefore, combine our efforts and deliver better services to our citizens.”*

Honourable Speaker, the Standing Committee also regard the tabling of this Report as an opportune time, now that the Honourable Minister of Finance has tabled the National Budget for 2013/2014. Let me now revert to the Report on the Table of this august House.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee’s mandate, as per Rule 48 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the National Assembly, is to review, among others, the operations of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development. Our work is confined to the Regional and Local Government component of this Ministry.

As a Committee of Parliament with an oversight function, we visited the great Karas and Hardap Regions with a view to determine progress of the decentralisation process and successes and challenges of the service-delivery at the Regional and Local Government levels. Our visits were done by way of public hearings from the 7th of May to the 4th of June 2012. We will continue with this exercise to other Regions of the country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we have conducted meetings and public hearings with the leadership and officials of the two Regional Councils, Local Authority Councils, officials and most importantly, the broader spectrum of the communities of the following towns, villages and settlements; Keetmanshoop, Ariamsvlei, Karasburg, Warmbad, Grunau, Aus, Lüderitz, Bethanië, Aroab, Koës, Berseba, Tses, Mariental, Gibeon, Gochas, Maltahöhe, Aranos, Hoachanas, Stampriet, Kalkrand, Klein-Aub and Rehoboth.

The Committee was interested in the process in which Offices, Ministries

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and Agencies have been decentralised in the Hardap and Karas Regions. We looked at the successes and challenges of the delegated structures in implementing Government policies, programmes and projects. We looked at the successes and challenges of Local Authorities, Village Councils and settlement offices in executing their functions. We also enquired on the public perception in regard to service delivery at Regional and Local Government level.

Before coming to the findings of our visits, I wish to appreciate the continued efforts of our Government to improve the socio-economic conditions of the citizens of Namibia. I also wish to commend Government and, in particular, the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development and this august House for enacting the Decentralisation Enabling Act, 2000 (Act 33 of 2000). The purpose of this Act, to my knowledge, was to delegate the functions, powers and responsibility to the Regions with a view to take Public Services closer to the people. This Report contains the views and opinions expressed by the different stakeholders and the communities consulted. I shall briefly touch on our main findings.

Paragraph 2; deals with the decentralised government offices, ministries and agencies. Although key government services are delegated to the capital towns of the regions, for example Keetmanshoop and Mariental, there is a need for more government offices, ministries and agencies to be delegated to towns, villages and settlements. The Report highlights the services that need to be delegated urgently.

Paragraph 3; talks about income of Local Authorities. Local authorities in Karas and Hardap Regions find it extremely difficult to manage the affairs of their towns and villages without adequate financial, human and material resources or support. Most Local Authorities informed the Committee that the subsidies provided by the Ministry are not sufficient.

Paragraph 4; deals with land. Shortage of land and un-serviced land for housing and development are serious challenges in these two Regions. Honourable Speaker, I want to cite just one or two examples.

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At Grunau settlement only 74 hectares of the land belong to the Government. That is about the size of 74 soccer fields. The rest of the land is owned by private commercial farmers. This is an area with potential for economic growth, mainly because it is an important highway cross-road leading to two important routes that connect Namibia with South Africa and neighbouring countries. We have also been informed that the previously disadvantaged communities were forcefully removed during the 1980s from the land opposite the railway line to the flood-prone area which is called Grasvlakte.

At Stampriet the situation is to such an extent that private farms are situated within the townland. Now my question is: For how long should our people be landless? Without any other option our people have resorted to unwanted and illegal practices of land-grabbing. Incidents of land-grabbing in Mariental and Keetmanshoop have been noticed during the last two years. It is an unfortunate state of affairs that needs urgent attention from our Government.

Paragraph 5; deals with housing. The Report acknowledges efforts made by our Government to provide housing, however, much needs to be done to provide shelter for the people of these two Regions and, of course for the rest of our country. The Build-Together Programme seems not to be bearing the fruits as it was initially intended when the programme was introduced. What is of concern are the many incomplete houses, poor artisanship and utilisation of funds by Regional Councils. These funds are meant for the Build-Together Programme but are diverted to other projects. As a result, the successful implementation of the Build-Together Programme is hampered. Allegations of maladministration and misuse of funds earmarked for the Build-Together Programme were made. There is no doubt that a shortage of housing in the two Regions and the rest of the country is a challenge. Housing is a basic need and basic human right.

Paragraph 6; deals electricity. Stakeholders and community members argued that the RED concept should be reviewed as the creation of REDs inflated the cost of electricity and the consumer is the party that suffers the most.

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Paragraph 7; deals with the provision of potable water. Village Councils find it extremely difficult to pay their debts to NamWater. Many Local Authorities requested to provide their own potable water from the boreholes in their own towns and villages. Another shocking revelation is that the previously disadvantaged community at Grunau only have one hour access to potable water, while the previously advantaged community have 24 hours access to potable water. It is our humble plea to the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry to investigate this allegation immediately.

Paragraph 8; deals with development. What was of concern here is the slow pace of development and the lack of awareness of the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG).

Paragraph 9; deals with governance. There was a strong view that the delegation of functional areas of Ministries should be accompanied by power, authority and adequate resources, for example, human resources, financial resources and material resources. Then we talk about decentralisation. This makes it extremely difficult for Regional and Local Authorities to make important decisions at regional level. Furthermore, there was a strong desire for regular talks and consultations with national leaders, such as Members of Parliament. The efficiency, effectiveness, functionality and roles of the Village Constituency Development and Regional Development Committees are highly questionable.

For my team and I, this was an indication that there is a communication problem in these two Regions when it comes to these structures of governance. People on the ground are not informed of what is happening in these offices.

Paragraph 10; deals with health, welfare and sanitation. The Regions experience a shortage of doctors and nurses. Community members were concerned about the lack of ambulances, mortuaries and accessibility to hospitals due to the vast distances. The public also complained about the lack of social workers. Government's efforts to provide proper sanitation

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are commendable, however, sanitation facilities and access to flushing toilets are still serious problems in these two Regions.

Paragraph 14; deals with unemployment. As a side-note, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to mention that unemployment in these two Regions amongst the youth is very worrisome. The Report states the following; *“In fact, the unemployed youth of Karas and Hardap have lost hope and confidence in finding a job now and in the future.”* For us as representatives of the people this should be a worrisome socio-economic state of affairs. I am deeply concerned about these young people.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Report highlights a number of problems faced in the two Regions. I would like to single out the lack of poor, none or ineffective communication between Councillors, who are elected representatives at Regional and Local Government level, Regional and Local Government officials and the members of the public. This in itself is depriving the communities of the Region of their constitutional right, which is access to public services.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we have also made a number of recommendations that could mitigate the challenges faced on a daily basis by the people of these two contrastingly beautiful Regions of our country. These recommendations range from, amongst others, public service delivery, sanitation, housing, communication, education and unemployment.

The Committee will direct letters to the Ministries concerned to address issues in this Report in order to find a lasting solution to the challenges faced by our people. We need to bring the Government closer to the people by accelerating the decentralisation process. We need to act by way of implementing existing laws and policies to bring better services to our people.

It is now my humble request, Honourable Speaker, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs of the National Assembly, that all Honourable Members support and adopt this Report

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and I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Firstly, I would like to support the Report and my comment is also in the form of enquiring what the effective mechanisms between the Executive and the Legislature are because I had the privilege of serving in the Executive until recently. However, I have been sitting in this House for more than eight years now where Reports are tabled with their findings, sometimes very worrisome findings and then they are debated here, but so far I have not witnessed the connection between this House and the Executive in terms of following up on the issues contained in these Reports. What mechanisms do we have in place to follow up and address the issues raised by the highest body, the representative body of the Namibian people?

I will leave it at that, but suffice to say that it is really worrisome and of great concern, and I plead that we develop a mechanism to deal with this issue.

Recently I read in a book, a remark which says one should not assume that when people speak English they understand one another and it appears we have been speaking English as the official language, but we do not understand each other. We do not hear each other out. Maybe it is because we come from different social backgrounds that we deny who we are and because we socialise differently we tend to listen to one another with prejudices. I feel we should go beyond that.

Having prefixed my statement with that, it is worrisome when the Namibian people of whatever age say they have no hope. If your citizen says; "*I do not have hope that I will get a job*", whether it is real or perceived, whether it is political or non-political, the remark should be worrisome and it should warrant further investigation to find out whether this complaint is genuine, whether it has merits or whether this complaint is politically motivated. Sometimes we brush these things aside, quickly saying that somebody is behind this, the people are being instigated, there

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is a hidden political agenda. Then in that process we throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Some of the points contained in this Report ring a bell, they are not only applicable to those two Regions, they apply to the whole country and they are the realities of development, realities which have nothing to do with the current SWAPO Government. They are challenges of socio-economic development that faces all of humanity.

That is why I am asking what mechanisms we have in this House to investigate the problems. What are the causes of land grabbing? It has nothing to do with the Minister of Lands, it is a challenge that is facing all of us. It is not for the Minister of Health to attend to health issues, it is a challenge that faces all of us. If they talk about decentralisation, it has nothing to do with the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, it is something that calls on all of us as representatives of the people to share what procedures and mechanisms we have to implement decentralisation. Where it is warranted to blame colonialism, we have to blame colonialisms and where it is warranted to look at ourselves and admit it is our failure, it could be failure due to factors beyond ourselves or it could be failure due to our negligence, failure due to ignorance. We must bite the bullet and face the reality, tackle it and deal with it without excuses. What mechanism do we have to address these issues that concern our people, concern us and concern the legacy that we leave for this country? These factors are factual and they are true not only to Karas and Hardap, they are true for many parts of Namibia. I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Katali.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would also like to thank the Committee for bringing this Report to the House and reporting on the issues that are

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affecting our people in the South. However, I would like to make a comment on Point 6 on Page 8.

The Report mentions the Regional Electricity Distributors. Although I do agree in general that there are complaints about the Regional Electricity Distributors, I would like to question the accuracy of the Report in this regard. To my knowledge, Hardap and Karas Regions do not have the REDs. The Report assumes that electricity in Hardap and Karas Regions have become more expensive as a result of the creation of the REDs. That could maybe be said for other parts of the country, but I cannot see how we reconcile this statement with regard to Hardap and Karas.

Otherwise the statement is in order and we will look into that. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjongarero.

HON A TJONGARERO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. As member of this Committee, I just wanted to emphasise two issues, but firstly, in Karas there is SELCo.

My first point is on the potable water supply to the people in Grunau of one hour per day. That is a very serious situation and we really have to look into that.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Comrade Speaker, my apologies to my Colleague who is making her point and I am also sorry that I came in a bit late. I was trying to follow where we are in this process and however long I sat here, I became completely lost and up to now I am lost and I am trying to find out where we are.

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Comrade Speaker, I am asking this question because of what the practice used to be and what is now taking place. Maybe the practice has been amended during the past few years and I am sorry if that had happened, but when a Report like this was tabled by a Committee, the Chairperson of the Committee was usually given the opportunity to motivate the Report. When the issue is put on the Order Paper, the Ministers whose Line Ministries are mentioned in the Report are given the opportunity to give information or to explain.

What confused me most was the fact that Honourable Kaura was rising to pose a question or something like that.

HON SPEAKER: No, we are in the Question slot, it is a regular question, not related to the Report.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Is the Report on the Order Paper already, for it to be discussed like this or are we just discussing and tomorrow it will be on the Order Paper after we have been given an opportunity to peruse the Report or where are we? I am just seeking clarification.

HON SPEAKER: The Speaker was more or less along the line that you are intimating, but some of the Honourable Members felt that the issues raised in the Report are of such importance that they wanted to amplify the Report and I see no harm in that. Honourable Tjongarero is a member of the Committee and wanted to amplify on one or two things in the Report and I give her the Floor.

HON A TJONGARERO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The first

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one was about the water supplied to the community for only one hour a day, which I really do not think is enough.

Secondly, we have now been independent for about 23 years and we are still talking about the bucket system. These people still have to go out to wherever that bucket is and I really do not think we can still continue with that. I hope that the Ministry will attend to this matter so that we can get rid of this bucket system. Those are the two points I wanted to emphasise. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Indeed, the Report speaks for itself. That is what we are here for. This is the house of the people and the litany of challenges contained in the Report speak for themselves. The affected Ministries, Agencies Accountables have heard the message. Chief Whip Katjavivi.

**INVITATION: QUEEN ELIZABETH DIAMOND
JUBILEE GALA DINNER**

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I have the honour to present to this House by way of informing Members that arrangements are underway for us to host the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Fundraising Gala Dinner. I, therefore, wish to give you some kind of progress Report in that regard.

As you may recall, Honourable Members, towards the end of 2012, I informed the House that His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba mandated me to serve as the national focus person for this fundraising endeavour. The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Trust was formed in honour of the Queen to mark her long reign of service dedicated to the needs of the public both in the United Kingdom and the entire Commonwealth. It was formed during the meeting of the Commonwealth

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Heads of Government and Missions in Australia in 2011. The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Trust is a special trust headed by the former British Prime Minister, Sir John Major. The Trust has been established to raise funds for development projects across the Commonwealth, including Namibia, in areas such as tackling curable diseases, for example blindness, the promotion of education and culture, youth empowerment and other Commonwealth priorities.

Honourable Members, the entire Commonwealth family around the world is fundraising for this noble cause and every member country has assigned a national focal point person to spearhead the drive. All the High Commissioners of the Commonwealth Member States represented in London have been appointed to the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Trust Advisory Panel based in London, headed by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, His Excellency Mr Kamalesh Sharma.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is in this regard that I am inviting and encouraging all of you, Honourable Members, to wholeheartedly participate in this effort in whatever way you can. Our fundraising effort in this regard has made provision for financial contributions, attendance of the Gala Dinner or both. The fundraising Gala Dinner will take place at the Windhoek Country Club on the 14th of March 2013 at 18:30 for 19:00. Tickets are N\$1,000 per person or N\$8,000 for a table for ten. That would include the usual refreshments, a three-course dinner plus light musical entertainment.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we urge institutions and individuals to buy tables in advance. Donations and other pledges will be welcomed during the evening or can be paid into the Trust bank account. The account is at Standard Bank Namibia, Main Branch Independence Avenue. The details will be provided in this presentation. RSVP, we have the names of the staff at the National Assembly, who will be able to take care of the arrangements and they will be provided in this particular submission.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to thank you personally and, of course, our staff at the National Assembly who are walking an extra mile to assist

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me in executing this responsibility on behalf of our Government and country. Through this exercise Namibia is joining the rest of the Commonwealth to make a contribution to this effort.

Sir John Major has written to us in support of our fundraising endeavour and I would briefly like to read to you the message forwarded to us. It reads as follows:

“The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust was set up to recognise Her Majesty’s sixty extraordinary years as the Head of the Commonwealth. The Trust will do this through two programmes. The first is aimed at targeting avoidable blindness and the second is to promote youth excellence. In bringing life-changing benefits to the people across the Commonwealth, the Trust’s work will provide a lasting legacy and a fitting tribute to Her Majesty and by supporting us in Namibia, you will become part of the Commonwealth-side celebration of Her Majesty’s dedication to service.

On behalf of myself, and the whole Trust team, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for your generous support.”

Honourable Members, I submit this brief progress report and I count on your support and cooperation. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Kaura.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

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HON KAURA**

QUESTION 17:

HON KAURA: I give Notice that on Thursday, 7 March 2013, I shall ask the Attorney-General, Honourable Kawana, the following:

1. The Namibian Constitution under Article 6 states the following:

“Article 6: Protection of Life. The right to life shall be respected and protected. No law may prescribe death as a competent sentence. No Court or tribunal shall have the power to impose a sentence of death upon any person. No execution shall take place in Namibia.”

2. Honourable Attorney General, in the *New Era* newspaper of February 27, 2013, we read the following; *“Lynching mob suspects denied bail. The Rundu Magistrate’s Court yesterday objected to bail for the nine people who were arrested in connection with the murder of a 52 year old security guard, Peter Nambale, in a brutal mob attack on Sunday.”*

Honourable Attorney-General, this happened after the security guard shot and killed Festus Lingwe, which led to the citizens to take the law into their own hands.

In view of the constitutional provision and given the fact that Namibians are executing fellow Namibians with impunity, leading to law-abiding Namibians to take the law into their own hands, what can Parliament do to prevent what happened at Mashare Irrigation Training Centre?

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

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

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HON !NARUSEB / HON IIVULA-ITHNA**

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Sir. I give Notice that on Tuesday, the 5th of February 2013, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

In accordance with Section 14(1)(g) of the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act 6 of 1995 –

Resolves to appoint, upon recommendation by the Minister, Mr Adam J Baisako, Ms Emma Kantema-Gaomas, Mr Jeff Mbako and Ms Martina K Mokgatle-Aukhumes as members of the Land Reform Advisory Commission for a term of three years.

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

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on the 12th of March 2013, I shall Move –

That this Assembly –

Debates a Motion on Gender-Based Violence against women and children in Namibia and further that the outcome of the Debate on the matter be referred to a Committee to which the Unopposed Motion by the Honourable Speaker has been referred to, to support that Motion. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Motion? Any Ministerial Statements? The first Question is by Honourable Von

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Wietersheim to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Does the Honourable Member put the Question?

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1:

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: I put the Question.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I would like to thank Honourable Anton Von Wietersheim for showing interest in the matter at hand and also in the activities of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. However, I only wish to correct in his question where he alleges that I may have deliberately delayed responding, I do not think the Minister has anything to do with the Order Paper.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:00

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Community-Based Health Care is a strategy for achieving the goal of primary health care within the overall objective of national health.

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Clinics, health centres and mobile outreach services as well as a number of specific Community-Based Health Interventions are the Primary Health Care services directly involved with communities, and as such they are part of Community-Based Health Care.

In addition, many Community-Based Organisations (CBO), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO), Faith-Based Organisations, Private Sector Organisations and practitioners and Community-Based Health Practitioners actively complement the work of the Government in an effort to provide the much-needed support to community members, especially in the area of health and social services.

HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis have placed a high burden on communities, which has prompted many community members to involve themselves in voluntary work. This work is very vital to the Namibian Nation and is strongly supported by Government. CBHC, is a comprehensive and integrated community programme involving health, agricultural and economic activities undertaken by individuals, families and groups within the community. Communities identify and prioritise their own problems and needs and mobilise resources to address this.

CBHC involves a number of issues, including informing, educating and training on prevailing health problems in communities and the methods of preventing and controlling them. Promotion of proper nutrition, maternal and child care, immunisation against the major infectious diseases, prevention and control of local endemic diseases, such as aerial diseases, acute respiratory infection and malaria; reproductive health services, including family planning and the prevention and control of sexually transmitted infections, with particular emphasis on HIV/AIDS, amongst many others.

Closely linked to community health outcomes, are the provision of other basic needs, improved living conditions, adequate supply of safe water and basic sanitation. In this regard my Ministry has made significant progress since 2005.

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The assessment on CBHC programmes and community volunteers was conducted in 2005 and the findings were shared and discussed during the National Conference on Volunteers in December 2006 and informed all future processes. It was during that conference in March 2008, that recommendations were then made to accelerate the finalisation of the National CBHC Policy. In the same year an assessment on Community Home-Based Care kits, logistic management system was done and health extension workers concept paper drawn up the following year.

During 2010, the guidelines for implementing the National CBHC Policy and National CHBC Standards were finalised and printed, followed by the development of the National CHBC Curriculum during 2011. To date the CHBC Kits, Logistic Management SOP Manual, had been finalised and awaits printing, while the tender to train CHBC volunteers in all the thirteen Regions is awarded to Aid Care Trust.

On Question 2, *“Can the Honourable Minister report on progress so far or does he feel the policy dating from 2008 has still not yet matured enough to be implemented”*, I have the following:

My Ministry ensures that CBHC Policy, guidelines and other directives are in place to provide directions and guidance on the implementation of CBHC services. The CBHC Policy was launched, as I said earlier, during 2008. The implementing guidelines and CBHC Standards were finalised in 2010 and launched in 2011. To date, all these documents have been distributed in Regions and implementing partners were oriented on the same during September 2012, that is last year, in Tsumeb, Oshikoto Region.

At the oriented workshop one of the ways forwards was for Regions to go and conduct their mini orientation workshops in order to ensure that all CBHC stakeholders in each Region are properly oriented for implementation.

On Question 3, *“Can the Honourable Minister inform the Assembly on progress on continuous provision of CBHC services by experienced*

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organisations?”

The Ministry of Health and Social Services relies extensively on the Community Home-Based Care Organisations when it comes to the provision of care beyond the health facilities. Community Home-Based Care was originally focused on our HIV/AIDS patients but has now been expanded to include TB cases, people with disabilities and others. Our position is that all the service organisations operating this programme need continuous funding to continue their good work. To date such funding is mainly sourced from donors and especially from the US Government through PEPFAR and the Global Fund. However, my Ministry continues to provide the necessary coordination, such as supporting Regions in conducting quarterly Home-Based Care forums, provision of supplies of HBC kits and refills and HBC training, that is the manual and the funding to both organisations and volunteers alike.

Further, my Ministry is very cognisant of the fact that donor support for the programme is declining gradually. Also, our support for the programme is equally declining gradually. Also the Global Fund Programme has experienced a number of challenges during the past year, given that the Global Fund in Geneva has not been funded very well during the past two years. Our intention is to sustain the services offered currently through Community Home-Based Care Organisations. This brings me to the new cadre and that is the Health Extension Worker Programme.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services, in its 2008-2013 Strategic Plan committed itself to formalise the fragmented CBHC services. That is how we consider going for this new cadre, the Health Extension Workers, with support of course and learning from what works best.

In addition to the existing CBHC-givers, a proposal was developed by the Ministry to establish a new staff cadre which will be an extended arm of the Ministry, reaching out to the communities, namely, the Health Extension Workers. This cadre is expected to be on the staff establishment of Government and to receive a salary. They will be trained

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and expected to work in their own communities under the supervision of the nearest health facility or clinic. On our Health Extension Workers, a pilot project was launched on the 12th of April 2012, in Opuwo District, Kunene Region. The first group of forty Health Extension Workers were recruited in Opuwo and have undergone six months training. The graduation for this group took place during October 2012. To date, the Kunene Health Extension Worker Pilot Project is being supported by our development partners, especially the US Government and UNICEF. The whole aim is to roll out in all the thirteen Regions. The pilot project is currently being evaluated. Subsequently the programme will be rolled out to all thirteen Regions once the required funds are made available in the MTEF for the 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 Fiscal Years.

On the Retention and Recognition of Dedicated Volunteers, I have the following to say:

My Ministry recognises and supports the work done by the Community Health Care Providers. Most of my Ministry's health facilities are already providing the replenishment of HBC kits on a monthly basis to over seven thousand active HBC providers countrywide. In addition, we provide them with transport reimbursements when they attend training and meetings. I commend the incentives provided by NGOs, CBOs and FBOs that manage the majority of volunteers in this country, of which most organisations fall under the umbrella of the National Association of Namibian Aid Service Organisation (NANASO).

The development of the CHBC training curriculum and standardisation of CHBC services require a lot of documentation, reporting and feedback. As a result the criteria and the characteristics of the volunteers are set as follows:

A mature male or female aged 18 years upwards (unless it is a youth programme), respected by the community, a resident of the area, able to speak a local language, able to read and write and able to hold confidential information. The other prerequisites are commitment to service providers with the aim of making a positive change to the overall well-being of the

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community in a sustainable manner, faithfulness to the commitment, trustworthiness, willingness to attend positively to vulnerable groups, recognition of the structures, norms, values and taboos of the community, willingness to work according to the structure of the community, accountability and responsibility. These criteria were also set to accommodate young people and to allow them to follow a career in health and to benefit from job opportunities. Elderly volunteers are retained and recognised until such time they transfer skills to the young ones. However, others have not come on board because they do not want to volunteer and claim that the programme provides too little monetary incentives.

On the last one, Budgetary Implications Under the CBHC Policy: Honourable Speaker, Sir, the implementation of the CBHC Policy is a multi-sectoral task, ranging from the Ministry of Health and Social Services to other Line Ministries, Regional Councils to Traditional Authorities. My Ministry has already been implementing this Policy in the provision of HBC kits and refills, as I illustrated earlier, launching of CBHC guidelines and national CBHC standards, establishment of the CBHC regional forums and the finalisation of the National CBHC Training Manuals.

There has been a significant progress and improvement in our communities' health status due to the contribution made by the community volunteers, especially in the field of HIV and TB. Some of our community members whom we thought may not survive, are now up and well and are contributing to the economy of this country, thanks to all the efforts of CBHC givers who visit and encourage some of these members of our communities.

Having said that, I now wish to urge all our CBHC partners, Line Ministries and Regional and Local Authorities to operationalize the National CBHC Policy by incorporating the policy directives in their operational plans and allocating financial resources on activities and start implementing as they work on a daily basis.

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HON DR KAMWI**

I trust I answered the Honourable Member. Thank you.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I wish to thank the Minister for this really exemplary answer on my many questions. If he could comment on two little issues which go to the core of the whole question, the Health Extension Workers are, of course, a new category of Public Servants, I would say. I think the Voluntary Care-Providers are in a way afraid that they are being pushed out of their calling, if I may call it like that. You explained that they may be taken into the service, but some may not have those qualifications.

The other is that you mentioned that the HBC kits are distributed on a regular basis to over 7,000 Caregivers. That was one of the problems that came out of the field, that these kits had not been distributed for a long time and I wanted to have confirmation that that process is actually being re-implemented. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much indeed. The challenge that Government has is that we do not have a budgetary provision that can continue supporting volunteers, it is just an allowance and in most cases Government relies heavily on the development partners, in our case, as I said, PEPFAR and the Global Fund. However, as you can see, the challenge is already forthcoming, the funds are declining.

As I said, you will learn from good practice that works elsewhere and I can give the example of Ethiopia where it is working, Malawi where it is working and Zambia. What these countries have done, is to incorporate this fragmented voluntarism into one, hence, coming up with the Health Extension Workers.

I have had an opportunity, Honourable Speaker, in January to visit

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Ethiopia and went into the field. They work right up to the village level. You will find some women and in fact, it is spearheaded by women in Ethiopia and they do not demand anything in that country. They only have some basics, but when you compare with ours who are getting some N\$500, which Ethiopians are not getting and henceforth they came up with this Health Extension Worker where Government is now obligated to pay them. In Ethiopia they are training them up to a year, but we decided to go for six months and it is working. It is the same with Zambia and Malawi.

Regarding the kits, I checked with my officials and the information that I received on the ground, is that the kits are being distributed. You may be correct that in some situations it may not be the same, but I think there is a need to revisit and make a follow-up as to whether the information is correct. Thank you.

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

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE:
MOTION ON AIR NAMIBIA**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Air Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on Wednesday, the 27th of February 2013, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Von Wietersheim. The time lapsed; the Honourable Member now has the opportunity to continue where he left off.

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HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. When I stopped I had mentioned the possibility of strategic alliances for Air Namibia. I was asking about the Reports of various consultants and I was stressing the point of accountability and performance rating.

Continuing with the situation at Air Namibia, I wanted to say that, furthermore, blatant disregard for fair labour practices was witnessed during the strike by Air Namibia's pilots when management acquired the services of foreign pilots at astronomical cost to break the strike of their own pilots. This is most probably one of the reasons for being so extremely cash-strapped now. At the same time management put extreme pressure on striking employees, harassing them and attempting to intimidate them by insinuating they were committing a delict or a breach of contract, while requiring their non-striking colleagues or any other employees to perform duties and functions of the legally striking employees during their industrial action.

At this juncture not only the pilots, but probably all employees of the airline are anxious about their next salary at each end of the month. Already early February a directive went out, advising that "*due to lack of Euro funds, the crew planned for simulator sessions in Europe may not receive their allocated S&T.*" Furthermore, the cabin crew's daily S&T payment while on duty is not paid on a regular basis and crew members have to fall back on their own resources to substitute for the lack of daily S&T, which is now outstanding for a month or longer.

In the final analysis, the N\$500 million new business plan once again seems to have failed and in fact, even before the end of the Fiscal Year we saw that the situation actually seems to be getting very much out of hand, with fuel accounts being blocked here and overseas, with advertised direct flights requiring stopovers in Angola and a large number of flights terminated, seriously affecting the convenience and much worse, the trust of passengers of Air Namibia, which in turn has a serious direct bearing on the Tourism Sector and, of course by implication, on the profitability of the airline itself.

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Up till today the intended direct flights to Frankfurt are still being diverted to Luanda for refuelling. Many passengers have been choosing the more expensive direct flight with Air Namibia between Europe and Windhoek to avoid the inconvenience of a stopover in Johannesburg. The unscheduled diversions and the result in increase in time en route totally defeat this objective and rapidly divert customers to other airlines.

Even regional flights are not reliable anymore. Just put yourself in the position of business people who are, or should I say, were still loyal clients to their national airline, boarding Air Namibia's morning flight to Johannesburg recently for a day's business appointments, just to be informed after the aircraft doors are locked and the engines running, that the aircraft will not be taking off for Johannesburg, but has been diverted to Walvis Bay for refuelling and will only then proceed to Johannesburg, causing the business clients to be late for their scheduled appointments and having their day's business activities cut short.

On the same flight a group of Chinese clients are late for their connecting flight home due to the refuelling detour and have to be accommodated in hotels by the airline until their next available flight a day or so later.

Questions that are arising and should be disseminated carefully and critically: Is there any viability at all in operating a national airline and how can it be achieved? Why are aircraft purchased and not leased and why, for that matter, the larger Airbus for regional flights, which seems to be operating below capacity? Who is responsible for taking those decisions? What are sensible and economic routes to fly? How is the regional performance compared to the international one? Why are schedules suddenly changed due to an aircraft having to undergo maintenance? Aircraft maintenance happens at predetermined intervals, which allow advanced planning for those out-of-service periods. What is the reason for having an employee contingent of approximately 500 per aircraft while the international standard is between 80 to 120 employees per aircraft?

The latest news is that another bailout is required to avoid liquidation and a sum of approximately N\$560 million is being floated in the media,

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quoting the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Works and Transport, which would increase the total so-called bailout to over N\$1 billion within twelve months. This sounds even more frightening against the reports of cash-flow problems of Government which may apparently negatively affect salary increases and even pension pay-outs. This calls for the next question:

Why not liquidate instead of rapidly destroying the support base of the airline, keeping everybody and especially the employees in suspense about their future and wasting precious national resources at a massive scale and rather take it from there with expert advice, rational thinking, economic scales and profitability as a benchmark?

I do hope that we shall be enlightened openly and fully about the present situation at Air Namibia in order to be able to engage in meaningful discussion and take informed decisions about the way forward for the airline. I believe that the existing business plan for Air Namibia could form a point of departure, but clearly something is being done very wrong about its current implementation. Most of us here are not experts, but we should consider policies directions and their respective financial implications in order to make sensible recommendations to the Executive. This process may include referring the matter to a Committee in order to consult industry experts on all possible viable alternatives and make recommendations to this Assembly. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further discussion? Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. The Minister of Finance in her Budget Statement mentioned that Air Namibia is a concern and I agree with that.

Comrade Speaker, I am going to contribute on the Motion on Air Namibia

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and premise my contribution on four factors, being political, economic, social and technological aspects, which is called PEST.

From the political perspective, as a loyal, patriotic citizen and Party cadre I will ululate the existence of Air Namibia, whether we have inherited it from Namib Air to Air Namibia. From a political perspective, from a patriotic perspective, I welcome the existence of Air Namibia and ululate it because it carries the National Flag and I am very happy as a patriotic citizen to see the National Flag being flown around the globe. I am proud of that and I am happy.

From the economic perspective, I am sorry that I have to take a critical look at the justification for the existence of Air Namibia, because from an economic perspective, Air Namibia is a commercial entity. Air Namibia, from an economic perspective, is engaged in commercial activities, it is a company, and I am standing in this Parliament, talking as a legislator, and the shareholder, the owner of Air Namibia is the Government of the Republic of Namibia, is the people of Namibia and for you to participate in any commercial entity, from a business perspective, you have to establish whether the overriding political factors are realistic to the economic factor. You have to strike a balance somewhere.

We keep on blaming each other about Air Namibia. You blame Government, you blame management, you blame pilots, but the critical question that needs to be asked is whether we as a Nation, a country and a people understand the dynamics of the industry? It remains an Industry. Whether politically we would like to be associated with it or not, the economics will dictate. No matter how patriotic you may be, if it is sinking it will sink and if it is viable it will remain viable. Have we ever as a Nation critically asked ourselves whether this is an Industry in which we have to participate and why do we need to participate in it? Have we critically asked that question?

While I am on the economic considerations, unfortunately the Airline Industry is a highly competitive Industry and there are Nations that were there before us. From a patriotic and political point of view they have established airlines before us, but because of economic dictates had to

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close shop. You can do your economic and business research, the Airline Industry is one of the Industries where you will find that many airlines across the globe that have closed shop, have grounded themselves, not because we wished them to close shop, but because this Sector is very competitive.

In this Industry you now find that airlines are grouping themselves so that they can share certain competitive advantages. Therefore, it is not a question of politics alone, of patriotism alone, it is the dictates that force airlines to converge, to align, because the Sector is very competitive. Have we ever considered these factors as investors?

From a social perspective, to be honest, if you compare the investment in Air Namibia and you compare it to our social needs as an emerging Nation, we need a thorough perception. We have people who do not have access to potable water and the investment we are making through the bailout year in, year out, is it compatible and justifiable with our social needs? Is it really justifiable?

From a technological point of view, and I have spoken about PEST, I will again say that I will be the happiest and proudest citizen if my country owns Boeings, but again, as a person who has a basic understanding of economics and business, is it worth owning a fancy cell phone which I cannot sustain? Do I continue investing in owning a fancy cell phone if I cannot buy my children food? Is it justifiable? It is not.

We are purchasing equipment in the modern market, which the producers are willing to sell to us because we are a vulnerable market. I am saying, fly them in the air and burn oil, whether you route it to Luanda or route it to London or Frankfurt, but is this justifiable? These are critical questions. We as the investors who are making investment decisions and choices should ask whether it is justifiable compared to our social needs.

Having said all that, we will not change the Airline Industry. Whether we call each other names here, it will remain what it is, a competitive Industry and to participate in this competitive Industry is not a question of us having business strategy after business strategy, engaging consultants after

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consultants. This will not amount to anything. If you do research, our population is two million and it will grow, but if you apply critical thinking, how many Namibians utilise Air Namibia? How many of them fly, from which destination to what destination? For you to sustain this Industry, you need numbers. Is it the business class that sustains this company or is it the economic class? How many people fly business class in this airline? It is a commercial entity, it is not a political entity, it has an element of pride, but we need to ask ourselves these critical questions.

I have heard arguments that it promotes Tourism. Come on, you are talking to the uninformed. If you bring tourists here, you are subsidising German tourists, not the other way around. What we have been doing, we have been subsidising German tourists to come here at a high cost. That is why LTU stopped flying here because their Government pulled their subsidies. That is why Air Berlin is pulling out because their Government cannot continue to subsidise them. This is an expensive route. How long are we going to continue to subsidise German tourists, because that is basically what we are doing. We subsidise them at our own expense.

In conclusion, and I have been listening and I have been torturing myself with these arguments that have no merits whatsoever from an economic point of view. (Interjection) Yes, a spade has to be called a spade. There are simple models that can sustain our patriotic and political standing, it is just to seriously link this. We have good equipment and before our equipment becomes rotten, let us lease this equipment or let us enter into strategic alliance with airlines in whatever model. Those are the two options, otherwise it is a waste.

HON SPEAKER: I am the Speaker but I agree with you. Honourable Katjavivi.

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I am of the view that charity begins at home.

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Those of us who have travelled around the world, and had the opportunity of being invited by institutions in the United States or Europe, were confined to flying their national airlines. Do we, as Government, promote this with Air Namibia? I am not quite sure.

Air Namibia, our national carrier, is a very important asset to our country. It is our flag carrier and contributes immensely to our national economy and I can give you a figure of N\$1.6 billion that derives from the contribution made by Air Namibia through transportation of tourists. There are also various service institutions in the country that rely on the services provided by Air Namibia in terms of the number of visitors that they carry between Namibia and the rest of the world. This figure is high compared to the various other Sectors contributing to the economy of Namibia.

The other major factor alluded to by Honourable Kazenambo is about the national carrier carrying the symbol of our Nation in terms of their ability to market the country as the airline goes around the world. Wherever I happen to be, it makes me feel extremely proud, if I see Air Namibia and I agree with Honourable Kazenambo; yes indeed, Air Namibia does have a couple of challenges, but naturally we should always weigh the positive vis-à-vis the negatives. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: May I ask a question? You referred to Air Namibia as an important asset that we have and I want to agree with you on that one. Of course, we are very small compared to other airlines. Yes, we spent a lot of money so far to bail Air Namibia out, but do you know that since South Africa has become democratic, they have spent R16 billion every year to bail out their airline? How much have we spent so far on Air Namibia? I think they do so because of the essential need to have a national airline and for what it brings to their country.

HON KATJAVIVI: I agree with that comment and I am going to deal

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with it. I am coming to that. I was saying that there is no doubt that Air Namibia has a couple of challenges, but naturally we should always weigh the positive vis-à-vis the negatives before we make informed decisions. It is not realistic, in my view, to describe Air Namibia as a bottomless pit. I think that sounds like a sweeping statement. There are challenges, but there is room for improvement. We need to assess the real needs and answer them.

In the light of the current global financial situation, almost all countries worldwide, including South Africa, do subsidise their national airlines. What we are going through is not unique to Namibia and there are reasons for that. Therefore it would be very good if we realistically analyse some of those challenges.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, therefore my appeal is simple: That we continue to provide the resources needed by Air Namibia, our national carrier, but at the same time we should continue to engage the Board and management of Air Namibia, to continuously invite them to help us to understand the challenges that the airline is facing, without ruling out options that could be looked at and entertained for the purpose of finding a solution that would be appropriate to the country.

Honourable Kazenambo referred to the fact that we should seek alliances. We are not ruling out those options, but they have to be put on the table, they have to be analysed and if, indeed, are in line with our national goals, obviously they should be entertained. However, we should not simply make statements for the sake of making them, we should align those statements to our specific national objectives. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Ithana.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:
Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, when I read through

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the Motion of Honourable Von Wietersheim, I sat down and asked myself as to how many times I have sat here and listened to the same arguments every year ever since I have been a Member of this House and I asked myself, what is it that the Opposition Parties have against Air Namibia? Is it the plane they do not like, is it the management they do not like, is it the ownership they do not like or the country the airline represents? What is it? The chorus is repeated every year.

HON MAAMBERUA: On a Point of Order. May I ask the Honourable Minister to substantiate her statement that Opposition Parties have anything against Air Namibia?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I qualify, some. Yesterday, on the e-News of South Africa, there was an item on South African Airways, that apparently Comair is taking South African Airways to Court on account of the fact that the Government of South Africa is subsidising that Airways. Comair is a joint venture between British Airways and Kulula Airways. These are privately owned airlines. What does that tell you? South African Airways should not be subsidised. These private airlines are being subsidised by their owners, but since their subsidisation is not public information and nobody can get into the books of private individuals, how much they are subsidising their airlines, we do not know.

Here back at home we have a national airline that is serving this Nation, which is making us proud. Dr Katjavivi mentioned that. I feel proud. Maybe we cannot eat pride, as Honourable Kazenambo, the economist, has just said, but it makes us who we are as a Nation.

Air Namibia has gone through many phases, Air Namibia has gone through management heads, but at every point you are so impressed by the amount of details revealed by those who are motivating for Air Namibia to be liquidated and you ask yourself the question. The Mover of this

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Motion knows much more than I do who sits in Cabinet and who has seen the strategic plan of Air Namibia. I am telling you, I know very little compared to what Honourable Von Wietersheim knows. Ask yourself the question: Does he work at Air Namibia? What does it tell you?

Honourable Members, we should not forget that we are in the middle of an economic war. There are lucrative routes that Air Namibia has gone through. The current business plan being pursued by Air Namibia, which has only gone through its first year, is already proving that there is viability, if Air Namibia is given the necessary resources that it is requiring, but do we give it the necessary financial support they are asking for? Do we give it? No, we give them what we can afford, not what Air Namibia requires in order to kick off the business plan and implement it successfully.

However, we are not even interested in knowing what the business plan says, we are only interested in liquidating Air Namibia immediately and what comes in its place? Of course, it is a private airline which some people are advocating here. You can fool some people sometimes, but you cannot fool all the people all the time.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: I am asking the Honourable Minister, apparently she was not listening properly, I am asking you whether you did not hear that, I was saying that the current business plan may serve as a point of departure. I think my whole approach was to discuss Air Namibia, not to liquidate it. It was one of the options I mentioned. Did you not hear me saying that the current business plan, which I do regard as a possible point of departure, is something we can look at, but then you must show us?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Conflict of interest. The Honourable Member is a pilot himself, now he is

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looking for another private job outside Parliament.

Comrade Speaker, Air Namibia has its own Board of Directors and management. Air Namibia came up with a new business plan and we have not even given them time to see through that business plan. Must we already bring Air Namibia to the open House and discuss? For what purpose? At the same time we are calling for Air Namibia to go into strategic alliance? With whom? Who does not hear when we are spilling in the open here? We are calling it all kinds of names; bankrupt, corrupt, etc, and yet apparently, we are looking for strategic alliance. Who can go into strategic alliance with something that is condemned at home?

If we are honest and serious and we want to help Air Namibia, there are so many ways of discussing this national asset of ours. Every Nation has its own confidential matters, why discussing this in the open House? Why?

Comrade Speaker, I am not an Economist but a nationalist.

HON MEMBER: You are a lawyer.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:
Both. Nationalist in the first place and you can add those other attributes. By all means, every time I travel, I want to travel in my national carrier, but I must mention here that the competition among the airline agents is tough and that is one area we should look into seriously. I do not know at what level we are being defeated. I have given instructions to my officials that every time I travel I must be booked on Air Namibia, but when you go to the airport, you find yourself on South African Airways. You ask yourself the question, how come that I am on South African Airways? Then you are told apparently Air Namibia is not leaving at the time that you intent to leave. When you are booked on another airline as you are leaving, be sure to return with the same airline.

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They will not change you to Air Namibia as you are coming back, no. I think this issue must be studied carefully with a view to see how to tie our bookings to Air Namibia. I want to travel Air Namibia at all times, but Air Namibia should also be advised. I do not know whether it is still within their powers to see how they could arrive at appropriate times at certain destinations in order to get us home as early or as late as possible. When you arrive in Johannesburg, you are told that either Air Namibia has left or will be arriving very late; therefore, you are put on another airline.

I feel we should engage Air Namibia as our baby, our property, and bring the shortcomings that we have identified to their attention.

I want to congratulate Air Namibia for operating under very competitive circumstances overall, however, they seem to be doing very well nationally. I have travelled with the new aircraft of Air Namibia to Katima Mulilo, very efficient, very fast. Within a few minutes you are there. The Northern route, is a route, I think Air Namibia could optimally utilise because of the volume. That aircraft is always full and of course, there are sometimes delays, but not all the time. They fly there sometimes twice a day and it provides a very efficient service. If such routes could be increased, particularly to densely populated areas of the north. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Speaker, may I please ask Honourable Ithana a question? Honourable Ithana, you indicated that you heard Comair taking South African Airways to Court because they are bailing out their national airline, but you did not tell us how much the South African Government is ready to bail out their national airline. We are complaining about N\$500 million to Air Namibia, but do you know that the South African Government has committed R5 billion for their national airline?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: It is a good question but I thought the question by Honourable Iyambo has

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provided that information. Of course, the South African Government has committed a huge amount to bail out South African Airways.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Minister, how do you interpret the following quotation? *“South African Airways’ on-going financial support includes R5 billion Government guarantee granted on the 2nd of October 2012, for two years period with effect from the 1st of September 2012. The guarantee is intended to enable South Africa Airways to borrow on financial market.”* How do you interpret this sentence?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Good question. Yes, Comrade Ndaitwah, what that means is that the South African Government is cushioning the borrowing facilities to South African Airways. They are protecting their airline, they are covering their airline. South African Airways can approach any bank and borrow that amount and if they are unable to pay back, the Government of South Africa will step in. That is the bailout that we are talking about. That is the bailout that this Government has committed itself to give to our airline and truly, it is very disheartening if we are not sensitive and categorise issues as to which one we can just deal with casually and which ones are so sensitive to our national interest, to our national existence that we cannot afford to bring here in the open House and just say what we want to say. I feel embarrassed because in my language – and that is where I was made to be sensitive over certain issues and certain expressions. As a person you can never undress for the public to see what lies underneath your apparel. I was brought up to know that there are certain things that you cannot do and discussing Air Namibia in the open is one of them.

To discuss Air Namibia here in public every year is an embarrassment that some of us cannot afford. Not that Air Namibia cannot be discussed, but I know that all of the Opposition Parties have access to this Government.

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The Prime Minister is here, the office is there, why do we not, if Air Namibia is such a burning issue, seek audience with him and discuss the issue between nationals, other than to bring the issue to the open House?

Comrade Speaker, I do not have quantifiable information to give to the House in defence of our airline, but through my nationalistic desire to protect this asset, I felt my voice must be heard and every effort must be made to protect and support that airline. That is my recommendation. I thank you.

HON NYAMU: Honourable Speaker, I want to start by saying that it is a surprise that this Motion is being categorised as a partisan one. It is unfortunate. Air Namibia is a national airline, it does not belong to one or another Party. It is at the service of the Nation as a whole and there is no discrimination as to who boards it or who buys tickets from there. It is a national issue and for anyone to propose that this national issue of an airline is one related to security of a Nation or something, is very surprising. It is a civilian airline which the national taxpayers have been paying for since the inception of this Republic.

In fact, I think I mentioned in Cabinet twenty years ago that this airline has no prospect of survival. Twenty years back I mentioned that there were bigger airlines on this planet, like the American Airline with which I flew to the United States as a student, which collapsed. It was the largest airline in the world. In spite of its size, because of this stiff competition which has been referred to, it could not survive. Many other airlines in Europe followed suit, they collapsed.

As we are speaking today, Air Namibia is a dead horse. We have been trying to keep it alive artificially for the last twenty years. The so-called strategic plan is not a new one; there have been others before it. All of them did not change this dead horse. You can talk of miracles, even African magic, but I do not think we will ever revive Air Namibia in its present form.

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There are some of you who have spread false information to even high officials of the Government regarding Air Namibia that it serves the country by flying in tourists. Tourists will arrive here by any reliable flight.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: May I ask a question? Comrade Speaker, I want to remind the Colleague that when we went into exile, I was fifteen years old and whenever we were gathered at the parade during New Year, you were always saying, “*next year we are going to Namibia, next year we are going to Namibia.*” We never became demoralised. Therefore, should we become demoralised and not support Air Namibia today?

HON NYAMU: That is an appeal; I have taken note of that appeal. Honourable Speaker, I was saying that the last strategic plan of Air Namibia was not the first and obviously will not be the last, there will be many others to come as the years proceed. My point is, as other Colleagues have stated earlier, that this is a business project which is based on wrong premises. Air Namibia does not have a domestic market, it relies on foreign markets. The planes leave here almost empty to go to Europe and they return with half their capacity.

Some of you have spread false information to high officials who made the laughable statement that Air Namibia brings tourists to Namibia. Tourists do not look at the flag on an aeroplane when they are flying, they look at the cost, they look at the reliability of the airline and security, not at your flag. Please do not deceive yourselves, tourists will get here one or the other way without your flag.

Besides, if you link with others, as the proposal was made, to bear the burden with others, you can still carry your flag. Do not mix nationalism with business.

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HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

May I ask the Honourable Member a question? The Honourable Member is probably correct by saying that tourists do not look at airlines when they want to travel. Is he denying the fact that Air Namibia, irrespective of the flag it carries, does not bring tourists here? Is that what he is saying? Is he saying those who came here, come here blindly, not knowing that they are in an aircraft with the flag of Namibia or what is he saying?

HON NYAMU: Honourable Speaker, I am saying that tourists in particular, have no interest in the national flags of any country, they just want to get to their destinations by whichever airline is available, safe, secure and which is timely.

HON SPEAKER: You may continue on Tuesday. We adjourn until Tuesday at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2013.03.05 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
05 MARCH 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: The Business of the House is called to order. I am advised to inform the Honourable Members that in line with the long standing tradition of the National Assembly through its Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration, in collaboration with the Fredrick Herbert Stiftung (FES), has once again organised a Briefing Session on the 2013/2014 Budget for Parliamentarians and other stakeholders.

The purpose of the briefing is to inform Members of Parliament, the business community and Civil Society on the socio-economic implications of the Budget. In addition, the briefing would help members of the Parliament in their preparations for active participation in the upcoming Budget Debates.

The briefing will take place on Wednesday, 6 March 2013, at the Safari Court Hotel from 09:00 to 13:00 and all Members of Parliament are, therefore, encouraged to attend this informative workshop.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Honourable Van der Walt.

**TABLING: REPORT ON THE WTO PUBLIC FORUM
HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON VAN DER WALT**

HON VAN DER WALT: Honourable Speaker, I would like to lay upon the table the Report on the WTO Public Forum and the Twenty Sixth Session of the Steering Committee held in Geneva, Switzerland from the 24th to the 26th of November 2012, for note taking.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report?

HON VAN DER WALT: Honourable Speaker, before I read the Report, I would like to thank my Ruling Party, the SWAPO Party, my Chairman, Honourable Amathila for trusting me on these visits to the WTO and the ACP.

Honourable Speaker, I would deliver on any task presented by my leaders to the best of my ability. Therefore, Honourable Speaker, Members of Parliament, it is a great honour to present this Report.

I was accompanied by Honourable Tjihuike, when we attended the WTO Public Forum and the Steering Committee meeting held in Geneva from the 24th to the 26th of September 2012.

There are ten things the WTO can do. While the World Trade Organisation is complex, it tries to reflect the complex and dynamic nature of trade in the WTO trade rules. It highlights the benefits of the WTO's trading system, but it doesn't claim that everything is perfect and where it is a perfect system, there would be no need for further negotiations for the system to evolve and reform continually, nor does it claim that everyone agrees with everything in the WTO. Therefore, one of the most important reasons for having the system is that it is a forum for countries to thrash out their differences on trade issues.

Honourable Speaker, the WTO consists of 159 members worldwide. The main discussion now is multilateralism. Multilateralism is a diplomatic term that refers to cooperation among several Nations.

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Understanding the WTO - the Doha Round or the Doha Agenda: The working programme lists 21 subjects. The original deadline of the 1st of January 2005 was missed, so was the next unofficial target of the end of 2006. The main topic was on whether multilateralism is struggling and I would like to, later, give you further information on multilateralism.

The delegation also attended the session on Africa Food Security; namely - New Models for Trade and Development in the 21st Century: An Opportunity-Driven Approach to Building African Regional Markets and Increasing Trade and Food Security. This Session also focussed on the challenges facing the African Agricultural Sector and the implications for trade in agricultural products. The panel identified obstacles to the development of the healthy Agricultural Industry in Africa. All speakers identified barriers to trade, whereby the panel also questioned the extent to which Regional Trade Agreements are genuinely assisting the development of the Industry.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on the Twenty Sixth Session of the Steering Committee, the session was held in conjunction with the Annual WTO Public Forum whose overall title was; ***“Is Multilateralism in Crisis”***, whereby the Steering Committee agreed that it would be sensible to continue holding its sessions back to back with the WTO public Forum in the future. During the session the Committee was briefed on recent developments in the multilateral trade negotiations and on the situation with the Doha Round by the WTO Deputy Director-General.

Honourable Speaker, during the course of ensuing questions and answers exchanged, the Steering Committee Members showed interest in diverse subjects such as; the WTO decisions concerning the least developed countries, the alternatives to Doha Round, whether the latter should be officially abandoned as well as the mandate and composition of the panel on defending the future of trade that had been recently created by the WTO Director-General. The Committee appointed Mr. Benoît Ouattara of Burkina Faso as the rapporteur on the draft outcome document to be presented to the conference in November 2012. The topic was; ***“Trade as a Tool to Economic Growth, Job Creation and Poverty Alleviation”***. The Ninth WTO Ministerial Congress will take place in Bali, Indonesia, in

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December 2013. As the rules of procedure of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO provides that the parallel Parliamentary Session shall take place in conjunction with the Ministerial Conference, the Committee decided to hold its own meetings at the same time.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to reflect only on Namibia's position on the WTO implication for Namibia. Favourite tariff treatment on the WTO covers over 90% of Africa's export but unfortunately not fish, which is an important Namibian export product. Nevertheless, due to product diversification Namibia can exploit the new export opportunities. The agreement on textiles and clothing for example will lead to a progressive liberalisation of existing quotas. Market access opportunities are also available for exports of services and for consumption of service abroad (e.g. banking and financial services). Besides this, commitments on the supply of services in all potential markets have been made so that Namibia will benefit from the combination of technology and services offered. Namibia is not forced to use international standards of non-tariff measures, like rules of origin, import licensing and sanitary measures, as long as its measures are transparent and predictable.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Thank you. Any further Reports and Parer? Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

- (i) Marine Resources Fund for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2006 and 2007;

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- (ii) Village Council of Stampriet for the Financial Years ended 30 June 2010 and 2011; and
- (iii) Village Council of Gochas for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2012.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Reports? Any further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? None. Notice of Motions? None. Honourable of Home Affairs.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, as I take the Floor for the first time as the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration, allow me the opportunity to thank my predecessors for having spearheaded some strategies to improve the service delivery at this institution and this is the basis upon which the current team leading the Ministry bases its approach.

However, Comrade Speaker, before I proceed allow me this opportunity to convey my sincerest condolences to the Government of the Republic of Namibia, to the family members of our late Comrade, Comrade Marius Nekaro, the Governor of Kavango Region who just departed from us a day ago.

Comrade Speaker, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is a human centred institution where both nationals and foreigners alike, expect to be served on a daily basis. This is our Ministry, all of us, from birth to death. While my address today is on a specific issue, I promise

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that in the fullness of time, one day in the near future, I will give this august House a comprehensive run down of how far we are addressing the various challenges facing this Ministry. Today I take the opportunity to address this august House on the issue of insufficient stock of Namibian ordinary Passports experienced towards the end of last year 2012, till mid January 2013, and other related matters.

During the above stated period, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration ran out of stock of virgin Namibian ordinary passport. As a stopgap measure, a different type of passport called the Travel Document or "*Brown Passport*" as it is also referred to, was issued to applicants as an alternative means to travel. While this type of passport is fully compliant with normal international standards, some countries especially in Europe refused to recognise it, which made it impossible for some of our people who had travel plans to visit such countries.

To these country men and women, I tender our sincerest apology for any inconveniences which might have been caused. I must at the same time hasten to inform this august House that since mid January this year, we have received sufficient stock of our total order for virgin passports. This has enabled us since the 21st of January, to start working on the backlog of more than twelve thousand (12,000) passports applications, which we have now successfully cleared up by the 15th of February 2013, bringing the situation back to normal production and the average waiting period for processing passports to ten (10) working days. On behalf of all of us at the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, I as the Minister responsible for that Sector undertake and promise to the Nation that such an experience will not be repeated again as adequate measures have been put in place.

The travel documents currently in circulation and in possession of the holders will remain so until they expire. In other words we will not withdraw them from the holders.

Honourable Speaker, the lifespan or validity of our passports is five years. Some people complain that such a period is too short. Five years is the average validity period for passports of many countries. This is due to

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various reasons including the possibility of wear and tear, as a passport is expected to appear neat or intact in order to exclude chances for tempering by fraudsters. So, the validity for ten (10) years for a passport being proposed may be too long for the above stated reasons and other security considerations. The average pages of a passport in the world is about forty (40) pages and for frequent travellers it is most probable that in about five years of use such a passport must already have filled up with visa endorsements.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, a passport is a facility that enables a holder to lawfully cross international borders. A passport is, therefore, not an identity document or ID card for internal use. For identification we have our Namibian Identity Cards.

I wish to use this opportunity Honourable Speaker, to appeal to fellow Namibians to stop wasting their money, applying for passports for which they have no use when they have no plans to travel across the borders of our country. The amount of uncollected passports lying around in our offices is enough evidence of people applying for passports for which they have no immediate use.

The understanding of this fact and the cooperation of our people may contribute to the reduction of the long queues the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has been known for and which we are hard at work to see disappearing in the long run. The Ministry has also discovered what appears to be a syndicate involving some Namibians and foreign nationals, where Namibians try to assist foreign nationals to acquire Namibian citizenship in various ways, including selling of their own Birth Certificates, passports and/or IDs. We have arrested some of these culprits and we will continue making sure that they will not succeed.

I thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, for your attention and I look forward to the understanding and cooperation of our citizens in the above stated matters. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for her important statement. I hope that we will use our outreach practises to inform the citizens at large that there are passports and other documents awaiting them at the Ministry. Maybe we should, because one gets the sense from the people on the street, that; “*I applied for a passport, I applied for this, that and the other*”, so I do not know whether we ask the Ministry in charge of NBC to allow a slot for the Minister to maybe speak from that platform, to notify the people. It is an outstanding thing, I have heard from the successive Minister saying, “*documents are there waiting for you to pick up*”, but people are not doing that, so it is a question of what is the best way to communicate that information. I thought this was a good platform to do that. Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology, do you want to clarify something? I put you on the spot deliberately.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker for the Floor. Being in the media fraternity, I would just like to affirm what you have suggested, to assist in conveying to the public out there that there are passports, ID cards and other documents that are lying around in the offices of Home Affairs throughout the country.

I discussed this issue with the previous Minister about offering our help, requesting her to provide us with whatever necessary information that can be released to us, in order for us to convey this information to the public, either through *New Era Publication* or through the NBC. Comrade Speaker, platforms are there that can be used to reach out to the public and inform them about the availability of their documents awaiting collection at the Ministry of Home Affairs. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Minister. Whatever work, we must try. The Secretary will read the First Order of the day.

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**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE – SECOND READING
APPROPRIATION BILL [B.1 – 2013]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading –
Appropriation Bill [B. 1–2013].

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, the 26th of February, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Maamberua adjourned the Debate, I give him the Floor now.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. The Honourable Members will have to excuse me for my hoarse voice, because I am coming from a weekend at Omedi (Intervention).

HON RIRUAKO: Are you Campaigning?

HON MAAMBERUA: No, I am not campaigning. We were Commemorating the death of a gallant son of this soil whose life we went to cherish and remember last weekend, in the name of Mandume ya Ndemufayo. I also want to express my condolences to the Namibian people on the untimely passing on of the Governor of Kavango.

Now, I can deal with the matter on the table. Honourable Speaker, it is unfortunate that the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure were only put on our desks this afternoon, hence my interventions will rely on the book of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, because for obvious

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reasons, many of the figures that appear there are also reflected in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

Having said that, allow me to start by conveying my sincere congratulation to the Minister of Finance, the Ministry of Finance and the Government of the Republic of Namibia for certain things. Primarily the fact that we have kept not only the specific figures of the Budget, but rather the national economy within certain parameters that we set for ourselves and those can be found on Page 112 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, specifically those being targets of the Ministry of Finance. The fact that we have kept those parameters, is something to congratulate, not only the Minister and the Ministry, but Government and ourselves as a people. For example on that page, the ministerial targets to:

1. achieve an average of 95% accuracy of revenue focus during the MTEF period. I think that has been the trend in the past.
2. maintain the total expenditure levels below 40% of GDP, again that has been the trend not deviating from the set targets.

However, I would have thought those targets are more of a national nature, but the Ministry itself or the Ministry's Vote would also have their own specific targets, like the Ministry will reduce over-expenditure or under-expenditure within certain levels in a certain period of time as a specific target or attend to financial queries within certain time limits. That does not seem to be included here. Therefore, as much as we would like to congratulate the Ministry, ministerial targets also need to be included in the book so that we know what the Ministry is trying to achieve within its own realm of management.

I now go to another issue. Certain figures do not seem to be adding up; starting with the very figures relating to the **Ministry of Health and Social Services** on Page 206. From Page 206 up to 207, there is a big table detailing the Budget of the Ministry over the MTEF period. For those who are having this book that I am talking about, if you take a sub-item; Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation as a programme activity, being blind as deafness prevention, the Budget figure for this year is

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N\$338,000, the next year - 2014/2015 and the year thereafter - 2015/2016 reflects the same figures. This is how the whole table is structured, meaning that the Ministry did not apply its mind to the Budget at all, because there is no way that this year's figures throughout all the other items, i.e. Family Health Services, Clinical Health Care Services, Development Social Welfare, etcetera, will be the same figures for 2014/2015 and for 2015/2016. Compared to all the other Votes, of course this is a unique case and I think this is very serious. It could be copy and paste, but it does not make sense at all.

However, before I conclude, let me go to the next Ministry where the same sort of thing has been done and I do not want to characterise it now until I have concluded on that.

For **Ministry of Environment and Tourism** on Page 285 to 286, it is the same story; the figures for this year, next year and the year thereafter are exactly the same. I think it is a very serious matter. Those figures are unique in that sense, but let us look at Page 394 to Page 395 and that is the **Department of Transport**. Transport is Page 389 and that is Air Transport administration; there you have Civil Aviation Infrastructure Administration and for this year, the figure there is N\$1.6 billion and the next year it is N\$954 million followed by the other year N\$702 million. However, if you look at the next page explaining those figures, Page 395, it is actually giving us totally different figures. It is showing us that for this year we are talking about N\$716 million and yet in the programme table for the same sub-item of Civil Aviation Infrastructure Administration, it is talking about N\$1.6 billion. The same goes to the next one N\$833 million which is different from N\$954 million and similarly N\$481 million, which is totally different from N\$702 million.

Ministry of Lands: Page 404, Programme 1, Land Reform. We have figures there for this year under Land Acquisition N\$142 million, Land Allocation N\$147 million, Valuation Property Taxation and Estate Management N\$8.2 million, Land Management and Administration N\$182 million, however, if you add those figures up, you do not get the N\$183 million which is the bottom line or the balance for that. The same applies to the next year, totally different figures that do not tally with the

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with the sub total. The next year same story, you can add the figures up for yourselves.

I now want to come to the conclusion of these observations. All those figures will add up to the balance of the total that will influence the deficits estimates for the MTEF and if these figures are so wrong, obviously the figures of deficits estimates of expenditure for the next two years will totally be different. I do not know what exactly we are going to do about these things. How do we proceed, if these figures are actually going to influence the rest of the Budget Estimates, particularly for the subsequent years? Of course this could be corrected, but I think that shows that either somebody was not vigilant enough. Be that as it may, we can go to the next issues.

Donor Funding: I do agree with the Minister of Finance that, not including donor funds in our State Revenue Fund is a serious concern, this is a violation of our Constitution because the Constitution states clearly that all money that belongs to the State of Namibia must be paid into the State Revenue Fund. However, if you look at this book here; only two Ministries have included such funding in the State Revenue Fund. We were given an undertaking some time last year that donors will be approached so that their money be paid into the State Revenue Fund, but for the major Ministries that received donor funding like the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and even the Ministry of Lands, that money is not included here. The Ministry of Health have included a list of donors including the money as additional information in this book, but that money is not paid into the State Revenue Fund; perhaps that disclosure at least is a step in the right direction. However, we eventually need to convince donors to pay money aimed at benefiting the State into the State Revenue Fund. By the same token, we should also start pondering on the question of money aimed at us or meant for our own development whether such funding should also not be audited by our Auditor-General; hence the Parliament takes accountability and oversight over such funding. I think those are perhaps questions that we can start interrogating some times in the future, but these are of course urgent questions that we need to look at.

Another issue that I would want to look at is the **Drought:** Only two

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weeks ago I tabled a Motion here that, because of the looming drought we need to debate this question and try to see to what extent we are going to mitigate against the effects of drought. Going through our book and all these others, I am seeing nowhere drought being taken care of. The natural places where one would want to look for figures that talk to drought will be the Office of the Prime Minister; the Risk Management Unit, there is nothing about that, certainly there is some allocation of some N\$53 million which is part of the administration of that Unit, followed by next year and another year by some N\$31 million which, again, is also a reduction.

I had hoped that the Contingency Fund, without being the main objective, would be used for such a purpose, even though the Risk Management Unit which is tasked with fighting disasters would have rather been the right place. Now looking at the Contingency Fund on Page 121; as much as the figures have increased from N\$150 million to some N\$280 million, the description of what that increase is, is nowhere to be found, safe to say that under this activity a Contingency provision is made to cater for unforeseen circumstances, however, I would have thought that there would be a beefed up description informing us that indeed that increase is also to mitigate drought and that money was going to be used for that particular purpose. It was going to be more helpful than just putting it like that, because all the other items have been fully described as to why that money was actually budgeted for. As we are still talking about drought, I would have thought that by this time, although it is the prerogative of the President, we are already at the disaster level, maybe an emergency would have been declared by now, or alternatively the Office of the Prime Minister in a usual way would have approached the Nation, donors and others to start collecting money and providing assistance to drought affected communities. This is not done yet, but as we know, livestock have started dying, I do not know at what stage and point Government is going to call on the Nation to start assisting and to actually send an impression to all of us that we are now in a critical stage where we need to put our resources together to assist those that are going to be severely affected.

In the same way, if we look at Page 136; dealing with the pre-primary

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school and early childhood feeding system; the amount is not increased in the light of the fact that we are going to face drought and we are going to have to increase our feeding programmes, particularly to the pre-primary schools. The amounts remains more or less the same it, therefore, gives me the impression that the effects of drought have not been taken into account, even at the pre-primary school level and I am terribly concerned about our inertia to take these looming threats seriously.

I am concerned that the Contingency Fund figures of last year have not been given to us, unless others have received. I wanted to say something about that, if we had that information, but that information is not provided yet (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Hold on to your thoughts, the House shall rise for refreshment.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:34

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:10

HON SPEAKER: Let us take our seats and resume the Business of the House. Honourable Maamberua you were still on the Floor. I give you the Floor.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker, the next issue is the land question. If we look at the figures over the coming three years or the Development Budget of the Ministry of Lands they seem to be reducing and for me that is a concern, because I would have thought that obviously the farms are becoming more expensive and we need to increase Budgetary Allocation to that particular Vote. However, that

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notwithstanding, Honourable Speaker, I am wondering why we should continue buying farms at this exorbitant prices, why are we not invoking the Constitutional provision that allows us to expropriate farms in land with fair compensation as provided for in our Constitution? I think instead of continuing to pump money into unfair prices, it is time that we now invoke our Constitutional provisions to expropriate land and pay fair compensation, of course we shall determine what fair compensation is. I think it is just constitutional, there are no problems with (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: There are other Members in between, before you, unless you ask a question?

HON RIRUAKO: I will ask a question to my dear brother or Comrade, if you maybe qualify to be called Comrade. You are saying that we have to expropriate land; we have a law to change to our desire, if we are to expropriate land peacefully, without any violence, however to operate without any decisions or legal means, sounds strange. Now we have the right to change or feed our desire. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Continue, Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. As Comrade Riruako puts it, Comrade Chief, because he was once (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Van der Walt.

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HON VAN DER WALT: May I ask Honourable Maamberua a question please? Honourable Maamberua, do you know during the colonial time, expropriation of land also happened, if you look at the “*Oodenhof Kommissie*” at the Rehoboth estate. This is not a new scenario, but I also want to know from you Honourable Maamberua, do you know that our Government, the SWAPO Party led Government and Honourable Nyamu said I must not use that, but I will, because this is my Government. We are more than capable to know what we are busy with. If you look at the land reform at this stage; 9.4 million hectares of land are already in the hands of resettled farmers and the target by 2020 will be approximately 15 million hectares of land. I do not know if you have statistics about communal land and resettlement farms, but at this stage I would just like to ask you if you have all this information. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: I was answering the question of Comrade Chief Riruako as he put it himself. There is no law to be changed, the Constitution is clear, provisions are made that we can expropriate land with fair compensation. On the question of Honourable Van der Walt, if what you call SWAPO Party Government is comfortable with the pace of land acquisition, so be it, SWANU is not comfortable.

Honourable Speaker, let me continue to another aspect or issue and that is one of the green schemes under the Ministry of Agriculture for Food Security purposes. I think we need to give Government credit for such an endeavour of introducing green schemes, though they have got their own challenges. However, what is important for me is that, looking at the food import, between 80% and 90% of our imports for food consumption and such consumables, actually come from one country, South Africa. As much as we have got these green schemes, I would want to see in books like this and elsewhere, clear milestones indicating by what year are we going to have reduced our imports say to 40% or 50% from that particular

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country, then I will be comfortable to appropriate money, knowing that this amount of money is going to translate into Namibia reducing that dependency from that particular country, in the next two years we would have reduced it by so much, in the next five years or something like that, it would be reduced by this much and these are the alternatives programmes that we are investing in with clear figures indicating the rates of reduction over a number of years.

Honourable Speaker, the Government Accountability Report is very interesting. We are informed about the rate of implementation of the Budget, poor performance, including the National Council under the Development Budget is basically zero for the year 2011/2012. The Information and Technology Ministry also a poor performer, Anti-Corruption Commission, Youth Ministry, Labour, Home Affairs and so on. I think these are serious concerns, if Ministries are performing, particularly on development capital less than 50% on the Budget implementation. I would want to encourage Ministries that they should actually do better or steps must be taken.

On the same document, preliminary revenue, but more specifically on return on capital from lending and equity, money that we expect to come from our lending to some of these Parastatals and other institutions and our equity shareholding in those institutions, performance estimated by the end of February would have been only 14% and I think that is a very serious concern. We obviously, trust that the Ministry of Finance will take steps to curb that sort of performance otherwise we are going to lose a lot.

Honourable Speaker, since I like to stick to my word; I also like others to stick to theirs. About two years ago, we had a Motion here asking to rename that so-called Independence Museum (interjections). Yes, because it is not yet officially inaugurated, so it is still “*so-called*” until it is officially inaugurated. A compromise was reached that Government was going to undertake to construct. (Intervention)

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ilonga?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Order, I just want to ask Honourable Maamberua, the President of SWANU to withdraw the “*so-called*” Independence Museum. Honourable Maamberua, you insult those people whose lives were lost there, please withdraw.

HON SPEAKER: I will join Honourable Ilonga, I do not think you meant what you said and it is not going to take anything away, just withdraw that word and continue.

HON MAAMBERUA: Yes, thank you, Honourable Speaker (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: You cannot win on that one.

HON MAAMBERUA: I will withdraw on condition that. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Just withdraw, when the right time comes you can make an issue of it. Just withdraw, not on condition.

HON MAAMBERUA: It is withdrawn, but please provide me with a

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gazette, gazetting that building that way. Thank you. Honourable Speaker, as I said, we agreed that Government was going to construct on the sites, where genocides took place in this country some memorials and so on, that was an undertaking here and it was to be happening in the next year's Budget, then that was in 2011, up to now nothing has happened. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member just a small question? Honourable Maamberua, I do not know whether you agree with me that any naming of a place must have a meaning. The meaning based on what actually happened (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: He withdrew what he wanted to say. When we get to naming, then you will have an opportunity. Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I looked at the Development Book here, with all the projects, nothing of the sort is included here. It means the promises that were made here, Government has actually reneged on those promises and I think genocide is a very serious issue in this country. We cannot do what we have done to a proper agreement that was reached here. Namibia is the only country where genocides have taken place, that has not got anything to show in either a memorial centre or a statute or anything of the sort, of all the other countries where genocide has taken place. And I think if we continue with that attitude it is going to be bad for this country in terms of information to our future generations.

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Last weekend we just came back from what I said, Omedi where a gallant son of this world was beheaded in 1917 and up to now his scull is nowhere to be found. It is very painful. Let us be serious with genocide, let us not shy away from the fact that genocide has taken place in this country and let us budget properly to have such memorials constructed in our country. Next issue: *Pro Poor Budget*; indeed we have heard (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Yes Minister?

HON MINISTER FOR VETERAN AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information, if I may? Honourable Speaker, I am following Honourable Maamberua for what he is trying to imply that it seems Government has not taken serious note of the discussion that was held sometime back on the genocide monument and others to be put up. I wanted to find out whether he is aware that it is a long process involving the Ministry of Youth, the Ministry of Works, research has to be carried out and consultation has to take place, before that decision is made. I wanted to find out whether he is aware of the long process that is involved. It is not as if you say next year and there will be money for a project, I am sure it will be coming. Thank you.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker, it is good that that information is coming from the Minister of Veteran Affairs, of course I am aware it is a long process, but it cannot take two years before putting money into the Budget for the feasibility studies and to start off at least with one or two projects. You were quoted two days ago as having the intention, and even figures are mentioned, that you were to start with putting up a memorial for Iipumbu ya Shilongo, is that not correct?

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HON SPEAKER: It is a rhetorical question. Yes?

HON MAAMBERUA: I am not done.

HON SPEAKER: Dr Iiyambo?

HON MINISTER FOR VETERAN AFFAIRS: Yes. The answer is in the affirmative, but it started in 2008.

HON MAAMBERUA: Very good, so we are on the same wavelength, genocide is as important as any other memorials that needs to be put up in this country, so let us take it seriously.

Pro Poor Budget: Namibia is of course, a very poor country with many poor people, programmes targeting poverty are found under different Votes and that is commendable. However, one would always want to see in books like these, targets; by which year are we going to reduce poverty and by how much? I have seen information in these books, by how much poverty was reduced in the past, that is fine, but where are the figures indicating and telling the Namibian Nation that in the next year's Budget poverty, because of all these different programme, would have been reduced by this much so that as a poor person, I should be able to know that I am getting out of this menace called poverty by year the 2015 or 2020 or something like that and this are the specifics and targets of Government. I have not come across that. Indeed two weeks ago when we had a Parliamentary Seminar here, I did put that question to the National Planning Commission staff. (Intervention)

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HON SPEAKER: Minister of Mines and Energy.

HON MINISTER KATALI: On a Point of Information. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Maamberua, if you look at your macro-economic framework on Page 27, it says; “*The severely poor dropped from 14% in 2003/2004 to 10% in 2009/2010*” so there is information to what you are asking. Thank you.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Katali you are saying what I have said. I said; I have seen figures of the past that property dropped by so much, I am talking about forecasts. Thank you.

Honourable Speaker, **Gender Based Budget:** I would have thought that by now our Budget would detail the benefits to our women in terms of Gender Based Budgeting. I do not know, that was the concept that we had a few years ago, but maybe we have now done away with Gender Based Budgeting, but I think I should encourage ourselves to reintroduce Gender Based Budget, so that we know how it benefits the other side.

Sectoral Allocations: Without bothering you too much with pages, but in any case Page 13 of the Medium Expenditure Framework. You will see different Sectors. The Social Sector is getting close to 50% of the Budget. Adding to that, Public Safety and Administration, you reach about 74%. Therefore 74% of the Budget, and that is across the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, is going to Social Sector, Public Safety and Administration, while the Economic Sector and Infrastructure only get the remaining 26% and to make matters worse that allocation is declining over the years as you can see on Page 19. That is a serious concern. If you want to transform our society and want to industrialise by 2030, whereby we have only got 17 years left now, if we do not invest in industrialisation and information technology in a big way, but instead see this trend of figures declining in the Economic and Infrastructural Development, then I think we are in trouble. I think we have to start

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reversing our investments. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I just want to rise on a Point of Information with regard to the question posed by Honourable Maamberua on the poverty reduction targets. Honourable Maamberua, I thought we have public documents like the NDP1, 2, 3 and now 4 and we have the Millennium Development Goals. Those are all commitments of Government and you work within that framework to see whether you can reach that goal, but it is, I will see an ideal, you want to reach there, but then look at this year; we have the drought coming. We had some poverty strategies in place, but then you may have to divert some resources in order to cater for this emergency. Honourable Maamberua, to say that we will reduce poverty next year is something complex and if you say I will reduce it by 50% and there is a drought, you may be held accountable. Those are ideals. If we had all the necessary resources available, we would do it. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you very much. If we do realise that we have a very serious national issue like drought, then we have to take that money away from that *wabenzi*. Honourable Speaker, Tax Reform. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Minister of Transport.

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HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Speaker, I think we have a programme for in House for the time which is allocated to a Party, how can we allow 90 minutes for only one Party. We have 45 minutes for SWANU here. Let us be punctual all the time because time is money. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: I think the Minister of Transport is not off course. You are being topical with your contribution and I do not know how many more topics are there, under which you would want to comment, but there is a time limit, from now on we schedule contribution by time.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. If I do not get interrupted, I will finish in five minutes and here we go. Last year the Minister of Finance promised that a study was commissioned to look at the possibility of introducing revenue authority. In this speech, this year, nothing is mentioned or at least I did not hear it. Can we be told what happened to that study and how far are we with that, because I think that is important?

On Page 126 of this book, NAMDEB is not going to pay dividends since already last year. What is the explanation for that? Why are we not receiving dividends from NAMDEB?

Education targets; Page 131 and I think that is important. We can dwell a little bit on that. Honourable Speaker, one of the targets of the Ministry of Education on which basis they receive money from this august House and that is target number 3, a very important one. The percentage of learners achieving “D” symbol or better in Mathematics, Science and English in Grade 10 would have increased respectively from 39%. I said if I am not going to be interrupted, then I will finish. (Intervention)

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HON SPEAKER: You would be excused, Honourable Maamberua.
Deputy Minister Justice.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Just two questions. Comrade Maamberua is asking why NAMDEB did not pay dividends. One question to you Comrade Maamberua; are you the kind of bad businessman who, even if there are no buyers, your commodities are not selling, goes and borrow to just come and pay dividends from debts by creating this on the balance sheet of your company. Are you so bad that you can do that? Secondly, you keep on hammering on drought. Do you know when the Budget Cycle starts, Comrade Maamberua? It is only now that we are realising the full magnitude. If you knew about the drought by the time the Budget Cycle started, around August there, why did you not tell the Nation, so that they should not even plough?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: I am concerned with these targets of the Ministry of Education, because if you are talking about students of Grade 10 achieving “D” symbols, I think we are very, very far. We have A, B, C and we are not even talking about those targets. We are talking about students achieving 39% in a “D” symbol. I think we can do better on that score. Maybe I have got sympathy for where we are, however, I want to encourage the Ministry for us to improve on this and not get money to let students improvement from 39% to 45% at a “D” level symbol. I think it is too bad.

HON SPEAKER: Your last point is what?

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HON MAAMBERUA: Research allocation: An amount of only N\$10 million is allocated for research to two Institutions of higher learning; the Polytechnic, UNAM and maybe some others. I think if we want to transform this country into a better and more advanced society, we cannot allocate N\$10 million to Institutions of higher learning for research. The last point, Honourable Speaker; is that we are still awaiting for the Financial Management Legislations; the State Finance Act, Procurement Act and the *Audit Bill*. Up to now, it is just promises and promises, these things have not been tabled. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Colleagues, I would like to, from the onset, congratulate our Minister of Finance for bringing a balanced Budget to Parliament and I really do it from the bottom of my heart. As a Party, this Budget is a clear testimony of our commitment to the Nation and I want us as a country to take this Budget as a point of departure to unite this Nation by all standards and not to pay lip service to unity. In the same spirit, I was reading in the Observer over the weekend, comments from Comrade Kazenamo and I respect him. I think this is the attitude we must approach our Budget with.

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Honourable Riruako on what are you rising?

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable cousin, it is too bad, we cannot achieve anything without unity. Unity means uniformity, without it there is nothing, we face defeat.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The Speaker agrees with you. Honourable Kaiyamo.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Speaker, I fully agree with Honourable Chief, however, the point that I am making is that, unity should be a collective effort and not lip service and unity must be from the bottom of our hearts and not for opportunistic reasons. As I was saying, I read about Comrade Kazenambo's statement and I fully agree with him, because there are people in this Republic, who I do not know what they want to achieve, they use other people's names and want to destroy their credibility and reputation through slander. For example tribalism; I am one of those people who do not support tribalism by all standards and I show that through my deeds. The other week, I wrote a letter to my colleague here complaining about the words in the Oshiwambo Radio Service, referring to a certain group of people as "*Vakwangara*" and I wrote a letter to him. It shows that these things are coming out of our vocabulary on NBC. These are the things I am talking about. People are using this word on NBC comfortably and they want everybody to accept that.

The objectives of this Republic are clear, the Budget is clear.

This takes me now to **Service Delivery:** The moment some people hear about service delivery, they think about Home Affairs. Service delivery is for everybody in the Republic of Namibia. The struggle of our Government to consolidate the Nation is also very clear it only needs the collective effort from all the people, as I allude to earlier. Even if the Opposition makes a lot of, I do not want to say noise, a lot of "*sound*", the Budget is there and our people on the ground are happy with it. As a country, we are proud of our foreign resources that stood at N\$14.9 billion at the end of 2012.

The other issue I want to add is the issue of TIPEEG. It is not a secret that the President wants TIPEEG to benefit all the people of Namibia and

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expect everybody to be on the same page, it is, however, not the case now. That is why I am happy that (Intervention)

HON MEMBER: Which page are we now?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: The page where we are now is the page of not wanting to push or pull together for TIPEEG. I want us to pull together for TIPEEG for the sake of everybody's benefit. I also read in this Budget, that the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) was finalised and approved and, therefore, we now need to work together as the Nation. The capitalist, the proletariat, the workers and everybody should work together in order to achieve economic benefits. This means that the new class forces must ensure that the relationship to the mode of production is harmonised. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Does the Deputy Minister know that the petty bourgeoisie and the bourgeoisie on that side are not happy with his type of speech?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: The financial literacy initiative of the Minister of Finance is a good start and I advise everybody to attend those classes. On the other hand, our Accountability Report is not doing that bad and with enough room for improvement, I am confident that we can do even better.

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The Honourable late Gertze, once brought a Motion in this Parliament about too high bank charges for our people, I am happy to see that it is being referred to in the Minister of Finance's Budget Speech. Commercial banks have acted in response and introduced the Basic Bank Account which offers low or no bank charges for certain services for our people. Hopefully by 2015, we may not be paying bank charges on our saving accounts. Comrade Hage, I also want to show appreciation for the establishment of the SME Bank, the people on the ground are happy with the SME bank, hopefully it will continue to support the grass roots and it is our sincere hope that, Comrade Schlettwein will continue to grow and sustain that project.

On the issue of **agriculture**; Comrade Mutorwa, I was listening to the radio the other day and heard people expressing their happiness with the improved access to local fresh produce and it makes us Namibians proud to see the fresh produce facilities erected with our own money. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuike.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a small question? Honourable Deputy Minister, I agree with you that that building that was opened by the President is very beautiful, but talking about fresh produce, are you aware that 22 years after Independence, the day that the South African trucks go on strike, Namibians will not be in a position to even eat a potato?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I am not aware of that, Comrade. These fresh

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produce facilities are built with our own financial resources and we must make sure that we furnish it with our own Namibian products, so that we stop buying onions from South Africa.

On Transport: I have to state my delight with the inauguration of the second phase of the Rundu-Elundu road, I personally travelled from Okongo to Kavango and it is a good road, however, the problem is that there are cows on the road. Maybe we need to do something on this road.

HON SPEAKER: What is the problem with the cows?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: There are too many cows along this road. (Interjections) a lot of cattle, thank you. Maybe we should erect some cattle fences along the road to keep the cattle away from the road. During my recent visit to Gobabis, an old man told me how pleased he was with the road between Otjinene and Gobabis. Let us, therefore, continue to vote for SWAPO, because SWAPO will reward us with many good things in return.

Education: Congratulations, Comrade Namwandi, with your new appointment, the Nation is, especially our ordinary people, are happy with the introduction of free education. They can now afford to save money that would otherwise be spent on schools fees and eventually on taxes. I now strongly appeal, that they assist their children with school work and for some of them to enrol for adult literacy programmes and attend evening classes, to enhance their education and bring it at par with their children.

The Budget also encompasses our people as it talks about the people's Government. Honestly speaking, I was so impressed with the tax reduction. All the colleagues who are earning around N\$50,000 in salaries are not paying tax anymore. The bourgeoisie are also reduced

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now. The reduction on property transfer duty was noteworthy, because people were paying too much on transfer duties in order to obtain properties in the past. The reduction of the transfer duty brought significant relief to our people. Thank you for bringing all this.
(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Comrade Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: I hope that you understand what the meaning of the word bourgeoisie is. It is the transferring of wealth that does not belong to the masses, it remain at the same class. If there is a transfer of property, it is among the bourgeoisies, that means their property increases. It has got nothing to do with the lower class people. Who gains there?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Comrade Chief, there is a vocabulary which both of us understand, this vocabulary is clear and sufficient for us, except for those who are confused by the capitalist vocabulary.

Our senior citizens are very happy with the increase to N\$600, my plea goes to the children of the senior citizens, to start making their contributions and not just rely on the money of the pensioners.
(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko.

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker may I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, I really appreciate where you are coming from, I know you very well. Listening to you, reminds me of the time when the revolutionary members were talking about; *SWAPO is the people and the people is SWAPO*, that was the language then, but you are still thinking in those terms today. My question is; are you really trying to convince the vast majority, through me, that the SWAPO that you are now is the same people's Party that you were preaching that time? The SWAPO that we have now is a pure capitalist and you had a socialist SWAPO, so which SWAPO are you talking about?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: SWAPO remains the same Party. I know of people during the struggle who did not want to join SWAPO and now they are joining SWAPO, because SWAPO is the people's Party. Some of those people who ran away from SWAPO are coming back it is only a matter of time.

Coming to **Youth and Sport:** I want to congratulate our Champion, Mr Ambunda for his victory. Finally, about the **Development Budget**, I want the people on the ground to understand that these documents are not secrets of some bureaucrats in the offices. For instance, if there is any provision made in this Budget for a school to be built or a building to be completed, it becomes everybody's responsibility to make sure that the completion of that building is realised to avoid a situation where the money may be diverted to something else. Let all of us examine this Budget and make sure that the schools and buildings for which provisions have been made are completed on time.

Lastly, Honourable Minister of Finance, thank you very much for doubling the Vote of Home Affairs. I thank you and I support the Budget.

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Simataa.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I think being neighbours with Comrade Kaiyamo, he was looking at my notes and then he stole progressively from some of the issues that I wanted to raise, but nevertheless I will simply gloss over those issues and continue to other new issues.

HON RIRUAKO: Did you not leave them in the office?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: No, it is unlike your notes, the Simaata notes are meant for public consumption. First of all, let me join those who have spoken before me by commending the ever hard working Minister of Finance and the Director-General of the National Planning Commission as well their able teams, for once again bringing the Budget to this Chamber and to the people of Namibia, a Budget that has exceeded all expectations, not only that but a Budget that has got a few surprises even for the Honourable Members who are here and I think on that score, we need to give credit to the Minister of Finance and the Government for looking in our direction.

The other thing that I appreciate, Honourable Speaker, is to see that in the Budget, the Minister has maintained the set revenue and expenditure trajectory, that has been set in the Medium Term document. Like Honourable Kaiyamo, I trust that all of us, including some of us who are here, will take maximum advantage of the kind reductions in the individual income tax and then build reserves that we can turn to in the near future, during difficult days. I have heard people complaining that

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our tax regime is a burden, particularly on the individuals, now that Government has listened to our pleas, hopefully when we start to see the benefits in terms of the reduction, we will not disappoint our Government, because I am sure next time the Minister of Finance and by extension the Government, will not be that generous. We need to take advantage of the situation and cultivate a saving's culture. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: I would like to know, at the point where we say the poor must not pay tax, but are you aware that the Constitution says; "*all people are equal*", whether rich or poor and now you are milking the rich? Are you not implementing the law or are you selective, why are you selective like that?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, I think Honourable Moongo is simply misinterpreting the law, so let me continue. Again, I need to join Comrade Kaiyamo and I could hear a few grumps when the Minister of Finance touched on that, the *continuing*, and mark my words, *continuing* increase in old age pension. That is really appreciated and I hope we are not going to see another Motion again, Comrade Speaker, and this is where I am coming in, asking us to debate an issue that this Government has already given a long term commitment to, over the years progressively increase the pension until we reach whatever level we will regard as adequate.

The only thing that we need to do as Namibians, is to avoid abdicating our maternal and paternal responsibilities to the State, because whilst Government is trying, some of us are adopting a habit of simply dumping

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children after children with the elders and then you leave them there at the village.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Simataa, may I ask you a tiny winy question? Do you know that those who are dumping children are not happy, but at the same time they are not foolish? This is happening because of convenience, so we need to go around and educate them. Our social workers need to work more than they used to, to help change the minds of those who are dumping children. The Government has a greater role to play, that of encouraging them to uplift themselves and it is our duty as well. You may go ahead.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much Chief for saying that I need to go ahead, we simply have to take note of that, but my point is, let us stop this habit of dumping children. Let us take them there and then let the children be followed by the required support. If we do that, the little that we are paying to our elders I can assure you, although it is not adequate, may suffice in terms of providing for the very basic requirements. This is a plea to the larger society out there.

There is one thing that I would like to echo, something that I touched on during this time last year and that is to echo the need, that was recently expressed by the Head of State, to reduce our reliance as a country on imports. Really after 23 years of Independence for a sovereign State to depend on imports, even for the most basic foodstuff is a situation that bothers me individually and I hope collectively all of us, because reliance on other countries to provide even for carrots, as if Namibia does not have fertile soil, that is a situation that we really need to address and I am submitting that we need to embark on an aggressive import substitution strategy that will rid us of this dependency on other countries.

Over and above that, I said last year and I want to reemphasise this

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point again, we need as Namibians to develop unwavering, unparalleled commitment and loyalty to locally produced products, goods and services. It is this loyalty that we do not have as Namibians. We debated the Industrialisation Policy last year, can we sit back and ask ourselves the question, if we do not support our own locally produced products or if we do not procure locally available goods and services, when are we going to build the local industry? Whom are we waiting for, Angola, to assist us to build our own industry? No, they should be adding to our own efforts. This is something that Namibia will have to sit back and reflect seriously. I have seen people being guided by prices, but let us be very careful of prices, because what is cheap may not necessarily be good and what is cheap may not necessarily be healthy.

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Simataa, you have China Town here where we get some cheap products, is that something wrong or what? We sometimes afford the China Town material; can you come up with something tangible that we can really be proud of at the end?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Chief, all that I am saying is, cheap is good, but we should not base our decisions on price alone, because you buy cheaply today and after ten days you are back and then there is no guarantee; “*who told you to wash, there is no guarantee*”, but then you go back again to buy after ten days and wash, “*who told you to wash again?*” is the question, there is no guarantee. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: While on the point of; “*why wash*”, knowing

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that this has become not only a joke, but a serious thing throughout the country that there are products that are brought into the country, where you do not have any guarantee. As soon as you walk out of the shop you cannot even return the product, why is Government allowing such cheap products to be brought in? Why do a disservice to our nationals, while we know it? What would your suggestion be to Government, in terms of such products?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:

Honourable Shixwameni, it is up to you to suggest to Government, but you cannot limit people's choices, it is a matter of choice. All that I am trying to do is to, within the parameters of allowing people to choose, simply advance my advice and it is up to the individuals to take that or to leave it, however, all that I am saying is you buy cheaply and then you bring back it is, "*why wash*". You can go to Edgars and buy once at the right price and keep that item over one or two years.

Honourable Speaker, my point is that; cheaply produced products have atrocious long term effects on our health and they take a heavy toll on the pocket, cumulatively speaking if we were to sit down and do the calculations. Let us be committed to products that are produced in Namibia. If we do it that way, whether they are expensive, by the way they do not have additives.

We were arguing in this Chamber, was it last week, that Namibian beef is one of the best in the world, no additives, free range from the slaughter house, on to the pot, on to the plate and "*wala!*", you are enjoying your meal. Let us be proud of the products that we are producing, otherwise we can kiss goodbye to industrialisation in my view.

Honourable Speaker, the attention paid in the Budget to the provision of housing and sanitation in rural areas is much appreciated, Honourable Minister. However, I submit that there is a need to strengthen existing monitoring mechanisms so that the funds that we advance, for argument sake, to the NHE, the Build Together and many other Organisations, will

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be utilised for the intended purposes and what I am suggesting further is, that we should investigate mechanisms of ring fencing this money to avoid the money being diverted to untargeted areas, at the end of the day there must be mechanisms introduced that will report accurately as part of accountability and not produce doctored reports. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo?

HON MOONGO: Thank you very much. I would like to ask the Deputy Minister, if he is aware of shacks? He is talking about housing, but will the Budget Allocation cater for a resolution of those shacks and houses constructed of zinc plates or corrugated iron in mountains and where people are scattered all over and exposed to snakes? It is only promise and promise.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Moongo, in the English language, there is an expression that says; “*seeing is believing*”, stop denying things that you can even see. The President has advised all of us. If you do not want to see, you can feel or you can touch. If you can afford to taste you can taste too, the money has been provided. All that I am saying is that we should seriously introduce mechanisms that will ensure that the money so provided will end up being utilised for the intended purposes, that is the point that I am emphasising and the institutions that will be receiving and committing the money, should also report to us accurately and we should be able to go there and see, verify and say that indeed the houses have been provided. This idea of ring fencing this money is to avoid the money from inevitably being diverted to other operational expenses. That idea needs to be looked into seriously.

The allocation to universal primary education is also appreciated, but what

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is not clear to me is whether this allocation will be adequate, particularly given the fact that with the opening up, with the removal of the user fees, our class sizes have now multiplied, so the demand for space, that was already there, has increased in many ways. What is not clear to me Honourable Minister of Finance and perhaps the Minister of Education, is with the implementation of universal primary education, have we really sat down and determined what would be regarded as adequate levels of funding the education system. This is the worry that I retain as an individual.

If we have not done that, I am really submitting that we should go to that extent of determining what is it that we need to provide adequately and the reason why I am saying that Honourable Speaker, is that access to education, without that education being of quality, is as good as no access to education at all, because we will have the learners in the classrooms, but there will not be any quality, in terms of providing quality education.

The other thing that I wanted to advance is that everything in education happens around an entity called the school. If we want to improve the current quality in our education system, time has come that we zero in at this level, because it is at the level of the school where teaching and learning is taking place. Unless we do that. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: HIGCSE and IGCSE are gone, but the sickness still remains with the Ministry of Education. Where does this kind of appraisal come from, could you tell us that?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: I think I will prefer to invite

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the Honourable Chief so that we engage privately beyond this Chamber, during our tea break tomorrow and then I will provide you with the answers. That is all that I am saying, Comrade Speaker, that we need to zero in, unless we are going to zero in on this unit called the school, all the curriculum enrichment, all the funding that we are providing will come to naught. Therefore, we really need to focus at the school level, that is where everything else is happening, the principals, the management, the teachers, the learners and the parents must be committed to that level. Otherwise I have concluded what I thought I wanted to advance during the current general Budget Debate and I thank you very much for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Parliamentarians the Draft Budget formulation before us is in its entirety a product of the Executive without a single input from the Opposition Parties or the public at large. It has been the habit of the Government of the day to deny meaningful participation by the Opposition Parties, business community and the general public in the Budget formulation which participation would have resulted in a Draft Budget based on consensus, transparency and accountability. Today, most open societies prefers this approach as opposed to Government exclusivity.

In the present approach the Parliament, including backbenchers from both Opposition and those from the Ruling Party are used as mere rubber stamp in the passing of the *Finance Bill* or Annual Budget. Should these practice continue in spite of our appeal that the public is fully consulted in the process of the Budget Formulation, the RDP and I am sure others too, may find it difficult in the future to participate in this Debate aimed solely for rubber stamping resulting in the passing of the draft without a single change of not even a comma.

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HON SPEAKER: Minister Mutorwa.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:

Let us mark that I have taken note of what Honourable Nyamu is saying. I just want to put it on record that Article 40(c) of the Namibian Constitution is very clear when it states unambiguously that the members of the Cabinet shall have the following functions and (c) states that to formulate, explain and assess for the National Assembly the Budget of the State and its economic development plans and to report to the National Assembly thereon. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: I have referred to the modern approach. That is your old approach which we should change. Presently Budget Formulations are done differently from what is existing in that part of your Constitution.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Today's headlines in the Namibian Sun newspaper reads; "*Namibia fury at country's 'miserable' rating*". (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Nyamu is saying that people must follow the modern approach. When the RDP suspended Honourable Kandy Nehova and another one that time, were you not aware of about the modern way of communicating to avoid being

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forced by the law to reinstate those people?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: Today's headlines in the Namibian Sun newspaper reads. (Interjections) Do not shout at me. Do you not have respect for elders? (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: I want Honourable Nyamu to say something unless you are rising on the previous points.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Nyamu said something very serious as far as I am concerned, when he said that if the Budget preparation will continue to be made the way it is being made, RDP may even find it necessary not to participate. Is he saying this simply for propaganda reasons or has he taken constitutional consequences of what he is saying into account the? Has he consulted other members of his Party? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: What action RDP will take will always depend on RDP and not on others, including yourself. Today's headlines in the *Namibian Sun* newspaper reads; "*Namibia fury at country's 'miserable' rating*". The findings of the international research has placed Namibia at the

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bottom of the Nations in hell. The index rating has caused uproar from primarily from those who live in the fool's paradise. However, the majority of our people in the rural areas and so-called numerous settlements throughout the country, will find no faults with the exposure as they live in a war of hunger and deprivation without hope.

We politicians should, therefore, get out of our boxes and cocoons and devise policies and strategies for the rebirth of our Nation.

It is indeed my privilege to offer my Party's concerted views on the Budget presentation of the Honourable Minister of Finance on Tuesday, the 26th of February 2013. It will be further recalled that the theme of this Budget reads; "*Growing the Economy, Optimising Development Outcomes*".

Integrating of the Budget Process

Let me on the outset offer my congratulations to our sister, the Minister of Finance, for an excellent job on the *Appropriation Bill* she tabled last week.

After ten years of deployment of the extended IMF Budget format for Middle Income Countries, she and her Ministry have truly mastered the skill of burying complex development and social issues under a myriad of statistics, estimates and projections. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Minister of Trade.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Speaker, do I have the permission to ask the Honourable Member a question?

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HON SPEAKER: I think he agrees. Yes.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Speaker, I just want to refer back to Honourable Nyamu's observation and quote in the papers of the report on the miserable country to live in. If that is so, the question is, which report does he give more credit to; the World Bank which rates us at the top five, the IMF's Article 4, which rates us as a stable country, the Mom Ibrahim report which rates us at the top five of the country, the Moody's credit rating report which gives us a Baa3 rating, Fitch rating which gives us a credit report of BBB-? Which of these reports carry more weight in the opinion of the RDP then?

HON SPEAKER: A question, Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: Thank you Minister for your question. I would suggest that you consult with the researchers who have made these findings, it was not me.

Similarly, the Ministry of Finance has acquired a enviable skill to confuse the process by deceptive semantics. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: On a Point of Information, Honourable Nyamu in making his submission is referring to "we" in the RDP and last week one RDP Member submitted a Motion here and the very same people who are supposed to be "we", some abstains, we do not know whether the

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President supported or did not support, and now today two Members have decided to boycott the RDP submission, what is what?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: The question is so complex that I need time to reflect on it and come back to you.

I was saying; Similarly, the Ministry of Finance has acquired a enviable skill to confuse the process by deceptive semantics. It has now become fashionable to bulldoze expenditure items by giving it a new name, conveniently forgetting targets and strategies of previous Budgets, and the most distressing, selling it to...(intervention). I have not even finished the sentence.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Hourable Speaker, may I ask my uncle just for clarity sake a small question, Honourable Speaker?

HON SPEAKER: Yes.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: I was listening very carefully as I always do, to what the Finance Spokesman of the RDP was saying. I listened to him when he was praising the Minister of Finance for a well presented and well thought through Budget Motivation. In the same breath the Honourable Member is accusing the Minister of Finance of deception. How does it tally up? Thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu, a challenge to you.

HON NYAMU: The first one was a preface to my statement. It was not part of the substance.

It has now become fashionable to bulldoze expenditure items by giving it a new name, conveniently forgetting targets and strategies of previous Budgets, and the most distressing, selling it to an unsuspecting electorate as a document that formalises development to their advantage, misleading the confusing the electorate. As we shall see, the reality is somewhat removed from the theory.

What do we have on paper?

The Minister's Budget speech attained new heights this year, on paper at least. Telling us what the Budget has to offer, she promised economic growth, efficient service delivery and a brighter future for Namibians from all backgrounds and all walks of life. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Dingara.

HON DINGARA: Honourable Speaker, can I be allowed to ask a small question, just for clarity? Honourable Nyamu said confused electorate. I want to know, because he did not put another statement where he excluded himself as not being part of the confused electorate, whether he is also confused or is it only other members of the electorate who are confused?

HON SPEAKER: The question, Honourable Nyamu.

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HON NYAMU: They have been confused by whom? By SWAPO of course.

But let us start at the beginning - the annual growth of the economy.

As I understand the bigger picture, the entire budgetary process hinges on a certain view of how the overall economy will perform. Those learned people in the Ministry of Finance, at the Bank of Namibia and in the National Planning Commission refer to the combined output of all players in the economy as the Gross Domestic Product. Now it was explained to me that there is more than one measure that is applied to determine the size of the economy. However, the way I see it, it is not the absolute measure of the economy that is important, but the relative measure from one year to the next. And that is exactly what our Budget is supposed to be, a relative projection of current and future income and expenditure, based on the actual history of these components.

Regardless of the exact way the economy is measured, the relative performance from one year to the next, or over several years, is what provides the clearest indication of the direction we are headed. Therefore, measuring, comparing and the forecasting the size of the total economy become the foundation for all the other derivative processes that depends on this one figure. If we look at the latest Budget, our analysts tell us that the growth forecasts are almost linear; it is neither up nor down. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: You will continue from where you left off. As I prematurely announced last week, the members of the SWAPO party are invited to caucus in the usual caucus room.

The House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2013.03.06 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
06 MARCH 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: The Business of the House is called to order. This is a slot where the Speaker has something to say, but I want to give the Floor to the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. It is with shock and dismay that I would like to inform this august House that the world have lost one of its greatest revolutionary, a man who committed, what you can call "*class suicide*", sacrificing his comforts in the interest of poor people, not only of Venezuela, but also of neighbouring countries, even some States in America that have been given discount when they were getting well. I would like to ask this august House to rise in the memory of this great revolutionary to observe a minute of silent.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? other Reports or Papers Honourable Members? Honourable Dingara.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON DINGARA**

**TABLING: REPORT ON THE REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ACCESSIBILITY
OF THE NAMIBIAN JUSTICE AND LEGAL SYSTEM**

HON DINGARA: Honourable Speaker, I want to table the Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs on the Regional Consultation and Public Hearings on the Accessibility of the Namibian Justice and Legal system in the Karas, Hardap, Erongo, Omahake and Kunene Regions held during May to September 2011.

Before I do so, Honourable Speaker, allow me to briefly highlight on some of the main findings contained in the Report. I want to start by saying that, credit should be given where it is due. In the same vein, I want to commend the Ministry of Justice on most of the things that the Committee has found in the Regions, especially on the issue of gazetting and recognising Community Courts. There is seriously a high significant number of Community Courts that have been gazetted and recognised by the Ministry. Congratulations to the Ministry of Justice.

Comrade Speaker, one of other the things that we have found, especially on the Traditional and Community Courts is that, disputes about the jurisdiction between the Traditional Authority Courts and the Community Courts in some of the traditional authority areas were prominent. There is, therefore, a need for clarification on the Authority, Powers and Jurisdiction between the Community Courts and the Traditional Authority Courts. The law enforcement at both the Community Courts and the Traditional Courts by the Namibian Police as an Agent of Community Courts was and is still lacking.

Proper training for Community Courts officials is also lacking. Civil education on Community Courts is non-existent. Most Traditional Authority and Community Courts, do not have offices, courtrooms, transport and most of the office equipments. The allowance for Community Courts officials is not commensurate with the responsibility of Court officials. Traditional Authorities view the Government as the only source of revenue while the enabling legislation provide

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HON DINGARA**

opportunities for them to create their own revenue, but yet this is non-existence.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, coming to Magistrates Courts, civic education on the laws and administration of justice is sporadic and not institutionalised. Provision of legal aid and legal representations is one of many reasons for the delay of backlog in finalising Court cases. A lasting solution should be found to address the delay and backlog of criminal cases before Court now. Equality of marriage and marriage rights are not clear to some members in some communities. Cases of rape, domestic violence and children in conflict with law are common in the Regions.

The Courts face challenges in the enforcement of child maintenance. Budgetary allocation for legal aid is minimal, as is for the whole Ministry of Justice and this situation need to receive attention as a matter of urgency even during this Budget Debate. Lawyers attached to the Legal Aid Department are few in number and generally unavailable in most Regions. It was also established that human resources and equipment at most Magistrate Courts are not adequate. Most magistrate offices also experience a lack of office space and accommodation for Court officials like; the magistrates, prosecutors, legal clerks etcetera. The Namibian civil litigation system is too technical, difficult and expensive for the ordinary Namibian citizen. These systems should be revised to allow for the constitutional rights of aggrieved persons or victims, to enable them have access to Civil Courts.

The Namibian Police as one of the key State Agent in the administration of justice, faces its own challenges mainly; inadequate human capital or manpower and resources to perform their duties at Courts. Bail conditions are in many instances not very clear and need to be reviewed in the interest of victims. Concerns were raised that private legal services are not affordable to the ordinary person in our country. Concerns were also raised that the media may influence judgement in most Court cases. Some other concerns that were raised are that civic education on Bills before Parliament in general, are by average standard or sporadic and should be strengthened by the Line Ministry and Parliament.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON MAAMBERUA**

The general public is largely not aware of their rights to seek compensation and restitution from the offender through the Court Inheritance Law and Protection Orders.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members the Report contains recommendations that would be submitted to the responsible line Ministries for perusal and consideration. We have tabled a similar Report on the Kavango, Caprivi and Otjozondjupa Regions last year during November, which was accepted and adopted by this House. The Report on the Oshana, Omusati, Oshikoto and Ohangwena Regions would be tabled soon in this House for consideration.

Subject to the provision of the Namibian Constitution particularly Article 63(2)(f), our Committee will continue to perform the oversight function on all Offices, Ministries or Agencies within the mandate of the Committee by following up and monitoring the implementation of the Budget. As I mentioned earlier, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I table this Report in this august House for information and note-taking.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report?
Honourable Maamberua.

**TABLING: REPORT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC ACCOUNT ON THE SADCOPAC/EAAPAC
ACCOUNTABILITY CONFERENCE**

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I lay upon the Table, the Report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts on the SADCOPAC/EAAPAC Accountability Conference held in Windhoek, Namibia from the 7th to the 13th of May last year, for note-taking.

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HON MAAMBERUA**

**TABLING: REPORT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC ACCOUNT ON THE 9TH SADCOPAC ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE**

HON MAAMBERUA: I lay upon the Table the Report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts on the 9th SADCOPAC Annual General Meeting and Conference held in Nelspruit, South Africa from the 3rd to the 6th of September last year, for note-taking

**TABLING: REPORT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC ACCOUNT ON THE TRAINING FOR MEMBERS
OF PARLIAMENT OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED
PUBLIC ACCOUNT COMMITTEE**

HON MAAMBERUA: I lay upon the Table the Report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts on the Training for Members of Parliament of Newly Established Public Accounts Committee in the Regions held in Lilongwe, Malawi from the 17th to the 23rd December last year, also for note-taking.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member table the Reports. Honourable Amweelo.

**TABLING: REPORT ON THE SEMINAR FOR EAST AND
SOUTHERN AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS**

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON DR AMWEELO**

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much Comrade Speaker. I lay upon the Table the Report on the Seminar of East and Southern African Parliaments on Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Women and Girls: From Legislation to Effective Enforcement held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 5th to 7th of December 2012, for note-taking. Before I table the Report, I would like to highlight some key points.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the seminar took place in Dar es Salaam and was attended by Honourable Sylvia Makgone who at the time was a member of IPU National Group and now Deputy Minister of Education. Honourable Makgone all of us at the IPU National Group wish you good health, good luck, wisdom, success and stay blessed.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, last week the Speaker tabled a Motion on this very same topic in this very House. Violence against women and girls has attracted a lot of attention in recent years. The IPU, as part of its efforts to find ways and means of arresting this social problem, organised many regional seminars on this issue of which this seminar was the sixth. Violence against women and girls is regarded as a universal problem, differing only in scope and nature from one country to another. It occurs in the abroad context of gender-based discrimination with regard to unequal power relations in both public and private spheres.

The recommendation made at the seminar calls on the Parliaments to do the following:

1. Bring national laws in line with the international legal instruments to which their country has subscribed, monitor the implementation of those instruments and promote the ratification of the CEDAW Optional Protocol and of the Maputo Protocol;
2. Adopt solid and comprehensive legislation on violence against women, in particular on domestic violence, centred on prevention, prosecution and sanctions, and protection and assistance for survivors;
3. Exercise their oversight role to ensure effective law and policy

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON DR AMWEELO**

enforcement through appropriate mechanisms (gender budgeting, data collection, research capacity, questions to relevant Ministries);

4. Scrutinize budget proposals to ensure adequate funding and long-term sustainability of programmes to tackle violence against women;
5. Ensure that all actors involved in effective law enforcement - magistrates, security forces, attorneys, health care providers, social workers, civil society, etc., are appropriately trained;
6. Organize education and awareness-raising activities at the community level, with the involvement of NGOs, paralegals, health care providers, hospitals, and law enforcement officials;
7. Promote the inclusion of gender equality modules in school curricula;
8. Establish in individual parliaments a parliamentary group of dedicated legislators to champion the cause of preventing and responding to violence against women in the country and the region; and
9. Establish a monitoring system to periodically assess the implementation and effectiveness of legislation on violence against women.

With that Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I table this Report for information to the Members and request the Committee on Gender and Family Affairs to ensure that the recommendations made are implemented. I further request the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to keep the House informed on a periodic basis on this very important matter. Thank you Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member table the Report. Honourable Kuugogelwa-madhila.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

TABLING: REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the table

Reports of the Auditor-General on the accounts of the-

- (i) Veterans Fund for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2011; and
 - (ii) Regional Council of the Caprivi Region for the Financial Years ended 31 March 2008, 2009 and 2010.
-

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister table the Reports. Notice of Questions. Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Speaker, pardon me, I just want to intervene briefly on the Report of Dr Amweelo concerning the recommendations of the workshop they have attended as the IPU Group. Considering the importance of what he has just stated; I thought of giving effect to this recommendations so that they can be implemented by both the Committee and maybe the Executive. A Report of such importance should not be tabled for note-taking, but for discussion and adoption by the House. Maybe we should look at such consideration in the future.

HON SPEAKER: I think that needs prior consultations and should not be interfering with the Rules as they stand now. Yes, Honourable Amweelo. Can you clarify for me.

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HON DR AMWEELO: I just want to clarify the point that, we have another comprehensive IPU Report, which is going to be discussed thoroughly in this House.

HON SPEAKER: Good, we continue. Notice of Motions? None. Ministerial Statements? With the concurrence of the House and as a matter of urgency, I want to first give the Floor to the Minister of Lands and Resettlement to address the House. Minister.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I have my sincere appreciation for the indulgence of the House.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to Move this, in my opinion, significant Motion which is aimed at motivating the approval by this House of the appointment of two new members and the reappointment of two current members to serve on the Land Reform Advisory Commission for the period starting on the 1st of April 2013 to the 31st of March 2016. The appointment of these individuals is in terms of Section 4(1)(g) of the *Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act* (Act 6 of 1995).

In addition to the members nominated for the appointment to the Land Reform Advisory Commission by the Minister of Agriculture Water and Forestry, the Minister of Justice and three staff members from the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, the Commission draws membership from the Agricultural Bank of Namibia, associations involved agricultural affairs as well as four persons who are not employed in the Public Service and who are suitably qualified having regard to the functions of the

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Commission. The law requires that the four persons nominated directed by the Minister of Lands and Resettlement be appointed only with the approval of the National Assembly, hence this Motion.

The Land Reform Advisory Commission is tasked with the responsibility to make recommendations to the Minister of Lands and Resettlement and to advise him in relation to any powers conferred upon the Minister in terms of the Act that I have just cited. The Commission is further empowered to investigate and consider either on its own accord or upon request by the Minister any other matter relating to the exercise of the powers of the Minister and the *Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act*. Having regard to the functions of the Commission, I am convinced that Mr Adam J Baisako, a new appointment, I am sure Honourable Ncube knows this gentleman, Ms Emma Kantema-Goamas, a new appointment, Ms Martina K Mokgatle-Aukhumes, reappointment and Mr Jeff Mbako reappointment, possesses both individually and collectively the skills required to advise the Minister of Lands and Resettlement in the exercise of the powers conferred upon him and that they can particularly advice on the modalities to ensure a successful land reform programme for Namibia. The nominated persons have amongst them the agricultural, financial institutional memory and requisite social skills that can render the Land Reform Advisory Commission effective in carrying out its mandate.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, if you allow me, I humbly request the House's indulgence in disposing of this crucial function and would like further to implore that this august House *approves* and *endorses* the appointment and reappointment of the four persons to the Land Reform Advisory Commission for the period starting the 1st of April 2013 to the 31st of March 2016, hopefully. The Curricula Vitae of these individuals are submitted to this august House for ease of reference. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Minister. Any further discussion? The Motion is unanimously adopted. The Secretary will read the First Order.

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**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON NYAMU**

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND
READING: APPROPRIATION BILL**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading –
Appropriation Bill [B. 1–2013].

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourn on Wednesday the 5th of March the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Nyamu had the Floor. You may continue, Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: Yesterday when I took the Floor, I made a short introductory remark regarding the process of budgeting. I now move to the second point which is our comment on the revenue.

Revenue:

I now want to turn my attention to the revenue side of the Budget. It is commendable that actual fiscal income for 2011/2012 significantly exceeded the revenue as projected a year earlier. It must be a source of inspiration for the National Planning Commission to find out, after completion of the National Accounts, that the income surpassed initial expectations, however, it is in the same breath, a very poor reflection on the Ministry of Finance's ability to budget appropriately.

Looking at the revenue estimates for last year (2012/2013) it is indeed a pleasant surprise that the Ministry now expects the revenue to increase by 27% once all fiscal transactions for that year, have been reconciled. That is a massive deviation from the expected figure.

As a comparison, take for instance a private company that is expected to

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budget within such limited tolerances that the provisional tax it pays may not deviate more than 10% from the final tax.

If it does, the company is penalised for this miscalculation or erroneous projection. When the Ministry of Finance shows a much bigger deviation, they use this as another way of pretending the rise in revenue is due to their diligent budgeting, which it is not true.

The massive jump in revenue between 2011 and 2012 can be ascribed to two major events: The first is what would be called “*low base*” by my learned analysts. This means that revenues were suppressed during and after the international financial crisis, and once business conditions assumed a more normal pattern, taxes on income and profit reflected a similar positive trend.

The other reasons is the improved contribution from companies and State-Owned Enterprises following the artificial stimulation under TIPEEG, which in my view, sets the stage for future inflation, the full effect of which we have not yet seen. However, I have promised that I will focus on inflation later again, and then I will present a more formal analysis of the inflationary distortions working in our growth forecasts, and consequently, the entire budgeting process. The inflation target is very crucial.

For the purpose of presenting an informed analysis of fiscal income, it is safe to disregard the totals given under TOTAL REVENUE AND GRANTS. This I do, because grants are often discretionary and tend to distort the picture of the available resources, especially long-term resources, the Government has access to. Tax revenue, a sub-category of the above category, provides a more reliable picture of the soundness of the economy, and the allocation of resources.

It is noticeable that the Ministry of Finance does not expect the distorted income picture to continue as is clearly reflected in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. Revenue from own sources is projected to grow by 8.7% this year compared to last year, 7.9% and finally, 6.4% in 2015.

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These projections demonstrate that the Ministry is assuming a return to a normal growth line, and it will be of major importance in later Fiscal Years, to compare the current projections to actual outcomes. If the Ministry's analysts publish an assumed 11.5% growth in GDP with revenue incomes only growing by 6.4%, it shows there is a shift in dynamics for which they try to make provision in their forecasts, or there is substantially higher inflation on our horizon. The latter will be the case if the Government continues flooding the capital market with excessive liquidity. It is also an indication that the TIPEEG policy is largely a disappointment. It looks good on paper and it produced very impressive figures, if one does not know what is actually going on.

Regarding Expenditure;

As I have stated earlier, the foundation of the Budget Process is the so-called Gross Domestic Product, or more particularly, the growth in GDP, i.e. the relative movement in value from one year to the next. I have pointed out the weakness in these projections and assumptions.

The second most important building blocks for a reliable Budget, are the revenue assumptions and projections. Above I have pointed out the anomalies especially the major distortions taking place from 2011 to 2012.

There is another aspect of the formal side of revenue projections which I must point out to this House. It also underscores my earlier observations that the budgeting process, especially from the Ministry's input, is flat, static and uninspired. The projections for the Fiscal Year 2012/2013 presented to us in last year's Medium Term Expenditure Framework under Sectoral Expenditures, are EXACTLY the same as the figures published in this latest Budget, no changes whatsoever.

Now that is completely impossible. When I say they are exactly the same, I do not mean more or less, or nearly the same, I mean exactly, up to the cent.

Even if the Sectoral Expenditure items are still based on estimates for 2012, then there is a sufficient history up to January this year, to give a

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clearer indication on the progress in the Financial Year. These figures are published by the Ministry itself, but the Budget Expenditures, as published do not take the real outcomes into consideration.

This, to us, is a strong finger pointing at the Budget Process, and at its applicability for managing the financial side of Namibia. Projections of a previous year that are incorporated into a new Budget as estimates, smack of oversight. It also indicates that the entire Budget Process with all its impressive documentations, may be a deliberate attempt to hide the pertinent lack of development funding.

Now, I will comment on **Allocation by Votes**

The amount of work that goes into compiling the documents which support the Budget Process is admirable. I have to congratulate the staff in every Ministry who are tasked with the formidable responsibility of adjusting and aligning every Ministry's Budget requirements every year.

Looking through the latest Medium Term and Expenditure Framework, I am filled with a sense of appreciation for the enormous amount of work that goes into the detailed description of the various programmes which require Budget Allocations.

Regarding **Programme Descriptions:**

These descriptions form the background against which every Ministry must make projections for its financial needs for the new Fiscal Year. It is only when I compare the newest Expenditure Framework with last year's and the year before that I notice how static these documents are. It is almost as if the Ministries have settled into a comfort zone and now only increase their financing needs by the factor supplied by the Ministry of Finance. I notice slight changes between Fiscal Years further into the future, but these changes are also reflective of changes in the overall Budget Documentation.

The Budget smells of central planning, as I mentioned that earlier, in other words a top down approach. The Ministries are given what has been

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decided at the top. The Ministry of Finance makes broad calculations on the macro-economic side and then pass this on to the Line Ministries. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order? Minister, Question.

HON MINISTER OF SPORTS, NATIONAL SERVICE, YOUTH AND CULTURE: I just want clarity, the Honourable mentioned that the Budget is decided, on a top down approach and the Ministers are given what have been decided up, if Ministers are given here, who decides there, can you clarify? Ministers are there, but now you say Ministers are given what have been decided up, by whom, is it by the Executive and who are the Executive, can you clarify that to this House? Your statement is confusing.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu, clarifications.

HON NYAMU: Thank you for the question. The Budget smells of central planning, done by the National Planning Commission, the experts, of course by instructions of the Minister and then it is given to the Ministries, following no other ways, but from top to bottom, in other words the top down approach. This used to be the case with the former Soviet Republics, everything is from top to bottom, which some of us are still imitating even after their demise. The Ministry of Finance makes broad calculations on the macroeconomic side and then pass this on to the Line Ministries who adjust their figures, not as per projected needs, but according to their cut of approved overall expenditure by the Minister of Finance.

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I would now like to comment on **Assumptions on which Projects are Based and Approved.**

The Reliability of these Assumptions

The Budget documents present us with a glimpse into the Budget methodology, which on the surface, seems valid and reliable. The Ministry even graciously publish their set of assumptions both for external conditions (international) and local economic performance (domestic economy). Many of the assumptions are common sense assumptions, but there are some important points that may be contentious and depend on whether one agrees with the Budget analysts or not.

Reliability of Statistics on which those assumptions are based.

We understand and realise that statistics are the key to responsible and reliable Budgets. We commend the Government for establishing the National Statistics Agency and putting it on a firm footing to start producing the stream of reliable statistics we have waited for so long. All that the Agency must now do is actually producing those statistics. We eagerly anticipate and wait the first set of National Accounts fully produced under the mandate of the new entity. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: The House shall recess for refreshments.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:34

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:16

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HON SPEAKER: The Business of House resumes and Honourable Nyamu has the Floor.

HON NYAMU: I will try to be as brief as humanly possible. I will now talk about both nominal and actual economic growth. Real growth is another matter and it depends largely on domestic inflation, but also on the way inflation is measured by the Namibian Statistics Agency. Suffice to say, there is a glaring anomaly in the Budget Forecasts between nominal growth, real growth and inflation.

We continue to finance growth through more debts and then we call it "*Development of the Local Capital*". Another clever piece of semantics.

There is a distinct anomaly between the Government's published Borrowing Schedule and the provision it makes for expenditure in the Budget. TIPEEG as an intervention to foster growth and job creation in targeted economic Sectors has been offered to us in 2011 as a financial way of relieving the social pressure building up in the face of massive unemployment, inequality and poverty.

In that year, the Minister indicated that TIPEEG is a three-year programme and that results will be monitored as the Fiscal Years progresses. At the end of the intervention, an exit strategy was indicated. It is indeed a sad day that we now have to realise there is no exit strategy from TIPEEG, it is a dead end.

Taxation

It is a heartening signal sent out by the Minister when she announced the changes to tax policy. The detail of these can be found in her Budget Speech, but I am sure it will not go unnoticed by salary earners in the lower tax bracket that basic annual income is tax exempt up to N\$50,000.00. Previously this ceiling was N\$40,000.00.

The adjustments to various taxes should also have provided some relief

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from statutory expenses carried out by ordinary Namibians in the form of Transfer Duty and Stamp Duty, especially for the effect it has to put property ownership further out of reach of all but the richest. If any person in this House doubts the effect of unmeasured or “*shadow*” inflation I have alluded to earlier on in my response, they must just look at the house and farm prices.

I am sure companies will find a welcome relief in the 1% reduction in company tax, although it is our contention that company tax will have to recede further to bring Namibia in line with other tax regimes in the region. I will explain more on this issue.

According to the Ministry’s calculations, these tax concessions will reduce revenue by N\$1.2 billion. These tax concessions are long overdue. Any tax relief, similar to lower interest rates, has a measurable multiplier effect on the consumption side of the economy. Literature determines this effect to range between a factor of 1.4 to as high as 2. In simple terms it means that every one dollar the Government is prepared to forfeit as tax revenue, that one dollar increases the economic output by one dollar and forty cents, or even two by dollars. This in turn increases the revenue base. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Van Der Walt.

HON VAN DER WALT: Honourable Nyamu, may I ask you a questions? You mentioned about the inflation rate, do see the inflation rate at this stage as a negative or positive growth?

HON SPEAKER: A question, Honourable Nyamu.

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HON NYAMU: Inflation is never positive, in economic terms it creates hardships and (Intervention)

HON VAN DER WALT: Hourable Nyamu, I am not an economist, but I also found that the economists across the world refer a lot in terms of the decisions the make on forecasts. Did you now that inflation has got two side of the coin? That is, if the inflation grows it means that you are actually in a healthy economy of your country, because if you, like you told us about house and farm prices, make an investment of N\$1 million, would you also not like to have a return of at least N\$3 million after ten years time for the return on your investment to make sense? That is the purpose of inflation; I do not see why inflation is such a big problem. Thank you.

HON NYAMU: I do not want to argue with my Colleague who simply has fixed ideas about inflation, but my position is that inflation is nowhere welcomed in any economy.

I want to talk a little bit about **Taxation as the Economic Growth Expansion**

1. Changes to Personal Tax Rates

It is surprising to see that the Budget pursue a policy of “*trickle down economies*” as the basis for economic growth. This is what is referred to as a “*supply side economic policy*” which assumes that by increasing the access of consumers to disposable income that the economy will grow through their increased spending power. In the case of the current Budget, the economic growth assumption is based on the increase supply of disposable funds through tax cuts as a means to stimulate growth.

In the latter part of the 20th Century, this economic growth framework is most notable for its use by the Republican Party in the United States, in

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particular by Ronald Reagan in the 1980s in his policy of Reaganomics which advocated the lowering of tax rates with a focus on reducing tax rates for the wealthy in order to maximise total consumer spending power within the economy.

In the United States the economic growth policy of trickle down / Reaganomics resulted in an increase in nominal annual debt from US\$900 billion to US\$2.8 trillion due to decreased Government tax revenues.

In addition to increased national debt levels, an additional consequence of the application of trickle down / Reaganomics within the (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Minister of Defence.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I am disturbed by what Honourable Nyamu is saying in terms of his Reaganomics and I would like to ask Honourable Nyamu a question. I know that the statement you are reading, you never wrote it yourself and perhaps you do not know the implications. Are you aware that the fiscal cliff in the United States is actually based upon the contention whether to tax the rich or to tax the middle class? Now you are advocating that the rich should not be taxed, according to you, which is the position of the Republicans that I am not surprised about. I think you are reading something that you do not fully understand. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: Thank you Defence Minister, when you were resident in Lusaka, you used to come to me for advice (laughter) and I

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want you to repeat the same. This is a very strenuous argument and if you want more information, come and see me and then we can share more information.

2. Growing the Economy

How do you grow the economy which is the cardinal point for development? The assumption made that decreased income tax levels and the corresponding increase in consumer spending will increase economic growth within Namibia is in fact false. In order to increase economic prosperity and decrease income disparities within Namibia, it is necessary to grow the economy and in so doing create jobs. There is no other way.

The primary means to increase jobs in Namibia through economic growth should be based on developing economic policies and programmes which will facilitate the economy transitioning from its current resource extraction dependence state to one where enterprises, both small and large, domestic and foreign, are encouraged to be established and nurtured to grow through an internationally competitive taxation framework.

This brings me to the issue of **Foreign Investments**. There was recently a reflection of this in newspapers; the Marina Development in Walvis Bay and the development of iron ore in the Kunene Region. I think these are very welcomed development which should have the full backing and assistance of the Government if we want to grow this economy.

At present, if we compare the tax situation within Namibia to that of some of our neighbours South Africa and Botswana, Namibia has the least favourable tax environment to encourage the establishment of business ventures by either domestic or non-Namibians.

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Taxation Measurement	Namibia	Botswana	South Africa
Corporate Tax Rate	35%	15-25% (Industry dependent)	28%
VAT Threshold based on Gross Business Income	NAD200,00.00	BWP500,000.00 (NAD / ZAR560,000.00)	ZAR1,000,000.00
VAT Rate	15%	10%	14%

We are the most disadvantaged in the Region as far as taxes are concerned.

With respect to the tax rates indicated above, rates which directly influence the viability of establishing a successful business in Namibia, the country ranks worst when compared to its neighbours, Botswana and South Africa in each category.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Can I ask the Honourable senior Colleague a question? When talking about taxes, it probably takes me back to the arguments that were put forward yesterday when somebody was saying that, *“That is the language we use to speak when we were in SWAPO”*. What is the RDP’s position on taxes, should the rich and companies pay more for the resources that they mine in this country or are we saying, *“Let us give everything for peanuts”* so that the rich can prosper and the poor can become poorer?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu.

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HON NYAMU: We have to strike a balance here and you have to be very careful of how you strike this balance. If you overtax the companies, that simply means that they will not expand or new companies would not be established, you will remain where you have been. Of course, if you under-tax them again you will lose leverage, so you have to strike a balance. What I want to emphasise here is in comparison to our own neighbours. (Intervention)

HON MOONGO: I think the Government is about to blame the rich people in the country while the duty of the Government is to provide jobs and take care of everybody's welfare, but they now want to place the burden on the rich people. The question is; why do the Government not just initiate a proper plan so that the poor can also benefit, rather than kicking the ball directly to the rich people?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: What you just said now is food for thought, go and think about it. I would like to at least shorten some of the things, whoever needs more details please get a copy of my statement later.

I would like to talk a little bit about the **Debt** of this country: The scariest aspect of the National Budget of the past five years is the growing reliance on debt. We live on debts, we move on debts, we sleep on debts and we breathe debts. In an earlier Budget Speech, the Minister praised their own frugality claiming that cost-saving measures and higher revenue collections contributed to the gradual reduction of debt, when in fact, this was not the case. The slow reduction in debt happened as a consequence of under-spending, which eventually surfaced in poor service delivery, especially in the Health, Education and Security Votes.

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Only when it was obvious to the electorate that State Hospitals, the schooling system and the Namibian Police were in such severe disrepute that these institutions failed to execute their mandate, did the Government wake up to the reality of under-spending and under-investment. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu, you have consumed your time and cannot allow you to continue. All the Parties are allocated time and between yesterday and today you consumed the 45 minutes that are allocated to you.

HON NYAMU: Yesterday, we had an allocation of 45 minutes and I think, only use 10 minutes of that and today we have another 45, which would add up to about 70 or 80 minutes. Debt is the problem which the Government is trying to hide... (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: You have consumed your 45 minutes today and you cannot transfer yesterday's minutes to today. Your time is up. I am sure your Colleagues will find a way. For those who wanted to speak, Honourable Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. I would like to make a short intervention on the general Debate.

At the onset Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members at this time of the National Budget General Debate, I first wish to salute the departed Comrade, a personal friend and a distinguished cadre of the land of the

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brave, the late Dr Kakururume, Mannetjie, Abraham Iyambo, who particularly during this part of the Budget Debate, would consult widely and eloquently talk to the hearts of many citizens of this growing Nation.

The Budget speaks to us all in various ways, how we manage our finances both at home and at business level. Generally, Budgets allow us all an opportunity to economically manage and grow personal or Public money in the manner that gives us positive output and confidence for the future.

Therefore, Honourable Speaker, in the words of Comrade Nandjila Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Namibia's Finance Minister; and she says; *"In this Budget, our Government is looking ahead not only over the next few years, but also over the next generation. We are taking major steps forward to build on the strong foundation we have laid since Independence. We are avoiding foreseeable problems while seizing new opportunities in the global economy. The reforms we present today are substantial, responsible and necessary. They will ensure that we are focussed on enabling and sustaining Namibia's long-term economic growth"*, so she concluded.

The essence of her statement informs us to manage the country's resources responsibly both for today and tomorrow. It cautions us to be tactful when dealing with domestic and foreign economies and further invites us to unlock the potentials of both our human and material resources to our advantage while smoothening the playing field internationally for our country to compete maximally.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, while we may have competent cadres at some positions within the Government and State-Owned Enterprises, in my view, we still have a long way to go in order for us to manage most of the growth points of our economy sustainably and at the level of acceptable performance. It is my wish in actual fact. I know, however, there are as well a plethora of issues that are retarding good governance, good performance and service delivery as expected out there. Let me simply illuminate some of the culprits that I would think would retard our economic growth points.

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I will firstly mention some of the State-Owned Enterprises; for example, **MTC and Telecom Namibia**. While these two SOEs are trying their level best to bring competition on service delivery to the clients, there is still visible lack of professionalism and more shortage of technical skills. These are there and we must admit. For instance, if one applies for service, these companies would take months to deliver to the client. You apply and they do not come forth, yet they are supposed to...(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I please ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question? Honourable Deputy Minister, thank you very much for your kindness to give me a chance to ask a question. Honourable Deputy Minister, you are raising a very critical point of having these people that were put in positions to deliver and are not delivering, which is very important. My question is; do you still remember that sometime back a couple of years ago, the Swapo Youth League leader by then Honourable Paulus Kapia, issued a directive that in all strategic positions in Government and Parastatals, the qualification for somebody to be appointed is that he/she should be a tested, committed, card-carrying member, even if you are unqualified, as long as you have a SWAPO card? If you have appointed those people, how do you expect these people to deliver?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ankama.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. In fact, if I was to be given an opportunity, I would appoint the SWAPO card-carrying members, because I believe they would be able to deliver, committedly and professionally. What we are saying is, we have individuals. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker may I ask my Honourable Deputy Minister a question? By appointing only SWAPO Party card-carrying members exclusively, would you not violate the Public Service Act and by extension the Namibian Constitution?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES Comrade Speaker, I wish that the Honourable President of SWANU could go there and make a research and find out who are there. These companies do not even ask whether you are a member of any Political Party. They ask whether you have the necessary qualifications and skills to deliver. I am talking about individuals within these companies, not everyone, who do not do their work professionally. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Shixwameni.

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HON SHIXWAMENI: Can I ask the Honourable Comrade from Seeis a small question? You are doing very good, Honourable Dr Ankama, in terms of talking of efficiency and delivery at State-Owned Enterprises. Do I understand you correctly that what you are saying is that the current State-Owned Enterprises' managers; those Chief Executive Officers and General Managers, are not delivering to the satisfaction of the Nation? Is that what I am correctly getting from you?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES Yes, my Colleague from Seeis, who has left the Party and its establishment. Basically what I am saying is, it is not necessary the management, these are technical people, for example, when you are apply for service, it is not the manager who will come and deliver the service, it is the people with technical skills who will come. These people do not come immediately, they take ages to come and if they at all come, I tell you, they will give you an incomplete service. The thing is, the service is either insufficient or it is marred by many technical problems, meaning that there is a need of efficient technical skills.

The worst is that technical teams would not even turn up for a long time, no matter how many times they are called in. It happens to individual households, private individuals and businesses alike and this has got negative financial implication to, especially investors. Therefore, expansion of these two SOEs in terms of coverage should take cognisance of the need to critically review administration, technical training and recruitment to address the said. Yes, I know they provide bursaries to students. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister.

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HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, may I ask Honourable Samuel Ankama a question? Thank you, Honourable Ankama, I just want to ask whether you know that Honourable Maamberua is not a SWAPO card-carrying member, he is a card-carrying member of SWANU and Honourable Tjihuike was a card-carrying member of SWANU, before he defected to Nudo and now he is a card-carrying member of Nudo? These two Honourable Members, occupied high positions in the SWAPO Party Government. Honourable Maamberua was a Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, while carrying SWANU card and Honourable Tjihuike was high-ranking official in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, he held the position of a Director. How come then that they ask these type of questions to you Honourable Samuel Ankama?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES Thank you very much Comrade Utoni Nujoma. These are valid questions. I am answering first. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Point of Information.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ankama was answering the question, is it a clarification or?

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HON MAAMBERUA: It is a clarification. I was never employed by the SWAPO Party Government. For your information, I served in the Government of the Republic of Namibia of which I have got an inalienable right to say so as a citizen of this motherland Namibia and as guaranteed, as a right combined in the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. I think that is clear.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ankama continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Yes, Comrade Nujoma as you rightly said, every citizen of this country has the right to apply for any kind of job and if they so qualify, particularly the Government of the Republic of Namibia would employ anybody. The Government does not ask whether you are a card-carrying member of this Party or the other Party. If Honourable Maamberua wanted to work for the Government, it was his choice and if he is so qualified, he would have been given a chance to do so.

Coming back to my topic, I am saying that it is not necessarily the management. It could be technical people. It could be administration people, however, I also know that these two companies provide bursaries for students to study in various fields. Yes, it is a good thing, but it is very necessary for them to put their houses in order to give service value. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko.

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Deputy Minister a small question. He is making a very good point. Thank you Deputy Minister. There is one thing that is really bothering me. We have got so many Parastatals in this country, I do not know the reason why you have decided on the two. There could perhaps be reasons only known by yourself, by the way you do not have to answer that. My question is, in any institution, why is there always a manager to manage an institution. You are a manager as Deputy Minister, you manage your Ministry. I think that, what is being expected of a manager is for him/her to get things done through other people and the moment the manager is ineffective and does not understand what is going on, you will not expect to see progress in the system. If you are excluding the manager, how do you expect the system to operate without an efficient and effective manager or manageress?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES Thank you very much for your question, I wish that you would have remained in your position as a Director. Why did you resign, by the way? You were a manager. You forgot that you were a manager? You do not have to answer the rest, Honourable Tjihuiko. Getting back to my speech, I want to say that it is very important that these companies' service delivery is equated to the value of money.

Having said that, I would like to move on to the **Non-Performing SOEs**. There are some Parastatals or parasite SOEs that are not worth existing at all. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Bezuidenhout.

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, it is normally not my habit to interrupt speakers, I just want to give

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information or elaborate on a point that Honourable Chief made. The service respond time of MTC, for example, is less than five minutes, once you purchase your SIM card. It is just a matter of inserting the card into the cell phone and this is similar with the services of Telecom which have got defined service delivery points. They are monitored and once they surpass delivery point, managers take over. There may be instances, here and there, that there was no network or technical infrastructure where it takes longer than six months or a year. I thought I would just elaborate on that information.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES I did not get his question, anyway, I will simply continue. There are some parasite SOEs that are not worth existing at all. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members (Intervention)

HON MEMBER: Please repeat that!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES I am just giving an overview of some of these things. I have a serious problem with Air Namibia and TransNamib, for example. You know them all anyway. That is your chance to think whatever you want to think about them. Year in - year out they keep on coming to the Government for bailouts as if they are the only ones by creation of this august House. Today they want money, tomorrow they want more money, very irritating in actual fact. Such SOEs usually come with business plans to the Government to get money, but later they abandon their business plans using the appropriated money left and right as they

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please or getting into unauthorised deals without informing the custodian, that is the Government. Eventually, they come and cry fool as if they are untouchables. Where does the money go and how come that such SOEs are given extra money than others, without punishing the money squandering teams? I would have understood, if, after having deviated from their original plans, they come and then say; “*here we are, we made a mistake*”, but then the Government would say; “*no, you made a mistake, fine, you cannot come for the second time if you come for the second time, the team that is responsible, should face the music*”. Honourable Members, I suggest that any SOE management that deviate from the business plan presented to Government, runs out of money or under-spend, be brought to book. Firstly, to account for the missing money before being shown an exit door. I strongly feel that sustainably performing SOEs. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: There are two of you at the same time. Minister.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Ankama a small question? Honourable Ankama, looking at the revenue of the Budget you are discussing, are you aware that State-Owned Enterprises contributed more than one billion to the Budget we are discussing.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ankama, you have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES Comrade Minister, I fully understand that and I appreciate those SOEs that have contributed greatly. I am talking about those non-performing ones; and in actual fact, if it was someone’s business or if it

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was my business, I would have fired them completely. Why? You cannot give input for business today and expect that business to lose out. Giving money out of my pocket, say for example, you have borrowed money from the bank to grow business, you grow business and eventually you are told at the end of the Financial Year, there is nothing. That would be unacceptable. I think we should punish those that are squandering the money and we should reward those that are outstanding. That is what I have said here. We should reward them in kind.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to move on, on the **Weather Behaviour**. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: May I ask a question, Honourable Deputy Minister? I wonder if the Minister of Trade today, can reveal all these business methods? What is going on? He is a provider, therefore, he is expected to deliver. Why are we left in darkness? All those that are involved in this money are not even mentioned and here you talk about punishment. Who is to be punished, the Ministers, Deputy Ministers? However, nothing is reported in this House, therefore, do not beat about the bush, call a spade a spade and you have to give everything in the right direction in terms of where it comes from, how it happened and who is involved. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ankama, you still have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say something about the **Weather Behaviour and Arid Namibia**, climate of change. There is no need for us to go and read in a library or read in newspapers, this time, it is rather a matter of observation and I am certain that many of us are witnesses to the weather change generally and globally.

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Honourable Speaker, drought, floods and nasty storms are daily occurrences around the world and sometimes here in Namibia. If these do not ring a bell into our ears, we should not be surprised to see the uncommon phenomena such as the storms that killed people and animals in the Kunene, Oshikoto, Oshana, Ohangwena and other Regions or the recent Lazarus tree that was knocked down to the ground by heavy rains and it decided later on to rise again after some people started chopping it to pieces. With reference to the said, we should think out of the box and plan on long-term projects, at least 5-10 years or even 15 years (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Can I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister, a small question on the tree? I would like the Honourable Deputy Minister to explain to us how climate change can get a tree that have fallen down to rise again, can the Honourable Deputy Minister, the Doctor, just explains to us the size of the tree rising up?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker, I believe the Honourable Member is from the other side. He is from the Region, so he would better go and ask the tree or the people there.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, with reference to the said, we should think out of the box and plan on long-term projects 5-10 or even 15 years or beyond, on mega projects that will turn the Oshanas or perennial

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rivers into man-made MEGA-DAMS to contain floods, reclaim land and retain water for our own use, especially during the dry season. Above all, Namibia, such a dry country runs out of water just six months after the rainy season. We can even use stored water for food production and other related economic boosters such as camping, fishing, lodging and many more. I usually say, we have all travelled this world over and have seen man-made lakes. One is just across our country here, the Kariba Dam. If we really embark upon such Mega Projects, that could take us even 20 years, so to say, as long as we budget for it annually. We will eventually reap the benefits of having done so.

On **Enhancement of Skills Transfer**: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Budget on the table appropriates money to Government Ministries and Agencies. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Minister, I am sorry to ask this question about the tree. Honourable Deputy Minister, I have seen in the past that in certain areas, trees belong to certain individuals and Political Parties. To whom does this tree belong to? Is it a SWAPO tree or what?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ankama, continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES Comrade Speaker, on the **Enhancement of Skills Transfer**; the Budget on this table right now appropriates money to Government Ministries and Agencies, but such Ministries and Agencies have to deliver services to the best expectations, there is need for

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appropriate competencies and corresponding skills within the system. In other words, when we give money to a Ministry, an Agency or SOE, there should be necessary skilled people on the ground to translate this Budget into implementable projects.

Not yet a lost opportunity, but Namibia had a golden chance right at Independence to scoop in a lot; for example, to have sent as many Namibians abroad for training and skills acquisition. I know of many friendly countries out there that still want to help Namibia in terms of long- and short-term training. Almost every year, there are scholarships offered by some countries including India, China and others. These scholarships or bursaries are forwarded to our Ministries, especially for people in employment already. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: Point of Order. I would like to ask the Honourable Dr a question. Honourable Dr Ankama, you are clearly concerned when you see low skills or no existence of skills in our establishments, I am sure this includes Ministries. I would like to agree with you so far, would you agree with me that in order to increase skills and motivate the would be managers, that people on the same level should be remunerate differently based on their capacity and skills and that includes Ministers?

HON SPEAKER: Comrade Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES Thank you very much, let me say that that is a different point altogether, that is fine. However, let me revert back to the skills; I

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was saying that, these scholarships or bursaries are forwarded to our Ministry, especially for people in employment, but those colleagues we have in positions, are either ignorant, jealous, pathetic or greedy as they do not allow juniors to get such chances. Only a few repeatedly get onto these on the job-training as offered. In some instances, senior officers take up these opportunities that are not even in the field of their operations. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, these opportunities (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: I do not want to disturb my teacher, because I am happy he is making better progress. However, my question is this; the more SWAPO trains skilled people and many experts, the more they run businesses at a loss. What do you think, what else can be done? You rather just have to step down because everything is at a loss.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Dr Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES Honourable Speaker, you know my humble student, Honourable Moongo, is a very poor student that is why he is unable to learn and where he is, it justifies that. I taught him, yes, he learned, but he is still there. He was attending Grade 12, evening classes some time back, he is not a good student at all, do not mind him. Honourable Speaker, what I am saying is that, these opportunities of on-the-job-training would enhance the necessary skills transfer from other countries; placement of our trained cadres into relevant skills and corresponding positions, thus cutting incompetency and poor service delivery out. At the same time, we should also consider sending a sizeable group of our capable youth to

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friendly countries to study in various skills of educational programmes. This prepares us as a country to ready ourselves in future in dealing with the socio-economic squabbles of the international house.

Now, on **Repealing of the Public Service Act**; this one remains my annual priority as long as I am in Parliament. I have said it many, many years. I am just repeating myself by saying and I am quoting what I have said last year and some other years back that; “review of prime instruments are an urgent requirement by this august House, because they stall the smooth implementation of our National Budget to full use. Imagine how heads of institutions are unable to dismiss an alcoholic, a thief, a lazy or undisciplined Civil Servant who deliberately and with impunity continues to neglect work one is paid for. For this, I strongly feel that Public Service Act 13 of 1995 should be repealed and a new *Public Service Bill* be brought here to this House. There are too many questions. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Point of Order. I do not ask questions at all. The point that I am rising on is about something that had happened quite long ago, but it has never been touched by the untouchables. I am not here to teach you, when you are in hell, some of you are in hell itself. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: No, Namibians do not go there.

HON RIRUAKO: Let me say this, Honourable Deputy Minister, today is the D-day, for everyone to know what is expected of him/her while in service, simply what needs to be done. We have been punished because of the Civil Servants and ended up like orphans today. How far are we

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going to be punished because of Civil Servants? You are referring to the character and background of these Civil Servants here, today. Can you make the two comparisons; we had to suffer and they had to polish up and where are we now? I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Answer? Honourable Dr Ankama.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES Honourable Speaker, what I am saying is that, of the number of Civil Servants, there are some of those who are not doing their job as they should, but I am giving an example, I am saying imagine (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of ICT.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Speaker, can I ask the Honourable Colleague a question? Comrade Ankama, you mentioned or pointed out that non-performing Civil Servants either be punished or something must be done, can we also draw the same analogy to Political Party that are sitting in Parliament not because they won elections, but because they scavenged the left over votes, can we draw the same analogy, do they deserve to be in Parliament?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Dr Ankama.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES Comrade Kaapanda, my senior Comrade, I think that you are just correct. There is a need to establish a monitoring body that would look at some of those that are not doing anything and there are some of those Political Parties, yes.

Honourable Speaker, I said some of the Civil Servants are a problem, just a problem, they are not doing what they should be doing, yet they are getting a monthly salary at the end of the month. What I am saying is that, for this I strongly feel that the Public Service Act (Act 13 of 1995) should be repealed and a new *Public Service Bill* be brought here even if it requires that Public Servants be contracted for a limited time with the possibility of renewals depending on individual skills. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Comrade, technology is not working probably here.

May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister, a question? Comrade Deputy Minister, you touched one point and I think the issue of repealing the Public Service Act is something that would attract attention as it affects the lives of so many people and so many Departments, Agencies, Ministries, etc.

Repealing is a nice word, but will we be in a position to repeal something when we do not have anything to replace it with or are you suggesting that we should maybe embark upon a process of coming up with something that is not yet in place, that would actually have mechanisms to deal with these kinds of situations? Can you suggest something concrete as to where we should start, because sometimes the custodians, the users of the Act are the ones who should recommend that this one should be looked

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into and where the deficiencies are, so that this kind of thing can be repealed in its entirety?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES Comrade Deputy Minister, I am talking from what I see, from my personal view. You are a lawyer, I am not a lawyer, so what I am saying here is, whoever is in charged with this should already see the problem. There is already a problem. The problem is that, we have got people in employment who we cannot change, push or do anything about, but we keep on having a person who creates problems within the Ministry or the Civil Service. This person is simply suspended and continues getting money until the end of three years or five year, so this is already a problem. Whoever knows how to go about it, should find a way of going about it. This Act has been amended repeatedly, therefore, we are not going to reinvent the wheel, repeal the thing and bring something better here. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Can I ask the Deputy Minister, a question? If you look at the record of suspensions in Ministries which last for between one and six years without the cases being brought to conclusion, we pay for a person who is sitting at home or having another job in a certain way while earning a salary in the Government; what concrete measures can my Colleague from Seeis suggest to solve this particular problem so that cases are heard and concluded faster and the person is either re-installed or completely fired from the job?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Dr Ankama.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES Comrade Speaker, Comrade Shixwameni, that is not my area of operation it should be directed to the right people. What I am saying is that, it morally unacceptable to have members of your team who, while others are building, another team is breaking down. Therefore some Public Servants are shamefully a problem, they are just not doing their work at all, but they are being paid every month. There is clearly a lack of morals. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: His time is apparently close to the end. Honourable Minister of Defence.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker may I ask Honourable Dr Ankama, a short question? Honourable Dr Ankama, by repealing the *Public Service Act*, are you sure that you are not proposing the law of the jungle? Secondly, blaming people who cannot defend themselves, are you sure that this is not totally unethical?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES Thank you Comrade senior, I think you are quite correct but the thing is, if we can come up with something better that would stop repealing this because even an additional Amendment to this Act has been repeatedly amended. What I am suggesting here is, if we can re-amend it, even if it means that Public Servants are contracted for five years, ten years and if they are not doing well, they are dismissed and if they are doing well, fine you continue with them. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Chief Ankama, mine is a household issue, how much more time do you have?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

I just have one page left. What I am saying is that, it is our noble duty as Members of this House to devise a mechanism to either to partly or completely overhaul the *Public Service Act* (Act 13 of 1995) in order to bring about efficient service to the level required. This is a request to repeal the *Public Service Act*, if that is the situation, if not, then we simply bring in the said changes, that is my feeling.

When referring to the outcome of the Budget on Page 33 of her statement, Comrade Finance Minister said that; “*the intended outcome go beyond budgetary allocations and lie in the timely execution and implementation of the funded programmes*”. We should understand that there is no substitute for hard and smart work.

Conclusively my admiration goes to the Finance Minister and all those who wholeheartedly contributed to the very important information of this 2013/2014 Annual Budget, themed “*Growing the Economy, Optimising Development Outcomes Jointly, Doing More with Less*”. I support this Budget and I thank you for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Swartz.

HON SWARTZ: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to make my contribution on the Bill. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister and her team for a job well done. My contribution will be on the Budget as a Political Tool, an Economic Tool and as a Legal Tool.

Political Tool: Budget is value ridden, signalling the Government’s ideological commitment, political philosophy and policy platform, although Budgets are expected to serve the ordinary citizens.

Economic Tool: It influences the direction of investments. Promotes

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employment, influences the redistribution of income and it can be pro-poor or non-caring.

Legal Tool: The Budget is prepared and adapted according to constitutional and legal provisions, shape economic priorities and accelerates economic growth.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to encourage our Government to implement the Development Budget on time, because this is another way of creating short and long-term employment. We accept foreign investors; they can bring in expertise, but make use of our own people to create jobs for our citizens. SMEs can attract foreign investors with skills and capital to start manufacturing, building supplies locally, this decrease the final prices as import taxes and VAT is not paid.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we in our country must make use of local material where possible to save on imports of material. For example tiles, we do have marble in Omaruru, we can make use of it to make tiles in our own country. We must concentrate more on manufacturing in our own country to create jobs for our citizens. At the end of the day the money will remain in our country.

Housing Backlog: Plots are too small and very expensive, we need to look into that as this is a national concern. The prices of houses go up year after year and the poor men on the street cannot afford it. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: We import tiles like these from other countries like Italy, why can they not be produced here?

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Chief, she is saying we must do that here.

HON RIRUAKO: Why not now, why can she not support that?

HON SWARTZ: Thank you Honourable Chief that is fine. The prices of houses go up, year after year but the poor men on the street cannot afford it. What measures are in place from different stakeholders to accommodate the low-income group of people? We welcome the amount that is allocated to the Housing Sector, but it is for the stakeholders to use this money for the right purpose.

Agriculture: I believe the Agricultural Sector can take in a lot of people to create employment and securer food for the Nation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the reduction in income tax comes as a relief for our citizens, we welcome it so that our citizens can afford basic amenities of life. Thank you Honourable Minister, we as a Nation do appreciate it. The awareness programme in connection with tax, that took place last year, is also needed by Parliamentarians so that we can be in a position to assist the communities in our respective Regions.

Pension: We thank the Honourable Minister of Finance, for increasing the pension payment for our elderly because it is currently very difficult for them to cope. We must make sure that in future that Government collects more revenue, but it is also for us as children and family to meet the our Government halfway by supporting our elderly citizens.

In conclusion, implementation must take place; let us walk the talk for the sake of good governance in our country. The cost of borrowing is too expensive because of the interest we have to pay and we still have to put measures in place to consider the debt of our country. Therefore, all Ministries must do proper planning to avoid overspending.

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Decentralisation and local participation: Fascicle decentralisation with accountability and community driven development must take place, we must encourage the best for our citizens. I thank you and I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable S Tjongarero.

HON S TJONGARERO: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, tabling of the *Appropriation Bill* is an event that we have anxiously been waiting for.

In the case where the content is reasonable and somehow well balanced to ensure certainty to continue with Government business to serve our Nation, one has the obligation to express appreciation.

I would like to focus more on the management and timeline to implement what has been planned.

Managing performance is a key issue in ensuring the efficient delivery of service. Having the Budget Cycle in mind, with all due respect, is it really not possible to reduce the Debate time and give more time to implementation?

The two Houses are debating the same *Appropriation Bill*. Why not revise the time limit for each House. We talk and talk, but the *Appropriation Bill*, basically remain the same and at the end of the day time is against us.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, **Vocational Training Centre in each of the thirteen Regions:** I am not sure whether we have already achieved this goal and if not, when will we complete this task?

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HON DR GURIRAB**

Shortage of classrooms and lack of sanitation facilities at some of our rural schools remain our headache. A reasonable amount has been allocated for the purpose. Whatever the next challenges may be, one would like to see satisfactory progress.

The **Green Schemes in the North Eastern part of our Country** are doing well. I have to commend our Government for that. Nevertheless I need guidance about other parts of our country with ephemeral rivers. What plans are there in the pipeline to promote vegetable consumption?

Housing: The total amount allocated for housing purposes is encouraging. Sometimes lack of service plots cause delays in construction of new houses and our people at grass root level are suffering as the result.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, with the present economic downturn and salary increments, I did not expect anything for our elders. Thanks to our Minister of Finance; *“Something, however little it may be is better than nothing”*.

I am hopeful that funds allocated will timeously be spend for the intended purposes. With these few remarks, I support the *Appropriation Bill*. I thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: On behalf of the Chairperson of the Legal Affairs Committee, I remind the Honourable Members that we are all invited to a Regional Parliamentary Workshop organised by Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) on *Addressing the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and Supporting an Arms Trade Treaty*, which calls for *The Role of Parliamentarians*. The workshop will take place tomorrow morning, what time, 09:00?

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: 09:30.

HON SPEAKER: 09:30 in the National Council Chamber. With that, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow 14:30 hours.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:45 UNTIL 2013.03.07 AT 14:30

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

HON SPEAKER took the Chair and read the Prayers and Affirmations.

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

**TABLING: REPORT OF THE 29TH SESSION OF THE ACP-EU
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETING HELD IN
BRUSSELS**

HON VAN DER WALT: Honourable Speaker, I would like to lay upon the Table the Report of the 29th Session of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Parliamentary Assembly and Inter-Sessional Meetings of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly held in Brussels, Belgium from the 18th to the 21st of September 2012, for note taking.

Honourable Speaker, Namibia is now in the position of the Co-Chair of the ACP-EU Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade. The ACP-EU members of the Committee on Economic Development, Finance and Trade under the Co-Chairmanship of Namibia met on Tuesday, the 20th of September 2012 to Friday, the 21st of September 2012, to consider and deal with the items on the agenda. After the adoption of the Summary Report of the meeting held in Horsens, Denmark on the 26th of May 2012, the members mainly discussed the following matters:

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1. ICT based entrepreneurship and its impact on development in the ACP countries;
2. Follow-up by the Commission on the resolution adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Horsens (Denmark) on *"Price volatility, the functioning of global markets for agricultural products and their impact on food security in ACP countries"*;
3. European Commission and Agenda for Change;
4. State of play of EPA process (negotiation and implementation);
5. State of play of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) process (negotiation and implementation) and the way forward;
6. Appointment of Co-Rapporteurs for the Committees;
7. Mid-term reviews of the 10th EDF Country Strategy Papers and National Indicative Programmes for the period 2008-2013; and
8. Urgent and topical issues.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to read the statement from Namibia as the Co-Chair of this Committee at the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and it reads as follows: *"Permit me to begin by complimenting you and your efficiency in the conduct of the proceedings of this august Assembly this far. Permit me also to extend on behalf of the entire delegation and myself our sincere appreciation to our European Colleagues for supporting our request for an extension of the EU Market Access Regulation Cut-off Date for a further two-year period until 1 January 2016."*

Honourable Speaker, based on that statement, I would like to thank the then Minister of Trade and Industry, now the Prime Minister, Dr Lindeque, the Namibian Ambassador to Belgium and his entire team. I am very proud of Namibia for having carried the flag for all the ACP countries and we are a real strong force in terms of these negotiations. I

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would also like to thank the ACP and the ACP Secretary-General for supporting our lobbying efforts. Permit me also express our gratitude to various ACP regional groupings that put in their efforts and weight behind this endeavour. Finally, I wish to congratulate the SADC-EPA group for spearheading this effort. I would like to say to the Co-President that the purpose why ACP-Africa, SADC in particular, insisted that the deadline for Market Access Regulation 1528/2007 be extended is only for one reason: Mainly that the European Commission and different ACP EPA negotiation regions in general and SADC in particular, have significant time to exhaustively negotiate all outstanding issues that the European Commission introduced on the negotiation table during the process. In order for the two-year extension to be meaningful and effective, we are of the opinion that the European Union should be willing to begin with negotiations on the unresolved issues.

The unresolved negotiation issues will recognised as important and valid negotiation issues of the SADC-EPA countries by Baroness Ashton when she was a Commissioner. We take note that Commissioner De Gucht continues to state that the Commission is flexible, while he has not yet engaged us on the unresolved negotiation issues. These include numerous issues such as; the Most Favoured Nations clause, export taxes and other.

Honourable Colleagues, these are all issues of concern, not only to SADC-EPA countries, but to numerous other countries as well. We do not know why the Commission is attempting to force us to agree to these demands, since they are not required to make this EPA agreement WTO compliant at all. We are calling for the establishment of a working group to start negotiating, specifically on the unresolved issues at the negotiation level.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, I wish to reiterate our appreciation to our Colleagues in the European Parliament for their support by voting for the extension of the EU Market Access Cut-off Date to 1 January 2016. Allow me to call upon our European counterparts to continue supporting us in concluding this important agreement.

With those few words, Honourable Speaker, I would like to Move that this Report be tabled.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAMWI**

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Any Ministerial Statement? Honourable Minister of Health?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I rise this afternoon as Acting Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, standing in for Honourable Nghidinwa to give a statement to mark the commemoration of the International Women's Day (IWD), which will be celebrated tomorrow, the 8th of March 2013. This day was set aside by the United Nations General Assembly as the United Nation's day for Women's Rights and International Peace during 1977. Since then the International Women's Day has become an important global celebration on which women from all walks of life come together to reflect on progress made, in calling for change on different issues that affect them. These issues amongst many others include:

- Living violence-free lives;
- Demanding equal access to resources; and
- Opportunities to fully participate in decision-making processes;

Honourable Speaker, Sir, the theme for this year's International Women's Day is; "*A Promise is a Promise – Time for Action to end Violence Against Women*". Allow me to state from the onset and in line with the theme that the Government of the day has made a promise and a commitment to uphold and protect the rights of the people through the Constitution by endorsing the noble principal of human rights as outlined in Article 10 of the Namibian Constitution. This provides an important foundation for our societal values on non-discrimination. In addition our Government has developed several forward-looking pieces of legislation aimed at entrenching the promotion and protection of human rights in our

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country, which include:

- Married Persons Equality Act (Act 1 of 1996);
- Affirmative Action Act (Act 29 of 1998);
- Combating of Domestic Violence Act (Act 4 of 2003);
- Combating of Rape Act (Act 8 of 2000); and
- Land Reform Amendment Act (Act 11 of 2005).

Just to mention but a few.

Namibia has also signed and ratified many international and regional instruments, such as:

- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and its Optional Protocol;
- the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Right of Women in Africa;
- the Beijing Declaration Platform for Action (BDPA); and
- SADC Protocol on Gender and Development;

Based on the above, you will agree with me that Namibia values gender equality and women's empowerment as one of the fundamental prerequisites for sustainable development. Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, I cannot agree more with the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, otherwise known as the UN Women and the former President of Chile, Ms Michelle Bachelet, as she addressed the UN Third Committee on the 11th of October 2010, when she said; *"the main stumbling block for the advancement of women over the past 15 years had stemmed not from a lack laws or policies, nor from a reluctance of Member States to sign up to Conventions, but rather from gaps in the implementation of existing legislation. Much more needs to be done to close the gaps between women's rights in the law and their enjoyment in practice. Gender equality must become a lived reality"*.

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Honourable Members, it is very evident that despite the progressive laws in place, Namibian women and girls face various forms Gender-Based Violence almost on a daily basis. These kinds of harmful and violent practices threaten the safety and security of our citizens, young and old and from all spheres of life. What is more unfortunate is the fact that even homes, which used to be safe havens, have become just as unsafe, because most of the violence is committed by someone that is known to the survivor or victim.

Some of the commonly cited causes of violence lie in the unequal power relations between some women and some men, which entrench male dominance over women; alcohol and substance abuse and lack or limited parental guidance to ensure that children grow up with values of mutual respect and non-violence.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as the theme dictates, all of us in Government and Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Societies are called upon to respond through the effective implementation of laws, policies and programmes aimed at eliminating Gender-Based Violence and especially violence against women and girls. Today I dare challenge all stakeholders – **we must translate our promises into action.**

To this effect I would like to emphasize that Namibia launched the National Gender-Based Violence Plan of Action on the 25th of November 2012, which is also the international day to end violence against women. This document has two key goals:

- a) To reduce the incidence of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and
- b) to improve responses to GBV.

The Plan of Action presents four pillars including prevention, responses to GBV, data collection, research and coordination and monitoring. This Plan of Action envisages the Reduction of GBV as a result of prevention initiatives; improved services for survivors of GBV; increased understanding of GBV in Namibia; and more efficient and effective interventions as a result of improved coordination and monitoring.

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HON DR GURIRAB**

Honourable Members, at this juncture permit me to commend the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab for the tabling of a very important Motion on 22 February 2013, requesting the Honourable Members of Parliament to condemn Gender-Based Violence especially against women and children, and to enforce relevant legislation aimed at the protection of human rights and dignity of all members of society. Honourable Speaker Sir, you made us, men proud, thank you. Evidently, Namibia has a strong political will to address Gender-Based Violence. Therefore, as a Nation, we need to empower our women economically to enable them to be independent. We also need to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all our programmes and activities and that our Budgets are gender responsive.

In conclusion, allow me to congratulate all women out there on this special day and to wish them renewed strength for the year ahead. Allow me to also pay tribute to the women and men, who through their efforts are trying to make a difference by making Namibia a safer place for all citizens. I am particularly encouraged to see many women around the country engaging themselves in small businesses to put food on their families' tables and seeing their children through schools. We appreciate you very much our dear mothers, keep up the good work!

Honourable Speaker Sir, Honourable Members, the time to act is now! I urge all of us to respond on time to prevent violence against women and children from occurring. Thank you for your kind attention.

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: All Members are invited by the Honourable Minister of Finance for a Consultative Meeting on the Financial and Market Institutions (FIM) billed for NAMFISA, which is scheduled to take place on Monday, 11 March 2013, in the Conference Room, C1 at Parliament from 08:30 until 17:00.

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HON SPEAKER: Before I ask the Secretary to read the First Order of the day, today's contributions are limited to three Parties in the House; NUDO, RDP and SWAPO. The Secretary will read the First Order of the day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE-SECOND READING:
APPROPRIATION BILL [B.1-2013]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on the Second Reading –
Appropriation Bill [B. 1 – 2012].

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, 6 March 2013, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any further Discussion? Honourable Tjihuiiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker for giving me an opportunity to say one or two things on this very important topic, the Budget. Honourable Speaker I am happy to note that, this time around the Honourable Minister of Finance, tabled a realistic and modest Budget. The Honourable Minister, at least admitted challenges that are facing the Nation and she also tried to avoid the known attitudes of the Ruling Party Ministers believing in their own propaganda. The National Budget is one of the critical tools at the disposal of Government to grow the economy through strategic infrastructure development and job creation.

The Honourable Minister tried to convince the Namibian people that this SWAPO-led Government is committed to efficient delivery of services to

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all Namibians. However, 22 years after Independence there are still Namibian children who are being taught in tents, under trees, sleeping on the floors at schools while some youngsters are sleeping in bushes in front of the SWAPO Headquarters and we are still exposed to the unhygienic bucket-toilet system in this beautiful land of the Brave.

Honourable Speaker, let us be honest with ourselves and admit that, the biggest disease affecting this Nation is our inability to plan properly, coordinate, monitor and to evaluate what we have done. There are so many overlapping activities within various Ministries and Government Departments such as the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, the activities in the Rural Development Departments and you then look at the responsibilities of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, specifically the Regional Development Planners. Why do we need our regional development activities to be coordinated through the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development while we have development offices that have already been put in place in the very same Regions? This is unnecessary duplication. I have been saying this for the last 8 years that I have been here and I will continue saying it, because these are the things that make us not to do things that we are supposed to do, wasting money unnecessarily.

According to Mary Parker Fillet, a management expert, "*coordination is plus of value of the group*", in other words Honourable Speaker; there are no structured coordinated systems in place between the various government Ministries and this led to few development resources that we have to be wasted unnecessarily.

Development Budget:

Honourable Speaker, it has been reported that 26% of the Total Budget is earmarked for development, only 26%. In some Ministries the implementation of Capital Projects is disappointingly below 50%, which means that from the 26 percent that has been given to Development Projects, 50% of the money is not being spent, this is criminal; this money is always going back to Treasury.

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This is money that was meant for development, to create jobs and grow the economy. The money that we are passing every year, telling the Ruling Party that; “*take this money, go and grow the economy to help our people*”. The Ministry, out their own will decided not to do anything and the money is returned to Treasury. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nyamu.

HON NYAMU: Honourable Speaker, my heart moved when I heard the remarks made by the Colleague. May I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Member, you emphasized the point that this Government does not have coordinating machinery in that each Ministry appears to be an independent Republic on its own. Are you, in other words saying that the Office of the President and that of the Prime Minister both lack capacity to coordinate the work of the Executive?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Let me continue. We are saying that we are serious about creating jobs for our people, but if look at the labour intensive capital projects that are being delayed (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Shixwameni.

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HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask the Honourable neighbour a question? You were saying that this under-expenditure on the Development Budget by Ministries is criminal; my simple question is, why are we allowing these criminals to walk freely or drive Mercedes Benzes and other cars on the streets when they belong in jail?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I did not say the Ministers are criminals; I said the activities are criminal, those are two different things. Honourable Speaker, look at the Labour Intensive Projects that have been proposed in this country (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Minister of Defence.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I know Honourable Tjihuiko is a very good gentleman; he cannot play with semantics to insinuate others. If you say the activities of the Ministers are criminal – a person becomes a criminal because of his actions, therefore, for the dignity of the House, it would be good for the gentleman that he is, to withdraw that statement.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, these are two different things, but for the sake of progress, I withdraw that. However, if the time allows, I will come back and explain that.

- Labour Intensive Capital Projects are being delayed to suit the interests of individuals, a good example is the construction of the Neckartal Dam, which has been delayed for almost two years.
- The Ministry of Defence's food tender will be delayed for three

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months, while billions worth of tenders were exempted from the normal procurement processes in order to suit the interests of a few individuals.

The main reason why these projects are being delayed is because there are people with interests in these projects and as long as the interests of these people are not met, nothing will happen. The project in the south could have created thousands of jobs, it could have meant a lot to the people of the south, but up to now they have to wait because there are people that saying, “*unless I am being taken care of, nothing will happen*”. These things are being allowed, they are going on.

Let us look at what happened to the GIPF millions – why is it that nobody has been arrested?

Honourable Speaker, it seems that white-collar corruption has become an acceptable norm in Namibia. If it was a small *fish* that have stolen a few dollars somewhere in a Ministry, that person could have been jailed. Why is it that the people responsible for the disappearance of all these millions from Government have not been brought to book? (Interjections)

HON MEMBER: You should provide the Police with this information, I guess!

HON TJIHUIKO: Commissions of Inquiries has been established, for instance in the case of the GIPF, reports have been tabled, what happened to those report? Why is it that nothing is happening? And here somebody what to defend by saying that we should provide the Police with information while the Police already has the information. The Minister admitted that there is corruption; he could not have arrived to this conclusion without facts or information, why are these corrupt people not arrested? Do you want me to provide the information? (Interjections)

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HON MEMBER: Yes go ahead!

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Defence.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The Honourable Member is quoting from the tabloids, people can only be found guilty of corruption by a Court of Law, not through tabloids. Tabloids quote people out of context because they want to increase their sales. This House is a noble House and it is a House of laws, and we should not find people corrupt through insinuations and rumours. I, therefore, ask the Honourable Member to withdraw that statement that there are corrupt people in his opinion.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, this information is not coming from Honourable Tjihuiiko and the Minister has not yet reacted to it. If the information is incorrect, I think it is the duty of the Minister to react and put it right. I am courageous enough to raise it on the Floor of this House. Everybody on the streets will know that the Honourable Minister, Nahas Angula has admitted as it was said here, and he has not said anything yet.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in the *Villager* newspaper of the 22nd of February 2013, it was reported that out of the 31 Ministries and Government Departments, only 7 have an above 50% execution rate. (Interjections). This is not my information, it is public information, the Minister will respond and put it right. In the note to the expenditure rate...(intervention).

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question? Honourable Tjihuiiko, you always want to say things that you are not comfortable with. If you are comfortable with the information, do not say it is not your information; rather get your facts right first. Why are you telling us this if you are not sure of what you are saying? Are you trying to inform the public out there that you are telling them untruths? In other words, should I use the right words; are you lying to them?

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much good doctor. Your information is only based on the information at your disposal. I am not the only person reading newspapers and if you see something in the newspaper that is distorting your information, it is your duty to correct it.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, Point of Information – the Honourable Minister of Finance provided this book, which should guide our Debates, not newspaper reports. I want Honourable Tjihuiiko to turn to Pages 11, 12 and 14 of this book titled, *Government Accountability Reports 2011/2012*. The execution rates of Government programmes are provided there. This rumour mongering in the House demeans the House. Thank you.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. It is easy to always try and defend ourselves, it is normal. Let us get things done; *“let action speak louder than words”*.

HON MEMBER: The heavy weights are even standing up now.

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RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Point of Information – this is a very Honourable House and we are Honourable Members. That is why we demand to be called Honourables around the villages. The Honourable Member said the GIPF millions disappeared and nothing has been done. An Honourable Member is saying that in this Honourable House while all these cases including AVID and ODC are being investigated by the Police and are in the Courts. How can an Honourable Member stand in this Honourable House and tell a story like that? Is he aware that these instances are with the Courts and are being investigated by the Police?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, *Information is power*, if we are keeping information to ourselves then we would not know. How long does it take for the ODC money to be investigated, 20 years, 50 years? Any sound-minded person would love to know what happened to our money. You must, therefore, give us information on a regular basis so that we know these things are being investigated.

In response to the expenditure rate, the National Planning Commission had this to say, “*this demonstrates a slow rate of implementation*”. Honourable Speaker, who is to blame if money allocated to Ministries and Departments through the Budget, for economic growth in order to create jobs and to address the problem of poverty is not utilised? Is it the Opposition Parties? Is it the imperialists? Is it the capitalist or is it perhaps the Ruling Party’s Ministers and Permanent Secretaries who are delaying speedy and timely implementation of Government policies and programmes? Someone needs to take responsibility for all these delays.

As long as SWAPO sticks to the notion of appointing people in strategic positions based on political affiliations as opposed to a person’s calibre to deliver, excluding better-qualified Namibians because of their political affiliations, nothing will change. As long as we have Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Permanent Secretaries who have guaranteed jobs for life, we must forget about any improvement in our delivery system. The SWAPO-led Government has perfected a system of “*doing nothing*”,

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complain and putting blame on others. Problems affecting this beautiful country of ours are simply lack of proper planning, lack of coordination and unnecessary duplication of responsibilities. We instead react, TIPEEG is a reactive programme, we did not join our hands and decided on what needed to be done.

Honourable Speaker, I would like us to interrogate this question: What is the priority of our Government? If the Government Party budgets only 26% of the total National Budget on Capital Projects and spends less than 50% of this; is SWAPO really serious about job creation, economic growth and poverty alleviation?

Thirteen Years of Decentralization:

Thirteen years ago the then Minister of Local Government, Dr Nickey Iyambo introduced a Bill in this Honourable House on decentralization. The Honourable Minister representing both the Cabinet and Government had a noble cause and he convinced the Chamber to approve that Act. It has been on the Table for the last 13 years. The Minister 13 years ago said: *“In Namibia, we have two very important concerns which have historically been denied to the majority of the people; democracy and development – while all our national indaba are directed at achieving an ever higher stake in this respect there is none as crucial for the attainment of those noble objectives as decentralization, which we committed ourselves to by the Constitutional provision”*.

HON SPEAKER: The House shall rise for refreshments.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:25

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko, you have the Floor.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am close to concluding. Let me continue with what the Honourable Dr Iyambo said: *“the only guarantor for democracy is people making their own political, cultural, social and developmental decisions at their own level. The only safeguard of safe, sustainable development is when people participate in setting their own priorities, planning, implementing and monitoring them and evaluate these themselves within the overall national interest”*. Honourable Speaker, the priority was set by the Government, the Bill was accepted, the objectives of having this decentralization programme to be implemented was properly stated by the Honourable Minister 13 years ago, and this has not yet been implemented up to now. The best way to develop this country would be to give people the responsibility to develop themselves and to be able to take their own decisions at their own level. Why is it that these things are not being done?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker. I would like to ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question. How do you understand decentralization, Honourable Tjihuiko, because decentralization is not federalism? Do not advocate your points in a federal manner, Namibia is a Unitary State. You, the Honourable Member are supposed to encourage the Ministries in various Regions to meet with their Councillors, Traditional Leaders and Governors and plan on decentralization together. This is not solely the decision of the Ministries. We, the lawmakers are the ones to disseminate the correct information to the people out there, but not confuse them. Thank you.

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HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The Honourable Deputy Minister is correct, however, I have not said anything, but just quoted the good statement by the Honourable Minister. I really like that statement so much, because what the Minister was saying is what we need to get in place in order for us to get development to the people. In fact that is what the SWAPO Cabinet decided to do, 13 years ago. The Honourable Minister also highlighted the reason why we need to decentralize – *“in my view Regional Councils can raise and collect taxes and other payments for instance, livestock levy – this is to benefit the Regions: User charges, grazing fees, property tax, commercial farms and other land taxes, royalties from natural resources, forest production levy, turnover tax from businesses, toll gate fees, payroll tax, abattoir fees, dog tax, community water management fees, informal trade licenses fees and tax collection fees.”* If you want a license to trade in Okakarara, you must travel to Windhoek to the Ministry of Trade and Industry. One must also travel to Windhoek to pay your dog tax. These are some of the reasons why Cabinet resolved, to decentralize in order to empower our people in the Regions and take development to the people. You are not doing it; you are keeping it Windhoek, because you want to have control over this. The people we are talking about, are elected representatives of the people. These Representatives were elected directly by the people themselves, unlike us who were elected on the Party list. These people promised to deliver when they were canvassing for votes, and they are now being frustrated by Ministries here who do not want development to go to the Regions.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF VETERAN AFFAIRS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. On a Point of Information. I agree with everything Honourable Tjihuiiko is saying there as long as you do not underestimate us by saying that the people up there are elected directly by the people, unlike us. Do not forget the central tenet that we are a Unitary State; do not

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underestimate that important component from where all others should follow. Do not take it that, if people in the Regions were elected directly by the people and therefore, they take the centre stage than the central Government. We are a Unitary State. Otherwise everything you said was correct except that preparations have to be made. Thank you.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, I would like to touch on something that is bothering my mind. This is the money that is allocated to Parastatals every year.

Honourable Speaker, an amount of N\$13.7 billion in the estimates of revenue and expenditure was budgeted for State-Owned Enterprises and other funds:

Before I touch on that, I believe that the reason why Government creates Parastatals is to offload certain non-core functions to the institutions so that these activities can be run on cost recovery basis. In other words it means that, once the Parastatal has been created, it ought to be able to look after itself by taking that responsibility away, so that Government can concentrate on the basics. We have Parastatals in this country which are being given money by the State to pay for salaries. Some of the Chief Executive Officers of these institutions even receive higher salaries than the Prime Minister and Ministers. However, if the money is provided by the State, what is the purpose of having some of these Parastatals?

While we have the Development Bank of Namibia that has been given money to fund SMEs at the same time N\$160 million has been allocated to the SME Bank. Who is now dealing the SMEs? Why do we have to budget money for the Development Bank, if the SME Bank is in operation? Why should we pay the salary of the Chief Executive Officer of the SME Bank? These are some of the things that some of us do not understand. You have N\$13.7 billion over three years that is being put in this bottomless pit of institutions that will never be able to sustain themselves. Why can we not revert these functions back to Government,

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so they can be carried out by a certain Department in one of the Ministries?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. May I ask Honourable Tjihuiko a question? You mentioned that some of the service-rendering State-Owned Enterprises like NamWater are facing financial difficulties while at the same time some of your colleagues from your Party are instrumental in discouraging people from paying their bills so that NamWater can write-off their debts. How can these Parastatals then be able to sustain themselves if the customers are discouraged from paying these basic services? Thank you.

HON TJIHUIKO: That question has already been answered through the Motion I tabled here, which was extensively discussed. We laid down the parameters within which the Government should be operating to assist people to access water, because water is life. We had agreed that something must be done so that water cannot be disconnected. I can, therefore, not go back to that.

I have a problem with Air Namibia, and it is not for the mere fact that it is Air Namibia, but because any technical department in the Airline Industry that is being run by a person without the technical understanding of the Industry will continue having problems. We must get the right people in the right departments. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Iyambo.

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HON MINISTER OF VETERAN AFFAIRS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I think Honourable Tjihuiiko, who is complaining the Ministry that is still continuing budgeting for the SME Bank, needs a lot of information. Do you not think that, as long as you have not optimally capitalized a institution that you have established at the beginning, that institution will never be able to function properly? I think it is on that basis that the Ministry of Finance finds it necessary to continue giving money to the Bank to capitalize it properly. That is also the problem we have with Air Namibia, if you want to be systematic with it. Thank you.

HON TJIHUIKO: Let us capitalize the SME Bank, however, let us transfer SME related functions to the SME Bank. Honourable Minister, I would have been comfortable to have budgeted the other N\$250 million and transfer all the SME portfolios from the Development Bank to the SME Bank. My concern is the duplication of activities; here we have the SME Bank while we have the Development Bank on the other hand doing the same thing. Why can we not have one Bank and capitalize it properly and do the job? Finally, what is this NAMZIM Newspaper? This is supposed to be a joint venture between the Governments of Namibia and Zimbabwe, how much money did Zimbabwe put into this project? I am sure they will come asking for money every year, but how much money does the other partner put in? What does this project mean to us to put N\$57 million into it, while our country is suffering from drought, and children are taught under trees? What benefits are we deriving from this partnership? (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nujoma.

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HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information, Honourable Speaker, I would like to inform the Honourable Member that we lauded this Southern Times here, in this House that it was the most analytical, constructive and objective newspaper in reporting on stories about our history, our cultures, where we currently are and where we are going, analysing development in the SADC Region and giving concrete facts. What is the problem now, if it is one of the progressive newspapers we have today? You have now forgotten that it was decided here in this House by everybody including yourself.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, let us examine our priorities. If the priority of the Ruling Party is to take N\$57 million and fund a propaganda newspaper in Zimbabwe, that is not NUDO's priority; our priority is to increase the old-age pension with at least N\$100.00 instead of N\$50.00, rather than spending this money on a propaganda newspaper in another country.

With that, Honourable Speaker, I support the Budget.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Naholo.

HON NAHOLO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I rise today to make my humble contribution to the Budget Debate and try to do justice to this Budget. First of all, I would like to start off by saying that African politics are so inclusive and more extensive that to a certain extent, most of the time politicians tend to hide behind politics and forget to bring the real truth to the fore; a behaviour which always tend to be a source of all the misfortunes in many African countries of which Namibia is not an exception.

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When, for example, a Budget is presented to this Honourable House, and in case you are a visitor to Namibia listening to the presentation, you would think that this country is prospering and the State is properly in control of everything. You would develop an elusive mind and forget of what is truly happening at the grass roots in practical terms. Fortunately, most people here are aware of the reality and the truth and cannot perpetually be **deceived**. This kind of attitudes has necessitated corruption to increase to the highest degree and be accepted as a norm in the corridors of the State and Government.

Honourable Speaker, we do not enjoy talking about corruption, it is not something we enjoy talking about, however, if those that allows corruption to take place unchallenged, we will be forced to always address this issue, which causes ill feelings amongst Members in this House. (Intervention).

HON KAZENAMBO: On a Point of Order and Point of Information. Honourable Naholo is making a serious charge, which will not go unchallenged. There is no truth in what he is saying that corruption is tolerated at the highest level by this Government. There is no iota of truth in that. This very same Government has created an arm called the Anti-Corruption Commission. As we speak right now, there are cases of corruption before Court, the Judiciary, which is an independent arm of Government, is dealing with it. Therefore, what he is saying is devoid of any truth and corruption is not only prone to any member of society. They even took each other to Court recently, because of failing to adhere to certain procedures.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Naholo.

HON NAHOLO: Thank you once again, Honourable Speaker. I do not

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know how to stop speaking the truth. It is difficult to stop speaking the truth, if you have a heart that is not able to lie, because I am a very honest man and it is very difficult to hide the truth. Those who are dishonest are always scared when the truth is being told.

While apartheid was an institutionalised violence against humanity, nowadays corruption is worse than apartheid itself. I still need the Finance Ministry, particularly the Minister herself to answer or address the questions of corruption when presenting the Budget to this Honourable House. Whenever Public Funds get into the wrong pockets, it would obviously inflict serious harm to the State coffer and retard the development process of our country. I am neither an accountant nor an economist; I, therefore, need to know how you reconcile with embezzled funds during the Budget formulation process? What do you call it – is it money over-utilized or money owed? For this Budget Debate, I urge the Honourable Minister of Finance to be accountable to this Session as stated in her Budget Speech that one of the virtues is “*accountability*”.

For instance, the Honourable Minister needs to tell this august House, how does corruption take place, even within the Ministry of Finance itself, without the Minister saying a single word at all – let alone offering an apology to the entire Nation, because she is the custodian of the State finances?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Order, may I ask Honourable Naholo a question? Honourable Naholo, you are making very serious allegations on corruption, which Honourable Kazenambo already countered, by saying that corruption is allowed in Government and is “*roaming*” around corridors of some of the high Offices. Are you aware that you are not telling the Public out there the truth? Secondly, why were you suspended from your previous

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employment to be later rescued by the Court of Law? It makes me think you were suspended, because you are corrupt.

HON NAHOLO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I must proceed.
(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. On a Point of Information, the Honourable Member stated that the Minister must be accountable and he also stated that he is not an accountant, in fact he is a “*Master of Nothing*”. Here we have the Accountability Report of the Honourable Minister, What more do you want? If you do not understand, go and read this document. That is where the Minister is explaining as to what happened to our finances, taxes collected, and so forth and this is the Accountability Report, therefore, go and read first, and then you can take the Floor. Otherwise you are wasting our valuable time. Thank you.

HON NAHOLO: Honourable Speaker, I hope Honourable Nujoma was the last Member to interrupt my contribution, I am afraid my time is limited and I will not allow more questions for now, however, Honourable Members, I will only invite questions after my presentation.

The other issue is that poor countries are poor, because those who have power make choices that create poverty on one part of the society, while at the same time enrichment schemes for the elite few are increasing. In this country we have some people who are topping the list of millionaires, but we do not know how they managed to become as such.

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Furthermore, most countries of the world invest heavily on education and achieve high rates of literacy and education. Daron and James Robinson (2012) in their book called; **Why Nations Fails: the Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty**, agree with this sentiment, and I quote...(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE

RESOURCES: Point of Information. The Honourable Member is one of the kind of persons whom we refer to as having a *long-noses*, meaning, this are people who likes poking their noses in other people's matters. The Honourable Member, is always suspicious of anyone with money, thinking that the person has stolen the money. That is why he questions everyone with millions, asking how they got their money – why do you not concern yourself with legitimate issues, instead of poking your nose into other people's businesses? Stick to facts and avoid allegations.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Naholo.

HON NAHOLO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Some other time wasted again.

I was referring to the book by Daron and James Robinson (2012) in their book called; **Why this Nation Fails: the Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty**, agrees with this sentiment and I quote; "*the ability of economic institutions to harness the potential inclusive markets, encourage technological innovation, invest in people and mobilise the talents and skills of a large number of individuals is critical for economic growth*". While this is a reality everywhere in the world, Honourable Speaker, I was astonished during the presentation of my Motion on the 27th of February 2013, on the **ROLL CALL OF THE**

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PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED EDUCATED NAMIBIANS: *the gathering of 'knowledge-base' cadres*, that the Honourable Members of this beautiful House, who in truth know how economic growth of any country is achieved, were adamant that that vital Motion should be dumped into a dustbin of Motions, even though it is an uncompromisingly truth that we need to gather all the talents and skills we have produced since Independence, in order to develop ways on how to use them in developing the country further, and as a result, it will translate automatically into the economic growth through various development initiatives.

In this regard, the Honourable Minister herself in her Budget Speech gave a good example that TIPEEG focuses on Agriculture, Tourism and so forth – of which one of the reasons of TIPEEG is to increase Public Expenditure in order to increase economic growth. How would you then just increase Public Expenditure in the specific fields if, in the first place, you do not even know who the qualified citizens/cadres in those fields are, so that you can rely on their expertise to develop capacity in others. By the way, the Minister did not truly answer the question of how many jobs were created by TIPEEG and who the specific beneficiaries of this project are. The public needs to know.

However, Honourable Speaker, this is just one of the similar things I have alluded to at the beginning of this intervention that, most politicians would rather play politics than unleashing the whole truth.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information. Honourable Naholo declared himself to be a truthful person, but now he is telling the Public out there that TIPEEG did not create any jobs. That is why you are being advised to first read and get you facts correct, before you say anything. Take the Macroeconomic Framework document and go to Page 22 – Regions, it will show you the number of both permanent and temporary employees, as well as the total. As we speak, TIPEEG created 7,326 permanent jobs. We must always be appreciative, otherwise we are going to steal and engage in the very same

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corruption practices which you condemn. Being in the Opposition does not mean that you should be unprofessional and disagree with everything, 7,000 means a lot. Let us rather be encouraging by saying; let us undertake to increase the permanent jobs from 7,000 to whatever higher number, so that people can understand you.

HON NAHOLO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I think we have a problem in the House and that is poor listening skills and short memory, because people listen and then forget. I am referring to the Honourable Minister's Budget Speech and she never mentioned the number of people employed through TIPEEG in her speech. (Interjections). Our problem is that we always have a certain mindset when someone takes the Floor, which makes it difficult for Members to follow what is being said. Therefore, let us do away with that mindset.

Allow me to now turn my attention to the commendable development within the Budget by focussing on the observation and impressions I made as I listened to the Minister's Budget presentation; maybe you will be more relieved now.

Commendable Developments within the Budget are:

- The Reduction of Income Tax;
- The Increase of Government Revenue;
- The Inflationary Adjustment on the Social Safety Nets, even though a N\$50 increase for the pensioners is too little as it will not enable them to maintain a decent standard of living and the enjoyment of social and cultural opportunities as guaranteed in the Namibian Constitution (Article 95). Since last year, we have been appealing to the Minister of Finance, were we proposed an increase of N\$1,000 as the basic on top of which we could now start adding our increases;

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- The topping of education as a priority is good, because then there will be no effective production as well as good returns in the end. However, I need to sound a warning here that whereas a number of children from disadvantaged communities who are completing one year of pre-primary education has increased from 5,000 to 12,500 – the failure rate, teenage school drop outs and lack of proper educational materials remain a serious challenge. Impoverished and unemployed parents still cannot transport, dress or feed their kids to go or to reach school. The Government up to now has still not provided the stationery and other teaching aids to primary schools, which is “*free of charge*”;
- The Ten-year Namibia Financial Sector Strategy; I hope that within this strategy, the GIPF scandals will be dealt with.
- The Rolling out of the Financial Literacy Initiative.

Areas that Needs Improvement in this Budget and Future Budgets:

- Just like in the previous years, this was just another academic Budget presentation, which is good on paper, but less will be achieved during implementation, in practical terms. The Honourable Minister of Finance, in the previous years has been beautifully baptizing our Budgets like; *pro-poor, human centred*, etcetera. Up to now the poor continue to be poor. Our people are still feeding at the dumpsite, while we are calling our Budget *pro-poor*. Let us stop cheating the Namibian people. I am telling you next year is the election and this is your last time to cheat the Namibian people.
- The Honourable Minister said in her presentation that Namibia must be “*confident about the future!*”

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kazenambo.

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HON KAZENAMBO: I am sorry that because of this provocation, we are now going to take time away from the other Colleagues. On a Point of Information, it is not true that the SWAPO Government is cheating on the Namibian people. There is no truth in that. Therefore, the Honourable Member must withdraw that. If we were cheating the people then we could not have submitted this and allow the Debate to continue. We are, therefore, no cheaters, they are the ones who have been rejected by the people. They ran to the Courts and were rejected there as well. They turned against each other and we are waiting to see how you are cheating on yourselves.

HON NAHOLO: Honourable Speaker, please bear with me, with due respect, I am about to conclude.

- The Honourable Minister said in her presentation that Namibians must be “*confident about the future!*” My question is; how, if in practical reality things are going wrong? Eventually this would continually be part of the mere promises our Government has been making all along.
- Every intelligent person in this country knows that, most SOEs need serious intervention, yet the Honourable Minister is saying; “*SOEs are not out of control.*” I do not want to dwell much onto this; Honourable Chief Ankama was very excellent yesterday, he did justice to this issue of SOEs and the Colleague, Honourable Tjihuike, just spoke about it now, therefore, something needs to be done in this area. I was saying; every intelligent person in this country knows that most of the SOEs need serious intervention. What the Minister is saying that; “*they are not out of control*”, is a mere attempt to sweep the real truth under the carpet. There is a cancer of low productivity in most SOEs, which the Government could stop if there was a political will. The habitual bailouts, place acute constraints on Government fiscal position, but what is the Finance Minister doing to stop this rot?
- Like the Namibia Wildlife Resorts - NWR, the Minister informs us that a new business plan for Air Namibia was developed to turn around

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- the Airline business to profitability. Was there no existing plan and what has happened to it? Did it end up in the dustbin or where is it?
- It is very disturbing to hear most senior Members of Parliament and Ministers, defending the continued bailout of Air Namibia, saying that it is a symbol of national pride, however, we are always reminded that “*pride goes before a fall*” or has it perhaps changed nowadays?
- Another claim is that Air Namibia is transporting tourists, but Honourable Speaker, it was reported in December last year that the number of tourists who visited Namibia from overseas in 2011 declined by 10 percent compared to the previous year, 2010. The number of Europeans who visited Namibia last year was 11.2 percent lower than in 2010. There was no growth in tourist numbers from North America and there was a decrease of 9 percent from other non-African countries. Therefore, I cannot agree more with my Comrade, Honourable Von Wietersheim, who has recently called for a Parliamentary Standing Committee to investigate all viable alternatives and make recommendations for rescuing the bail-out-driven airline, including possible liquidation.

Real Issues the Budget Failed to Properly Address:

In my conclusion, Honourable Speaker, this Budget has not drastically addressed the real socio-economic issues such as:

- Unemployment;
- Land acquisition;
- Poverty, for example, how would we attend to the needs of our suffering brothers and sisters in the increasing informal settlements);
- Violence/crime;
- Abuse of illegal substances and excessive use of alcohol;
- Housing for the poor. We know NHE is only for the middle and upward class;
- Food shortage in the country;
- Rural development initiatives;

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- Climate change – there is no clear amount set for climate change, etcetera.

I, therefore recommend that the Honourable Minister should heed the call to clearly include these pertinent issues in this current Budget under discussion. The Nation wants these issues included in the Budget, because they are truly socio-economic challenges facing us.

As a Nation we also want to see the decrease of the deficit and the reversal of the debt increase.

Let us stop making good promises that differ with practice!

Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for your kindness.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Naholo. Honourable Deputy Minister of Safety and Security.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. First and foremost, let me also thank the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for a well thought Budget aimed at sustaining growth, building much-needed infrastructure and promoting competitiveness for the country. My intervention will be very brief. I will comment on some key elements and ask questions for clarity on the following issues:

1. Economic growth with limited job creation;
2. TIPEEG employment;
3. Housing problems;
4. Subsidies;
5. Transfers to State-Owned Enterprises; and
6. Low interest rate environment.

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All these issues are referenced in the Macroeconomic Framework of 2013/2014 to 2015/2016.

Economic Growth:

While the domestic economy has been growing at around 4% over the past few years, I noted that this growth has not been able to create the much-needed employment for our people. As I said, it is referenced from the Macroeconomic Framework, I would like to quote from the Macro Economic Framework Page 21; *“Although the GDP grew by 3.4 percent on average over the review period, the economy failed to create jobs at commensurate rates. In fact, the formal economy shed more jobs than it created new ones, thus, contributing to increased unemployment. This was mostly due to the fact that the primary industries recorded negative growth over the review period because the extractive sectors are not only capital-intensive in nature but were also subjected to negative commodity price fluctuations, labour unrests, etc.”*

My question is based on the second line of the quote: *“the formal economy shed more jobs”*. The Minister could maybe explain to me, what kind of formal economy has shed more jobs? – As I said, I wanted some clarity on some of the issues.

In this regard, I urge the relevant Agencies or Ministries to continue with their efforts of trying to find means and ways that will grow the economy and create employment at the same time for the majority of the unemployed population, especially the youth.

The introduction of the Integrated Employment Information System (IEIS) is a commendable initiative and a step in the right direction to register job seekers and find suitable employment for them.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Minister of Finance, still on the employment issue; the programme of TIPEEG to some of us has made tremendous effort to create jobs for our people. Some people are criticising it, but some of us are welcoming the effort of this programme, more especially when it comes to the permanent jobs that were created. If

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you look at this document, on Page 22, Table 5, which I think Honourable Ilonga also studied, it clearly states the number of permanent and temporary jobs that were created and the total number of jobs created by this programme. My question is; were these jobs, especially the permanent ones, created by large companies or by newly created SMEs? We want to encourage the establishment of SMEs in order to create more employment. However, if you have regard to this same Page, Table 5, you will notice that Omaheke needs to be encouraged to work harder, because they are the lowest in terms of creating permanent jobs. The programme is still active and before it comes to an end, we really need to encourage the leadership in the Omaheke Region to push for creation of more jobs. Looking at Khomas, for example, it has created more jobs than other Regions, i.e. 839. Oshana has created more jobs on a temporary basis. I think, some Regions have done wonders. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: I am sorry to disrupt the Honourable Deputy Minister. May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a small question? Honourable Deputy Minister, you are doing fine, honestly speaking you are talking like NUDO. My question is on Omaheke; according to your own analysis, what could have been the problem why Omaheke is performing so poorly? Do you not think that, that is perhaps the punishment that has been given to the people of Omaheke after this high drama of NUDO members joining SWAPO and returning to NUDO in big numbers, that it has been decided that they must be punished, do you not think so?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I thought the Honourable Member

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was going to ask an interesting question on the economy, but he just went to straight to politics and that is not what we want to hear. I will never be a NUDO member, I grew up in SWAPO and I remain a SWAPO member. I, therefore, do not speak like a NUDO member.

To proceed, I was saying that the leadership of Omaheke, should be encouraged to create more jobs. I am happy that Khomas have done well, they have created 839 jobs and Oshana have created 2006 temporary jobs, which is good. The other Regions should learn from these two Regions.

Honourable Speaker, let me continue with **Housing:**

While I agree that the situation of rising prices and unaffordability of houses may have been caused by slow land delivery and land auctioning, I am, however, of the view that the current housing problem cannot be addressed through *ad hoc* intervention, but rather through a housing master plan for the entire country. We should use this master plan as a guide to set targets for constructing houses depending on the population of our town.

Therefore, the new initiative under the Ministry of Regional, Local Government, Housing and Rural Development to come up with a master plan is a step in the right direction, which deserves the full support of every citizen.

Subsistence and Transfers to State-Owned Enterprises:

Honourable Speaker, while substantial amount of funds have been transferred to these entities through budgetary support, little has been received by Government in the form of dividends from these Agencies. We, therefore, need to continue with efforts to find innovative ways to make these entities to become self-sustaining. This will enable the Government to redirect these resources currently supporting SOEs towards social and economic programmes that will directly benefit and improve the welfare of our people. There are some Traditional Leaders in this country who have innovated some new ideas, when they see that they have had a good harvest; they organise what we call, for instance in the

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north, *Omagongo Festival*, I am now also suggesting that these SOEs be required to pay dividends, why can they also not, when they think that they have generated profits, dedicate a specific day to be a *Dividend Festival*? They can be invited to come together and declare their dividends on that specific day. It could be a declaration after two or three years, this enable every citizen in this country to see how much each Parastatal declares and this will stop us from criticising.

Finally, Honourable Speaker, I am pleased to note that the low **interest rate environment** has been instrumental in rekindling domestic demand to mitigate the effects of weak global growth. Honourable Speaker, we have heard and read about some information, that the Central Bank of Namibia has reduced some rates to the Commercial Banks that we call Repo Rates. The Commercial Bank goes to the Central Bank, borrow some money and lend that money to us, the consumers in turn, but they receive this money on a lower rate and charge us more when we borrow money from them. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Minister of Finance, are our people aware that Commercial Banks borrow money on lower rates? Honourable Speaker, I think, we need to inform our people through an awareness campaign who may otherwise be overcharged.

In this regard, I would like to encourage the businessmen and women to take advantage of this low interest rate to borrow for productive purposes in order to expand and grow their businesses. Certainly this will go a long way towards further growing the economy, creating employment and additional revenue for the State coffers. With this few words, I thank you and I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further discussions? Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Honourable Speaker, I will do it in one minute. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to support the

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Appropriation Bill. In supporting the Bill, I would like to concentrate on “**Growing the Economy, Optimising Development Outcomes**”. In Optimising Development Outcomes, I will make the following suggestion that; as of now, I think we are Budgeting in the light of the population of 2 million people, however, in reality the Namibian occupation in terms of residents is more than 2 million people and this is mainly due to the fact that we are sharing our national infrastructure and the resources with our neighbouring countries. This fact have made us surpassed the population of 2 million people.

In this regard, we are experiencing issues of traffic congestion, to such an extent that, if one goes to Katutura or other parts of the city, even now at five o'clock or in the morning, it now takes more than one hour for people to arrive at work. The same applies, if you go to town between Ondangwa and Oshakati. While you are sitting in your car, you would see a person walking pass you and eventually disappearing. All this happens, because our country's population has grown beyond our means and I believe our responsible Government is busy coming up with ways and means of addressing things like traffic congestions and others. I suggest that we really do something about that through maximising the usage or construction of railway lines and subways, I am confident Government can come up with something. However, these are serious issues, due to the fact that this country has become an attractive hub for the population of SADC, Africa and even for people from overseas. It is a very positive way that will contribute to our Gross Domestic Product and other development goals. Even now countries like the Emerites of Dubai attract many people from various countries and it will be wise for us to think in those lines.

The other point as I am concluding is the **infrastructure development in rural areas**. We are developing sand roads to various destinations, especially in the rural areas, which disappear within a period of just a few years. I know we are saying that bitumen roads are expensive; however, it would be a big investment that will last for a longer period of time. One way of cutting cost in the construction of bitumen roads could maybe be to invite volunteers to work on certain aspects, under the spirit of our Founding President, Sam Nujoma instead of investing in these roads that

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wash away over a short period of time. (Intervention)

HON MEMBER: They are called gravel roads.

HON KAZENAMBO: Yes, those gravel roads and they are gravelling. Therefore, the bitumen infrastructure is very critical, because it will last longer and the majority of our people, who cultivate the fields and contribute through cattle production, are based in the rural areas. We should, therefore direct our focus to those areas in order to curb rural-urban migration and so on. With this few words, I support the Bill. I have done it in a few minutes for the first time!

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The House stands adjourned, until Tuesday, at 14:30 hours.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:47 UNTIL 2013.03.12

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
12 MARCH 2013**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

HON SPEAKER took the Chair and read the Prayers and Affirmations.

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON SPEAKER: We shall commence the Business of the House. Honourable Members, I have received an invitation from the Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture to observe a display of our Namibian Boxers' titles as well as the latest title won by Paulus "*The Rock*" Ambunda in the courtyard, during tea-break, all Members are invited, I will be there. Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Honourable Amweelo.

**TABLING: REPORT BY THE NAMIBIAN PARLIAMENTARY
DELEGATION ON THE 126TH ASSEMBLY AND
RELATED MEETINGS OF THE IPU**

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I lay upon the Table, the Table by the Namibian Parliamentary Delegation on the 126th Assembly and Related Meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), held in Kampala, Uganda from 30 March to 7 April 2012, for note-taking. Before that, I would like to highlight some key points.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to briefly outline the important points and items contained in this Report. The Kampala Assembly of the IPU was held under the theme: "*Parliaments and the*

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People, Reaching the Gap". The theme itself means a lot to us the Parliamentarians and Representatives of the people. It ties in with the theme of our opening of Parliament on the 12th of February 2013. The Report covers issues that are still relevant and ongoing for us Parliamentarians and politicians. When the children of Uganda entertained the delegates with their vibrant cultural performance, they had this sensible and philosophic slogan and I quote; "*We shall continue to continue, meaning that the world continue to continue, and never stop to continue what they have to continue*". The slogan should be studied to having in mind the history of Uganda, a country that emerged from a history characterised by political and constitutional instability, tyranny, oppression, exploitation and hardship. Namibia's history is no exception from such oppression and exploitation which prevailed. The slogan captures what democracy is about, it is the process that always continues, it takes time but we will eventually reap the fruits if we continue to continue.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the items in the Report are matters that the world and our Parliaments are challenged with on a daily basis. I would like to summarise the issues and agenda items of the Kampala IPU Assembly and Related Meeting as follows:

In his opening remarks, His Excellency, President Yoweri Museveni said that; "*The role of parliament in democracies was an age-old question. Democracy had in fact been practised in primitive societies that had established a form of equality among its members. Direct democracy had been practised in olden days, when people used to decide for themselves, without delegating power*". He gave an example of the voting process by the Khoisan people of Southern Africa who used to take decisions, by majority vote, about questions that were important to the community. He further said that that was taken up later in the city-states of Ancient Greece through the Greek notion of democracy.

The general debate of the political, economic and social situation in the world was conducted under the theme "*Parliament and the People – Bridging the Gap*". The Honourable Speaker, as head of the Namibian delegation addressed the General Assembly of the IPU. Dr Theo-Ben

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Gurirab pointed out to a long historical friendship and shared the cultural heritage between Uganda and Namibia. Honourable Gurirab further commented that Namibia had hosted the 99th Inter-Parliamentary Conference during 1998 and that since that time there had been growing cooperation between the IPU and other major international forums on promoting democracy and international cooperation. He said that, it was a difficult time for democracy and the rule of law. His final remark was that common sense and common humanity were required to prevent the loss of life, particularly in the Middle East.

In total 113 Speakers of Parliament took the floor. The Assembly adopted the emergency item resolution of Inter-Parliamentary Union Initiative for an immediate halt to the bloodshed and human rights violations in Syria, and the need to ensure access to humanitarian aid for all persons in need and to support implementation of all relevant Arab League and United Nations resolutions and peace efforts. The First Standing Committee on Peace and International Security of the IPU discussed and adopted a resolution on promoting and practising good governance as a means of advancing peace and security: Drawing lessons from recent events in the Middle East and North Africa. The Second Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, discussed and adopted a resolution on Redistribution of power, not just wealth: Ownership of the international agendas. The Third Standing Committee on Human Rights and Democracy discussed and adopted a resolution of access to health as a basic right: The role of Parliaments in addressing key challenges to secure the health of women and children.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we have to do something drastically to reduce the maternal death rate in our country. The Assembly also discussed National Parliaments and the IPU cooperation with the United Nations. The following meetings and discussions were also held:

- Actions taken by the IPU to strengthen democracy;
- Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, this Committee was opened and chaired by Honourable Margaret Mensah-Williams

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who was the Second Vice-President of the coordinating Committee of the Women Members of Parliament at that time;

- IPU Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians;
- Committee on the Middle East Questions;
- Group of Facilitators on Cyprus;
- Committee to Promote Respect of International Humanitarian Law Committee;
- Gender Partnership Group;
- Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS;
- Launch of the Global Parliamentary Report;
- The Changing Nature of Parliament and Representations

The following panel discussions were also held:

- Tackling Malnutrition in Young Children: The Role of Parliamentarians;
- Making the Law Work for the Response to AIDS: Zero New Infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS-Related Deaths;
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development;
- Workshop on Parliamentary Oversight of Government External Loans and Related Processes;
- The Launch of the Joint Global Survey Report (IPU, World Bank and the IMF);

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- Advisory Group on the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs; and
- Informal Meetings of Young Parliamentarians

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, It is a statutory IPU requirement that the Members of the Union to submit the resolutions of the Union within their respective Parliament, in the most appropriate form; to communicate them to the Government; to stimulate their implementation and to inform the Secretariat of the Union, as often and fully as possible, particularly in its annual reports, as to the steps taken and the results obtained. It is against this background that the Report will be submitted to the relevant Ministries and Parliamentary Committees to assist were possible, with the implementation of the discussions and resolutions made in the 126th IPU Assembly and Related Meetings. I Move to table the Report, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Any further Reports and Papers? Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare.

**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSION**

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I lay upon the Table the Annual Report of the Employment Equity Commission for the year 2011/2012.

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister table the Report. Any further Reports? Honourable Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

1. Town Council of Ongwediva for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2012; and
2. Town Council of Helao Nafidi for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2012.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Minister table the Report? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Ministerial Statements? The following three Parties have time as I will indicate; DTA - 45 minutes, RDP – 45 minutes and SWAPO Party – 85 minutes. Those who take the Floor should distribute their minutes as they so fit. The Secretary will read the First Order.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE-SECOND READING:
APPROPRIATION BILL [B.1-2013]**

HON SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading – *Appropriation Bill* [B. 1 – 2013].

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HON SPEAKER: When House adjourned on Thursday, 7 March 2013, the Question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Mushelenga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Budget before us is a demonstration of the Government's continued efforts to provide stimulus to the economy, address unemployment, accelerate skills development and enhance infrastructure development, all of which are key factors in enhancing economic development and investment in the economy.

The Budget before this House, places the importance of youth empowerment at the forefront, amongst others. This is demonstrated in significant and increased allocation to youth programmes and sports facilities which are aimed at developing our fellow youth. This is an addition to allocation made in the field of skills development to the regional skill development centres, which empower our youth with various skills in technical and vocational fields. Further, the free universal education provided is a catalyst for the skills development of our youth.

I am mindful of the macroeconomic environment under which this Budget was prepared, which is mainly shrouded in the uncertainty in the growth forecasts in the global economy. Beside this, I wish to commend the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa Amadhila, for maintaining a balance between the need to grow our economy and the delicate need to ensure sustenance in our fiscal stances, such as debt and deficit.

In the same vein, I am impressed by our development goals that we intend to pursue in the next Medium Term Expenditure Framework. The development in our infrastructure helps us to improve on the competitiveness of our economy. Specifically, as a Nation, we need to invest in the security of the supply of electricity, if we are to assure our potential investors of the ability of our economy to sustain the supply of

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electricity. I support the amount of N\$416.3 million provided for the coming Medium Term Expenditure Framework period.

Honourable Speaker, I must state that it is good to have electrification programmes in place, but most importantly, we need to have enough power generation capacity. I had previously listened to the Minister of Mines and Energy, Hon Katali, expressing commitment to the development of a Kudu-Gas-to-Power project that is expected to solve our generation capacity and I commend him on his stance. NamPower should, thus, support its Line Minister in this endeavour. I have heard about other generation plans such as the Coal Power Plant at Erongo. Granted, we can have that – but, what NamPower is not telling the Nation is that the Coal Power Plant would only solve our power problems for a period of about five years. What happens after that? And if we spend billions of dollars in the Coal Power Plant from the company's balance sheet, where are we going to find money to fund another major generation project?

This august House had during the Third Parliament approved the appropriation of funds to NamPower, specifically for the Kudu Project. Yet, things are not moving as anticipated. Since these are Public Funds, why are have these funds not been returned, if the project is not on? Are those funds still available or have they been spent for other unintended use?

The development of the Gas Power Plant is further necessary for industrialisation. It is stated in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document that the Ministry of Trade and Industry aims to develop a robust and competitive Industrial Sector which will have enough capacity to supply both the domestic and external markets. Without enough power supply we will not be able to grow our industries. Industrialisation is something that we need as it will create much needed employment opportunities. Let time and energy be spent on the realisation of the major power projects that ensure the provision of power on a long sustainable basis. Actually, it was reported in the media last Friday that one of our neighbouring Governments is suing for the delay in the construction of a power plant. Perhaps, Honourable Minister should also take action, I am referring to

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Honourable Katali, because when the Namibian Government ponders similar actions, someone somewhere will wake up.

Honourable Speaker, equally important is the supply of water, especially to rural communities. Water is life, and with the change in climate and the low rainfall in most parts of the country, we should be concerned about the water provision in rural areas, and also the provision of water for our livestock. Hence, efforts to increase the supply of water should be supported, and I note the allocation of N\$2.6 billion over the MTEF period.

This year started against the background of poor rainfall. This affects agricultural production, both for commercial and subsistence purposes. The rural communities in particular, are heavily dependent on rain water. I support the provision in the MTEF of the drilling of boreholes as one of the measures to alleviate the water problem in the rural communities.

Honourable Speaker, last year, Namibia has dropped down the Global Competitive Rankings to 92nd out of 144 countries surveyed. In his contribution to the Budget Debate, Honourable Nyamu, alluded to this fact as if it was the end of Namibia. He claimed that Namibia has been placed at the *bottom of hell* and referred to the uproar on the report as having made by those who live in a *fool's paradise*. In any case, Honourable Speaker, it has been acknowledged by Government in the Accountability Report that there is a decline in Namibia's competitive ranking and that the Ministry of Trade and Industry will coordinate with other Government institutions where the country has performed poorly and map out strategies to address the problem areas. Honourable Nyamu appear not to have read this, given what he claimed in his speech. Honourable Speaker, another thing that I should sensitise the Honourable Member about, is the language he uses in this Chamber. We should debate the Budget without resorting to disparaging and discourteous phrases. Honourable Nyamu has made it a habit of uttering vituperative remarks and slanderous expressions in this Parliament, thereby lowering the decorum of this prestigious House. Honourable Speaker, it is high time that you call him order!

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Despite the overall ranking at the 92nd position, we scored favourably well in relatively well functioning institutional environment - 52nd, infrastructure - 59th and developed financial markets - 48th. The Competitiveness Report, points to areas we are perceived to be weaker, and which we must, therefore, strive to improve. These include low health and education indicators. I am pleased that our Budget places significant allocations to these two Sectors, with the Ministry of Education setting their targets to including among others access to equitable and quality education for all children, and integrating the use of ICT in education.

Honourable Speaker, the Nation's competitiveness is determined by its productivity. A renowned Professor of Economics, Robert Carbaugh avers in his publication *International Economics* that international trade system allows Nations to specialise in industries where they have competitive advantage. Our Beef and Fish Industries are, no doubt, one of the areas where we do well. It is, thus, important to ensure that we maintain unimpeded trade of these commodities in international markets. To achieve this, the business landscape should be favourable and equitable trade regimes should be put in place. It is for these reasons that the African, Carribean Pacific (ACP) group of States demands a fair trade deal with the European Union (EU) in a form of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPAs).

The Namibian Government should be applauded for standing firm in EPA negotiations, where others wavered. While some stakeholders in the ACP-EU trade negotiations rushed to sign the interim EPA, we remained adamant not to do so, pending the consideration of our concerns. Eventually, what started as issues of concerns to Namibia alone, became issues of concerns to all, including those who doubted us at the beginning. We should remain firm on the outstanding issues, such as the origin of products, the definition of parties and the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Clause. If the issue of the origin of products is clearly specified there could be no blame game, for example, when horse meat was found in supposedly beef burgers sold in UK and Ireland. The exclusion of the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Clause remains vital for our trade with emerging economies like the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and

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South Africa) countries. Our trade partners have their respective unique characteristics, and it is on the basis of those that we choose them as our business allies. To extend similar trade benefits to others, will accordingly, not be an ideal exercise.

When agreements like EPAs or any other bilateral agreements are concluded, it is important that our Diplomats work hard to ensure that trade indeed take place between Namibia and her partners. Promotion of trade does not only entail bringing trade and investment to Namibia, but it also entails promoting Namibian products to be exported outside. This is underscored in the Accountability Report as one of the objectives of our diplomatic establishments abroad. Diplomats should follow up on trade agreements concluded with Namibia and endeavour to bring such agreements to their fruition. The Missions are further charged with the responsibilities of gathering and analysing information. They should not serve as post offices, transmitting reports and documents, without providing an opinion on the subject matters. The essence of diplomatic representation is that diplomats are better placed to know and advise their sending State appropriately.

We have many friends in Eastern Europe and Asia, whom history shall attest that they stood by Namibia during the pre-Independence period. These friends still exist *albeit* in a changed post Cold-War environment. We should increase our bilateral activities with such friends and nurture our relations further by way of increasing our import and export trade with these countries. Accordingly, yours truly visited our traditional allies, Vietnam and Lithuania in the recent months and in the latter, held discussions with a business federation of that country to link it up with the Namibian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Doing business with traditional allies is vital for our trade, because as two partners we understand each other better and can count on each other's support, not only in mutual bilateral trades, but in multilateral trade negotiations.

Honourable Speaker, on the international front, conflict continues to prevail in the Arab Region, in Syria. We support the mediation efforts by the United Nations, currently spearheaded by Mr Lakhdar Brahimi, the Joint Special Representative of the United Nation. All parties should stick

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to the sixth-point plan that has been advanced as a roadmap towards ending the turbulence. Both the Syrian Government and Oppositions should stop the fights in order to achieve sustainable cessation of armed violence. They should allow the United Nations to effectively supervise this process. Eventually the people of Syria should decide on their destiny by way of realising the aspirations of the majority.

We continue to observe turbulences on the African continent. As we celebrated our 22nd Independence anniversary last year, the people of Mali witnessed the start of a fateful period, when the military took over the Government of Mali, following the Tuareg rebellion. *Coup d'états* in their very nature are desirable, as they dispose elected Governments, thereby going against the wishes of the majority votes. The Namibian Constitution underscores the values of democracy and respect of democratic institutions of States. We will, therefore, not approve people who assume power at whim, but through legitimate processes that are guided by their supreme law. As I stated on the rostrum of this Chamber last year, I would like to reiterate that the territorial integrity of Mali remains of paramount importance. The unilateral declaration by the Tuareg rebels in Azawad which sought to partition Mali, therefore, stands condemned.

Just in our Region an armed rebellion sprang in the DRC, as the rebel groups sought to topple an elected Government. Such course of action stands to destabilise peace on the southern African region. Thus, SADC should be applauded for having decided to make a contribution to the Neutral International Force, to ensure that the conflict in that country is brought to an end. Those who live on waging war and fomenting hostilities should know that the region will not stand aside and allow aggression and belligerence to be the order of the day. No progressive Government or dignified leader would support actions that are aimed at the loss of lives and displacement of women and children.

We are encouraged by the manner in which peace prevailed in Kenya during the recently concluded elections, avoiding a repetition of the post-election violence in which many people lost their lives, five years ago. Elections are important arrangements that should be treated with

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reverence. No reckless behaviour should be associated with such important exercise. Honourable Speaker, this brings to my mind when in 2009, some people were deliberately sending fake election results over the internet, as opposed to the correct figures from the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN). Such behaviours are meant to cause confusions and bring triviality in the entire election process. This august House should, therefore, look into legislation that brings to book those who maliciously distribute unauthenticated election results.

With these few words, I support the Budget for the Financial Year 2013/2014 and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the Financial Years 2013/2014 -2015/2016. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Minister. Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Thank you Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to welcome those people I did not welcome back from the recess. Some people, who were sitting on the other side, are now sitting on the side where I am in command and I regard this as a good political exercise.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is a fact that the global financial crisis is a major contributing factor to increased economic suffering in Namibia. Global warming on the other hand causes poor rain that leads to extreme suffering of Africans in terms of hunger and poverty.

Namibia is unable to solve these two world phenomena. Other factors that prevent our Namibian from being a hardworking Nation are; laziness, ignorance and lack of moral. Government failed dismally to educate and convince poor members of our community to change their mind-set in order to become a productive Nation.

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As long as the Government continues with the system of volunteerism, high corruption, nepotism and favouritism, we should forget about Namibia becoming self sufficient in food security that will help contribute towards poverty eradication. The Government will never solve the high rate of unemployment to boost the living conditions of our people, it means that the level of poverty will remain the same. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Did you make a turn at the restaurant's bar, before you came here?

HON MOONGO: Thank you. I do not think I have to provide you with an answer; I have many bars at my house, so I do not even need this bar here. The best solution to the problems I have raised will only come about the day when there is a political change of Government.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as long as favouritism exists and corruption remains rampant, Black Economic Empowerment, TIPEEG and all other programmes will fail. I want to draw the attention of the President, offices of all Ministers and their Permanent Secretaries to implement article 18 of the Namibian Constitution, which reads as follows; "*Administrative bodies and administrative officials shall act fairly and reasonably*" this should be done in the interest of the people because if the national cake is not share divided fairly, so that every poor person get a slice then forget about the so called equality. This should be read together with article 10 of the Constitution, that states that, "*All persons shall be equal before the law*". The Government subject the poor people to conditions that make them poorer, that is, the cake does not reach the poor in their villages. Some officials are so corrupt that they allocate money to the rich, while the poor remains poor and while this poor people are chased away from Babylon, Havana and other settlements, their shacks forcefully removed and their houses demolished without any Court Order or adequate compensation, they will only vote for SWAPO.

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The law says; you cannot evacuate any person without fair compensation, is that not true? However, you implement *vice versa*. I see many poor people outside in the cold but they still sing SWAPO songs and you still tell them to vote for SWAPO. They say; “*SWAPO oye ho, ye oye nyoko, inomwitekapo, komeya ihaku itekwa kaanave!!!*”(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Honourable Mbumba.

HON MBUMBA: May I ask my Honourable neighbour a Question? My neighbour, you did mention that you have many bars, you did mention that there are many poor people in Namibia, you did mention that people always choose to vote for SWAPO and you are still pretending to be complaining on their behalf, are you sure there is nothing wrong with your methods, your bars and you Party?

HON SPEAKER: The House shall rise for refreshments.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:40

HOUSE RESUMES AT 16:18

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo was not done yet.

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HON MOONGO: I answered him already, during the break. Honourable Speaker, Another thing that I want to add is that, most of the Ministry of Local Government and Housing's functions are carried out by the Headman and Traditional Authorities, in addition to that, all forms belonging to the Ministry of Labour are also completed by the Traditional Authorities who have been volunteering many years. The Headmen or *Omalengas* are poor, my appeal to the these two Ministries is that they should not under-spend their Budgets and allow their money to be return to treasury, instead the money should be given as incentives to the poor Headmen, who carry out a lot of work on their behalf. I also plead with Parliament not return the money to treasure but, this should instead be given to the messengers and cleaners who only earn N\$2000.00.

Furthermore, Government must stop demolishing shacks and houses now, alternatively, Government should build affordable houses for the poor to address the pressing needs of housing. If social justice is ignored, distributive justice will not be implemented. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Point of Order. Thank you very much, Honourable Moongo. You are saying that, Parliament should give money to cleaners and messengers, because the N\$2000.00 they are earning is very little, how much do you pay your *Uukumwe* workers?

HON MOONGO: It is a pity to be asked by those who do not make any contribution to *Uukumwe*, but when it comes to the support and voters, then they want to sneak in, because *Uukumwe* has 156 workers, how many do you and many others employ? You do not want to contribute to the eradication of unemployment. You are invited to be accommodated at *Uukumwe*, it has luxury accommodation facilities. I appeal to the Minister of Finance to allocate additional funds to the Contingency Fund as I suspect a high risk due to the ignorance of the Ministries of Agriculture and Safety and Security. There is a lack of proper control, stock theft is

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increasing at an alarming rate and has become habitual crime. In order to crush and quell stock theft, let us put a mechanism that controls the movement of livestock within the Regions in place, under the control of the Headmen, though they are not paid, assisted by the Police.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, road blocks must be mounted for livestock control to ensure that no cattle are transported from one Region to the other without authorised documents, there must be proper control, especially at Kaluake and Epalela to mention but a few. There must be reasonable payment given as incentives to compensate those who execute these functions as the saying goes; “*okwaako ohaku yogo okukwawo*”. Do not expect people to help the Government without the Government giving any incentives in return. Ignorance of practical facts is a sin! Honourable Speaker, I would like to highlight the funds appropriated to the Ministry of Health. The allocation of **N\$5,245,498,000.00** is inadequate compared to the pressing problems experienced by the Ministry.

(Intervention)

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask Honourable Moongo a small question? Honourable Moongo, you are very much into populist politics and I think you are doing well, now that you are talking about roadblocks and all these kind of things to curb stock theft, will you also propose that, for instance, that those ladies selling dried meat, now that we know that some of the meat actually originates from farms and poaching and also for the meat they sell near *Omaalala* and *Uukumwe*, carry documents indicating; the type of meat and where that meat is coming from, if we are really serious with curbing of stock theft or are you shying away from that?

HON MOONGO: I understand your concern, that you really want to quell all the stock theft, therefore, let me invite you to my nice office so that we can share ideas. Continuing from where I left; I doubt how the

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Minister of Finance came to this amount. How did you divide this amount into percentages, for all hospitals and clinics in Namibia? As I said, this is inadequate. Are you aware that professional nurses are resigning to join the Private Sector, because of the under-payment by the Government, while overloaded with a lot of work in terms of patient care and outstanding unpaid overtime that is supposed to be back paid? This so-called increase of funding through Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) of N\$15.4 billion is meaningless when it comes to solving all the pressing challenges facing the Health Sector.

On Page 30, (123, on Social Safety Nets): the Minister highlighted that the old-age-pensioners will only get an increase of N\$50.00, this is very highly disrespectful and shocking of a child sacrificing the lives of his/her parents by a N\$50.00. This is not even enough to buy a 20kg bag of maize meal in a year that we are faced with extreme hunger and drought. I propose the old-age pension to be increased to either N\$1000.00 or N\$1500.00, if possible. I was under the impression that the Members of this House were sworn in to uphold and defend the Constitution. What does Article 95 of the Constitution tell us about the senior citizens? I quote, "*ensurance that senior citizens are entitled to and do receive a regular pension adequate for the maintenance of a decent standard of living and the enjoyment of social and cultural opportunities*". I do not know if you understand the word "*adequate*", I repeat, "*adequate*", not N\$50.00. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: I have been reading in the SMS section of the Newspaper that even elders are being instigated by us politicians, who are getting decent salaries, to demand higher increases and once you turn sixty years of age you will be receiving the amount the old-age-pensioners are receiving on top of what you are getting. Therefore, they are instigating the pensioners to cry on their behalf. Please stop instigating the people.

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HON MOONGO: Thank you for the information, I will digest it and think it over. Let us implement what is written in the Constitution as I read it. I can see the Minister of Veterans Affairs is not here; before and after Independence, those who were in SWATF and *Koevoet* received money from South Africa and the Government took N\$25 million and used it for the veterans and now when the veterans have their Budget, they do not want to share with others. I call upon the Ministry and the entire Government to understand that we should take what belong to us and not be greedy.

Finally, I advise the Ministry of Finance, Namibia Planning Commission and the Director of Projects in Namibia not to only concentrate on long-term solutions that would create jobs after, say, 7 years; like diamond cutting or solar energy. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Minister of Defence.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: On a Point of Information. Being a veteran myself and a senior citizen; Honourable Moongo are you aware that the Veteran Affairs Ministry is a consequence of freedom and Independence under which some of the people that you are talking about fall?

If there was no freedom and Independence there would not have been a Ministry of Veteran Affairs, are aware of that?

HON MOONGO: Why did you take some of the millions from the colonialist, if you do not like colonial things? Vomit the millions out! Finally, I advise the Ministry of Finance, Namibia Planning Commission and the Director of Projects in Namibia not to only concentrate on long-term solutions that would create jobs after, say, 7 or 10 years; like

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diamond cutting or solar energy to create jobs within a shorter period. The best practical plan is to find a quick remedy which addresses the pressing issues on unemployment for stranded job seekers on the streets, here in Windhoek and at villages.

People are about to demonstrate and it may happen now or next year. Why do you not establish, for instance, 10 fruit and food projects at the Kavango River, 10 at the Kunene River and 10 at the Orange River? Let us construct the earth dam and produce food in every Region. Initiate debushing projects in every Region, construct a factory for producing jam instead of importing it from South Africa. Is it not a shame that after 22 years of Independence, we do not even have a jam factory, while we have plenty of *omatanga*, (Interjections) in Karas, if there are no bushes, there are a lot of stones that can be collected and used in other Regions. Construct a shoe factory, blanket factory, leather factory, etc. in Namibia in order to eradicate unemployment.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I propose that a true history, Honourable Nahas is here, about “*Aandongga*” at “*Onamutuni*” during “*King Nehale lyaMpingana*” war of “1904” to be written, and that the “*Aandongga*” must demand reparation. I also propose that a thorough research be carried out in order to have a commemoration every year and that the skulls of “*Aandongga*”, taken during the Namutoni war be returned to Namibia. Thank you and I support the Budget.

HON SPEAKER: I thank Honourable Moongo for his contribution. Honourable Muheua.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, thank you very much for giving me the Floor. I am going to be very brief.

Comrade Speaker, Allow me a second or two to sing songs of praise and

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say hail to the father of the Nation, Comrade Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, for unwaveringly spearheading the liberation struggle to its logical conclusion; Hail to our current President, my boss, the boy from Okangudi, His Excellency Comrade Dr Pohamba, to whom I swore eternal allegiance, for having played a great role in that struggle alongside the Founding Father and many others in this House, and for steering this ship called Namibia through the rough seas and troubled waters, but staying the course, maintaining the peace and stability hailed the world over. Also, hail to our Vice President Dr Hage G Geingob, who in a few years' time will take the reins, and no doubt will continue in the footsteps of these two iconic men. In fact, hail to you all, Honourable Members of Parliament for your contribution towards good governance of our beloved country, you may tap yourselves on the back for a job well done, even those who are here and do not deserve it.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I will dismally fail in my duty if I do not seize this opportunity to extend my sincere and profound gratitude to the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Director-General of the National Planning Commission and their diligent teams for, coming to this House with an *Appropriation Bill* that always seeks to cater for all the many competing needs of our country, year after year, doing this with so little revenue. Keep up the good work, Comrades.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, I rise to make this Budget contribution against the backdrop of imminent drought facing our country. This alone makes the Budget tabled by Honourable Minister of Finance, my sister Saara Nandjila Kuugongelwa-Amadhila on the 26th February this year, a fiscal intervention that presented an aura of optimism in a situation where despair exists.

Comrade Speaker, I took note that the Honourable Minister of Finance in her introduction during the tabling of the Budget, indicated that this Budget is about investing in the future of our country. It is about improving our competitiveness as a Nation and it is about improving the living conditions of our people. I could not agree more with the lofty ideals of improving the living conditions and standards of our people. In fact, such noble ideals should be the tenets on which any tested leadership

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in the world, let alone that of our Nation, should thrive on.

The previous two years I spoke about, inter alia, the issue of land acquisition, especially for rural and subsistence farmers in the communal villages of Otjimbingue, Okombahe and Omatjete. I am very happy to note that my namesake, the Honourable Minister of Land and Resettlement Comrade Alpheus G. !Naruseb had taken heed of my plea. Honourable !Naruseb had heeded the plight of these indigent communities so much so that now these areas are being expanded through the purchasing of adjacent farms for the sole purpose of resettlement of these impoverished people. This initiative will surely ease the pressure on the overgrazed and somewhat barren land in these arid areas. I extend my sincere gratitude on behalf of these communities for those bold and very important steps. There is no doubt in my mind that the predominant economic activity for the majority of our people is subsistence farming. Hence, access to land and ensuring the security of tenure for our people are of primary concern to the SWAPO Government. Access to land will also ensure economic empowerment and the eradication of poverty especially amongst the previously disadvantaged Namibians.

Comrade Speaker Sir, the acquisition of adjacent farms to the villages mentioned above, will go a long way in abating the living conditions of our people; the very same ideals for which this Budget stands for. I am aware that the average allocation of N\$50 million annually that goes towards the land acquisition's endeavours might not be adequate in the face of hefty increases in the price of Agricultural land. I am aware that the Ministry of Land and Resettlement at least needs N\$370 million to acquire 37 farms annually, in order to meet its annual targets. We are aware that due to expansion of activities and better rainfall, especially over the past two years, crop farming out-put during the Financial Year 2011/12 has improved. However, the reverse is likely to be true during this course. Therefore my humble advice to the Honourable Ministers of Land and Resettlement and the Ministry of Agriculture portfolios is to "*do more with less*" in order to improve the living standards of our people. This is the principle on which this Budget is premised.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Education and Training is of

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cardinal importance. That is if our Nation is to achieve our lofty national goals of Vision 2030, that we all are proud of and boasts about. I am mentioning this issue primarily because, as the assistant to my Honourable Minister and sister, Comrade Doreen Nampiye Sioka, I hail from the Ministry that is mandated with the task of ensuring a conducive environment for employment creation. I am thankful of the fact that the Education and Training Sector continues to enjoy the lion share of the Budget Allocation. In the advent of slowed economic growth, which is expected to hover at just about 4.0% in 2013, our hopes should be placed in the fact that, we should equip our people with necessary and appropriate skills. Once equipped with appropriate skills, they will become employable and subsequently become productive citizens of the Republic.

We should thus, prioritize human resources development and skills formation to enable our people to have choices in life. We should create skills that answer to our national needs. Our treasury, and I hope the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila will agree with me on this score, is not a bottomless pit of money. Thus, we should sparingly use our financial resources to develop skills that our labour market needs and develop new skills that will take our Nation to new and high levels of self- sufficiency.

The N\$10.7 billion allocated to education in this year's Budget is commendable. The N\$35.2 billion allocated to education portfolio over the MTEF, is even more worthy of resounding applauds. It has been enunciated that the money will be appropriated in the provision of universal primary education; improvement of accommodation facilities for teachers; expansion of hostel accommodation especially at institutions of high education and increased funding for the National Students Financial Assistance Fund and Vocational Training loans. These are noble rationales that will go a long way in increasing access to training for our prospective young men and women.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Students Financial Assistance is so close and dear to my heart. For I believe that we should not give our young people the fish to eat, but rather create avenues for

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them to be able to learn how to fish. By giving them financial assistance, in the midst of despair brought about by abject poverty, we plant seeds that will one day blossom; seeds that, we as a Nation, shall one day be proud of. Thus access to education becomes the biggest equaliser. The onus, however, should not be placed on Government alone, but should be a shared responsibility of all. The provision of financial assistance by Government should also be supplemented by the private companies that are harvesting handsome business profits in this country. And we have them aplenty. The State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) should also complement Government's efforts to provide bursaries and loans to young people and promising students. This will enable them to access education and training at home and abroad. I am cognizant of the fact that there are private companies, even some young ones such as the Knowledge Katti Foundation and big conglomerates such as Old Mutual that are committed to providing bursaries to our students. I congratulate them for their efforts. They should keep it up.

I am also aware that some State-Owned Enterprises such as NamPower, the Social Security Commission, Bank of Namibia, NamWater and others are committed to aiding Government efforts in providing bursaries to our students. Their fine examples should also be emulated by others that are doing business in Namibia. For example, the Social Security Commission, under the auspices of our Ministry, has also started to offer loans to students, loans that they should repay after they finished their studies. I am urging other institutions to start giving loans and not bursaries only to students. Unlike loans, bursaries only go to deserving students. So far the SSC has awarded more than 70 bursaries since 2009. This is a commendable job that others State-Owned Entities should emulate, in order to help Government in providing students financial assistance.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, poverty eradication and reduction of unemployment rate should not be left to government alone. Government efforts to create jobs such as the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG) cannot succeed, if our people are inadequately trained. It is my belief that, if our students are financially supported, and given the fact that adequate

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training in identified fields of studies and training is offered, we can alleviate poverty and reduce unemployment.

Although TIPEEG only produced nearly 14,000 jobs during the last Financial Year, it is my belief that had our people been adequately trained in relevant fields, the statistics might have been different. The rate of unemployment in our country is so high, because our people are not trained in necessary fields of studies. We are importing nurses, engineers, doctors and pharmacists, simply because our people are not trained in these specific fields. Our people do not have academic qualifications in these fields. Therefore, the high levels of unemployment in our country are to a certain degree self-created, because of lack of appropriate training and skills. Not because there is lack of jobs. How many young people do we train in human resources and marketing related fields in this country? How many people do we have that are trained in business administration in our country? One wonders what businesses our people are going to administer in a country where the dynamics of economics of scale dictates the pace of investments to allow for the business to thrive. The few available positions and job openings that arise in our labour market are absorbed by expatriates. This is because our people do not possess the requisite skills, academic qualifications and know how. We have the situation such as that of pharmacists where the majority of positions that we have in country are occupied by people from our SADC sister countries, especially Zimbabwe.

The point I am trying to bring across here borders on the fact that, the type and nature of training that we give to our people is virtually misfiring. We have a pool of trained people in easy and unnecessary disciplines, while in other critical areas of our economy, we lack the people to do the jobs. The resultant ramifications is that, we sit with unfilled job openings while we have a pool of university trained people who cannot find employment in the labour market.

This situation can only be successfully dealt with, if we match our training needs with what the country lacks. We should be careful in doing this. I am happy to announce that the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare will conduct the Skills Audit Survey. This survey is aimed at

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assessing our skills shortage and national needs in order to identify the critical areas where we import skills. The survey will assist us to identify areas where we need to harness resources in order to develop our own skills. The survey will also assist us in identifying areas and skills gaps where we need to have understudies in related fields that render us to import foreign expatriates.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as I conclude, this survey is envisaged to start in May this year. The Ministry of Home Affairs, the National Planning Commission, the National Statistic Agency. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: On a Point of Information. I want to give information that when the Ministry is conducting the survey in identifying the skills, please do not forget about the Herero skill of cooking meat.

HON SPEAKER: Continue Honourable Member.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Thank you Honourable KK, point taken. I said; I conclude, this survey is envisaged to start in May this year. The Ministry of Home Affairs, the National Planning Commission, the National Statistic Agency and the International Organisation for Migration will be involved in this survey. We want to assess our skills in the country so that we should know what we are importing. This is necessary because we might be importing foreign expatriates in the fields where we have Namibians who could fill these positions.

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Our budgetary allocations and the country's rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) continue to increase every year. I believe that the total estimated expenditure of N\$47.6 billion that is allocated in this Budget will ensure that the living standards of our people are improved. However that can only be realized if we achieve high levels of Budget Execution in all Ministries.

With these few words, I support the *Appropriation Bill* and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you for the excellent contribution. Honourable Bezuidenhoudt.

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: Thank you very much Honourable Speaker. I think we can continue to continue. The Budget as we received it is not a document on exercising isolation; it was rightly framed against the backdrop of world economics and world situations. The EU and the United States with the fiscal cliff and wheels grinding to a halt because of their financial situations, mainly coupled to how they behaved financially in the past. That has placed a lot of pressure on the citizens and Governments are now panicking and citizens are suffering while those are the scenarios that I want to wish far away from Namibia and Namibians.

The general direction of the Budget is positive; we have seen tax adjustments that put more money in the pockets of those lucky, unemployed individuals as well as salary increases or allowances that allow for more money to circulate in the economy and that is one way that keeps the engine of economy running by stimulating expenditures. More disposable income also assists many individuals and I will agree with Honourable Simataa who last week said that people must be urged to save for the rainy day or at least for the minimum to get rid of pressing debts.

About the Social Investments that we are making within our country, I think we can never forget that we are such a social developmental State.

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Our people need assistance to pull them up by their own bootstraps to make (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Minister of Defence.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I am sorry to disturb the very peaceful Honourable Member. May I ask you a tiny winy question? Honourable Bezuidenhout, I agree with you that people must save, because through savings they will be able to invest in the future. However, are you aware that there is withholding tax on unit trusts which is discouraging people to save?

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: There are many financial instruments in which to invest and each one has its own benefits, tax rates and taxable amounts, which I think, is the domain of the Ministry of Finance. If there is a problem with the unit trust, rules can be amended. If one needs to encourage people to invest more, rules can be improved so that people can have more. However, the other side of the coin should also be considered to get rid of any burning, dragging a raging debt so that the ordinary life can be improved, I think that is part of the big claim of the financial education that the Ministry of Finance is providing. On the poverty situation that we were alerted to during the National Planning Commission's presentation here in the Chamber that specifically highlighted the two Regions of Caprivi and Kavango, it is just a matter of agreeing and seeing what more can be done to alleviate those areas and ensure that people's lives are improved. I remember when we were visited by Her Excellency Madam Graca Machel, that she was very specific about stunting of children because of hunger and I am just wondering what our situation is in relation to that. The individuals of those two Regions must grab the opportunity and turn that towards benefiting their Regions. The Regional Leadership must try their level best to ensure that people do not go hungry.

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The challenge now will be the drought, Mother Nature is angry at us; however, I do not think that we have to give up. The other worry that I have, is that the current uranium prices and market seems to be quite a bit of a challenge as well as that of the Fukushima Plant. Also the policy positions of countries like Germany that are moving away from nuclear energy, we need to think what will happen in the future when green peace is successful and all power plants go green, we will have to substitute all the revenues that we received from that industry. It is better to start thinking early so that when it happens, we are in a manageable situation. We have done it in the past when we caught wind of the dwindling resources of the Global Fund when it comes to HIV/AIDS support (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Minister of Trade and Industry.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank very much Honourable Speaker. Honourable Bezuidenhoudt, may I please ask you a question? I just wanted to know whether the Honourable Member is aware that, apart from Germany moving away from nuclear energy, about 20% of the power that they purchase is in fact nuclear power from France?

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: The point I am trying to make is that with the current prices, Namibia as a producer of this metal should not be caught with its pants down in the future. I am trying to warn the Government by highlighting some challenges that we may run into in the future. Mother Nature, for this year has dealt us a bad hand and we just need to survive those challenges. One area where we can save reasonably is to be more efficient in our daily operations, I think the general Civil Servants and those that are feeling guilty can attack me, however they are not guilty of a crime. Production and productivity must be increased so that to improve the efficiency of the Civil Service or else we have to keep

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on doing one job five times over at five times the cost. Civil Servants should realise that they should not do it. If an application comes in, process the passport and deliver it to the client and that is the end of the story. However, to receive an application and misplace it causing the client to reply should be avoided. At least the Minister has highlighted those challenges and warned the people with the express that she used; “*shape up or ship out*”. That should be the general mode of encouraging the Civil Servants to do their job more efficiently, effectively because the more we do things over and over again, the more we have to pay for it. Many companies saved themselves from going under by becoming more efficient.

The area that pops one or two grey hairs up on my head is that of our national debt, however, I must also hasten to say that it is not out of control and still very much within our affordability, but the long term trend does not look too promising and the amount of money that we have to spend to service the debt takes a big chunk out of monies that could be diverted to other programmes, because this is now the money we must give to our creditors. For instance, normal individuals borrow what they can afford to repay, but if the borrowing gets out of hand and natural disasters come in, you can be so weakened as an individual to honour your repayment, but at this time our ratio of debt to GDP is still in a very manageable and healthy position. On the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, one can see the increases and decreases; I just hope that we can afford it in the future, so that we are not surprised when we have to divert lots of money to the natural disaster recoveries. Something that cost us a lot of productivity and money last year and maybe the last couple of years is the strikes; the stoppage of production hours both here and especially in South Africa, the country with which we have closer economic links. Whenever people in South Africa strike, we feel the pinch here because it is either a strike that affects the Transport Industry and we do not get all our goods on the shelves of the stores. I am not at all saying that strikes must be banned, but the avoidance thereof by good labour relations between employers and their employees will go a long way in ensuring the running of our economic engines peacefully and cost effectively, because the more there are disruptions of production the more it costs the economy. The area that we need to get some clarity on in

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future is that of the bailouts. The only point that I want to make about the bailouts that we probably need to have a principle policy that we can say, yes, this specific Parastatal Industry cannot survive on its own, but it is a critical one for Namibia, therefore it is entitled to x percent to cover its operational cost for support or investment so that we can avoid companies that can afford to look after themselves from unnecessarily draining Treasury and always with another turn-around strategy. I hope that in future the Ministry of Finance will give us some indication as to the framework of a bailout policy or the principle thereof. The issue that was touched, before I can underline that, is that our skills and skills development is critical and crucial for the development of our economy. Our children in school also need to realise what is needed, if they have the necessary skills and attitude thereto and in what specific fields they can study so that they can obtain meaningful employment in the country as well as assisting the economy in substituting foreign labour that comes in on the basis of skills. It is a smack on my face if I have to see that we have Namibians and yet a skilful but very basic service has to be rendered by a South African, German, Zimbabwean or any other foreign national while we cannot produce that type of critical skill in our country although it is much needed. That is very important, but I think, we also need to encourage our people to understand the difference (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you Comrade Speaker. May I ask Honourable Bezuidenhoudt a question? On social deficit you have spoken about poverty, and now you are speaking about skills, you mentioned two poverty stricken Regions, Caprivi and Kavango. I am asking a question that even myself had been asked; who really defines poverty, is it interpreted from an own understanding or is it assessed and defined from the understanding that someone is poor because he/she does not possess A, B, C and for one to be rich he/she has to meet all defined requirements? The same question is also pegged to the issue of skills.

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Here we are saying that we have a lack of skills, however, at the same time we have graduates from UNAM and the Polytechnic, nurses who would be having certificates and qualifications, but yet we complain about a lack of skills. Are they skills that are defined that, for them to be recognised as skills, they are supposed to be of a certain nature? I was just wondering, do we have a model and definition to say, no, this skill cannot be a skill unless it is like this? It is a general question, but you could help me if you can provide an answer.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Bezuidenhoudt, answer?

HON BEZUIDENHOUDT: The poverty surveys were carried out by our own institutions which provided those results. I think that is the United Nation's minimum when people are regarded as poor they are either above or under that line. However, it is a collective responsibility of our leadership to address issues that people battle about; like the supply of water, health care – clinics, basic assistance for education, etc. Those are things without which you can be placed in the area of poverty or even severe poverty. The point I wanted to make in terms of the skills is that, we need to be clear to our learners that there is a difference, however not a class difference between academic and technical qualifications. Most of our students pursue academic qualifications and then when it comes to engine repairs, solar power installations, those technical skills, we do not have them, because the perception of our education system is that an academic qualification where one can wear a tie is much better while it is the opposite, that we need more and more hand skills to be able to drive our economy. The other perception that I want to address is, when the current Minister of Local Government was the Minister of Defence categorically stated that his Ministry is not an employment agency. I think that is something that is generally in the minds of Namibians, that in order to get employment, I must go to the Government, However, with appropriate skills, you can go anywhere and I hope anywhere is within the borders of Namibia and not outside our country, because I do not know

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whether we have a way of measuring how much skills we lose to other countries.

The Minister of Finance and as the Government policy, has given a bulk of our Budget to education as well as health and I would want to ask a question; have we calculated the return on our investment over the last 10 to 15 years, so that we know for sure that if we invest N\$200,000.00 in this student, he/she will eventually return an equal amount over time to the economy or is just pumping in money and hope for the best? I think, we also need to make some calculations to find out what is the return on our investment within specifically education and health.

Finally, on the area of infrastructure development; in any economy, whether it is going down, Government pushes a lot of money into infrastructure development to somehow keep the country afloat as well as stimulate the economy and we cannot give up on that. However, the other short side of infrastructure is also what we get out of the infrastructure development, for example, we have invested N\$1.5 billion, if not more, within the communication infrastructure, but how best do we make use of it and what is our full return over time on that investment? Do we use it 10%, 50% or 80%. We need to have a look at these things so that we then recuperate some return on investments. The budget is not easy, it is not an endless bucket, and I think it is a matter of choices and the choices that the executive makes are the choices that defines the Nation. When it comes to individual Vote I will contribute about those choices within the state of the economy. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Ueitele.

HON UEITELE: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much, once again for the opportunity given to me to make my contribution during the General Debate of the *Appropriation Bill*.

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Hon Speaker, before I do so, allow me to join the other Honourable Members who spoke before me, who congratulated the Minister and the entire staff members of both the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission who worked around the clock to come up with the Budget that is aimed at investing in our future, to enhance our competitiveness as a Nation and to improve the living standard of our people.

Hon Speaker, the Government commitment to reduce poverty, create jobs and to facilitate equitable facilities for all remains central to Government activities. To give effect to this commitment, the Education and the Health Sectors have been prioritized on public spending. The productive Sectors have also received significant budgetary allocations mainly for the development of infrastructure. The aim is to ensure that economic growth is translated in to employment creation and the betterment of the living condition of our people.

Hon Speaker, as a citizen and leader of this beautiful country I am deeply concerned about the prevalence of alcohol abuse in our country. It is a common phenomenon and it is having devastating effects on the socio and economic growth of our community. Namibia is one of those countries where you can get alcohol everywhere, any day, at any given time in all corners of our country. As a result alcohol is abused in most parts if not in all parts of the country. Alcohol abuse is a major contributing factor to the rising crime rate and decay of our Nation. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Ueitele, are you aware that, whenever you have Marula Festivals, you first take the marula drink to the Chief or the Headman in order for him to reduce the alcohol content? Are you aware that that method works, traditionally?

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HON UEITELE: Thank you, Honourable Moongo, I am not aware, because I do not consume the type of alcohol you mentioned.

Hon Speaker, Hon Members, as per statistics from the Namibian Police, most of the crime incidents are alcohol related and are called/termed social fabric crimes, for example, murder, attempted murder, rape or attempted rape, domestic violence against women and children, driving while under the influence of alcohol which results in accidents and in most cases innocent people lose their lives.

Hon Speaker, Hon Members, the convenient location of utility shops or petrol service stations, that are licensed and unlicensed, shebeens and other liquor outlets, is a contributing factor to drunk and driving which leads to numerous accidents and death on our national roads. I will, therefore, suggest that the liquor licensing of these establishments be revisited and alcohol to be taxed heavily before the situation gets out of control. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Minister of Defence.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Ueitele, you are making a very important point, may I ask you a small question? Honourable Ueitele, would you suggest that no lawmaker or Parliamentarian should run an alcohol outlet, would you make that a condition that in order for one to come to Parliament, you should close all the alcohol outlets you are running?

HON UEITELE: Yes, Honourable Minister I agree 100% with you so that (intervention)

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HON MOONGO: I would like to inform the Honourable Member that the law does not work like that. It should not be selective to the Members of Parliament only, but the law should apply to everyone in Namibia.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ueitele.

HON UEITELE: Honourable Moongo you are correct, however, I think that in some cases we must also lead by example.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on the Education Sector, let me congratulate the Ministry of Education for doing away with the School Development Fund. We appreciate the progress and efforts made by the Ministry of Education concerning the School Development Fund. I still have a question to the Minister of Education; it is a pity that both the Minister and the Deputy are not here, however my question is: There are some of the schools in the country that normally used to charge, for example N\$300.00 per learner per term, which is N\$900.00 per learner per year at the end of the day. The Government is assisting by subsidising schools with say, N\$105.00 per learner, there is a shortfall of N\$195.00 in this case and some of the schools are now struggling to meet their needs, for instance to pay for bus licenses, that are N\$20,000.00 per year, however, we can maybe request the Ministry of Works and Transport to find out if they can exempt schools that have school buses, because it is also important for these schools to transport their learners for education tours, etcetera. Who is responsible to pay for the shortfall? Probably the Ministry will look into it so that in the future so that they subsidise the full amount required by the schools. The N\$105.00 that the Government is subsidising the schools with cannot suffice to cater for the maintenance of the sports facilities and school transportation.

Hon Speaker, on the Health Sector let me once again congratulate the Ministry of Health and Social Services for achieving progress in the fight against Malaria, T.B and in the rolling out of the anti-retroviral drugs,

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with the coverage rate of 85% and for the construction and renovation of health facilities in various parts of our country. However, one of the challenges facing our Health Sector is the maternal mortality rate which is high and needs urgent attention. I hope and believe that the Ministry is working on it.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me also make use of this opportunity to emphasize on the importance of Vocational Training Centres in our country. The expansion and construction of Vocational Training Centres in all thirteen Regions to enhance required skills for our youth and create self-employment and to meet labour market demand is proposed. Honourable Speaker, when it comes to sports in Namibia, Namibia has reached a stage when there is a great need to redefine its sport philosophy in Namibian terms. A definition that would be understood and identified by those who are truly calling themselves Namibians, not only through paying lip service, but through action.

Namibian Sport have produces a long list of athletes who excelled locally, but do not make it when it comes to the international arena except for our legendary Frankie Fredericks, Agnes Samaria and Johanna Benson.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, sport is not a priority amongst priorities. Our National Budget tells it all. Then we expect our athletes to bring back home gold, silver and bronze and to compete against countries that spent millions of dollars on sports development. Yes, the Government must increase the sports Budget to a realistic amount, but the business and Public Sectors should play their part. The time is now.

We have to ask ourselves what Namibian sports is, we need to craft our sport philosophy based on our local cultures, conditions and ideas, but also focus on the International sports market e.g. World Youth Cup, Soccer World Cup and Olympics. We need to involve the whole Nation in looking for a national solution. It is not the problem of the sportsmen and women of this country who are in sport, because the children at school come from our homes, rich and poor. Re-thinking, Re-doing and rebuilding sports is the only way to go. We the Nation should come out of our comfort zone of only condemning the poor performance of our

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national teams and support them towards the envisaged victory. Success is never picked, but comes as a result of hard work by all.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, what are the benefits of sports?

- Employment creation like professionalizing sport codes
- Crime eradication, for our children participating in sport, it is time well spend and invested
- Promotion of national reconciliation
- Sports is the highest qualified teacher that can ensure that our Nation can grow with communication skills
- Sports create happiness, thus sports is the master key to all avenues

We have challenges that are facing our sports code:

- Funding - investing in sports is preparing a prosperous future. Sport is money,
- and money is sports
- Talent Identification
- Development teams
- Team selection and preparation system
- Coaching and sports administration

As the saying goes, "*Rome was not build in one day*", let us start today to build a Namibia of tomorrow.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on the Agricultural Sector: It is a well known fact that the majority of the Namibian population lives in the rural areas, it is also a fact that agriculture is a source of the livelihood to the majority of our rural people. It is to this end that the efforts made by the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry are commendable. Our country has been affected by drought as a result in some parts of our country, livestock and human beings do not have access to potable water especially in the Otjombinde and some parts of the Epukiro Constituency

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in the Omaheke Region, where 90% of the drilled boreholes dried up or could either not yield water. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am still advocating for a water pipeline to be laid from the existing potential water areas such as Waterberg in the Otjozondjupa Region to the remote areas of Epukiro, Otjombinde and some parts of the Eiseb Block. These are the areas where most of the drilled boreholes did not yield any water. Honourable Speaker, I also want to applaud the Government of the Republic of Namibia for the distributing drought relief food to the affected areas. I am, however, also having a problem that the Ministry is trying to advocate for people to sell their cattle. In addition to the money receive for the sale; they receive an extra N\$400.00. However, the cows being sold in the Regions should be the ones that must produce. I would rather suggest that Government could maybe assist with supplements like lick or fodder so help the cattle through the drought period, instead of for example, selling 10 cows and not be able to afford a calf with the proceeds from the sale of those cows. I would, therefore, propose that the Ministry subsidise lick and fodder for the cattle.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion let me make use of this platform to congratulate the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement for the demarcation of farming units in the Eiseb Block area. With this few words, I support the Bill and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: That is perfect timing. The House shall now adjourn until tomorrow, at 14:30 hours.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:47 UNTIL 2013.03.13
