

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 Ilonga	<i>(Defence)</i>
Mr E Utoni	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Mr T Nambahu	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Dr S C Ankama (Mr)	<i>(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 Ngauva	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Mr T Diergaard	<i>(Lands and Resettlement)</i>
Ms H Nicanor	<i>(Veterans)</i>

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

ALL PEOPLE'S PARTY (APP)

Mr I Shixwameni	<i>(Chief Whip and Party Leader)</i>
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CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)

Mr B Ulenga	<i>(Chief Whip and Party Leader)</i>
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DTA OF NAMIBIA

Mr K Kaura	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr P Moongo	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATION OF NAMIBIA (NUDO)

Mr K Riruako	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr A Tjihuiko	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (RDP)

Mr S Bezuidenhout	
Mr Hidipo Hamutenya	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Ms A Limbo	
Mr H Lucks	
Mr P Naholo	
Mr K Nehova	
Mr J Nyamu	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>
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

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>
Dr B. Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)	
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
11 FEBRUARY 2014**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Members and all invited, respected guests, I welcome you to the Ninth Session of the Fifth Parliament. At the same time, I wish all of you strength and wisdom for the year 2014.

Today, the 11th of February 2014, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, will officially open the Ninth 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 of Parliament and the Chairperson of the National Council.

In the meantime, please remain standing until, His Excellency, the President and his procession enters the Chamber. So agreed.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, very much. Let us be seated. Before we begin the Business of the House, as indicated earlier, I have sad

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**OPENING REMARKS
HON DR GURIRAB**

news and I want to ask us all, after I have said that sad news, to join me as I would indicate.

Ms Ailly Kanee Amweelo, the beloved wife of Honourable, Dr Moses Amweelo passed on at the early hours of today. I ask the House to rise to observe a minute of silence.

THE HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE

OPENING REMARKS

HON SPEAKER: Excellencies, Eminent Persons, Colleagues, Spouses, Comrades and Friends,

Two days ago, the Nation celebrated the 24th anniversary of the spectacular adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. Today we meet together in this Joint Session which brings together, in terms of the Constitution, the three premier National Institutions of the State, the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. They are separate but equal branches of the Republic of Namibia working in tandem with each other with a view to ensuring good governance and accountable service delivery for the benefit of the Nation.

The President of the Republic, in terms of the Constitution, is the Head of State and Government and the Commander – in – Chief of the Defence Force. Those are, among other considerations, why the President assumes those duties. Today in this Joint Session, the President will deliver the Keynote Address, marking the Official Opening of the 09th Session of the 05th Parliament.

Last year, 2013, left the world with memories and remembrances of the

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OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA

departed liberation icons, champions of internationalism and democracy worldwide. We honour and thank them. For 2014, five SADC neighbouring countries have elections, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Namibia. Here, we are hard at work to ensure full and timely registration of voters.

This year's theme of the Joint Session which is opening today is: ***"Promoting Oversight Effectiveness Towards Ensuring Transparent National Budget Administration"***.

Without further ado, I now kindly request one and all to join me as I invite our beloved President Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba to deliver the Keynote Address to this Joint Sitting of the Three Branches of State or Government.

Long Live the Republic of Namibia! Please be seated. Your Excellency.

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HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA: Honourable Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Asser Kapere, Chairperson of the National Council, Right Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hage Geingob, Your Honour, Peter Shivute, Chief Justice, You Honor, Petrus Damaseb, Judge President, Honourable Members of Parliament, Madam First Lady, Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Distinguished Invited Guests, Members of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be part of this occasion, marking the official opening of the Ninth Session of the Fifth Parliament.

I take this opportunity to commend our lawmakers for their hard work during the 8th Session, which ended on the 27th of November 2013. I also

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**OPENING ADDRESS
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA**

wish you strength, wisdom and dedication as you embark upon this new Session of carrying out your constitutional responsibilities of law making.

I have no doubt that you will continue to do your utmost to give the people of Namibia the Laws that are carefully crafted and well considered with a view to addressing the complex issues of socio-economic development in which our society must participate and help to overcome.

This is the second last Session of the Fifth Parliament, the term of which will expire on the eve of our 24th Independence Anniversary on the 20th of March 2015. The theme: ***“Promoting Oversight Effectiveness Towards Ensuring Transparent National Budgeting Administration”*** has been chosen for this Session.

This is indeed a relevant and timely theme as our Nation continues to seek better ways and means to manage public resources more efficiently, to implement our National Development Projects more effectively, and to bring about positive and tangible improvements in the lives of our citizens through targeted policy interventions.

One of the most important tools in the implementation and realization of Government Programmes is the Budget. It is, therefore, vital that we have adequate mechanisms to ensure transparent and accountable administration and utilization of public resources that are allocated to various public institutions through the *Appropriation Bill*, every Financial Year.

It is of paramount importance that the resources allocated are utilized for the intended purposes. It is vital that we prevent wastage and misappropriation of public resources.

It is also important that transparency and accountability are reinforced at all levels of governance and at all times. This is the only way we can build and maintain strong and accountable public institutions with the requisite capacity to carry out their respective mandates.

In the spirit of the principles of the separation of powers, Parliament is constitutionally entrusted with an oversight function over the activities of

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the Executive Branch of the State. This is a crucial cornerstone of our constitutional democracy.

Over the years, our Parliament has carried out its oversight and accountability functions through the work of the Public Accounts Committee and other measures.

Last year, the Public Accounts Committee hosted the first ever National Accountability Institutions Conference under the theme: ***“Working Towards Coordinated Strategies in Strengthening the Accountability Process in Namibia”***. This was the first time that both Houses of Parliament came together to strategize about accountability in governance.

These are welcome initiatives in promoting good governance and consolidating the capacity of our institutions to ensure transparency and accountability.

I am informed that in January this year, the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs visited some Regions to assess the implementation of development projects by Regional Councils and Local Authorities as outlined in NDP4 and the 2013/2014 to 2015/16 Medium Term Expenditure Framework. This Programme should continue in other Regions in the coming months.

I understand that plans are underway to introduce mechanisms to improve and strengthen the operation of the Public Accounts Committee. I believe that these initiatives will go a long way in ensuring transparency in the utilization of our public resources. I, therefore, commend you all, our lawmakers for adopting this appropriate theme for this Session.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members of Parliament, Fellow Namibians, our Nation continues to grapple with various challenges such as drought, crime, alcohol and drug abuse, and unemployment, especially among the youth and women.

The drought situation that threatened our country for the past years demanded prompt Government intervention to prevent loss of human lives

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as well as preventing further loss of animal lives on which the livelihoods of most of our people depend. I commend the Government, through the Office of the Prime Minister for taking prompt action in reaching out to the affected communities through the provision of drought relief food.

Another challenge facing our Nation is the disturbing trend in our society of violence against Namibian women, by Namibian men. It is, indeed, sad and tragic that hardly a day goes by without reports of brutal acts of violence and killings of women and children at the hands of men. In the face of this epidemic of violence, many of our citizens are appealing to the Government to find ways and means to stop the wanton killing of women in our country.

I believe that our society needs to carry out a deep introspection and reflection in order to get to the root causes of such evil and cruel deeds. We need to look at ourselves as a Nation and identify the causes of such destructive behavior that has no respect and no regard for human life.

What turns our men into such monsters? What makes them commit such inhumane acts against fellow human beings?

The most recent tragic loss of life of a young woman, Mirjam Tuyakula Nandjato, at the age of 24, and indeed other women who lost their lives at the hands of men, should serve as a clarion call to our Nation that urgent action is needed to put an end to these despicable acts of cruelty.

This demands deliberate and concerted action by all of us, including Government, churches, community-based organizations, community leaders, education authorities, Traditional Leaders and parents.

In the meantime, I call upon parents and guardians to teach our children, from a very young age, the values of self-respect and respect for others. We must teach them to be law-abiding citizens with empathy and love for themselves and their fellow human beings. We must teach them that violence is not acceptable.

The inculcation of these values must start at home and extend to school

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where our youth are moulded to become responsible adults. My appeal to Namibian men, and they are in Majority in this august House, is that the violence must stop. The killings must come to an end.

I also call upon our criminal justice system to ensure that anyone who perpetrates a violent crime faces the full wrath of the Law. The full measure of the Law must be brought down forcefully on all those who show disdain and disregard for other human beings.

Justice must not only be done, it must be seen to be done. Those who engage in such heinous acts deserve no mercy. Let us work together as a Nation to root out the evil of violence against women and children from our society.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, I am informed that this will be a busy Session of Parliament, as several Bills are envisaged to be tabled for deliberation. May I take this opportunity to wish all our lawmakers a productive 09th Session of Parliament.

I have no doubt that you will do your utmost to serve our people whom you represent as their elected representatives.

I call upon our Members of Parliament to spread awareness and encourage all eligible Namibians to register as voters during the ongoing registration of voters. Only persons who are registered as voters will be able to participate in the forthcoming elections.

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

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, indeed, Your Excellency. I now have the pleasure to, as the tradition has it, invite my Colleague, the Chairman of the National Council, Comrade Asser Kapere to, on our behalf express, vote of thank to His Excellency.

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**VOTE OF THANKS
HON KAPERERE**

VOTE OF THANKS

Chairman of the National Council Comrade Asser Kapere to express on our behalf Vote of Thanks to His Excellency.

CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL COUNCIL: His Excellency, Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, the President of the Republic of Namibia and the First Lady Madam Penexupifo Pohamba, His Excellency, Dr Sam Shafishuuna Nujoma, Founding President, Father of the Namibian Nation and Leader of the Namibian Revolution, Honourable Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly and Madam Joan Guriras, Right Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hage Geingob, Right Honourable Marko Hausiku, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, Your Lordship, Chief Justice Peter Shivute and Members of the Judiciary, Honourable Members of Parliament, Honourable Laura Mcleod-Katjirua, Govern of the Khomas Region, Your Worship Agnes Kafula, Mayor of the City of Windhoek, 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 always my singular honour and privilege to express, on behalf of the Speaker of the National Assembly, myself and indeed on behalf of all the Parliamentarians and the people of Namibia, our sincere gratitude to His Excellency, Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, the President of the Republic of Namibia for gracing us with his presence in this colourful ceremonial occasion, marking the opening of the 09th Session of the 5th Parliament of the Republic of Namibia.

Your Excellency, the Namibian Constitution imposes on Parliament the obligation to make and repeal Laws for the peace, order and good government of the country in the best interests of the people of Namibia. Over and above, Parliament is tasked with the responsibility to work on

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**VOTE OF THANKS
HON KAPERERE**

pieces of legislation in order to improve the living conditions of our people. Moreover, through our role as the oversight body, Parliament is further obligated to ensure that the hopes and aspirations of our people as well as the challenges facing them such as unemployment, corruption, violence against women and children in our society are addressed, to mention but a few.

Therefore, Your Excellency, Comrade President, based on that, and having listened to your message this afternoon, it is without a doubt that your message to this august House is clear, timely and relevant. Indeed your message provides a great foundation to Members of both National Assembly and National Council as we commence with the rolling out of our plans and strategies in order to achieve our goals and expectations for the year 2014.

Your Excellency, judging from past experiences I can assure you Comrade President, that my Colleagues in both Houses of Parliament will work together across Party Lines to deal with matters of great national importance in the interests of our people. This, I am sure will be manifested through the number of Bills that will be passed, Parliamentary Questions that will be debated and Ministerial Statements that will be presented before Parliament. In achieving that, Members of our Parliament across the political divide will ultimately ensure that the Executive Arm of the State is kept on track in its provision of services to the Namibian people.

Your Excellency, Comrade President, not only are we grateful for your presence here this afternoon but we are equally grateful for the leadership you are exercising in the affairs of our Nation and beyond. Hence, at this point in time, on behalf of the Speaker, myself and fellow Parliamentarians I commend you, Comrade President, for steering the affairs of this Nation with foresightedness and determination amidst mounting challenges faced by our people. We, particularly, salute your administration for the recent bold decision taken in introducing completely free primary school education, the Mass Housing Project and Infrastructure Development, particularly road rehabilitation, upgrade and construction in all parts of our beautiful country.

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**VOTE OF THANKS
HON KAPERERE**

Similarly, Comrade President, we took note that not only is Namibia benefitting enormously from your sterling leadership, but so is the international community. Hence, we salute you for the active role you played in your capacity as the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, in bringing a peaceful and amicable solution to the political conflict in Madagascar. These noble achievements are being appreciated by the people of Namibia and the world at large.

Your Excellency, These noble achievement are not mere prophecies but rather logical consequences of your inspiring and encouraging leadership style that will be remembered by current and future generations as the hallmark of Hifikepunye Pohamba's legacy.

Once more, we salute you immensely, Your Excellency, Comrade President, for sharing this day with us because your presence here always symbolises the confidence and trust that you continue to have in the Legislative Arm of our State. I have no doubt that the healthy relations that exists between the three Branches of the State namely; Parliament, Executive and Judiciary contributes positively to the effective discharging of our respective functions.

I am also grateful to the Members of the Judiciary under the leadership of His Lordship, Chief Justice Peter Shivute, who faithfully celebrates this day with us, every day. Your 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 Diplomatic Corps, Service Chiefs, Permanent Secretaries and other Senior Government Officials, Special Guests, Members of the Media for gracing this annual event with your persons and your constant support over 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 teachers, members of the public at large, and our Parliamentary staff who work so diligently to make this occasion successful.

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**ADJOURNMENT
RT HON DR GEINGOB**

Finally, as usual, 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 of the Republic of Namibia in the Government Garden, as soon as His Excellency the President and his entourage leave the Chamber. May God bless you. I thank you.

BUSINESS RESUMES

HON SPEAKER: I thank my Colleague for his very thoughtful vote of thanks. We all share in the sentiments of appreciation you directed to our Head of State.

That does it for the Session of the National Assembly. We thank all the Members of the three Branches of State. We have received a new charge to do more than what we have been doing hitherto, but I know that we are up to the task to serve the best interests of the Namibian people.

Before the Sergeant at Arms, I shall now ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister, to adjourn the House to the date that he gave us, the 18th of February 2014. Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I am reliably informed that the *Appropriation Bill* will be ready for printing on the 17th of February. There will also be 2 other Bills which could be introduced and tabled on the 18th of February.

I would, therefore, like to Move that this House adjourns until, Tuesday, the 18th of February 2014 at 14:30. I beg to Move so.

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ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The Sergeant at Arms shall now lead us. I shall ask my Colleague to join me in escorting the President out of the Chamber.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 15:03 UNTIL 2014.02.18 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
18 FEBRUARY 2014**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

WELCOMING REMARKS

HON SPEAKER: We commence the Business of the House. The last time I saw you all was last year when I sat here and said, *enjoy the holidays and come back alive*, so that we can full-heartedly attend to the duties and responsibilities that we were charged with by those who elected us and sent us to this Chamber.

I did see most of you during the official opening of this Session of Parliament, specifically the National Assembly part. I am happy to see you all as elected Members of the House, albeit being fully aware that during the extended break, we buried our loved ones and we experienced other challenges in our communities and in the country as a whole.

In particular, I must make mention of the loss of a beloved wife by our Colleague and Comrade, Dr Amweelo. I would like to take this opportunity to express that we share in your loss and we will do whatever we can as a community here in this House to give you assistance in whatever way we can. I know that almost all of us, including the Speaker, lost close relatives, blood relatives indeed, in some cases but we are here to work for the Nation and for the people in whose name we serve in this House.

I, therefore, welcome you back to where you belong. Those were my announcements.

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**BILLS CONFIRMED BY THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL
HON DR GURIRAB**

BILLS CONFIRMED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

HON SPEAKER: I have two more announcements to make: I have been informed by the Chairman of the National Council that the Council, in terms of Article 75(2) of the Constitution, considered and confirmed the following Bills without Amendment:

- (i) *High Court Amendment Bill* [B.11 – 2013]; and
- (ii) *Communal Land Reform Bill* [B.13 – 2013].

In terms of Article 72(3) I referred these Bills to the President to deal with them under Article 56 and 64 of the Constitution.

I have further been informed by the Chairperson of the National Council that the Council, in terms of Article 75(2) of the Constitution, considered and confirmed the following Bills with amendments:

- (i) *Magistrates Amendment Bill* [B.9 – 2013]; and
- (ii) *Agriculture (Commercial) Land Reform Amendment Bill* [B.12 – 2013].

These Bills would be placed on the Order Paper of this Assembly for reconsideration as soon as possible.

The other announcement is that the Parliament is in the process of developing a new website. Please complete the Bio-data form that the messengers would be distributing to you which should be returned to them upon completion. For those who recently provided the required information, your copies are in the envelope provided. You, therefore, only need to verify or amend your information where changes are required. I urge all the Honourable Members to please complete their Bio-data forms as a matter of urgency.

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
RT HON DR GEINGOB / HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON SPEAKER: With that, I get back to Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? No indication? Other Reports and Papers? Right Honourable Prime Minister.

TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF (NIPAM)

HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I lay upon the table the annual report of the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management NIPAM from the 10th of October 2010 to 31 March 2012. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Right Honourable Prime Minister, please table the Report. Any further Reports and Papers? 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) Game products Trust Fund for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2011 and 2012;
- (ii) Game products Trust Fund for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2010; and
- (iii) Diamond Board for the Financial Year ended 31 December 2011; and

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**TABLING OF REPORTS
BILLS CONFIRMED
HON DR KAWANA**

- (iv) Village Council of Koës for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2011 and 2012. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, please table the Report. Honourable Dr Kawana.

TABLING: REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table the Annual Report of the Office of the President for the Year 2012/2013. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Report, Honourable Minister. Any further Reports with regard to Standing Committees? Any Ministerial Statements? Notice or Questions. Yes, welcome to your normal place Honourable Moongo.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1:

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 18th of March 2014; I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MOONGO**

The fate or whereabouts of this country's missing persons on both sides of the armed conflict between 1966 and 1989 such as Johannes Nekawa, Johannes Nangutuwala and many others not only remains a growing concern but a source of an unending anguish and uncertainty for so many families in our country.

Normally, Mr Speaker, the best way to address the issue of missing persons is through the comprehensive process of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence. It is against this background that I will be asking the Honourable Prime Minister the following questions:

1. Why has Namibia so far failed to account for the fate or whereabouts of these missing persons on both sides?
2. Why has the time not arrived for Namibia to implement a comprehensive process of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence?
3. Why should relatives of missing persons not receive compensation for their loss?
4. Why are the survivors of mass killing such as the Oshakati bomb blast and Cassinga not receiving compensation?

QUESTION 2:

HON MOONGO: I further give Notice that on Thursday, the 18th of March 2014; I shall ask the Honourable Prime Minister the following:

It is a fact that the policy of reconciliation and the policy of the integration of the UN Resolution 435 that; SWATF, Koevoet and PLAN must integrate, was successfully implemented.

1. Can the Prime Minister inform the entire Nation, in the spirit of true reconciliation, that the funds which came from South Africa, were

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distributed among the three forces. What is the reason that the Namibian War Veteran Fund is not also shared equally among the three forces?

2. I would also like to ask as to whether the Namibian Government is ready to refund the N\$39 million which was paid to the PLAN Combatants from the fund which was paid to the SWATF and Koevoet, as everybody knows that those members are still unemployed and some of them live in poor conditions.
3. Is it true that the South Africa Government gave a further N\$3 billion to the Namibian Government to distribute to the SWATF and Koevoet? Can the Honourable Prime Minister please explain?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please table the questions. Honourable Von Wietersheim.

QUESTION 3:

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice on Thursday, the 27th of February 2014; I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following:

After raising the question of the drought relief operations in the Daures Area, with the distribution point of Usakos, and the Right Honourable Prime Minister's very elaborate answer to my question, the situation improved immediately and the recipients of the drought relief food actually confirmed receiving the complete standard ration consisting of maize-meal and including relish of some kind.

I would now like to know how the Report from the Erongo Regional Council, which the Right Honourable Prime Minister was still awaiting at the time of his answer, and which was to provide a breakdown of all food

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distributed to villages in the Daures Constituency, explains and accounts for the shortage of especially the relish during the distribution of food aid from August up to November 2013?

QUESTION 4:

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 27th of February 2014; I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following:

Is the Honourable Minister aware, that exactly two years ago in February 2012, I raised the following disgraceful development occurring in Swakopmund with his predecessor, Honourable Minister Jerry Ekandjo, here in this same Assembly?

1. The Honourable Minister, Jerry Ekandjo, then did not answer my query, except by launching one of his usual diatribes without any factual content, but I wish to alert the Honourable Minister to the fact that the Swakopmund Town Council seems to have amended certain of their Local Authority Regulations solely and specifically with the intent to facilitate the following dubious transaction, which it submitted to the Ministry once before - and my question is, whether such legal manipulation is legitimate at all?
2. The Swakopmund Town Council is now once again seeking the Honourable Minister's approval for the alienation of a property of 4463 square metres in a prime location, valued at N\$2.6 million in 2010, for a token sum of N\$30,000.00 to the SWAPO Party.
3. Is the Honourable Minister aware that, after having utilised the huge property under false pretences for over 20 years at virtually no costs, the SWAPO Party is now attempting to get this prime property handed over on a silver platter by the SWAPO dominating Town Council at the expense of the majority of suffering residents, especially the informal DRC residents of Swakopmund?

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4. Is the Honourable Minister aware that these very same residents have been clamouring on a daily basis for space and roofs over their heads, while the Swakopmund Town Council is forever faulting them, or appeasing them with empty promises, due to lack of sufficient funds?
5. Can the Honourable Minister agree that by alienating this prime property at the market related price - whether to the SWAPO Party or any other interested buyer, the revenue generated could be wonders in terms of additional funding for servicing of land and alleviating the housing plight of the residents?
6. I hope that the Honourable Minister, too, will recognise this latest decision of the Council as the cunningly devised scheme to allow the dominating Party of the Swakopmund Town Council, SWAPO Party, to acquire a huge area of prime property at virtually no cost, after having had the privilege of virtually free utilisation of the same property for the last 22 years?
7. Will the Honourable Minister, therefore, carefully consider not only the legally, but ethically and socio-economically questionable decision by the Swakopmund Town Council, which places the interest of the SWAPO Party squarely above the interest of the town's community, above the interest of the Swakopmund rate-payers, and above the interest of those that suffer lack of development due to the intended self-enrichment of the SWAPO Party, and reject it with the contempt it deserves?

QUESTION 5:

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Speaker, I further give Notice that on Thursday, the 27th of February 2014, I shall again ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following:

Can the Namibian Nation now expect a blatant increase in self-enrichment

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schemes by so-called National Leaders or for so-called National Leaders?

1. Hardly had I formulated the previous question about SWAPO's self-enrichment in Swakopmund, that news broke about the latest scheme of providing a Deputy Minister, who is a highly paid politician, with a property by the Windhoek Municipality at a third of its value, and I would like to know from the Honourable Minister, as the custodian of the Local Authorities, what he is going to do about this unethical and immoral scheme?
2. Honourable Minister, how do you evaluate this preferential treatment of a highly remunerated public figure versus the draconian measures against poverty stricken shack dwellers, who are not able to pay for either land or municipal services?
3. Do you actually support the development of regulatory schemes to entrench preferential treatment of so-called National Leaders at a distinct disadvantage of poorer residents and citizens?
4. Honourable Minister, will you be proud to be called a National Leader, if these schemes will in future distinguish you from the ordinary citizen of this country?
5. Honourable Minister, will you consider to support the Municipality of Windhoek in their struggle with shortage of funds amounting to millions of Namibian Dollars, while they are prepared to develop get-richer schemes for the rich, at their own expense and the expense of the rate-payers of Windhoek?
6. Is there no provision in the *Local Authority Act* or relevant Regulations to safeguard against such conspirational, if not corrupt, preferential treatment? Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please table the questions. Next is Honourable Maamberua.

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HON MAAMBERUA**

QUESTION 6:

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on the 27th of March 2014; I shall ask the Minister of Mines the following questions:

1. Okongwe village in Omatjete, Daures Constituency in Erongo Region has electricity but not in the homesteads, why not and what plans are in place to ensure that all houses are connected with electricity?
 2. Would the Honourable Minister provide the rural electrification plan for the Daures Constituency with your answer? I so Move, Honourable Speaker.
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QUESTION 7:

HON MAAMBERUA: I give Notice that on the 27th of March 2014; I shall ask the Minister of Information and Communication Technology the following questions:

Honourable Minister, you are aware that the first Post Office in the then South West Africa, Namibia today, was founded in Otjimbingwe on the 16th of July 1888. Further Post Offices were later established in Windhoek in (1891) and Swakopmund (1895).

1. Are you aware that today there is no Post Office in Otjimbingwe?
2. Would you agree with me that given the long distance from Otjimbingwe to Karibib, aggravated by high levels of poverty in that part of Namibia, worse still, that it is risky and costly for the pensioners and other vulnerable groups to travel to Karibib for postal and post bank services, that a Post Office with post bank services is actually needed in Otjimbingwe?
3. Honourable Minister, what plans are there in this Sector you preside

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HON MAAMBERUA**

over, to provide such critical services to the people of Otjimbingwe?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

QUESTION 8:

HON MAAMBERUA: I give Notice that on the 27th of March 2014; I shall ask the Minister of Health and Social Services the following questions:

1. Whether the Minister is aware that Otjimbingwe is such a poor place, that travelling from Otjimbingwe to the nearest town, Karibib, is so costly for the majority of the residents there?
2. Is the Minister also aware that there is no mortuary in Otjimbingwe, the nearest one is in Karibib, about 60 kilometres away?
3. In light of this, would the Ministry consider putting up a mortuary to assist the people with this vital service? I so Move.

QUESTION 9:

HON MAAMBERUA: I give Notice that on the 27th of March 2014; I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development the following questions:

Considering the high level of poverty and unemployment rate in Namibia and Otjimbingwe in particular, would it be possible for your Ministry to consider the following:

Having regard to the fact that Otjimbingwe is 60 kilometres from Karibib,

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HON MAAMBERUA**

has the Ministry considered opening a “*satellite*” Constituency Office in Otjimbingwe village, to enable the residents there to visit such office without having to travel to Karibib every time they need assistance from the Councillor? I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

QUESTION 10:

HON MAAMBERUA: I finally, give Notice that on the 27th of March 2014; I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following questions:

Being aware that Otjimbingwe is having inhabitants of about 8,000 people;

Knowing that first *de facto* capital of the then South West Africa was established in 1880, under Commission Dr Heinrich Göring at Otjimbingwe which was the seat of the colonial administration;

Noting that the first school in Namibia was started in 1876 at Otjimbingwe, and similarly, the first church in Namibia was established in 1867 at Otjimbingwe;

Conscious of the fact that two monuments; that is, the Rhenish Church that was established in 1867 and the Armoury Tower that was erected in 1870, have been declared national heritage and are both in Otjimbingwe;

Knowing with regret, however, that this very historically important place is literally in ruin, crime rate is high, unemployment is high, tourism and manufacturing are insignificant, agricultural production have plummeted;

What are your Government plans with the resuscitation or rejuvenation of Otjimbingwe?

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

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HON ULENGA**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please table the questions.
Honourable Ulenga.

QUESTION 11:

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I would firstly like to again greet the Honourable Members in this New Year, especially those that I have not seen.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to give Notice that on Thursday, the 27th of February 2014, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Education, Dr Namwandi the following questions:

1. Will the Minister agree with me that while primary education has been declared free since 2013, in accordance with the Namibian Constitution Article 20, it is still not compulsory in practice, as there are no enforceable measures by Law to render it compulsory, nor are there relative punitive measures in the Act to render primary education both free and compulsory?
2. Will the Minister, therefore, be prepared to admit that Article 20 of the Namibian Constitution is only partially enforced?
3. When does the Minister intend bringing the necessary Amendments to the *Education Act* so as to make Article 20 of the Constitution a reality?

QUESTION 12:

HON ULENGA: I would further like to give Notice that on Thursday, the 27th of February 2014; I shall ask the Minister of Education the following questions:

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

1. Since 2010, how many Primary Schools and how many Secondary Schools have closed in each of the 14 Regions of the country, and what were the reasons for the closure in each instance?
2. How many new schools, either Primary, Secondary or Combined were opened in each Region?
3. In the specific case of the school called Aili Shikomba Combined School, near Uuhongo, in the Onathing circuit in Oshikoto Region, what was the cause of the closing of that school, Honourable Minister?
4. Were the parents and the community properly consulted about the closure of the school before it was closed, and if not, why was it not done?
5. What happens to the infrastructure such as buildings and other materials once a school closes? I so Move.

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

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that tomorrow, the 19th of February 2014, I shall Move that leave be given to introduce the Bill to appropriate amounts of money to meet the financial requirements of the State during the Financial Year ending 31 March 2015. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Can the Honourable Minister please table the Motion? Honourable Ulenga.

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HON ULENGA**

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I am moving this Motion because it is on everybody's lips and everybody wants me to Move it.

Honourable Speaker, on Thursday, the 27th of February 2014, I shall Move that this Assembly:-

horrified and extremely saddened at the unprecedented outbreak of the Gender-Based Violence exemplified in recent shootings, stabbings and even decapitations of women in our society;

totally committed to a peaceful society where all citizens live in harmony and without violence, committed further to helping the Government, especially the Law Enforcement Agencies to successfully prevent such acts of violence from occurring and further helping to facilitate the arrest and appropriate punishment of offenders.

That this Assembly-

Therefore clearly and categorically expresses its detestation of such outrageous, inhuman criminal acts;

Debates and makes apt recommendations to the President and to Cabinet to ensure that all possible steps are taken for the purposes of reigning in these crimes and bringing the criminals to account. I so Move, Sir.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? If not, then Ministerial Statements. Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry.

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HON SCHLETTWEIN**

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Comrade Speaker, thank you for giving me the Floor.

Honourable Members of the Assembly, I rise to explain to this august House and the public the rationale for the adoption of policy and regulatory measures such as Infant Industry Protection (IIP) and quantitative restrictions on imports of selected products entering our market. The primary reason is to preserve and nurture our economic and industrial growth and in turn to accelerate job and wealth creation and to equalise wealth distribution by cushioning and creating policy space for existing economic value chains to get off the ground and build the requisite competitive capacity.

I would also address some concerns and perceptions on the impact of such measures on free trade and on consumers.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members the global trading system poses a harsh environment for small developing countries. The cost of access to global markets has been to give up policy options through which to support, protect and nurture Industries until they are sustainable and competitive. Policy space to support Industry is highly restricted and is often said that developed countries have kicked away the ladder that they used to climb to the level of industrialisation where they are today. On the one hand there is increasing pressure on the use of subsidies, reduced taxation, import tariffs or quotas for industrialisation, and what is not already confined by global structures such as the World Trade Organisation is under attack in bilateral trade negotiations. On the other hand, however, there are still massive subsidies paid by developed economies in especially the Agricultural and Agro Processing Sectors, which continue to distort markets and make it very difficult for developing economies like ours to develop and industrialise. I am happy to say that a great deal of coherence has emerged in Africa on this matter and that we are holding our grounds in defending, remaining policy space that is required for us to develop our productive capacity.

It is for that reason that the countries of our region agreed to include in our own trade agreements such as the SADC Trade Protocol and the SACU

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Treaty provisions that enable Governments to support industrialisation through trade measure such as Infant Industry Protection and quantitative restrictions on imports. I have outlined these in an annex to this Statement and I will have it available for the Honourable Members.

Honourable Speaker, since Independence we have recognised relatively low growth, poverty, high unemployment and income inequality as major problems and challenges facing our country and requiring our collective and decisive action. Collectively, we recognised that in order to effectively address these challenges, we need a paradigm shift and real restructuring and transformation of our economy. In particular, we need on one hand, to transform the economy from its heavy reliance on the production and export of raw material commodities and, on the other hand, to become an industrialised economy where manufacturing, innovation and development of value chains assume the centre stage and we are able to add value to our resources and to produce some of the consumer goods that we currently import in large quantities.

Vision 2030, is the current National Development Plan (NDP4) and our National Industrial Policy, provide a sound framework for targeted action to bring about sustained and high levels of economic growth and employment, wealth creation and income distribution and equality. Honourable Members, I have no doubt that you will agree that the change and positive results that we desire to see will require more deliberate and rigorous action, especially policy interventions or State support to our budding Manufacturing Industries.

We agree with the notion that, and I quote, “*Growth is not an automatic birth right of an economy.*” This means that for an economy to grow, it has to create the right conditions for such growth to take place. It is our firm believe that unless we nurture, strengthen and expand our manufacturing and supply-side capacity, our economy will continue to face limited growth prospects and will remain vulnerable to external shocks, adverse changes in terms of trade, and the challenges of avoiding the ‘natural resource curse’ when commodity prices move on a boom – bust curve and economies fail to diversify because of the temporary comfort of natural endowments. This is indeed a shared national goal as

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exemplified in the designation of manufacturing as one of the four Sectors that have been identified for development under NPD4. This is also the premise for the commodity-based industrialisation that we are advocating through our Growth at Home Strategy and its emphasis on strengthen local and regional value chains.

Globally, there is a shared acknowledgement that the Manufacturing Sector plays a strategic role in economic development and is the component of Industry that presents greater opportunities for sustained growth, employment and poverty reduction. Countries without significant manufacturing often exhibits so-called jobless growth and increasing inequality. While there have been notable investments in manufacturing and other non-primary Sectors in Namibia over the past years, the growth of our economy is still predominantly primary sector-driven and our industrial base remains narrow.

Historically and even now, attempts to set up local manufacturing were by and large frustrated by imports from well developed economies in the region and beyond, some of whom gain entry and consolidate their presence in our market by exercising anti-competitive practices such as predatory pricing and dumping methods. Such practices from foreign businesses, which are often in cohort with goods importers or foreign owned retailers operating in our market, create unfair competition for our budding Industries. Without at this time wishing to dwell on the details, we can vividly recall the Cheetah Cement saga of blatant price manipulation, which destroyed efforts to establish local cement production capability; and then they were certain activities concerning the supply of beer bottles that may have been intended by foreign competitors to bring our local brewery down. Recently, we have come to learn that our Printing Industry is under severe pressure due to raised tariffs on the import of printing paper distorting the market in favour of competitors with better access to affordable inputs.

In addition to having to deal with the anti-competitive practices that I have outlined above, the few local Manufacturing and Value Adding Industries that we have managed to develop are faced with other challenges at home and abroad. These are high utility costs, high cost of imported inputs and

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non-tariff barriers when attempting to export to other countries.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, so far, the Government of Namibia through the Ministry of Trade and Industry has instituted Infant Industry Protection measures that have enabled the development and survival of certain Manufacturing Industries, especially in the Agro Processing Sector. Past examples include the manufacturing of pasteurised and UHT milk, dairy poultry products, and as consequence we have seen significant investments in the dairy value chain.

In addition to these Infant Industry Protection measures, last year it was also found necessary to impose restrictions on the quantities of imports of specified poultry products and dairy products in order to safeguard local value chains from import surges and to prevent or reduce the risk of job losses and related socio-economic negative effects.

It is important to point out that Infant Industry Protection is granted to an Industry or a Sector and not a single company in line with international norms and practices. Given the small size of our market and the narrow industrial base, there are often only very few manufacturing companies or only one major manufacturing company operating in a number of our industrial segments. This is the case with Cement, Poultry and Dairy Industry Segments. Our interventions are, however, always geared towards safeguarding the entire Industry and the whole value chain.

Honourable Speaker, almost invariably when we have imposed an Infant Industry Protection duty or quantitative restrictions on imports such matters have been challenged by a few importers with entrenched interest and who obviously wish to see Namibia remaining as a captive market for imports from their countries. We are opposing these challenges, and we seek the support of all Namibians in this fight in the interest of our National Industrialisation Drive.

Benefits of Infant Industry Protection (IIP):

The purpose of the policy interventions such as Infant Industry Protection is obviously to bring about benefits to the economy as a whole and our

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citizens.

Firstly, the process of industrialisation in a country with limited manufacturing capacity, like Namibia, will not follow a natural traction in the face of foreign competition. This supports the argument that industrialisation cannot be left to market forces or the ‘invisible hand’ like Adam Smith says, but requires deliberate Government intervention to bring about the desired structural change and diversification.

Secondly, the setting up of new Industries involves a business risk, which necessitates some form of support or incentives to entice the producer to enter the Industry. If the emerging Industry is open to foreign competition, local producers are often at risk to fail and even close altogether if they are not protected.

The third positive aspects relates to employment and the development of local human capital through the process of learning by doing and exposure of production technologies that are used in these Manufacturing Industries. The Industries concerned employ over 4,000 Namibians at the moment, that is, those Industries that have enjoyed some protection.

The fourth element of Infant Industry Protection or Quantitative Restrictions have the potential to provide an incentive for local manufactures to procure inputs and services from other local suppliers, and in this regard has the potential to foster deeper backward and forward linkages between protected Industries and other Industries in the economy. This particularly holds benefits for all Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and the whole Sector, and supportive Industries such as packaging, transport, water and power, to mention a few.

In the long run, it is expected that Industries that are enjoying protection will build the necessary productive capacity during the period of protection, resulting in increased efficiency and output and should be able to offer quality products at competitive prices thereafter.

We obviously take note of some concerns that have been expressed that some of our measures in this regard are either inhibiting free trade and

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tend to have undesired effects, notably increases in prices of the goods produced by the Industries granted some protection.

Monitoring and Corrective Measures:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we, therefore, recognise that there is a risk that, if not properly implemented, policy measures such as IIP or quantitative restrictions may result in unintended or undesirable consequences. In order to prevent and mitigate against any such risk, I have tasked the Namibian Competition Commission and the Namibian Trade Forum to verify actual cost structures and production levels as well as to monitor farm gates or ex-factory and retailed prices in the country, and to also monitor what is happening in the region. Such accurate information will enable effective monitoring, the impact of the measure and for timely corrective measures if and when required.

While we are aware that the Industries that have been granted Infant Industry Protection or are benefiting from quantitative restrictions have increased the price of goods they manufacture, it is important to interrogate the reason for such increases. Information available to us indicates that producer prices are driven by exogenous factors, meaning some of the factors that are beyond the control of local producers. These are increases in the cost of inputs - such as water, electricity, rates and taxes and fuel. These increases in cost are eventually passed on to the retailers who in addition to their profit margins also pass them on to the consumer. While I can understand the rationale behind such cost increases, I believe we should not tolerate prices to be determined by domestic producers simply on the basis of cost of imported products. Ultimately, efficiency gains resulting from Government support must be passed on to the consumer.

There is a further dimension to pricing that I need to mention, namely that the retailed price often bears little or no relationship to the ex-factory or farm gate prices. While there may be frustration at price increases, such frustration may in some instance be more correctly be directed at the retailers. As an example, the ex-factory price for a whole chicken was indicated to us as N\$31 per 1,5 kg. Retail price for the same whole

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chicken for the consumer ranged from N\$45 to over N\$60 in some instances. This translates into a mark-up on average of 37.7% but ranging from 10-100%. This appears excessive and not in the interest of consumers. We have, therefore, initiated to develop a retail charter for Namibia in cooperation with all stakeholders that will increase transparency in price composition as one of its elements.

Honourable Members, we recognised that protection measures should be temporary and targeted, and should not be excessive or permanent. I wish to point out that Infant Industry Protection or quantitative restriction measures are only imposed for a defined period. In addition, we are fully aware such measures are necessary but not adequate to guarantee the survival and growth for local Industries if applied in isolation of other complementary policies, i.e. economic, industrial, investment, financial, public procurement and social policies.

I look forward to the support of the Honourable Members of this august House and the entire Namibian Nation in order to preserve and create jobs and the gains that we have made so far over the years and to increase our chances to realise our goal of becoming an industrialised Nation by 2030.

Honourable Speaker, before concluding, allow me to address some statements that have been made or were published recently in the local print media regarding quantitative restrictions for the importation of poultry and dairy products as well as the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

Let me start with EPA. The CEO of Meatco has attacked the Government reportedly for prolonging the signing of the EPA with the European Union and accusing it for “not consulting” with stakeholders on the EPA negotiations. The Meatco CEO further described Namibia’s stance to preserve policy space and flexibility that will allow us to introduce measures that will enable to transform our economy and build a strong industrial base as a “political game.” In addition, he claims Meatco alone opened Russian markets after it went on a “diplomatic offensive.”

Our response to these assertions are as follows: On the insinuation that

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Namibia has taken an isolated position, I wish to correct and inform that the SADC-EPA Group has reached a consensus decision to abandon the Interim EPA negotiations and to rather negotiate a full EPA. The issues were not agreement between us and the European Commission could be reached centred around the loss of policy space for industrial development and regional economic integration. Further, the Heads of State and Governments of Africa and the Caribbean Pacific Region Group of Countries at their 7th Summit held in December 2012 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, declared in the Sipopo declaration that instead of serving as “instruments of development”, “the EPAs has undermined the Regional Integration Processes” and contain provisions “that severely limit ACP countries’ policy space.” Both the ACP Group and the African Union have come out strongly against the manner in which the EU is putting unreasonable demands on the ACP countries in the EPA process and their positions on EPAs were presented at the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference held in December 2013, in Bali, Indonesia. Therefore, Namibia is not isolated at all; we are not alone in our position; we are consolidated and have support, not only of the African continent, but the whole Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of Countries.

HON SPEAKER: We should be proud of it.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: The claim that Government does not consult with and take on board the views of the Private Sector during the EPA negotiations is equally not reflecting the factual situation. The Private Sector has organised itself and formed the Agricultural Trade Forum (ATF) and the National Trade Forum (NTF) whose membership includes all the major producers of meat and agro products and all Agricultural Unions, and delegates from these bodies are part of the national negotiating team. These forums have been established to serve as a conduit of Private Sector inputs into the negotiation. The Government, through the Ministry of Trade and Industry, even provides funding towards the operations of the NTF and Meatco itself assisted with

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funds for the NFT, which we of course appreciated very much. There is, therefore, no truth in the assertion that the Private Sector is a spectator to the EPA negotiation process. They are fully incorporated and they form part of the negotiating team.

On the issue of alternative export markets, I wish to inform this august House that the Namibian Government has succeeded in securing export markets for locally produced goods. The very preferential market access Namibia has enjoyed for beef, fish and grapes in the EU was the result of Government initiatives. We have subsequently negotiated and secured preferential access into the Norway market for our beef and have negotiated and successfully receive market access to the extra lot of European countries outside the EU.

Government has successfully negotiated the SACU-EFTA Free Trade Arrangement. The Government has negotiated the SADC Free Trade Arrangement and we are currently negotiating the SADC-COMESA-ECA Free Trade Area. Equally, we have made progress with respect to getting market access and export our beef and mutton to China, the Russian Federation, while other initiatives are ongoing to also open up Hong Kong, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar and the Republic of Korea.

These efforts are collective team efforts involving the ATF, NTF, the Meat Board, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Therefore, to say it is the only effort of Meatco as a company is, does not hold water.

Honourable Speaker, I wish to react on the recent statement by Clover informing that it was forced to retrench some 34 Namibians and that it has stopped serving many localities away from the capital as a result of the negative impact of our Quantitative Restrictions on its imports of dairy products into our market. Here I wish to point out that the local Dairy Sector or value chain which we are protecting through these measures employs over 1,750 Namibians. We, however, consider every job given to our people important, and we are very saddened by this purely profit driven move, which does not take into account the wellbeing of our people. In fact we take it as a demonstration that it is important to have a

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HON DR GURIRAB**

home-based production capacity, which is able to serve all corners of our country and reduces vulnerabilities in the labour market.

Lastly, I wish to put the record straight on the statistics of milk and dairy products imports and the claimed resultant impact. According to the official import data on the ASTCUDA system of our customs, about 650,562 litres of milk were imported into Namibia in 2013. The current quota restriction limits those imports to 500,000 litres. This means the percentage of imports restricted is only 24%. Equally on yoghurt products, the official import figures for 2013 indicate an import volume of 204,555 litres, while the quota is 200,000 litres, representing only a 2% restriction. If these figures are anything to go by, which I am convinced they are, this mild restriction could not have caused any serious shortages in the markets as claimed. Import figures that were quoted recently, however, appeared to be much higher than the official figures, which could indicate under declaration, a matter that in our opinion needs urgent investigation.

Honourable Speaker, I hope I was able to clarify the policy stance of Government on IIP and Quantitative Restriction (QR), and I thank you.

**QUESTIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS/COMMENTS
TO THE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

HON SPEAKER: I thank you very much, Honourable Minister. As I was listening to you, I was wondering whether we cannot find time before we get deep into the Business of the Budget to have a discussion on the Statement.

We have come a long way as Government, as Parliament and I commend the Minister for sharing the road map we have travelled thus far and not only with regard to EPA but other issues he underlined. We have made progress and brought doubting Thomases on board Government policy. I

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**QUESTIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS/COMMENTS
TO MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS
MAAMBERUA / SHIXWAMENI**

would be looking at the programme and the Business of the House to set aside time for you to react and to add on to what the Minister has informed us. Do not be surprised should I suggest that.

I am not inviting for that discussion now, unless you want to ask a specific question, I will give you the Floor but not until we create that opportunity for more interventions from you. Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I wish to commend the Minister for a very well presented Statement, grounded in the right ideological position. As a socialist, I cannot agree more with the Statement of the Minister and hence, I would like to take this opportunity to subscribe to your proposal that we need another platform where we are going to interrogate these issues. I, however, have a small question as to whether these Marxists, Leninist tone of the Statement is not contradicting the ambivalence of the ideological position of your Party?

HON SPEAKER: Secretary-General of the majority Party you are reading my mind. I am not getting involved in the polemic ideology one way or the other, but from what I know, the Minister who delivered the Statement in the manner in which he did, is a member of the majority Party and I think that he was not speaking solely for himself as a Minister but he was speaking, more so, along the lines of thinking of the Party he belongs to. However, you will have an opportunity and I hope we will limit ourselves not so much to ideological issues but the policy of the Government that the Minister has articulated. Any further comments on that? Yes, Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Like my Colleague from the oldest Party in this Chamber and in this country, I

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**QUESTIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS/COMMENT
TO MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SHIXWAMENI**

would also like to support the Minister's Statement. I think it is clear. We really need to investigate the reasons why we should buy chicken produced at Brakewater here for more than N\$60.00. Even given the Infant Industry Protection, we need to interrogate that. We need to interrogate why fish in this country, a country that produces so much fish in its ocean, why fish is more expensive right here than when you even buy it in Europe. We need to ask questions around this and I fully support the Minister.

Honourable Speaker, I support your Statement saying that we probably, as leaders of this Nation, need to get in a room where the Minister and his technical staff sits around with every Member of the National Assembly and the National Council and explain these issues that he is explaining to us so that we get a better understanding, so that we get a better dialogue on how to go about it in terms of pricing in this country.

We are called the cattle country but meat is so expensive, and my sister here, Honourable !Nawases, from Gobabis would acknowledge that. Whether we want to protect the Industry or not, poor people can simply not afford commodities in our shops anymore, even eggs that are produced here in Okahandja. One can simply not afford the prices that have gone up almost four or five times in about three years.

I, therefore, second the Honourable Speaker's call. Let us sit down as leaders and interrogate ourselves. Where are we taking this country? The prices of houses are high and people can afford almost nothing in this country. What are we doing as leaders? We need to interrogate all these questions.

I support the Honourable Speaker and Honourable Maamberua's Statements. Let us find answers to national issues like these ones. I, however, support the Minister's Statement. Thank you.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
ON MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That does it for today. Honourable Minister, would you like to say something before I ask the Prime Minister to adjourn the House?

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much. I am very happy that there is interest in the Statement and also interest in how we are going to drive the industrialisation policy further. I am just wondering whether the Honourable Speaker can give me guidance on how this process will unfold. Obviously, I could postpone the Debate if that is allowed, to sometime after the Budget Debate, so that we can have a Session on that. That is one option that I will put on the table. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I will look into all that. Obviously, I will consult you and consult the Prime Minister. We will have a clearer picture when we come back. Before the Right Honourable Prime Minister adjourns the House, I see the Chief Whip wants to say something.

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Comrade Speaker, I just wanted to remind the House, particularly the Members on this side of the House that we would like to make use of this opportunity by having a SWAPO Party caucus in view of the fact that we are adjourning a bit early, we could make use of the time to consult. That is after today's Session, if it is permissible. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Good. Right Honourable Prime Minister, I know we shall resume tomorrow afternoon.

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**ADJOURNMENT
RT HON DR GEINGOB**

HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker, before I adjourn the House, I would like to kindly request Honourable Moongo to stand over his two questions posed to me until I come back, so that I can give him a thorough answer.

With that, I would like to Move that the House now adjourns until tomorrow, Wednesday, at 14:30 sharp, to come and listen to the Budget Speech. I am going to Move so, Sir.

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? So decided.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:00 UNTIL 2014.02.19 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
19 FEBRUARY 2014**

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

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 13:

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 27th of February 2014; I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Agricultural, Water and Forestry the following questions:

Honourable Minister, the majority of the poor black communal farmers, previously known as the bantustans, are still waiting for their money, the N\$300.00 per head of cattle, sold during the drought period almost eight months ago.

1. Can the Honourable Minister, either through answering my question or through a Ministerial Statement, state whether Government still intends to pay the marginalised peasants in the communal areas, and how long do they have to wait.
2. Can the Honourable Minister give us an indication of how many

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON TJIHUIKO**

boreholes have been drilled so far, and in which Regions and Constituencies? Can the Honourable Minister also inform this Honourable Chamber whether these boreholes are operational or not?

QUESTION 14:

HON TJIHUIKO: I also give Notice that on Thursday, the 27th of February 2014, I shall ask the Minister of Education the following questions: I hope he is here.

Honourable Minister, a lot has been said in the national as well as the international print media about the chaotic administration or running of a School of Medicine at the University of Namibia. As a proud Namibian, and on top of that, a national leader, I would appreciate it if you could honestly answer the following questions.

1. Is it true that the University of Namibia's School of Medicine is in a total mess as the result of the incompetent Dean of Medicine?
 2. Can you please confirm what the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Social Services was reported as having said that the University of Namibia School of Medicines' students need additional 20 months of clinical training to make up for what they have lost as the result of the Dean of Medicine?
 3. Honourable Minister, can you please tell us who the Dean of the School of Medicine is, in terms of his nationality, academic qualifications, work experience and how this colleague was appointed? Was it through an advertisement and was this person interviewed at all? By the way, Honourable Minister, how many other candidates have applied for that position and who were they, all of them?
 4. Or was this person handpicked because he happened to be known as a friend to one of the leaders in the Ruling SWAPO Party? I so Move.
-

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please table the question. That being so, the Notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Finance.

Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now introduced?

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

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any objections? Agreed to. Will the Honourable Minister kindly table the Bill?

The Secretary will now read the Bill a First Time.

FIRST READING: APPROPRIATION BILL [B.3 – 2014]

SECRETARY: *Appropriation Bill* [B.3 – 2014].

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

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

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

HON SPEAKER: Any objections? Who seconds? Agreed to. Honourable Minister, they are now in your hands. You have the Floor.

SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL [B.3 – 2014]

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members;

In accordance with Article 126(1) of the Namibian Constitution, I have the honour to present for the consideration of the National Assembly estimates of Revenue, Expenditure and Income for the Financial Year 2014/2015. In fulfilment of this responsibility, it gives me pleasure to submit to this august House for consideration the following documents:

- a) *The Appropriation Bill, 2014;*
- b) Proposals for the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2014/2015 and the corresponding Medium-term Expenditure Framework for 2014/2015 to 2016/2017;

In addition, I wish to present the Development Budget 2014/2015 – 2016/2017, the Macroeconomic Framework and the Fiscal Policy Framework for the MTEF as well as the Accountability Report 2012/2013 as important information documents.

RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT – RESPONSIBLE DECISIONS

Honourable Speaker, in February 2013, I asked this august House for support to implement the Annual Budget under the theme of “***Growing the Economy, Optimising Development Outcomes***”. Today, I am glad to report that we have made good progress to achieve the outcomes anticipated under the Budget.

Last year’s Fiscal Policy stance was indispensable, given the tremendous

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challenges that we still face, particularly in the areas of employment creation and poverty reduction. None of us should sleep peacefully until every Namibian is able to say; *“I can see a better future. I can find a job. I can learn a skill. Hard work will enable me and my family to have food and shelter. If I do my best at school and university, it will provide me with a better future and new opportunities”*.

But, in reality, we know too well that Namibia is still grappling with glaring social and structural economic challenges. These challenges include, but are not limited to:-

- *a jobless growth trajectory, with a lopsided distribution of income and resource ownership;*
- *substantial skills deficit and a narrow economic base with primary commodities still serving as the engine of export-led growth;*
- *low Human Development Index (HDI), which calls for rapid progress in the areas of education and health;*
- *susceptibility to climate change; and*
- *moral decay which manifests itself in, among others, increasing violence against vulnerable members of the society, especially defenceless women and children.*

Honourable Speaker, we must build a new common purpose so that we can use all of our talents, skills and resources to confront our economic and social challenges.

So, we have to do things differently – we have to act swiftly and decisively to strengthen the institutions through which public services are delivered, and to transform the structure of our economy, so that all Namibians can share in the opportunities that our country offers.

When His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba, addressed the last

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Cabinet meeting of 2013, he stated that: *“Our mandate, as a Government, is to respond timely to our nation’s needs for the delivery of quality public services. Therefore, we must continue to innovate, to be resourceful and to find the best ways and means to give practical and tangible effect to the decisions that we take. It is only in that spirit that we will realise our national development goals and make Namibia a better place for all our people”.*

We have made considerable progress in many spheres, thanks to the proactive socio-economic development policies that were implemented. The record of achievements includes:-

- *consistent investment in democratic governance, peace, stability and strong domestic institutions,*
- *maintenance of macroeconomic stability and fiscal prudence,*
- *expansion of the economy by two and a half times since 1990,*
- *expanded access to education, health and basic amenities,*
- *an extensive social safety net system, which contributes to pushing back the frontiers of poverty and vulnerability,*
- *good physical infrastructure in the domains of telecommunications, sea, road and rail transport, water and secure power supply;*
- *positioning Namibia as the dream destination for local, regional and international tourists,*
- *financial stability, thanks to prudent and rigorous financial regulatory framework and good risk management systems, which enabled us to weather the effects of the global economic crisis, and*
- *a relatively efficient tax system with revenue productivity improving from 23.7 percent in 2003/2004 to over 32 percent by 2012/2013,*

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- *thereby enhancing the capacity of the state to expand service delivery to the Nation.*

WHAT DOES THIS BUDGET OFFER?

Honourable Members, the Budget I am tabling today aims to support inclusive growth in a fiscal sustainable manner.

The **first** priority for the Budget is to continue entrenching macroeconomic stability as a necessary condition to bolster economic growth and sustainability of development outcomes. This requires that expenditure expansion is well targeted and that we live within our means and do not encumber our children with unsustainable debt burdens.

The **second** priority is to expand the economy to achieve high economic growth rates with jobs, by investing in infrastructure and through a gradual drive to enhance the Industrial Sector in the country.

The **third** priority is to foster human resources development and skills formation by maintaining priority attention to education, health and the provision of social amenities and social safety nets in order to raise the standard of living for our people.

The **fourth priority** is to curb waste and bureaucracy which is costing the Government and hampering the initiative of those who wish to contribute to economic growth and job creation.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN 2013/2014

Global Macroeconomic Environment and Financial System

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the global economy is recovering after many years of fragility and uncertainty, thanks to coordinated policy actions across the globe. Global economic output is now growing at about its average rate over the past three decades.

However, the growth outlook in advanced economies is still subject to

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considerable uncertainty. The US decision to taper its large-scale asset purchase programme has triggered heightened volatility in global financial markets. Further, policy normalisation by advanced economies will spill over to the rest of the world, especially to emerging and developing economies as is already seen in exchange rate volatility as capital flows are seeking higher yield.

Developments in the Regional economy

Sub-Saharan Africa continued to post strong economic performance, with growth estimated to have recorded 5.1% in 2013. Growth is projected to increase to 6.1% in 2014 before moderating to 5.8% in 2015.

Developments in Domestic Economy

Our economy displayed remarkable resilience despite the uncertainties and volatility in the international markets. GDP is estimated to have expanded by a respectable 4.8% in 2013. All Sectors, except crop farming, and electricity and water are estimated to have recorded positive growth rates. Sectors that have contributed to this achievement through double digit growth rates are livestock and construction.

The inflation rate averaged 5.6% in 2013 and edged downward to 4.9% in January this year.

Gross fixed capital formation is projected to expand by 17% in real terms during 2013, while private consumption expenditure remains robust with a rate of expansion of 9.5% being projected.

Foreign direct investment during the first three quarters of 2013 jumped to an impressive N\$6 billion, compared to N\$1.5 billion during the same period in 2012. Our foreign reserves stood at N\$14.5 billion at the end of the third quarter of 2013, which was equivalent to 9.19 weeks of import cover. While this level of reserves is sufficient to maintain the currency peg, we must find measures to boost reserve levels over the medium term.

Honourable Speaker, one major concern is the volatility of our currency

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that is pegged to the South African Rand. This is mainly ascribed to the initial decision by the US Federal Reserve to taper its quantitative easing programme. While our exporters must have been quite content with the situation, depreciation puts upward price pressure on imported goods.

Although our export earnings have recovered well in 2013, our import bill also rose sharply mainly as a result of emergency imports to respond to the drought situation and a strong fixed capital investment, including mineral exploration. Nevertheless, a smaller current account deficit is expected in 2013 compared to the previous year.

The resilient performance of our economy is also reflected in the trading volumes and share price performance on the Namibian Stock Exchange.

Throughout 2013, the Bank of Namibia maintained its accommodative monetary policy. This was with a view to give the domestic economy room to gain momentum for growth amidst uncertainties in the global economy.

Private Sector credit extension has increased steadily, buoyed by accommodative monetary policy. However, at the end of the third quarter of 2013 growth in Private Sector credit extension slowed, mainly as a result of the reduced credit demand from businesses and households.

Despite the challenging economic environment, Namibia was able to have its sovereign credit ratings with both Moody's and Fitch reaffirmed. This materialised because the fundamentals of our country and its economy remain robust and consistent. Namibia remains committed to consistently address weaknesses and sensitivities identified during the rating process in order to improve investor confidence.

Capital Market Developments

Longer dated domestic debt instruments, maturing in 2032 and 2035 respectively were introduced during 2013/2014 to cater for longer term projects, demonstrating ability of our Government to raise funds for important national projects.

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The high investors' confidence in the Government of Namibia is not only in the domestic markets, but also in the international capital markets as demonstrated by huge demand for the bonds issued by the Government internationally, the Eurobond and the similar instrument listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

Regional economic integration

As a small economy, Namibia accords high importance to regional economic integration, which it pursues through membership to SACU, SADC, AU and indeed, CMA.

To further enhance regional integration within the SACU union, the SACU Heads of State endorsed five priority reform areas for the organisation. While progress has been realized across the different priority areas, such progress is generally slow. It is important that better progress is made if the region is to fully harness the opportunities of deeper regional integration.

Fiscal Developments

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members on the fiscal front, we have adopted a gradual fiscal consolidation course of action since 2012/2013 as a measure to stabilize growth in public debt, given improvement in domestic economic recovery. With the prospect of resurgent risks on growth, the 2013/2014 Budget adopted a moderate fiscal expansion.

Revenue Outturn

Total revenue and grants for 2012/2013 is estimated at N\$38.0 billion, which is 7.3% better than the N\$35.42 billion estimated in the Budget. The favourable outturn is on account of better-than-expected performance in domestic tax revenue streams, given better economic performance than forecast, and an improved tax collection and administration effort.

The revenue outturn represents about 27% growth over the N\$29.9 billion collected during 2011/2012. Both domestic tax revenue streams and the

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SACU Common Revenue Pool demonstrated strong performance.

The SACU Common Revenue Pool recorded a surplus of N\$9.07 billion in 2010/11, of which Namibia received N\$2.5 billion during 2012/2013. A further N\$812 million from the 2011/2012 surplus will be remitted to Namibia during 2014/2015 Fiscal Year, in addition to the annual pool share.

The preliminary revenue outturn for 2013/2014 up to mid-February 2014 amounts to N\$38.82 billion, equivalent to 96.6% of the N\$40.14 billion estimated in the Budget. Thus, revenue for 2013/2014 is estimated to increase to N\$43.87 billion, which represents an increase of 15.5% over the previous year and 9.3% more than the budgeted revenue, on the back of better-than-forecast economic performance and a stepped up tax collection and administration effort.

Expenditure Outturn

The total Budget execution rate for 2012/2013 stood at 95.5%, recording an amount spent at N\$38.14 billion, out of the total Budget of N\$40.07 billion, some 34.4% of GDP and well below the fiscal cap of 40% of GDP. Operational Budget execution rate stood at 96.8%, while the Development Budget utilisation rate stood at 88.6% lower than the rate of 92.9% achieved in 2011/2012.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the need for improvement in expenditure utilization, especially in respect of the development budget cannot be overemphasized.

The preliminary expenditure outturn up to mid-February 2014, including expenditure commitments for 2013/2014, amounts to N\$44.68 billion, representing 94.0% of the N\$47.58 billion budgeted expenditure.

Budget Balance

On account of the fiscal consolidation and efforts to strengthen revenue collection, the budget deficit in 2012/2013 amounted to N\$114.37 million

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or some 0.1% of GDP, seen against the budgeted deficit of 2.8% of GDP. For the 2013/2014 Fiscal Year, the deficit is expected to be lower than the 6.4% of GDP on account of expected better revenue outturn and low budget implementation.

Debt stock and contingent liabilities

The debt stock increased in nominal terms to N\$32.39 billion by 2013/2014, from N\$27.55 billion in 2012/2013. As a proportion of GDP, however, the total debt at 26.3% of GDP falls well within the 35% benchmark. Stabilization of growth in public debt is an important medium-term policy for Namibia.

Contingent liabilities stood at an estimated N\$2.6 billion, or 2.4% of GDP.

The imperative to maintain the direction of fiscal consolidation and, at the same time, fund critical national priorities, call 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 INTERVENTIONS

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we have been able to realize these fiscal outcomes, thanks to strategic policy interventions implemented during the previous MTEF.

Fiscal Policy Interventions

Government undertook the following interventions to reinforce the pulse of fiscal policy in the economy:-

- *targeted expansionary fiscal policy which helped to lift economic recovery and expand the provision of services to an increased number of Namibians;*

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- *tax policy and administration reforms, which lowered the tax burden on individuals and corporations, broadened the revenue base, enhance compliance and grow national revenue;*
- *strengthened social safety nets which helped to push back the frontiers of poverty and vulnerability;*
- *scaled-up investment in infrastructure and private sector support; and*
- *improvements in public finance management to enhance value for money and responsible management of public resources.*

In addition to the reforms, Government has taken a decision to establish a semi-autonomous Revenue Agency as a measure to achieve operational efficiency gains in the revenue administration function. I have commissioned a Task Team to steer the transitional process over the next 36 months.

May I use this opportunity, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, to urge all taxpayers with outstanding tax arrears to approach the Revenue Office and make arrangements to settle their liabilities before Government institutes statutory penalty measures against them.

As part of the on-going efforts to identify alternative sources of revenue, Government is investing the introduction of a presumptive tax for small businesses and the capital gains tax. In fact, we have already carried out the study on presumptive tax and we are studying the Report from that investigation, we are hopefully going to take a decision soon.

Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG)

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG) is now in its third year of implementation.

A total of N\$14.5 billion has been allocated to this programme for the

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three-year period.

To date, an estimated 83,315 jobs have been created (15,829 permanent, 67,485 temporary). The details of the performance of the TIPEEG intervention are provided under Vote 26's Accountability Report.

Financial Sector Developments

Access to financial services

During 2012, a provisional licence was granted to an applicant bank by the Bank of Namibia. Another licence application is being examined, while an application to operate a branch office by a foreign bank has also been received. These developments are expected to promote competition among banks and contribute to improved banking services in the country. Competition is further enhanced by Electronic money (or E-money) issuers. There are currently three authorised e-money issuers offering e-money services as well as one e-banking institution. E-money services, particularly when provided through mobile devices, have the potential to provide financial access to a large number of unbanked Namibians.

Localization of payment system infrastructure

The Namibian Banking Industry completed the Namclear Automated Clearing House Project during 2013 by localising the EFT and NAMSWITCH systems. This project will enable the Namibian banking industry to maintain a modern, streamlined, and cost-effective payments infrastructure.

Ensuring fair market conduct by financial institutions

To ensure fair market conduct by banking institutions, the Bank of Namibia issued determination on standards for Cash Deposit fees and a Basic Bank Account which allows individuals and businesses to deposit certain amounts without paying deposit fees. All commercial banks now offer Basic Bank Account facilities, which are currently used by around 96,000 active accountholders. Through these actions, we expect to reduce

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barriers to accessing financial services such as high fees and charges.

Regulation of credit bureaus

The Credit Bureau Regulations have been finalized. We believe that regulating the sharing of credit information in Namibia facilitates access to finance and it will bring about behavioural changes by those that use credit irresponsibly, besides protecting consumers of financial services.

Consumer protection

In a further effort to ensure the protection of financial consumers, a Code of Banking Practice was developed. The Bank of Namibia also developed the Guidelines for Lodging Customer Complaints which serve as a guide to consumers when lodging complaints against banking institutions. Both the Code and the Guidelines were jointly launched in February 2013.

Two other related statutes that are currently receiving attention, are the *Financial Services Ombudsman Bill* and the *Consumer Credit Bill*. The Bills will undergo further intensive consultations with key stakeholders before they are finalized and presented to this House.

Fiscal and Financial Sector Law Reforms

Public Finance Management Bill

We have decided to redraft the *Public Finance Management Bill* in order to take advantage of new developments in financial management. Extensive consultations were undertaken with a wide range of stakeholders and useful inputs were received. We shall pursue the finalisation of the new bill during the course of the year. The *Audit Bill* which was already finalized will have to be reviewed to achieve streamlining with the *Public Finance Bill*, since they are very closely related.

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Public Procurement Bill

The consultations on the *Public Procurement Bill* will be pursued as a matter of priority so that the bill returns to Parliament during the first half of this year. In the meantime, we have amended the regulations under the current *Tender Board Act* to strengthen empowerment provisions.

All tenderers are now required to have local shareholding in their companies as a criterion to qualify for participating in Government tenders, and to source their supplies locally. Provision is also made for tender reservations for local SMEs and companies owned by Namibian youth and women. We are setting up a database to facilitate monitoring of compliance with these provisions.

Public-Private Partnership

Following the adoption of the Public-Private Partnership policy last year, the Ministry of Finance has developed guidelines for PPP implementation and formulation of the enabling legislation is underway. Public consultations on these documents are planned for this year. The Ministry is also establishing an appropriate Unit to coordinate the implementation of the PPP system.

NAMFISA Bill and Financial Institutions and Markets (FIM) Bill

The new *NAMFISA Bill* and the *FIM Bill* are now with the legislative drafting department and will be tabled once this is finalized. The Amendments to Regulations 15 and 28 and the new regulation 29 are now in force. These regulations will make way for the channelling of some of our savings towards unlisted investments in order to support local economic development. Further to that, the Amendment to the *Pension Funds Act* is now finalized and the Amendments Bill will be tabled in this Session. This will facilitate for members of Pension funds to access part of their pension benefits to acquire homes even in communal areas, which was not the case previously.

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Budget Achievements and Challenges

Honourable Speaker, I would now like to highlight some of the key budget achievements during 2012/2013 and 2013/2014.

Economic Sectors

In the **Agricultural Sector**, the drought marketing incentives scheme was initiated to help farmers cope with the effect of the drought. Progress was also made to expand access to potable water and to secure supply for commercial production, to promote animal health quality and food security.

Energy

Investment in this Sector focused on energy generation and transmission infrastructure in order to promote security of energy supply for industrial and household use. Through the Rural Electrification Programme an additional 22 localities and 68 business units country-wide were electrified during 2012/2013.

Port Infrastructure and expansion

Progress was made with expansion of the Port of Walvis Bay, and construction of a new container terminal. In this regard, Government has issued a guarantee of N\$2.9 billion for NamPort to secure a loan to undertake the project.

Transport infrastructure

For the road and rail infrastructure, the key transport projects that were completed include:-

- *Section C of Tsumeb-Katwitwi road;*
- *Upgrading of Gobabis-Otjinene road to bitumen standard; and*

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- *On-going upgrading of the Kranzberg-Tsumeb railway.*

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, access to finance is a critical component for promoting business growth.

- During 2013, the Development Bank of Namibia extended business loans to the tune of N\$340 million, bringing the total loan book of the bank to N\$1.73 billion. This had benefited all categories of businesses, including SMEs, with 1,619 new jobs created;
- AgriBank's loan disbursement during 2013 amounted to N\$383.18 million which benefitted over 730 farmers, bringing the AgriBank total loan book to N\$2.14 billion. The bank has put aside N\$91 million to assist farmers to mitigate the effects of the drought and supplement what is provided under this Budget through the Votes of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Prime Minister's Office Emergency Management;
- The SME Bank became operational in 2012. The new bank is a welcome development and provides a much needed support to the Financial Sector's capacity to address the funding needs of SMEs and the Budget has some provision to support this bank.

Social Sectors

In the **Education Sector**, access to education continues to improve. An increased number of students received financial assistance to access institutions of higher learning, thus empowering our youth to become not only drivers, but beneficiaries of our country's development.

In the *Health Sector*;

- A significant reduction was recorded in malaria and tuberculosis related mortalities. Coverage for antiretroviral therapy was also increased through decentralization of services to the primary health care clinics;

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- construction and upgrading of existing health facilities were undertaken in various parts of the country; and
- increased intake was recorded for nurses and medical doctors training to help address medical staff shortages in the country

THE MEDIUM-TERM ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

The Global Outlook

Building on the progress made in 2013, the recovery in the developed economies is expected to provide a basis for a global economic recovery in 2014. For the recovery to be sustained, economic policies should be geared toward restoring the role of the Private Sector in the growth process and should foster productivity gains, increased employment and higher investment in the real Sector.

This is important to avoid a relapse as policy support is withdrawn.

Domestic Economic Outlook

Honourable members, for the coming MTEF, our economy is projected to grow above global averages, but the growth rates are expected to be moderate in line with global trends. GDP is projected to grow by 5.0% in 2014 and remain relatively flat at 4.8% over the MTEF.

Stronger investment activity, the coming on stream of some of the investment projects in the mineral and manufacturing sectors and the strengthening of demand conditions in key trade partners for Namibia will account for improved pace of activity in 2014.

In particular, increased activity in the Construction and Manufacturing Sub-sectors will anchor growth during the MTEF, while slow recuperation in mineral commodity prices and the devastating effects of the 2013 drought country-wide are expected to cause a drag on the volatile primary Sector.

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Fiscal Outlook

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members; taking into consideration the projected economic outlook, total revenue and grants for the MTEF is projected to increase by about 14.7% annually on average. In nominal terms, revenue is projected to increase from a revised estimate of N\$43.87 billion in 2013/2014 to N\$52.47 billion in 2014/2015 and average around N\$59.08 billion over the MTEF.

SACU revenue for 2014/15 is estimated at N\$18.12 billion or 34.7% of total revenue, which comprises N\$17.31 billion from current collections and N\$812 million from the surplus emanating from 2011/2012.

While domestic revenue stream will contribute significantly to the expected revenue, a significant risk to the outlook derives from uncertainty regarding future SACU revenues due to on-going reforms.

Expenditure Outlook

This Budget presents a total expenditure outlay of N\$60.28 billion for 2014/2015. The proposed expenditure level represents 26.7% increase from N\$47.58 billion allocated for 2013/2014. For the MTEF period, total expenditure is projected to average around N\$64.92 billion.

Operational Expenditure for 2014/2015 is budgeted at N\$48.0 billion, equivalent to 29.1% rise from N\$37.18 billion allocated during 2013/2014. The increase is mainly due to the salary increase for Civil Servants as agreed with Unions, and the Job Evaluation and Re-grading. Operational Budget includes a total of N\$9.52 billion earmarked for transfers to State-Owned Enterprises (SOE), mainly for infrastructure development in the energy and transport sectors. Over the MTEF, transfers to SOE's stand at a staggering N\$24.84 billion or 16.3% of the Operational Budget.

The Development Budget allocation has increased by 17.6% to N\$9.58 billion from N\$8.15 billion allocated in 2013/2014. The development

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Budget Allocation should be seen together with the targeted transfers to SOEs much of which accrues to infrastructure projects.

Budget Balance and Financing Options

Honourable Speaker, the Budget Deficit is projected at N\$7.62 billion, corresponding to about 5.4% of GDP. This is a moderation from the deficit of 6.4% budgeted for 2013/2014, in line with the gradual fiscal consolidation programme that we have adopted. As a percentage of GDP, the deficit is estimated to average around 3.5% over the MTEF.

Government intends to finance the deficit mainly from borrowing from the domestic market.

Debt Outlook

Total debt is projected to increase from N\$32.39 billion in 2013/2014 to about N\$38.48 billion in 2014/2015 or 27.2% of GDP. Over the MTEF, debt is forecast to average around 26.8%.

Given risks on revenue and public debt outlook, the fiscal policy stance for the MTEF is to:-

- *rebuild fiscal buffers, while providing needed budgetary support to strategic priorities;*
- *follow the fiscal consolidation path by reducing the Budget Deficit as a mechanism to mitigate against potential impacts of revenue risks; and*
- *continue with measures to strengthen efficiency in tax administration and revenue collection.*

STRATEGIC POLICY INTERVENTIONS FOR THE MTEF

Interventions over the MTEF are aimed at addressing identified development priorities and mitigating fiscal risks. Fiscal operations will

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be further complemented by other policy interventions in all Sectors of the economy.

A substantial element of fiscal support to the economy lies with the provision of infrastructure that promotes private investment and trade and the provision of critical social services in education and health. To this objective shall be added increased support for Private Sector and industrialization through expanded access to development finance and targeted incentives.

We have decided to identify internal savings and rationalize non-essential expenditure within Vote ceilings so as to reinforce allocations to expenditure needs of a capital and development nature.

In addition, Government will further provide scaled-up allocation to the Health Sector in particular to address glaring infrastructure and resource gaps. In addition, we must also enhance the quality of health care services.

Diversified funding sources will be harnessed to mitigate the impact on public debt. In this regard, SOEs with strong balance sheets will continue to be encouraged to raise capital in the market through commitment of sovereign guarantees but also through the use of their own balance sheets. Alongside its SOE supportive role, Government will finalize the PPP legal framework during 2014/2015 to pave way for full implementation going forward.

Government will continue with tax reforms to enhance efficiency, broaden and deepen the revenue base and increase the competitiveness of the tax regime. The following tax changes will be introduced:-

- *The first phase of environmental taxes is ready for implementation, and will encompass the carbon dioxide emission tax on motor vehicles, incandescent light bulbs and motor vehicle tyres;*
- *The non-mining corporate income tax rate will be further reduced by 1% as announced in last year's Budget;*

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- *Taxes to promote domestic value-addition in the primary commodity and natural resources sectors have also been finalised and are soon to be introduced;*
- *The VAT threshold will be raised from N\$200,000 to N\$500,000; and*
- *Excise duty rates (sin taxes) will be reviewed in line with the provisions of the SACU Agreement. I will not be announcing those revisions today but will do so at a later stage.*

We will further continue to strengthen public finance management, improve the quality of expenditure and strive to achieve value for money. In this regard, on-going reforms are aimed at enhancing accounting, enhance the robustness of the IFMS system as well as strengthening the internal audit function.

In order to meet the increasing resource of the State, we continue with efforts to identify new sources of revenue.

EXPENDITURE PRIORITIES FOR MTEF

Economic growth, employment creation and poverty reduction

Agriculture and Water

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, a total of N\$8.0 billion is allocated to the Vote of Agriculture during the MTEF to fund, among others, the drought relief incentives, construction of earth dams and expansion of rural water supply and Green Scheme Projects. These are not all the activities but are amongst the many important interventions.

Land Reform

A total of N\$1.25 billion is allocated to the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement over the MTEF for the land acquisition and for the rehabilitation of infrastructure in the resettlement farms to enhance

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productivity. This allocation is augmented by the funding provided through Agribank for Affirmative Action Loans and production loans.

Tourism

The environment and ***Tourism Sector*** is allocated a total of N\$2.3 billion over the MTEF for tourism marketing and to improve parks infrastructure and tourist facilities.

Industrialization and entrepreneurship development

A total of N\$1.95 billion is allocated to Trade and Industry Vote over the MTEF for, among others, capitalization of the SME Bank, development of sites and premises and operationalisation the industrialization programme through feasibility assessment and project development.

This allocation is complimented by funding to DBN that will also finance of industrialisation projects, and by preferences for local products under the public procurement as well as the Infant Industry Protection interventions that the Minister of Trade and Industry spoke about yesterday.

Infrastructure Development

An allocation of N\$16.4 billion is made over the MTEF for infrastructure maintenance and development. These entail public works, and expansion of airport and seaport infrastructure, rail and road network.

Mines and Energy

A total of N\$5.3 billion is allocated to the ***Mines and Energy Sector*** over the MTEF for the development of the Kudu Gas-to-Power Project, Rural Electrification and support to Epangelo Mining.

Human resources development and skills formation

Education continues to receive the largest share of the Budget, amounting

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to N\$13.1 billion in 2014/2015 or some 22.7% of the total Budget and N\$42.10 billion over the MTEF. The allocation will help to fund the development and upgrading of education facilities, provision of teachers accommodation, learning materials, recruitment of qualified teachers, support for institutions of higher learning and vocational training as well as increased financial to students to access tertiary institutions.

Funding to the **Heath Sector** is increased to N\$18.9 billion over the MTEF, with N\$6.01 billion allocated for 2014/2015 to address, amongst others, the development and upgrading of health facilities across the country, acquisition of health equipment and supplies and the recruitment and training of medical personnel.

Social Safety Nets

This Budget provides resources for:-

- *the increase of grants for the Orphans and Vulnerable Children to N\$250 per month, and to roll-out the OVC grants to all qualifying children;*
- *allocations are also made to provide support to veterans of the liberation struggle; and*
- *the Old Age Grants were increased both in 2012/2013 and 2013/2014. In this Budget we are providing resources to roll-out the Old Age Grants to all qualifying beneficiaries and only increase the monthly grants in 2015/2016.*

Emergency Management

A total of N\$80 million is allocated for the Emergency management over the MTEF to further capitalize the National Disaster Fund and development of disaster management around the country. These funds are augmented by the contingency provision, which amounts to N\$300.00 million for each of the MTEF Financial Years.

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Defence, Safety and Public Order

We are providing increasing resources to the security, Law and Order institutions to enable them to safeguard the national security and Law and Order which are an important prerequisite for economic development.

A total of N\$1.4 billion is allocated for Civic Affairs and Immigration, and will cater for, among others, immigration facilities along the borders and the construction of the Head Quarters and sub-regional offices in order to bring services closer to the people.

Youth Development

A total of N\$2.06 billion is allocated to the Ministry of Youth, National Services, Sports and Culture over the MTEF to cater for youth empowerment and development programmes through the National Youth Service and National Youth Council.

Gender and Child Welfare

A total of N\$2.50 billion is allocated to the **Ministry of Gender Affairs and Child Welfare** over the MTEF to support gender mainstreaming, women empowerment and child development. Hopefully the lot of our mothers, sister and our children will improve for the better, not only from these investments, but from the support that all of us are going to render to this initiative.

Housing

A total allocation of N\$8.3 billion is made to Vote 17 for the provision of residential housing in various towns and cities across the country;

Now having summarised the interventions under the MTEF, I would like to conclude with some acknowledgments.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I have been given immense support and guidance by His Excellency the President and the Right

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Honourable Prime Minister throughout the intricate budget process, and, as usual, I received the cooperation of my Cabinet Colleagues where give and take is the order of the day and coordination of Government's overall policies is absolutely essential. I greatly appreciate this.

I also wish to thank the Director-General of the National Planning Commission and his staff for their supportive role in handling the Development Budget for this MTEF.

Our collective thanks are also due to Governor Ipumbu Shiimi and his staff for the way in which the Bank of Namibia has managed monetary policy during difficult and uncertain times.

The Budget Team, under the professional leadership of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, consists of a group of talented and committed staff who continue to deliver excellence in the Public Service and remain an invaluable asset both to Government and to Namibia. Credit must also go to the staffs of the Receiver of Revenue and Customs and Excise who are entrusted with the important function of revenue collections.

I also thank our colleagues who under the different SOEs continue to render valuable support to me in administering the intricate financial sector to ensure safe custody of our national savings and effective financial intermediation that promote inclusive growth.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on behalf of the Government and the Namibian people, I wish to recognise and acknowledge the technical assistance and financial support we continue to receive from our development partners. Without their continued support, it would be difficult to accomplish our development goals given these demanding times.

My heartfelt thanks also go to the many citizens of our beautiful country who confront me in public to convey their good wishes and encouragement, and also offer critique and propose alternative approaches.

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, through this Budget, Government is consolidating the economic and financial stability of our country.

It is also creating an energetic economic environment that inspires confidence and courage in investors looking for a promising future in our country.

Through this Budget, we are incentivising economic growth, job creation and eradication of poverty.

We are emboldening industrious workers to work and earn more for their own good and the prosperity of their families.

We are assisting the youth to continue to invest in their skills and their future.

Through this Budget we are supporting the people in need, protecting the vulnerable and honouring our elderly.

We look forward with courage and a firm belief that we will achieve our goals. We will ensure to further increase prosperity and work in the country.

We will ensure that the fruit of our labour – wealth – is fairly distributed so that no one lags behind.

We are convinced that through this budget we will fulfil our vision of *Inclusive Growth* and *Fiscal Sustainability*.

Honourable Members, to realize the outcomes envisaged in this Budget, we need to act decisively and in the shortest time possible. I thus seek for your support and insights going forward.

Finally, as per the tradition, I have distributed information on the use of the Contingency Provision for 2013/2014.

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HON MAAMBERUA**

It is now my honour to submit to this august House the 2014/2015 *Appropriation Bill*, and the accompanying documents. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Minister of Finance for her presentation. I would let you have a few seconds, as you audibly, and by other non-verbal means of communication, thanked the Minister of Finance for a well prepared, forward looking and progressive Budget. That is all for the Speaker. Any further discussion? Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, with your concurrence and the concurrence of the Minister of Finance, and indeed, the entire House, if there are no further discussions may I propose to postpone discussions on this item - the *Appropriation Bill* to next week Tuesday, 14:30 sharp. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I take it that Honourable Maamberua's intervention and proposal meets with the unanimous consent of the House. Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: We have received most of the documents, and I thank the Minister for distributing such, however, there is still a document missing, we did not get the Operational Budget. In fact, it was also missing last year, we need to get that. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Blue is the favourite colour where I come from. Did you get it or is that another one? Honourable Minister, can you clarify?

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**ADJOURNMENT
RT HON DR GEINGOB**

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: I just received confirmation that the documents are actually on their way here to be distributed. We will also post this information on the Ministry's website for those that have access to computers, but everybody will get their copies here before we leave.

HON SPEAKER: All that sounds good to the Speaker's ears. It means that I will delay you until you are sure that you have all your documents before we rise.

That is what was scheduled for today, and since we have been separated by well a deserved holidays, if anybody wants to rise and say nice things about the Speaker, it will be good.

With that, I will ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until Tuesday next week.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, let us thank you for allowing the Finance Minister to give us a very good message. I would like to thank her on behalf of all of us, that is, from this side and that side.

We will, therefore, heed the request of Honourable Maamberua and I Move that this House adjourns until next week, Tuesday, the 25th of February 2014. Thank you.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 18:51 UNTIL 2014.02.25 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
25 FEBRUARY 2014**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: We start the Business of the House as Scheduled for today.

Honourable Members, we have dispensed with important events, like the official opening of Parliament and the tabling of the *Appropriation Bill*. We will also, as of next week continue with our normal meetings of the Standing Rule and Orders, and others, since a substantive number of our support staff is currently attending training courses outside the office hours. However, the work must continue in this House.

To that end, any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable 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 following:

- (i) The Namibian Communication Commission for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2011;
- (ii) Trust Fund for Regional Development Equity Provision for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012;

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

- (iii) Town Council of Rundu for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2012;
- (iv) Town Council of Okakarara for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2012;
- (v) Regional Council for the Kavango Region for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2011;
- (vi) National Art Council for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012;
and
- (vii) Motor Vehicle Accident Fund for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012;

I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, please table the Reports. Any further Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions?

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that Leave of Absence, due to official business, be granted to the Prime Minister, Right Honourable Hage Geingob until the 18th of March 2014. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please table the Motion.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Members, the Ministry has been receiving enquiries from the public, Parliamentarians and the media, on the safety of Namibian students in Ukraine.

I am happy to inform Namibians through this Honourable House that the latest information communicated to the Ministry from our mission in Moscow, that also covers Ukraine, tells us that all 67 Namibian students who have registered with the mission are safe and attending classes, and that the mission is in constant contact with them.

I have to mention that the students referred to above, are those sent to Ukraine through Government programmes and if there are students who went on their own and have not registered with the mission, we are asking their family members and those who are in contact with them to advise them to contact our embassy, the contact details are in this Statement.

In fact, it is very important that any Namibian student studying abroad, whether on a Government programme or as an individual, has to register with the nearest Namibian Embassy so that when a situation like what is happening in Ukraine arise, the Embassy will be able to reach them.

Comrade Speaker, the situation in Ukraine has reached a level of uncertainty. On Saturday, the 22 of February 2014, the protesters took control of Kiev, the capital city of Ukraine and seized the President's Office. We are informed that President Yanukovich has left Kiev to the Eastern part of the Country. It is reported that on the 23rd of February

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

2014, the Parliament elected the Speaker as the Country's Interim President. The Parliament has also voted and made the agreement a Law and adopted an unconditional amnesty for all people detained in the unrest. Parliament has also voted to allow the release of the former Prime Minister who has been imprisoned for 2 years.

All those events have followed an agreement on the settlement of the crisis in Ukraine that was signed on the 21st of February 2014. The agreement was signed between President Yanukovich and 3 leaders of the Opposition, and in the presence of the Foreign Minister of Poland, Foreign Minister of Germany, Foreign Minister of France and the Special Envoy of the Russian President, and those who have signed as witnesses. The agreement includes the following:

- Constitutional Reform;
- Balancing Power of the President;
- The Government and Parliament will start immediately and be completed in September 2014;

It also made mention that the Presidential Elections will be held as soon as the new Constitution is adopted but not later than December 2014. The radicals in Parliament also passed a Motion that the elections should be held by the 25th of May 2014. The agreement also talks about the new Electoral Law that would be passed and the new Central Electoral Commission to be formed. It also states that the authorities should not impose any state of emergency. With the events that followed on the 22nd and the 23rd of February, the validity and operationalisation of the agreement remains to be seen.

Comrade Speaker, as things stands now, a coup has taken place in Ukraine. Namibia, guided by our Constitution, which underscores the value of democracy and the Rule of Law, does not support the forceful change of Governments. We call on all role players to ensure that mechanisms are put in place to bring back Ukraine to democratic normalcy.

Honourable Speaker, let me also briefly inform this Honourable House on

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

2 important issues related to the development of the African continent.

Firstly, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the OAU/AU, African leaders have signed a solemn declaration in which they have acknowledged the past successes and challenges, rededicated themselves to the continent's development and pledged their commitment to make progress in 8 key areas namely:

- African Identity and Renaissance;
- The struggle against colonialism and the right to self-determination of people still under colonial rule;
- The Integration Agenda;
- Agenda for social and economic development;
- Peace and security;
- Democratic Governance;
- Determining Africa's Destiny; and
- Africa's place in the world

They have also agreed to integrate those areas into their respective National Development Plans and to develop an African agenda, well-known as Agenda 2063, to be adopted at the next Session of the AU Assembly to be held in June this year under the theme: ***Agriculture and Food Security***. Agenda 2063 is aimed at projecting a vision, a development trajectory for the continent over the next 50 years to galvanise and unite in action, all Africans and the Diaspora around a common vision of peaceful, integrated and prosperous Africa, driven by citizens and taking its rightful place in the world. It is expected that the Development Agenda 2063 will include a widespread consultation between the African society and the Diaspora, backed by rigorous technical analysis, including baseline studies and benchmarking, reviewing of National Development Plans, scenarios and trend analysis through a joint AUC and ECA technical team. Member States are expected to make their input. For Namibia, discussions held in different parts of the country under the OAU/AU 50th anniversary celebration, will inform Namibia's contribution.

Secondly, Comrade Speaker, I believe we are all aware that the United

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
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Nation Millennium Declaration, well-known Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted in 2000 under your leadership, Comrade Speaker as the President of the UN General Assembly, will come to an end in 2015 when it is expected that all that was agreed, has been achieved. However, the fact of the matter is, while good progress has been made in some of the areas, much still need to be done in others and other emerging issues need to be addressed. Subsequently, the international community under the UN is now developing what is called – Post-2015 Development Agenda. In developing the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the United Nation Secretary-General has appointed a high level panel of eminent persons to work on the working document. The panel has published its Report in May 2013, concluding that the Post-2015 Development Agenda should be driven by 5 transformative shifts namely:

- Leave no one behind;
- Put sustainable development at the core;
- Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth;
- Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all; and
- Forge a new global partnership.

Africa has set up a High Level Committee (HLC) under the Chair of Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the President of Liberia, to work on the Common African Position (CAP) that will guide African negotiators on the matter. The members of that High Level Committee are; North Africa- Algeria and Mauritania, East Africa- Ethiopia and Republic of Mauritius, Southern Africa- Republic of South Africa and Namibia, West Africa- Liberia and Guinea, Central Africa- the Republic of Congo and the Republic of Chad.

The Common African Position of the Post-2015 was adopted at the Assembly in January 2014. The Common African Position on the Post Development Agenda is structured around 6 pillars and enablers, which are:

- (i) Structural economic transformation and inclusive growth;

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HON DR GURIRAB**

- (ii) Science, technology and innovation;
- (iii) People-centred development;
- (iv) Environmental sustainability, natural resources management and disaster risk management;
- (v) Peace and Security; and
- (vi) Finance and Partnerships.

As negotiations on the Post-2015 are to start in March 2014, the Assembly has directed the High Level Committee to meet before the end of February 2014 in order to ensure that the document reflects what was agreed at the Assembly in January 2014 and to ensure that African negotiators will have the correct version when negotiations start in March. Against that background, a meeting of the High Level Committee is to take place on the 28th of February 2014 in Chad N'djamena. For those who would want to review Africa's Working Document on those 2 issues, the websites are also reflected in this Statement.

Finally, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Namibia continue to be recognised as a role player in the international arena. Hence, our election to the UN Commission on Human Rights and to the membership of the AU Peace and Security Council in November 2013 and January 2014, respectively.

Thank you for your kind attention.

**QUESTIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS/COMMENT
TO THE MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

HON SPEAKER: Thank very much, Honourable Minister. That was very informative. I hope that we will be in readiness when we reach the

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SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL

final run of the Millennium Declaration that contains those 8 development goals.

As a matter of fact, it would be a good idea, if in addition to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other relevant Line Ministries could give us a dossier of how far we have manage to reach those Millennium Development Goals that we have been able to satisfactorily reach and to continue implementing them even after the deadline, particularly in respect with the new agenda which the Secretary-General of the United Nation is consulting on that he will table next year, and also for us to see how best we can continue with what we are doing. The goals might have reached the deadline but the challenges that they represent still exist, we have to examine possibilities on how we may effectively benefit from the next stage that is presently being worked on as a preparation.

Thank you very much. Any other Ministerial Statements? None.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING:
APPROPRIATION BILL [B.3 – 2014]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading:
Appropriation Bill [B.3 – 2014].

HON SPEAKER: When this Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 19th of February 2014, the question before the Assembly was the Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Maamberua adjourned the Debate and I give him the Floor.

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**SECOND READING: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MAAMBERUA**

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, I rise to make my fourth maiden speech in this august House, maiden in the sense that it should not be interrupted.

As I said last year in my contribution to the Budget discussions, Political Parties are products of their own experiences and the ideas, if not ideological perspectives, with which they have been confronted in the past.

This is a demonstration that our struggle was not in vain and, therefore, our socialists' ideological decision was to benefit Namibians upon attaining Independence.

Hence, allow me to urge all our socialist Comrades and Parties in this House to rededicate ourselves to the socialist ideals so that Budgets are designed in that context.

Budgets are about people. Figures, like inflation rates, deficit rates, GDP, etcetera, are macroeconomic indicators, therefore, they remain vehicles towards easing socio-economic improvements, and they cannot be ends in themselves.

Excellent macroeconomic indicators that do not translate into enhancement of standards of living of the grass-roots, and reduction in poverty and effective tangible provision of jobs are as good as they are on paper and that is it!

I cannot agree more with the Honourable Minister of Finance when she says, and I paraphrase: “...*we have to do things differently ...and to transform the structure of our economy, so that all Namibians can share in the opportunities that our country offers.*”

The answer to that statement of the Minister will actually vindicate SWANU as we have all along advocated for that ideology: *Socialism*. That is, the vehicle that can transform the structure of our economy in

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order for ALL Namibians to benefit from the opportunities the country offers.

Before I proceed with the nitty-gritties of the Budget, allow me to pay homage to the victims of the relentless violence. Had they lived to see this Budget they could be beneficiaries too. We need to find the causes of this unprecedented violence and not jump at the solutions like “burying the perpetrators alive.” As WB du Boo once said; “*the fault lies not with our stars but within ourselves.*” This violence of killing and also the phenomenon of suicides, Namibia being the country leading in terms of suicide statistics in the world, mostly afflict the strata of our society in the 20s and 30s age groups. Therefore, let us interrogate the effectiveness, fairness and equity of our Budget Policies and Allocations for our youth and society at large.

Where has the Gender-Based Budgeting gone? Has TIPEEG derailed our thinking, making us forget this very important aspect of budgeting? Even the economic and budget analysts have not pronounced themselves on these issues recently and currently.

Comrade Speaker, allow me to remind ourselves that once the *Appropriation Bill* is laid upon the Table it becomes our Bill and no longer that of the Minister or Government. Therefore, we ought to do everything possible and practicable as we as legislators see fit.

Regrettably, however, in practical terms this has never happened in this august House because of the overwhelming majority of the Ruling Party in the House and compounded by the dominance of the Executive over the Legislature, scrutiny of the *Appropriation Bill* is basically tantamount to beating a dead horse.

HON NEHOVA: What is happening to the screens? We want to be seen when we present our Statements.

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HON MAAMBERUA: Maybe that is why Honourable Dr Kawana is saying that I am not going to be here next year because they are wiping me off the screens.

Honourable Speaker, for example, even if some of us who cherish values of caring, sharing and solidarity, wanted to increase the Old Age Pension allocation, the majority will say NO! And of course it is a big NO!

As provided for in the Constitution, Article 95(f); *the State shall ensure that senior citizens are entitled to and do receive regular pension adequate for the maintenance of a decent standard of living and the enjoyment social and cultural opportunities.*

The basis of the N\$600.00 is not given anywhere. However, my own scientific calculation to determine an approximation for adequate pension, as provide for in the Constitution, is hereby attached and has the following outcome: For a pensioners in towns, the adequate amount will be N\$1,470.00 and for rural based pensioners, adequate will amount to N\$1,727.00. This Budget does not meet this State requirement as provided for in the Constitution.

Yet without exception, we all know that because of the severe drought of last year, the most affected and afflicted strata was the poor amongst which the old age pensioners have suffered through the loss of the very few livestock and grains that they had and yet no increment to take that reality into account.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me assure you that the vigour, tenacity and patriotism with which SWANU fights for the rights of the vulnerable groups of society, we shall stand shoulder to shoulder with the Minister of Finance in her intent to introduce Environmental Tax. Honourable Minister on Environmental Tax, you have an unwavering Comrade: *SWANU of Namibia*.

Considering the consequential high risks of uranium mining in Namibia, and the environmental damage (intervention).

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HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, I am sorry to interrupt my Honourable Colleague but may I ask him a tiny-winy question?

Honourable Maamberua, you were reported in one of the daily newspapers that in the coming elections, you will be the Official Opposition, since you are a lone voice in this House, are you sure about that?

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you very much. People, that is, the voters who go to the polling stations to vote for SWANU do not vote for SWANU to become an Opposition Party, they vote for SWANU to take over Government. Therefore, as I read and see the mood on the ground, the voters are going to give SWANU the mandate to run this country for the benefit of all Namibians in order to, as the Minister says, bring about a different structure of the economy. Therefore, forget about the Opposition.

Considering the consequential high risks of uranium mining in Namibia, and the environmental damage already caused, and not to be oblivious of the ever relentless scramble for the yellow cake, the Environmental Tax, belated as it is, must be introduced soonest and be broadened to cover the negative environment and human damaging emissions from the Minis Sector.

International corporations in mining activities in Africa, and Namibia is no exception, has had its fair share of contribution to the thesis of what late Walter Rodney titled: **How Europe Under-developed Africa.**

It has been revealed that there are vast benefits Namibia can derive from mining. However, over the decades the main beneficiaries of the vast mineral resources have been private corporations and economies other than Namibia. As I have re-emphasised during last year's Budget Statement, an independent study ought to be conducted to determine the optimal contribution mining ought to make to the State Revenue. I make

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the same call here today, once again.

We know that Mining Corporations are not held accountable for many of the costs their operations inflicted on society, especially land destruction, those costs are borne by the Government and by tax payers.

On another issue, I want to state that, ever since I have been here, the most soothing verse in the Budget Statement has been; “... *We shall pursue the finalisation of the new Bill during the course of the year.*” This verse lulls me to sleep and if it is repeated next year, I think I could faint.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, rounded to the nearest tenth million, allocation to the Development Budget is equal to the allocation for State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs). Yet, nobody knows how many SOEs are there in Namibia. Worst still, the Development Budget will use about 90% of that only – and the remainder, as usual, will be returned to Treasury.

On the other hand, to determine the prudence, effectiveness, efficiency, and economy of the utilisation of transfers to SOEs has been an uphill battle.

Allow me to remind this august House that this year’s Parliament theme is: “***Promoting Oversight Effectiveness Towards Ensuring Transparent National Budget Administration.***”

I tried to search for this theme in the Budget Statement and I even tried under the small print in the Statement but could find NOTHING.

Alternatively, a theme of this nature, will find meaning, actualisation and operationalisation in significantly increased allocation to accountability oversight institutions such as; the Auditor-General, Parliament, in general, the Anti-Corruption Commission, etcetera – It did not happen, no significant increase to these accountability oversight institutions to be commensurate with the theme of this year’s Parliament. Shall we, therefore, conclude that to some, accountability and oversight is not a top priority? Personally, I am convinced that it ought to be a top priority, but

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the sum total of the foregoing makes me doubt whether all of us are serious about accountability and oversight.

On another point, we know that TIPEEG has created only 15,000 permanent jobs and yet disproportionate millions of Namibian Dollars were spent on these projects, while only 15,000 permanent jobs were created out of the 104,000 job that should have been created by the end of TIPEEG, which is remaining with some few months. More so, the Mass Housing Project started off on a wrong foot in that millions in super profits are going to be made, but NOBODY has called on the projects to be suspended in order to kick-in investigations.

SWANU's shadow Minister of Finance has advised me that she would re-allocate the Budget as follows: (Interjection)

HON MEMBER: When?

HON MAAMBERUA: We are still debating the Budget now. Some money from the Ministry of Defence will be allocated to the Ministry of Health and Social Services in order to re-introduce casualty services at the Windhoek Central Hospital because as we all know Katutura Hospital is overwhelmed, if you go there on Friday or Saturday evening (intervention).

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Maamberua a question?

Is Honourable Maamberua aware that the Ministry of Health vaccination exercises in areas like Kunene are possible because the Namibian Defence Force is able to provide them with transport facilities there? Are you aware that if you cut the Ministry of Defence's Budget, the Ministry of Health will not be able to conduct vaccination in that massive land?

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HON MAAMBERUA: Be that as it may, in this country, health is a priority above defence under the current circumstances. Therefore, as peaceful as we are currently, there is no way we can allow that the Ministry of Defence be allocated more funds than the Ministry of Health.

An additional amount from Defence will go towards the increase of Old Age Pension and Orphans and Vulnerable Children's benefits. An additional amount from Defence will be allocated to the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement. By the way, I understand that Government intends to buy Erindi, whose price tag is about N\$1.3 billion and yet the allocation of the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement over a 3 year period is N\$1.2 billion, are you going to spend the whole Budget on buying Erindi or where are you going to get this money from, if your Budget over the 3 years is N\$1.2 billion and Erindi's price tag is N\$1.3 billion? (Intervention).

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Honourable Maamberua, do you not think that with the coming elections, we must do away with some of the remaining votes given to smaller Parties so that some of the Parties like SWANU disappear from here? Since it is due to those remaining votes that you are here, my vote also contributed to you being here.

Do you not think that each vote should be allocated to a particular Party?

HON MAAMBERUA: The Ministry of Lands and Resettlement does not have the capacity to manage those types of projects like Erindi and so on, in any case, the resorts are under the Namibia Wildlife Resorts (NWR) and the very same NWR has the Hardap Resort closed down for the past 8 years or so under the pretext of renovations, renovations that never ends. How are they going to manage Erindi if it is acquired by the Government whilst they are unable to manage the Hardap Holiday Resort?

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HON KAPIA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Can I ask Honourable Maamberua a question?

Honourable Maamberua, if SWANU can allow 75,000 hectares of Namibian land to be owned by individuals who are not even Namibians, and you claim your Party to be a socialist Party, where is your socialism?

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you very much but we have to respect our Constitution. First of all, I would like to thank the Minister of Lands and Resettlement for his interview that I saw last night. It was well put, professionally done and that is how it is supposed to be done.

That Resort has already been offered to the Government, if Government says it cannot afford to buy it, then somebody from Namibia has to buy it. The refusal to sell it to a foreigner is ours. We can still refuse that the Resort be sold to a foreigner and if it has to be sold it will be sold to a Namibian, maybe not for N\$1.3 billion but N\$600 million or so. The property will still remain in the hands of Namibians. We do not have to use the reason that if the Government does not take it, a foreigner will buy it. A foreigner will not buy it unless permission is given in terms of our Laws by the Minister.

The Constitution is clear about how one can acquire land, we all know that so let us not go there.

Money from Defence can be used to introduce a socialised medical system in this country because only 16% of our Namibian population is medically insured. (Intervention).

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Point of Order, Comrade Speaker. Honourable Members of this august House, Honourable Maamberua provoked me when he started

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talking about taking money from the Ministry of Defence's Budget because I come from the Kunene Region where cholera is still widespread.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Defence are the 2 Ministries that assist the Ministry of Health. You are saying that you are a citizen but you do not want to make the public out there understand what you are talking about.

Please let us make the Nation understand what we are talking about. Thank you Honourable Speaker.

HON MAAMBERUA: With or without cuts from the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry will still get their normal allocation and they shall continue to exercise their national duties like helping other Ministries.

We applaud Government for managing the economy to attain moderately high growth, but on the other hand this growth does not seem to be commensurate with the sluggish economic development.

Only 16 years are remaining before Vision 2030 is realised or otherwise. All indications are that with this development pace in education, industrialisation, Information Technology, research capacity, governance, all that leave much to be desired, we are unlikely to attain that envisioned level of development under Vision 2030.

In this context, the Budget Statement is spot on, admitting that:

“...we know too well that Namibia is still grappling with glaring social and structural economic challenges. These challenges include, but are not limited to:-

- *a jobless growth trajectory, with a lopsided distribution of income and resource ownership;*
- *substantial skills deficit and a narrow economic base with primary*

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commodities still serving as the engine of export-led growth;

- *low Human Development Index (HDI), which calls for rapid progress in the areas of education and health;*
- *susceptibility to climate change; and*
- *moral decay which manifests itself in, among others, increasing violence against vulnerable members of the society.*

Honourable Members, enough is enough. How many more Budgets before we experience tangible, fundamental transformation in Namibia? I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, much has been said about the Budget since it was tabled by the Honourable Minister of Finance on the 19th of February 2014. As expected, the Budget drew some criticism from some quarters, including Members of the Opposition. For one to do justice and make a sound Budget critique, it is important to look at national goals and plans, as embodied in the NDP4 and see whether the Budget is in line with or it contradicts this National Policy: The NDP4 focuses on the development of the Logistics, Tourism, Agriculture and Manufacturing Industries.

It is encouraging to see our agricultural targets focusing on increased irrigation area, national horticultural production and the yields of dry land farming in the MTEF document. This is necessary to ensure food sufficiency in our country. We do not generally receive good rain, yet agriculture is one of our priority areas both for domestic consumption and

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export. Our farmers need support to keep agriculture alive, Government should, therefore, be applauded for always adopting measures to sustain farmers during drought seasons.

Adrian Fozzard states in his publication titled *Approaches to Resource Allocations in the Public Sector and Their Implications for Pro-poor Budgeting*...(Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Can I have the pleasure of the House? Shall we break for tea or continue. Shall we continue? Continue, Honourable Mushelenga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: ...that from the 1950s, levels of expenditure increased because of Governments' active role in Social and Economic Development Programmes. This was partly also caused by the proliferation of Government Programmes. He further states that in developing countries, it is customary to prioritise development projects as Governments devise strategies and development goals aimed at expanding social services. Our Budget is expanded to address not only social services, but also to engage in capital projects that stimulate economic growth and create employment.

Against the afore-mentioned, I welcome the allocation of N\$1.6 billion to the Kudu-Gas Power Plant. Since Independence, the Namibian Government underscores the importance of industrialisation. Industrialisation is only possible if there sufficient power supply. Currently, our demand stands at 550MW. Even if we were to operate Paratus, Anixas , Ruacana and Van Eck power stations at base load, which in any case cannot be done for a pro-longed period, we will still be short of generation capacity. It is for that reason that we depend on imports from Eskom of South Africa, ZESA of Zimbabwe and ZESCO of Zambia.

The only solution to the power generation capacity is, indisputably, the construction of the Gas-fired power station, currently envisaged at

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400MW x 2 power plants. I reiterate the statement I made in this august House last year that Kudu is a national project that should be supported by all. We implore upon NamPower to deliver on this project without fail.

Honourable Speaker, the management of the Namibian economy vests with the Government, for when things goes wrong, it is the Government that will be held accountable by the citizenry. Accordingly, I remain an adherent of modern liberalism, which Norwegian academics Dag Einar Thorsen and Amund Lie describe in their publication titled ***What is Neo-liberalism*** as follows: *"Modern liberalism is characterised by a greater willingness to let the State become an active participant in the economy. This has often ensued in a pronounced tendency to regulate the marketplace, and to have the State supply essential goods and services to everyone. Whereas classical or economic liberals favour laissez-faire economic policies because it is thought that they lead to more freedom and real democracy, modern liberals tend to claim that this analysis is inadequate and misleading, and that the state must play a significant role in the economy, if the most basic liberal goals and purposes are to be made into reality."*

Government should, thus, continue to play an active role in the national economy. After all, it is the Government that creates conducive environment for trade and investment. Further, when the rate of unemployment goes high, it is the Government that people will hold accountable.

Apart from budgeting, we should also pay attention to monitoring Budget Performance. The return of the funds to the treasury does not augur well. Such funds would have been utilised efficiently in other Sectors that are equally in need.

Honourable Speaker, in the recent years I have developed interests in legal affairs. Accordingly, Human Rights issues are close to my heart. The importance of Human Rights is illustrated by chapter three of the Namibia Constitution, which is entrenched and cannot be amended. Accordingly, I am glad to learn that the Office of the Ombudsman extends its outreach programmes by educating learners about Human Rights issues and

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introducing intake clinic programmes to the communities. I had the opportunity to read the Ombudsman Annual Report, where many labour related matters in the Public Service were attended to and resolved, saving the complainants the expensive exercise of institution legal actions in the Courts. I, therefore, welcome the allocation of N\$19.3 million to programmes of (i) receipt and investigation of complains and (ii) outreach and public awareness campaign.

Last year in November, Namibia was elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council. Our election demonstrates the confidence that the world has in our upholding of human rights. Our Constitution is hailed as one of the exemplary blueprints guaranteeing freedom, justice and civil rights. The Namibian Government continues to uphold this Supreme Law. Accordingly, we continue to advocate the respect of human dignity in the world.

Back home, I should mention that acts of crime being perpetrated against innocent persons are, by their very nature, violations of the Human Rights of the victims. Passion killings have become the order of the day as criminals mercilessly murder innocent civilians. The bringing to justice of perpetrators of crime is, therefore, crucial to ensure justice to the victims. I, therefore, support the targets of the Ministry of Justice to finalise registered criminal cases up to 70% at the end of the current MTEF period. As a matter of fact, I would even want to see a higher percentage, if possible. In this respect, I welcome the allocation of N\$116 million and N\$60.5 million to the Superior and Lower Courts respectively, in 2014/2015 Budget.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, there are talks of diverting funds from the Ministry of Defence. It gives an impression that people like Honourable Maamberua want a poorly resourced and, therefore, weak Defence Force. Given his zero possibility of making it through the ballot box, I am inclined to suspect him of one thing – that he wants a toothless Defence Force to afford him an opportunity to make a sinister and notorious move of ascending the throne. I render him some friendly advice not to dare. Accordingly, I support target 3 of the Ministry of Defence set in the MTEF document, namely to replace obsolete

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equipment with at least 20% latest technology by the end of the MTEF period and acquire modern equipment.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me now turn to my favourite area of international relations. International relations continue to be tainted by injustice, selective morality and lip services. The continued embargo against Cuba is a case in point. The people of Cuba can count on Namibians as their all-weather allies in their quest for justice. On my part, I declare my respect and admiration for Commandant Fidel Castro Ruz and the Cuban people for their fortitude and resolve. Their courage and steadfastness continue to send messages to their adversaries that one can never kill the spirit of revolution. No amount of coercive diplomacy will break the morale of progressive people in defence of the gains of their revolution. There is no justifiable and rational ground to maintain the exercise that has harmed the Cuban economy for many years. This embargo should be lifted forthwith, to ensure that the Cuban people chart an unfettered course for their country.

The continued incarceration of the four Cuban nationals, who are part of the Cuban Five, is one of the notorious and insensitive ridicule to the cardinal values of justice and human liberty. There have been worldwide calls for the release of the Cuban Five to which the intended party turned a deaf ear. This reflects an unfortunate manifestation of disregard for international public opinion. It reflects a mockery on the importance of international cooperation that we hear being preached in the esteemed corridors of international power. What cooperation do we preach when we cannot even maintain good neighbourliness?

As a matter of fact, the unipolar power contributes to international conflicts. Clubs of good boys are formed and used against those perceived to be stubborn. The politics of patronage undermines the sovereignty of States. Thus, Richard Mansbach and Kirstern Rafferty points to the importance of balance-of power in their publication titled; *Introduction to Global Politics*. The uneven distribution of power in the international political system is the source of controversial application of International Law. The people of Palestine are massacred day and night, and the darlings of the culprit pretend as if all is well in the world. New

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agenda items are placed before the United Nations Security Council at the expense of longstanding unresolved issues, such as the Middle East peace process. The centres of power preoccupy themselves with peripheral issues, running away from the international community's responsibility over the question of Western Sahara, for example. Resolutions after one another are passed and become just one of those decisions in the history of mankind.

Honourable Speaker, last year I had the honour to lead the Namibian delegation to the Zimbabwe's presidential and parliamentary elections. Given the peaceful atmosphere in which elections took place, the results were a clear indication of the will of the Zimbabwean people. That notwithstanding, we see signs of disappointments from some quarters and perpetual denial of the inevitable that has happened. Those concerned expose themselves that indeed they had a regime change agenda against Zimbabwe. It is a pity that they had to adopt a position clearly demonstrating nothing less than frustrations resulting from the failure of ill-conceived expectations. I submit that there are no longer grounds for maintaining sanctions against Zimbabwe. No amount of explanations in any sugar-coated language will render the sanctions justifiable. They should, therefore, be unconditionally lifted forthwith. I further salute the people of Zimbabwe for adopting the indigenisation programme, thereby placing the economy in the hands of the Zimbabwe nationals. Programmes of this nature sends one message to the world, i.e. that Africa cannot afford to possess natural resources that only benefits people from other continents.

Honourable Speaker, as a member of the international community, Namibia further has a place to play in international trade. Concurring with Cambridge's academic Amrita Narlikar in the publication entitled ***Editorial: Small States in Multilateral Negotiations***, I submit that in an integrated world economy, Namibia as a small State need to fully engage the WTO and participate in its activities and negotiations at all levels. The elevation of the Namibian mission in Geneva, to a fully-fledged mission by deploying a full Ambassador to that mission attests to Namibia's upholding of multilateralism and the importance she attaches to international trade negotiations and other forms of specialised diplomacy.

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Accordingly, I welcome the allocation of N\$39 million to multilateral programmes. We should dispel the notion that multilateral relations should be left to be championed by large States. As a sovereign Nation, we should make our presence felt in the global trade system.

Namibia's foreign policy is carried out abroad by our diplomatic missions. Foreign representation is allocated N\$768 million in the 2014/2015 Budget. Representing one's own country abroad is a responsibility that should be carried out with commitment and dedication. The effectiveness of diplomatic representation is measured by the output. This includes a number of Foreign Direct Investments that come to Namibia. The Minister of Finance reported in her Budget Statement that Foreign Direct Investment increased to N\$6 billion during the previous Financial Year. This is assuring. I would like to underscore that efficiency in diplomacy is not just about a number of visits that diplomats arrange from their receiving States to a sending State and *vice versa*. The follow up on such visits is more important as that is where the value for bilateral visits will be determined.

Lack of follow up on bilateral agreements and meetings of bilateral Joint commissions of cooperation continue to hamper the realisations of deriving maximum mutual benefits. Stakeholders attend preparatory meetings of Joint Commissions quite ill-prepared, thus keeping items standing over from one meeting to subsequent meetings. Similarly, diplomats abroad are at times frustrated by delayed responses from the Line Ministries on matters crucial to economic diplomacy. They are left pondering what to do and what not to do in order to make out the best from their representation. Prompt response to our diplomats is essential for the overall success of our foreign relations. We should enhance efficiency by setting reasonable time for delivery. As they say in Law "*time is of essence!*"

Diplomacy is not only confined to politics and economics. Issues of peace and security need our attention too. Actually, the foreign policy principles in article 96 of the Namibian Constitution emphasises the promotion of international peace. I, therefore, welcome, the Programmes of international deployment of military observers to the UN/AU and SADC

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peace support operations under the Budget Vote of the Ministry.

Honourable Speaker, in the period of changing trends in foreign policies, the making of foreign policy is a national responsibility for all foreign policy-makers. Public diplomacy is important in the practice of both political and economic diplomacy. In their publication titled; *Wither Foreign Ministries in a post-Western World*, Brian Hocking, Jan Melissen, Shaun Riordan and Paul Sharp opine that, “*Globalization has left its mark on diplomacy and Foreign Ministries. The breakdown of the distinction between domestic and foreign policy has ended the Foreign Ministry’s gatekeeper role and near monopoly of foreign policy. Almost all Government Ministries now deal with international policy.*”

In the practice of diplomacy, stakeholder Ministries have a forum where they meet to exchange views and digest policy related issues. In his publication titled, *The Changing Politics of Foreign Policy*, Christopher Hill avers that the foreign policy of a country is better coordinated by foreign policy executives, comprising of the Ministries engaged in both political and economic relations. A properly constructed forum is necessary to avoid the risk of having *ad hoc* coordination made in corridors and subsequently fade away in the thin air.

To effectively plan and carry out foreign policy and diplomatic practice, Hocking *et al.*, in publication cited earlier recommends the need for a diplomatic reserve that serves as a think-tank on foreign policy matters. This reserve could be drawn from the academia, business community, and experienced diplomats, among others. Accommodating these actors will, to a certain extent, ensure that there is a degree of public participation on foreign policy-making. We should move in that direction where our foreign relations are a direct result of domestic consultation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this year, the Namibian people will go to the polls to exercise their democratic rights. To ensure macro-economic Stability, I urge them to deliver a solid Namibian vote to the SWAPO Party! With these words I support the Budget 2014/2015 and MTEF 2014/2015 — 2016/2017 and declare SWAPO victory in advance. I thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Firstly, let me render my sincere support to the Minister of Finance and all those who aided her to deliver this year's Budget.

Secondly, as it is the norm in many Parliaments across the globe, let me declare my interest when I am giving my input to this Budget, that I am a politician *cum* businessman, whose business interests have been registered with the Registrar of the National Assembly. My business interests are there and should there be any conflict of interest in my input, one can countercheck with the Registrar as we are expected to do and as I have done.

Still on the declaration of my interest, my input on this Budget will be 100% based on the issues surrounding the Budget. My inputs are not directed towards any individual Minister, Member of Parliament and any individual outside or inside this House.

Having made those 2 critical declarations, I will now go to the Budget. I will prelude my intervention on the Budget on 2 premises. I will attempt to address the issue on **Intergeneration Justice** and the second intervention will be based on attempting to address the issue of **Redistributive Justice**.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, my short intervention and I will attempt to be very brief, will be based on Page 6 and 7 of the estimated expenditure, Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), especially where the investment and expenditure by desired outcomes are outlined ranging from issues such as quality health system, growth in agriculture, competitive economy in SADC and so on. I will basically centre my contribution on that page, especially on the outcome.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I have been following my competent sister, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for years, when she has been tabling her Budgets, as well as other previous Ministers. It was

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unfortunate that I came during her time. She is very competent and when I look at her, it reminds me...(intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Do not get personal.

HON KAZENAMBO: ...of the saying that, a prophet is never praised at home but praised elsewhere. She has been trying, against all odds, together with her Colleagues at the Bank of Namibia and the National Planning Commission to do the impossible, addressing the issue of macroeconomics that centres on growth and stability, monetary and fiscal systems.

Unfortunately, I will say it in this House tonight that the economic system of any given country across the globe is not developed on the basis of one component of the economic system. Nowhere in the world, you can do your own research. You can have good macroeconomic policies, good fiscal policies and good monetary systems in place, and the list goes on, but if the other critical component of the economic system is not addressed, forget about building a sustainable economic system. Government is responsible, especially the Ministry of Finance, for managing the macroeconomic environment. However, the microeconomic environment which contains the behaviour of companies, the redistribution of resources is not entirely in the hands of the Ministry of Finance. Not at all. It is the duty of all of us in Central Government, Members of Parliament and individuals outside this House. Quite often in this country when the Budget is analysed, we focus on the issue of monetary and fiscal environment, that is, on the aspects of the macroeconomic environment instead of asking ourselves critically where the money that we budget here goes to, how it floats in this market and who the prime beneficiaries of the money that we apportion here are and this is where I will come in today.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I will sum up Namibia as one

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country with 2 economies if not 3, one country with many economies in the sense that today, whether you like it or not, you have a commercial economy that is dominated by multinational companies and foreign companies. For you to say Honourable Kazenambo is not thumb sucking or shooting from the hip, walk downtown in Independence Avenue and count how many companies, be it retail shops or banks that are owned by Namibians, black and white. Do your survey on how many companies, small, medium and large are owned by Namibians, count them. And the money that we are apportioning here ends up in those shops; they are the beneficiaries of the profits made from this money. The money goes into their hands and I am not purporting xenophobia here but talking about economic facts and realities. I am talking about science; you do not need to think about witchcraft. Honourable Comrades, this is where I come in with Redistributive and Intergenerational Justice.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, in the summary of the MTEF, we are talking about tourism. Tourism is a very critical Sector for developing countries, for that matter. Again, it is not witchcraft, it does not need a rocket scientist to discover it, this Sector remains predominantly in foreign hands, you can enquire from tour operating companies, and the list goes on. We are not regulating how they are employing Namibians, how much money remains in the coffers of this country from the Tourism Industry, and for the past 20 years of Independence, how many Namibians have made inroads in this Sector and how are we empowering them to enter into this Sector, even in the villages, etcetera. How have we developed this Sector? We are talking about *desired outcomes* on the Tourism Sector, in this document.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, As much as we are constrained by time the list continues. Let me say that I am happy with what the Ministry of Agriculture is doing and their marketing effort in Rundu. It is, however, sad that while we are making those efforts, the food that they are producing is rotting, let alone that of the citizens. This is our food, grown in our own land, near the gardens we eat from, what stops us in this country from coming up with policies that says that schools, hospitals and the army must buy from this Fresh Produce Hub instead of letting food rot. What stops us from doing that! That in turn, will enable the Ministry of

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Agriculture to create the employment that we are talking about. With this Fresh Produce Hubs, the Ministry of Agriculture can access water flowing from Kunene, Zambezi and Kwando rivers, etcetera, and create employment for the youth who stands in the streets, in various Regions. With the money that we allocate here in House, Government can buy from our own producers. We do not need someone to come from America and police us, that is our poison, we do not need them. That is not the business of the Ministry of Finance but the duty of all of us here inside and outside this House. Therefore, we need to empower the Ministry of Agriculture, we need to walk our talk, and please it is about time. This is microeconomics that does not need to feature anywhere in this document. Our economy is being stolen in front of us, it is being taken away. Considering the Construction Industry, walk downtown and ask yourself how many companies are even doing work on private properties with foreign labourers, if you do not see them loaded in trucks, go to Katutura and see for yourself, while our own people are being loaded in tipper trucks. That is the issue of Intergenerational Justice. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Van Der Walt.

HON VAN DER WALT: Honourable Speaker, I did not want to intervene while Honourable Kazenambo is busy with his presentation but he provoked me in such a positive way that I have to support every word he said.

I just want to ask Honourable Kazenambo a question. Honourable Kazenambo do you know that all rebates being paid to these foreign companies go back to South Africa or other foreign countries, these rebates do not remain in our country?

Secondly, Banks do not allow the use of petrol cards anymore because there was a zero income for the banks on petrol cards. Now Service Stations need to operate with debit and credit cards that have a 3.5% levy

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on transactions and if one works it out, it is about 25% of the profit of the Service Station owner. However, this money is still going back in the hands of the oil companies which are foreign owned as well as the banks, but not to us. I just wanted to bring this to his attention. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you sir, thank Comrade Speaker and Honourable Members.

I am saying that our economy is being stolen in front of us because we concentrate on the macroeconomic environment while the whole economic system is composed of macro- and microeconomics. This is science, not witchcraft or superstition, neither is it a question of whether you hate or like someone, this are mere facts. Do you know why our economy is being stolen? It is because we are sleeping on duty and I am not targeting anybody. I have also been sleeping on duty because I could have said this long time ago. Let me say the Ministry of Trade and Industry because they may say tomorrow that I was targeting the Minister, this is cheap, personal politics while issues concerning the suffering of our people are being ignored.

I have recently read in the newspaper about what the Ministry of Trade and Industry said on the policy of price control. Do you know that in the absence of this policy, perhaps it is only in this country, I have not seen this anywhere, you can enter a shop in the 21st century and the shop owner tells you that; *the quality is not guaranteed and there is no refund?* This is criminal. You are buying a commodity from a shop and the owner of the shop tells you without shame that; *the quality is not guaranteed and there is no refund.* What does that tell you? It tells you that cheap goods will be dumped in this country or are being dumped already and dumping is illegal in the international trade. However, in this country you are told in your face; *the quality is not guaranteed and there is no refund.* In this country, you can go to a shop and buy rotten food that you cannot return and there is nowhere you can go and seek recourse or where you can tell them that; *I bought food from this shop and it caused food poisoning, it*

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remains the problem of Honourable Dr Kamwi's hospital to resolve. The shop that sold this rotten food gets away with it because we deal with macroeconomics issues and not with microeconomics.

HON MEMBER: Indeed, tell them please!

HON KAZENAMBO: Comrades, as I am about to conclude, I would like to address the issue of doing business in this country.

My friend, the cost of doing business in this country is a nightmare. I heard my beloved sister talking about fighting poverty, increasing taxation and so on, but when I was looking at her, I remembered a saying in Otjiherero that says; *otjikuate tjito ndana* meaning, even when a mother dies the baby will still try to reach her breast for milk. Which economic base are we increasing? The economic base where you are supposed to collect tax from is shrinking, if you do not know that. It is shrinking because in the Construction Sector, Namibian companies cannot compete with Asian companies that are dominating the market here and they are not dominating Government tenders alone; they are dominating because of their economic muscles. They have already encroached on the Private Sector. I cannot go to someone and ask to build his/her house because they go to Asian or South African companies that are here. However, the Ministry of Finance wants to collect tax from me, what tax is it going to collect?

As I am talking here, there are companies, both small and medium sized that have not been paid for work they have rendered to Government, since last year December. How are they going to pay their employees? If you call a certain Ministry to enquire about your remittance, you are told that so and so is on leave or attending a workshop, however, your poor employees from Katutura and villages want to receive their remuneration but you do not have funds although you have rendered the service. The problem that we face as business people is that, if you dare question that,

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you are told by the powers that be that *if you dare, we are not going to give you work tomorrow*. You, therefore, have to choose to shut up so that tomorrow you can have access to work and face payment problems. I implore the '*Commission Entrepreneurs*,' called *Tenderpreneurs* to wake up, shape up or ship out...(intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask my brother and Comrade a small little question?

HON KAZENAMBO: Yes, go ahead so that I can conclude.

HON SHIXWAMENI: This powers that be, that tells you if you insist on this payment, we will not give you work tomorrow, can you elaborate more on this powers that be so that the Nation can understand who are these powers that are more powerful than God?

HON KAZENAMBO: I will say it without fear and favour. My lad, I am no longer afraid of anything, not as if I was afraid of anything before, the powers that be are unfortunately not you, me or the Ministers who are sitting here, we are just agents. The powers that be are the implementers, some of the Permanent Secretaries, some of the Directors and Administrators there, who have the audacity to increase the cost of doing business.

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HON MEMBER: Fire them!

HON KAZENAMBO: Go and fire them, what stops you? I am saying some of them, not all of them. (Intervention).

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: May I ask Honourable Kazembo a question? When did some of this Permanent Secretaries and Directors start having this power, is it only this year or long ago?

HON KAZENAMBO: This power is with some of them, and again this is not witchcraft or superstition but a reality. There have been cases of tenders that have ended up in the Courts of this country because of delays. We call people *Tenderpreneurs* but they are actually *Commissionpreneurs* because these people are fighting for commission. If you are talking about *Tenderpreneurs*, you talk of people who can successfully bid for tenders and deliver while these are mere middlemen and some are sitting in Government Offices. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Let us please make progress, make your contribution and not just ask question.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I just want to ask a question. If some of the Permanent Secretaries and Directors are so powerful, do you want to say that half of these people who are seated here are also sleeping on the job that they cannot control their Permanent Secretaries and Directors or what is that you want to communicate to the Nation?

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HON KAZENAMBO: I was a Minister until yesterday, I will answer that. If some of the Ministers in this country dare to question something, the Opposition will jump in and say the Minister is interfering (interjections) unfortunately I am an objective guard, you cannot bribe me, I am sorry. You either kill me but you cannot bribe me, unfortunately.

On interference of the Government, Ministers and politicians, I am saying that; let us critically look at the system and address the bottlenecks and loopholes as they affect all of us. Comrade Shixwameni, you are diverting me please.

I said this right from the beginning. Honourable Comrades, I am saying let us recapture our economy, our economy is being stolen. Our people have become non-participants in the commercial gravy bus.

Unscrupulous businessmen across various Sectors, including the Fishing Sector, approach community members and come up with trusts that involves the name of the community, once the fishing or mineral rights have been allocated, these criminals or robbers *par excellence* in some countries, through unethical ways of doing business, will selectively sideline these so-called members of Community Trusts and chop the money by buying X5s and Range Rovers. I am also driving one but I obtained mine through hard work (*laughter*).

Another problem of non-regulation or no control of the microeconomic environment is that none of these fishing companies floating around ever have Annual General Meetings (AGMs) where one could even ask; *what happened to the members that you included in the trust when we were applying for fishing rights?* Only Directors meet to either chop the money amongst themselves or divert the money to other non-core projects.

As I am concluding, you hear some of these companies talking about value addition and building factories everywhere in the country. The black *Commissionpreneurs*, play the role of middlemen or barterers between the so-called Namibian shareholders and the foreign owners of these companies who build white elephants. Some of us do not even have any clue since we have not been at sea, we do not know how a shipping vessel

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looks like and where it is manufactured. We can be told that it had been manufactured in London at a cost of N\$10 billion and receive peanuts for the next 10 years while other members do not receive anything. When the time comes for other fishing rights to be advertised, they create yet other community trust.

Our Government does not regulate and nobody regulates. In the end we, the people of my colour are at each other's throats, fighting because when one drives his/her own car, people insinuate that you must have stolen money from somewhere but where does the real money go? It goes to the foreigners. Fish is eaten in Spain, the owners of those fishing companies are in South Africa and Namibians are merely used for windows dressing. When you dare complain, you are given a credit card to buy food at Shoprite.

Honourable Comrades, let us start addressing the issue of the Microeconomic Sector, then we will be able to fight poverty. Let us look at ways of including our people in sharing the cake that we are dishing out left, right and centre. I support you, my sister. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Well done. Chief Whip.

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you for giving me this opportunity to briefly remark on the National Budget recently presented by the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

Indeed, I looked with keen interest at the National Budget 2014/2015 that revealed that it is aimed at consolidating inclusive growth and establishing fiscal sustainability in our country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I congratulate the Honourable Minister and her team for presenting this comprehensive Budget. This

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Budget is specially aimed at addressing identified priorities including the empowerment of rural communities.

In the **Agricultural Sector**; measures have been put in place to cater for drought, business sense and food security.

Related to this; let me take the opportunity to especially thank and commend the AgriBank for having adjusted the repayment period so as to cater for the effects of the protracted drought. As a part-time farmer, this is something that I wholeheartedly welcome and I am sure many farmers across the Republic of Namibia will agree with me.

In the **Transport Sector**; the road and railway networks are being upgraded. It is essential that the upgrading of roads in the country is essential particularly where these roads connect one community to another. Again, this is something that we wholeheartedly welcome.

In the **Energy Sector**; further consolidation has been made to cater for domestic and industrial energy needs.

On **Land Reform**; the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement has received additional funding for rehabilitation and resettlement. This is again another welcome development.

In the **Infrastructure Development Sector**; port infrastructure is being upgraded to ensure that it adequately serves the socio-economic needs and is commercially viable.

Under **Housing**; residential housing backlog has received particular attention. I am sure that the Honourable Minister Namoloh is very happy to hear this. We welcome the bold initiative by His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, the President of the Republic of Namibia for tackling this particular challenge.

In the area of **Gender and Child Welfare**; special efforts have been placed on gender mainstreaming, women empowerment and child development.

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Related to this Honourable Members, we should especially all unite to welcome the Government's efforts of addressing the vice of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through the creation of the recently unveiled Task Force to handle this burning issue.

Health and Education have also been adequately catered for within the limits of our financial means.

Furthermore, I welcome the fact that, with the frequent re-occurrence of disasters such as droughts and floods in Namibia, the Government has placed special emphasis on financial preparedness to cater for this. As the Chairperson of the Namibia Red Cross Society, I find this to be a very positive strategy. And as we may all note, problems of floods for example, are accompanied by other complications like cholera which is now looming in some parts of our country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, to undertake an overall conclusive reflection that has been adequately and ably covered in this year's Budget; we are to recall one of the famous questions posed by Comrade Lenin: "..., *what is to be done?*" loosely coined in our everyday scenarios as, what next?

The Government of Namibia as part of the overall response to our most pressing socio-economic challenges has come up with a Budget aimed at targeted intervention to the root causes of almost each of the above highlighted challenges. For that she simply has to be congratulated.

With those few remarks, I support the Budget. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Hamutenya, you may take the Floor.

HON HAMUTENYA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the House, first of all I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister

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of Finance on the presentation of a comprehensive budget. It is a job well done, indeed.

Secondly, my intervention this afternoon is essentially to offer the RDP's preliminary response to the Budget as presented. We will make a detailed and robust rebuttal in the course of the general Debates on the Budget in the days ahead.

Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Minister of Finance highlighted the challenges which the Budget ought to address, and which in fact the Nation faces. Five challenges were highlighted by the Minister, namely:

- *a jobless growth trajectory, with a lopsided distribution of income and resource ownership;*
- *substantial skills deficit and a narrow economic base with primary commodities still serving as the engine of export-led growth;*
- *low Human Development Index (HDI), which calls for rapid progress in the areas of education and health;*
- *susceptibility to climate change; and*
- *moral decay which manifests itself in, among others, increasing violence against vulnerable members of the society, to be precise women.*

Whilst there is no agreement with the enumeration of the challenges, most of these challenges ought to have been addressed some years ago, except one, which concerns climate change. This is clearly, and manifestly so, an indictment to the policies of Government.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister of Finance stated, and I quote: “...we must do things differently...and act swiftly and decisively to strengthen the institutions through which public services are delivered, and to transform the structure of our economy, so that all Namibians can share in the opportunities that our country offers.”

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Yet, a detailed look at the actual practice of Government, the evidence points in the other direction. We will comprehensively address this issue in the general Debate.

On the question of what the Budget offers, the Honourable Minister listed four issues, namely:

1. to continue entrenching macroeconomic stability as a necessary condition to bolster economic growth and sustainability of development outcomes;
2. to expand the economy to achieve high economic growth rates with jobs, by investing in infrastructure;
3. to foster human resources development and skills formation by maintaining priority attention to education, health and the provision of social amenities and social safety nets in order to raise the standard of living for our people; and
4. to curb waste and bureaucracy which is costing the Government and hampering the initiative of those who wish to contribute to economic growth and job creation.

Honourable Speaker, again, the Honourable Minister's view stressed 2 other important aspects. Firstly, in terms of human resources development and skills formation, any observant citizen can see Namibian youth with qualifications roaming the streets of our cities and towns, loitering around. Is this something we as citizens can be proud of? It is not. Is this an indictment of the Government?

Secondly, the Honourable Minister is suggesting that one of the objectives of the Budget is to curb waste and bureaucracy. However, wholesome evidence point to the contrary:

- Botched tenders awards, which are settled in the Court of Law most often;

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- Public officials sitting on the Tender Board awarding tenders to friends for '*kickbacks*'; and
- Public spending bleeding the tax payers.

The third major area of concern to us is the continued bailout of State-Owned Enterprises which are not performing. In this Budget, we can observe the same pattern of consistent bailout. The cases in point are:

1. Air Namibia (nearly N\$500 million); and
2. The NBC (over N\$300 million)

It is painful to see taxpayers' money being extended to some Government institutions when these had not been the obligation of the *State Finance Act* to provide the Office of the Auditor-General with audited financial statements, as required.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we will revisit some of these aspects in some detail in our comprehensive presentation.

With regard to the numbers, we have a particular concern on the budget deficit and debt financing. Foreign Direct Investment: N\$6 billion (2013) and N\$1.5 billion (2012/2013).

This might appear impressive, however, World Bank and IMF expressed concerns about Namibia foreign reserves position for healthy import cover. Indeed, there appears to be no plan in mitigation of the possible negative impact if and when Namibia's foreign reserves position is affected.

Furthermore, there is a mismatch between revenue outturn and Government expenditure outlook. Similarly, operational expenditure had increased when compared year to year.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Minister of Finance reported that the budget deficit to the tune of N\$7.62 billion, which represents 5.4% of the Gross Domestic Product is to be financed from

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domestic resources and it is worrisome. Similarly, debt will increase to N\$38.48 billion in 2014/2015 from the base of N\$32.4 billion in 2013/2014 which represents 27% of GDP.

To suggest that this will be financed from domestic resources sounds like a pie in the sky to me.

Honourable Speaker, those are some of the issues that we will be elaborating on when we come to substantive issues of the Budget. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I am rising on a Point of Order to thank the Honourable Members on this side of the aisle and others for the greatest degree of tolerance which has been displayed here because it has been very difficult to follow but we have, and we will continue to listen to Honourable Hamutenya because of tolerance. Thank you so much.

HON SPEAKER: Continue, Honourable Hamutenya.

HON HAMUTENYA: What do you want to do now? What do you want me to do? I cannot change this.

HON SPEAKER: Continue, Honourable Hamutenya.

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HON HAMUTENYA: Is the Honourable Member is saying that he could not hear me? I am sorry that you did not hear me.

The issue I was dealing with was the deficit, how we are going to finance the budget deficit and they were proposing that this would be financed from domestic resources. This, we need to obtain more detailed information about.

I think it is better to stop here. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to congratulate the Minister of Finance and her team but do not laugh when I am going to present my statement because you learned English before me. English is not easy as it is not our mother tongue. I try to follow the experts who are sitting with me, I, therefore, think that you are going to follow properly what I am going to say.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, as a Namibian mother and the Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, I would like to address the issue of Gender-Based Violence which people are currently talking about so much.

I am standing here to congratulate our President, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba for calling a special Cabinet meeting on passion killing. Passion killing is not a new thing but an old thing in Namibia. We have so many butcheries and abattoirs where we are supposed to buy meat but it seems like only women have become this meat for our own sons who started to kill or slaughter their mothers, wives and beloved girlfriends. Why are they slaughtering their wives today while there are abattoirs there, why are we becoming their meat today? Honourable Members, I stand here today

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to support both our current and the former Presidents and request the Honourable Members and the public out there to follow their advice.

HON SPEAKER: We are dealing with the *Appropriation Bill* unless the Honourable Deputy Minister is going to reach over what she is saying, to what must be done for the Ministry and in the country to improve the Budget lines that are covering your Ministry, women and children. Otherwise, it becomes a general discussion. I do not want to rule you Out of Order because you have not quite developed the point you are trying to make. You may continue.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I think I am not Out of Order because I am talking about this killing which will be affecting the Budget. I mention this as a parent and on behalf of the public out there because passion killings take place in our own houses. These people who are killing women do not come from other countries, they are Namibians. That is why I am talking about this in the National Budget. I am not Out of Order.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, let us all please be ready to attend the Prayer Day the President called us to go to, the day before yesterday. Nobody should stay away, even the Government service must stop temporarily so that we can attend that prayer session and also listen to what our President and the Founding Father are going to tell us. I support the Budget. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I do not see any more requests for taking the Floor. Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs.

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HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I rise to join those who have congratulated the Minister of Finance, her Colleague in the National Planning Commission and their team for a well balanced Budget which was presented to this House.

I am saying it is a well balanced Budget because if we follow the media, and particularly the general public, as well as the experts on financial and budgetary matters, they are commending the Government on the manner in which we have been managing the finances in this country over the years, and that encourages us to continuously improve.

The theme of this Budget tells it all; ***“Fiscal Sustainability and Job-Creating Growth - Doing More with Less”***. It is true that, if you have a clear vision, if you know exactly what you want, and if all of you are pulling in the same direction, even if you have *less* you can do *more*.

I have listened to Comrade Kazenambo where he made it very clear that his intervention was not focusing on anybody.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nehova.

HON NEHOVA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. May I ask the Honourable Member a very short question?

We keep repeating in this House, and in particular, the Minister of Finance. We say we are doing a lot with the little that we have or we want to do more with the little that we have, but here we have N\$60 billion on the Budget and we are saying we want to do more with the little that we have, is that correct?

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HON SPEAKER: Continue Minister.

HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: I know we are sitting together, our names are also closer, however, we have different portfolios.

I am sure the Minister of Finance will give you an answer when she comes to respond. However, what I am saying is; if you look at what we have and you look at our demands, the demands are much higher than what we have because we have so many challenges that we have to address. I know we are talking about 24 years of Independence but I must tell you that some of the issues that we have addressed are the very same issues that countries that have been independent for hundred years or more are still struggling with. The last time I was in New York, I wanted to take a photo of a person who was in the vicinity of UN building, literally sleeping on the streets but my camera was very far. Some of us here think you do not find things of that nature but at least we are doing our best to take care of those people on the street and that is why the issue of job creation becomes a priority for us.

I was referring to Comrade Kazenambo's intervention; he made it very clear that each one of us, whether in the Government, Private Sector or in the subsistence economy, has a responsibility to make sure that our economy grows. When he addressed those who are responsible, he, on our behalf asked people to examine their conscience. Even the passion killings or the killings which are going on in Namibia is because our own consciences are not telling us to do the right thing. If we can all speak positively and not just be criticising, we would be able to stimulate the positive side of our thinking in such a way that even those in positions of decision making and offices as referred to; some Permanent Secretaries, some Directors and some Administration Officers become conscious that our responsibility is to develop this country.

We have resources that can be utilised in the best interest of us all and that is why we have to work on our consciousness. As Members of Parliament we need to talk to our voters with confidence and with optimism as

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opposed to sowing seeds of doubt in the minds of our people to make them think someone else, somewhere is the one who is responsible. Let us all be responsible in a way that ensures the growth of our economy towards benefiting each and every one of us.

The Government's responsibility has been clearly explained by the Honourable Minister of Finance through the Budget that she has presented to you. Therefore, when you implement the Budget as individuals, you must consider the same sense of responsibility. In so doing, we will encourage others outside Namibia to respect us and where necessary, to give us the necessary support.

The other day I was listening to the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee where he expressed the Public Accounts Committee's feeling about the relationship between the European partners and our Government. That is the way to go, being Namibians, we have to talk as Namibians and not speak the language which others outside our territory want us to speak because Namibia is the only country we have.

Therefore, let the theme of this Budget be the guiding principle. We should not behave as if we have a lot. Of course, resources are there but they are not yet utilised to their full potential; that is why we must use what we have now efficiently so that we can create more possibilities for us to address the challenges that we are facing today. However, one important thing is for us to change the way we think. The power of our minds is very important. You cannot attest the way we behave, specifically in terms of criminal activities, to poverty. That is just an illusion.

You carry out a study and analyse all the accused and the findings will be that; they are all employed somewhere and are highly professional but one wonders why they have to behave like this.

Let our resources be used to change our mindsets so that we can all move with a common purpose, that is, to build the Namibia we want. I support the Bill, Honourable Speaker.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. Any further discussions? Can somebody rise today to propose the adjournment of this particular item until tomorrow? Minister of Home Affairs?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Being that no one is taking the Floor on the subject matter under consideration, I would, therefore, like to propose that this Debate adjourns until tomorrow. I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Further consideration of this item stands adjourn until tomorrow, at 14:30.

The Notice of a Motion is one by Honourable Ulenga. Does the Honourable Member, Move the Motion?

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, however, I would like to propose that I motivate tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Member defers the introduction and consideration of this Motion until tomorrow afternoon.

With that, we shall ask the Deputy Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow at 14:30.

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ADJOURNMENT
HON HAUSIKU

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Speaker, on this positive note, I would like to Move that the House adjourns until tomorrow at 14:30. I so Move.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:30 UNTIL 2014.03.04 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
26 FEBRUARY 2014**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Good afternoon, Honourable Members. We shall now pay full attention to the Business at hand, scheduled for today and I count on your full cooperation at all times in order to be able to carry out my responsibilities with peace and stability on my mind.

Any Petitions? None. Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Minister of Finance.

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. It seems that these Budgets are much more complicated for my understanding.

I lay upon the Table Reports of the Auditor-General on the following accounts:-

- (i) Diamond Valuation Fund for the Financial Year ended 31 December 2011;
- (ii) Regional Council of Oshana for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2010;

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HON VON WIETERSHEIM**

- (iii) Town Council of Ongwediva for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2013;
- (iv) Town Council of Nkunrenkuru for the Financial Year ended 30 2013;
- (v) Village Council of Gibeon for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2011;
- (vi) Municipality of Walvis Bay for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2012;
- (vii) Meat Board for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012; and
- (viii) Regional Council of the Erongo Region for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, please table the Reports. Any other Reports and Papers?

Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Honourable Von Wietersheim.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice that Leave of Absence due to his own illness be granted to Honourable Jesiah Nyamu until end of March 2014. I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please table the Motion. Any further Notice of Motions? None. Ministerial Statements?

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING:
APPROPRIATION BILL [B.3 – 2014]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading: *Appropriation Bill* [B.3 – 2014].

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, the 25th of February 2014, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the Bill be read a Second Time. The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration adjourned the Debate. I will give the Floor to the Minister now.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:
Comrade Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to make a contribution to the Budget Debate which was tabled by the Honourable Minister of Finance a few days ago.

Allow me on the onset, to congratulate Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Minister of Finance and her team, as well as Comrade Tom Alweendo and his team from the National Planning Commission. Equally, I would like to thank the Governor of the Bank of Namibia and his officials for keeping the coffers of our State in order.

Comrade Speaker, allow me also to thank the Government of the Republic of Namibia for the prudence and commitment with which it has served the

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Namibian people during last year's calamity, the drought situation that affected the whole country in its totality. Thank God that no life has been lost although we could not save the lives of our animals. It is understood that had we had the opportunity to import grass and water from elsewhere maybe these animals could have been saved as well.

Comrade Speaker, this Budget, well as it looks, is crafted in the atmosphere and environment in which the majority of the people of this country are asking the question; *when will we, as formally disadvantaged Namibians, feel that we are truly the owners of this country?* It is unfortunate that I could not get hold of my extracts from one of the newspapers, *the Namibian Sun*, in which an article was written to an extent that the author is telling us what we already know; that Namibia is one African country which the indigenous people do not own it. I do not think I am the only one who read that article, many of us have and this is the reality or the premise from which I want to make a contribution.

This contribution should be taken from the perspective that; I am not criticising the Budget, the Budget is mine, the Budget is crafted in order to share the crumbs that fall from the tables of the rich of this country and the Honourable Minister was able to gather those crumbs and distribute them in order that each one of us get a piece. We can, therefore, not blame the woes of Namibia on the Minister of Finance. She is doing what is possible under the circumstances.

Comrade Speaker, economists tell us (intervention).

HON SHIXWAMENI: May I ask my Honourable mother a small little question?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I have not yet said anything. I am still busy with the introduction.

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HON SHIXWAMENI: On a Point of Information. The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs is talking about the Minister of Finance collecting crumbs that fell from the table of the rich of this country, is the Honourable Minister trying to tell the Nation that we as the Government, are really so incapable that we collect crumbs instead of collecting the cream from the cake? What is the Minister exactly trying to explain, that the Government for the past 24 years has been collecting crumbs and not the cream of the cake or the gold? I am shocked that a senior Minister like her can say that.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, continue.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Economists tell us that there are 3 issues that are considered when you look at the means of production in the country which are; land, labour and capital. Today, I want my argument to be premised on these 3 factors of production:

The Land Issue

I have already mentioned the fact that an article in one of the papers tells us that this is a country in which Honourable Shixwameni and myself do not own land. (Interjection) listen, why do you not listen?

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister, has the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Shixwameni and the rest of us here, who are formerly disadvantaged, do not own land. The land is owned predominantly by

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the formerly advantaged Namibians and foreigners.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko, on what Point are you rising?

HON TJIHUIKO: On a Point of Information, Honourable Speaker, thank you very much.

I am a bit surprised to hear what the Honourable senior Minister is saying the struggle in this country was about the land. The struggle in this country was about the means of production and self-determination. 25 years after Independence, a Senior Minister who has been ruling this country, has to read from a newspaper, come to this Chamber pretending to be surprised. Honourable Speaker, I am shocked to my bones!

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: The Honourable Member will continue to be shocked if he just continues to listen to what I am going to say.

I am not talking about science; I am not talking about a rocket somewhere, but about the situation of land ownership here. Our land continues to be owned by the formerly advantaged and some of them foreigners. That is a fact and a reality.

For Honourable Tjihuiko and them, to tell this House that they are shocked; this is street knowledge, street information, if you do not know then I do not think you are living in Namibia. Are you saying, because I am a Minister I should not say the reality of the country, is that what you are saying? I am a citizen and I feel for myself and for others.

I am saying that land continues to be in the hands of foreigners and the formerly advantaged Namibians.

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Labour (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Yes, the Honourable President of SWANU.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. May I ask the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs a small question?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I want you to listen first.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: No, no.

HON SPEAKER: Is the question accepted?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: No.

HON MAAMBERUA: On the Point of Information. The Comrades in the Ruling Party have been ruling this country for the past 25 years, within

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which period the land has not been returned to the people. All of us here reasonably and comfortably conclude that Namibians would not tolerate to afford a Party that, in its first 25 years in power, has failed to return the land to its people, another 25 years. Therefore, it is time that Namibians consider bringing another Party into power that is going to give the land back to people, and the time is now. I am providing information.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, I think elections are scheduled and I am sure you are busy preparing for elections.

HON MAAMBERUA: For this year the Namibians are going to decide which Party is going to be elected.

HON SPEAKER: You should say this to Namibians during your Party's Rallies. I want the Minister to continue. This is not a Campaign Rally.

HON MAAMBERUA: No, it is not a Campaign Rally. Honourable Minister, this year the electorate is going to decide which Party is going to give the land back to the people.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: This is abuse of my time, the Honourable Member had his time yesterday, I did not interject him. He should sit down and listen. Please, sit down!

HON SPEAKER: This is not Political Party campaign occasion. When

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you have an occasion to address the Namibian people, you can make that statement. Honourable Minister, you have the right point here. Continue.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The issue of land continues to be a vexing question. The Constitution (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Please leave the newspaper that you are quoting, just make your point. We all read that newspaper.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Yes, all of us read that newspaper, I am told. I was talking about the land and who owns it. That justifies my argument that what the Honourable Minister of Finance collects, are crumbs. Crumbs because one of the important factors of the economy is land, and it is owned by foreigners and the formerly advantaged, some of whom do not even have accounts in Namibia. Secondly, labour; (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: What is the Point of Order about?

HON RIRUAKO: I said that I will never allow that to happen. All of you, DTA and yourselves connive to discourage me, through dirty tactics, not to emerge as a potential challenger, and now you are crying. I could never have allowed that to happen. God knows that.

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HON SPEAKER: I do not know what you are talking about.

HON RIRUAKO: You know what I am talking about.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, continue.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Honourable Speaker, for some of us, my generation's generation and those older than myself; if at all we were educated, we got the education that did not enable us to become skilful. The young generation that this Government has been putting through education, is obviously not enough to help produce, innovate and get this Nation over the education backlog that Namibia has inherited.

Our labour situation is characterised as unskilled or semi-skilled. Even if we cry over foreign investors, they come to Namibia, look at our educational level and the skilfulness of our labour force and they compare with other Nations and move on. To add insult to injury, the population size of Namibia is so small. Investors look at the potential of the market size, get discouraged and move on.

Now, with the unskilled labour force, a small population and the land owned by others, what is the situation? Next, you look at the capital; the money issue, who has ownership of the money in our country? Who owns the banks? (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nehova.

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HON NEHOVA: Honourable Speaker, can I ask the Honourable Minister a little question, please?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: No.

HON NEHOVA: Why? Then on a Point of Information; Honourable Speaker, I said here yesterday that our Budget under discussion is providing an estimate of N\$60 billion. Last year it was approximately N\$40 billion. I can guess that it will be in the vicinity of N\$80 billion next year, is that little money? Do we have a scarcity of funds or scarcity of brains here?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, a question.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Speaker, on the money situation in the country, who owns the money? The ones who own the land are the ones who are skilled, and who are they? They are the formally advantaged and they are the foreigners. All our banks, with one exception, are foreign owned and do not attempt to include the formerly disadvantaged. Maybe the time will come, sometime in the future, that this situation will change.

Comrade Speaker, I am arguing the fact that the ownership patents of properties in this country are still in the hands of those who were facilitated by the policies of apartheid and colonialism. Yet, I think we should pull courage from wherever, because many of us have been arguing that the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia is prohibiting us from doing this or the other. My argument is that we should not hide

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behind the Constitution. I have argued this elsewhere, having served this country as the Attorney-General and having studied Law in this country. I did not study Law in Britain and this was one of my textbooks; **the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia.**

While the Constitution, under Article 10 talks about equality and non-discrimination;

(1) All persons shall be equal before the Law.

(2) No persons may be discriminated against on the grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, religion, creed or social or economic status.

The Constitution provides the *proviso* under Article 23(2), and I want to read this Article here for all of us to understand so that nobody goes around tomorrow, saying it cannot be done. I am saying that it can be done.

Article 23(2) reads as follows: “*Nothing contained in Article 10 hereof shall prevent Parliament from enacting legislation providing directly or indirectly for the advancement of persons within Namibia who have been socially, economically or educationally disadvantaged by past discriminatory laws or practices, or for the implementation of policies and programmes aimed at redressing social, economic or educational imbalances in the Namibian society arising out of past discriminatory Laws or practices, or for achieving a balanced structuring of the public service, the police force, the defence force, and the prison service.*”

Comrade Speaker, this Article tells us that this Parliament has all the rights to focus on what those economic issues are on which apartheid has discriminated against when it comes to the formerly disadvantaged, that is you and me. How do we redress and reverse the effects of apartheid, economically speaking? Socially we have enacted legislations such as the Affirmative Action. (Intervention).

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HON SPEAKER: What Point are you rising on, Honourable Maamberua?

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you very much, I am rising on a Point of Information.

I have, on the advice of the Minister, listened carefully whether she was going to justify her remark that the Minister of Finance is *collecting crumbs*. At the collection rate of more than 60% currently, the collection from the institutions that have been named by the Honourable Minister, including the foreign banks, to call it *collecting crumbs*; given the ability of the staff of the Ministry of Finance, the enabling legal framework that we have in tax collection and financial management, Honourable Speaker, I think with due respect, that is an insult.

Some of us and my former Minister there were also tax collectors, and we were not *collecting crumbs*. As much as the system may not be as perfect as we desire, to refer to what is being currently collected as crumbs, I think I had to come to this intervention, given the efforts and ability of the staff of the Ministry of Finance, because (intervention).

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Speaker, this gentleman is not the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance is going to have the opportunity to respond to each and every one of us who is going to take the Floor.

HON MAAMBERUA: I am still having the Floor, Honourable Minister.

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HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: You had your chance yesterday.

HON SPEAKER: I can only have one person speaking at a time.

HON MAAMBERUA: I am not yet done, I want to conclude on my information.

HON SPEAKER: Conclude and let her continue.

HON MAAMBERUA: The Comrades across the aisle are not having the guts to (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: But you made that point before. Honourable Minister, I want to put a question to you. Do you know why the French Republic of today is called the 5th Republic which means that there were 4 Republics of France before? Why is it called the 5th Republic and how did they move from the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th to the 5th Republic? They changed the Constitutions and you have read it yourself how we can go about bringing about the kind of changes that you were talking about, so we could have done that at some point during the 25 years, so let us do that and we are not going to have this discussion again.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Well, Honourable Speaker, I am a Parliamentarian in the first place, voted

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for by the Namibian people and I believe in this Constitution that has given me the right and the freedom of speech.

HON SPEAKER: I agree with you, I said let us do it.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Yes, and I am going to speak and I am going to repeat that, what the Honourable Minister of Finance is collecting are crumbs because you and me do not know how many of our diamonds are going out.

HON MEMBER: We know!

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: We know but where do they end up? They end up in London because the owners are not Namibians. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question. Comrade Minister, are you surprised that this contention and apparent shock is actually coming from people, who are supposed to know that the means of production are in someone else's hands? Are you surprised that the shock is actually a fake shock that is coming from the Comrades who are supposed to know that when you have no means of production you are simply getting royalties and all these

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types of things, and not really what is due to you as the owner of the means of production, are you surprised Comrade Minister?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Honourable Comrade Nambahu, I am not surprised, I think the public must be shocked to hear the Opposition Parties claiming to be shocked by the information that is known even by the ordinary citizens on the streets. They are claiming to be shocked, it is hypocrisy. It is hypocrisy because they want to fail the Government and sooth the egos of those who probably fund their Parties.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Naholo.

HON NAHOLO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. On a Point of Information; the Honourable Member on the Floor was an Attorney-General. She was an Attorney-General in an Office where she was supposed to advise the Government to redress the imbalances. She was also a Minister of Lands once upon a time and she did not do anything to address the imbalances.

Honourable Speaker, I, therefore, have to state that she is crying foul, that was negligence of her duties.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Comrade Speaker, this Government, through the Ministry of Finance is collecting crumbs because the real wealth goes elsewhere. I do not know who but I think it was from our SWAPO side, somebody said the withdrawal of petrol cards by the banks was another means to charge the clients more and this resultant money does not end here. It goes where the

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owners of these banks are. (Intervention).

HON DEPUTY MINISTER GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of information; I do not know why the former Secretary-General of MUN is asking that question. They created a new Party yesterday but they are already fighting amongst themselves and nobody is asking them questions, what problem in Government are you talking about? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Well that is not what we are talking about right now. Honourable Minister, continue.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we as Namibians, irrespective of our political affiliation should not hide our heads in the sands like ostriches, and specifically that side, because you are the ones who are shocked by what I am talking about as if you are hearing it for the first time, seeing it for the first time and, therefore, shocked as you put it (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Can one of you choose to sit down. Please switch on the microphone first, we cannot hear you.

HON RIRUAKO: We are not campaigning; the days of our old Political Party are over, what is the campaigning for? We are here talking about what we lost and what we are supposed to possess and you mentioned that. We agree with you 100%. You have ruined the whole speech until it lost its flavour, we are not campaigning. Say what you want to say, we

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agree with you 100%, for what purpose do have to prolong it? I thank you.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: If Honourable Riruako agrees with me as the President of his Party, I think he should then go and convince his other Member who is shocked. Your other Member is shocked, Honourable Riruako. Comrade Speaker, I want to conclude (intervention).

HON SHIXWAMENI: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information; the Minister and his Deputy should not run away from the facts. Who is the Minister crying to? Government has all the powers in the Republic of Namibia under that Constitution as she rightly quoted it, to do what it can do. What the Minister is revealing here is that Government has basically been sleeping on the job, we have not been doing our job properly to prevent the profits from going out of this country, we have not been doing our job properly to make sure that we have ownership of the means of production in this country and we have not been doing our job properly to make sure that wealth is equally and fairly redistributed amongst the Namibian people.

I, therefore, think the Minister must be embarrassed by revealing a fact that is trying to criticise the Ministry of Finance of collecting crumbs. I think to tell the staff of the Ministry of Finance that they are collecting crumbs is an insult to them. We must act as Political Leaders.

HON SPEAKER: You do not have the Floor; were you asking questions or making an intervention?

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HON SHIXWAMENI: No, it is information that I am providing, that we as Political Leaders and leaders of Government must take responsibility for the mess that the country is in. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I hope that we will get this discussion to some rational point so that we can listen to one another. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Comrade Speaker, the reality in Namibia is not hidden. All of us are coming from colonial (intervention).

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I just want to correct the Honourable Member that I am not a Deputy to the Minister; I am still at the Ministry of Justice so please go and do your homework. If you are still living there, I am not at the Ministry of Home Affairs. I just wanted to make that correction.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Home Affairs, continue.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Comrade Speaker, I find the interjections by the Opposition Parties quite provocative, provocative in the sense that they want to turn my arguments against the Minister of Finance. Minister of Finance is a collector of taxes and royalties which, to me are crumbs, because we as citizens of Namibia do not yet own the means of production in this country.

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HON VAN DER WALT: Honourable Speaker, I am really sorry to intervene my senior Minister.

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Member has the Floor please.

HON VAN DER WALT: I want to agree with her and want to make a statement on a Point of Information. Our Government's first priority is to look after the Nation as its responsibility. The Constitution has been drawn up by human beings and everything which has been drawn up by human beings, whether Rules or Laws can be changed.

Another Point of Information is that the situation of land took place in colonial times, so if our Government decides that it needs land for our people, I cannot see why we are not able to expropriate land. I am not saying that we do not want our white farmers in Namibia; that is not what I am saying. The ones who are productive and do their work are welcome to work together with us.

However, my point is; if our Government needs land for the disadvantage people, it did happen in the past during the colonial time, the Constitution does not even need to change. It is the Government's responsibility to make sure that we make the right decisions for the betterment of our people. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Thank you, Comrade Van der Walt. Indeed, this is what I am advocating here; I am saying this Constitution does not need to change. This Constitution provides for us to reverse the economic effects of apartheid which are still prevailing and, therefore, the consequence of the *status quo* is that we are *collecting crumbs*, yes, we are *collecting crumbs* even if you make me the Minister of Finance tomorrow, I will still continue to *collect*

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crumbs because (intervention).

HON LUCKS: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Order; as much as I have sympathy for the Honourable Minister, in listing the failures and the inefficiencies of Government, I would like to know, does she have any views on the Budget?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: If the Honourable Member wants me to talk about the Budget, he should wait for the 18th of March, this year, then he will hear my views on the Budget.

I am talking about the economic situation of this country. Who said we should not talk about it? It is the basis upon which the Minister of Finance must collect enough because it is coming from the owners of the means of production in this country. I did not have enough time to make research but I have read somewhere in a magazine that was analysing the wealth of Africans in general and so far, there is no one in Namibia who falls in the category of being classified as one of the richest in Africa.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: The Billionaires.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Honourable Nahas Angula has read the same article.

HON SPEAKER: I did too.

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HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Why is it so, when this country produces diamonds, gold, uranium, we have a coast line teeming with fish and we have plenty of land? How come that there is no single Namibian who is a billionaire? Ask yourself that question. I am not talking about secrets; I am talking about street stories. If you cannot read what is being published by others, that is not my fault.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we need to be serious; we need to recommit ourselves to correct the woes facing this country. It is not a matter of the Ruling Party (intervention)

HON LIMBO: Honourable Minister, I am very sorry to disturb you, I just want to ask a question. I understand and concur with what you are saying that Namibians are really poor. Can I maybe conclude by saying that, for us to change the *status quo*, we have to call up a second revolution, so that we can claim what is ours, is this what you are trying to tell us since some of us are ready for that because we want to get what we want?

HON SPEAKER: It is tea time, unless you advise me otherwise. Shall we continue? Continue, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: I was moving towards closure by encouraging my son, the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement, to organise the second land conference. We need the second land conference where you and I will sit down and look at the past 24 years, how far we have travelled because this Government has been walking a tight rope not wanting to rock the boat and, therefore, following the willing buyer willing seller stipulation of one of our statutes. How far has it taken us? The land is still in an astute ownership situation and that needs to change, Comrade Speaker.

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I want to go down in history calling for black empowerment. One day, this Parliament must adopt that policy because this Constitution allows us to do so; it is not reversed apartheid. In actual fact, it is the reversal of the apartheid policy on the economic strangulation of the blacks of this country, I will use the crude word, not even the *formerly disadvantaged* but *blacks* of this country because they were forced into destitution. They have never been destitute as the way they are today. They were driven from their lands, our people ran to safety wherever they could find it; Botswana, South Africa, and so on. Their lands are what we called commercial farms today.

Comrade Speaker, I, therefore, advocate for the policy of Black Economic Empowerment, that is the only way we will be able to reverse the effects of apartheid on economic issues.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, we are doing a lot on education, therefore, my hope and wish is that we focus our attention on graduates from our institutions and give them an opportunity to become skilled employees or skilled entrepreneurs. That is where we should focus our attention on in order to reverse the effects of apartheid.

Honourable Minister, I like what you said when you were presenting the Budget. You stipulated the aspirations of this Nation that all of us must yearn to, one day in the near future, see a thriving future; not next week or next year but probably tomorrow, a future where our youth feel confident that when they leave institutions of higher learning, they are employable in the job market. We should instil the spirit of hard work in our people so that we are able to look after ourselves and our families.

I was to add to that list that Namibians, particularly the women folk, must feel that they can still live in harmony with their male partners tomorrow and not feel uncertain of their lives. Comrade Speaker, when we reach that point, only then will we know that we are an independent country and our destiny is in our own hands. Currently, the destiny of our country is not in our hands, it is owned by certain individuals who live in Europe and elsewhere and that is the passion with which I gave my presentation here today. You can call it whatever you want to call it but I see hopelessness

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in our people. The killings that are taking place are emerging out of anger and we should address the reality of the situation instead of telling people that we are shocked when things are put in the open because we want to hide or bury our heads in the sand.

Comrade Speaker, I will talk more but not today, let me leave it here. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: The SWAPO Party has 85 minutes, RDP 45, UDF 45 and the next speaker is Honourable Von Wietersheim.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I shall start my comment on this year's Budget Presentation, by expressing my surprise about the Honourable Finance Minister's ability to convey - year after year - a rather positive picture of the serious mess we are in!

I shall qualify this blunt statement, Honourable Speaker, by taking a closer look at some of the Honourable Ministers introductory Statements.

She quotes the previous Budget's slogan "***Growing the Economy, Optimizing Development Outcomes***" and states that; "*I am glad to report that we have made good progress to achieve the outcomes anticipated under the Budget.*"

I for one can certainly not agree with that euphoric assessment!

And the Honourable Minister continues a little later by saying; "*in reality, we know too well that Namibia is still grappling with glaring social and structural economic challenges.*"

Yes, Honourable Speaker, this takes us nearer to the bottom of the matter, and the Honourable Minister then identifies these abovementioned challenges quite succinctly; and, they are not at all new to us, as they seem

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to be continuously defying the effects of the impressive slogans and clever policies - year after year!

In looking at these challenges identified by the Honourable Minister, I should expect that this year's Budget will comprehensively and forcefully address these challenges in an unprecedented manner, in order to finally start overcoming them in an effective and sustainable way, and not only superficially slap a dent into them here and there.

The challenge of a 'Jobless Growth Trajectory' seems to be the most serious one in economic terms, with just as serious repercussions in social terms, and most of the subsequent challenges seem to be contributory elements to it. We were told in 2011 that TIPEEG (Targeted Intervention Program for Employment and Economic Growth) was going to kick-start an increase in employment during a three-year period, while Government would be rolling out strategic interventions for longer term sustainable job creation. At the time it was stated that Government, apart from other considerations, also; *"recognized the key role, which the Private Sector has to play in the creation of sustainable employment opportunities, (Intervention).*

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Dr Kawana.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a tiny-winy question? Honourable Von Wietersheim, I am missing one face which was part of your list to Parliament, in the name of Honourable Nyamu, what happened to Honourable Nyamu?

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: I wonder whether the Honourable Member was not here when I moved his Leave of Absence due to illness.

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I will quote again, That Government, apart from other considerations, also; *“recognized the key role, which the Private Sector has to play in the creation of sustainable employment opportunities, and that Government would implement the necessary reforms aimed at enabling the Private Sector to unleash its full job potential.”*

My question is: Has this been implemented in any significant way? I am afraid not, and I would expect this year’s Budget to significantly provide for that.

But let us have a look at the other, subsequent challenges, Honourable Speaker, which have a direct bearing on the unemployment scourge.

A *‘substantial skills deficit’* as the Honourable Minister calls it has been haunting this country for decades, remember, we are in the third decade of Independence, and I would expect the Budget to provide for effective and forceful intervention in a sustainable way by a massive shift of funds to - or within - the Education portfolio to Vocational Training and Skills Development. As far as the challenge of a *‘narrow economic base’* is concerned, this calls for the forceful promotion of industrial development, particularly in the Manufacturing Sector.

Both of the last mentioned challenges go hand in hand, as it is mandatory for the relevant Government agencies to closely cooperate with the Private Sector in determining, which skills are needed and which vocational training is required in order to overcome the lack-glad/or mismatch between the supply of and the demand for skilled labour.

This is also identified as one of the basic enablers in National Development Plan 4 (NDP4), without which we can hardly expect to achieve an enabling environment for sustainable growth and employment creation. It is furthermore recognized in NDP4 that the constraint on the importation of critical skills needed to enhance our Industries’ performance, must be removed, at least for the time required to train our own citizens.

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With regard to the challenge of Namibia's low HDI (Human Development Index) which calls for rapid progress in the areas of education and health, it remains to a large extent a question of implementation of policies and programmes; major chunks of the Budget have all along been made available to these two portfolios, both of which continue to show consistently weak, unsatisfactory results and outcomes!

Clearly, there exists a lack of proper execution and accountability, as well as a lack of monitoring and proper evaluation of results. The NDP4 identifies education as the single most important aspect of human development, and a critical success factor for economic advancement and increased equality. It identifies some key concerns regarding education at present, including:

- access to quality Early Childhood Development Centres;
- quality of outcomes at various levels;
- vocational training opportunities.

As far as the Health Sector and its efficiency and service to our population is concerned, we only need to look as far as the Report by the Presidential Commission of Enquiry of 2013 and ask ourselves, why His Excellency, the President, did not immediately announce any drastic consequences, starting with replacing his Minister of Health, with whom the buck stops.

The Hononourable Minister of Finance concludes this section by saying *"we must build a new common purpose so that we can use all of our talents, skills and resources to confront our economic and social challenges. So, we have to do things differently"*!

I wish the Honourable Minister would take her own words to heart by actually starting to do things differently; for example, by allowing this Assembly a genuine input into the preparation and finalization of the Budget, and not only having it rubberstamped in this august House. There are also talents, skills and resources in this Assembly, which the Honourable Minister might care to make use of in confronting our economic and social challenges; instead of having a Cabinet approved Budget being pushed through, on account of the majority of the Ruling

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Party, and not on account of the quality of the perceived outcome.

The Honourable Minister listed a number of priorities, which I do not dispute as far as macro-economical and fiscal matters are concerned, while I believe that the allocation of our resources should be directly corresponding to and based on the above-mentioned “*glaring social and structural economic challenges*”, in order to seriously and effectively start addressing them.

Honourable Speaker, the TIPEEG Programme is reportedly in its third year of implementation, and the question arises “What now?” Has the Government managed to put up longer term strategies to take over from where TIPEEG will be terminated? After all, we are informed that only an estimated 15,829 permanent jobs have been created, with a further 67,485 temporary jobs; what is going to happen to those temporary employees? Is there any provision for their continued employment in this year's Budget? And, while the desired benchmark of 104,000 job opportunities has clearly not been reached, the question remains whether the massive allocation of N\$14.5 billion has had any real, measurable long term impact?

Closely linked to this, is the question of the involvement of the Private Sector, whose key role was recognized repeatedly in TIPEEG as well as NDP4 documentation.

I would expect a clear signal in this year's Budget, indicating intensified efforts at promoting investments by the Private Sector, particularly in Manufacturing and other Secondary Industry, and thus a substantially increased allocation to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, in particular for industrialization and investment.

The major priority, to my mind, remains Human Development. To that effect, we identified the need for quality Early Childhood Development Centres, and for a massive increase in vocational training opportunities, as well as quality outcomes at various levels of education and training. In addition, the HDI is determined by the state of health of a Nation, as a healthy population is one of the core foundations for economic growth and

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development.

The above requirements are covered by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Social Services and their respective importance should be reflected by the Ministries' respective allocations.

Now, turning to the actual Budget, Honourable Speaker, the figures are impressive - and in a way worrisome. The total expenditure outlay of N\$60.28 billion represents a substantial increase of 26.7% over the previous year's expenditure. Worrisome, is the fact that Operational Expenditure is increasing by 29.1% while the Development Budget only increases by 17.6%; even taking the transfers to SOEs (State Owned-Enterprises) into consideration, Capital Expenditure is not in line with the level of investment needed to achieve the overall goals of NDP4.

With an estimated revenue of N\$52,47 billion, the resultant Budget Deficit is projected at N\$7,81 billion, according to my calculations, pushing the total debt up to N\$38,48 billion, or a worrisome 27.2% of GDP; looking at it from a different perspective, this represents 73% of the present revenue estimate. The debt situation is to be regarded as critical and should be lowered to below 25% of GDP as a matter of urgency!

However, Honourable Speaker, I would consider going along with taking a calculated risk and accepting a massive Budget increase, if that is intended to decisively and effectively address the longstanding serious challenges according to their socio-economic priority. Such brave step might just provide the initial push to get out of the hitherto insurmountable stagnation in development, and elevate the country to the next higher level of socio-economic development. The resultant gradual and sustainable increase in economic activity and decreasing unemployment rate would in itself lead to improved growth and ensuing fiscal relief.

Comparing the overall allocations to portfolios, unfortunately, results in a very different reflection of priorities than we have identified above.

When taking a closer look at the various Ministries/Votes, the usual discrepancies between priority issues and actual allocations are becoming

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even more evident.

Without going into the finer details of the respective Votes - which will be appropriate during the committee stage - I wish to point out the most glaring inconsistencies between socio-economic necessities - which should be our priorities - and the actual allocations.

The overall Budget increase amounts to 26,7%. Focusing on the identified priority portfolios of Education, Health and Social Services, and Trade and Industry, we actually find them in the lower segment of budgetary increases, with Trade and Industry's 33% increase slightly above the average, but with Education only receiving 21% and Health and Social Services a meagre 15%!

Apart from the priorities as identified above by the Hon Minister of Finance, the NDP4 provides for four Economic Sectors, which are supposed to enjoy priority status. These are; Manufacturing, which we already covered under Trade and Industry above, the Logistics Infrastructure Sector, the Tourism Sector and the Agricultural Sector. The three Portfolios covering the latter three priority Sectors, are the Votes of Transport, Environment and Tourism, and Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

Focusing on their overall allocations, we discovered that these Votes are receiving even lower increases, in fact far below the average of 26.7%, with Transport at 11%, Environment and Tourism at 10%, and Agriculture, Water and Forestry at 11%.

Honourable Speaker, please allow me to repeat, the above allocations are intended for this Nation's absolute priority concerns, partly identified by the Honourable Minister of Finance in her Budget Presentation, and all of them contained in Namibia's NDP4.

In comparison, it seems to be questionable to allocate following substantial increases to Votes of little consequence as far as the above national priorities are concerned, in particular, if these allocations are mainly intended for the erection of prestigious buildings, or the

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acquisition of extravagant military hardware.

Leading this category is the Office of the Prime Minister with a 79% increase and some ambitious building plans, followed by the Defence Ministry with an unprecedented increase of 66%, which amounts to more than double the average. As a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security, I do support an adjustment for accommodation and general conditions of service of military personnel after having had first-hand evidence of the plight of some of the members of the force, but under the present security situation in our region, I cannot agree with an upgrading of military hardware to the extent that the Nation's socio-economic fibre is disadvantaged as a result. It is not acceptable that our pensioners have to forego an increase, and a magnitude of other social needs remain unattended, while billions are going to be spent to prepare for a non-existing, imaginary threat. These funds will be lost to the economy and prove obsolete in a few years, due to advancing technology, while in the hands of our social grant recipients, or by applying them to social development projects, poverty levels will be elevated and the economy stimulated at the same time.

The allocation to the President's Office is increased by 49%, which includes construction of the so-called Regional State Houses, while the National Assembly receives 44% more, mainly due to the glamorous intention of erecting a new Parliament Building. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister of Justice.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: May I ask the Honourable Member a tiny winy question? Honourable Member, taking the premise of your arguments, and the thesis that the allocation to the Defence is not acceptable; since we do not have a spare country, this is the only country we have and we have to defend it, what is the RDP's Philosophy on Defence and how are you supposed to be defending it when you are

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actually discouraging allocations to the Defence Ministry? You know, for example, that a country like Israel is the sixth powerful in weapon manufacturing and defence allocation. Knowing that we do not have a second country apart from this one, what is your philosophy around these issues?

HON SPEAKER: Continue, Honourable Member.

HON VON WIETERSHEIM: Honourable Speaker, I think I gave a clear argument in my speech on why I support an increase on certain parts of the military and why not others and I actually gave reasons for that.

I was at the 44% for the National Assembly. Honourable Speaker, allow me to remind this Assembly, that during the Budget Debate two years ago, I already cautioned against increasing the debt burden and objected for the first time against both the above programmes, and I quote; *“To my mind, possible savings could be found in the present Budget without increasing the worrisome debt burden any further, in order to prioritise social and economic shortcomings in particular.”*

These include the State House extensions in the Regions requiring a total of N\$1.2 billion over the MTEF, as well as the indicated construction of a new Parliament. Do we seriously consider - under the prevalent socio-economic circumstances - to replace a perfectly functioning, and recently completely renovated and overhauled building with a new one?”

Honourable Speaker, the motto of our NDP4 reads; ***Changing gear towards achieving Vision 2030***, the Honourable Minister of Finance is calling for *“doing things differently,”* My question is; when are we actually going to change gears, in order to start doing things differently?

Only then will we have any prospect of hoping to achieve - *“a prosperous and industrialized Namibia, developed by her Human Resources, enjoying*

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peace, harmony and political stability.” I thank you, Honourable speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister of Defence.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise to add value to the Budget Debate and I would like to start by recognising the very tremendous efforts which Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her capable staff have made to collect more revenue. Last year, the Honourable Minister proposed a range of taxes including the reduction in personal Income Tax. I was not quite happy when she reduced tax on high earners but I realised that she had other means of replacing that tax with and she has been able to collect more than N\$50 billion in her own money as taxes.

I, however, have a small question which just needs clarity when the Minister replies. Somewhere the Budget is said to be over N\$60 billion but according to the Law the Budget is N\$57.6 billion. I am not quite sure why these figures are not matching with each other but perhaps the Minister has got a reason, she can explain.

Talking about revenue, a point was made yesterday and this afternoon by both Honourable Kazenambo and Honourable Iivula-Ithana, respectively. Honourable Kazenambo was talking about the mismatch between broad policy framework - what is called the macro policy framework of the Government and what is actually happening in the real economy at the same level, that there does not seem to be a match between those policies. I tend to agree that there does not seem to be a response on the part of entrepreneurs despite the fact that they are provided with a stable macroeconomic environment.

Honourable Iivula-Ithana was talking about the tax as crumbs, perhaps she did not put it in economic terms but the taxes we are talking about are

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called rents. They are actually rents because when the economy is operating at a firm-level, it is a branch office economy, meaning an economy owned by branches of multinational companies. Go to mining, to fisheries, banking and even retail, these are foreign companies which are operating here and we charge them rent for operating here, that is the truth of the matter, you cannot deny that and you cannot blame Government for that because the economy is not run by the Government, it is run by the entrepreneurs and we charge them rent and redistribute this rent as we are doing now with the exception of tax on personal income and Value Added Tax. Those are the only things we actually pay genuinely but the other things are rents. Now I am looking at (intervention).

HON NEHOVA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. May I ask the Honourable Minister of Defence a small question?

I see a lot of money that is going to Parastatals in the Budget here, however, 2 Parastatals or State-Owned Enterprises in Namibia also contribute to the State Revenue through taxes paid while I see a lot of them here.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Yes, you are correct and I want to draw your attention to Page 10 of the Estimates of the Revenue and Income and Expenditure. At the bottom of that Page you have the Bank of Namibia and NAMDEB making contributions to the Budget by paying dividends.

HON NEHOVA: What about MeatCo?

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Nehova, as a Member of

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this House you will have your time to stand up and bash MeatCo, if you want to bash it.

These dividends that are paid by companies wholly or partially owned by Government; are very important to me. If we want to address the issues raised by Honourable Iivula-Ithana, perhaps the route to take is that Government should participate in the economy as a producer. That is why I have been advocating the concept of a Developmental State. For you and me to even buy land, the Government has to assist us through Affirmative Action Loans, which some of us are failing to pay back. That tells you that, you and I do not have capital to invest in ventures. We cannot invest in opening a mine, we do not have that capital, so other people who have access to the stock market go and borrow money and then they come and open a mine in Namibia where they mine without paying taxes.

I do not know whether you read the Budget properly. If you come to taxes from the mines other than diamonds mines, they basically contribute peanuts. While the diamond mining companies are expected to bring in N\$1.1 billion, other mining companies are only expected to bring in N\$27 million. Why? Because they go and borrow money from somewhere to operate a mine and since they have that liability, they never declare profits. They continue mining without declaring any profits, saying; *we are repaying the loan and the equipment we brought in here*, this is how we are losing. However, if we went the NAMDEB way, to at least own 50%, then one would earn from NAMDEB in different ways: Your earning would come from diamond tax, royalties, dividends and non-resident tax. At least you will be getting something and not just crumbs but from others you are definitely earning crumbs, what is N\$27 million in exchange of people digging holes all over the places?

On Page 21 the Minister lists money earmarked for State-Owned Enterprises, there are quite a number of them there and when you look at the money earmarked to Epangelo Mining Company it is something like N\$20 million. In mining, what can you do with N\$20 million? That is just to pay salaries. If you really want to participate in the economy, you must capitalise Epangelo so that Epangelo can go into balanced

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partnerships with others. At least we could have something like 40% shares, 30% or even 51% controlling shares but for that to happen Epangelo must be capitalised, not the 20% that I am seeing here.

Since you and me have no money to invest in such big projects, let us put money in Government companies to run the economy on our behalf.

At a later stage when we are strong enough, Government can sell shares from its own companies to citizens, that will make sense to change the nature of the economy we have now; the economy which belongs to the foreigners and what we own is only the Constitution in the plan. That is what we own. That is a reality, whether you like it or not. Therefore, we have to do something about this and I would really like to urge the Minister to think out of the box next time and do something about this. Our Cabinet must think out of the box. Epangelo Mine receives N\$11 million, (intervention).

HON MEMBER: It is maybe N\$11 billion.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: No, it is N\$11 million here. You cannot open a mine with N\$11 million, it is nothing, while our good Air Namibia, which does not even pay tax, I do not want to mention the figure because you will collapse.

What I am saying here is that we should perhaps think about reordering some of our priorities if we want to own this economy. Right now, we do not own it and the only person who has a deep pocket is the State. It is only the State which can open a mine or put up something big which can bring about some kind of structural change in our economy. I have seen, for example, (intervention).

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko, on what point are you rising?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker may I ask the Honourable senior Minister a question please?

HON SPEAKER: Question?

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Let me correct you first, I am a senior citizen not a senior Cabinet Minister.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable senior citizen. I have a small question. I am very much interested in your contribution but I am trying to understand the allocation to Epangelo, when one compares that with Air Namibia.

Would it perhaps not be that the Government prioritised to invest heavily in those identified areas as opposed to other areas? It is maybe not a coincidence but the Government strategy of spending the resources the way it was budgeted. Would that perhaps not be the reason why more money was budgeted for that and not for this?

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I fully understand that when you inherit something you do not want to be seen that you are the one getting rid of it. Therefore, you inherit the liability and continue with it, like Air Namibia.

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However, I am now talking in terms of creating growth as per the theme of this Budget. If you want to create growth, you should not just look at collecting money, which they have done very efficiently. You should think of collecting money and invest in productive Sectors like mining, that is the point I am trying to make and I have evidence (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: May I ask the Honourable of Defence Minister a question? Is the Minister aware that it is because of Air Namibia that brings tourist to this country that our economy is experiencing a boom in the Industry? Thank you.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Honourable Minister. I know that you are the Minister of Air Namibia, if Air Namibia was making such a big business, why should it be bailed out? And you know that Tourism is an extractive Industry. People come and look at your elephants, look at your landscape and pay the lodge owners. Those lodge owners are not Namibians, they export money. Yes, they too pay taxes here and there; if you look at the Budget you will perhaps find lodges and the others there. Air Namibia is serving the purpose of lodge owners and as long as those lodge owners are not Namibians, I am not sure whether we are getting optimal benefits from Air Namibia. That is my argument.

I was saying that it makes sense to empower productive companies owned by Government and that one can enter into partnerships, Public/Private Partnerships. We have seen that the partnerships between Government and the private investor MTC is working well. MTC is one of the companies which you can be proud of. There was once a partnership between Government and a private hotel managing group, Country Club is

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now making profits. Why do we not enter into these types of relationships? (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Bezuidenhout.

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Minister of Defence, may I ask you a question in relation to this? I think it is evident that the success of MTC and the success of Country Club as opposed to the success of other investments comes the management. In your briefing and also thinking out of the box; if you agree with me, I think that we need to seriously address the management aspect of companies that we invest heavily in and not play games with the personnel and the leadership of such companies. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Well, there are two things which I think are key, if you look at NAMDEB and MTC, for example, there are two key things; one is what we already mentioned management and the second is technology. Technology which your partner can bring in is very important.

As we are talking of *doing things differently*, I was going to suggest something on how to do things differently; let us invest in wealth creation as a State. However, since we perhaps do not have experienced people and we will consequently have problems to access technology, let us go into partnerships. That is at least a better starting point than just leave things as they are. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko.

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, may I ask you two questions, please?

Honourable Minister, are you aware that among the Ministries that have returned money to Treasury this time around, the Economic Ministries are more? They could not spend the money that we have approved here for purposes of development. That is the first question.

The second question is; what is the problem of Government spending the Capital Budget based on the situation that we have now, what is the real problem?

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I am not aware of Economic Ministries returning money to the Treasury but let me give you some humble advice. We will come to the Committee Stage, if you can do your proper research and ask those questions to the specific Ministers, you will do us a favour but if you are just doing it because you cannot gather enough people at the Rally and you want to use Parliament as a Rally platform, it is not going to be helpful. This is what you are trying to do, since there is a camera somewhere, is the camera around (*laughter*)?

Having said that, there is another point I want to make and I am making it to myself, not to anybody else. I have been asking myself a question, we have a Budget of more than N\$50 billion to be spent in twelve months but at the end of it the impact is a mixed bag. What happens to this money? Do we just spend it on procurement, pay ourselves salaries and that is it? What happens? (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Naholo.

HON NAHOLO: May I ask Honourable *Katusha* a small question?

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HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I have to correct you first; if you call me *Katusha*, you should say Comrade. (Laughter).

HON NAHOLO: Comrade *Katusha*, yes, thank you. Last year, you were quoted as saying it is *shaela*, this year you said the same. You say goodbye but you are not going.

Now, I want to know, in truth, when are you going Comrade *Katusha*?

HON SPEAKER: Going where to?

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I have been gone for about 10 years now. I reached my retirement age 10 years ago; I am only doing national service now (*laughter*). So, I am gone.

I was saying; perhaps we also need to look at how we allocate these resources. The problem in our country is that we consume what we do not produce and that is the problem. Much of this Budget just goes to procurement, importing things. I wish Honourable Kaura was here, he is the one who likes nice suits that are not made in Namibia.

We have to ask ourselves the question; can we as Members of Parliament decide that a suit I am going to wear next year should be made in Namibia?

HON SPEAKER: Yes, if they are available.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Like mine here is made in Namibia.

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HON MEMBER: And the material comes from where?

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: No, the material is fine, we do not grow cotton. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Van Der Walt.

HON VAN DER WALT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. On a Point of Information; Honourable Minister, if you allow me? Thank you.

About 3 years ago, I visited Australia as a delegate of the Public Accounts Committee. If all of us know how bad apartheid in Australia was before, it is very interesting to note that, on my visit to there I learned that their Government decided to import skills, no matter what colour or where they come from and this changed the face of Australia's economic climate overnight. They decided that they needed to import skills regardless of the nationality. They imported skills of engineers, doctors, lawyers, etcetera, and became one of the major economic players. Australia's Mining Industry is now booming.

If you go to Australia now, there is no such thing as apartheid anymore, it is a mixed Nation. I listened to you Honourable Minister, and I just wanted to comment on what you said. Thank you.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I am not quite sure about the death of apartheid in Australia; my *Māori* friend might not agree with you. I hope you are not the one who was starting veld fires in Australia.

This is a global world, if you have a clear, targeted project that you want

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to carry out and you enter into a partnership, the aim of that partnership is to bring in technology, skills and the like. That is not a problem, it can be done. We are not just talking about importing skills randomly to an extent of even bringing in cooks and tourist guides; this is not what we are talking about. We are talking about skills which can create wealth and not just recycling wealth.

All of us as Ministers must really address the question of the impact of this money; the rents we have collected from those who are exploiting our resources. Can we not use that to bring about an impact that addresses unemployment, empowerment and the likes? I leave that question with all of us. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. You are always a good teacher but I like you most because you are an excellent student. Each case that comes your way, you must say it. I have known you for a few weeks, you can fulfil I can say that.

The next is the Honourable Minister of Justice.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Comrade Speaker and Honourable Members. I rise to make my contribution to the 2014/2015 Budget Debate. Firstly, I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saraa Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Director-General, and all their staff for a job well done.

I consider this Budget as very progressive, *pro-poor* and under our circumstances it is a very good Budget. We must always say the good news, so it is a very good Budget under the theme: ***Fiscal Sustainability and Job-creating Growth - doing more with less.***

My contribution is really prompted, I did not want to speak at this late hour. It was prompted by an article that I read in *Venture Africa* which

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says Namibia is one of the only three countries in Africa with the fastest growing growth rate. I think this is very positive news, it is good news. If you look at the other countries which are mentioned, they are the big oil producers, Angola and Nigeria and we know that their growth is prompted by oil. Oil is the main thing which prompts the growth of these big countries and if I recall very well, Angola's growth percentage was at 7% last year and may be the same this year. Nigeria is said to be overtaking South Africa soon, in terms of growth and capital.

As we know, Namibia is just a mineral exporting country and we were all under the impression that we survive on taxes from these big mining houses like NAMDEB and others but now we are told, as we have learned from the Honourable Minister of Defence, we derive minimum profits from these big companies. Therefore, I think our strategy should be more inclined to thinking out of the box as to what we should do.

Others were saying that we should capitalise Epangelo Mining Company; I do not think that is the correct way to go but I would think that we must vest all the mineral rights in Epangelo so that Epangelo, as Comrade Angula was saying here, can venture into partnerships or joint ventures with other companies. If all the rights are vested in Epangelo, they can in turn, negotiate partnership deals with potential partners upfront as exploration is, indeed, a costly exercise. We also need to look at our legal regime as to how we can move forward.

I just wanted to make use of this opportunity, at this late hour, to thank our Minister. We have been growing at a consistent rate of 4% for the past two decades. We know that under the pressure, economic problems in the world and the oil prices which are always skyrocketing, etcetera, we have done very well. Why do we not study and learn from how other countries have negotiated? I understand that a country like Qatar have a different regime. They ask these oil exploration companies to search for oil and once they discovered oil, the Qataris tell them; *now you have discovered the oil, leave it in our hands*. They negotiate the dividends these oil exploration companies get after the sale of oil.

There are some various strategies we can adopt but the most important

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thing is to learn from others instead of always condemning or criticising. We are a vulnerable third world country with skills deficits as we admitted here, my dear brother there made mention of Australia but even other countries like the United States of America imported skills then and they continue. That is where you will find the best scientists from everywhere in the world, who are well paid, like at NASA. America attracts talent and that is the same thing Canada is doing.

I just recently read an article about a country like Canada; they have a policy of attracting people with over US\$1 million in the pocket which encourages foreign investment into their country in order to make more money. I agree with Comrade Kuugongelwa-Amadhila on fiscal sustainability through creating growth. The only way of creating more job opportunities is through creating growth. Without growth we can say whatever we want, we will never be able to get our people out of poverty and create more jobs. I wanted to say more in this late hour, but I will stop here.

HON SPEAKER: We still have time.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Do we have enough time? Would you like me to continue?

HON SPEAKER: You can take two to three minutes if you want to.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: No, for now I will end here and say; as a country we are not doing bad, we are doing very well, let us learn the best practices from others. We have the mineral resources, let us study what other countries are doing and come up with progressive ideas.

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Comrade Speaker, since this is my Budget, I did not want to make a contribution here, I would, therefore also want to caution other Ministers that this is our Budget and we must be careful as we proceed with our deliberations. That is my opinion and I am exercising my freedom of expression.

On that final note, I rest my case. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister. Any further discussions? If there are no other Honourable Members to take the Floor we then move on to the next item on the Order Paper.

The Notice of a Motion is the one of Honourable Ulenga. Does the Honourable Member Move the Motion?

HON ULENGA: I Move the Motion, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. I give the Floor to Honourable Ulenga.

**MOTION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
EXEMPLIFIED IN RECENT KILLINGS OF WOMEN**

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I would like to be circumspective on this Motion, seeing that this is a matter that has been topical during the last few days, indeed. For example, I am reminded of the fact that only a

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few days ago, the President and the Cabinet issued some ground rules on how to deal with the problem of Gender-Based Violence and more specifically the killing of women which is going on beyond control right now.

In motivating this Motion, I want it to be very clear that this Motion is not supposed to be a counter action to what has already been done by either Government or others on the issue of the viral outbreak of violence against, especially women and children.

When I proposed to Move this Motion, there was a clear demand and there is still a clear demand for Parliament, specifically the National Assembly, to speak out and to condemn, as much as possible, this outbreak of violence and to ensure the Nation that we shall leave no stone unturned in dealing with this specific viral outbreak that is going on.

Honourable Speaker, it is against that background of rather complementing, and not acting against what has already been done on the ground so far, that I would like to motivate as follows:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, the situation that is at hand is namely; the senseless killing of women and girls by our own brothers, by our sons, and indeed by ourselves. This situation no longer deserves endless talking. The time now is for action that will put an end to this extremely intolerable lawlessness. I, therefore, applaud the Head of State and Government, His Excellency, the President Hifikepunye Pohamba for ordering and urging concerted action on this ongoing viral epidemic of barbaric violence against our people and I must state that, I support the President completely.

As a matter of fact, I would urge the President, the Government and the whole Nation to do much more in order to bring the ongoing madness to an abrupt and complete halt.

Therefore, today Parliament, which is the Supreme Authority of the State that makes Laws and oversees their execution, must seek the last word.

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Today we must decide to put our foot down to confront and succeed against this evil, this violence against women and children.

Today, Comrade Speaker, we are not only confronting these heinous crimes but we stand up against the very perpetrators of these misdeeds themselves. We confront those boys and men out there who think they are God and who think that they can do whatever they like in this country. After all, we are the Parliament of this country, we must show our anger that indeed, we as Parliament, are more angry than anybody else. We must tell them that there is an authority in this country, a Supreme Authority as far as the making of Laws is concerned that we will not tolerate any day longer, this devilish lawlessness amongst our male citizens.

As a matter of fact, they are not men, they are monsters. They are not many because the majority of men are law abiding, so we are angry and I urge all the Honourable Members to be angry and to show that they are angry. We are extremely upset. We are supremely, tremendously, immensely infuriated and enraged at this actually horrific, heinous, reprehensible, atrocious, monstrous, criminal and terroristic misdeeds which are happening in Namibia today by people who have all but lost their humanity.

We must show that, as a Parliament we shall not allow this society in this country to be tormented, to be bullied, to be intimidated, neither dictated to or tyrannised by a couple of lowly ants, people who behave like they are social worms and maggots, and not human beings.

Honourable Speaker, Parliament is the Supreme Authority through the powers that we are given by the Namibian Constitution and we must show that we have teeth to deal with this situation as well as any other situation. Let us therefore, fearlessly and unflinchingly confront the current viral epidemic in our not so numerous Nation, this terrorising of our women and children, this killing of our mothers, of our sisters and of our daughters, this violence against our children and against the weak in our community.

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Comrade Speaker, I am indeed talking about the so-called passion killings, though there is nothing passionate about these evil acts. I am not only talking about passion killings, I am also talking about baby dumping, and I am talking about rape, including the rape of little girls and boys. I am talking about Gender-Based Violence in all its manifestations.

Honourable Speaker, many amongst our communities are asking the question, what went wrong? And I want to be very careful here because I am not a social scientist, I have not gone out there and I have not carried out any surveys. Something is clearly not right as it should be with our society, for sure. Comrade Speaker, the day after the murder of Miriam Tiakula Nandjato in Oshakati, I happened to be in the South of the country, at Mariental as a matter of fact, and I happened to enter the shop where I overheard (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: I insist that we just listen to the Honourable Member. I am sure you are deliberately provoking me and I am tired of being provoked. Let us just listen, he will finish soon.

HON ULENGA: Show respect to the Chair. Thank you very much Honourable Speaker.

As I was saying; I happened to be in Mariental and I overheard some shocking conversation between people. There was one male and two females. It was shocking in that I heard the male amongst the three proclaiming that; *“God has ordered things in the world, God has made a woman to be under a man and to obey him. A woman cannot go out of my house and take another man. If that happens she deserves to die”*

Perhaps I should put this thing down and talk a little bit off the cuff. This is the expression that I hear almost everywhere I go, even with people who are supposed to be Comrades. One little boy comes next to me and says;

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“Comrade, me, when it comes to women I do not talk to women, I only beat”. This is a general opinion that is held by many male people in Namibia. What do you tell a person who tells you that he does not listen to women, he only beats and these are people who are born of women and even in a situation where people are talking about news of somebody who has been killed, decapitated by another human being, people still use that kind of shocking language. What was even more shocking was that the women, even though they were protesting weakly, were talking about something else; they were saying, *“She was a fool, she did not choose right, how on earth can I date a man who is not working and who apparently is even being subsidised by a woman.”* The whole approach is very materialistic, it has nothing to do with love and relationship. It is either *dominate women and kill them* or having a right to kill that men talk about, while others discuss material things. You do not date a man whom you will end up subsidising or feeding, you have to choose clearly, carefully and get the one who has something about them. That was shocking because to me, the value of human lives was beside the point in the whole conversation.

Mr Speaker, we need to interrogate why our society is still dominated by such outdated macho based social and moral value systems. We need to deal decisively with Machismo which is an exaggerated sense of masculinity, a misplaced sense of power and strength and authority over others especially women and children.

As I said, Honourable Speaker, the accelerating sense of manhood is seriously misplaced because one can be a man without being a beast. One can be virile without being violent. You can be a man without being a monster. You can be energetic, vigorous and everything without having to be vicious, without having to be immoral, without having to be deprived.

Unfortunately, in our society there is still this prevailing mix-up association of violent subjugation with manhood. If you are a man, you have to force things; you have to subjugate others violently. Physical strength over others is idolised, it turns you into an idol.

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Comrade Speaker, I must mention this other example because it is something that also worries me sometimes. When it is a boxing weekend, we cannot hide our excitement as Namibians, both men and women, and we sit there at the ringside seats screaming; “*Kill him, kill him, bulala, bulala!*”.

This last Saturday three/four days ago, I went to Katutura. I went to the Kommando Hall in Katutura. I went there for something else but it started raining so I had to get inside the hall and when I got there, I realised that there was a whole crowd of people, youngsters but adults and there was a boxing kind of tournament of small boys, eight, nine and ten year olds. They were made to have their gloves on and to box, beat each other. Hit each other in the face, on the mouth and everybody was so excited. Adult people shouting, “*Beat, duck, kill, drop him!*” it is, of course exciting somehow apparently, but why should boxing be more exciting than soccer? We sometimes do not think about these things as violence, but why do we put these children in the ring instead of making them chase a round ball for instance, where they can display skill and dexterity without having to punch somebody on the mouth until they bleed or even fall to the floor?

Comrade Speaker, I am a former Combatant as many of you know and there are several others here as well and as such, I have learnt to disrespect death. I was going to look at it with disdain so to say, and even now, 38 years since I last pulled the trigger on another human being, I still have the same attitude. It is perhaps a kind of psychological self-protection mechanism that helps me to control my fear when I had to go through dangerous and fearful situations.

Unfortunately, Mr Speaker, as a collective, we seem to be still caught up in this cocoon, the historical cocoon of the war time. When you listen to Namibians as a Nation, we basically seem to be still at war with ourselves. The real enemy is gone and now as men, we turn on our women and make them the enemy. It would seem that it is this kind of mentality that these mad men who are going about killing women are using in order to terrorise our society generally, and I say it is not just individual people

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who are being terrorised but the whole society, everybody is scared, you do not know whom to touch and whom to let go, you do not know what to do with people because you do not know what is behind the smiles.

I never met a situation where introspection would be in order in the way we deal with our prisoners and other convicted offenders. Honourable Speaker, convicted offenders need to know that society is very angry with them and we will not necessarily handle them with kids' gloves. What worries me, however, is some new philosophy out there, not that new any longer, that teaches that instead of prisons in Namibia today we only have so-called rehabilitation centres.

I want to deal with this as respectfully as possible because some of these policies were perhaps here in Parliament and they have gone through us. However, the issue is that the people no longer fear prison; they actually say there are no longer prisons in the country. When you do something you do not go to prison, you just go to a rehabilitation centre. You can kill your wife and just go and hand yourself in and they take you to a place where you can have three meals per day and you sleep in a more comfortable bed than you sleep at home.

People no longer fear prison because that is a very comfortable place but Mr Speaker, prison is supposed to be a place of confinement and those offenders who get there are sentenced in terms of a punishment to be confined there. When you look at the structure of the Law, at the end there is always a punitive (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT
AND CULTURE:** Honourable Speaker, may I ask my fellow jailbird a question?

HON SPEAKER: I am sure, the way you put it, he will say yes.

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT
AND CULTURE:** Comrade Ulenga, you mentioned that there are no prisons, what do you mean? What type of prison do you want or you envisage?

HON MEMBER: Robben Island!

HON SPEAKER: Let us be serious about this Honourable Members.

HON ULENGA: Thank you very much for the question even though this could have been dealt with later but I will be happy to tell you that, you know exactly what type of prison I mean. I am talking about a prison where there is a distinction between the offenders and the regime. A prison is a place where the inhabitants are clearly prisoners; and prisoners by itself means that these people's rights are extremely reduced. If they want to run away put them in irons. If they want to be violent deal with them decisively and let them know their place. Let them know one thing, society is angry and unhappy with them, that is why they are there, as opposed to; *we are so sorry, we are going to rehabilitate you and when you get out of here you will be whatever*, not to pamper them. Comrade

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Ekandjo, one unfortunate thing that you also know is that prisons are always half a step ahead of the regime. Whatever may be, a prisoner is always a little bit cleverer than his jailer so you must be very careful when you deal with prisoners. They even vote.

Honourable Speaker, prison, by its own definition is a place of confinement and those offenders who get there are those who were sentenced by the Law. They are punished to be confined there. Convicted offenders are sent to prison as punishment in the first place. It is only while they serve their sentence that prisoners get to be rehabilitated.

Prison is supposed to be a place of punishment which unfortunately no longer is.

In our country today, comfortable living conditions in prison far exceed the comfort to be had in any rural village or town in Namibia, so going to prison is to many people like moving from poorer socio-economic conditions on to a higher level of comfort and this is not conducive to a successful crime-busting regime.

Honourable Speaker, prison should continue to be a place of confinement, a place where we put people we are angry with. Talking of hard labour; I saw over the weekend some comments about hard labour apparently not being viable whatever. Hard labour cannot be said to rob anyone of their dignity. In any Army in many countries, for example, soldiers are not prisoners but they work. They physically have to do work because they are there to perform public duties and they keep their dignity. Work actually dignifies a person; it does not rob anybody of their dignity. I am, therefore, totally shocked by arguments making the rounds such as, prisoners cannot be made to work hard because that would be dehumanising them. Work does not dehumanise.

Honourable Speaker, prison is definitely not meant as a place of comfort for convicted offenders, they must always be reminded that society is upset with them that is why they are in prison. Our society has turned upon itself and we are busy self-destructing but we know the perpetrators,

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we know them long before they commit their crimes. In most cases they have a history of violence as is shown in many a case. Comrade Speaker, why not tag these people as soon as they show themselves, list them and mark them, watch them carefully.

We have intelligence that we use as a State in many respects. I do not want to mention some sensitive cases, so why not use that intelligence in tagging and following up? (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Home Affairs.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:
May I ask Honourable Ulenga a question? It is very saddening to listen to a male compatriot expressing himself on the issue the way Honourable Ulenga is doing. I did not even want to interrupt him but since I have this issue, let me put it to him.

It has been coming a long way. These suspects, like the one of last weekend who handed himself over to the Police and explained what he had done. When he was taken to Court, he was covering himself up and my wish is that these people are prohibited from covering up their faces so that we know them.

Tomorrow, when they are given bail, they will be out there on the streets and we do not know them. What do you think about this?

HON ULENGA: The Honourable Minister is touching on an issue that is a little paradoxical, I would definitely agree that there should not be any covering up because they must be known and they must be shamed, they

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must be booed. Every time that we see them, we should be booing them. When they come into Court the whole people in the Court room should be booing; yes booing because it is what they deserve.

However, on the other hand, I have also observed that these people enjoy being in the limelight. I have seen youngsters running to the newspaper and saying; *have you seen who and who, today he was wearing what and what when he was at Court*. Let me be specific, the time of the Kareeboomvloer case, you would actually find these guys posing for the camera when they are at Court. Then there was another case again involving one youngster from Khomasdal, you can see these guys boasting, they are enjoying the fact that they are seen in the newspapers. This is the only way that they can make it to the newspapers.

While I know that they need to be exposed, everybody must know them and I think they should put some caption on the pictures in the newspapers to indicate that these people are evil and should not actually be with us in this society but be kept separately.

When I said tag them, I do not mean to physically put something on their ears or whatever but there are many ways of tagging a person. Let them be listed and marked because you can perhaps count them, not necessarily on one hand, but let them be marked and be watched carefully because most, if not all of these crimes we are talking about, could have been prevented if we could have just made use of the intelligence that we have.

In every situation, we know who is beating up their girlfriends and we know who say; *"No, do not put me in, I do not want to be a witness"*. People do not want to be witnesses, they know what happened and they say they do not want to be a witness. This thing started long ago when we were colonised, nobody wanted to be a witness against another member of the community. It still continues instead of bonding with the Police so that we can fight this evil, people do not want to be witnesses apparently. Even if they witness beatings, which in the end lead to killings, they do not want to speak out because they do not want to be witnesses and the whole thing goes on. When these things happen everybody says he/she is

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against but our very behaviour is such that we somehow perpetuate these things to go on.

Honourable Speaker, I am actually done. I am talking about the fact that people should not withhold information regarding even a list of indications of Gender-Based Violence. If we stand boldly against crime, we shall prevail and we as Parliament need to speak out and tell the people out there that we stand up and lead and shall not leave any stone unturned until this matter is busted.

We, therefore, need to wield the necessary political will to stop this absolutely. We should have the political will to overhaul the moral values of the Nation. We are not at war but in peace, therefore, war-like moral values should end now and we must develop morals and ethics of a peaceful society. This thing of killing yourself; *“No I do not care, I will kill myself, I am born once and I die once,”* is the kind of attitude we need to work against. People are there to value life.

Stop the idolisation of violence, war, bloodshed, identify these criminals and keep them tagged and marked. Encourage the community to be patriotic and to report acts of Gender-Based Violence. Charge, try and convict people who carry out these things. While convicted offenders of Gender-Based Violence and other offences are entitled to rehabilitation, they must be punished appropriately as well. They must be confined in a place where they are disciplined because it is also through severe discipline of a person that they are rehabilitated. They should also be disciplined through work; that they do work for the community. We should not be told that; *no they cannot work because hard labour would dehumanise them.* A clear message must go out that crime does not pay and, especially this crime perpetrated against women and children will not pay. Let there be a message to the convicted offenders expressed through the length of, for example, the serving time that they get from the Courts.

Honourable Speaker, let us stand together with the Nation out there and fight decisively these evil deeds which are going on in our society. I thank you. I would like to Move so.

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**MOTION ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
HON MOONGO**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Deputy Prime Minister.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I see Honourable Moongo wanting to speak. However, my intention is to adjourn the House on behalf of this side of the House in view of the arrangement that is on board but if Honourable Moongo wants to speak now I will do it after he has spoken. Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. First of all I would like to appeal to all men in Namibia to stop these killings of women.

Secondly, if possible, I would like this House to refer this thorny issue to a Parliamentary Standing Committee where psycho experts and Judges can be invited in order to determine the root causes of Gender-Based Violence. That Committee should also compose of victims of Gender-Based Violence.

The causes of Gender-Based Violence should also be ascertained so that we can eradicate it once and for all. If possible, I also propose that it be dealt with urgently. And now that the Government is serious about it, we could establish a specific Committee and give it a time limit to carry out its investigation and produce a Report. People always have excuses after committing these crimes against women and children, some are found to be mentally unstable. We must get to the bottom of these problems so that lasting solutions can be found.

Honourable Speaker, this concludes my proposal. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Deputy Prime Minister.

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ADJOURNMENT
HON HAUSIKU

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, as I said, I would like to adjourn the Debate on this very important issue to Tuesday, the 11th of March 2014. Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I am doing so, in view of the arrangements that have been announced by His Excellency, the President. We of course agree that this is a serious issue and Government has been serious all along but yet we should not approach it emotionally but soberly.

Comrade Speaker, on that note, I would like to adjourn the Debate. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Deputy Prime Minister, I will ask you to remain standing because I will ask you to adjourn the House.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Speaker, may I Move to adjourn the House until tomorrow, Thursday, 14:30. I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:30 UNTIL 2014.03.04 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
27 FEBRUARY 2014**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: The announcement was made and I would like to welcome Honourable Nyamu back to the House; you look fine, you look like in your youthful days.

Any Petitions? None. Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports or Papers? Honourable 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) Town Council of Ondangwa for the Financial Year ended 2012;
- (ii) Namibia Press Agency (NAMPA) for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2013; and
- (iii) Marine Resources Fund for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2008;

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Reports, Honourable Minister. Any

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON EKANDJO**

further Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions?
Ministerial Statements? Honourable Minister of Youth.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT
AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable
Members, I just want to give an update regarding the return of human
remains from Germany because some of the remains would be returned to
Namibia next week, Friday, the 7th of March 2014.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, there has been negotiations with
the Namibian Embassy since the return of the last human remains from
Germany to Namibia. The Namibian Embassy has been involved in
negotiations; there are over 200 Museums in Germany and some of these
Museums house human remains from Namibia.

Charité Human Remains Project has identified, altogether 55 skulls as of
Namibian origin; 20 of which were repatriated in September 2011. This
Report is dated the 24th of October 2013 so *this year* means 2013. The
remaining 35 skulls will be ready for repatriation at the end of *this year* as
some historic assessment is still being carried out. They located at the;

Berlin Charité: One skull, which was handed over for provenance
research by a private individual is currently still being documented. After
the research has been finalised, the skull will remain stored at the Charité
and await repatriation together with the other human remains.

The University of Freiburg identified 14 skulls as of Namibian origin
and these are: 8 Herero; 5 Nama; and 1 *South West Africa*. The
documentation process was concluded in November 2011. The skulls are
ready for repatriation.

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The University of Greifswald is in possession of 3 skulls with inscriptions that describe them as of Namibian origin. However, no provenance research has been undertaken so far and the University of Greifswald is not in a position to do that.

Berlin Society of Anthropology, Ethnology and Pre-history in short; **BGAEU**. The first meeting took place with representatives of the BGAEU in early June this year. A second meeting has been requested. The Embassy is aware that the BGAEU is in possession of 8 skulls and 2 skeletons of Namibian origins. These are two full skeletons. However, the BGAEU neither confirmed the number nor any detail thereof. The Namibian Embassy is aware that the BGAEU is opposed to repatriation. While the institution does not openly say so, they appear to play for time. The German Foreign Offices have also written to the BGAEU in support of returning the human remains of Namibian origin.

Focke Museum in Bremen: It has come to the knowledge of the Namibian Embassy in Germany that at least one skull described as of Namibian origin has been stored at the Focke Museum Bremen. We are awaiting further details before pursuing the matter further with the Museum.

Cultural Objects - Linden Museum Stuttgart: Witbooi Bible; the Ambassador travelled to Stuttgart on the 2nd of October 2013, to have a discussion with the Director of the Museum, Professor Dr Castro and Mr Uhlmann of the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts, about Namibia's wish for the return of the *Witbooi Bible*. While the Director of the Linden Museum was not absolutely against considering the request, she was also not very welcoming and forthcoming. Moreover, she requested information from Namibia on how the Bible had come into the possession of the Museum. Discussions will continue.

Adelhauser Museum Freiburg; the Embassy has contacted the Museum with a request for a discussion on the return of the *Witbooi Written Documents* stored at the Museum. The Museum has responded and a date for a meeting has been suggested.

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Project Idea - Joint German -Namibian History Team Project: In a recent discussion with 2 German historians and ethnologists, the Ambassador sounded out the idea of establishing a Joint Namibia-German History Team. The team should be composed of one Namibian and one German historian/anthropologists, funded by both the German and Namibian Governments. In order to co-own the Project, the Ambassador regards it as very important that a Namibian historian/anthropologist would be part of the team and shall be financed by the Namibian Government.

Comrade Speaker, I would like to read the breakdown of the skulls and this is a Fact Sheet with the status of the 24th of October 2013.

Human Remains and Cultural Objects of Namibian Origin in Germany:

Charité Hospital University in Germany

From a total number of 55 skulls, 20 have been repatriated in September 2011. The details of the remaining 35 skulls are as follows: 19 Nama, 11 already repatriated; 19 Herero, 9 repatriated already; 11 San; 5 Ovambo; 1 unclear. These are now at the Charité Hospital University, a total of 55.

Collection Phase; these are the skulls that have been collected from Namibia from 1884 up to 1903. We are informed that some people were already buried and then they were dug out and decapitated. Of this; 4 San, 3 Nama, 1 Herero, this gives us a total of 8 skulls. Between 1904 - 1908; 13 Nama and 11 already repatriated; 15 Herero, 9 already repatriated, a total of 28.

Then between 1908 – 1912; 7 San, 3 Ovambo; 2 Nama and 1 unknown, the total of 13. Now at BGAEU, the institution which is reluctant and not forthcoming with the repatriation; what is known so far are 10 human remains, 2 full skeletons of Nama origin and 8 skulls. The Rudolf Virchow Collection has been in the possession of the BGAEU since 1902. The BGAEU has so far refused provenance research of their collection.

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This was a statement made at the Charité Human Remains Workshop. The first meeting took place between this institution and the Embassy on the 6th of June 2013, with representatives from BGAEU. The second meeting has been requested and the date for appointment is still outstanding.

The University of Freiburg - Alexander Ecker Collection: A total of 14 skulls, 19 skulls were examined but only 14 showed significant probability of originating from the region of modern-day Namibia. The details are as follows: 8 Herero, 5 Nama and 1 *South West Africa*.

Documentation: The identification process was concluded in November 2011 and these skulls are ready for repatriation. A press conference was held on the 24th of November 2011, where the public was informed. This was in Germany.

University of Greifswald - Institute of Anatomy and Cell Biology; total number of 3 skulls. Professor Dr Karlhans Endlich is the one in charge of the possession of these skulls. The details are as follows: Dugout skulls from Deutsche Süd-West Afrika. Further details are unknown. The presenter was Professor Wettstein who made that known in 1941.

One individual skull is in possession of Mr Gerhard Ziegenfuss. Details: According to the oral of the family tradition, the skull is that of a Chief, an elderly man who seems to have died of a natural cause, which his uncle the late, Pastor Alois Ziegenfuss had been given by a converted local community, during his time as a missionary in Namibia, most likely in the early years of Ziegenfuss's mission activities. The Pastor was a German Army Chaplain in the Herero war. Alongside artefacts and animal trophies, the skull was shipped to Ziegenfuss junior's grandparents' house in Dingelstädt. Mr Ziegenfuss sent the skull for provenance research to the Charité Human Remains Project. According to Charité Human Remains Project, the research would be completed by the end of October.

Cultural Objects in Germany: There is a Witbooi Bible at the Linden Museum Stuttgart. On the 2nd of October 2013, a meeting took place between Professor Castro, Director of Linden Museum, Mr Uhlmann of the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts and the Ambassador as well as

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Ms Eiseb from the Namibian Embassy in Germany. Details: On the 22nd of April 2010, the then Green Party MP, Gisela Splett, filed a Motion in the German Bundestag titled “*Return of Collectors Items to Namibia*”. In their response of 12th of May 2010, the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts’ Minister Baden Württemberg stated, and I quote; “*The Ministry of Science, Research and Arts knows that the family Bible of the Witbooi family is in possession of the Linden Museum Stuttgart.*” So far there has been no respective request for the return.

Adelhauser Museum in Freiburg - Schwabe Bequest, Witbooi Written Documents; on the 5th of August 2013, the Embassy wrote a letter requesting an appointment and so far there was no response. Details: On the 22nd of April 2010, the then Green Party Member of Parliament, Gisela Splett, filed a Motion entitled and I quote; “*Return of Collectors Items to Namibia.*” In their response of 12th of May 2010, the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts’ Minister Baden Württemberg stated, and I quote; “*The Ministry of Science, Research and Arts can only become active in the area of State Institutions. Apart from that the City Museums Freiburg has informed the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts that in principle they are positively inclined towards the request for return by the Namibian Government.*”

Southern Cross was mentioned during the visit of the Namibian-German PFG in their meeting with State Secretary Dr Emily Haber. Details: Need to get more details from Professor Katjavivi and Honourable Von Wietersheim who raised the topic. This is now as far as the skulls are concerned.

Comrade Speaker, the Namibian Government through Cabinet decided that the skulls that are ready should be returned to Namibia and this coming Sunday, I am leading a four-member delegation from our Ministry to Germany for the repatriation of skulls and will be landing back in Namibia on Friday morning. We are going by Air Namibia this Sunday and will be landing at Hosea Kutako International Airport on Friday morning 07:30. On our return, we will be accompanied by the Ambassador of Namibia to Germany, His Excellency Neville Gertze and the former Ambassador of Germany to Namibia, I think Mr Egon

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HON EKANDJO**

Kochanke.

At one time, I am told he was chased away from the State House here and then deported back to Germany. He is the Director-General of the African Desk of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is the one in charge of Africa. He will also be accompanying us. I received this Fax this morning, the 27th of February 2014, from our Embassy in Germany and it reads as follows:

“SUBJECT: CLASSIFICATIONS OF THE HUMAN REMAINS (SKULLS)

As per our telephonic conversation, I submit herewith the breakdown of the ethnic classification of the skulls to be repatriated next week.

FROM CHARITÉ HOSPITAL UNIVERSITY

A total of 21 human remains comprised of San 8, Nama 5, Ovaherero 4, Ovambo 2, and Damara 2.

FROM FREIBURG UNIVERSITY

A total of 14 human remains comprised of OvaHerero 6, "Hottentots"-Nama 4 and Damara 4,

Kindly note that these classifications are given as they are written on some of the skulls or captured in documentation related to these human remains.

As an Embassy, we cannot confirm the accuracy of these break-downs but this is what is reflected by the two Universities.”

We are, therefore, going to travel from one place to the other, for two to three days to collect these remains and then they will be sealed and returned to Namibia.

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This time, with the arrival of the skulls nobody will be allowed on the tarmac. When the plane lands Honourable Marco Hausiku and the Honourable Deputy Minister of Youth will be there because there is a welcoming ceremony programme for Friday. I do not know whether the Honourable Speaker has already been informed or not. My apology if the message did not reach yet but it has been prepared.

The entire community will wait here at the Parliament Gardens and not at the Airport. The Deputy Prime Minister will be at the airport accompanied by Chief Riruako. Chief Immanuel /Gâseb will also accompany us to Germany and he will be going there in his capacity as the Deputy Chairperson of the Council for Traditional Leaders to represent all the Traditional Leaders in Namibia. The Chairman, Chief Immanuel Elifas was supposed to go but cannot travel due to ill-health.

Apart from Honourable Kavetuna, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Honourable Chief Riruako, there will be three Chiefs to represent Herero/Ovambanderu and three to represent Nama/Damara.

From the airport, the convoy goes to the city and I am told that they will slow down along the road for those who are doing the rituals. The casket with the skulls is expected to reach the Parliament Gardens at between 08:00 and 09:00, where the whole Nation will be waiting. The ceremony will be conducted in the same manner as a memorial service; however, it is not a memorial service. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Youth, Comrade Kavetuna will be the director of ceremonies.

Between 14:00 and 15:00 today, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information, Comrade Ndjarakana, will make an announcement and outline the programme. Included in the programme is the National Anthem, the AU Anthem, a prayer, followed by speeches. The former German Ambassador to Namibia will present his statement on behalf of Germany as well as the six Chiefs representing the Herero/Ovambanderu and the Damara/Nama respectively. The Deputy Chairperson of Council for Traditional Leaders, Chief Immanuel /Gasâb will also make a statement and then the President will deliver a key note address.

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HON EKANDJO**

We expect the programme to finish around 12:00 but it may be prolonged by the Chiefs' statements because once some of the Chiefs take the floor, they do not stop before the sun sets.

The casket will be placed under the tent and there will be a Guard of Honour. The Guard of Honour will also be at the airport to receive the caskets from the plane. The caskets with human remains will be covered with glass to facilitate the viewing of the skulls by the members of the community.

After the ceremony, the human remains will remain at the Parliament Gardens until 18:00 in the afternoon so that those who want to do their rituals can do so. The Remains will thereafter be stored at the National Museum. I am appealing to the Namibian Nation to wait here at the Parliament for the return of the skulls next week, Friday, the 7th of March 2014. I rest my case.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Minister, before I give the floor, will the NBC not be recording the proceedings?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Yes, the NBC will also accompany us to Germany to record the proceedings.

HON SPEAKER: What about the summary of the programme that you have?

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: The Permanent Secretary of Information was making

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HON MAAMBERUA**

final touches before he issues a press conference at 15:00 today, where he will outline the whole programme. What I am having here is just a draft; he has a press conference at 15:00 where the whole programme will be outlined. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Maamberua I hope you will not get into a discussion.

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HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Allow me to express my appreciation for some of the information given by the Honourable Minister.

Having regard to the fact that the issue of repatriation is very serious, particularly as it is linked to the genocide that took place in this country, I wish to submit that the information given by the Honourable Minister comes from Germany and is not information that we have done our own research on. We have not carried out any DNA tests on the particular skulls that we are talking about and that shows and demonstrates to me that Government is not serious about this matter. It is just natural (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: You might be giving your word but I do not think this is the place to have that. There are so many different views here on the matter. I do not know enough to allow you to attack the Government on this matter. There might be a platform for you but not from this Floor.

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You can go out and talk to the press. You can sit down so we can proceed with the programme.

Thank you, Honourable Minister of Information. I should not have given him the Floor. I do not want us to Debate this issue here and if I get in your initial words that that is what you are trying to do, I will rule you Out of Order and I am going to call you to order. You have the Floor, Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. With all due respect and sombreness that this occasion requires or calls for, I thank the Minister for the information but just have a question with regard to; did the German Government provide all the Universities concerned and provide the Namibian Government with all the information that comes from the research and examination or the anthropological research that resulted from this German project of taking Namibian skulls to Germany?

If they have not provided the information to the Namibian Government, will the Honourable Minister, please request such on behalf of the Government and the Namibian Nation in order for us to have information about their findings emanated from all these researches that they have carried out by taking the Namibian skulls to Germany?

Secondly, I sometimes wonder what the logic of treating this issue as a cultural matter is, seeing that it actually arises from the genocide that took place here. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Let us get to the programme scheduled for today; everything will become clear as the day unfolds. You do not have to respond to any questions, Honourable Minister.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: AGRICULTURAL
(COMMERCIAL) LAND REFORM AMENDMENT BILL
HON !NARUSEB**

**COMMITTEE STAGE - RECONSIDERATION:
AGRICULTURAL (COMMERCIAL) LAND
REFORM AMENDMENT BILL [B.12 – 2013]**

SECRETARY: Committee Stage - Reconsideration: *Agricultural
(Commercial) Land Reform Amendment Bill (B.12 -2013).*

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister Move that the
Assembly now considers the Bill?

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

HON SPEAKER: The Chairperson will take the chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
The Whole House is called to order and the Committee has to consider the
Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Amendment Bill [B.12 – 2013].

I put Clause 1. Honourable Minister.

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HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

As the Honourable Members are aware, we went through these Amendments last year and then it went to the National Council. The National Council made some Amendments that they thought were relevant and we are in agreement with their proposals. That was by way of the background.

In Section 1 of the *Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act*, (Act 6 of 1995) this Act referred to as the Principle Act is amended by a substitution for the definition of *alienate* with the following definition:

Alienate in relation to Agricultural Land means sell, exchange, donate or otherwise dispose of, whether for any valuable consideration or otherwise and includes in case where such land is registered in the name of:-

- (a) a Company; the sale or transfer of shares of the company to another person; or
- (b) a Close Corporation; the sale or transfer of any member's interest in the Close Corporation or any portion of such interest to another person. I so Move, Comrade Chairperson.

HON HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Please table the Amendment. Any discussions on the Amendment? Any objection? Agreed to.

I put Clause 3. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you,

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Honourable Chairperson. In Clause 3(a) substitute the following Sub-clause for Sub-clause (2) to;

“(2) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any Law contained but subject to Subsection (3); no agreement of alienation of agricultural land entered into by owner of such land or in the case where such land is alienated by a company of Close Corporation in the circumstances contemplated in Paragraph (a) and (b) respectively, of the definition of *alienate*.

No agreement of sale or instrument of transfer or transfer otherwise of any shares of the company or of any member’s interest in the Close Corporation or of any portion of such interest which, **but for the Subsection would have passed the controlling interest in the company or Close Corporation** to another person shall be of any force and effect until the owner of such land;

(a) has first offered such land for sale to the State; and

(b) has been furnished with the certificate of waiver in respect of such land and in respect of a specific buyer who in most cases must be a previously disadvantaged person contemplated in Article 23(2) of the Namibian Constitution.”

(b) Substitute the following Sub-clause 3;

“Subsection 1 and 2 shall not apply where agricultural land is alienated:

(a) by or to a Regional Council or a Local Authority Council or a Body Corporate as defined in Section 1 but only to the extent that such land is alienated otherwise than being sold in open market; and

(b) (in the administration of a deceased estate or in accordance with redistribution of assets, a deceased estate between heirs and legatees);

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

- (c) by the trustees of an insolvent estate or the liquidator of a Company, Close Corporation or a Cooperative Society in liquidation of such estate or the winding up of such Company, Close Corporation or Cooperative Society;
- (d) by a Deputy Sheriff or Messenger of the Court in the execution of a Judgment or an Order of a competent Court;
- (e) by a co-owner of such land to another co-owner thereof, except where;
 - (1) the other co-owner is a foreign national; or
 - (2) such land is owned by a Company or a Close Corporation; or
- (f) in such other circumstances as the Minister may prescribe.”

I so Move Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Please table the Amendment. Any discussions on the Amendment? I recognise, Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Mine is just a question of trying to think out loud, by trying to find some clarity from the Minister of Lands on this issue of Close Corporation and the selling of shares therein, in as far as they pertain to Close Corporations that are involved in the Land Sector.

Maybe the Honourable Minister would be able to explain the dilemma that I have; that Close Corporation are registered with the Ministry of Trade and Industry and they are governed by the *Companies Act*. How would the Minister find out that I am an owner of the Close Corporation because the process of adding on share or changing Directors takes place at the

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Ministry of Trade and Industry?

All that I need to do in order to change the shareholding is to sign an Amendment Form which I deposit with the Minister of Trade and Industry. Are there checks and balances of how the Ministry is going to do this in order to observe that indeed, people are transacting and changing shares in companies that they do not have control of? I just want an explanation of how we are going to manage this process, because the process seems to be so tricky that the Ministry of Trade and Industry deals with it but not the Ministry of Lands, and Close Corporations are not registered that they particularly own lodges or they own farms, you register a Close Corporation as a Company in which you can trade shares freely on the open market. I would just like my brother, Honourable !Naruseb to explain what linkages are going to be there between the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement in this whole process of transacting in shares. If you can explain to us, I would appreciate it very much. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson. I have no intention to open up a Debate here. We are supposed to be coordinating our activities and (interjections).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can you please listen to him because you have asked him to explain?

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HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: On this issue; you have heard so many senior people, even the very founders of our Republic, both in terms of being Members of the National Assembly and being Members of the Government, questioning the Land Reform process yesterday. Because of that reality, the Government has been seized with ways aimed at combating the mischief of the existing legal framework being abused for the advantage of those who want to gain maximally by sidestepping the provisions of the Act, the very Act that we right at Independence convened a land conference for, the outcome in reform of resolutions which enabled us as a Nation to premise our policy formulation and the legal framework on the very issues that we are now starting to question.

Because of that reality, we as a Sector have been seized with trying to find a way to deal with the issues that we have identified and the process of trying to deal with the issues involves a multi-sectoral approach. The Colleagues in the Ministry of Trade and Industry and not just them, the other Sectors where there is a confluence of stakeholder involvement with regard to what we want to combat are fully sensitised and the expectation is that they would also equally amend their Acts in accordance with what we want to combat. I am just very happy that I was able to do my part and I have equal expectation that the other stakeholder Sectors would comply. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: If you need more explanations, maybe you can come up with a question with concrete examples so that the Honourable Minister can respond to that. You may stand up and pose your follow-up question. I will give you the last chance.

HON SHIXWAMENI: I do not want to bother my good friend but when both these Bills were presented in November last year, they were presented as very urgent Bills. The question that I have asked still

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remains. If from November to almost March it is still classified as urgent, is it really urgent?

Why do we not just simply bring the comprehensive Bill since I know that my brother has been working on the *Land Bill* that will integrate all these things? If it is not urgent, three months has gone by, why do we not work on the comprehensive Bill so that we close all loopholes instead of taking them piece by piece because just the fact that we are presenting it in February again, and it will have to go for signature to the President, does not show me that it is very urgent. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you my dear friend, Honourable Katongo. You will forever remain a very close friend of mine. If we look at the way our institutions are structured, we dealt with it in November, it went to the National Council, they did what they were supposed to do and then they had to go on recess, like we did. We only convened our activities on the 11th of February. That explains the time that has lapsed in the meantime.

I think most of the issues that you are referring to in terms of synergies to be developed between the Sectors that are involved in making an impact with the provision of this Amendment are probably part of the administrative regulatory framework. I would venture to openly state that, maybe with your indulgence, we can allow this process to move on so that we can combat the mischief that is currently being exploited through the loopholes that people have found in the legal framework because they can register Close Corporations, get into partnership with some of us and sidestep the provisions of the legal framework. Thank you.

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HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Any further discussion? I recognise Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Chairperson, I just need to get some clarity from the Honourable Minister.

It is on the actual implementation of the Law that we are going to pass, the very same Law that we would have passed yesterday. As my Colleague said, we have an existing Law under which Close Corporation are being registered which has something to do with pure business transactions as guided by so many things; indemnity, rules and all sorts of things. We have an *Agricultural Land Bill* that we are just about to pass.

These Close Corporations that we are talking about have to fit in this one and in that one. The Honourable Minister was talking about the Law being hopefully amended in the future in such a way that stakeholder Sectors will start talking to one another. How are we going to administer this *Agricultural Land Act* that we are going to pass tomorrow after the President has signed?

In case of a dispute, which Act will be prevailing over the other? Practically speaking this is what we want to know. One cannot pass a Law that you know will be very difficult to implement and we already see that there is not clarity here. Maybe the Honourable Attorney-General is still busy consulting but I think it is very important.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Order, order! Before the Minister answers, I think the opening of discussions has something to do with the Amendment as provided by the Minister of Lands and Resettlement and not to reopen the Debate. I will give the Honourable Minister the Floor to respond.

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HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I think, notwithstanding the eagerness of Honourable Tjiuiko, as I usually know him to provoke you to deviate from your intentions of focusing on the subject matter, I will not fall victim to that.

All I can say is that, we have passed the Amendments of the Bill in this House and sent it to the National Council which have applied their minds to it and returned it with the Amendments which we are now debating on. The Amendments are trying to combat the circumvention or avoid shares being transferred involving land transactions.

As a Sector of Land and Resettlement, we have no intention of wanting to get involved in the administration of Close Corporation. That is not our responsibility. However, because of the Close Corporation registration which is not within the ambit of our responsibilities, land is changing hands and that is where we want to get involved, not because of ourselves, but because of this Nation that you ostensibly represent in this House. That is the issue. If you question the efforts that we as the Government are embarking on to try and avoid (Intervention).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Just proceed.

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:
(Interjections) they can be questions and that is why we are responding but we are probably also political animals like you are. That is why we are responding the way we think is proper. (Interjections) just as you have the right to question the efforts, we equally have the right to question your attitude with regard to the way you raise your questions.

Honourable Chairperson, in Clause 3 there is an insertion that deliberately

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reads as follows:

Substitute the following Sub-clause 4, Sub-clause 2 and it starts with that very big word;

“Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any Law contained.” If we care to listen or read carefully and attempt to understand what it is that we want to combat, then what the Clause is saying is that; we have this desire to prevent Close Corporation members to, through the concealed transaction of their business interest, also include land related transactions. That is the focus of my intervention, nothing more and nothing less. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Any further discussions? I recognise Honourable Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: We insist that you come up with urgent Amendments. I do not care who I am and I do not know who you are. We want you to come up with an urgent Amendment, as quick as you can. We want you to give yourself teeth. We wanted you to come up with an urgent Amendment, without delay, in order to give yourself teeth to bite. I do not want your whole mouth to be without teeth. There must be something else in order to defend yourself with. This must be done now. There is no chance or time to waste. This is as simple as that.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Yes, Honourable Minister.

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HON !NARUSEB**

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: I fully agree with my senior leader, the leader of the community that I partly belong to as well.

All we are saying, and like I promised last year, the project of harmonising the *Communal Land Reform Act* and the *Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act* is already far advanced for your information. We have had the necessary consultations. There are only certain issues of legal and consultation nature here and there that needs to be concluded before it goes to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation. That process, without repeating, is well advanced.

You will have your day in this House to look at that piece of legislation but allow me to get this through so that we can prevent people to, in a concealed fashion, transfer land that our forefathers died for. We just received very emotional information that stunned some of us as much as we know the history of our background. The process that led to our ancestors remains to go as far as Europe involved our land. We should not unduly delay the process that is as modest as our efforts to prevent land passing hands without us knowing. That is all we want to do. Thank you, Comrade Chairperson.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Any objections? Agreed to.

I shall report the Bill with Amendments.

Honourable Speaker, the Committee has considered the Bill [B.12 – 2013] as set forth in the accompanying copy and it is agreed to with Amendments.

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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 now in terms of Article 75(2) of this Bill, refer this Bill to the President to deal with it under Articles 56 and 64 of our Constitution.

The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND
READING: APPROPRIATION BILL [B.3 – 2014]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading: *Appropriation Bill* [B.3 – 2014].

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 26th of February 2014, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be read a Second Time.

Any further discussion? Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to say only one or two things on this very important topic; the National Budget.

Honourable Speaker, today I am not going to bother getting into figures

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because we will get time to do that during the Committee Stage. What I intend to do today is to make a statement of facts, and I hope that the Colleagues will allow me to finish these three pages that I have.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Member of this august House, good afternoon to you all. I am happy to see you all sitting in this Chamber ready and eager to listen to my Budget contribution of 2014.

Honourable Speaker, Sir allow me to profoundly thank you for giving me an opportunity to contribute to the National Budget as presented by the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

This year's Budget is not different from the Budgets that we have seen over the last 23 years; written in a perfect English language, read by Western Educated Technocrats, good for the haves and nothing for the have nots. On Page 3 of the Honourable Minister's Budget Speech, she said, and I quote; *"February 2013, I asked this august House for support to implement the Annual Budget under the theme of 'Growing the Economy - Optimising Development Outcomes.' Today I am glad to report that we have made good progress to achieve the outcomes anticipated under the Budget."* The Honourable Minister was happy with last year's progress.

"Last year's Fiscal Policy stance was indispensable, given the tremendous challenges that we still face, particularly in the areas of employment creation and poverty reduction. None of us should sleep peacefully until every Namibian is able to say; "I can see a better future. I can find a job. I can learn a skill. Hard work will enable me and my family to have food and shelter. If I do my best at school and university, it will provide me with a better future and new opportunities." This was said for the last 23 years including what I quoted for last year but what have we seen during this time?

Before I come to that and having said what I have said, the Honourable Minister herself said;

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“But, in reality, we know too well that Namibia is still grappling with glaring social and structural economic challenges. These challenges include, but are not limited to:-

- *a jobless growth trajectory, with a lopsided distribution of income and resource ownership; - 50% of our young qualified Namibians are looting the streets of this country. We do not have an answer to their plight, 25 years after Independence. However, they are saying, we are happy with what we have done. What we are seeing is obviously the results of a planned outcome of the Ruling Party and not a coincidence. The fact that we are seeing people sitting at the corners of the streets is a planned outcome of the policies of the Ruling SWAPO Party.*
- *substantial skills deficit and a narrow economic base with primary commodities still serving as the engine of export-led growth; - We have not yet trained anybody, we are instead bringing in people, including nurses from outside the country. It takes approximately 3 years to train a nurse and in 25 years we have not been able to answer to this problem. This cannot be a coincidence.*
- *low Human Development Index (HDI), which calls for rapid progress in the areas of education and health;*
- *susceptibility to climate change; and*
- *moral decay which manifests itself in, among others, increasing violence against vulnerable members of the society, especially defenceless women and children.” Obviously the system is completely out of hand. (intervention).*

HON SPEAKER: Minister of Works and Transport.

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HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Memmmbers, we are talking to our Nation because everybody is listening but since yesterday we are talking about 25 years of Independence. Is it fair? We are 23 years Independent; turning 24 on the 21st of March 2014, that is next month. We should not mislead the Nation.

HON TJIHUIKO: We rounded it off to the closest digits.

Honourable Speaker, all these issues or challenges mentioned above are all man-made. These are all result of lack of clear priorities and political will from the SWAPO-led Government. To mention just a few and to prove my point, that it is completely lack of political will to get Government Programmes implemented; the following Ministries returned money to Treasury: (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Order; I just wanted to ask Honourable Tjiuiko whether he knows that it has taken many other countries including the United States of America and France almost 300 years to develop.

We have just heard the bad news of what has happened to our communities; the Hereros, the Namas, the San, the Ovambos, all of them have suffered during the period of German colonialism. Further on, apartheid colonialism, and you are talking about 25 years, while Namibia is being praised all over the world as being the fastest growing economy.

You should also take the deficit which we have inherited into account. What about the deficit which led to a deformed kind of a structure in terms

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of development in Namibia? It is because of colonialism that we are struggling with all the evils like housing, unemployment and all these things. The Government is doing its level best. You have to be clear and not come here with cheap political strategies.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko, you have the Floor.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I just want to thank the Honourable Minister.

One thing that I will never agree with is to justify our weaknesses by asking ourselves; *why can we not fail if others have failed before us?* We are supposed to learn from the mistakes of those who have started before us.

That being said, looking at the level of the economy and what we have in this country in terms of resources and our population size, one cannot justify the fact that 50% of our young people are looting the streets just because people are looting the street of the United States of America. It does not make sense, Honourable Minister. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Iilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Information; Honourable Tjihuiko I hope you listen and you hear what Comrade President, Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba says.

He is always tells you, the Opposition that; *if you have no eyes to see the development brought about by the SWAPO Party, then leak them with*

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your tongue. If Honourable Tjihuiko has no eyes to see the development that came about through the SWAPO Party led Government then he must leak with his tongue to get the taste of the development.

The last street in this country is the street named after Chief Clemence Kapuu, the street around the *Donkerhoek* area in Katutura. You now have a farm that you were not having before and it is purely because of this Government's political will that you now dispute. The most recent Amendment of the Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform is a sign of a forced political will in order to protect our resources, in this case our land. Did understand Honourable Tjihuiko? You should go and read.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko, continue.

HON TJIHUIKO: Let me move on Honourable Speaker. I am trying to raise this point looking at the reality. The reality is that we cannot do certain things including renovating hospitals because we do not have money. We are now in a crisis because the Police Officers cannot cope with crime in our country due to lack of transport. These are all realities. However, look at this Honourable Colleagues the following Ministries return money from the Capital Budget to the Treasury according to the Accountability Report of 2013:

1. Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare received N\$71.7 million and only spend N\$42.3 million, the rest was returned. Kids are dying in police cells while the responsible Ministry is claiming not to have resources but at the same time returning the money to Treasury;
2. Ministry of Finance spend N\$57 million, received N\$79.3 million;
3. Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry received N\$1.03 billion, spend N\$696.5 million. The poor farmers who have sold their cattle during the drought have not been paid. The money has been returned

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and the poor people are still suffering, they do not have money. This is the reality that we are talking about. We have the money but where is the political will from the leadership to make sure that the money is spent for purposes which this National Assembly have approved the money for.

4. Ministry of Health and Social Service received N\$438.5 million, spend N\$306.8 million; and

The last one Honourable Speaker, let me finish first and then you can come in, Honourable Minister, please. (Intervention)

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I am standing up with a deep sense of respect to yourself and my friend but I am just trying to understand what he is trying to do.

Is he trying to, through his intervention, work up the emotions of the toiling masses out there who have witnessed so many things including the child that perished in police custody that we all know about?

Could we not ask the Honourable Member, through you Honourable Speaker, to wait until the responsible Ministers attempt to explain, and I am sure they will be competent enough to explain why it so happened that the allocations made to their Sectors had to be returned? I think there would be a very clear and reasonable explanation for that.

What my friend is trying to do is to use the plights of our people that we all know and are considerate about, as the means to, pardon me for the lack of a better word - poison the minds of our people against the Government.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjiuiko, you still have the Floor.

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Minister got me wrong. Honourable Minister, I am speaking for the voiceless majority out there. I am the representative of the poor voiceless majority.

5. The Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication received N\$59.5 Million. They only spent N\$37.9 Million.

The Ministry claimed that they do not have money to construct a tar road through Otjinene because there was no money. That money could have contributed towards the development of the people in that area. Instead of spending the money..., is it you again? (Intervention).

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Yes, it s me again. I want to remind you, Honourable Tjihuiko that this Budget, appropriated by this House that you quoting millions and billion from, has not yet come to an end. *Otjiuru tjavera?* Your head does not seem to remember. The Budget you are quoting there is only going to end on the 31st of March year 2014. Stop quoting from it.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko, continue.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, firstly, this is what was reported in the Accountability Report and not what Honourable Tjihuiko is saying.

However, before I continue, I do not know whether the Honourable Speaker has heard what the Honourable Member said. In fact, what the Honourable Member said in Otjiherero is that I was crazy. I want him to withdraw that unconditionally.

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HON SPEAKER: Yes, it is unparliamentary.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, in order to preserve the peace in the House (Intervention).

HON TJIHUIKO: Just withdraw!

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: *Mejarura omambo uandje okutja otjiuru tjoje tjapamuka.* I said in Otjiherero and I withdrew it in Otjiherero and now I am withdrawing in English; I have withdrawn.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Our Government led by the SWAPO Party is always quick to send in the Police to destroy the houses of poor people, especially during the period of rain or the winter the season. We have seen it in the past and complained about it.

I am saying that the Honourable Minister of Local Government and Housing, is busy trying to provide housing to the poor. Let us be patient and wait for that Programme to be rolled out so that our people can benefit rather than throwing these women and children into the streets to face harsh weather condition just because they are poor. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Trade.

HON MIN OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. On a Point of Information; I think what is happening is that

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Honourable Tjihuiko is trying bulk up the negatives without appreciating what has actually happened.

I just want to point him to Page 4 of the Minister's Statement where the Honourable Minister of Finance in her Statement says, and I want to read it again; *"But, in reality, we know too well that Namibia is still grappling with glaring social and structural economic challenges. These challenges include, but are not limited to:-*

- *a jobless growth trajectory, with a lopsided distribution of income and resource ownership."* It is, therefore, not you who have realised that but the Honourable Minister of Finance. In other words, it is the Government that has realised that there is a problem and the Budget is addressing it.
- *"substantial skills deficit and a narrow economic base with primary commodities still serving as the engine of export-led growth."* It is again this Government through the Honourable Minister of Finance that have realised that there are gaps to be filled and the Budget tries to address that.
- *"low Human Development Index (HDI), which calls for rapid progress in the areas of education and health."* Again, it is the SWAPO Government that realised the gaps and the Budget's additional allocations show very clearly that an attempt is made to address the gap. I can go on. The Minister goes on to say; *"we must build a new common purpose so that we can use all of our talents, skills and resources to confront our economic and social challenges."* I am just pointing out that we have already realised what you are pretending is news to the Nation, and the Budget is addressing it.

Comrade Speaker, we are also not saying that the Opposition do not realise or appreciate that for 23 years we have been growing at over 4% on average, in spite of the financial crisis and economic challenges. We have brought the unemployment rate down from 51% to 27%. That is what the statistic says and you cannot dispute it. We have brought down the Gini

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Coefficient from 0.77% to 0.65%. That is a *pro-poor* approach. It is through the Budget.

As I said, we have weathered the financial crisis, maintained a solid Fitch rating of investment grade.

We have maintained our position among the top five countries in Africa consistently, for the last 20 years. We have eradicated malaria. We have done many *pro-poor* things. Do not tell us that we do not know what we are doing or that we do not provide what we are saying. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I appreciate the contribution of the Honourable Minister because this is the House of Debate and obviously when we engage in raising and answering issues, this is very important.

However, the fact of the matter is that we are perhaps looking at the whole issue from different perspectives. If you have a system that is run by elites; people who have breakfast in the morning like Honourable Tjihuiko, you cannot talk about problems the people face because you are not among the people to even see how bulldozers move in to destroy these poor people's houses, you have not seen a poor woman losing her house and the only place to call home with her kids, was the cemetery. These are the people that I am talking about.

We should not be proud that Honourable Tjihuiko has a car; I am talking about the masses out there, and the fact that we have not addressed the problem of the poor. This is what I am using as an example.

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information and a question; Honourable Member, while you are exploiting this kind of negatives; you are talking about tractors bulldozing houses and all these things but certainly those things have stopped and it is not you who have stopped them. You were also not the one who discovered where that woman was sleeping, you saw the Prime Minister was there addressing that problem.

Is what people say that you get excited when you get an opportunity to addressing a crowd of more than 50 not true? It seems to be the case because we are almost that number in Parliament and I see you are not applying your mind to the facts? Right now you have a chance of addressing more than 50 people and you are saying all kinds of things. Is that not true? It is what people are saying around there.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I was told that this is the stage of the Budget Debate where we are looking at specifics, so we will come to that.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko has the Floor. Let him first respond to the question of the Honourable Deputy Minister and then you can have the Floor. There are people who raised issues and the Honourable Member who has the Floor now, must respond to that and thereafter you can put your question.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Deputy Minister, let us be realistic and

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take the bull by its horns.

I know that people out there, do not make a distinction between Members of Parliament and Ministers. We are all treated the same, all of us have failed. I am raising issues for you as the Executive to take note of and to be serious about and I think everybody would appreciate what Honourable Tjihuiko is saying.

Honourable Speaker, let me continue because I have one more page. The money that has been returned to Treasury could have meant a lot to our poor communities, if it was spent. Our poor communities are subjected to water disconnections time and time again while this very Chamber first approve a Motion that was moved by a NUDO Member of Parliament, Honourable A.R. Tjihuiko. The Motion was accepted and we have agreed that nobody should be denied access to water because it is against the Law, even against the *NamWater Act* itself. Communities' water has been disconnected to date.

The Report of the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee again highlighted that our communities are still using bucket toilets while money has been approved by the Chamber to build toilets for these people. The people who have diverted the money are known.

HON MEMBERS: Who are they?

HON TJIHUIKO: They are known by the structure because there is no way that Honourable Tjihuiko could go to the Local Authority in Keetmanshoop and divert money; the responsible Ministry ought to have known who those people were. I am sure that the reason why no action has been taken is because they must be very well-connected politically. They will not be touched. All that you would ask us to do..., the General is up (Intervention).

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable General.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I just want to give information to Honourable Tjihuiko because he is going too far and I think he is also stealing information.

When you have a friendly discussion with him, he comes and exaggerates in Parliament. I had a discussion with him, informing him what had happened, especially in Omaruru. Some of those who have diverted money for other purposes are your Councillors and not only SWAPO, and we have taken steps against them. We had a discussion with you and now you are using this information to exaggerate the situation.

You come for discussions and then you use this information in Parliament. The other issue is the demolition of houses, as you alluded to. The latest information is that there is a Local Authority Policy with the City of Windhoek that states that if you put up a shack and you are detected at that particular time, it will be demolished, however, if the shack was put up during the night without being detected and you place your bed and what have you in it, the City of Windhoek will seek a Court interdict.

In the case referred to, the person was caught putting it up and even went to the extent of offering to demolished it because he knew it was illegal and wrong. When he offered to demolish it, the mob intervened calling him a coward for allowing his things to be taken. He was occupying the land illegally.

I think we do should not misinform the community on things of this nature. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Tjihuiko.

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HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Minister, I am sure you know that throughout my contribution I have not touched on anything that we have discussed in privacy. I have also rightly mentioned that the sources of my information are Reports that were tabled in this House.

On the house that the Honourable Minister was referring to as a shack, it was not a mob but our people, these are our Comrades that you are referring to. There was no mob. Honourable Speaker, let me try and continue because I want to finish.

What I was saying is that I will try to highlight things that we could have done with the little money we had at hand and things that we are doing wrong because the Law does not allow us. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: Talking about my man in Omaruru, that man brought in N\$60 million that is took care of Omaruru, Karibib, Usakos and Arandis. SWAPO became involved and shutdown everything. (Interjections) let me finish. We performed our duty without putting something into our pockets, we did it for the Nation that had asked for it. That is what I did. (Interjection) Please calm down, let me finish.

I have the evidence. We do not have unfinished business in Omaruru. You can go to Omaruru and look at the tarred main road and there are no compounds, people have their own houses. That is the fact. (Interjection) let me finish. We did not concentrate on the Hereros, we simply did not like compounds and did away with it. It vanished, it disappear. That is the right way to do it. I thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: The compounds are no longer there. Chief reminded me because I wanted to say something on Omaruru.

My senior Honourable Minister, I do not have a problem with Government taking action to bring the culprits to book. There you have NUDO and Honourable Tjihuiko's unconditional support. My concern, specifically with Omaruru was that I was told the Councillors were invited to go and meet with the Honourable Minister and when they arrived at the Ministry's Office there was a press conference and they were directed to go to the press conference on the understanding that they are going to listen to the Deputy Minister and have the meeting thereafter. However, it was at this press conference where they were fired. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister has a different view about it. Minister you have the Floor.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Honourable Speaker, I do not expect an Honourable Member of Parliament to lie like that.

HON SPEAKER: I do not use that word.

**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Or not to tell the truth by misrepresentation of facts. We do have procedures, we are not *Tsotsis* but

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an established institution that does things in a very procedural manner. We did write them letters and dispatched teams to carry out some investigations and when investigations were completed they were presented with a Report. They were provided with a copy of this Report on which they are expected to come and represent themselves.

They refused to come and represent themselves in my presence which can also be regarded as insubordination. All they requested was to come to me and tell me what progress was made in Omaruru.

I told them this was not a normal meeting but a meeting where they had to represent themselves on the investigation. They completely refused upon which I gave them specific time within which to do that. That time lapsed and I had to take action. They were also notified that the Deputy Minister was going there to help them. If you want to look at this documentation, it is there and the procedures are also there. The correspondences are also available; please do not say things which you do not know.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Minister, I beg your pardon if I am wrong.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, I just wanted to say one or two things about the youth and I see the Deputy Minister of Youth has left. In this Budget I was trying to see a specific Programme that targets youth empowerment, unfortunately I was not able to see anything.

However, let me conclude by touching on the much talked about issue of equal representation of men and women. I am saying this because a lot has been said and when I was looking at the 50/50 representation that everybody was jumping at, I see a missing link and this is what I want to touch on.

The missing link that I observed is; if one has regard to the 50/50 representation, it is a perfect thing and I totally support it but I want us to bring in an element of the youth into this 50/50. I am saying this because

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I want it to be (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Looking at the structure of the House having only approximately 21 voting Members, I am not sure whether we are still procedurally constituted. I am just seeking advice. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: When I became the Speaker of this House, I had a good opportunity to have attended two Commonwealth Speakers Summits. I also became the IPU President and on all those occasions, I tried to share my encounters as a new Speaker in the House. The kind of question you have put is one of those where the Speaker is advised to make his own judgment and my judgment is to continue.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. In conclusion, I was talking about this much talked about equal representation where I am seeing a missing link and this missing link is the young people.

The 50/50 can easily be above the youth age, I was, therefore, of the opinion that we could come up with a system where we say out of the 50% of male, 50% should be young people and out 50% of women another 50% should be young people, and make this a policy issue. (Intervention).

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nangolo.

HON MBUMBA: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question on the 50/50 issue.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, certainly.

HON MBUMBA: Honourable Tjihuiko, is it true that if we are to accept the 50/50 formula whether it is on the basis of age or gender, between the two of you, Honourable Chief will stay and you will go. Are you not scared stiff of that fact?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: I did not quite get the comment. Let me think about that while I am making my contribution.

Honourable Speaker, I was saying; suppose we bring in a system where we make the 50/50 representation a Law and say 18 Members of the 72 National Assembly Members would be women, because when we talk about women, we talk about women of our age and I want to be more specific: 18 Members would be women and 18 would be young women.

HON SPEAKER: What would the budgetary implication of what you are saying be?

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HON TJIHUIKO: It will still be 72 Members, it will not go beyond that.

All that I am trying to bring in is an element of fair representation where the youth would also have a fair share of the cake. Then you have 18 young men and 18 women. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Iyambo.

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Honourable Speaker, Can I ask the Honourable Member a question?

Honourable Tjiuiko, when you are making these proposals of 50/50 representation; and you bring in the element of 50% youth, it is well and good but you are making these serious proposals here in a general Debate. Do you not think it would be appropriate and very positive and reasonable to an individual Bill that you bring here so that it is passed in a Law? Otherwise, I will regard what you are saying as simple propaganda for the gallery. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjiuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: The Honourable Minister knows very well how much a Private Member's Bill would cost to bring to the Chamber and I am sure that the Honourable Minister knows that Honourable Tjiuiko is completely bankrupt. He will never do that. I wish I could do that but the best I can do is making you aware that it is a good thing and that I have brought it onto the Table. Why can the Executive not take it further, polish it, amend it, bring it to Parliament and then we approve it. There will not be a problem.

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Honourable Speaker, before I take my seat, the reason why I am proposing this is simply because of two things:

1. We will be able to bring in young people into the system.
2. The gradual (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kaura, *aluta continua!*.

HON KAURA: Honourable Speaker, could I ask Honourable TjiHuiko a question? Honourable TjiHuiko, you are declaring yourself totally bankrupt; do you know that a person who is totally bankrupt is disqualified from sitting in Parliament? Could you withdraw that?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Kaura, the person who will be disqualified to sit in the Chamber is the one who has been disqualified by a legal and competent Court of Law and not one who has declared himself bankrupt like Honourable TjiHuiko.

HON SPEAKER: I do not understand that English grammar. Just wrap up what you are saying.

HON TJIHUIKO: Let me conclude by saying that my thought on this issue is that we will have a gradual system of leadership taking over or a phase out in correct English.

50% of the people who would be sitting in the Chamber will be young people. They have been complaining that we are not articulating their

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interest. If we do that, then we will have a system whereby 50% represents them.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The Honourable Member is done, are you not?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, I am sorry, I rest my case. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Lempy Lucas.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker for giving me the Floor. I rise to make my humble contribution to the Budget Debate of the Financial Year 2014/2015.

Honourable Speaker, I must indicate that it was not my intention to take the Floor because the Budget was well presented and straightforward as it articulates Government issues and Programmes very clearly but my intelligence was provoked. Hence, I thought I should not let that go.

Honourable Speaker, before I proceed, allow me to add my voice to that of the other Honourable Members who spoke before me and to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Director-General of the National Planning Commission and their respective Permanent Secretaries for a well prepared Budget. We know for sure that it is not easy to work with numbers but you have made it. Well done Colleagues!

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in about 21 days and to be exact on the 21st of March 2014, Namibia will commemorate its 24th Anniversary of her Independence and this is a day where all Namibians, from all spheres of life come together to commemorate the gains of our hard won Independence, to celebrate the successes of the policy of national reconciliation, to take stock of our achievements and to evaluate and assess the path that we have travelled.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to pose a question as to how the Independence of Namibia came about. Did it come like manna falling from heaven? The answer is definitely, no. The Independence of Namibia came through many sacrifices. It came through tough military battles fought and won by sons and daughters of the Namibian soil where some of those sons and daughters sacrificed their precious lives. For us to be independent today, their blood that watered our freedom created a conducive environment for us to be able to debate the Budget in an air-conditioned Chamber of the National Assembly today.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I must declare my interest of course, when it comes to the security of the country. I followed the Debate on the allocation to the Defence Vote, which was highly criticised by some Members of the Opposition, with keen interest. The mandate of the Namibian Defence Force is very clear; that is to defend the territory and national interest of Namibia as inscribed in Article 118 of the Namibian Constitution. How can you realise and achieve your mandate when you are ill equipped? Honourable Speaker, it is high time that the military profession is recognised and be made attractive like any other profession. It is high time that the Namibian Defence Force is well equipped in terms of warfare, accommodation and clothing in order to respond and match the challenges and needs of the 21st century and to make it attractive to the *Aweh, Aweh* generation as well as the white compatriots because (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Minister of Veterans Affairs.

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Information; I normally do not make intervention but allow me to give information and maybe ask the Honourable Member some questions.

Honourable Deputy Minister, while you are particularly concentrating on the criticism of the Vote Allocation to the Ministry of Defence I, like so many of us, have been in this House long enough and we know that one of the responsibilities of some of the Committees of this Honourable House is to go out in the country and report their findings to this House.

Even the Deputy Speaker herself has also done so; go out to the Regions, find out what is going on there and bring the information here. All of us remember very well when the Committee on International Relation and Defence went out and reported on the appalling condition of the military barracks around the country upon their return, and they urged this House to do something urgent.

HON SPEAKER: Is it a supplement to the Deputy Minister's Statement?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Yes, only information, I am about to finish.

What do you think is the purpose of these Committees going around the country, bringing information and yet when they tell us what we should do or when action is taken finally, it appears that we again find it unnecessary? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs, I could not agree with you more.

I wanted to make this point in the presence of Honourable Von Wietersheim but in his absence, I think the Colleagues from the same bench are going to transmit the message. The Committee, which goes around the country, when they came here, presented the Report and I thought Honourable Moongo was very serious in his own words but apparently Honourable Moongo was maybe only serious as an individual. He did not convince the other Members from the Opposition. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Chief Riruako.

HON RIRUAKO: We were not against that. We trained soldiers and handed them over to SWAPO but after that I found them in jail in Tanzania and they went back and stayed well after training. Now they are denying the fact that I did that. There they are. I know how they suffered and I have been giving them hope.

HON SPEAKER: Is the Honourable Member perhaps talking about Honourable Moongo?

HON RIRUAKO: Honourable Moongo did not say that but it is a fact. Even when they did not have clothing, I gave them clothing. Honourable Angula knows very well. Sometimes it is good and sometimes it is not.

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HON SPEAKER: But the Speaker has a problem with following. I know the history part of it but I do not know what provoked your intervention.

HON RIRUAKO: My Colleague here, the Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs, denied this. We were stopped 12 miles from Omakunda by the very SWAPO in front of us. You know that but I did not try. After that, I brought them to SWAPO. I had to show them, you know what I am talking about.

HON SPEAKER: We must have some order, no fights. The Deputy Minister has the Floor.

HON RIRUAKO: I do understand what you are pleading for. I trained soldiers.

HON SPEAKER: Please also make the Speaker to understand.

HON RIRUAKO: I trained soldiers and I know better than anybody else here how they suffered. They did not have uniforms at all, all of them are just talking here but the fact is that you have to agree with reality and the truth. I did not care who was in the army but I knew they were suffering. You did not know my suffering but that is what I have to say.

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HON SPEAKER: I do not know who I should give the Floor to now. Honourable Minister were you not done with your intervention?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Comrade Speaker, I just need some clarity. The Honourable Member mentioned that I denied something. I want to know what I have really denied because I have not denied anything.

HON SPEAKER: I want to give the Floor back to the Deputy Minister. Honourable Riruako, just clarify that for the Minister.

HON RIRUAKO: The question is this, you denied my people who suffered from being recognised as veterans because they were under the impression that they were veterans.

HON SPEAKER: I want to give the Floor back to the Deputy Minister. We will sort this out later.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, thank you very much for that protection. I have requested for the Floor and I thought I should utilise it in the manner that suits me. (Intervention).

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: I am sorry to interrupt my Comrade Deputy Minister but I need to give some small piece of information and that is with regard to the issue that we are talking about now and also to put it on record that the Honourable Chief Riruako was a member of SWANU himself. To claim that SWANU stopped his cadres, is actually misinforming the Nation about the historical reality of the Namibian people.

HON SPEAKER: You were not there when some things happened, Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: I beg your pardon.

HON SPEAKER: There are some things about SWANU that you do not know. Some of us know them more than you do. You were not there. You are the President now.

You do not have the Floor Honourable Chief.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, a teacher of history should not necessarily have been there to teach history.

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua, continue, you have the Floor.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, I was elected President of SWANU on the basis of my understanding and capacity to be able to interpret the history of SWANU and the philosophy and vision of the Party. Therefore, to want to digress the liberation credentials of the Party by questioning why it is being recognised or why its cadres are being recognised as veterans, actually. (Intervention)

HON RIRUAKO: Why? According to who?

HON SPEAKER: Actually, the Assembly will not resolve that. I assure you the Assembly will not resolve that. Maybe we can have some caucus chatting somewhere outside.

HON MAAMBERUA: Allow me to assure this House and the Nation at large that SWANU is not going to allow itself to be belittled by some of those who have waived. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Now that is different. Honourable Chief, I am not going to give the Floor to you. Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Chief, I will rule you Out of Order. I want the Deputy Minister to continue and there are also others who want to contribute.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: It was my understanding that when Standing Committees go out on familiarisation visits to go and see the situation on the ground for themselves, make their findings, make recommendation and present them to this House for the Executive to implement but when we are about to implement those recommendations, the Opposition are crying crocodile tears.

HON RIRUAKO: Who? Not me.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, it is a pity, I was saying earlier on that I wanted to make my intervention in the presence of Honourable Von Wietersheim but (intervention)

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Can I ask Comrade Lempy just a small question?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Yes, Honourable Minister.

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HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Minister. I am a little bit confused now. Honourable Maamberua said Honourable Chief was a member of SWANU.

HON SPEAKER: You are Out of Order. Sit down, Honourable Minister. You do not have to answer that, Honourable Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, when Honourable Von Wietersheim was making his intervention yesterday, I looked at him with a smile and asked myself; *is it fair?* because in his own analysis he was saying he supports the rehabilitation of the old military bases.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister, you put the Speaker in a difficult situation because the Honourable Member you are talking about is not here in the House at the present time.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Comrade Speaker, but what I said he was recorded yesterday in the Hansard. The records are there to prove me wrong or right.

Honourable Speaker, the Member said he supports the rehabilitation of houses for the military personnel but he does not support the purchasing of military hardware. In my opinion, when we have decided to equip the military personnel or members of the Namibian Defence Force, we should not do it on a piece meal basis.

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You cannot buy uniform and leave out the boots or helmets. It does not make sense to me. When you want a soldier to look professional and presentable, you must equip him one hundred percent but not 75%, only then are we talking. Honourable Speaker, it is high time that we become mature as Members of this House and speak unanimously when it comes to allocation to the Ministry of Defence.

The military profession should be made attractive not only to the black Namibians but it should also be made attractive to the white compatriots because Namibia is for all of us. Honourable Speaker, I am proposing that when the next Parliament is inaugurated in 2015, its induction seminar should have a slot for defence and security issues in order to sensitise the Members of Parliament on the importance of defence and security. (Intervention).

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I rise on a Point of Information. Honourable Deputy Minister of Agriculture, I do agree with the induction course but I just want to give you the information that the Committee on Defence and Security has already started with the workshop to enable all the Members understand security related issues. They have started with Members who belong to that Committee first. I am just saying I do agree with you but the leadership and the membership of this Committee has already started the process. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Continue, Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Well, it might be happening but as a Member of this House, listening to the comments and criticism that comes from the same Members who are attending this induction course, it seems to me that there is a loophole somewhere. If need be, professionals and even

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lecturers from universities could be invited to share their knowledge relevant to security issues in order to strengthen the course as well as to close existing loopholes.

Honourable Speaker, shortly after the motivation of the Budget by the Honourable Minister of Finance in this august House, there has been some criticism from some quarters of our society that the pension grant for the senior citizen has not been increased during the current Financial Year and the Opposition Parties, particularly SWANU of Namibia is now copying the DTA in order to gain more votes during the upcoming Presidential and National Assembly elections. My message to the Namibian elders is that you should stand firm as you have always been doing and have confidence in the SWAPO Government as long as our economy performs better (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. On a Point of Information; SWANU has scientifically demonstrated the figures that we arrived at in order to comply with the constitutional provision that states that old age pensioners will receive adequate pension from the State. We are the first and only Party in this Chamber that has demonstrated with figures what an adequate pension is supposed to be. We did not copy from any Political Party.

Everybody around here has most probably pronounced him or herself on the old age pension but I am saying the only Party that has scientifically demonstrated in this Chamber is only SWANU. Our scientific calculations, showing what we regard as adequate, are based on last year and the current year's figures and I have attached this to my statement. We did, therefore, not copy from anybody. Can the Honourable Deputy Minister please be requested, through the Speaker, to withdraw the statement SWANU is copying because it is totally false?

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HON SPEAKER: The Deputy Minister heard you I am not going to ask her to withdraw.

HON MAAMBERUA: I am requesting the Deputy Minister to withdraw that statement because it is an insult to the intelligence and integrity of my Party that we are copying from other Parties, yet she cannot demonstrate otherwise.

HON SPEAKER: You heard what the Deputy Minister was saying. I am not going to ask her to withdraw. Continue, Honourable Deputy Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, the records are there. I am not going to withdraw anything because what I am saying is recorded. Volumes of books are available. The Honourable Chief there is testimony to the fact that the issue of the old pension did not only start with SWANU when you joined this House. (Intervention).

HON RIRUAKO: You were not even here!

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON MAAMBERUA: Can we listen carefully to what we are saying? I am not saying SWANU is the one that started pronouncing itself on the issue of the old age pension.

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HON SPEAKER: If you accept that DTA may have started it and so on, I do not know why you are belabouring that point and you said that you provided scientific calculations showing the best possible amount that the old people should receive. It is recorded. I do not know what it is that you would want the Speaker to understand in order to rule other than what I have told you. Please sit down when Speaker speaks. You have your position recorded; the universe has heard what you have said and the Deputy Minister maintains her position. You can keep on asking for the Floor, I will give you the Floor but nothing will change.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, I want us to be fair to each other here. SWANU did not copy anything from anybody and nobody has monopoly over a particular issue. No Political Party here owns the authority to speak on a particular issue alone.

HON SPEAKER: What is the point that you are trying to make that I am failing to understand?

HON MAAMBERUA: The point is we did not copy anything from anybody.

HON SPEAKER: Fine, it originally came from SWANU. Deputy Minister, continue. It would be recorded but we know how it came about.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Honourable Speaker, I said earlier that this is an election year.

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HON SPEAKER: Continue beyond that point now. I have settled that case. Please continue beyond that point.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: I was addressing the senior citizens outside this Chamber to continue having confidence in the Government of SWAPO because the Government has an obligation to improve the living conditions of all Namibians, including the senior citizens.

Honourable Speaker, I will fail my Constituency if I do not commend the allocation to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, which is dear to my heart. The issue of food security is very high on the agenda of the Government of the Republic Namibia, particularly the NDP4. The Government of the Republic of Namibia, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, is pursuing initiative Programmes and Projects that are aimed at increasing food production, ensuring food security and nutrition in the country. As part of this initiative, the Government is implementing a number of irrigation projects along the main perennial rivers and large dams in the country. I do not need to elaborate on them because most of you are familiar with what I am talking about. The national strategic food reserves are part of the initiatives to increase food security as supported by the Green Scheme and Dry Land Crop Production Programme. The facilities are constructed to guarantee national food security during national crises such as drought and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is confident that with your support we are determined to expand and make Namibia a food basket.

Comrade Speaker, allow me some space to commend and thank our project managers and workers who are deployed at various agricultural projects in the country for their hard work. It is worth noting that during the current drought, the Namibian Government was able to obtain food stock from its own food reserve and feed its people to mitigate the negative impact of this national disaster. As you recall very well that on

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the 17th of May 2013, His Excellency, President Pohamba directed us that no person should die as a result of hunger.

Finally, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry can only successfully achieve its mandate if we all jointly put our hands together from all aspects of life with the objective of reducing hunger and food insecurity in our country.

Honourable Speaker, I think I have done my part and support the *Appropriation Bill* 2014/2015. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Minister. Honourable Naholo.

HON NAHOLO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I also rise to give my views on the Budget as presented by the Honourable Minister of Finance.

Firstly, I register my disappointment and frustration whenever I peruse the Budget Statements; especially the previous ones, including the current one, I am always at pains when I look at the words that are used. These Budgets are always well decorated with titles such as *pro-poor*, *people centred* but when you look around at what is happening to our people, you have people who are still feeding from the dumpsites, people still sleeping on empty stomachs and I ask myself what is wrong, where is the problem?

I think the problem here is with the way we set our priorities that needs to be revisited. Here you are saying you still want to build offices, you want to construct structures here and there while you have people who are suffering, people whom you promise with a *pro-poor* and *people centred* Budget. I would like to suggest what must be done by the Government of the day, which is soon becoming the outgoing Government; what you should have done and what you should do from now on before you go out

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of power. I want to suggest that this House spends more money to improve..., I have limited time and did not say much yet. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Point of Order, Comrade Speaker.

HON NAHOLO: Honourable Speaker, my time is limited and I need your protection here because we do not have much time left.

HON SPEAKER: You can always continue tomorrow.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: You are finishing your time, just sit, I could have finished already by now.

Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Order; Honourable Peter Naholo, you are saying it is wrong to say *pro-poor* and *people centred*, how do you make yourself to chicken out when you want to be the President of RDP?

HON SPEAKER: Continue, Honourable Naholo.

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HON NAHOLO: That is time wasted. I wanted to suggest that we should decide on the money and allocate it properly. Let us spend more money to:

- Improve rural water supply;
- Construct water catchment dams to catch water during the rainy seasons, and this should have been done 24 years ago which were wasted down the drain. These are good years wasted;
- Support communal farmers with sufficient funding;
- Make land available to the poor in towns and cities;
- Introduce solar electrification for the houses of the poor; and
- Award construction tenders to Namibian companies instead of foreigners.

Honourable Speaker, I agree that our economy is still not in our hands up to now. Just imagine, 24 years after Independence, and one Honourable Member said here that we are sleeping while foreigners are stealing our wealth. The Colleague who was on the Floor speaking to that subject was more academic and perhaps practical. However, what I am trying to do here is to approach this matter from a layman's perspective, for the man on the streets. You are saying our economy is going while we are sleeping but I am saying no, because there are questions to be asked:

If you have foreigners dominating our Mining Industry, how did they manage to enter into that Industry? There are questions of EPLs and questions of mining rights. If you look into our Fishing Sector, foreigners are again dominant there. How did they enter the Sector? There are questions of fishing rights, questions of fishing quotas. How did they acquire all these interests, yet we are saying they are stealing? I think we are trying to blind our people. I would, therefore, say that wherever the foreigners are in our Economic Sectors, they are there at our behest and some of us are even eating from behind their backs. It is very

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unfortunate. I respect the Honourable Chief. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Your microphone is not on.

HON RIRUAKO: Do we have finished products out of our raw materials or not? Do we have it? The people who have that are in Europe. Most of our raw materials go there. Do we have the finished product here on the table? Do we have that? The answer is no. Thank you Mr Naholo but that is what are we talking about.

HON SPEAKER: Continue, Honourable Naholo.

HON NAHOLO: Thank you, Honourable Chief for coming to my rescue. This is very serious.

It is also true that the land question is still not yet resolved and the Honourable Member who said that the land issue has still not been resolved on this Floor yesterday is unfortunately not here today. However, I will say what she said because it was recorded. Regrettably, the Honourable Member who was on the floor talking to this point was a Minister of Lands before. At one point she was also an Attorney-General but she did not advice this Government correctly as to what must be done while claiming here that she studied Law. What a waste of studying because you studied and came here to warm the seats instead of applying your mind and knowledge for what you are being paid for in Government Offices; that is, to advice the Government correctly. Now the Honourable Member is unfortunately requesting for another Land Conference. How many land conferences do we need and tomorrow you are leaving because you are an outgoing Government? There is no more time for you, this is time wasted.

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I was saying it is very unfortunate because these cries are coming from the SWAPO side, the Ruling Party which is the Government of the day. For 24 years, you have been given the mandate by the Nation to correct and redress the wrongs of the past but you have been sitting here and did nothing while being paid to do something. The Namibian people trusted you with that mandate to redress the wrongs of the past. It is not right for you to come here and cry because you have the power and authority to change things.

HON SPEAKER: There are too many voices, one speaker at a time.

HON NAHOLO: When we talk about Black Economic Empowerment and the point was raised yesterday by the Honourable Member here referring to the formally disadvantaged. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Naholo, I would like to ask you a question. You mentioned that 24 years were wasted. How many years were you in SWAPO? 19 years, except for these three or four years when you chickened out. What did you do when you were in SWAPO? You have been a high-ranking official of SWAPO and for 19 years you were part of us. What did you do?

HON SPEAKER: That is the question. I wanted the Honourable Member to finish putting the question but you will not have time to respond to that question now. However, I am asking a question because I

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have received intimations and some were legitimate. As it happens, even in my own personal case, I have to divide myself to either be in Okombahe or here in Windhoek but there are similar cases like that for funerals.

Apart from that, if we are a full House, we could still continue but I want confirmation whether we are meeting tomorrow morning as is the usual practice. I am consulting, shall we do that or what ideas do you have? Deputy Prime Minister, you are the leader of the House. Advise us what to do.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Speaker, there is no meeting tomorrow. We go according to the planned schedule.

HON SPEAKER: Are we having a meeting or is there no meeting tomorrow?

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Speaker, it is only during the Committee Stage that we meet on Friday mornings but the general Debates end on Thursday evening. That is how we all organise ourselves for the weekend. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Are we on the same wavelength that the Deputy Prime Minister is correct and we adjourn and come back on Tuesday. Do we all agree? Please adjourn the House Honourable Deputy Prime Minister.

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Comrade Speaker, on that positive note of agreeing that tomorrow we do other activities, I now beg to Move that this House adjourns until Tuesday, next week at 14:30. I so Move.

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HON SPEAKER: So, it shall be.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:40 UNTIL 2014.03.04 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
04 MARCH 2014**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment

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

HON SPEAKER: We shall now commence with the Business of the House scheduled for today.

Any petitions? Any Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Any Notice of Questions? Any Notice of Motions? Chief Whip.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON PROF KATJAVIVI: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that Leave of Absence, due to official business, be granted to the Honourable Chief Ankama until 13 March 2014. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Will the Honourable Member please table the Motion? Any further Notice of Motions? I am told two Ministers have indicated to speak but I do not see the light.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

04 March 2014

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON DR KAMWI**

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members.

Honourable Speaker, the topic of my statement is rather intimidating. You all must have read in our daily newspapers and in global newspapers as well as watched global television coverage that Namibia is the most dangerous country in the world for drivers. This was revealed by a new study done by the University of Michigan. Yesterday, we were able to witness my senior Colleague, Honourable Minister for Works and Transport making a statement trying to address a related challenge.

Honourable Speaker, following our Health Information System (HIS) it revealed that indeed, the revelation that we may have witnessed through the print and electronic media suggests to be correct. The highest mortality rate due to car crashes that happens in Namibia stands at 45 deaths per 100,000 population and for a population such as ours it is extremely high. The five countries with the highest mortality rates as a result of car crashes in order of precedence is Namibia number one, Thailand second, Iran third, Sudan fourth and Swaziland fifth, meaning SADC is the leader in accident crashes.

This is not time to just lay back or be defensive but time for a great concern and action to be taken. For this reason and indeed on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Social Services we wish to commend the efforts of my senior Colleague as I said earlier Comrade Erkki Nghimtina for the action he took yesterday by barring transportation of workers in open trucks. This action must be supported by all. People are dying on our roads every single day, many, if not most of these deaths are preventable. Every year on average 12,000 road accidents occur in this country resulting in more than 3,000 casualties and 500 fatalities.

Most sadly, single vehicle overturning and pedestrian accidents are the highest types of accidents in Namibia. The situation is getting worse. For this reason we tried again to check with our HIS and we did find out that between December 2013 and January 2014 there were 578 crashes with 1,104 injuries. 133 people died due to those crashes. That translates to

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more than two people unnecessarily dying every day. Katutura Intermediate Hospital Casualty Department is overwhelmed with fatalities, so is Otjiwarongo, and to a certain extend the one in Okahandja.

Every Friday and each day during month-end becomes nightmares for health practitioners. You would see blood on the floors, with insults most unfortunately, coming from those who are injured because they are either drunk or in stupor.

The causes of road traffic accidents include:

- Speed driving;
- Driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs;
- Lack of seat belts and child restraint use;
- Use of poorly designed infrastructure in vehicles that are unsafe;
- Violation of traffic rules;
- Texting and inappropriate use of information and communication technology devices;
- Driver distraction;
- Use of mobile phones;
- Poor attention to the needs of road users, particularly pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users; and
- Inadequate post-crash and rehabilitation services for people with disabilities.

Trucks are significantly involved in those crashes and injuries, third death or 23% of all deaths were due to road traffic accidents during December 2013 and January 2014, primarily due to trucks. In the same period 45% of all crashes involving trucks were here in the Khomas Region. That means 25% of all crashes in the whole country. This data ties well with those provided by the MVA.

Therefore, time has come to say no to these deaths and to regulate truck driving. Honourable Speaker, one of the areas that we did find out and that needs some attention relate to fatigue as a major concern as it relates to long distance truck drivers. Imagine one driver driving all the way

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from Cape Town through to Windhoek, all the way to Katima Mulilo and through to Lubumbashi in the DRC. That in itself is a high risk. We know too well that the Namibian Government was among the over 100 countries that launched the Decade of Action for Road Safety during May 2011 and which developed a National Plan in line with the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety.

His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia launched the Namibian Chapter and urged for an urgent multi-sectoral approach. The Ministry of Health and Social Services is now working together with the World Health Organisation (WHO) getting information and lessons learned from various countries in reducing road traffic accidents and preventing injuries. We stand ready to collaborate and share information with the Ministry of Works and Transport and the MVA.

There is a need to enforce existing Laws and Regulations working with traffic police to stop dangerous driving, frequent spot checking, particularly during weekend and holidays, for drunken driving, compulsory wearing of seat belt, installation of speed cameras, strict and regular road worthiness certification, strengthening high patrolling, to name but a few.

We need to do something about truck drivers and trucks. In many countries, trucks are not allowed on the roads during certain period of times or the day. Having resting places for them and regulating hours of driving by the same driver as well as limiting speed, overtaking and load of trucks might solve the problem. We need to support the Ministry of Works and Transport and yes, indeed, the Ministry of ICT to intensify awareness campaigns.

On the other hand we, at the Ministry of Health and Social Services, avail ourselves by improving urgent and critical trauma care, timely referral and first aid.

Most importantly, we need to inform and educate our population. Namibia still has a small population, each life in this country counts. Yes, we all know that we need to increase global action in order to achieve

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better and improved results. But we know that we need to translate global action into regional and local action. It is at the local level that the action becomes more meaningful.

The investment required to save precious lives and disabilities much outweigh the economic developmental and human gain we will make. The time has come to match our commitments with urgent need of appropriate investment and actions. Let us work together with multi-sectoral action plans supported by appropriate resources thus saving the Namibian lives and facilitate human and economic development. Thank you for your kind attention.

HON SPEAKER: We are killing ourselves and we are being reminded that we stop it. Minister of Education.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I rise this afternoon to make a statement regarding the newspaper article in one of our dailies, today, with the heading “***1,300 Schools have no Toilets.***” The author of the article has given the impression that out of a total of 1,723 schools around Namibia 1,300 are without toilets. In other words, only 423 schools have toilets. The fact of the matter is that in 2013, we had 1,723 schools in Namibia out of these 1,300 had toilets and only 423 were without toilets.

With regard to teacher qualification at primary level our statistics indicate that in 2013, 77.8% of primary teachers were qualified and are, therefore, appropriately trained to teach primary education. The 7% the reporter refers to is that of unqualified teachers at secondary level since 93.2% of teachers at this level are qualified. The reporter further refers to the number of flush toilets. Honourable Speaker, let me indicate that in this year, 2014 there is a total of 11,415 toilets across the system of which 6,854 are pit latrines and 4,561 are flush toilets.

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Honourable Speaker, I will be the first person to accept that education challenges are many and cannot be addressed as an event, but rather as a process. Whereas it is not advisable to have children attend school without sanitary facilities the question still remains, which are the best options before us? Should we deny a Namibian child an education until a toilet is constructed or should we provide what we can afford with the understanding that whatever the shortcomings we will be addressing the other challenges as we go on?

The unfortunate situation, which seems to rise out of this article, is that facts have been turned upside down. The reason is better known by the author. It is why he/she decided to go this route. We appreciate the role of the media but when the media falsifies or twists facts, it raises questions as to what was the intention.

I want to inform the Namibian Nation that whereas we are facing challenges and continue to address these challenges, the facts as reported in today's newspaper are false and lack credibility on both toilets and the number of qualified teachers. Anyone, with no exception, wanting to know more, I refer such a person to our 2012 EMIS Statistics on Pages 79 and 92 for further reading. This is our EMIS – Education Management Information System for the Ministry of Education. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Minister. The Secretary will read the First Order.

**RECONSIDERATION: MAGISTRATES
AMENDMENT BILL [B.9 – 2013]**

SECRETARY: *Magistrates Amendment Bill [B.9 – 2013].*

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: MAGISTRATES
AMENDMENT BILL
HON NUJOMA**

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister of Justice Move that the Assembly now reconsider the Bill?

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Yes, Comrade Speaker, I Move so.

HON SPEAKER: Seconded by the Honourable Minister of Lands and Resettlement. The Assembly will now go into Committee. The Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
The Whole House is called to Order. The Committee has to reconsider the *Magistrate Amendment Bill*.

I put Clause 1. Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Amendment to the *Magistrates Amendment Bill* that in Clause 1 substitutes the following definition for the definition of a District Magistrate: A District Magistrate means a Magistrate appointed under Section 11(1)(e) or designated under Section 11(2)(b) as a District Magistrate who is the Head of a District Court.

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HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Please table the Amendment.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Any discussion? Any objection? Agreed to. I shall report the Bill with Amendment.

Honourable Speaker, the Committee has gone through the Bill [B.9 – 2013] which is straightforward and agreed to it with Amendments.

ASSEMBLY RESUMES

Bill reported with Amendments.

HON SPEAKER: Having considered the Amendments, the Assembly has now finally passed the Bill and, therefore, conclude the Business on this item. I shall now, in terms of Article 75(2) refer this Bill to the President to deal with it under Articles 56 and 64 of our Constitution.

The Secretary will now read the Second Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING –
APPROPRIATION BILL [B.3 – 2014]**

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SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading:
Appropriation Bill [B.3 – 2014].

HON SPEAKER: When the House adjourned on Thursday, 27 February 2014, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any further discussions? Honourable Ilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, it is that time once again as Parliamentarians to debate our National Budget for the Financial Year 2014/2015 in an independent Namibia.

Comrade Speaker, let me add my well wishes to Comrade Minister of Finance Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Director-General of the National Planning Commission, Comrade Tom Alweendo and the entire staff members of both offices. I thank them for a job well done.

Comrade Speaker, the 24th year National Budget went far from the general expectation. Comrade Minister of Finance simplified the achievements and progress achieved during last year 2013/2014 Budget under the theme ***‘Growing the Economy Optimising Development Outcomes’***. Comrade Minister informed us in her 24th National Budget speech that *today she was glad to report that we have made good progress to achieve the outcomes anticipated under the Budget*. What more do we want?

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, challenges are always there and we will never finish them. Due to the fact that needs are endless we should thank our good Fiscal Policy. We must know that Namibia is a capitalist country. It is not a socialist country, although through Article 98 of the Namibian Constitution, *“the economic order shall be based on the principle of mixed economy with the objective of securing economic growth, prosperity and a life of human dignity for all Namibians.”*

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Under Subsection 2, *the Namibian economy shall be based, inter alia, on the following forms of ownership:*

- a) public;*
- b) private*
- c) joint public-private;*
- d) co-operative;*
- e) co-ownership; and*
- f) small-scale family.*

Comrade Speaker, based on those very important principles, our Government is mandated by this Article 98 of our Supreme Law, the Constitution of Namibia to participate directly in the economy. We are not even supposed to say anything because we are mandated by the Law. Public ownership is a property which is owned by this Government on behalf of the Namibian people.

Comrade Speaker, based on that Article 98, our Constitution needs to be implemented fully in order to *do things differently*, as we were told by Comrade Minister of Finance, to act swiftly and decisively to strengthen our Institutions through which Public Service is delivered and to transform the structure of our economy so that all Namibians can share in the opportunities that our country offers.

Comrade Speaker, what we need to do is to implement the mandate we are given by our Constitution under Article 89. I now recommend the following to my Government:

- a) The SWAPO Party resolution of the year 2002 on land owned by absentee landlords must be implemented without delay. We know how many farms they are. We have our Supreme Law, the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia which is a life document and we need revisit this document to make sure that the sovereignty of the State is secure, *which is land, water and natural resources below and above the surface of the land and in the continental shelf and within (intervention)*

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HON SPEAKER: Your microphone is not on. That is on now.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: The sovereignty of the State, *which is land, water, natural resources below and above the surface of the land and in the continental shelf* (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: The air-conditioner is moving to the extreme cold. Is everybody happy? Continue. I said it is very cold and you are saying it is good for our health.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: *Below and above the surface of the land and in the continental shelf and within the territorial waters and exclusive economic zone of Namibia shall belong to the State.* As per that Article 100, I want the following seven words to be deleted from this Article: *If they are not otherwise lawfully owned.* I qualify my argument why I want these words to be taken out by asking: How does the State know that this one is lawfully owned and another one is not lawfully owned? We even know about a number of houses which are owned by people who are not the rightful owners. That is the difficulty.

Farms and buildings which used to belong to the then apartheid white minority regime went missing. They are now regarded as the lawfully owned. We, therefore, need to revisit our Supreme Law to make sure that the sovereign ownership belongs to the State. We were not here in the Deed Office. Some were told that the properties, land and many houses here belong to the then South African minority regime. .

- b) Nampost Savings Bank must be a fully-fledged State Bank, AgriBank must also become a fully-fledged State Agricultural Bank and DBN must concentrate on investments into the economy of the country, such as manufacturing.

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- c) Mineral rights must be given to Epangelo State Company so that it can have negotiating powers as the owner of those minerals. They are the ones who will possess the rights. That is my recommendation.
- d) Ministers must be accountable to Parastatals which fall under their Ministries. Decisions must be taken by the Ministers. That is the way. That is the thinking. Government must take serious control of its business just like the business community does. We need to do that. The theory that Ministers and Deputy Ministers are political officer bearers and not administrators must no longer be accepted so that Article 40 of our Supreme Law, the Constitution of Republic of Namibia can be fully implemented for the Ministers and their Deputy Ministers *to direct, coordinate, supervise the activities of Ministries and Government Departments including Parastatal Enterprises, and to review and advise the President and National Assembly on the desirability and wisdom of any prevailing subordinate legislation, regulations or orders pertaining to such Parastatal Enterprises, regard being had to be the public interests.* (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. May I ask my Honourable Member a small question? Honourable Iilonga, you are doing extremely well because I was trying to follow what you were saying, but I am still trying. My question is; I do not know whether I got you right. You were saying that the land and water belong to the State. I thought you said that. My question is; can you buy something that belongs to you? I read in a paper that Government has been offered to buy Erindi for N\$1.3 billion and Government was actually considering buying what belongs to the State. How is that going to be done?

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Comrade Speaker, let us all inform our staff members and the Nation at large that Government properties and services belong to them. They must be whistle blowers. By doing that, they will have clean schools, hospitals, houses, offices, and cars that are not smashed and they will jealously protect these properties day-by-day, night-by-night just like their fellow workers at private companies.

In order to build a new common purpose so that we can use all our talents, skills and resources to confront our economy and social challenges, as Comrade Minister of Finance told us, we must build capacity by encouraging our people to work hard and build commitment among our people which is extremely crucial as it brings about a sense of social responsibility among individuals, staff members and national communities out there, thereby enhancing the performance of their country, Namibia. They enhance patriotism, which is the core for success.

Constant vigilance is the price of honesty, efficiency, commitment, accountability and responsibility. In order to use our talents, I call upon our Parastatals, UNAM and the Polytechnic, which we expect to become a university, as well as Vocational Institutions to introduce pre-primary skill training of our young children at their schools during school holidays, to invite schools to participate in skill training and to call all those generic categories which are based on psychological make-up as their contributions towards job performance.

We have people with different talents and skills. They need to be given certificates by the Institutions I mentioned earlier based on practical experience. These are the people who build our houses and office buildings but once they are finished building, they are no longer allowed to enter these buildings. These people are competent and are committed, and if they are recognised by those Institutions, they will contribute to the

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economic development of our country because they will now be able to participate in tenders rather than Honourable Iilonga's tender.

Education: Education is the best equaliser. Even Honourable Tjihuiko knows that. A strong Education Sector, which is capable of producing an educated Nation, is the backbone of every Nation. I thank our SWAPO Party Government for taking a decision on free education to primary schools and for awarding full bursaries to our students who want to study medicine and other fields.

I want to call upon our Government to do like other Governments by giving bursaries to all Namibian students who show skilful talents during their school years and not on the basis of who the parents are, whether a Minister's child or anybody else. Let us do it the same way Malaysia and Singapore are doing it. That is what they did in order to create and encourage patriotism. Those whose schools were paid for by their fathers and families are not committed to this country.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Minister a question? Honourable Iilonga, you are lecturing us on scholarships, fighting for the President and the Ministers to participate in all things but we just listened to the Minister of Education now that 423 schools do not toilets and you are talking about scholarships for the kids of a Minister. What is your story?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Tjihuiko is an honourable and clever person but he misuses that position. He knows that I said challenges will always be there. Honourable Tjihuiko, even yourself as you are seated there, you have a

challenge because your tongue makes some sound. We must not think that if we are parents and have houses, we know how we want to treat our children but at the end of the month, you cannot afford to do everything because of the challenges. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER AND CHILD WELFARE:

Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Order; may I ask Honourable *Oshakati* a question? *Oshakati*, are you aware that all of us, including the Founding Father and the current President, are marginalised? Are you aware of that? If you are aware of that then why should the children of Ministers not get money from Government to pay for their tertiary education? Government must pay because we are still marginalised until we reach Vision 2030. Honourable Tjihuiko must wait for Vision 2030 to say those words. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ilonga.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Comrade *Oshakati* I am aware. Comrade Speaker, on the Defence Force (intervention)

HON SPEAKER: It is tea time. Shall we continue?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Comrade Speaker, this progressive Defence Force we have built is a Force that our people in Namibia see as protecting the Namibian territory; farms, sick people,

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businesses and all sovereignty of Namibia, be it on land, water or air it is the responsibility of our Defence Force. Comrade Speaker, therefore, this is a Defence Force that does not only protect the Namibian people and their properties but everyone who loves peace and stability in SADC, the Africa continent and the world at large. It is a Defence Force that participates in evacuating our people from dangerous situations.

Recently, the Namibian Air Force crew went on a risk mission to Zimbabwe and they made us proud, Honourable Tjihuiko included. The crew consisted of twelve men and one woman. They performed their duties with commitment, determination and patriotism towards this international obligation. I thank them all for a job well done, especially the lady Comrade who was piloting a helicopter in difficult weather conditions. She made it! *Omake!*

It is a Defence Force that our people trust to protect the borders of our land, the Land of the Brave. Soldiers who stay awake at night so that you and I can sleep in peace. That is the Defence Force. As the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Defence, I thank my President by entrusting me with position number three in the defence of this country. I thank them and I declare that we are truly proud of our Namibian Defence Force. Money can never be enough. We need to have a Defence Force that stays awake to detect strange movements. They need surveillance systems, ladders, protective clothing, helicopters and many other things.

Comrade Minister of Finance, the money you have given us is not enough but we can priorities so that our men and women in uniform are presentable. The money is going to improve the lives of our soldiers. Comrade Speaker, I am always reminding us all that expatriates are not permanent in any country, as well as foreign investors and advisors, whether in military or any other capacity. We, therefore, need to train our people in the military, because we need to have our own engineers and pilots in our Defence Force. All these cost money. Therefore, Comrades and friends, they must leave it alone.

Government must change the current methods of issuing tenders. Private businesses are not dictated by any tenderers. They invite those who want

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to do the work and tell them that there is a project or a job to be done for this amount. They put up strict specifications for the project and whoever qualifies to do it gets the job. Let us follow that. Our Government need to do the same. We are not saving through tenders. One bag of cement costs N\$90. If it is a Government tender, it costs almost N\$200. A person makes a profit of 15% before finishing the job – running around saying they have gone to do inspections. Nothing! When the job is done, the building starts cracking and the money goes to the so-called technicians. This is what we must do. If we do that, even these green or brown envelopes will not be there. This work costs money and the money will be controlled. The Auditor-General will be able to identify the project. We can have our own architects and quantity surveyors rather than having these people who come with businesses in briefcases, the Honourable Tjihiukos. By doing that it will be cheaper on the Government and it will create more jobs.

Comrade Speaker, people are questioning TIPEEG which created 83,315 permanent jobs. People forget and this makes me wonder. I now have a new expression in my vocabulary, *out of the box*. Let them think out of the box to make sure that we are no longer being cheated. That is why a person, who gets a tender to the value of N \$20 million, gets N\$10 million for example, to buy material and he/she does not spend the money on those projects. I do my own work of the same quality. You can come to my place in Windhoek, I do not tender for anything but I can do it. I calculate and I buy the same. This is what we all must do, including the Opposition so that we can jealously protect our resources.

Twenty four years ago we established a Defence Force we are proud of today. Comrade Speaker, you know very well that we built this Defence Force out of nothing. The former apartheid regime, which was here left. They were only known for their aggression against our people and our neighbours in South Africa. We found nothing here when we built this Force. The casspirs, which you see here, were captured when we were fighting against our colonisers. We found nothing. That is why we need money to build our Force not that we are going to war with anybody.

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The apartheid regime was terrorising our people in our villages, Katutura, Rundu, Nkurenkuru, etcetera. We built ours from nothing because they did not leave anything here in the hope to stop us to march to freedom and Independence of our motherland Namibia, but we have won the fight for freedom. Salute to heroes and heroines of our liberation struggle!

Namibia is free forever. All thanks to all the peace-loving people of our Nation. Earlier I said that we built a Defence Force out of the ashes of apartheid forces. We built this new Defence Force out of the ash with weapons we came with from Angola in 1990. 24 years ago these weapons were guerrilla type of war weapons and they were neither upgraded nor downgraded.

Comrade Speaker, towards my conclusion, we are going to use this Budget to motivate our men and women in uniform to work as a team and as brothers and sisters in the army. We know that there are Opposition Parties which do not want Namibia to have a Defence Force. Comrade Speaker, we want to have a Defence Force far removed from tribalism, regionalism, nepotism and favouritism. A Defence Force which believes in the principles of comrades. *'If I am injured at war carry me out as a comrade in arms'*. (singing) *ngo ndalemana moita humbata ndje po. Hailwa yange, menu gwa meme hailwa kuminina ndje!* That is the spirit we want to have. It did not end with the liberation struggle.

Our soldiers need not think that this is from this Region or this is from that clan. He/she is a soldier. We cannot have an army or a force which, if one of the comrades is injured he/she looks away saying this is not my family. That is not the Defence Force we want.

We want a Defence Force that sings as protectors of Namibian and a Defence Force which still have that song: *'Ngo ndalemana moita humbata nge po hailwa yange'*. *If I am injured at war carry me out.* That is what we want. *Kuminina ndje (carry me on your back).* That is the Force we want to have not these people who want to turn the Namibian Defence Force into tribal thinking because so and so is not promoted. How are you going to be promoted? Are you going to be promoted on tribal lines?

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Some of you think along tribal lines. If you nominate Honourable Tjihiuiko, then someone would ask why not Honourable Ankama?

HON SPEAKER: I do not know who you are fighting against.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: I am concluding.
Comrade Speaker.

Finally, I just want to register in this august House that I totally reject and condemn all those Honourables Members who want the Budget of the Ministry of Defence to be cut. I condemn them. We must not forget that these men and women were sworn enemies during the battles and also shaped the democracy which we are now talking about. The tribalism that you now want to bring in our Defence Force was never there. It is painful, Comrade Speaker. We have people who are campaigning to make our Defence Force think along tribal lines. It cannot be allowed.
(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Naholo.

HON NAHOLO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Through you, may I ask the Honourable Member a question?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Put the question.

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HON NAHOLO: Thank you very much indeed. When we returned from Angola, I am talking about the combatants; we surrendered our weapons, our guns to UNTAG. I just want to know from the Colleague, what happened to those guns?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Comrade Speaker, I said I want to finish.

Comrade Speaker, we must know and we must not forget that I do not have anyone to write my speech for me. The Opposition, be it in Namibia or outside, they are not your friends. They are not different from what happened in Ukraine, what is happening in Syria and Libya. They are not our friends. We must be careful. They are looking for loopholes to kill you. I rest my case. I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Van Der Walt?

HON VAN DER WALT: Honourable Speaker, once again I am very proud to rise and take part in this Budget discussion.

I want to thank our Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, once more, for a very progressive Budget. It is not surprising, that our GDP grew; our country is doing fairly well in terms of growing our economy. Why am I saying all this, Honourable Speaker? I truly believe that Namibia is a very privileged country. I want to congratulate our Government, our leaders who laid the foundation, from the day of our Founding Father and now His Excellency our President Hifikepunye Pohamba for the maintenance of peace in our country, which is the only way that Namibia can move forward.

We have a very small economy, so we cannot play around with money.

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However, what I find from our Government is discipline. I know that everything is not, and everything cannot come right overnight but I am grateful for the peace in our country and I am going to tell the Nation out there that our Government is there for all Namibians. Peace loving Namibians, we have to work together. I want to thank the Nation out there, the ones who take hands with our poor, jobless people and try to help in their little ways to make and maintain peace and stability in our country.

Honourable Speaker, however, how much money our Minister of Finance receives from our revenue, the difference lie in how we spend it. The Ministers come up with their Budgets and the decisions are made for the allocation to be made before the money goes off to the Ministries. There need to be hands on management because every cent we lose will have an effect on our previously disadvantaged people, the poor and jobless people. The main objective of our Government is to make sure that we look after this people. Honourable Speaker, by saying this, if I look at our Parastatals, I find it difficult that they do not make successes and I believe that we have got people in our country who have the abilities to help out and make sure that we use our money, and manage these Parastatals and SOEs effectively.

Honourable Speaker, corruption with tenders costs our country billions and we need to make sure that every Minister, Deputy Minister and every leader of our country is hands on and if it does not have all the capabilities, there are people who can help so that we make sure, we look after our money. The Minister of Finance can make this available, she can do her job, she can organise that her machinery at Finance is running smoothly, that we earn our money but after that it is not her responsibility anymore.

Honourable Speaker, if I look at the allocations of our Budget, I am very proud. I said in my first day of my life in Parliament that the only thing in your life to start from the top, is your grave. My Government, which I am very proud of, knows that education is the most important and this is unbelievable, I would think that if I can make a contribution in terms of education, Honourable Minister of Education, he is not here now, I would

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also like to see that we also put up more schools for our children with disabilities in our country. I think there are a lot of children with disabilities who are in need of more schools.

Honourable Speaker, to come back to the Budget, last year some of the economists criticised our Minister because of our debt which I think is now in the range of 27% of our GDP, Honourable Minister, am I right? I believe in debts because there is interest rate on the money when you borrow money, am I right, Honourable Minister? The interest rate is lower than the bank, therefore, I believe that if we borrow money and we do it in a disciplined manner, we spend that money for the right ventures then we will create wealth in our country. I, therefore, want to congratulate you because of good management, our debt did not grow; it is maintained and shows that our economy is strong enough to handle debts, as I said last year in my Budget Speech.

Honourable Speaker, on companies owned by foreigners; my concern is that we are pleading for foreign investment and I do not have a problem, however, what bothers me is that foreign companies; retail companies, banks, oil companies and insurance companies do huge volumes of business in Namibia yearly and 90% of their profit goes back to their foreign countries. I find that in the past, and I want to be corrected if I am wrong, that our Government through legislation handicapped the insurance companies in a certain way by imposing that a certain amount of their profits should remain behind for development and upliftment of the Namibian economy. Honourable Speaker, I would like to see that we implement it in all Sectors and make sure that our money that they take from here remains in Namibia for our people and for the development of our country.

Honourable Speaker, in the same vain I want to talk about foreign owners of farms in our country. I was quoted in a daily newspaper lately, I think through a misunderstanding about what my opinion is about farms or land in our country, I want to make it very clear, and I want to say it again, once and for all that we are very fortunate with the leadership of the SWAPO Party-led Government. This is a Government which takes responsibility for each and every Namibian no matter what colour or race.

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Our Government is there for all Namibians who obey the Law, respect their leaders and work together in the same direction. I have never said that my Government will expropriate a Namibian farmer's farm who is productive and working together with this Nation and our Government. What I said was that I agree with my Government that there are many farms in Namibia which are foreign owned and are unproductive. I believe that the responsibility lies on the shoulder of our Government to make sure that we regain these farms in such a manner that we still obey the Law but make sure that we resettle our farming people in our country. By this, I want to make a point, when I say we need to resettle and help our farming people who need land, I would start and think that to give a farm to anybody will not work as there are people who are not capable of farming and farming is not easy. However, there is a point where we can depart from and we have got wonderful communal farmers in this country who are successful and proved themselves to be farmers. We can go and make a survey on who are successful farmers from the North, East and West of our country.

We can buy farms and I know people say; *why must we buy if they were taken?* However, in life nothing is for free, that is my opinion. What I am saying is that the commercial farmers who are sitting there and my Comrades, we also pay land tax. We can use this money and with the assistance of our Agricultural Bank we can help our successful communal farmers. Take them away from communal land and make space for his son or daughter to take over and one day (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko?

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask Honourable Van Der Walt a question? Honourable Van Der Walt the point that you are making about buying farms and giving them to communal farmers who are doing well is well taken.

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However, my question is; are you implying that because you know me as a person who is a good communal farmer, my name can be on top of the priority list with the Ministry of Lands so that even though I am not from that side, I can be considered, and do you want the Honourable Minister of Lands to take note of that?

HON SPEAKER: Hnourable Van Der Walt, continue.

HON VAN DER WALT: Honourable Speaker, I do not think that Honourable Tjihuiko is a disadvantaged farmer at all, I think he is more privileged, we have got many disadvantaged farmers in our country.

I would like to see that we have economic stability in our country and the only way we can do this is through negotiations, by talking to each other. I want to tell the Nation out there and to talk straight, the white people of this country that this is our country and we need to work together with our Government. After 24 years of Independence, the SWAPO Party Government never dispelled a white farmer from this country and it will never happen if we work together with our Government. I want to make sure that they understand me very clearly and I am proud to stand here, that is why I am a SWAPO member because I believe in my Government. I believe for a lot of reasons in my Government because they believe in God. We are a proud country that believes in God and we pray together and so we will die together.

I want to say something; the other day I was on the radio channel and I was really so proud of that uncle and I could hear he was a real Afrikaner, he phoned in and said on the radio that he is so proud of our Government. He said our Government, our President, when we talk about women and child abuse, call on the Nation to pray. He said, this is a Government that you can believe in and this is the leadership you can believe in. That is why I say, if we can pray together as a Nation, we can die together, we need to work together and there is no other way out, otherwise we will not

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be successful.

Honourable Speaker, I am very sorry that looking at our country's economy, it is very important that in our discussions overseas in terms of trade, import and export is very important. Our previous Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry and now our Prime Minister, has laid a good foundation for negotiations in Europe that is very high leveled and complicated.

Honourable Speaker, the new Board of Directors accused our Minister of Trade and Industry and indeed our Government that we are playing political games. Honourable Speaker, you find that lately I did not speak a lot on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) on what I am doing overseas because I am doing this work; I have seniors as you can see and I need to support my seniors. I would like to inform this House, the Nation and the Board of Directors of MEATCO that the Namibian delegation and myself are part and parcel of these negotiations in Europe. I would like to inform the Nation and MEATCO that on Parliamentary level, Namibia is still a member of the ACP/EU Committee of Economic Development, Finance and Trade in which we are serving as the Second Vice-Chair. Although Namibia is the Second Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee, we have been chairing the Joint Committee meetings since 2011. Namibia, thus chairs this Economic Committee of four ACP countries, 76 countries across the world and they all have the same story.

Honourable Speaker, I want to inform the House that till now, Southern Africa is of the list but immediately after we lost the chairmanship, they voted Namibia again as Co-Rapporteur on Regional Development and Modernisation of Customs for Sustainable Development in ACP Countries in cooperation with the European Union.

Honourable Speaker, I am not going to waste time with this, I just want to inform the House on the ACP/EU that the *status quo* is exactly that Namibia leads this negotiations at Parliamentary level and I want to agree with my Minister that the ACP Countries stand together in terms of the fact that we do not want to discuss the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement but rather a full Economic Partnership Agreement and that our

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Governments are there for the benefits of our economies and not for the breakdown of it and that we do these negotiations in good faith. We have a very good relationship but very tough negotiations Honourable Speaker,

I also want to inform this House on the World Trade Organisation and I want to thank the delegation because we are a team, we are strong and are there to do the ground work for our seniors. Honourable Speaker, Namibia was also voted in at the World Trade Organisation to partake in the panel discussions in Bali and now in Brussels again, I am well on my way there, in making the benefits of trade work for sustainability, development, job creation and poverty alleviation. Honourable Speaker, I just throw this in the pan because it is very important for the country to know that our Minister, our Ambassador in Europe and our delegation at Parliamentary level are 100% on the same level and the same track as we are defending our ACP Countries. The time is over; European countries had a golden spoon for many, many years. Why would they have poverty now and why do they have job creation problems? It is because they do not want to work anymore.

Foreigners are doing their jobs in Europe. They are developed countries already, that is why they have a problem. They know that they cannot make it in terms of wealth in the future without ACP, we need to work together.

Therefore, we are at the end of the road of begging for money. This world belongs to all of us, we need to work together and we need to bring the change and they know. Therefore, we do not need to be on our knees anymore, we need to negotiate and we need to look each other in the eye and we will not sign an agreement which will damage our and ACP Countries' economies. This is a responsibility and that is why I am so proud of Namibia, we made a stand and we have to support these ACP and SADC Countries and I am very proud of my leadership. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Speaker, there is something still close to my heart and this is the Agricultural Sector. I believe that there is a possibility and there was a

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reserve bank before in the underground water in the North East of our country. I would like to see that my Government goes in depth with this because water is life. We need to explore, we need to make use of that water. We need to build a pipeline from the North throughout our country so that we can create farmers along the way in the Agricultural Sectors so that we can produce food for our country and create jobs. This is one of the things on my list.

Honourable Speaker, otherwise as I said, what is close to my heart is the schools for children with disabilities. I know that we have Dagbreek here but I think this is too small. I think we need to get more serious about these children as people with disabilities are close to my heart. We need to look into that matter. I think our Minister and Government are already busy but I just wanted to mention it. Honourable Speaker, with that I rest my case and I thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable !nawases-Taeyeale.

HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise today to give my support to the *Appropriation Bill* tabled in this august House by Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Minister of Finance.

Allow me to quote His Excellency, President Pohamba on the Occasion of the Annual Reception for Parliamentarians during June 2012; and I quote; *“Equally important, our Legislature should endeavour to promote a Law making process that is accessible and participatory in nature. In this context, before Bills are tabled in Parliament, they should be subjected to public consultations so that citizens of our Republic can make their input and that their suggestions are heard with regard to the content of such Laws”*.

Our President also stated that, and I quote; *“I would like to emphasise the*

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point that the work of Parliamentarians should not only be restricted to the Houses of Parliament. Members should from time to time, go out to interact with the voters in different parts of the country. Parliamentarians must interact with communities in order to hear the challenges they face.”

As active Members of Parliament, we make our humble contributions mostly during the Committee’s work of Parliament. We can proudly say that we are the foot soldiers of this respected House, who take our Parliament closer to the people with Public Hearings and Consultations. One issue close to my heart is service delivery, or the lack and/or slow pace thereof in our communities.

During the past year under review, I was fortunate to lead a delegation of the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs on our oversight inspection visits to the Development Projects of the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development earmarked and identified for the MTEF Financial Years 2013 to 2016. We visited some towns, villages and settlements in the two Regions. What pains me here is the lack of capacity at Regional and Local Government levels, for our officials on these levels to fully implement our National Development Plans and the Development Programmes. The Reports are there for the Honourable Members to read, and we must look at ways and means how to expedite the much needed training. I believe the National Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance and the Line Ministry should play an important role in training, capacity building and introducing systems to monitor the implementation of Development Programmes of Government.

In some Sectors, for example, provision of potable water, sanitation, and servicing of land just to take a few practical examples, people are denied these basic services because of delays and sometimes non-implementation of Development Programmes. There are too many bureaucratic bottlenecks and in some areas our Government officials act way too important, to high up there, making them difficult for our people to access.

I get the feeling from all our “*taking Parliament to people*” interventions

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that bread and butter issues are not fully addressed. One is the return of unused funds to our national treasury. The other is the *verimentation* of funds, whereby some accounting officers and some officials divert funds earmarked for clearly identified Development Programmes - also provision of goods and services is redirected to new priorities they set in their offices, which this august House is neither consulted, nor is such re-direction of funds approved by this august House.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, our buildings, facilities and infrastructure are dilapidated in many areas. This calls for review of the maintenance policy and personnel in many Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies. We should not wait for someone from the Ministry of Works to come to an office just to replace a fused electrical bulb or repair a blocked drain. Every Ministry, every building for that matter, ought to have the tools, equipment and skills to maintain our properties. We do not need to obtain approval from the Economising Committee at the Head Office in Windhoek to purchase a bulb, a fuse or chemicals normally used to unblock drains. We should decentralise the Economizing Committees so that services can be provided to the ordinary people on the ground and time is spared.

This is worsened by some new and recently erected buildings with low quality products by our *Tenderpreneurs*. This leads to the rhetorical question of the whereabouts of quality controllers. Construction of poor quality Government buildings is not only a financial loss to the State but a disservice to both Government and the tax payers who are eventually footing the bill. What we need are strong and lasting buildings, capable of serving the next generations.

It is my profound hope and wish that the much publicised, indeed genuine, and noble Public Housing Programme referred to as the Mass Housing Project, will be a proud platform of excellence. As elected representatives, we should guard against any trend in which the Mass Housing Project will become another scheme where some service providers want to get rich overnight at the expense of the lower income, the poor and the vulnerable. This calls for close cooperation between the

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Ministry of Works with all other Government Offices, Ministries, and Agencies.

Honourable, Speaker, Honourable Members, reflecting on the recent Gender-Based Violence, especially what is referred to as so-called passion killings, it has gone through my mind that we really live in a sick society. Our grandpa's and fathers, and brothers and nephews are not to be entrusted with the sole care of our babies and children. Mothers are stressed every day and they leave their children at home, because it may be just your next door neighbour who rapes your daughter. We are, and feel unsafe in this country, not because we fear external threats and strangers but it is the people close to our hearts, who are ripping our hearts apart and slaughtering us like sheep.

The so-called passion killings alone are proof that our national ethics and morals are in need of complete overhaul. Ethics and morals are the compass of every society. When men act in such barbaric fashion in responses to choices women are making, I am afraid every new generation is not going to be different from the preceding generation if no major drastic steps are taken. One such intervention can be making the National Youth Service compulsory for every school leaver, prior to going to higher education. This way, we can form characters and solidify personalities in ethics and morality training.

Honourable Speaker, Finally, youth unemployment, no doubt, has become a worrisome social and economic state of affairs that warrants further investigation. I am very much concerned about the state of youth.

May I for now stop here with the General Debate and thank the Minister of Finance and congratulate her for the job well done by her entire team. I support the Budget. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Deputy Minister.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Members, I would once again like to join the others in commending the Honourable Minister of Finance for tabling a Budget that is in synch with the Nation's development agenda - a Budget whose spending priorities in spite of incessant criticism in this Chamber, is beautifully aligned with the Fourth National Development Plan. Substantial allocations made over the MTEF period to key Sectors of Health and Education although not adequate relatively speaking, will go a long way in addressing gaping infrastructural needs as well as delivery and quality imperatives confronting these Sectors.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is encouraging to note that Namibia is at long last taking steps to embrace the concept of the "*Digital Economy*" which will undoubtedly improve the efficiency of our operations while at the same time ensuring that our Nation emerges from the self imposed digital orphanage. All other things being equal, digital inclusion and ICT has potential to accelerate economic progress. This in turn, will place our Nation in better stead in terms of pursuing higher levels of economic growth needed in order to stay the course of the set economic growth trajectory. As the Honourable Minister of Finance alluded to in her Budget Motivation, the advent of mobile telephony has enabled our Nation to make giant strides in its quest to ensure financial and social inclusion.

Provided we overcome perennial challenges such as low internet penetration, affordability of mobile connectivity, pervasive poverty rates and unreliable supporting infrastructure such as roads and electricity in our rural areas, improved mobile penetration in our country, is a necessary pre-requisite for improved productivity. This, therefore, calls for greater alignment of the fiscal policy with the goals of the digital growth agenda. That notwithstanding, our Nation still continues to be on the periphery and is constantly playing catch up in leveraging the potential of mobile telephony in delivering efficient and cost effective services in four Sectors

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in particular. These are: the **Financial Sector** where we have already witnessed the emergence of ewallet and most recently, the partnership between two Namibian entities MTC and Mobi Pay that will make it easy to conclude transactions using mobile phones. Traditional long queues at banks; the usual sea of agitated and frustrated customers during month end not to mention unmanned offices at the end of every month, will soon be a thing of the past. The **Health Sector** where last month we witnessed the historic launch of a mobile application developed by a Namibian - an application that heralds the advent of a new era that will obviate the perennial trek and stampede for places at maternity wards by expectant mothers. The **Agricultural Sector** where farmers need not trek long distances at great cost to either establish prices offered for their produce or consult the nearest veterinarian for an opinion. Indeed, the **Education Sector** where the mobile phone, provided we are bold enough and revise the existing policy which is inhibitive, can make teaching and learning virtual thus breaking the current classroom boundaries.

Yes, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, there are seamless opportunities for Namibia to use the transformative capacity of mobile phones to embrace M-banking, M-health, M-agriculture, and M-education and I believe even M-parliament, if possible, we need to move away from *E* to *M* because we seem to have this *M* in abundance in Namibia. (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Minister of Justice.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: I would like to thank the Honourable Minister for talking so boldly about the positive aspects of the new technology.

I just want to ask the Honourable Minister whether he is aware that there is also the damaging effect of this technology when it comes to

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M-Pornography, do you know that? You look at the mobile phones now, you can see obscene things on the internet, what is the Ministry intending to do so that we stop this? I have seen it. Young people can now access these very obscene pictures on their mobile phones. You can see it, is all over Namibia, it is here with us, what is the Ministry doing?

While we are, of course, praising this new technology, it also has its very damaging effects and we need to be very careful of all these things, coups and the like? Thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Minister of Justice, thank you very much, indeed. I would not agree less with you on that. Every technology and every advancement on mother earth will always have its plus and at the same time there will be a minus. The only thing that I can advance, because technology is an unavoidable evil that we simply need to manage, is for us as parents and as leaders at all the different levels to continue to educating our children and hope that that level of education will precipitate. However, you are definitely right.

Honourable Speaker, I, therefore, hope and trust that now that we have exited the analogue mode of delivering services, we will midwife the convenient, efficient and cost effective digital way of transacting our business operations.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, mobile telephony put aside, I am encouraged by the much improved revenue outturn as reported by the Honourable Minister of Finance. However, I am equally saddened by the low Capital Budget implementation rate. This trend is worrisome and demands the institution of decisive interventions at all levels of Government, that is at the national, regional and also at the local level. Four years ago while making my maiden speech in this Chamber, I advocated for a more robust and ruthless approach to service delivery and accountability. An approach where there are real, and not imagined

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consequences, for non delivery. The recent discovery by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, that money earmarked for the provision of flush toilets to residents of Koës in the Karas Region is likely to be retained to Treasury, is a classical example of unparalleled tolerance and condonation of non-delivery. Such failure compels fellow Namibians in Koës to continue to rely on the remnants of a vile sanitary system whose usage evokes bad memories of the days gone by. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, my question is; is such failure deliberate so that nationals can point a finger at the national Government? And most importantly, will there be consequences for such blatant non-delivery? Unfortunately we cannot introduce M-toilets.

Let me conclude by saying that I was moved by a sticker on a vehicle and in actual fact felt extremely proud although with a bit of apprehension to be a member of the Ruling Party. Sorry to the Opposition but the sticker says; “*SWAPO the Party we Trust.*” Honourable Speaker, this sticker speaks volumes in terms of the trust that Namibians have in us as a governing Party. However, it is equally masked in the inherent expectation that as a governing Party, we will remain true to our promise to deliver the requisite services. Trust is a virtue that we should never take for granted. If we allow such flagrant dutiful obligations to deliver, not to be met, and by the way we will be doing so at our own peril, we risk losing the priceless trust that many Namibians have bestowed on us. As we all know, it takes time for lost trust to regenerate. Being in leadership positions is not a popularity contest. It is about not shying away from taking decisions, popular or unpopular that will deliver our organisations, our country from mediocrity and stagnation and instead decisions that will propel our country, our organisations to excellence and prosperity. It is about time that we gravitate from rhetoric to action.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, with this modest contribution, I support the Bill and thank you.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Ncube.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, let me extend my sincere appreciation for this wonderful opportunity I was accorded to add my voice and contribute to the Budget Debate of 2014/2015.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for what, in my view, is indeed the most encompassing Budget, especially so with regard to Orphans and Vulnerable Children. Further also to our National Defence Force and our Police Force. This is a job well done. Comrade! At least all inhabitants of Namibia can have a smile on their face. This is a people's Budget. However, Honourable Speaker, I will be indebted to my own values and ethos, if I do not utter my regret in that the Orphans and Vulnerable Children were left at the bottom of the tall ladder and remain the most unfortunate with a mean notch of N\$50.00.

Honourable Speaker, it is my knowledge and personal experience that one can hardly make a decent living from N\$250.00 per month in today's economy. Nevertheless, I seek refuge in the adage that says; "*half a loaf is better than none*" and for that I say; "*Okuhepa, ondapandula kuume.*"

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me today in my short contribution, to concentrate on an issue that is emotional and close to my heart, that of Gender-Based Violence. Honourable Speaker, the measures announced by His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba following a recent special Cabinet meeting with reference to Gender-Based Violence are highly commendable. This clearly shows that His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba and the SWAPO-led Government is fully committed to *seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, children and women, plead for the widow and the vulnerable in line with our internationally acclaimed Constitution*. However, it is my earnest hope and belief that this august House should do more than just talking;

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because the issue of Gender-Based Violence in Namibia has reached catastrophic levels. It now warrants revolutionary, strategic thinking and transformational leadership to find a lasting solution to this menace which is encroaching at all our doorsteps. Let us fight it, with tenacity and resolve it, the same way we fought against colonial oppression and apartheid.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, if one has a girl child or worse still be a woman today in Namibia, falling in love is now one step into the grave or consider yourself half-dead whilst walking alive. Like Mother Teresa and/or Martin Luther King, Jr. said; “*we need to act NOW,*” and not tomorrow. This is an opportune time for all of us, whether you are left or right, socialist or capitalist, pan-Africanist or pro-western, white or black, Indian or coloured. We need to be united and resolve to act boldly against this dragon called Gender-Based Violence which steals and strips women and girls of their dignity and freedom of choice.

Thank you, once again Comrade Finance Minister for allocating ever more money to the education of our children. I pause here to thank the late Honourable Minister, Comrade Dr. Abraham Iyambo who first toyed with the implementation of free education for all Primary Schools. This initiative is celebrated by all in our country. I do, therefore, dream of such a free education being extended to all university students with immediate effect. This will solve the problem of girls and young women who end-up enslaved by sugar-daddies and marauding men, who disguise themselves as supporting them financially and economically while schooling, and yet, end-up killing those unsuspecting poor girls and young women. Let us emphatically deal with this dependency syndrome, where women and girls depend on men for survival and sustainability, whilst studying at UNAM, PoN or IUM.

Honourable Speaker, lastly, the land issue is as old as the first colonial settlers in Namibia, it is the course for our liberation struggle, and it still remains a burning issue not settled for the majority of the population of this country. The majority of Namibians are getting poorer while the

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minority are getting richer. Many landless people find themselves grazing in the corridors along the roads, commercial farmers are claiming these corridors as theirs, as a result the poor landless emerging farmers have nowhere to turn their animals for grazing.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, how long are the landless people and some of them who are paying astronomic reaps to their landlords, the true sons and daughters of the soil going to endure this pain and humiliation? The landless or the land hungry citizens of this beautiful country should be given their inheritance, a dwelling place, a place to call their own. Having said that Comrade Speaker, I will also join others who spoke on this issue, by calling for the Land Conference to be revisited.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I support the *Appropriation Bill* of 2014/2015 without any reservation, and I trust that the concerns raised will be attended to and bear fruits in the foreseeable future. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Shixwameni.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I thought that I would scroll down and just finish my short Statement but technology has just failed me, the battery went off so I will try to recall what I have written down.

Once again thank you, Honourable Speaker. I want to concentrate principally on five items that I have selected from the totality of the Ministries and concerns that are there. I must also express my appreciation that the Minister of Finance has indeed, come out of the block and agreed to the implementation of a semi revenue collection authority. There are other good issues that are there in the Budget; the ability of people being able to borrow from their pensions and be able to

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build houses both in urban and communal areas is also a welcomed move.

Going down the Budget, I must say that the most important items that are there are **Housing** and **Education**. I must just quickly point out that we welcome the Mass Housing Project but as we welcome it, we also want to make sure that tax payers' funds that are being spend on this Mass Housing Scheme should not go to self-enrichment schemes by unscrupulous contractors. The Ministry and collectively Government, will have to closely monitor the use of these funds so that fraudsters are not given contracts but we must also make sure that money that is meant to develop Namibia does not go to contractors from South Africa who come and build houses around here. What should we make out of it?

There are Small and Medium Enterprises in this country that can build quality houses but yet we give money to another country to build these houses. I think the NHE must be called to order and be told that this should be the first and the last time that they give out tenders for building houses to foreign contractors.

Other issue related to housing is the affordability because we can build millions of houses but will our people be able to afford them? Have we made that strategic plan to make sure that we build affordable houses? NHE sometimes tells you they build *low income houses*, but the lowest income earner actually ends up not being able to afford. Therefore, the cost related to these particular houses needs to be carefully scrutinised so that our people will be able to benefit. As I move on from the housing issue, I will say that we welcome the initiative and we support it fully. We also say that it can be done, even though it has taken four years for this idea to kick off, we still believe that it is indeed, attainable.

I move on to **Education**: We spend billions of money on education. However, there is a problem in education, whether we like it or not. The system is broken and needs fixing. We cannot continue throwing out thousands of teenagers finishing Grade 12 onto the streets. We cannot send a fourteen year olds failing Grade 10 onto the street; that is completely unacceptable. We should demand results from the Ministry of

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Education. We want to see results and there cannot be excuses as to whether it is unqualified teachers or whatever. We must, however, also insist on parents' involvement in the education of their children. The teacher must up their socks and we should demand from everybody in the Ministry of Education that we want to see action and we want to see results that is commensurate with the Budget allocated to the Ministry of Education. Institutions also need to be audited because there are so many institutions that are mushrooming here pretending to be providing education to our people but then at the end of the day, after having paid N\$12,000.00 or N\$20,000.00 one gets a useless Diploma. The NQA should step into action to ensure that all educational institutions in this country are indeed properly accredited and that they offer quality education.

On the same tone, I join my sister, Honourable Manombe-Ncube calling for education to be free from pre-primary school up to university level in this country. I saw on the website of the Ministry of Education that this idea is under discussion. This country can do it; I must be convinced why it can still not be done in my lifetime because if other countries have done it, why can we not do it? We must find the necessary funds to finance education in order to develop our human resource base in this country for future development.

I move on to **Rural Development**, I am sure all of us, in one way or the other comes from the rural areas, maybe 99%, with the exception of the Speaker. Yes, Usakos is not rural, it is a town. I am saying all of us come from the rural areas but yet we do not look back where we come from. Rural communities are getting under populated because of urbanisation and people in the rural areas are also becoming poorer. We really need to look at investing in their upliftment, if we are really talking about poverty alleviation. I do not see how we can alleviate poverty with the measures that are collectively taken in the whole Budget. Poverty will not be alleviated because the Budget does not create secure employment but instead temporary employment and it thus does not create secure incomes through permanent jobs. Our people need permanent and secure jobs in the long-term; therefore, something needs to be done about rural

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development. People are still walking long distances, particularly in the Kavango Region, to get potable water. When boreholes breakdown, it takes six months to one year to fix them while others even take up to two years to fix. Something is very wrong with service delivery there. If a boreholes breaks, villagers have to walk ten kilometres to other villages to fetch some water. That is unacceptable by the standard of this Budget. This should be improved upon and as people are complaining here, Ministers must kick the butt so that people can work because they are just simply not delivering. The junior officials on the ground are simply not delivering and we cannot stand and watch whilst approving money in this House and allow the juniors to, what they say in Afrikaans; *vir jou rond fok*. Sorry for my French, it means *to push you around*.

Ministers and Deputy Ministers must take charge of their Ministries. Permanent Secretaries must insist on results oriented performance. We cannot continue to give excuses to the Nation, 24 years after Independence. In the first years of Independence the Honourable Minister of Defence there, would still say; *No I am learning the ropes*, but 24 years down the line you cannot be learning on the job. 24 years are enough for us to be able to provide concrete answers to our people and not dodge them around.

You can obtain my statement on the internet, on the APP website; www.app.org. The last thing that I wanted to comment on is our men and women in uniform. My brother Honourable Ilonga, talked about these men and women in uniform and I think we should all take him seriously. In fact, I would say improve the benefits and salaries of the ordinary soldier and policeman. We cannot sit around here with hungry soldiers, with soldiers that are not satisfied, this is undesirable. We need to improve those conditions and make sure that they are well taken care of. We cannot risk a coup d'état since dissatisfaction amongst soldiers all over Africa and the world have led to coup d'états being staged. Therefore, Minister of Defence, please do what you can do. (Intervention).

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HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: On a Point of Order; I know that my good brother, Comrade *Nekuto* Shixwameni is a good politician. He reads the Budget very carefully and he knows that the conditions of service of the soldiers are going to be improved but he wants to take credit for it. That is already a done deal; it is not because of you.

HON SHIXWAMENI: You know that last year when they did the re-grading, soldiers were complaining that they have not been graded properly, therefore, do not only look at the salaries you must look at their benefits as well. Honourable Minister of Defence, can you imagine soldiers living in Havana and Babylon. That is where your soldiers come from to go to what you call the barracks. Their whole living conditions; housing, benefits and all these kinds of things need to be taken care of and not only the salaries. The essential point is, take care of the men and women in uniform properly in order to avoid any incidents of coup d'états in the future. We must take good care of them.

We have decided as a Nation that we shall have an Army and that is constitutional now, no one can wipe it off from the Namibian soil. We have established an Army, we have established the Police Force, and all that we need to do is to take good care of them like we are striving to take care of all Namibians collectively in order to improve the living standard of our people. We should own this country and Honourable Iivula-Ithana also spoke about this the other day, we should not only defend the country in the interests of foreigners, it does not hold water. We must make sure that this country is indeed free and independent and that Namibians enjoy the benefit of the Independence they fought for.

Honourable Speaker, with those few remarks, I rest my case. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Moongo.

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HON MOONGO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, welcome back all of you from the recess. I hope you will pay attention to my speech this afternoon. I will divide my speech into three categories namely; socio, economic and security.

On the point of security; this House must make provision in the Budget for a Commission that would administer passion killing that is perpetrated against women. It has reached an alarming point to such an extent that we cannot rest on our laurels anymore. I am requesting all men in Namibia to stop this deadly act forthwith and I also urge Namibian women to control their behaviour, to stop exposing themselves when they walk alone at night and the majority invite more trouble to themselves by sometimes demanding money and cell phones from boyfriends. Parties also contribute to the trouble women attract to themselves. They must stop this. Let everybody try to (intervention).

HON KAPIA: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Order; Namibia is free and everybody is free forever. As leaders we cannot say a section of our population must sleep at 17:00 whilst others are allowed to walk up to 01:00 the next morning, it cannot happen.

Honourable Moongo you were doing very well but you missed the point to say women must control their behaviours. All the women who were killed were not even walking on the streets they were killed in their rooms. Therefore, we have to be very careful when we are making our statements. That is all I wanted to say.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo continue, have that in mind.

HON MOONGO: Yes Honourable Speaker I am proposing a special Commission to be established with a prime role (intervention).

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HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is just a point of direct returns of time allocation and the days. Today is APP - 45 and he did speak and the next from the Opposition is RDP. That is all I wanted to raise.

HON SPEAKER: What is it now?

HON MOONGO: Now my time is going to be less again.

HON SPEAKER: I am advised the reason is because we did not sit on Friday.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Speaker, I am proposing a special Commission to be established with the prime role to determine the root causes of passion killing. This Commission must be composed of a retired Judge, retired Bishop, Police, Psychologist, Forensic Expert, Traditional Leaders, Doctor and some of the victims. Their other role could also be coordinate Restorative Justice and Distributive Justice because of the unequal distribution of wealth among the poor women and the disadvantaged in our society.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members I propose that everyone... SWAPO is finishing all my time! (Intervention).

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HON SPEAKER: I cannot see the light.

HON MOONGO: May I continue?

HON SPEAKER: Please hold on for a moment.

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members...(intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Moongo, I will give you the Floor, let us just fix this because if I do not see the red light I cannot give the Floor. There is a Point of Order.

HON MANOMBE-NCUBE: Honourable Speaker, on a Point Order; I do not know whether we should continue with what Honourable Moongo said that women should control themselves, could we not ask him to withdraw that before he continues because this is very bad, even in the eyes of the public and the families of the people who have been killed in this way. Can he withdraw that, Honourable Speaker?

HON SPEAKER: Can you withdraw that and continue Honourable?

HON MOONGO: Colleagues as I am leading (intervention).

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HON SPEAKER: Just withdraw and continue?

HON MOONGO: Okay I withdraw that.

HON SPEAKER: Please continue now.

HON MOONGO: Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, I hope everyone realises that the drought situation will hit many parts of Namibia this year again. There will not be enough food for our people and the majority will starve. The livestock will die again in some of the Regions and I appeal to the Government to find a remedy instead of proposing that farmers should sell the few livestock they are left with from 2013, like they did, last year.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to congratulate the Minister of Finance and her staff for a well polished Budget. Well done with the allocations for Education and of course, many others, although there are a few loopholes and deliberate omissions.

The Budget is informative but lacks some practical methods. The first priority motivated by the Minister is to bolster and expand the Namibian economy so that our country can achieve a higher economic growth rate. I would like to (intervention).

HON T MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker, on the Point of Order; I would like the Honourable Member to indicate the deliberate omissions the Minister has made in the Budget?

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HON MOONGO: I am coming to those omissions. I would like to discuss some of the omissions and loopholes in the Budget.

Little has been said about true reconciliation. The situation that “*we have forgiven but we will never forget*” is still a thorn in the flesh, it means there is still a big gap between those who were in exile and those who were inside the country. Their hearts are still full of anger and bitterness, I, therefore, propose that a Commission of truth be established in Namibia to reconcile the Namibian people.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members, another omission is the persistent problem of elephants destroying crops; *omahangu* and *omatanga* which people always complained about but the Budget never addressed the compensation of the losses of *omatanga*. (Intervention).

HON KAPIA: Honourable Speaker, I am sitting here pondering on the statement of Honourable Moongo; I do not understand what he means by saying that not budgeting for those who were in exile and those who were inside, is a loophole and I do not know whether anybody in this House understands what he really means.

Therefore, I want to tell Honourable Moongo that we are debating the Budget and we cannot budget for people who were in exile and those who were inside the country, that can unfortunately not happen and it is not part of this Budget. I, therefore, ask Honourable Moongo to please withdraw the omission. Withdraw it, otherwise you will not proceed.

HON MOONGO: Honourable Kapia is not the Speaker and I can only do what the Honourable Speaker asks me to do. However, what I am talking about is the attitude, and that the gap between those who were in exile and in the country still exists. We want true reconciliation, just like

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the Minister of Defence said they wanted a united Army but there is a serious gap and we want to seal that gap. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: On a Point of Order and to provide some direction; I know that I will have my chance to respond but I am really puzzled by the latest part of the intervention of the Honourable Member because he keeps saying that the Budget is not addressing the reconciliation between those who were in exile and those who were in the country.

I am not aware of any policy of this Government to reconcile between those who were outside and those who were inside the country because we were never at war. There was no war between those who were outside and those who were inside the country that obliges us to reconcile at all. The reconciliation is between those who perpetrated oppression and colonialism against sections of the population of this country on both those who were inside and those who went out of the country.

I, therefore, think the Honourable Members is really confusing the public when he talks about reconciliation between those who were outside and those who were inside the country.

HON SPEAKER: Now it is clear for me too, I will direct you withdraw.

HON MOONGO: I propose that a Commission should be established (intervention).

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HON SPEAKER: This is a standing position of Honourable Moongo that is why I was allowing him to continue. He has a case that he even has Motions for, but the Minister of Finance is quite correct; there was no fight between those in exile and those here at home. You have your own thing and I would ask you to withdraw that part of it. That is a totally different thing, it has nothing to do with the current Budget.

HON MOONGO: I propose for the Commission.

HON KAPIA: Withdraw!

HON SPEAKER: Withdraw, Honourable Moongo.

HON MOONGO: It is my good stance and we want that to be out.

HON SPEAKER: Withdraw, otherwise I will rule you Out of Order. Just withdraw and continue.

HON MOONGO: Yes, I withdraw it. Another loophole in the Budget is that it never made provision for the prevention of crocodiles from consistently attacking and killing people at the Kavango and Kunene Rivers when fetching water. (Intervention).

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HON SPEAKER: I think the Police should arrest his crocodiles
(*laughter*).

HON MOONGO: Money is supposed to be budgeted for the construction of iron bars, a reasonable distance away from where people fetch water in order to save people's lives. (Intervention).

HON WITBOOI: On a Point of Order; may I ask the Honourable senior Member a question? You mentioned about a loophole and I want to understand it clearly so that we can work on it. Is there a loophole in the Kavango River so that we can see how we can close it? Thank you.

HON MOONGO: One of the prime priorities of the Government is to protect the lives of the citizens of Namibia and those people killed by crocodiles at the Kavango River are citizens of this country who are not protected. You are making a mockery of the safety and security of the community. Why do you not go now and fetch water there for yourselves? Only because you have good tap water, you do not worry. It should be a basic principal of any Government to protect the lives its people instead of making a mockery of their safety.

Another omission is that they did not increase the allowance of senior Traditional Leaders in this current year and also dismally failed to initiate allowance for the Headmen and even Sub-headmen. They have been serving the community without being given any incentives. Why do you pump the money into the salaries of Civil Servants all the time? (Intervention).

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HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: Thank you Honourable Speaker, just a small question and little information to let us relax a bit.

I have this afternoon observed that, I do not know whether it is by design or coincidence, Honourable Amweelo is sitting in a row of four female Members alone (*laughter*).

HON SPEAKER: That is unfair. Honourable Moongo, continue.

HON MOONGO: I was talking about the allowance and incentives to the Headmen and Sub-headmen who have been working for over ten years without receiving any incentives. The Sub-headmen have been serving the community everyday and every year without receiving anything. Is the Government turning a blind eye to it or what? We want them to get incentives because they serve the community more than you who are sitting here. You do not even visit the community.

HON MEMBER: I am also a Sub-headman.

HON MOONGO: Do you get something? You do not, only because Civil Servants get enough and they always get increases. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to see that the Sub-headmen also get incentives in order to serve their people.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on Page 21 of the Finance Minister's Budget Speech she indicated that there will be an increase in the financial assistance received by students in the current Budget. There are a lot of bogus student loans provided to students studying at

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institutions of higher learning and this puts financial pressure on the poor parents. The money provided to students studying at institutions like UNAM and the Polytechnic of Namibia is switched from one student to the other, there is chaos in the administration there. Why is there no control? Honourable Minister, please correct the current problem before adding more trouble to the administration of these loans.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on Page 15 of her Budget Speech, the Honourable Minister of Finance introduced presumptive tax on small business. This plan will ruin and cause a downfall of small businesses. It will result in a situation of; *reap where you did not sow*. I, therefore, propose that small businesses be exempted from paying taxes because they are struggling to survive and struggling to promote their businesses in Namibia. Let the small businesses grow and prosper. With this few remarks, I rest my case. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Makgone.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you Honourable Speaker, my intervention will be very short.

I rise to support the *Appropriation Bill* as tabled by the Minister of Finance Honourable, Kuugongelwa-Amathila. Honourable Speaker after the presentation of this Budget I made it a point to listen to and read the comments made with regards to the Budget and to my opinion, looking back at the three years that I am here; I saw that this Budget was the least criticised compared to those of the previous years. I came across comments like; *“There is nothing surprising in this Budget”* and also things like; *“This Budget is boring,”* just because there was not much to criticise on. It is for this reason that I want to congratulate the Honourable Finance Minister and her entire team for all the work done, from the preparation up to the tabling of this Budget.

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The Honourable Minister should be applauded for the measures put in place for the collection of revenue as we see it increasing through the years. We hope that with the creation of the Revenue Agency, it will take this function to greater heights.

I have one comment on **Value Addition**: In her speech, the Honourable Minister mentioned the introduction of taxes to promote value addition in the primary commodity and natural resources. Equally, the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry, during his Ministerial Statement said; “*we need to transform the economy from its heavy reliance on the production and export of raw material commodities.*” I want to touch on the issue of value addition in relation to the ownership of the economy that some Honourable Members previously expressed themselves on.

Honourable Speaker, all the Honourable Members sitting here know that the most beneficial part of value addition is employment creation that we are all preaching in this country. We want jobs and we should create jobs.

Let me take the Agricultural Sector as an example: The issue of animals, or a percentage thereof, to be exported on hoof became a heated Debate in this august House. We came here with several reasons on why this and that cannot be implemented, just because of conflict of interest; we focus on how the producer’s profits will be affected. The question is: is it enough to focus on the profits for the producers at the expense of value addition, unemployment and the growth of the Meat Sector that will at the end bring about essential growth of the Namibian economy in order to realise Vision 2030? That is a question that we need to ask ourselves and provide an answer to. Honourable Speaker, the problem is that we put our individual interests before the national interest, and that will not take us anywhere. I vividly remember an utterance from Honourable Tjihiuko last year saying; “*The South African market does not need your meat.*” Does it mean that they do not need our meat but they need our cattle and our goats as is?

Can we as Namibians start developing the culture of ownership by realising that the economy belongs to us and that one or the other time we

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need to make a contribution, not only to the economy, but to the livelihood of the citizens through job creation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we are aware that our country is facing many challenges as they were mentioned here; education, health, unemployment, domestic violence, killing of women and children on which I will take the Floor to deliberate on the resumption of the Debate on Motion that has already been tabled, that can only be tackled by Namibians and no one else.

We as Namibians have shown on several occasions what we are capable of. Let me just take the two recent world class events that we hosted as examples; on the 27th of September 2013, we hosted the UNCCD and at the end of October 2013, we hosted the Adventure Travel, we succeeded in hosting those events beyond reasonable doubt. In addition to that, we can even mention the drought.

If we could succeed in hosting events of this magnitude successfully one month apart from each other, what other challenge should be too big or too difficult for us to overcome? I sat and pondered by myself on what made it possible for us to succeed and in my opinion arrived at the following seven points and I will mention them:

- 1) During those events, single minded leadership was at play. The leadership was focussed on getting the job done. The team devoted all its energy to one single ambition and that was to succeed. As Namibians, consumed by the passion and the will to succeed. Red flags were there. We thought of crime and the safety of our visitors. However, we did succeed because of the single minded leadership.
- 2) Namibia delivered because there were clear targets from transportation to infrastructure and media facilities. I remember there being questions asked about where we were going to host it. We had to switch from one hotel to the other. There were Clear targets.
- 3) We succeeded because nothing was guaranteed. If we could not deliver, the opportunity to host could be taken away from us and given

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to another country but we wanted to. The pressure of withdrawal if we could not deliver helped us to succeed.

- 4) We delivered because of the pressure of external accountability. Remember people from the United Nation coming here to do some inspection; that is why they change the hosting from one hotel to the other hotel because of a safety concern. Therefore, there was external pressure. In all the challenges that we face there will be external pressure because people from outside will be looking at us. Questions will be asked as to how we are handling the drought, our unemployment situation and whatever challenges we are facing.
- 5) We delivered because of the national prestige. We wanted to be seen and we did it. Every citizen knew that this was not about Adventure Travel, it was not about UNCCD but it was about the national prestige. It was about Namibia and we did it.
- 6) We delivered because of the broad participation by all our people; the ordinary people, the unemployed, the volunteers, etcetera.
- 7) We delivered because there was political will to do well. Honourable Speaker, did you notice that with these events we were not subjected to the Political Party division thing? We were united in our determination to make the event successful.

Honourable Speaker, when you have faith you are always hopeful. As Namibians, we delivered on these extravaganza events and in my opinion these events carried powerful lessons for service delivery of the ordinary things that frustrates or which the citizens complained about. If we follow these lessons, we will succeed in the challenges facing the Nation.

HON SPEAKER: We are past the time.

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**ADJORNMENT
HON DR GURIRAB**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: We will be able to say with pride; *Our Namibia, Our Pride, Our Nation*. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: We are past our time, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow, 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:47 UNTIL 2014.03.05 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
05 MARCH 2014**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Good afternoon, Honourable Members. We shall commence with the Business scheduled for today.

Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable 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) Regional Council of the Oshikoto Region for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012; and
- (ii) Regional Council of the Omusati Region for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2012.

I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, please table the Report. Any further Reports and Papers? Notice of Motions? Honourable Amweelo.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON DR AMWEELO**

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that Leave of Absence, due to official business, be granted to the Honourable of Foreign Affairs from 26 February 2014 until 13 March 2014; and

To the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry from 22 February 2014 until 15 March 2014. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Member, please table the Motion. I am informed that the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister has something to say. Deputy Prime Minister.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Honourable Members of the National Assembly, Cabinet decided a week ago that Thursday, the 06th of March 2014, be declared a National Day of Prayers in all Regions of our beloved country.

Cabinet further directed that all Political Leaders, students, Civil Servants, workers, youth, peasants, Traditional Leaders, Religious Leaders, Business Leaders, Civic Organisations, Community Leaders and all Namibians from all parts of the country and from all walks of life be mobilised to participate in this event and that all bells in the country should ring concurrently at 13:00 with the observance of a minute of silence in honour of all women and girls who are victims of Gender-Based Violence.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON HAUSIKU**

His Excellency, Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, the President of the Republic of Namibia will address the Nation in Windhoek at the Sam Nujoma Stadium on the 06th of March 2014, tomorrow, as the Head of State and Government.

At the Regional level, the Governors will deliver the President's Speech. The Regional programmes are to be obtained the respective Chief Regional Officers.

All the employers and employees must attend the National Prayers at their respective venues.

Authorisation is granted to all staff members to attend the National Prayer on Gender-Based Violence which will start at 12:00, on 06 March 2014. As this is a working day, it is mandatory for all staff members to attend the prayer session, with an exception of those performing essential services. All staff members are expected to leave their duties stations at 10:00 and be seated by 11:00.

All the liquor outlets should be closed and no alcohol is to be sold on that day. The Inspector-General, the President of the Shebeen Association and the Chief Executive of the Namibian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI) have been informed to inform those businesses that are trading in liquor that all the liquor outlets must be closed and no alcohol is to be sold on that day, as said earlier.

Comrade Speaker, I would like to formally inform and invite all the Honourable Members of this august House to attend this important National Prayer and will Move at the end of the Session that this august House will resume at 15:00 on Thursday, 06 March 2014, after the programme has ended.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, may I now take this opportunity to thank you very much for your kind attention.

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HON SPEAKER: As your voice is customary loud and clear, we heard you. I take it that we will all honour the invitation that was extended to us by the State House through you, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister. Thank you.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND READING:
APPROPRIATION BILL [B.3 – 2014]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading: *Appropriation Bill* [B.3 – 2014].

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, the 04th of March 2014, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be read a Second Time. Honourable Naholo had Floor at the adjournment and I give him the Floor.

HON NAHOLO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, you may recall that before we closed Business last week, I was on the Floor, however, time could not allow me to wrap up my Debate.

At that stage, I was giving a lecture on Black Economic Empowerment; and I was saying that, when talk about Black Economic Empowerment in relation to the formerly disadvantaged, we must consider both the currently advantaged and the previously disadvantaged because we have a small group of the politically well-connected who happen to be greedy and grab all the available opportunities. You find them almost

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everywhere; in mining, agriculture, fishing, construction and the list is long.

HON MEMBER: Who are they?

HON NAHOLO: I do not want to be misunderstood but to be understood correctly that I am not against anybody at all. However, I am seriously against this absurd mentality of empowering only a small number of people while the majority are being denied the same opportunities.

Within the current disadvantaged group there are also fellow white Namibians, but we continue to blame them for the wrongs of the past. If this chronic disease is not stopped now, what are you to say to the white Namibian children who were born at Independence and thereafter? Therefore, as far as I am concerned, the term “Black Economic Empowerment” has no relevance any longer. We should try to empower all our people irrespective of colour or creed, sex, social status or ethnic group. (Intervention).

HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT: May I ask the Honourable Member a small question and also provide information?

My dear Comrade, Honourable Peter Naholo, are you aware that the Head of State of the Land of the Brave, His Excellency, Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba is on record having stated that he feels very uncomfortable for us to officially continue in a free and independent Republic of Namibia with the term Black Economic Empowerment and that the Government as per those expressed wishes has been seized with trying to find the appropriate term for what we would have wanted to achieve through the term Black Economic Empowerment. Are you aware of that?

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HON SPEAKER: Continue, Honourable Naholo.

HON NAHOLO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Minister, I think that was more information rather than a question and I thank you for that.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to move to another subject which is closest to my heart. This is none other than the Informal Economy. Many people who have been systematically dispossessed of the opportunity to have decent work and dignity as human beings are forced to engage in the Informal Sector activities as their main work to sustain themselves and their dependents. Namibia's unemployment rate is comparatively very high and a certain percentage of this has entered the Informal Sector for survival.

Disappointingly there is an influx of new entrants in our Informal Sector as a result of informal cross-border trade. Many Namibians, especially women who used to sell tomatoes, onions and so on, have been forced to close down their businesses due to tough competition in the market. Many of these women that I have personally spoken to are saying some of this people come to Namibia and they will initially be selling clothes but now they are selling anything that they can lay their hands on, even *goggas* if you are not careful because they are so desperate.

Foreign traders have proven to be more advanced in terms of business acumen and experience than their local counterparts. I am talking about people who can pick flowers from your garden while you are sleeping, like Honourable Kazenambo, I am happy he is not around, is he here? It is good that he is listening. After doing that they sell the same flowers to you the next morning, after adding some little value of course. They are even connected to suppliers as opposed to our local traders. These suppliers can deliver the goods to them wherever they find themselves. Our people cannot be competitive because there is no sufficient support for them. I, therefore, wish to recommend that sufficient credit be made available to those in the Informal Sector and even enable them to study at

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vocational training centres. This will enable them to acquire new skills so that in the long run they could graduate from Small to Medium Enterprises, etcetera.

Regarding the invasion of our Informal Sector by foreign traders, I do not want to be understood to be xenophobic but technophobic; I am also aware of the regional economic integration and would like to find out from the Ministry of Trade and Industry whether Namibia has formally put a policy to regulate informal cross border trade (ICBT) in place? I am happy Comrade Schlettwein is listening.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, I do not want talk about the wanton destruction of *Kambashus* (shacks) in the informal settlements. I also do not want to refer to the incident that took place recently at the Goreangab area. We see the same phenomenon at DRC settlement in Swakopmund and also at Area-7 in Luderitz. All these people are going through similar pains. And they are asking - how long will the Namibian people be frustrated by their own leaders?

It defies logic to remove poor people from their places of dwelling and render them homeless while at the same time selling land to the politicians for peanuts. It is high time for the Government to make it clear... Honourable Kazenambo, when did you wake up? (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON KAZENAMBO: Comrade Naholo, can I ask you a question? You are saying that politicians are buying land for peanuts; as a politician, did you buy land for peanuts or what?

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HON NAHOLO: Some, not all of them.

HON KAZENAMBO: Yes, you must say some, not all them.

HON NAHOLO: Some, excluding, Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Thank you.

HON NAHOLO: I was just saying that; this Government must make it clear to the people of this country whether their goal is to promote the economic wellbeing of the politicians or to maximise the wellbeing of society as a whole.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, since evictions have become the order of the day where people are evicted from:

- a) their houses by banks;
- b) street markets and who are being pushed around by the Police; and
- c) their shacks.

While this people are poor, powerless and small, they would also want to one day enjoy the comfort of suing someone big or rich by instituting litigation for unlawful detention and assault.

I, therefore, recommend that more funding be made available to the Directorate of Legal Aid in order to make justice accessible to the poor. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker for giving me the Floor to make my brief comment on the 2014/2015 Budget Statement.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in support of the 2014/2015 Budget, I would like to comment on some issues raised in this Budget, amongst others:

1. Infrastructural Development;
2. Housing and Land Provision;
3. Gender-Based Violence;
4. Defence and Security
5. International Relations

1. Infrastructural Development:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe that the Infrastructural Development of any country is very important. In fact the level of the economic position of any country is measured by the type, number and quality of infrastructure – be it the road infrastructure, railways, air as well as other buildings of national importance.

I have to gratify the Namibian Government for coming up with new infrastructural development and improvements of the existing ones over the past 24 years. Allow me to mention a few:

- Trans Kalahari Highway;
- Improvement of road infrastructures across the country, be it gravel or tarred roads;
- Extension of the Tsumeb-Oshikango railway;
- The Heroes Acre;
- The new State House
- The new Museum

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- Several High Courts, Magistrate Courts as well as our Supreme Court, and many other buildings, the list goes on.

It is against the aforesaid information that I wholeheartedly support each and every cent budgeted for any infrastructure of this nature.

Namibia is a very young Nation; 24 years are just like 24 days in comparison to more than 100 years of colonial oppression.

As another Member of Parliament before stated, we have inherited a very big colonial deficit, a huge socio-economic deficit and a huge development deficit.

To be specific, I fully support the idea of constructing a new Parliament building. One cannot be expected to wait up to 100 years to come up with the new the Parliament. Where will the money come from?

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I note the criticism leveled against the construction of the new National Assembly with sadness. It makes me question the rationale behind it. Is it really the money or is there something else? Do they perhaps want to preserve the colonial architectural design of some of these buildings? (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. On a Point of Information; I think it is critically important for one to try and provide the exact information.

The argument about the construction of the new Parliament was not based on the fact that there is no need for a new Parliament but it is a question of priority. Looking at our current state of education and the fact that we cannot increase the old age pension at the moment with at least the

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N\$50.00 that we always increase with, it is not logical for us to say that it is more important for us to have a new Parliament as opposed to looking at the interest of the poor and it is where we differ.

It is not a question of we oppose but a question of prioritising and looking at what will benefit the majority of our people. Is it the new Parliament or investing more in education and other things?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Speaker, the Namibian Government is a very responsible Government and the allocation of funds in the current Budget is a witness in itself, everybody is catered for.

What I am saying is that we need a new parliament building with facilities that will cater for the needs of Parliamentarians and the public at large. A building with enough, well equipped committee rooms, a conference hall with video conferencing facilities for public viewing, as well as wellness facilities for the Members of Parliament. That is what I am talking about.

Honourable Members, you may recall that Namibia as a State is anchored on three pillars; the Executive, Judiciary and the Legislature. I have already mentioned the constructions of the other new buildings during the 24 years of Independence and only the Legislature was not taken care of. I, henceforth, call upon the Honourable Members to support the construction of the new Parliament. We are not saying that the current building will be destroyed; there are many usages for it. Namibia does not exist in a vacuum, we have the SADC Parliamentary Forum there and one of the days it may become a legislative body based in Namibia, where do you think we are going to house bodies and institutions of that calibre?

I will proceed, Honourable Speaker.

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2. Housing and Land Provision:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the provision of housing is directly linked to the availability of land, particularly in an urban set up. The effort made by the Government through the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development to come up with the Mass Housing Project is very much appreciated.

This process should, however, be closely monitored by the relevant institutions including the relevant Parliamentary Committees to ensure that this noble project is benefitting the intended beneficiaries in terms of the workforce, the salaries they receive, the number of houses to be build and distributed and in terms of who are; the needy in our society, the homeless, workers and, indeed the fair allocation of tenders to the companies that submitted their bids. One company cannot receive the entire cake. I also plead that the beneficiaries be extended to include Government institutions so that some houses are allocated to the Civil Servants, considering the fact that houses are very expensive. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: What Point are you rising on, Honourable Mushelenga?

HON T MUSHELENGA: Thank you Honourable Speaker. May I ask the Honourable Deputy Speaker a question?

Honourable Deputy Speaker, given the high-rocketing prices of land, do you not think that the exorbitant prices of houses is caused by the prices of land?

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I am coming to that point, my Colleague. I have already said that the provision of houses is linked to the availability of land and land is very expensive.

Henceforth, there is a need to revisit the provision of the Constitution, particularly, Article 16 and 100. Government should own land within the urban set up, through that it will be easier to provide accommodation for students who are in need, young staff members who just entered the job market and the poorest of the poor. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. The Honourable Deputy Speaker is really making very interesting points.

Talking about the Government owning land in urban areas; land in urban areas is one of the sources of income for municipalities, do you not think that the moment Government starts taking over land in urban areas, it should subsidise the operation of towns and cities?

If the Government is concerned about the cost of land, why can the Government not do the same thing, subsidise land the way they subsidise it when it comes to the leadership, the Ministers and Deputy Ministers, where they have been subsidised to zero?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Speaker, can you proceed.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Speaker, thank you for allowing me to proceed, I will proceed.

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Some countries for example, Botswana and especially Ethiopia; for those people who have been to Addis Ababa, although Ethiopia is known to us as a poor country, Addis Ababa is booming thanks to their good strategies. In Ethiopia, you will find that they do not remove the informal settlements that are in the vicinity of mansions, but instead replace them with proper structures like flats and make provision for extra space where people can sell their things on the ground floor.

I was saying, once the Government own land, it will stabilize the prices charged by Local Authorities.

Concerning youngsters who have just entered the job market, whether they are degrees or PhD holders, end up living in flats paying high rental fees monthly and their earnings end up in the landlord's pocket. It is evident that our daughters are being murdered in those flats. When their boyfriends meet other girlfriends who are supporting them, they end up killing their current girlfriends because they do not know what to do with them. They end up killing young innocent women. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Muharukua.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: On a Point of Information; I think you are aware that men take advantage of the women's condition of being poor to the extent that we get killed by men. When women are empowered, they will not just be killed like cattle.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Colleague, I agree with you and will address that when I talk about Gender-Based Violence.

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I was saying that effort should be made to ensure that these strata of our society have reasonable land on which to build their houses. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: On a Point of Information; there was a remark made on this Floor of Parliament that needs clarity.

We are aware that housing is a serious problem but it is not good for a Member of Parliament to make a statement in this House saying that Ministers and Deputy Ministers are subsidised, and people who are really in need listen to such statements.

If statements of this nature are made in this House and are not corrected, whether we are playing party politics, if the bomb explodes, and I come from a military background, it does not discriminate on who or what you are. This is powder keg. If there is a corrupt Minister, mentioned the Minister, do not lump other innocent people. We are lawmakers here please!

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I have taken note of the Information you provided. In fact, the salary we receive is not enough; fortunately the majority of us in the National Assembly have houses here in Windhoek. However, take for example, Members of the National Council; their family homes are in their Constituencies, they come to Windhoek and have to rent flats where they have to fork out up to N\$10,000.00, imagine what is left over and they also have their families to look after. This is the kind of information that should be made available to the people in order for them to understand our dilemma.

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3. Gender-Based Violence:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me, first of all commend Cabinet for trying to improve the Criminal Justice System in order to address this Evil.

I am mum when it comes to this topic. How many times was this topic debated in this august House? This issue has been moved in this House before and referred to the relevant Committee, recommendations have been made and nothing has been done. I hope that now is time for us to wake up and take action. Let us refer to our Hansard and follow up these recommendations while at the same time adding or improving our strategies.

I know that we are going to pray tomorrow at the National Prayer Day and I equally believe that prayers can move mountains but we should not sit back and relax. We should exploit every method at our disposal. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister of Justice.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I am very much at pains to interrupt you, but you have made a very important point on the issue of recommendations not being implemented.

Comrade Speaker, are you aware that a document was tabled in this Honourable House called; *The Report of the Presidential Commission of Enquiry – Ministry of Health and Social Services to His Excellency, the President Hifikepunye Pohamba January 31, 2013?* This document actually mentions the shortcomings that are inherent in the system but how many of us have taken time to look at the shortcomings that are

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described in this document as far as the system is concerned? Are you waiting for the President to institute a Commission of Enquiry for each and every Sector? Even the Opposition complains that this document must be made public but this document has not been read.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Speaker, before you continue; the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister proposed, and we agreed that the resumption of the Motion on Gender-Based Violence exemplified in recent killings of women will be the agenda item and we will discuss on that on the 11th of March 2014. You may say what you want to say now but you will also have another opportunity discuss that.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Should I not address it now?

HON SPEAKER: No, just be aware that there is a specialised dedicated Debate later. Go ahead and say what you want to say now.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Speaker, I take note of that. I just tell myself that something needs to be done. Crime is everybody's problem and we have to start off from where we are by looking at different radical means.

Please allow me to add the quotation, of Archbishop Desmond Tutu while acting as the President of Truth and Reconciliation Commission, that I have always been quoting; *“Crime is everyone’s problem. It reflects an inability of people to be just and fair in their dealings with one another. It panders to the shadow side of human nature where greed, violence and injustice lurk in each of us. Crime is a complex issue involving family background, employment opportunities, education levels, economic and*

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social positions, as well as individual personal choice.” Therefore, the solutions to this crime are also complex. I will end here and wait until the Debate on this particular Motion resumes again.

I just want to emphasise that each one of us has a solution to this evil crime whether at our homes, our churches, salons, bars, etcetera. The other day, a lady who was attending to my hair at the salon shared her opinion with me, she said; “*Meme Loide, this people who are killing others like that should be abusing drugs like dagga and mandrax.*” This could be true. She further said that the punishment of people who are dealing with drugs should also be toughened which is also true because you cannot imagine a person slitting someone else’s throat under normal circumstances.

4. Defence and Security:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I just want to add to what previous speakers mentioned that it is very important to keep our members of the Defence Force motivated by providing them with better housing facilities, uniform and equipment.

The Defence of any country must always be prepared because anything can happen at any time. A few years back we were sitting with a Member of Parliament here without knowing that he had plans to one day turn against our Constitution. The case in point here is the Caprivi High Treason. I, therefore, support the money budgeted for our Ministry of Defence.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would just like to mention here that I had the privilege to attend the Heads of State AU Summit in Addis Ababa and I am happy to note that whenever our Heads of State stood up they supported the decolonisation of the Saharawi Republic. There was a time that some members wanted to get rid of this item on the agenda but Namibia and others fought tooth and nail. Every day they debated and their emphasis was focused on Morocco to give this people their self-determination. I am elated about this.

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I am also happy with the peace and stability prevailing in the SADC Organ States and in the same breath commend them for their effort in obtaining peace in Madagascar. I will, however, be more contented when the SADC Parliamentary Forum will be given the function, not the power, to make Model Laws for the region. The same applies to the Pan African Parliament, to be given the function to make Model Laws for the Continent without encroaching upon the legislature of National Parliaments within the SADC Region.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, with this I support the 2014/215 Budget. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Colleague. Honourable Tjongarero.

HON A TJONGARERO: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to join the others before me to thank and congratulate the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her team for the job well done.

When we talk about the Budget, most of us think in terms of improvement of circumstances. I said it in the past and I am saying again that the issue of monies being returned to the Treasury from the Ministries must be addressed. Ministries budget for vacancies and rightfully so, because there are shortages of manpower in the Ministries, but it is the same story at the end every of the Financial Year that vacancies are not filled and the monies are returned, year in year out.

As a member of Public Accounts Committee, it is disheartening to find that nothing is done about this issue; why are there no penalties for those who budget for vacancies and do not fill them, can something be done about that? Monies so returned to Treasury could have been used to fulfill other needs somewhere.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, my next point is about service delivery and customer care. People apply for jobs in the Ministries, but once employed, they do not want to work. I am not saying all of them, but the majority of them are already angry early in the morning, even if you greet them, they will not respond. Customer care is almost non-existent unless someone knows you.

The other worrisome thing is the issue of writing a letter when you want an appointment with the Minister. I asked this in the past and I am asking again; what about an elderly person who cannot write and, especially in English? If such a person has an issue to discuss, he/she has to pay someone to write a letter just to get an appointment. After getting the appointment to go and present your case, you are again requested to put whatever your complaint is in writing this means another expense, yet again. My question is; is this to deter people from bringing up issues bothering them or what is the purpose? Service delivery and customer care are very important parts of the Civil Service, thus something must be done. I do not know why some Ministries do not request you to write letters, you can just call and make an appointment but at others it is a problem, you have to write that letter. I do not understand that *writing* part.

HON SPEAKER: I am frankly speaking surprised to hear that. I was a Minister before and if I was not there, the Deputy Minister, Permanent Secretary, Directors and so on, would be there. Is this really true? I feel ashamed.

Honourable Tjihuiko.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may ask my Colleague a small

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question?

Honourable Tjongarero, the point that you are making is critically important, do you not think that it is high time now (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Why do you not just say it? I know it is your style of speaking but I sometimes also want to know what you yourself believe in.

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, let me put it this way; Honourable Tjongarero, do you not think that today is maybe the time for the Honourable Members to explain why they want people to make appointments in writing? They are here; they can at least stand up and explain one by one so that we know.

HON SPEAKER: Continue, Honourable Tjongarero.

HON A TJONGARERO: Honourable Speakers, Honourable Members, as I said; customer care and service delivery are very important (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kazenambo.

HON KAZENAMBO: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information, I was a Deputy Minister and Minister until two years ago; what Honourable Tjongarero is saying here is true.

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It is true for some Ministries, true for some Ministers and even what is worse is that when you call a Minister, some secretaries have the audacity to tell you; *I want to know in connection with what you want to talk to the Minister*, and if the Minister is in a meeting, his Deputy Minister is in a meeting and the Director is on a workshop, that is the end of it. These secretaries are gatekeepers *par excellence*. If you go to the Ministry, you will be sent from one post to another pillar. It is happening in some Ministries, why should we deny these things. We must provide service to our people.

If you do not do it at your Ministry, do not say that your Colleague is also not doing it. It is not fair, *oviporoporo!*

HON SPEAKER: Continue, Honourable Tjongarero.

HON A TJONGARERO: Honourable Speakers, Honourable Members, as I said; customer care and service delivery are very important parts of a Civil Servant. It is unfortunate that in **some** Ministries, it seems that there is no code of conduct; you will be standing in a queue while the person on the other side is on the phone and you can hear that it is not an official conversation taking place but it goes on, and on, despite the queue that is ever becoming longer. To add insult to injury, after 5 people have been assisted you are told that the person is going to, I do not know where, and the rest must come the next day. It is unfortunate that we experience all these things while so many people ask for jobs. Budgetary allocations are made, people are given jobs and then the problem starts. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister.

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HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: On a Point of Information; I only want to request the Honourable Member without denying what she is saying is happening whether it would not be possible when my secretary treats you like that, for you to contact me and tell me your secretary treated me like that so that I will deal with that individual.

The problem is that when it is said people behave like that in the Ministry, even if you gather people in your Ministry and ask; *who treats people like that?* You will not get an answer. Let us point these people out and then the Minister should be responsible to act against those individuals. I will love it that way. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: That is a good idea. Continue, Honourable Tjongarero.

HON A TJONGARERO: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on the issue of Gender Based Violence; I think that we must create a platform where men can be given an opportunity to tell us why all these killings are taking place, all of a sudden. We are talking and talking but it seems that men are not involved in our discussions about Gender-Based Violence. We might get the answers that we are looking for.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, with this very short contribution, I support the *Appropriation Bill*. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Uutoni.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank

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you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, first and for most, allow me to also join the other Honourable Members who contributed before me, to thank the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her entire staff for a well-crafted Budget.

Honourable Speaker, my intervention today will only concentrate on three issues as follows:

1. The Namibian Dollar is linked to the South African Economy and the Rand as a Legal Tender in the Namibian Economy;
2. Social Safety Nets; and
3. Income Tax Relieve.

The Namibian Dollar is link to the South African Economy and the Rand as a Legal Tender in the Namibian Economy:

Honourable Speaker, to start with the first issue regarding the Namibian Dollar linked to the South African Economy; Comrade Minister, in your Budget Statement of 2014/2015 on Page 5, you informed the Nation that Namibia has made considerable progress in many spheres due to the proactive socio-economic development policies that were implemented. As a result of that, our economy has expanded by two and a half times since 1990. Further Namibia is positioned as the dream destination for local, regional and international tourism and financial stability, etcetera.

I am also quoting from the fiscal policy framework document for 2014/2015 to 2016/2017 Page 25 on the Economic Sector which reads as follows; *“Economic Sector: Namibia has enjoyed sound macroeconomic stability which has been re-affirmed by successive international credit worthiness ratings. Both Fitch Credit Rating and Moody’s Investor Services,*

Namibia’s two international crediting rating agencies, have reaffirmed the country’s macro economy soundness and long term credit worthiness.

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Moody has awarded Namibia a Baa3 long-term currency credit worthiness rating since 20011 and Fitch Credit Ratings has reaffirmed a stable BBB-rating alongside rating peers such as India, Indonesia, Croatia, Iceland and Morocco. The positive ratings reflect the Government's track record of responsible public finance management and an investor-friendly policy and legislative framework. Namibia enjoys general price stability with inflation generally low and public debt has remained within the sustainable benchmark levels”

Comrade Minister, Honourable Members, this tells me that our economy is doing well, and again if you add what we are doing with regard to the crop production, strong investment activities in the Mineral and Manufacturing Sectors, Namibia, I believe, is doing very well but our currency is still linked to the South African Economy. Until when will the Namibian Dollar remains link to the Rand, Comrade Minister? To my understanding the problem with the current situation is that, whenever the South African Rand becomes weaker against the US Dollar, we are also affected. I would prefer us to be on our own so that when it happens that the US Dollar become stronger, it will not affect Namibia as such. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Trade.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I have some information, if I am allowed to share.

I think the question on the Namibian Dollar pegged to the South African Rand is no to be seen in isolation but we have to look at it in terms of our regional economic integration agenda and I just want to provide information that, in SADC we have an integration agenda that includes a Common Monetary Area. In fact, the same is true for the AU, where we have an agenda where we want to economically integrate the Continent up to a stage of a Common Monetary Area. It is thus, in that aspect that a

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peg needs to be seen in the larger framework of things and that is the economic integration.

Secondly, we should not forget that the fact that we are linked to the South African Rand via the Common Monetary Area of South Africa, shielded us very well against the financial crisis that we have experienced, was it not for that, we would have had a much severe effect of the economic crisis than it was. I just want this to be seen in that light. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much for the information. Honourable Uutoni.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much. If that is what we have to interpret as regional integration then it maybe needs to be explained properly to the Nation because you have other currencies like the ones of Botswana, Zimbabwe, Angola and the rest that are independent. This should be explained to us so that we are more informed than only knowing that the Namibian Dollar is linked to the South African Rand.

1. Social Safety Nets:

Comrade Speaker, on the issue of Social Safety Nets; this Programme, as most of us know, has been expanded to cater for the Veterans of the Liberation struggle. Of course it is also catering for other groups but I mostly want to reflect on the Veterans of the Liberation Struggle. In my opinion, this good effort by the SWAPO Party Government is to improve the livelihoods of our people. The purpose of this Programme, I believe, was not only meant to sustain the targeted groups, but also to allow them to contribute to national development, State revenue and the economic growth of our country. However, Comrade Minister, I see that there are a

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lot of challenges facing these groups.

Having followed the progress of projects by the Comrades, I have come to realise that many of these projects are faced with challenges that made it difficult to manage successfully. Amongst many other challenges these projects face are lack of skills in project management, financial management and basic administrative skills.

I, therefore, propose and identify a need for another budgetary provision to be made available for workshops and training to assist in the skills development of Veterans. Honourable Members, I am, therefore, of the opinion that, if we really want these projects to succeed, additional resources need to be committed for such skills development. It is not good enough to provide people with financial assistance and expecting them to grow within the economy without investing in their skills development. Maybe a lot of these projects, as I am talking to you here, have failed and do no longer exist. I think we have to commit ourselves as leaders, that if we commit ourselves to providing money, we should also commit ourselves to ensuring that these people receive adequate training to manage their projects. Immediately their funds are approved, a workshop should be conducted. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, what is the Point of Order on?

HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Point of Information. Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. The training is, however, being conducted.

There is a management training course which is conducted twice yearly. Perhaps conducting it twice every year is not enough. Just to point it out. I agree that the training may not be enough but the question of the availability of funds also come into play considering that the training is

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provided across the entire country. The effort is, however, being made.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you very much. As I said, we should continue to make more efforts because we want our brothers and Comrades...(Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Sisters too.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Yes, thank you, Honourable Speaker. We want our brothers, Comrades and sisters to participate as good citizens in our economy.

2. Income Tax Relieve:

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, my third and last intervention is on the current Income Tax Relieve. Frankly speaking, I want to express my appreciation and thanks to the Honourable Minister and the entire Ministry of Finance for restructuring the individual income tax.

HON MEMBER: Did you benefit?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Yes, I benefited the majority of the Namibian citizens have also benefited.

Comrade Minister, maybe we did not express ourselves publicly on this but you have done a wonderful job for all of us. I recall when I came to

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Windhoek 4 years ago; I struggled to find a house and one cannot imagine the amount of the loan repayment and the tax deduction, this was unbelievably high. Some people would look at us inquisitively; *is this a Minister, he looks so weak?* But it was all because of that. In addition to that, include the car, it was tough! Now Honourable Tjihuiko is saying we are being subsidised. It is not true. The public out there also thinks that the cars that we are driving are not being taxed while we are paying a lot of money on those cars. It was not easy then.

However, today many citizens including myself are able to pay our home loans and afford to pay for other basic necessities such as water, electricity, food and others. Maybe I should ask the Honourable Minister of Finance a question; when is this income tax relieve going to end? I am humbly requesting you Honourable Minister that you extend this tax relieve for the next 10 years to come.

With this few remark, I thank you, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Beukes.

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

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I rise this afternoon to make my humble contribution on the *Appropriation Bill* in response to the Budget Statement by Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, our capable Minister of Finance.

By way of preface, I want to comment the Minister of Finance for the firm, yet gentle manner in which she has been handling this important and sensitive fiscal portfolio for the past number of years. She pays due diligence, is hardworking and succeeds every year to deliver a balanced Budget. Well done Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, your Deputy

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and staff of the Ministry of Finance for the excellent job.

The Founders of our Republic have given us a sound and safe Constitution. The foundation has been laid, the vineyard has been planted and we find ourselves, as a Nation, in good places. We are to enter this year in yet another set of General and Presidential Elections for the 3rd smooth political transition under the SWAPO Party. As we walk in the park, in this journey of nation building, we walk in the shade of trees planted by the Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation, Comrade Dr. Sam Nujoma. We are not in the sun.

Came our sitting President Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, he has moved forward and planted some fruit trees in our orchards. We are not hungry. Relief aid has been placed on the front burner reaching all parts of this country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am personally concerned by the division, enmity and hatred in our formally respected but now divided royal houses and tribes caused by the lack of well-defined succession plans in many cases. The Government of the Republic of Namibia is a Sovereign, Secular State not bound by religion and/ethnic preferences. Thus, we do not interfere in local clan and traditional matters and disputes trusting that internal processes will sort our differences amongst our people everywhere. In this unfortunate power struggles, the biggest loser is nation building as our people are fragmented and divided in their tribes and/or sub-tribes.

I am also concerned about the increasing Gender-Based Violence in our Nation, especially the so-called passion killings. Coming out of the struggle against colonialism and out of the Liberation Struggle, I agree that our communities still carry the scars of our national pain and hurt. Reading our newspapers, the impression is left that we are a violent Nation. Without being a psychologist, I want to risk by saying that we deal with a lot of anger and angry persons. The million dollar question is how education and relationship experts can help us, possibly including anger management to be made part of the school curriculum. I know

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parents have a role to play; Traditional and Church Leaders have a role to play in creating role models and to mentor today's young men and young women.

No single woman asks to be raped, to be killed but my plea today to men and women is to refrain from polygamy in pursuit of prosperity, wealth and positions of power. Cheating is a shameful practice associated in the past to only men, but nowadays I am made to understand, live and see for myself that some ladies need more than one boyfriend or husband to maintain unaffordable lifestyles. The flip side of the coin is true for men, that you cannot have concubines and *tjiramues*, and expect your wife to be loyal and humble.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, turning my mind on fiscal matters, I am concerned that financial institutions and banks continue to rip off our citizens. The fees are exorbitant and many of our people are trapped by signing without reading and understanding the fine print. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Mushelenga.

HON T MUSHELENGA: Honourable Speaker on a Point of Order; I would like the Honourable Member to withdraw the statement that ladies need more than one boyfriend, unless the Honourable Member says some because not all of the ladies need more than one boyfriend. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: It is generally a good observation there. Honourable Beukes.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL
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Yes, it is true Comrade, I understand that part. It is absolutely not all the women, however, it is just to point out to men that if it happens that a women has another boyfriend, men feel threatened and want to kill because they reason that who gives the other man the right to have a relationship with his girlfriend.

Honourable Members, to continue were I stopped; turning my mind on fiscal matters, I am concerned that financial institutions and banks continue to rip off our citizens. The fees are exorbitant and many of our people are trapped by signing without reading and understanding the fine print. Banks are not forthright and open with clients in terms of explaining hidden penalty Clauses and our people are enslaved to contracts without any breathing space.

The last word is not yet spoken on TIPEEG but we value and appreciate the gains, efforts and information released under Vote 26's Accountability Report. My concern here is that some Local Authorities still do not understand and appreciate the philosophy of TIPEEG aimed at creating new job opportunities. This Programme avails funds to create completely new jobs and is not meant as salary supplement to cash strip Local Authorities. In the past we have had no jobs because there is no money. In TIPEEG we find that money is availed but we lack innovation to create new job openings in our Local and Regional Authorities. While funds are available, we find some municipalities, for instance, do not undertake massive community projects to provide jobs to the locals. We will definitely look into it in the future.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am saying this to prove that there is a need to prove that there is a need to build and expand the capacity our Local and Regional Leaders. The bread and butter issues of our people are not at the national Government level but service delivery is synonymous for Regional and Local Government. (Intervention).

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HON TJIHUIKO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister a question in the absence of the Statistics Minister?

What you are saying that the service delivery by our Local Authorities is worrisome is true; when are you going to implement the Decentralisation Policy that was meant to address the issues that you are concerned with in Windhoek rather than down there in Katima or Okakarara? Why is the Government so sensitive about implementing the Law that we have passed here 20 years ago for the benefit of our people? What is the problem with your Ministry to implement the Government Law that we have passed here for the benefit of the poor instead of just controlling everything here in Windhoek?

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

Thank you, Honourable Member. Let me first inform you that I did not say all the municipalities but some municipalities.

The Government is also not sensitive, it is in the capable hands of the Ruling Party and for everything there is a written. Therefore, please sit back, relax and wait for what is to come. Enjoy your ride, enjoy the trip with us.

In some countries, even Community and Faith-Based institutions are encouraged to take the lead in the Public/Private initiative. (Intervention).

HON ULENGA: On a Point of Order, Comrade Speaker; the Deputy Minister just said something that is completely unspeakable in the House.

I am asking her to withdraw the part that says; *sit down and relax it is in the hands of the Ruling Party* because that is not accountability.

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HON MEMBER: Just ignore that.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL
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Thank you very much. Maybe it was not clear, let me continue.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in conclusion; the theme of the Budget is; (Intervention).

HON KAZENAMBO: Point of Information. The Colleagues from the unpopular Opposition Parties are trying to steal the show for nothing.

On the issue of decentralisation it is far from the truth that for the past 20 years the Policy of Decentralisation has not been rolled out. There is no iota of truth in that, the Policy of Decentralisation has been rolled out to all the 13 plus one Regions as a matter of fact and we have functional regional structures like Councils in terms of their Budgets, etcetera. The Programmes of Decentralisation are being implemented; therefore, the SWAPO Party Government has done it. It is even being done in Okakarara so you cannot manipulate and try to distort facts. Facts remain facts.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Deputy Minister.

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

Thank Honourable Kazenambo, that is exactly the case.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in conclusion; the theme of the Budget is; “*Fiscal Sustainability and Job-creating Growth – doing more with less,*” and it suggests prudence and discipline. It is simply a wake-up call that national coffers must be in check. Yes, we have survived the international economic crisis, but we should think twice and use our resources wisely. However, we should continue to build infrastructures connected and associated with our constitutional institutions and to our service delivery institutions.

With this few words, I want to congratulate our Finance Minister, giving her my support and vote. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kapia.

HON KAPIA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I rise to add my voice in support of the *Appropriation Bill* 2014/2015 and its Medium-Term Framework.

I want to thank the Honourable Minister and your entire team for, especially tabling the Budget at the beginning of our Session. That is an improvement in the making.

Honourable Speaker, much has been said in support and on the debate of our progressive National Budget. Some have even questioned why we have to increase the Budget but I do not know why it has to be stagnant. I realise that the Comrade Minister and the entire Cabinet have finished up what the Opposition has been dreaming to do; they are now left with nothing to do or say anymore. Everything is there.

Honourable Moongo said yesterday that the Budget has a loophole, which is an indication to me that the Honourable Member has nothing to say but still insists on saying something. The Budget does not have any

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loopholes; it is straightforward and is crafted in such a way that is clear to everybody. And I would like to thank Honourable Shixwameni for telling the truth yesterday. I realise that he is now coming back home to SWAPO, giving a very good and patriotic comment that the Budget is addressing the important issues which confront our Nation.

Honourable Speaker, I want to bring something in the near future to look at the issue of language in our Parliament. When are we going to debate issues in our Namibian language? I think it's high time for us to look at that because people demonstrated when they heard that Parliament is apparently budgeting N\$700 million for a new building, some of the instigators are cousins of the architects of this building who don't want us to leave their architectural structures and put up our own buildings.

That is why they are instigating people to demonstrate. Neither in the National Assembly Budget nor the National Council Budget is there N\$700 million for the construction of the new Parliament. We are merely planning to have it. But I mention this in together with the language issue because that is one of the problems we had when we had this horse rider (the Reiderdenkmal) here. And you know the people who were against the removal of that horse rider. The same situation with Swakopmund, apparently we must not build a tall building in Swakopmund, as it will disturb the architectural structure of buildings in Swakopmund. Are we being managed and ruled by Berlin, specifically? We are the ones running these affairs and some of the Opposition Parties say they do not want a new Parliament Building. Do we know what we are saying? When you liberate a country you must put up infrastructure; you must put up governing institutions and that is what we are doing. We are building houses, we are building hospitals. Ask Honourable Tjihuiko, he was asking me when I am going to say something. (Intervention)

HON TJIHUIKO: Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member a question please?

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HON SPEAKER: Yes, please.

HON KAZENAMBO: Speak in Otjiherero.

HON TJIHUIKO: I have three questions:

Honourable Member you are right, we must be proud of our own architectural buildings and not those of the Koreans, South Africans, Germans or Chinese; I agree with you that it must be our own.

1. Talking about the N\$700 million, are you aware that 423 schools in Namibia do not have toilets? Where is your priority? Is it to build Parliament for our comfort at the expense of the masses?
2. Lastly, Honourable Member, are you happy with the service delivery of our staff members where our people are using bucket toilets? Here you are saying that you are concerned with Parliament instead of addressing the issues that confront the people. Where is your priority and loyalty? For yourself or for the people that voted us here?

You must answer those questions, do not avoid them.

HON KAPIA: Honourable Speaker, I started with two things; the language issue and the architecture of this building and I know what I am saying. Service delivery is there. The Budget is there for each and every institution in this country and that cannot prevent the Nation Assembly to Budget for its needs do not mix up things.

Education is receiving the highest priority in our Government. However, there are those elements who do not want the SWAPO Government to

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succeed. They are there! They are the ones who are even delaying some of the programmes in the rural areas, particularly at the Local Authorities.

HON MEMBER: Name them!

HON KAPIA: I do not want to name them as they are not here today. I have answered you, are you satisfied.

Honourable Speaker, this Budget is addressing the problem of the young people (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: I want to take this opportunity to speak to the Honourable Members of the House who are in attendance but spend more time outside. I have got two occasions where I ruled some Members Out of Order because they suspected that we have lost a quorum. Just count how many years I have been the Speaker, you have not seen me go to the toilet once, which is natural.

It is a matter of mind over matter. I have never done that in Parliament, in the General Assembly of the United Nations, I have never done that in the IPU and others do not do it as well. So please, let us all stay here. I should be entitled to the same privileges that you have. So let all of us stay to attend to the Business.

HON MEMBER: We are here!

HON SPEAKER: Do not answer for others. I will point to you if I need to speak to you. Continue, Honourable Kapia.

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HON KAPIA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I was saying that this Budget is addressing the needs of the young people of our country (intervention)

HON KAZENAMBO: May I ask a question? Comrade Kapia, are you aware that the Honourable Member from NUDO, Honourable Tjihuiko, is belittling the allocation to Parliament; an institution whose importance the Honourable Speaker has just explained?

Are you aware that the in-fighting in some of the Opposition Parties is about the money allocated to them through Parliament? And are you also aware that while some of these Parties, especially NUDO, are receiving money from Parliament, they go and collect money from the poor returnees in Gam to donate to their programmes? Is that not robbery, criminality and theft? Where are their priorities?

HON KAPIA: Thank you very much, Honourable Kazenambo. The answer is yes, I am aware.

I was saying that this Budget is addressing the needs of the young people, be it in the Educational Sector or the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture itself. I would really like to urge the staff of the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture to implement the programmes aimed at addressing the problems facing the young people of this country. That is what I want to appeal for the Ministry to do, because many young people are crying; they have applied to the Youth Credit Scheme without receiving any reply or provided with money for their proposed project. I think the Ministry should finish with whatever they are busy doing in order to attend to the needs of the young people who are applying for these funds because they want to do business.

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Arts and Culture:

There was a momentum of promoting culture in Namibia; there were festivals where Regions would come together at a national level. Yes, at the regional level you can see the activities, but I do not know whether the National Festival of cultural groups from the Regions coming together is still taking place. I think something is wrong there and culture is very important. Let us try to develop, train and encourage our young people and the Nation at large to participate in cultural programmes and activities, in order to reduce crime, boredom, etcetera.

The arts really need to be promoted. Our people with artistic talents, such as the musicians, must be promoted. We need to have programmes at Constituency level, at the Regional level and up to the National level. It is very important to keep our young people and the entire Nation busy with productive activities.

Security Sector:

I want to thank the Ministry of Finance for listening to the needs of the Security Sector in general. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Safety and Security, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and the Agencies, that their Budgets are significantly improved. I would really like to thank the Minister of Finance and her entire team.

We may talk of education and health, but without security we can forget about economic development. Security nowadays is not only men and women in uniform. Take note that for the Security Agency to be able to advise Government to take appropriate decision when red lights are flashes somewhere, is when they are well-organized, well-trained, well-prepared and well-resourced. Security goes along with personal security and human security. Here I would like to bring in the situation of young people who are camping in the Okahandja Park area; the Children of the Liberation Struggle and those are at home. We can look at it peacefully today but it may be a security threat tomorrow. As much as we talk of

providing water, food, education and health to our people, we must look at security in its entirety. Without implementing these serious programmes and attending to some of these spots today, tomorrow there will be security threats. Therefore, as I have said, I would like to thank the Minister of Finance for listening carefully to the Security Sector.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

We have to consider the fluctuating of currencies very seriously and Budget accordingly, so that when the US dollar goes up we are able to implement our foreign policy accurately.

Ministry of Home Affairs:

This Ministry is the face of this country. Every human being needs Home Affairs. When a child is born and when a human being departs from Earth, you need Home Affairs, therefore, Home Affairs remains a crucial Ministry in our Government and to our Nation. We have to ensure that it is well resourced and that the Computerisation Programme comes to realisation as soon as possible in order for us to be able to manage the movement of people coming in and going out of our country. This will only be possible once we empower the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Ministry of Trade and Industry:

Comrade Minister, you have made a very good point about growth at home. I have been saying in this Parliament that until such a time that we stop the Mobile Economy, will we be able to proudly say; *We* as Namibians. For if we continue importing everything and exporting raw material, we will remain a Nation depending on Mobile Economy. Those people who call themselves investors always announce their arrival but never announce their departure and we must take note of that. (Intervention).

HON TJIHUIKO: I just want to ask the Honourable Member a small question.

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On the so-called investors, I do not believe what is in the newspapers but I have read that the Right Honourable Prime Minister is somewhere in Canada encouraging investors to come to Namibia and the Honourable Member who is a former Deputy Minister, is insulting the very same people that the Right Honourable Prime Minister is trying to get here. What is all this contradiction about?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kapia.

HON KAPIA: Honourable Tjihuiko, please stop misleading the Namibian people. I did not speak against investors coming to Namibia but spoke about the Mobile Economy. When investors come, they must come at our terms. They must produce and finish the product here. That is what I am saying.

HON KAZENAMBO: Maybe he will understand if you speak in Otjiherero.

HON KAPIA: He will not even understand that. Honourable Tjihuiko was a Deputy Director in the Ministry of Trade and Industry. He was there and did not even do anything but delaying the Programmes of the SWAPO Party Government. He could not even implement Equipment Aid for our SMEs or promote the Manufacturing Industry. (Intervention).

HON TJIHUIKO: Those are very serious allegations that need to be put in a better perspective. At the Ministry of Trade and Industry I had three

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Ministers who were all proud of what Honourable Tjihuiko has done, otherwise Honourable Tjihuiko could have been taken to task through our Government system.

The point that the Honourable Member should address is the issue of our leaders going all over the world encouraging investors to come to Namibia, even the Minister of Trade and Industry just came from India where he has been encouraging Indians to come and invest in Namibia and somebody stands up in this Honourable Chamber to belittle and insult the very same people that we want to invest in our economy. Investors come here at our terms and if we do not have terms, they will do whatever they want to do.

That is why they come and leave without being notice because we do not have systems in place. We should not encourage people to come and invest and then misuse this platform to insult them. That is wrong and cannot be justified. It has got nothing to do with Honourable Tjihuiko having been a Deputy Director 17 years ago. He had been a Deputy Director, not even a Director and look at what he has done at that particular time, go back to those years and look at the practical things that Honourable Tjihuiko has done and talk about the investors that you are insulting now. Do you want them to come or not? That is the question that you need to answer.

HON KAPIA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Tjihuiko continues misleading the (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Can the Honourable Member who currently owns the Floor be allowed to finish because of the time factor? Which point are you rising on Honourable Minister?

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HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: On a Point of Information. Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I just want to assist Honourable Comrade Kapia.

Honourable Kapia you know that there are people who twist facts; if you can remember, during the Hitler war, there was a famous Goebbels and during the Iraqi war there was Tariq Aziz who was saying the Americans were rolling in the streets and the Americans will never come to Iraq so do not bother with others who are twisters, just continue with your speech.

HON SPEAKER: Please continue, Honourable Kapia.

HON KAPIA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I was busy concluding.

I was saying, we welcome investor with a good will to Namibia's interest and are ready to work with our Government and our business people towards the developing our country.

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Member is winding up.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Just a small question, through you, Comrade speaker.

Honourable Kapia, before you conclude; now that you are touching on the issue of investors. Do you not think that we have to come up with our own definition as to whom we regard as an investor so that people do not come here and start selling what they are selling and we call them

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investors?

A person comes here, makes a mattress and sells that in your village. Is that person really investor, can we not come up with a definition of what an investor is, what he should be doing and what he should not be doing?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Kapia.

HON KAPIA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. When we say *at our terms*, we know exactly what we mean. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for investments and other things.

HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I am sorry to interrupt Honourable Kapia, he is doing well.

Honourable Speaker, I just want to provide another important piece of information again. If we do not know what an investor is, please consult the *Foreign Investment Act*. We have a rule-based incentive scheme and regulatory system for investors, which are completely transparent; investors who come here know the rules, the incentives, in what Sectors to engage and what they can take out.

Therefore, all the arguments that want to portray that we do not have system where investors are welcome nor know what they have to do, are not correct. We have a rule-based system and in fact, the consistent

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ratings that we can speak volumes in terms of how good our investment climate is if we measure ourselves against the rest of the African countries. I think it is important to realise that. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: That was good to listen to. Honourable Kapia.

HON KAPIA: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I wanted to conclude by saying; the Budget of the Ministry of Trade and Industry is relatively well resourced in order to address some of the problems emanating from manufacturing and job-creation in our country, as well as to assist our Small and Medium Enterprise (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for the Nation's defence.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Kapia, can I ask you a small question please?

You are saying that the Ministry of Trade and Industry is well resourced, how much is allocated to industrialisation in that Budget?

HON KAPIA: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister for that good question. I know that the Ministry has its own needs; however, their resources are aimed at strengthening the SME Bank, the Equipment Aid Fund and other activities including the Manufacturing Sector.

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I, therefore, want to thank the Minister of Finance for allocating close to a N\$1 billion to this Ministry, for this specific Sector which is at the heart of our economic growth in this country. I know that it will not be at one goal that all the divisions and activities of the Ministry will be catered for, however, the Sectors that are catered for, are crucial for the Ministry to be able to improve functions and activities towards the growth of our economy.

With those few words, I want to thank and congratulate the Minister of Finance and the Director-General of the National Planning Commission as well as their respective staff members for coming up with a well balanced *Appropriation Bill* for the Financial Year 2014/2015 and the Medium-Term Framework, and I support the *Appropriation Bill*. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Kapia. Honourable Witbooi.

HON WITBOOI: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise today to give support and high commendations to the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuukongelwa-Amadhila and her team for a job well done, in presenting the 2014/2015 National Budget with the overriding theme of ***“Fiscal sustainability and job-creating growth — doing more with less.”*** In simple language, the Nation is asked to tighten the belt with clearly stated Macroeconomic Policies, and continued interventions by our Government.

I am happy for the continued support given to education; the **Thirteen Billion, Sixty Eight Million and Sixty Six Namibian Dollar (N\$13,068,166,000.00)**. The Grade 10 and Grade 12 results, however, remain a serious cause for concern, especially when half of the candidates are not gaining enough points to either enter the job market or continue with higher education. Education is a three-way alliance made up of teachers, parents and learners. It is my humble view that the State

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continues to appropriate the much needed resources, but that teachers and parents and learners do not form a strong alliance in the interest of quality education. Now that corporal punishment has been outlawed, ill-discipline is our biggest worry. We can argue and debate about discipline but I remain firm by saying *discipline is the key to success*.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in the time and age we live in, education and training remains the biggest equaliser for all formerly disadvantaged Namibians. Education is the only tool which can empower present and future generations to live prosperously. It is, however, disappointing to read in newspapers, that some teachers and some schools do not create and provide conducive environments. Our learners from formerly disadvantaged societies need all the help they can get, and this include provision of afternoon and evening studies, supervised voluntary by parents and students. The lack of discipline as well as the lack of resources at our family homes also contribute thereto that learners simply do not pay attention to their studies.

Honourable Members, the never-ending domestic and Gender-Based Violence is a cause for concern. We thank His Excellency, Hifikepunye Pohamba, the President of the Republic of Namibia, for calling a National Day of Prayer, for us to go on our knees tomorrow to invoke divine blessings of healing and of forgiveness. This is a step in the right direction.

Passion killings and related violence is a result of the lack of ethics and morality, and also of ill-discipline. I hail from Gibeon and even in that small settlement parents are increasingly losing control and discipline over their children. Parents simply go to bed whilst our children are roaming the streets. I partly blame the Entertainment Industry, such as television because private family prayers are no more. Parents are unable to recall our children from the streets and the concept of extended African family is abused by children and parents not adhering to family principles.

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Dingara.

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HON DINGARA: May please ask Honourable Witbooi a small question?

Now that you are on the topic of passion killing; what I have been observing in today's life is that a person would get married, kill and decapitates the partner, goes to prison and stays for some years. After being released, this very same person proposes another person and gets married again, and we do not know what is going to happen next.

Do you not think that it will help us if we castrate to discourage them from making love when these people are reintegrated back into society?

HON WITBOOI: Thank you, Comrade Dingara. I have taken note of your question and I will respond to your question next year in this House. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Nehova.

HON NEHOVA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. May I pose a small question to Honourable Witbooi?

My question is; why do we not lock them up for good? We do not take pains to castrate them but just lock them up for good.

HON WITBOOI: Thank you, Honourable Comrade. I also take note of your question.

Children just stay out late. Children watch television on Sunday mornings

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not attending Sunday Schools where ethical and moral standards are learned.

As a result, our boys and men grow up with skewed values. What they see on television, which is mostly imagination and fake, is wrongly understood. Violence on television is fake and not real, and yet our men think it is a rule or right to violate women through rape, beatings and killings. Many parents do not use child lock and passwords for age restricted programmes on television, and children are exposed to violence at a very young age.

Honourable Members, poor service delivery robs our citizens of the benefits set out in the National Budget. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ulenga.

HON ULENGA: On a Point of Order; I am sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member who is on the Floor.

Comrade Speaker, according to the programme, I see that the Ruling Party only has 55 minutes and yet they have been speaking for about 2 hours now. Are we postponing the other Parties to tomorrow? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Is that the case? Continue, Honourable Witbooi while I am sorting this out.

HON WITBOOI: Honourable Speaker, it is disappointing, when travelling with Parliament Standing Committees, to hear people lamenting

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about not receiving quality services in Regional and Local Government context. In some smaller towns, people still do not have access to potable - clean and hygienic water. In towns such as Aus in the //Karas Region, we still find the bucket toilet system, some 24 to 25 years into Independence. I am urging the relevant Line Ministries to kindly please look into this situation at Aus.

Honourable Members, I am encouraged to read in the Development Budget about new buildings to be erected, but I am concerned about the quality and lack of maintenance of buildings. Many Government buildings are run down and dilapidated, and have become eye sores. I will be thankful when such buildings are demolished and we see new high buildings arising out of the ashes. I want to compliment the Line Ministries who maintain and have clean and neat offices because we are the custodians and stewards of our national resources.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, our country has hundreds, if not thousands of unemployed and unskilled school leavers in every town. Unemployment and hungry youth are ugly scenes for every family home. I am calling upon my Government, especially the Ministry of National Service, Youth, Sport and Culture to undertake massive public works. Also that such works be given on tenders to youth organisations for job creation and poverty alleviation.

The National Service must be reviewed and expanded to include all school leavers. This will provide a bridge year to those who wish to delay entering institutions of higher learning, and provide our youth with much needed discipline and skills, instead of just wandering in our streets. Let us continue to erect more sport, cultural and recreational facilities in all major towns, villages and settlements, because a loitering youth is without value to this Nation. Let us take unemployed children off the streets.

Alcohol, drugs and substance abuse is destroying the moral of our society. There are just too many uncontrolled *shebeens* in our towns, villages and settlements. We are aware that all Ministries do not receive the required resources, but Law Enforcement Agencies must undertake sustainable

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actions. Closing down illegal *shebeens* once a year is simply not effective, we thus require the focus and actions of the Police on this.

We are happy to read about arrests being made by our Narcotics Branch of the Police, but we are asking communities not to harbour and hide drug sellers and drug pushers in our societies. It is sad that the so-called known drug-selling places are not targeted 24-hours under surveillance by the Police due to resource shortage. However, I believe our communities should not be silent, but report and expose those involved in this illegal trade. For this reason, I denounce the calls for *marijuana* (dagga) to be legalise in this country because the social evils are just increasing all over the country by people subjected to these drugs.

On this note, I thank the Honourable Minister of Finance for a well-received Budget and give my support to this *Appropriation Bill*. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The air around the complaint has been cleared. The next Member to take the Floor is Honourable Amweelo.

HON DR AMWEELO: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Before I make my humble contribution Honourable Members, I would like to thank all the Honourable Colleagues, Comrade and Friends for the assistance and support rendered to me during my time of bereavement. I have not said anything yet (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Ulenga.

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HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I apologise again for interrupting the Honourable Member.

This has got nothing to do with the Honourable Member just said but it is still in connection with the Point of Order that I raised before. Are we deviating from the programme or is it a first come first served situation now?

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: You have been here, we have never interrupted the Opposition because of time.

HON ULENGA: I do not understand and just need to be explained to. (Interjections) stop your guns!

HON SPEAKER: You are correct, Honourable Ulenga. Please remain standing; can you repeat what you said?

HON ULENGA: Honourable Speaker, I am saying, according to the programme of today, the 5th of March 2014, CoD has 45 minutes, RDP 30, RP 45 and SWAPO 55. When I came in here at 15:00, Honourable Naholo of the RDP was speaking and a short while thereafter Members of the Ruling Party were speaking until now and it has been 2 hours, which is 120 minutes.

I am not against that but just want to understand whether the others who are supposed to take the Floor will still be accommodated, with all due respect. Thank you very much.

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HON SPEAKER: With time allowing because I am guided by this board. When an Honourable Member raises a point, I have to look into it but I am directed by the list where the people inscribe to speak. Honourable Amweelo, you have the Floor, please continue.

HON DR AMWEELO: Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly, allow me to join the other Honourable Members who already congratulated the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Saara Nandjila Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, and Director-General of the National Planning Commission (NPC), Comrade Tom Alweendo on a job well done in the preparation of this Budget.

Comrade Speaker, my contribution will be mainly based on the Development Programme Manual and the theme of the Budget; “*Fiscal Sustainability and Job-Creating Growth — Doing More with Less.*” I will confine my contribution to one main issue which is: **Infrastructure Investment**. I did a little research on this that encouraged me to concentrate mainly on the said topic because our Government has a Programme targeting unemployment. It is my opinion, according to my research that, if we direct our investment towards the development of our infrastructure, we will eventually reduce the rate of unemployment in our country.

On Page 6 - point 12, of the Minister’s Budget Statement, she mentioned about expanding the economy to achieve high economic growth rates with jobs, by investing in infrastructure. I am 100% in agreement with her Statement.

The big question remaining is; why do we need infrastructure investment? We need both good Hard and Soft Infrastructures. On Hard Infrastructure we have physical facilities such as; Transport Infrastructure, Energy Infrastructure, Water Management Infrastructure, Communication Infrastructure where we have NBC dealing with DTT – a very good infrastructure, and other infrastructures while Soft Infrastructure entails;

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Governance Infrastructure, Economic Infrastructure, Social Infrastructure among others - Culture, Sports and Recreational Infrastructure. These Infrastructures are very important to get our enterprise zones to work again in the Regions and beyond and this includes; good roads, high speed broadband and functioning transport hubs which are essential to ensure prosperity for all.

I am glad to hear that the NBC will receive over N\$1 billion over three years as per the Budget documents tabled by the Honourable Minister of Finance. The money will be used to cover operating expenses, infrastructure network improvement, implementation of Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) migration and upgrading of studios. On the 24th of February 2014, the Standing Committee on ICT has invited the Director-General of NBC with his staff to brief the Committee on DTT project and the Committee was happy about the progress made by NBC so far. I think this is great news for regional economy. If the capital is the Nation's financial heart, then the Regions are most definitely the backbone. Simply put, we need to do all we can to ensure jobs are created and prosperity returns to all parts of the country.

On Page 15 of the Minister's Budget Statement with regard to the Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG), a total of N\$14.5 billion has been allocated for three 3 years, it is very good gesture, however, we need more funds to invest in infrastructure so that we can increase the estimated 83,315 jobs. If we ignore this, the long-awaited economic recovery could well take a lot longer than expected.

In the 2009 Budget Speech, the then South African Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel announced his response to the unfolding global economic crisis. With the overarching priority of the South African fiscus remaining in job creation and growth acceleration, some new changes to the Budget were announced with the aim to *"reinforce macroeconomic stability and to provide a temporary cushion to the South African economy."* The changes he made were larger Budget Allocations to social welfare spending, to State employment and job creation initiatives, and finally to

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increased public works investment. Social welfare is not the same as the standard of living but is more concerned with the quality of life that includes factors such as the quality of the environment (air, soil, water), level of crime, extent of drug abuse, availability of essential social services, as well as religious and spiritual aspects of life.

There was a study undertaken by EDAW AECOM, in partnership with King Sturge, to assess the potential infrastructure requirements. The study has reviewed the main infrastructure requirements needed to support development in consultation with the key infrastructure and service providers. It includes a detailed assessment of the likely requirements for education, healthcare, emergency services, community facilities, open space, transport infrastructure and utilities infrastructure needed to support housing development in each of the locations under consideration.

Counter-cyclical public spending in infrastructure, such as roads, schools and hospitals, is an effective tool both to provide the foundation for rapid recovery and job creation. The main difficulty that major infrastructure projects face is the long process involved in its preparation, design, construction and review. In addition, we should not trade the potential of long-term sustainable growth for short-term benefits. Infrastructure investments should be subjected to careful economic and governance analysis to ensure that they are economically sound over the long-term and funds are not misused.

With weak demand in the Private Sector, Government serves as employer of last resort in an effort to sustain both jobs and aggregate demand. Investments in infrastructure are often in Economic Sectors - improving transportation in particular, including roads, railways and waterways, and Social Sectors - education, water, sewage, and other services. This lays the foundation for long-term development and deals with immediate social needs. Local investments and their impact on development strategies lead to more job creation, greater ownership, and can rapidly boost local economies.

According to the World Bank, infrastructure spending announced for 2009

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represented on average 64% of the total stimulus packages in emerging market economies, and 22% of the total stimulus in high-income economies. The time-lag in implementation of such projects can be a challenge, with the boosted infrastructure investments unable to produce the expected results when a timely response to the crisis is required.

An ILO survey of employment and social protection measures taken by 54 countries, confirmed the importance of infrastructure. In fiscal stimulus packages; 87% of the countries, allocated additional fiscal spending on infrastructure. One third of these included a specific employment component, often with targets for disadvantaged groups. So while infrastructure is well recognized as a means for employment creation, the required attention to the number of jobs, and targeting employment in their design, implementation and monitoring has been less recognized.

Infrastructure expenditure in developing countries has a substantially greater employment. Some components of public spending contribute not only to short-term relief, but also to economic growth and general development through the accumulation of physical and human capital: physical; in particular through the development and maintenance of useful public infrastructure - mainly transport and housing, and human; through skills development of workers and the promotion of SMEs involved in implementation. Spending cuts in such forms of investment would have a serious negative impact on employment and recovery unless ways could be found to maintain services with reduced costs.

Infrastructure investments should be launched both to build up capital for sustainable development and inclusive growth: Human capital including skills, employment, including green jobs, and entrepreneurship development, and physical capital such as construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of infrastructure and natural and productive resources. It is of crucial importance to assess the overall labour outcome of these investments in terms of direct, indirect and induced employment, not only to assess their short-term effects but also the longer-term impact on growth and its distributional effects.

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Comrade Speaker, wherever feasible, decentralized public investment should be preferred. The advantages of local investments are particularly relevant in times of crisis.

Firstly, decentralized decision-making processes are usually faster and make the local population more committed to the projects. It improves targeting and its proper use and maintenance.

Secondly, the works undertaken are usually on a smaller scale and involve less expensive tenders, which means there is less need for heavy machinery, and hence greater job creation for the amount invested.

Third, decentralized tenders are more likely to be executed by local firms using workers from the area, thus boosting the local economy and recovery.

Finally, the infrastructure projects which are co-financed by international financial institutions should make sure that their regulations allow for an increase in labour content in infrastructure development.

Comrade Speaker, Honorable Members, with these not few and not many words, I fully support the *Appropriation Bill*. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Amweelo. Honourable //Gowases.

HON //GOWASES: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to make my humble contribution towards the 2014/2015 Budget, currently under scrutiny.

In so doing, I wish to commend the Government for the *pro-poor* Budget, and more specifically, the allocation of N\$13 billion to Education and

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N\$2.9 billion to Mass Housing, respectively.

Despite the significant allocation to Education, there still remain critical issues that need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. As is the case with any other investment, we expect returns on our investment in Education. Since the introduction of the Cambridge system shortly after independence, the pass rate of our learners remained around 50% for both grades 10 and 12. The poor pass rate remains a worrisome scenario. It essentially means that the remaining 50% of our children are heading to street corners each year.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we remain worried about the state of education. Despite commendable efforts, including the Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme (ETSIP) and Education Congress, and the spending of millions of dollars, we continue to be faced with a deplorable pass rate.

Even more shocking is the fact that about N\$9 billion for Education will be spend on salaries, S&T and consultancy fees, while only N\$4 billion will go to addressing the required education infrastructure, teaching and learning aids. With that type of spending, will we ever ensure quality education? When is the Minister going to address the real needs of learners and teachers? When will he show leadership in proper planning based on available statistics such as the national census figures, taking into consideration the influx of population to urban areas and in so doing avoid tented schools, overcrowded classrooms of 40-50 learners and the platoon system? How is quality education possible under such abnormal circumstances where salaries dominate the real educational needs instead of smaller class numbers so that proper individual attention is paid to learners and proper teaching aids are made available?

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we need a paradigm shift to technical fields of educational emancipation to strike the balance. It is only when we train technicians that industrialisation is possible. It is through industrialisation that job creation is possible.

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Why should we produce copper and export it as raw material instead of local value addition? How can we add value to our minerals and natural resources and create jobs if we only produce social science graduates who are unable to find jobs.

It is, indeed, time that we revisit our priorities and encourage our learners to focus on mathematics and applied sciences to help us reach our goals of industrialization by 2030.

Perhaps it is time for us to set aside funds to stimulate technical fields of study. For example, studies in the field of Agriculture should be expanded to answer to our needs.

Kalimbeza rice project and Etunda vegetable projects are exceptions that have shown good results. However, more needs to be done.

We will have to acknowledge at some point that the current education system is an absolute failure and go back to the drawing board.

When are we going to see properly resourced schools of excellence in all Regions? 23 years after Independence, we are still stuck with the platoon system, which has a negative impact on our learners. Through proper planning the platoon system can be avoided. Instead, afternoons must be dedicated to sports and learning support activities.

On the subject of the Mass Housing Initiative, I sincerely applaud our President, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba for listening to the cries of our citizens with regard to our housing and accommodation needs. This is a great legacy that he will leave behind upon his retirement. The Presidents daring effort to take our people out of shacks is indeed highly appreciated.

However, the good intentions of the President have turned into a nightmare and disgrace through the deplorable actions of greedy and the well-connected elements. It was shocking to read in a local newspaper of Tuesday, 25 February that the CEO of NHE awarded a tender of N\$235

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million to his brother in law.

To make it worse, we have numerous skilled but unemployed builders and contractors in Namibia, yet we outsource the construction of Mass Housing to South African companies. In the process, much needed jobs are given to foreigners and money taken out of the country. Does it mean that we as Namibians do not have the capacity to build our own houses? The situation is an insult, is uncalled for and needs immediate intervention by the highest authorities. The Minister of Local Government must take action, and he must take action now!

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me also to express my appreciation for the Budget allocation to the Ministry of Health and Social Services. We must see to it that every penny spend on health infrastructure and equipment is spend properly, effectively and efficiently.

We cannot gamble with the lives of our fellow citizens and, therefore, provide them with quality services. Those that voted for us must receive returns on their votes. It is because of their votes that we are in this esteemed House.

With regard to the Defence Budget, I would like to encourage the Minister of Defence to consider reviewing the salaries of our men and women in the uniform, especially the low ranked officers in our forces. By paying our soldiers well, we will ensure that they continue to protect the integrity of our State and citizens with zeal and commitment. I, therefore, call for a salary adjustment for members of the Defence and Police forces.

We applaud those esteemed foreign missions based in Namibia, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, State-Owned Enterprises such as AgriBank and the Private Sector; and other stakeholders that have generously donated various kinds of drought relief to the Office of the Prime Minister. We also applaud the Office of the Prime Minister for their dedication, commitment, loyalty and hard-work in ensuring that the situation was well monitored and assessed regularly and that drought relief was distributed efficiently and effectively to the affected and vulnerable

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communities without delay.

In conclusion, I support the Presidential call for drastic measures for Gender-Based Violence and urge the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to come up with concrete strategies and the implementation of Programmes to curb the escalation of incidents of such nature. Let all women stand up. Let all peace-loving men stand up and let peace prevail in our society.

I support the Budget as proposed by the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable //Gowases. Honourable Lucks.

HON LUCKS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker I need some guidance from you; seeing that the time is very close to 17:45, do you want me to start with my intervention now or tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: You can start now and continue tomorrow.

HON LUCKS: I take it that, if I start now, I will get an opportunity to continue tomorrow.

HON SPEAKER: Can you start now; you have already lost 3 minutes.

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HON LUCKS: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. As I rise today for my contribution to the Debate on the National Budget, may I start off by expressing my utmost disbelief that we are now in the second year without a Deputy Minister of Finance. Let me be clear that I have confidence in the abilities of the Minister, but let me be also clear that I find it absolutely unacceptable that she, for such a prolonged time has had to operate without a Deputy. Is this perhaps a sign that the President does not consider the Ministry of Finance important enough to appoint a Deputy Minister. Or Perhaps the President is faced with the dilemma that there are no suitable, competent Members of Parliament within the ranks of his Party that could be appointed to such an important position. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Mbumba.

HON MBUMBA: Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information; I cannot not see how somebody, from another Party for that matter, tries to speak on behalf of the President of the country.

You can speak on behalf your own Party's President, I want to let everybody here know that the President (interjection).

HON NEHOVA: He is the President of everybody.

HON MBUMBA: He is the President of everybody but he is a President who knows exactly what he is doing and he is going to do it the right way.

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HON SPEAKER: Continue, Honourable Lucks.

HON LUCKS: Honourable Speaker, I believe that as a Member of Parliament, I have every right in this House to ask a question like this and I reserve that right.

Perhaps the President will inform the Nation about this unacceptable situation during his State of the Nation address.

Honourable Speaker, Honorable Members; during her Budget Statement on 19 February 2014, the Minister (intervention).

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Honourable Speaker, may I pass a question to the Honourable Member?

Honourable Lucks, when is the merger between your own Party and the RP? This is something we were reading in the newspaper; can you shed some light on that?

HON SPEAKER: Continue, Honourable Lucks.

HON LUCKS: Maybe that is the best contribution the Honourable Member could make.

Honourable Speaker, Honorable Members; during her Budget Statement on 19 February 2014, the Minister has again painted a rosy picture of the general situation that we Namibians find ourselves in. However, she also

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pointed out the many challenges that we, as a Nation face. (Intervention)

HON KAZENAMBO: Comrade Speaker, on a Point of Information; Honourable Lucks of the failed RDP it sounds as if it is a constitutional requirement, or there is some anomalies that, if the Ministry of Finance does not have a Deputy Minister, there is something wrong.

He is totally wrong and there is no such a requirement in our legal instrument or documents. It is the prerogative of the President to hire and fire, like he fired me, or to appoint a Deputy Minister. However, there is no constitutional requirement to that effect as he makes it sound. There are some countries that have larger populations and heavier economies than ours but with a single Minister of Finance. Do not make it sound as if it is an anomaly. When are going to have your (intervention).

HON SPEAKER: Just give the Floor over to him. Continue, Honourable Lucks.

HON LUCKS: Thank you Honourable Speaker. I seem to have hit a nerve here, which means that my question was quite successful. Thank you for that. (Intervention).

HON SPEAKER: The House stands adjourn. We have an event before we resume the Business of the House tomorrow afternoon, I therefore, sincerely, seriously and abundantly urge you not use that as an excuse not to be here on time so that we can start on time.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:48 UNTIL 2014.03.06 AT 14:30

ANNEXURE

POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK (IIP AND QR)

Annex: Policy and Legal Framework

Infant Industry Protection is an important tool of policy-making in the world, both in historical and current contexts. Few countries became industrialized without Infant Industry Protection. Indeed both the early industrialised and newly industrialised countries of the world applied the same principles, albeit in varying degrees and ways. Even Customs Union, Free and Multilateral Trade Agreements also recognize and include provisions on Infant Industry Protection and import restrictions although there are often significant barriers to using these.

Namibia is a member of SACU, SADC and WTO and has rights and obligations under these economic and trading arrangements.

With respect to the WTO rules, the principal justification for IIP is found in GATT Article XVIII regarding ‘governmental assistance to economic development.’ This provision recognises that the attainment of the objectives of the WTO GATT 47 will be facilitated by the progressive development of the contracting parties’ economies and GATT, therefore, provides that *“in order to implement programmes and policies of economic development designed to raise the general standard of living of their people, members may take protective or other measures affecting imports in order to a) maintain sufficient flexibility in their tariff structures to be able to grant the tariff protection required for the establishment of a particular Industry and b) apply quantitative restrictions for balance of payment purposes taking into full account the continued high level of demand for imports likely to be generated by their programmes of economic development.”*

At the sub-regional level, Article 25 of the SACU Agreement 2002 provides that:

1. *“Member States recognize the right of each Member State to prohibit or restrict the importation from its area of any goods for economic, social, cultural or other reasons as may be agreed upon by the council.*
2. *Except in so far so as may be agreed upon between the Member States from time to time, the provisions of this Agreement shall not be deemed to suspend or supersede the provisions of any law within any*

part of the Common Customs Area which prohibits or restricts the importation or exportation of goods.

3. *The Provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not be so construed as to permit the prohibition or restriction of the importation by any Member State into its area of goods grown, produced or manufactured in other areas of the Common Customs Area for the purpose of protecting its own industries producing such goods" — but not excluding restrictions for the purpose of maintaining employment, investment, industrialization etc.*

Article 26 provides that *“the Government of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia or Swaziland may as a temporary measure levy additional duties on goods imported into its area to enable infant industries in its area to meet competition from other producers or manufacturers in the Common Customs Area, provided that such duties are levied equally on goods grown, produced or manufactured in other parts of the Common Customs Area and like products imported from outside that area, irrespective of whether the latter goods are imported directly or from the area of another Member State and subject to payment of the customs duties applicable to such goods on importation into the Common Customs Area.”*

Article 21 of the SADC Protocol on Trade equally authorizes member states to suspend certain obligations of the Protocol in respect of like Goods imported from other Member States, as a temporally measure in order to promote an infant industry, and subject to WTO provisions.

At a national level, this august House passed the *Import and Export Control Act* (Act 30 of 1994) as a tool to enable us to manage imports and exports in the national interest. Specifically Section 2 of the Act authorizes the Minister of Trade and Industry to and I quote: *“whenever necessary or expedient in the public interest and by notice in the Gazette, prohibit import into or export from Namibia.”*