

# 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 &amp; 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 &amp; Social Welfare)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Agriculture, Water &amp; Forestry)</i>
Mr J Kaapanda	<i>(Information &amp; Communication Technology)</i>
Mr U Herunga	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Dr N Iyambo (Mr)	<i>(Veterans Affairs)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Lands &amp; 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 &amp; Forestry)</i>
Mr P Iilonga	<i>(Defence)</i>
Mr E Uutoni	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Mr T Nambahu	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Trade and Industry)</i>
Dr S C Ankama (Mr)	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Foreign Affairs)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Ms J Kavetuna	<i>(Youth, National Service, Sport &amp; Culture)</i>
Mr W Isaacks	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr S Simataa	<i>(Information and Communication Technology)</i>
Dr E Kaiyamo (Mr)	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr K Nguvauva	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Ms P Beukes	<i>(Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development)</i>
Vacant	<i>(Finance)</i>
Ms S Makgone	<i>(Education)</i>

## **SECRETARY**

Mr. J Jacobs

## **DEPUTY SECRETARY**

Mr F S Harker

## **DEPUTY MINISTERS IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL**

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

## **LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT**

### **ALL PEOPLE'S PARTY (APP)**

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

### **CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS (COD)**

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

### **DTA OF NAMIBIA**

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

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

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

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

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

## **REPUBLICAN PARTY**

Ms C //Gowases *(Chief Whip)*

## **SWANU**

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

## **SWAPO OF NAMIBIA**

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

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  
24 MARCH 2014**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**HON SPEAKER**: I am glad to see you all back, I am back and the Prime Minister is back too. (*Laughter*)

This is a free and democratic country, if people want to change their positions, it should be welcomed and encouraged.

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

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**TABLING: REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL**

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

- (i) Municipality of Outjo for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2013;
- (ii) Village Council of Gochas for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2013; and
- (iii) Village Council of Koës for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2013.

I Move so, Honourable Speaker.

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24 March 2014

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON SHIXWAMENI**

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister table the Reports. Notice of Questions? Honourable Shixwameni.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**QUESTION 16:**

**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2014, I shall ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister the following questions:

*Whereas* the Namibian Constitution allows freedom of political activities, affiliation and speech as provided for in Article 17 and 21;

*Whereas* the same Constitution provides for the limitation of such freedoms as contained in Article 17(3) and Article 22 thereof;

*Whereas* further, in line with the above, the *Public Service Act, 1995* (Act 13 of 1995), in Part IV, Section 30(1), dealing with ***Political Rights of Staff Members***, makes it clear that, provided further that, to ensure the impartiality of the Public Service, a staff member who holds any post in the management cadre of the Public Service may not:-

- (i) draw up or publish any writing with the intention to promote or advance the interest of any Political Party; and
- (ii) be an office-bearer of whatever designation of a Political Party.

In Part III of the same Act, Section 25(1)(f), dealing with ***Misconduct*** states: “*uses his or her position in the Public Service to promote or prejudice the interest of any Political Party.*”

24 March 2014

**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON SHIXWAMENI**

Given the above, I shall ask the Honourable Prime Minister the following questions:

1. What is the status of Permanent Secretaries, Directors, Deputy Directors, CEOs of Agencies and Managers of Parastatals on the SWAPO Party *Think Tank*, and is this not a clear and flagrant violation of the provision of the *Public Service Act*?
2. Does their presence on the *Think Tank*, which was widely reported that they would be authoring the 2014, SWAPO Election Manifesto, not violate Section 25(1)(f) and 30(1) of the *Public Service Act*?
3. If so, why should the SWAPO Party of which the Right Honourable Prime Minister is the Vice President, not be found in contempt and violation of the letter and spirit of both the Constitution and the *Public Service Act*, in particular?
4. Why does the Prime Minister think that their presence on the *Think Tank* will not prejudice other Political Parties as provided for in Section 25(1)(f) of the Act?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Member table the Question. The time will come for that. This is not the first time I am reassuring you that the incumbent Prime Minister has been at it for a long time and for your information, twice now. He knows how to deal with questions like that. With that said, will you now focus by listening to the Speaker?

Notice of Motions? Honourable Amweelo?

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**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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24 March 2014

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON DR AMWEELO / HON HAUSIKU**

**HON DR AMWEELO:** Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 3, 5, 6, 11, 17, 27 and 28 of the *Appropriation Bill* be, in terms of Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted, if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I give Notice that tomorrow, Tuesday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2014, I shall Move that this Assembly:

In accordance with Article 112(3) of the Namibian Constitution:-

*approves* the reappointment by His Excellency the President, of Ms Florence Munyungano as a member of the Public Service Commission, upon the expiry of her current term of office on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2014. I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, please table the Motion.

The Notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable Minister of Labour and Social Welfare. Does the Honourable Minister Move the Motion?

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**HON MIN OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Who seconds? Any objection? Agreed to. The Minister has the Floor.

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**REAPPOINTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT EQUITY  
COMMISSIONER  
HON SIOKA**

**MOTION ON THE REAPPOINTMENT  
OF THE EMPLOYMENT EQUITY COMMISSIONER**

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**HON MIN OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I have taken the Floor to seek the approval of this august House for the reappointment of the Employment Equity Commissioner, Mr Vilbard Usiku, for the term of five years.

Honourable Members, Section 7(1) of the *Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, 1998 (Act 29 of 1998)*, stipulates the following:

*“The Commissioner shall hold office for a period of five years, but shall at the expiration of such period of office be eligible for re-appointment as a member of the Commission.”*

As you might be well aware, the office of the Employment Equity Commission has an oversight function of the implementation of the Affirmative Action at work places. The overall objective of the *Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, 1998 (Act 29 of 1998)* is to ensure that no Namibian is denied employment opportunities for reasons unrelated to suitability and ultimately, to ensure that all occupational categories of every employer’s workforce reflects Namibia’s demographic profile.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, satisfactory progress has been made towards the equitable representation of persons in designated groups; namely the previously racial disadvantaged group, women and the persons with disabilities.

The 2012/2013 Annual Report of the Employment Equity Commission, provides comprehensive details on the latest employment equity trends and I trust that the Honourable Members of Parliament or of this House, would study the Commission’s Annual Report in order to get an in depth

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**REAPPOINTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT EQUITY  
COMMISSIONER  
HON BEZUIDENHOUT**

insight into the latest equity trends in employment. I believe that the progress made thus far towards equity in employment is largely attributable to the able stewardship of Mr Vilbard Usiku and it is for this reason that I would like the momentum of progress to continue.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in light of this, I have now the honour to request this august House to approve the reappointment of Mr Usiku as Employment Equity Commissioner for a term of five years, effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2014, to the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2019, in terms of Section 7(1) of the *Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, 1998* (Act 29 of 1998).

Honourable Members, I count on your support and request this august House that we approve the reappointment of Mr Usiku today. I thank you for your attention.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Minister for the Motivation. Any further discussion? Honourable Bezuidenhout.

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**HON BEZUIDENHOUT:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. The Honourable Minister requested that it be approved, unless there is a serious objection, I think we can proceed.

The track record displayed by the individual involved in the capacity in which he is employed has always been very positive. Last year, we have approved additional new members to the Commission and I think in terms of normal governance, he will still be a good and knowledgeable leader to guide the institution. From my side, I would agree that we reappoint Mr Vilbard Usiku to the position of the Commissioner. Thank you.

24 March 2014

**REAPPOINTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT EQUITY  
COMMISSIONER  
HON SIOKA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Shall I take it that Honourable Bezuidenhout has expressed the collective wish of the House? Does the Minister wish to reply?

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:**  
Comrade Speaker, thank you very much for the support that I have received from both sides of the House. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Secretary will read the First Order.

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**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE:  
APPROPRIATION BILL [B.3 – 2014]**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Committee Stage - *Appropriation Bill* [B.3 – 2014].

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

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. Can I call

24 March 2014 **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 03**  
**HON DR GURIRAB**

on the Deputy Speaker to, in her capacity as Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, take the Chair?

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE**

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill* [B.3 – 2014].

When progress was reported on Tuesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2014, Votes 01,02,04, 08, 10, 25, 26 and 30 had been agreed to and Votes 05, 06, 17 and 27 had been introduced.

Vote 03 – “**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**” – **N\$177,176,000.00** put for Introduction by the Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker you have the Floor.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise before this august House to motivate Vote 03 for your consideration. Let me begin by thanking Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and all her collaborators for the well-articulated Budget focusing on “*Fiscal Sustainability and Job-Creating Growth.*” Honourable Minister, we advocate your concept of “*Doing More with Less.*”

Much has been said about the 2014/2015 *Appropriation Bill* by numerous speakers in this august House and, as representatives of the people, we have the responsibility to work and do so with a clear conscience and commitment towards achieving the vision of building a united, democratic Namibia and improving the quality of life of all citizens.

**24 March 2014 COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 03  
HON DR GURIRAB**

The Namibian Constitution enjoins the legislative power to the National Assembly for passing Laws and arranging for the review of such Laws by the National Council in the best interest of the people who have sent us to the National Assembly and the National Council as their selected representatives. In a democracy, the Budget Process and Debate on the *Appropriation Bill*, is one of the most important activities in our national life. The citizens, visitors and of course the media await this opportunity to find out what it is all about; what is new and what is business as usual, democracy itself is business as usual and to ask the most important question – *what is in for me as an individual Namibian citizen this time around?* Through this process, the Government of the day informs the electorate through the elected representatives on the Programmes and Activities of the Government and also explains the utilisation of resources for the benefit of the people themselves.

During the past Financial Year, the National Assembly successfully implemented most of its operational activities as intended. With regard to the Development Budget, I have to explain that ,although the first phase of the feasibility study on the new Parliament Building was finalised during the Financial Year 2012/2013, no funds were provided for this project during the past Financial Year due to the late completion thereof. Thus, we expect to commence with refining the feasibility study and completing some documentation during the Financial Year 2014/2015.

On the construction of a new Parliament Building, Parliament as another Branch of State comes a long way. My predecessor, Honourable Mose Penaani Tjitendero started the process about twenty years ago after Cabinet had approved the construction of administration buildings for the three Branches of the State. I wore a different hat at that time, sitting in Cabinet and was part of the decision making, thinking aloud and seriously, deciding that the time must come and soon, so that all three Branches of the State as enumerated in the Constitution, should have appropriate accommodation i.e. the State House, the Judiciary – Supreme Court and the High Court and last but not least the Parliament. It is not a new idea but we have been systematic and methodical and at the end we decided that we should start with the Supreme Court Building and that too, was deliberate, it was not because the Supreme Court was the most important

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**HON DR GURIRAB**

of the three but we are a Constitutional Republic and it is that body among the three which is responsible to ensure that we live by the Constitution so it was re-affirmation on the part of Cabinet and the leadership then that we should start with the Supreme Court and we did so. It took us a long time thereafter as you all know, even if you were not here in this Chamber, you became aware of it because we had other things to do like Infrastructure, Education, Health Care and so on, until that opportunity came that we had to, step by step, over an extended period of time, think about the State House.

The President in office then, with the support of his Cabinet spearheaded the process until we reached a stage where we got funding for it to get started with constructing the People's House – State House. That President was not building that House for himself, he never spend a night there, he was a guest at the inauguration of that People's House by his successor. The idea of a new Parliament Building is not my idea as I had informed the House, it is the idea of my predecessor but because of the political system or the electoral system that we have adopted, we needed to find accommodation for the National Council and the Gentleman that he is, sitting next to his maker, my predecessor felt that he should yield for the National Council Chamber to be build first.

That we should have an appropriate Parliament Building, is a long standing ideal, it should have happened a long time ago but now is the time. For those outside, but particularly for you present here, we do not have the money that some of you talked about, however, the public was mislead to think that we had some N\$700 million already available, even before this Budget was introduced, to build the Parliament Building. That is an untruth, we want the money now. We were promised and given money to start with feasibility studies and that is what we are busy with now. We have earmarked to get the money that we need to be approved in the next Budget round so that we get started with building that House of the People that spans out for so long. Twenty four years down the line, the construction of the new Parliament Building was shifted from first to last in the row. The Supreme Court Building and the Building that houses the Chamber of the National Council have been completed, as well as the new State House in order to complete the construction of buildings for the

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main Branches of the State. Therefore, the only unaccomplished mission is the construction of a new Building to house the National Assembly.

In the current MTEF it is reflected that an amount of **Six Hundred and Thirty Eight Million, Two Hundred and Forty One Thousand Namibia Dollars (638,241,000.00)** has been allocated for the project. For the MTEF period from 2014/2015 up till 2016/2017 amounts are allocated as follows: **Twenty Five Million (N\$25,000,000.00)** for 2014, **Twenty Million (N\$20,000,000.00)** for 2015/2016 and **Twenty Million (N\$20,000,000.00)** for the Financial Year 2016/2017. The remainder of the amount of **Five point Seven Million (N\$5,700,000.00)** will be allocated as the Minister of Finance deems it fit, pending on the economic status of the country. Having said all the above-mentioned, I would like to inform the public out there, as well as some of my own Colleagues here, that we did not receive the **Seven Hundred Million (N\$700,000,000.00)** once-off from the Treasury for this process, as has been alleged by some. This is an on-going project and we only receive what is needed for the particular Financial Year for this project from the Ministry of Finance.

There will be no reversal! We must and will have the Parliament and now is the time to set the process in motion. I expect His Excellency to add his weight when he joins us.

Regarding the Operational Budget, apart from the practical administrative activities of the Secretariat and the National Assembly, the Standing Committees have continued to conduct their oversight activities in different Regions of the country. Exchange and study visits were also undertaken to other Parliaments in the Region and internationally to further strengthen inter-parliamentary relations. Financial assistance to Political Parties represented in the National Assembly remains an expenditure item and represents almost 21% of the Operational Budget. The IPU Strategic Plan 2012 to 2017 and SADC-PF initiatives aimed at capacity building and training are on-going and important undertakings in line with our vision.

For the Financial Year 2014/2015, the National Assembly is requesting an

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amount of **One Hundred and Seventy Seven Million, One Hundred and Twenty Six Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$177,126,000.00)** for both the Operational and the Development Budgets. This allocation consists of **One Hundred and Forty Million, Seven Hundred and Sixteen Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$140,716,000.00)** for the Operational Budget, while **Thirty Six Million, Four Hundred and Ten Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$36,410,000.00)** is earmarked for the Development Budget.

I would now like to give brief explanations on the funds required and allocated to the Development Budget, including the renovation of the SADC-Parliamentary Forum House, and concluding with the new Parliament Building.

Namibia, as host to the SADC-Parliamentary Forum Headquarters, has the responsibility of ensuring that the Forum is taken care of in terms of office accommodation to enable the Secretary-General and his staff to perform their duties effectively and efficiently. When that day comes down the road, when the Pan-African Parliament will indeed be authorised by the African Union in Addis Ababa, we will be able to establish Parliaments in all the different Regions and in all the countries of the African Union. However that is further down the road.

Currently, the SADC-PF is housed in a building that was originally designed as a Restaurant with a very big kitchen and not as office accommodation. Although various reparation activities have been undertaken over the years, the building now requires extensive renovations. An amount of **Five Million, Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$5,550,000.00)** is therefore, requested for this Financial Year to create a conducive working environment for the Forum.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, as a responsible institution, we have been constantly undertaking various reparation activities to maintain the Parliament Building in a satisfactory condition. However, we are constantly being plagued by recurrent pipe bursts, water leaks, as well as the loss in water

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pressure in this very Building where we are. It is an old building and the purposes for which we are using it now were not envisaged. It was the office of the colonial administrator and his staff, but we have been adding on some sense to it, step by step, which requires money.

In consultation with the Line Ministry and consultants, it has been resolved that the most viable solution would be to design a new water reticulation system, which should be connected from the Parliament Building to the existing Municipal connection points, whereby the ailing one would then have to be replaced completely.

Following a recent risk assessment exercise that was conducted by relevant service providers, we were advised to improve on the access control to the Parliament Building for obvious reasons. Security has been underlined to the extent that we can improvise to make our guests, particularly citizens whose duty is to check on us but whose right it is constitutionally to come and look at what we do here, comfortable. This is the idea but not being a technical minded person, I do not know how we will do it but there are those who have assured me of ways to do it.

Furthermore, the Administration has deemed it necessary to procure a number of vehicles to transport Members of Parliament to carry out their oversight duties - *Taking Parliament to the People*. This in turn has created the need for a number of carports to be erected to protect these acquired vehicles from the harsh Namibian elements.

Therefore, an amount of **Five Million, Six Hundred and Thirty Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$5,630,000.00)** is requested for this Financial Year to complete the aforesaid projects.

I have no doubt you will agree with me, it has become very clear that the current Parliament Building does no longer meet the growing requirements of Parliament in terms of current technology, size and functionality. It proves to be not only insufficient in terms of office space for both Members and staff, despite the fact that every single office is being utilised to its ultimate capacity, but also, its structural design is no longer being supported by today's sophisticated technology.

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It is, therefore, extremely important that this very important need must be fulfilled within a reasonable time to enhance the overall working conditions for Members, staff and the public alike.

Therefore, an amount of **Twenty Five Million, Two Hundred and Thirty Thousand Namibia Dollars (NS25,230,000.00)** is requested for the Financial Year 2014/2015 to continue with the preparatory work.

In line with its operations and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, the Operational Budget for Vote 03- “**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**”, has been subdivided under two (2) Main Programmes for which funds will be utilised, namely:

- Legislative Management; and
- Coordination and Support Services

**Programme 1: Legislative Management - Seventeen Million, Four Hundred and Fifty Six Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$17,456,000).**

The main aim of this Programme is to provide leadership, guidance and support in respect of the National Assembly’s proceedings and procedures and related administrative services to the Presiding Officers and Members of Parliament. The Programme activities include *inter-alia* the timely and accurate processing of Session Papers, Legislation and the Hansards.

**Programme 2: Coordination and Support Services - One Hundred and Fifty Nine Million, Six Hundred and Seventy Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$159,670,000).**

The aim of this Programme is to provide administrative support and legal advice to the Vote’s Programmes and to ensure proper financial management, optimal deployment of resources and capacity building. The Programme ensures the implementation of the relevant requirements of Human and Financial Resources. It also focuses on staff training and capacity development for Members of Parliament.

This Programme also has the responsibility of providing relevant and up-

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to-date information, research, library and ICT services to the Members and the Secretariat. It ensures the improvement of communication through innovative use of modern technology by providing adequate ICT services at Parliament.

Additionally, the Programme renders on-going and effective services to the nine Standing Committees of the National Assembly in their quest to perform their constitutional and oversight mandate. Parliament also pays membership fees to the SADC PF, IPU and CPA and thus participates in the activities of these Parliamentary organisations, including the Pan African Parliament (PAP). The AU Commission and PAP are yet to do more than talking to enhance their competence. The IPU has raised the bar and the UN expects our inputs as well. Given that, more resources will be required.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, to conclude, I wish to thank you all for your attention and support, and I kindly appeal to you to approve our request of **One Hundred and Seventy Seven Million, One Hundred and Twenty Six Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$177,126,000.00)** for Vote 03. Honourable Members, I count on you all that you will do me honours by supporting this Vote, since this is our Vote. Honourable Chairperson, I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you, particularly for the explanation you provided to justify the need for the new Parliament in the future.

Vote 11 – “**NATIONAL COUNCIL**” – **N\$103,496,000.00** put for Introduction by the Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker you have the Floor.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise before this august House once

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again, this time to speak on Vote 11 – “**NATIONAL COUNCIL,**” which outlines the House of Review’s expenditure estimates for the Financial Year 2014/2015.

The Namibian Constitution in Articles 74 and 75 empowers the National Council to investigate and report to the National Assembly any subordinate legislation, Reports and documents referred to it by the National Assembly. The Constitution further mandates the House of Review to recommend legislation on matters of regional concern for consideration by this very august House.

Since Financial Year 2013/2014, the National Council had one Programme “*Legislative Support Services,*” which has two Main Activities namely; **Strengthened Capacity of Review and Oversight,** and **Parliamentary Coordination and Support Services.**

During the year under review, under the Programme “*Legislative Support Services,*” the Chairperson of the National Council conducted Outreach Programmes to Omusati, Oshana and Oshikoto Regions, where he shared with the citizens information on how the citizens can participate in the lawmaking process. He also explained the socio-economic benefits of various Acts of Parliament and sensitised the communities on the disadvantages of the continuous scourge of Gender-Based Violence which has gripped our country with severe brutality, especially in 2014.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, during the year under review, the National Council reviewed eleven (11) Bills, of which eight (8) were confirmed without Amendments and three (3) with Amendments.

Furthermore, the National Council Standing Committees increased their oversight function on the execution of the National Programmes by comparing the Development Budget execution against the actual delivery of projects. The National Council convened a Special Session which considered nine (9) Committee Reports. The recommendations emanated from this Special Session were communicated to the relevant Offices, Ministries and Agencies for possible implementation.

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Under the leadership of the Vice-Chairperson of the National Council, the National Council Women Caucus conducted the Second Rural Women with male partners Conference which was in compliance with the 56th UN Commission on the Status of Women Conference of 2011. This session was convened under the theme, *“Empowering Women and Their Role in Poverty and Hunger Eradication, Development and Current Challenges.”* The conference equips our rural people with the knowledge on how Laws are made and it also generates issues of concern that the delegates can further discuss with their elected leaders in order to strengthen the lawmaking process. That event was very unique as male partners participated fully for the first time and all our Regions were represented.

Over the years, the National Council has requested this august House to fund its membership obligations to regional and international parliamentary organisations for purposes of benchmarking on best parliamentary practices and to participate in forums that sets parliamentary agendas to contribute to strengthened principles of parliamentary democracy.

The Honourable Chairperson attended the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth held in Wellington, New Zealand. Honourable Kapere was elected to serve on the Standing Committee as a representative of the Southern Africa Region for a period of two years.

In July 2013, under the leadership of the Chairperson, the National Council successfully hosted the 44th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Africa Region Conference under the leadership of Chairman Kapere as the outgoing President for this organisation. During this Conference, Namibia’s leadership capacity at parliamentary international fora was once again acknowledge with the election of our own Honourable Lucia Witbooi as the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians for Africa. Once again, congratulations Honourable Witbooi.

Furthermore the National Council continues to equip its Members and

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staff members with the requisite skills to enhance their legislative and oversight roles by conducting training in diverse areas which include budget execution, oversight effectiveness and public relations skills. The National Council in order to enhance the well-being of its workforce conducted a team building exercise workshop for both; Members and the Secretariat and has since established a Wellness Centre.

The National Council also prepares people, particularly the youth; to carry out their roles as citizens and enhance public participation in the legislative process by conducting Civic Education Activities which includes; visiting different schools, participation at trade fairs and various educational exhibitions.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honorable Members, in the Financial Year 2014/2015, the National Council activities under the Legislative Support Services focuses on two Main Activities: Firstly, that of **Strengthened Capacity of Review and Oversight**, and secondly, **Parliamentary Coordination and Support Services**.

The activity related to **Strengthened Capacity of Review and Oversight** entails the conduct of Outreach Programmes that the Presiding Officers undertake annually to educate the public on the lawmaking process.

The other activities under this Programme include:

- To honour regional and international parliamentary obligations;
- To Print the Witness Guide in Braille;
- To strengthen the lawmaking process through the referral of Bills to Standing or Select Committees for further consultations with citizenry; and
- The conducting of investigative activities by Standing and Select Committees in line with the oversight function of Parliament.

In order to fulfil the above mentioned activities the National Council

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needs **Twelve Million One Hundred and Forty Nine Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$12,149,000.00)**.

Under the second Main Activity; **Parliamentary Coordination and Support Services**, the National Council will focus on the following issues:-

- Improve citizens' understanding and participation in the law-making process, through the conduct of Civic Education Programmes and the sharing of information through all means of various forms of media;
- The National Council will continue to promote the concept of taking Parliament closer to the people. Hence, it will conduct its second regional session at Keetmanshoop in the //Karas Region, during the beginning of the Financial Year 2014/2015;
- Create opportunities for Members of the House and staff regarding their regional and international obligations and to conduct Capacity and Competency Building programmes for Members of the National Council and staff;
- Start with the physical preparatory work for the construction of additional office space for the National Council.

The total amount of **Ninety One Million, Three Hundred and Forty Seven Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$91,347,000.00)** is needed to implement the above-mentioned activities.

In total, to cover the National Council's operational and developmental commitments during the Financial Year 2014/2015, an amount of **One Hundred and Three Million, Four Hundred, Ninety Six Thousand Namibian Dollars (NS 103,496,000.00)** is required.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I request this August House to approve the sum of **One Hundred and Three Million, Four Hundred, Ninety Six Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$103,496,000.00)** for both the Operational and

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**HON DR GURIRAB**

Development Budget of the National Council, for the Financial Year 2014/2015. I thank you

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you very much.

Vote 28 – “**ELECTORAL COMMISSION**” – **N\$374,680,000.00** put for Introduction by the Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker you have the Floor, once more.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the Budget for Vote 28 – “**ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA (ECN)**” for the Financial Year 2014-2015.

A total amount of **Three Hundred and Seventy Four Million, Six Hundred and Eighty Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$374,680,000.00)** is being requested for consideration and approval by Parliament.

As the Honourable Members of this august House are well aware, the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) was established by an Act of Parliament in this very august House. The *Electoral Act, 1994* (Act 20 of 1994) sets out a clear mandate for ECN - to be the exclusive body to direct, supervise, manage and control as well as to conduct elections in Namibia in a fair, transparent and impartial manner with the aim of delivering credible elections, subject to the Act and the Namibian Constitution.

In the fulfilment of this statutory mandate, the ECN has just concluded the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Registration of Voters (GRV), and I may add the word ‘*SUCCESSFULLY.*’ I am reliably informed that the ECN has excelled beyond expectation by registering over **ONE MILLION** eligible Namibian voters, both in-country and abroad, with the Supplementary

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Registration of Voters still to come. In this regard, we must congratulate the Commission for a job well done.

Furthermore, the Honourable Members of the august House also ought to know by now, that 2014 is the year when the 4<sup>th</sup> General Elections, the Presidential and National Assembly Elections will take place. Therefore, in my Motivation for Vote 28, I am very much mindful of the mandate bestowed upon the ECN, which invariably must reflect the financial implications of conducting a national undertaking of this magnitude.

In this year of General Elections, the ECN has three crucial Programmes under its Budget namely; (1) **Voter Education and Information Dissemination**, (2) **Administration of Elections** and (3) **Supervision and Support Services**. In turn, these three Programmes have three major objectives namely to:-

1. Increase Awareness of the Democratic Process;
2. Ensure Transparency, Free, Fair and Credible Elections; and
3. Ensure Participation in the Electoral Process.

The breakdown of the Budget for the three Programmes of the Electoral Commission is as follows:

**1. Voter Education and Information Dissemination**

Voter Education is one of the core functions of the ECN and normally precedes all other electoral activities; therefore, the ECN has designed a comprehensive voter education campaign aimed at informing all eligible voters about these important events on the election calendar. With the envisaged introduction of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), extensive advertising activities will be conducted whereby adverts will not only be focused on the elections but also on the use of EVMs. The voter education sessions together with advertisements will complement each other to help give required information to the public in order to make the public aware of the EVMs, as well as to do away with misconceptions

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about the machines that some people may have, since affective advertising campaigns will provide maximum awareness of the EVMs and elections.

An amount of **Eighty Two Million, Six Hundred and Ten Thousand (N\$82,610,000.00)** has been allocated for voter education. The purpose of this Programme is:

1. To conduct voter education dissemination voter information;
2. To promote democratic culture and good governance so as to ensure credible election processes; and
3. Raising public awareness on elections, democracy building and political tolerance during elections.

The Main Activities to be carried out under this Programme include:

1. Voter Education Publications, Production and Publicity;
2. Regional Voter Education;
3. Research, Monitoring and Evaluation; and
4. Regional Voter Education Capacity Building.

**2. Administration of Elections**

In terms of the provision of Section 49(2) of the *Electoral Act*, 1992 (Act 24 of 1992) as amended, the ECN is mandated to hold elections be it National, Regional, Local Authority or By-elections and to ensure good governance and the consolidation of democracy.

During the forthcoming Financial Year, the ECN is thus obliged to hold Presidential and National Assembly Elections. Voting under this Sub-Activity will take place in all Political Regions countrywide and at all Foreign Embassies and these processes are separately costed. In addition, the ECN is planning to hold Otjinene and Bukalo Local Authority

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Elections during the course of the Financial Year 2014/2015, in these newly proclaimed Local Authorities.

Furthermore, during the course of the Financial Year 2014/2015, the ECN will hold any By-election that may emerge in case of a vacancy as a result of the resignation or death of any of the Councillors of any Regional Council. Budget estimates have been based on a projection of three (3) By-elections for the entire Financial Year.

An amount of **Two Hundred and Eleven Million, Two Hundred and Ninety Five Thousand (N\$211,295,000.00)** is being requested for successfully carrying out of all the planned electoral operations as highlighted under the activities of:

1. Registration of Voters;
2. Holding of Elections;
3. Update of Voters Registration;
4. Computerisation, Management and Maintenance of ECN Logistics;
5. Resource Centre Management;
6. Legal Challenges; and
7. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

These EVMs are intended to replace the use of paperwork base system during the forthcoming National Election (Presidential National Assembly Elections) and any preceding or subsequent elections to this National Elections in 2014. However, the current number of EVM sets acquired during the Financial Year 2011/2012 is no longer adequate to run Presidential and National Assembly Elections schedule to take place towards the end of 2014, as the number of EVM sets will equally and proportionally increase in response to the increased number of election teams needed in 2014 and beyond.

### **3. Supervision and Support Services**

The purpose of this Programme is to provide administrative support to all the ECN's Programmes to ensure the proper financial management, optimal utilisation of allocated resources and other administrative issues.

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Therefore, an amount of **Eighty Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy Five Thousand (N\$80,775,000.00)** has been allocated to ensure the smooth running of the day-to-day activities of the Electoral Commission of Namibia.

The major activities carried out under this Programme include:

1. Minor Renovations and Maintenance of the ECN Head Office;
2. Training and development, Gender and Capacity Building;
3. Acquisition and Maintenance of Information Technology (IT) Equipment and Systems;
4. General Administration Cost;
5. Construction of Regional Offices;
6. International Fees and Subscription; and
7. Wellness Promotion, Prevention and Mitigation of HIV/AIDS.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in keeping with its mandate, the ECN is obliged by Law to conduct General Elections during this Financial Year. This presentation makes a case for the Activities and Programmes that the ECN wishes to undertake during the year. In order to discharge these duties successfully and thereby uphold democratic principles and tenets of democracy enshrined in our Constitution and Electoral Law of the Republic of Namibia, I urge all Honourable Members of this august House to support this Motivation and approve the Budget of **Three Hundred and Seventy Four Million, Six Hundred and Eighty Thousand (N\$374,680,000.00)** to the Electoral Commission of Namibia for the Financial Year 2014/2015. *Muito Gracias.*

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you so much for motivating all the three Votes. The Whole House Committee will now go into the discussions of the following Votes: **“HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION,” “POLICE,” “YOUTHS, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE”** as well as **“REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT.”**

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 05  
HON DINGARA**

Vote 05 – “**MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION,**” put for Discussion.

Any discussions? I recognise Honourable Dingara. I am informed, as agreed the previous week that we shall stick to the five minutes allocated per Member to finalise his/her intervention.

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**HON DINGARA:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. The presentation by the Ministry of Home Affairs is very clear and they need to be congratulated for that. It is a job well done.

I maybe only have a question or a comment, something I want clarity on. Firstly, on Page 4, about *facilitating lawful entry into and exit from Namibia*; I would like to link that point with **Immigration and Border Control** on Page 7. I think during the Fifth Parliament we were asking the Ministry of Home Affairs about the manual forms that are completed at the borders, I even doubt if the records of those forms are easily traceable, having regard to the number of entries taking place on a daily basis, be it at the airport or at border post where the border is shared with other countries.

We were informed some years back - roughly within the last three years that the staff of the Ministry were busy formulating the Act so that it could be tabled here in order for us to amend it, to do away with manual forms and pave the way for electronic forms like when one enters the borders between Namibia and South Africa. That form is only found on the Namibia side, on the South African side of the border, for example, they just take your passport, scan it and then get the verification. I think we can also do that, I do not think it is too difficult to do the same.

I just mention this because the staff of the Ministry of Home Affairs were busy working on the Act three year ago. Apparently some provision in the Act of Parliament mandated for that form to be there. Therefore, the Act needs to be amended in order to do away with the manual forms. If that is the case, I want to propose that the Act be brought here so that we can

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HON DINGARA**

amend it as quickly as possible to ensure that we cross the border without those forms because we still have six months left before the term of the current Parliament comes to the end.

Secondly, on Page 5 - **Civil Registration**, this involves IDs and all those other documents. I can remember that the Committee on ICT visited Estonia, where we were shown good examples on how this problem can be solved. When we came back, we consulted the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
One minute left.

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**HON DINGARA:** One minute? These problem was prevalent in many countries, including Estonia and it took six months for Estonia to solve the problem and to make sure that every person in the country was registered. Currently they only register people at birth, so immediately after birth, one is registered and when you reach the age of obtaining an ID, you just go for a picture. They, therefore, do not repeat the process over and over. The Ministry agreed to visit Estonia and eventually learnt from the example of Estonia. However, I do not see the implementation of such a system in this Budget.

Are we going to continue the same way or are we going to change in order to solve the problem of IDs, once and for all, so that every Namibian can have an Identity Document within a period of six months? The other example is the one that was followed by the Electoral Commission. Sorry, I had to speak fast because of the time. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. Next is Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI / HON DR ANKAMA**

**HON SHIXWAMENI:** I just have one small question. I must of course, congratulate the Ministry for building the regional and sub-regional offices, the construction and the extension thereof, in order to ensure that visitors to the country are properly controlled and checked.

I was looking at the Development Budget of the Ministry for the MTEF period. Those of you that have been to Rundu, to the now Kavango West Region, if you go across the river to Calai and to Rundu, you will realise that it is quite a very busy border point. It is busy throughout the day and night but the Colleagues there are just accommodated in a tent.

I was thus looking at the MTEF and asked myself why has this completely been ignored because the same thing happened with the one that has now been addressed - the Kashamane Border Post and this is a good step forward because when you look at the other side of the border, they have quite very beautiful buildings but our people this side, the Police and Immigration Officials operate from a tent. I think this does not give a good image for our country, that is a big town, probably the second biggest town in Namibia close to the border with a neighbouring country, although it is a friendly country, we operate from a tent.

I hope it shall be addressed during the MTEF period. That is all I wanted to find out from the Minister, whether it will be addressed. Otherwise, congratulations for the buildings that you are putting up. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you for the short intervention. Next is Honourable Ankama.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Yes, this is a very well presented Vote and I would like to support this Vote wholeheartedly.

Firstly, they have definitely done a lot of good improvements in many of

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 05  
HON A TJONGARERO**

their departments. Something that I want to highlight on is the visas, particularly visas for seafarers. When I had meetings, several times with the seafarers in particular, I have been in South Africa some time ago, talking to our colleagues who are there and it has come to my attention that they have a problem applying for visas, either to go from here to another country or to come from other countries to here.

Visas for seafarers is a serious issue that needs to be addressed. I thought it would maybe be easier if there is a dedicated line for these people to acquire visas. If your next port of entry is for instance Nigeria, I tell you, it will be very difficult, I therefore, do not know whether there is a possibility for us to think of a SADC visa or maybe an African visa for these people. I have got no clue but it is something that we should think of, to allow flexibility even for our people who are receiving training somewhere else, just to easily get onto the next vessel and go for training, specifically for a cadet. It is currently so difficult, it takes months for them to get there. On this point, I would like to request if the Ministry could look into this and other permits as well, to see whether there is possibility of creating room for them or to simplify the process. Otherwise, I support this Vote. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next is Honourable Tjongarero.

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**HON A TJONGARERO:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also want to congratulate the Minister and the Ministry for a wonderful job being done.

My question is only on Page 5, where the Minister was talking about the installation of computers at counters, both at the Head Office and the Regional Offices.

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HON KAAPANDA**

My question is: Are these computers going to be stand-alone computers because that is what we have been experiencing when we were visiting the Regions with the ICT Committee, that there are computers but they are not linked to anywhere and not even to the Head Quarter. The computers are there and they are working but if I am in Opuwo, for instance, and I want to obtain information about myself from Windhoek, there is no link to facilitate this process.

My question is, are these computers going to be linked or are they still going to be stand-alone? Otherwise, I support the Vote. Thank you very much.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next is Honourable Kaapanda.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I also want to thank the Minister and the Ministry for a job well done.

The Ministry has indeed embarked on a process of deploying ICT in order to improve its operations, which is a very positive development, the Minister particularly made mention about the historical birth records being automated such that even Regional Offices can access data on birth record on their E-File.

I want to thank the Ministry for introducing the automation of the Fingerprints Identification System. This is another milestone for the Ministry and I would like to express gratitude to the Ministry for this new innovation. I also want to urge the Minister and her staff to continue with the process of innovation and automation.

In fact, I just rose to thank the Minister and to encourage her to continue with the process of automation and innovation in order to improve service

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**HON NAMBAHU**

delivery to her customers. Thank you, Honourable Minister.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Colleagues, I am following the flickering green light. Next is Honourable Nambahu.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole house Committee. I also want to join my other Colleagues in commending the Ministry for all the efforts they are making in modernising and automating the work of the Ministry. It is very commendable and should continue that way.

I only want to deal with two issues: One is a suggestion and the other a question regarding Visas. In my humble view, I think there is a need to consolidate, in one document, all the Laws regulating Visas in the country. We are at instances exercising visa control by comparative Law, that this is what is done in this country and this is what is supposed to be happening here but we are not sure of what our Laws and Regulations are stipulating.

A person comes here under one specific Visa and it seems to be very easy for them to branch off and start doing other things. In as much as I would like my country to be more welcoming, I would want to see a situation where there is strict control over this because if we do not do these things in other countries, why should it be done here? If you happen to be a company that is enforcing these rigorously, then there are complaints because there are others who are not doing it as rigorous as possible. I think the monitoring of these activities should be tightened.

The last point is, as our twin Ministry, we perform a lot of agency work for our colleagues in places where they are not presence, for example, I was in (intervention).

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 05**  
**HON NAMBAHU**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Point of Order. Sorry for interrupting my Comrade.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** a very short intervention, please.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Comrade Nambahu, I would like to know what your opinion is, as a lawyer who collaborate with this Ministry that deals with the registration of births, marriages and deaths, from time to time:

If, for instance, by 12:00 midnight Ilonga dies, do you think that this Ministry will be able to register his death so that his name does not appear on the voters roll the next day when people are going to vote? Do you think that that is possible?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Keep in mind that you only have one minute left.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** I think I will be accorded injury time. *(Laughter)*

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** No, just one minute.

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HON EKANDJO**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** I will not be able to answer that question by Honourable Iilonga because of the time. However, that is mainly a problem that side and not this side.

We should be able to work together because there are places where the Magistrates' Courts are very busy and spend more time on registration of deaths and births, taking a lot of time from our Ministry's people. These agency work needs to be attended to enable us concentrate on our call of duty by reducing the amount of time spent on this. I urge us to work together in order to eliminate this function.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Please hold on. Honourable Minister, Jerry Ekandjo.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you. I was not intending to take the Floor but the most recent event prompted me to take the Floor, perhaps just to caution the Ministry. This is not a question.

Our Constitution does not allow dual citizenship but of recent, one finds Namibian citizens who pay allegiance to foreign countries and that prompts one to think that those people might have dual citizenship. We know that if one is a Namibian by birth nobody can deny you of that right or withdraw your citizenship, unless you do that voluntarily.

The Ministry should be aware that one will find Namibians who apply to become citizens in countries like Germany or South Africa, where dual citizenship is allowed. In an event where a Namibian citizen applies for German citizenship and is accorded that citizenship, will I still be allowed to leave in Namibia whereas I have a dual citizenship?

I think the Ministry should think along those lines because I do not believe if you are a loyal Namibian, you should pay allegiance to another country.

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HON NEHOVA**

Those people are definitely having dual citizenship and some of them were born here, perhaps the Ministry must think about it. The case in point is the Angolans citizens who were at Osire - I know that it was our decision in Cabinet that allowed for Angolans who do not want to return to Angola to apply for the Namibian Residence Permit and after ten years they could apply for citizenship, whereas we know that the Angolan Constitution allows for dual citizenship.

According to their Constitution, if you are an Angolan citizen, you cannot renounce that citizenship - the Angolan Constitution does not allow renunciation of their citizenship. We have those Angolans at Osire who do not want to return to Angola although there is peace and they are having Residence Permits, since they cannot renounce their citizenship, what happens when they apply for Namibian citizenship?

For those Namibians who apply for dual citizenship in other countries, I think they must inform our Government because there is a possibility of some Namibians having two passports. I am aware of such a case of a Namibian but I am not going to mention the name.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Please round up now.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT  
AND CULTURE:** I think my point is clear.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Next is Honourable Nehova.

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**HON NEHOVA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 05  
HON BEZUIDENHOUT**

House Committee. I am going to be very brief.

Honourable Chairperson, when you go from here to other countries, like if you go to Zambia or Angola, you just come at the border and cross to the other side but when you go from here to South Africa, you first go to the Namibian Immigration this side, get your permission and in between there you travel to the other side and there is a *no man's land*. I would want to know, whom does that land belong to? (*Laughter*). Thank you very much.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

The last one speaker is Honourable Bezuidenhout.

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**HON BEZUIDENHOUT:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I think the land belongs to *Mr No*, and the surname - *Man's land*.

I just want to tie in with what Honourable Minister Kaapanda and Honourable Dingara said. I think we are right to automate and digitise our immigration and our citizen registry and to improve service delivery as well as minimising the feet that are coming to the offices of the Ministry.

As the Minister will see in a few months' time, there would be less feet because of your innovative way of communicating with citizens through SMSs. My request would be to improve the ICT infrastructure so that the speed of transfer of information becomes an added benefit to the workers working there. We have seen that in the Regions, they are connected to the national system but the transaction speed is very slow.

I know the Government is busy with the national broadband infrastructure that will be exclusively for Government and that will go a long way towards giving them the infrastructure that they need to execute their

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HON BEZUIDENHOUT**

duties very well. The capturing of all citizens records as confirmed by the Minister, would hopefully, and if not, it must be investigated, speed up the issuing of citizens documentation, IDs, passports, etcetera so that you use one core information database and not many.

The other thing I want to mention is that, hopefully we can also have the red notices or security notices from Interpol on the system at entry and exit points if we have a good infrastructure with all the relevant information, information being available for the seven eyes only, if need be. All these touches on social or national security and citizen privacy of records. The Honourable Minister of Information, Honourable Kaapanda very recently attended a conference on cyber security in order for us as a country also look at those issues so that we do not keep on going without covering our behinds.

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**HON MEMBER:** Covering our what? (*Laughter*)

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**HON BEZUIDENHOUT:** Covering the rears ends. English is not my language, it belongs to the Queen. I do not know how to say it, maybe there is a person with some military background who can help me explain what it means to “*cover my all backs.*” (*Laughter*)

I am very much engaged with the Ministry of Home Affairs and I can say, things are not as bad as it were five years ago. There is some improvement. I can confess here that I, through legal means obtained a full birth certificate for a citizen living in Walvis Bay in Opuwo because everything was linked to the same system single system, with one set of information. The officials gave it to me in Opuwo and I handed it over to the citizen. We are on the right track and moving in the right direction but we need to do it with the necessary infrastructure and authority, as well as security. I thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. With that, I call upon the Honourable Minister to briefly respond. (*Laughter*). Honourable Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:**

Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee for giving me the opportunity to briefly respond to the brief questions.

Firstly, let me take this opportunity and thank my Colleagues, the Members of Parliament in general and the Standing Committee on Defence and Security and Foreign Affairs, for working in partnership with all the others, including the Ministry of Home Affairs. Your input has helped us to address some of the challenges and we would like to place this on record so that you continue liaising with us. You are the eyes of the National Assembly and you should continue to be our eyes as well.

*Honourable Dingara*, on the manual forms at the border posts: Unfortunately, this is still in our system. The *Immigration Control Act* is still going through the pipeline of Amendments and I know very soon it will reach this Honourable House and the particular issue that you have raised will be addressed accordingly. I know it takes time but it is not all up to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration to do so, we also need the assistance of the other important stakeholders like the Ministry of Justice and their legal drafters.

Indeed, we visited Estonia and the purpose for our visit was to truly look at their ICT system, as they have computerised the whole national register and they talk about E-Governance. With the Estonian Government there is no paperwork.

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**HON MEMBER:** It is paperless!

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:**

Yes, it is paperless in every respect and we are also working towards that. However, we should remember that Estonia has started from a very advanced and developed data processing system. We do not have such a system in place.

Many of our citizens never acquired birth certificates at birth, while in Estonia that was the rule. Every child was born in hospital and therefore, had a birth certificate. Here we are battling to get everybody to have a birth certificate at an adult age and therefore, the challenges with this system are really so great because people are manufacturing so many ideas that even those who were not born in Namibia are doing everything possible to get a birth certificate. The trust sometimes get lost between the Ministry of Home Affairs officials and the citizenry because some were caught red-handed giving false statements on behalf of people who were not born here. Therefore, you will hear that the officials of Home Affairs are not cooperative and they refuse people their birth certificates and these kinds of things, but we will eventually get there.

I am sorry I will have to go slow because I want to provide answers to all the queries as posed. I think I have answered Comrade Dingara's questions.

*Honourable Shixwameni*, it is very true what you have said about the border post at Rundu. I have seen it and it is appalling to say the least. However, Rome was not build in a day. You cannot make comparisons with the border post on the Angolan side because of that particular spot, there are border posts on this side of Namibia that are in a better situation than on the other side but we are aiming towards having the same kind of structures and services at all our border posts. However, we will get there, maybe not today but in the near future, as this also depends on the allocation we get, that is our aim.

*Comrade Ankama*, on the visas for the seafarers, I think this is a very urgent and critical issue. If the Ministry was truly faced with such a challenge, why did these questions have to wait until the Budget Debate. I had hoped that this is one of the issues that we could discuss Minister to

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Minister and find a solution because these are people who are doing a service to the country. We, therefore, do not have to restrain them in that fashion. In as much as I would want to provide an answer here, I also want us to discuss this in our offices. I am inviting the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources on this particular subject matter.

On visas for SADC and Africa: I thought the African Union is working towards achieving that. SADC is just a first step towards enhancing that goal. If we do not have these SADC visas, it is just because probably we have not yet reached the point of discussing it but it is necessary and in an event any of us could initiate the discussion, we will be willing partners to discuss this.

*Comrade Tjongarero*, thank you very much. Our computers are meant to talk to each other and I am happy that Honourable Bezuidenhout has attested to the fact that our Regional Offices are linked to the Head Office and counters are meant to feed the main system within the Ministry. Nothing should be left to stand by itself.

*Honourable Tate Kaapanda*, thank you very much. We are geared towards computerising the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. My officials are very eager, however, what really restrain us is just the resources. We will not have enough resources until such a time that we get what we request but we can only get what we request if the resources are generally enough for each one to get enough from the same cake. I do not want to say we are not getting enough but we are getting enough as far as that cake is concerned. Thank you very much for what you have said.

*Comrade Nambahu*, thank you very much. The consolidation of all the Laws relating to visa requirements can be done provided you have enough lawyers to help us streamline these Laws in such a way that we do not just throw the whole Act on this document and expect everybody to be able to read and understand. I thought we extrapolate the relevant provisions that will help those that are using this legislation, to understand what is meant. It is a good idea, we may not reach that goal today but within a short period of time.

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

*Comrade Nambahu*, the agency work is sometimes dictated by the availability of resources. As one Government, we cannot allow a system to collapse just because the other institution does not have enough personnel to attend to certain issues but I think in the long run all the institutions will stand by themselves and do what is required but currently, we are still depending on you, please bear with us. We are on our way to take over those responsibilities as soon as we have all our personnel requirements met. We are in the process of negotiating with the Public Service Commission, with the view to increase our personnel requirements because the services that we are delivering are unfortunately required at Constituency level and not just at the regional level. We thus have to work towards achieving that and we cannot achieve that with the staff complement that we have.

Our staff complement is just too small. Imagine, somebody who requires a death certificate has to travel 100 kilometres to go and apply for that in order for that body that is lying somewhere else to be buried. It is cumbersome and it is difficult consideration the fact that not everybody can afford transport money and not every corner of this country has transport available to reach the Regional Office but we will get there with time.

*Honourable Nehova*, I think “*No Man’s Land*” is just a terminology explaining what it is because each country is supposed to have its borders and the borders cannot just be that one line. Let it be where it is but I thought the ideal situation could be that there is no “*No Man’s Land*” or land that does not belong to anybody so that when someone runs away from whichever system it will be easy to trace that person.

*Honourable Bezuidenhout*, thank you very much. As I said before we are geared to computerise the system in Home Affairs, we have started and a lot has been done so far. If you look at the Accountability Report of the Government on Home Affairs, you will see the figures, showing how many historic records we have already computerised, for example. Our vision is geared towards completing this exercise and we will get there provided we get the assistance, as I have said earlier on.

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**HON IILONGA**

On security notices; yes, we are already getting this. It is not something we are working on. We are just working on strengthening it so that at every entry point this information is given but it is of course within the purview of the immigration officials. It is not for everybody to see and that is why sometimes, in many cases, the Minister of Home Affairs is taken to Court because somebody who is refused entry will conduct lawyers in the country and they quickly run to the Courts and we are sometimes forced to allow these people in and it is very difficult for an immigration officer to stand in Court and say I did not allow this person in the country because of the security report that I got from Interpol but we already have the system in place. That is what I wanted to say here

In conclusion, thank you Colleagues for the support. Let us continue to strengthen this Ministry. This is a security Ministry in the real sense of the word. This is your Ministry, all of us belong there, including the Prime Minister, that is your Ministry. It is not just for the children, all of us, believe you me, all of us are the best clients of the Ministry of Home Affairs. With these few words, thank you very much.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Any objections? Agreed to.

Vote 06 – “**POLICE,**” put for Discussion. Colleagues I would to be relieved temporarily by Honourable Amweelo, I will be back soon. In the meantime, I recognise Honourable Iilonga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 06, which is another security Vote.

I will start with **Program 1 - Combating of Crime:** Comrade Minister I think the importance here is to combat crime. Comrade Chairperson, I would like to register my thanks to the Comrade Minister, the Deputy

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HON KAZENAMBO**

Minister and the entire staff, including our generals.

The mushrooming of this private security companies, especially the issue of uniforms has become a concern to our Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Safety and Security. We really need to revisit this issue to find a unique dress code for our man and women in uniform. Even our vehicles and those of the Namibian Police are not so easily distinguishable from those of private security companies. If you go to a service station or shop and come across an official from these private security companies, you will easily mistake him for your officers.

My other contribution is on **Programme 2 – VIPs Protection** which involves our lives. This is the Programme which deal with the people who are looking after our lives, driving us during the nights and rain. I really want to thank the Ministry for trying to promote these Comrades and I hope that we all want to see them getting further promotions than just being a Sergeants and Warrant Officers. They should also be promoted to the rank of a Captain or so.

With those few comments and requests, I really want us to put more emphasis on the colour of the uniforms used by the private security companies. These security company must be regulated. Thank you very much.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. We shall continue with the E-Controlling Mechanism. Honourable Kazenambo.

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**HON KAZENAMBO:** It is not applicable to me. (*Laughter*). Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members, I rise to support Vote 06, more especially, our men and women in uniform. Comrade Deputy Chairperson, I am raising a

concern after I have supported them because I know that amongst these men and women there are those who dedicate themselves to their duty, as I have said with regard to the Army, I do not need to repeat that but I am raising a serious concern.

Comrade Minister, while I am supporting your Police and your men and women there, the Police who are manning roadblocks, especially those that are dealing with speed control on the road and I am not justifying any violation of the speed. I realised yesterday that sometimes cars will be driving at the same speed, for instance, you will have two cars in front of you cruising at the speed of 140, these two cars will pass the speed traps and they will stop the next car travelling in the same speed range. How is it possible that the two cars cruising at the same speed are allowed to pass and the third one is caught? It does not make any common sense and I investigated that yesterday. I experienced it.

Maybe I was equally wrong because I was cruising and upon my investigation I asked - *how on earth is that possible?* The other car that was in front of me was a small GRN Toyota Corolla. I do not know at what speed it was travelling, then there was one of this new model Rangers, followed by myself with a Range Rover Vogue, and the capacities are not even the same. They caught me and I asked – *and then?* They could not even speak. I told them - *yes you can go ahead and charge me but it does not make common sense.*

The Law must please be applicable to all the citizens of the country and not be enforced selectively. How on earth? That is the concern that I am raising. This needs to be investigated because the Law must be applicable to all the citizens of the country, including myself. It is my concern because while some citizens are abiding by the Law, others are getting away with it by hook and crook and that defeats the purpose.

Concern number 2, because I am entitled to come twice, is the issue of security maintenance, again I do not know which Ministry it falls under but I salute the men and women in the State Security establishment on top of the hill or wherever they are. I know some of them who are ethical. I worked with them through our military services when we were PLAN

Combatants and I know how ethical they are. Comrades, we are retreating into the dark ages. You will hear somebody listening into your phone, please come on, we are not Al-Qaeda, we are not in the barbaric eras but we are a civilised society.

We have passed an Act here that, for somebody to listen into your phone conversation, a Judge must authorise it. We have emerged from the Apartheid Era where we know that people were abusing your phone, through listening in to your conversations. For some of us like Kazenambo, not that I am boasting, it is a question of Human Rights. There is nothing on earth that I will not say, if I have to say it, just kill me but it is a question of abuse of Human Rights, abuse of power and abuse of the system for some people to use their job positions to tap into others' conversations.

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

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**HON WITBOOI:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote of the Police.

Honourable Minister, as we are visiting the Regions for our oversight function, we are very happy with the progress made in terms of service delivery by the Ministry of Safety and Security despite the limited resources at their disposal.

Honourable Minister, I am aware that you know that transport is the biggest challenge. As a Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security and being conscious of the fact that transport is one of the important elements in the operations of the Force, I am here to talk on behalf of the people. If there is no transport, no proper investigations can be conducted, therefore, I want to urge the Ministry to make reasonable attempts to address this issue.

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**HON A TJONGARERO**

I am also happy that the Ministry is in the process of working on the *Liquor Act* and the Municipal By-laws for more stringent enforcement measures to be taken. I believe that stricter Laws will help us to curb the ongoing Gender-Based Violence in the country.

With this brief intervention, I support the Vote. Thank you.

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

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**HON A TJONGARERO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I am also rising to supporting Vote 06, however, my intervention is premised on Pages 10 and 11. Honourable Minister we are talking about more intakes and I am just a little bit worried that at the moment we are already having a backlog when it comes to accommodation, having more intake means that we are going to need more accommodation, more uniforms and more proper facilities, especially at roadblocks and many other places. We also need more transport facilities as it was alluded to just now.

I looked at the Budget, although we are thankful to the Minister of Finance, I just want to request the Minister of Finance that, if there is some leftover somewhere that that be allocated to the Police because when something goes wrong we all run to the Police for help.

Therefore, Honourable Minister, My Sister, please consider that, in case there are some funds somewhere, to reallocate that to the Police because as much as we want more Police, we will need more and better salaries, better accommodation, uniforms, transport and all that for them. I support the Vote and I thank you.

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**HON NAMOLOH**

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

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you very much Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I want to support the Vote of the Police but while supporting it, I was very perplexed a few weeks ago when I read in one of the newspapers where the Secretary of State of the United States claimed that our Police are brutal, they are killing people, abusing citizens and so forth. I wonder where they get this information from, lying about us. If there are killing fields in this world, the USA is at the forefront of them and not Namibia. Look at Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Libya and Guantanamo and we have the most abuses of Human Rights in Guantanamo and many other places of the world. If there are these officers or agents who are using WikiLeaks to lie about our countries at these embassies, I think the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should see to it that these liars are given marching orders to leave our country.

Diplomats are being abused in New York there. A year or two ago, one Diplomat had his arm broken by members of the New York Police Department and yet this is not reported in their country but then they have the audacity to tarnish our country. I think these things must come to an end. This is the most peaceful country where our Police are more democratic than anywhere else, including the United States. I think the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should look into this.

Honourable Ilonga mentioned about security companies and I once mentioned the mushrooming of these companies and the use of their uniforms in this august House. Is there no Law to regulate their uniforms? Some replicate those of our security forces, be it the Police or the Defence Force. Why are we allowing this mushrooming without any control? Honourable Minister, I think we need to look into this.

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**HON KAURA**

The armament they carry should also be regulated, otherwise we will have no audacity to put them down if they use AKs and our Police Officers uses AKs. It will end up in a battle field, why should they be allowed to carry AKs? AKs are mostly meant for the battle field, they should thus carry small arms and not AKs, the normal ones used to guard or exercise control. Why should they use AKs and submachine guns? I think we need to have this under control. If you are not careful, the Police will one day be running battles with these security forces because they are just as well armed as the Police and at times even over armed than our Police Force.

I, therefore, think we should do this Honourable Minister. With these few words, I want to support this Vote. Thank you.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Kaura.

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**HON KAURA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I only have a question on Page 6, the second paragraph which reads that - *“The Namibian Police Force has the responsibility to provide safety and security to the visiting Very Important Persons (VIP’s) as well as our National Leaders. The Police also have a responsibility to guard VIP premises and facilities.”* Now Honourable Deputy Chair, there is a VIP sticker on my car, for example, but I do not know where the classification of a VIP for a Member of Parliament begin and where it stops, because when it comes to premises, there is no security provided to the houses of the Members of Parliament who are not Ministers.

I want to find out from the Honourable Minister, what is the reason why the Backbench Members of Parliament are not provided with the Police to guard their premises and facilities as it is stated here in your statement?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 06**  
**HON DR IYAMBO**

Are they regarded as VIPs or do they fall under a different classification of VIPs? Thank you very much.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Dr Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much Comrade. I rise to support Vote 6 of the Police and I just have one or two comments on this Vote.

I want to go straight to Page 11, I noticed there that the Ministry, during the period in question have built and renovated about fifty buildings consisting of Police Stations and accommodation. I want to say something briefly on the accommodation of the Police.

If there are other uniformed personnel in our country where the accommodation is really very deplorable, it is the Police. Particularly the Police Stations at the borders, the majority of them are old tents. As a matter of fact, when they go to sleep, if it is a clear evening they will be counting the stars as they are sleeping and when it is raining they will be sleeping while standing because it is wet on the ground.

I know what I am talking about, there is no Police Station or Unit in this country where I have not been because I have been there. However, I want to congratulate the Ministry for these buildings. I hope we will come to a situation where, with the availability of the funds, that per year we are building and renovating at least hundred of those facilities but for what you received this year, Honourable Minister, we must congratulate you because I think your Budget has increased by about **N\$1 billion** and that of course always depends on the availability of the funds.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 06  
HON EKANDJO**

I also noticed on Page 12, that you are going to recruit about 2,800 new recruits because the Police personnel turnover is obviously just too high and it is very important that the recruitment continues when possible and when finances allow. We all know that the personnel are going to increase our security when there are more Police Officer.

With those few words Honourable Minister, may I congratulate you for the work that the Police is doing and we hope that as we move forward, there will always be room for improvement. Thank you.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Ekandjo.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you Comrade. I only have two points.

The first one is just some advice on the Western By-pass. As it is currently, the Western By-pass is a national road and as a result it is not under municipal control but NAMPOL patrols that road and not the City Police. I would like to suggest that NAMPOL and City Police can perhaps coordinate their forces so that the City Police can also assist in the patrol of the Western By-pass because too many accidents take place there, almost every month. Therefore, the Municipality, the City Police and NAMPOL could maybe coordinate on the patrol of the Western By-pass and because the City Police are already on the ground, I would suggest that the patrol be taken over by the City Police in order to minimise accidents in that area.

The second point is on the issue of these security companies (intervention).

**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Point of Order. Yes, Honourable Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** On a Point of Order; Honourable Ekandjo, is it maybe not possible to de-proclaim all those roads that go through the towns and cities because this situation is all over Namibia. You go to Oshakati, you will find a road that passes through the town but the City Police will not have control over it. Can there not be a Law that will be applicable to all of them? Thank you.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** I think it can be de-proclaimed but before de-proclamation, the Law must not hold us back. De-proclamation is good because once you de-proclaim, it means the Municipality will be able to take over. It is the most important thing and a very good idea that the Municipality and the responsible Ministry think about it so that the City Police can eventually take charge of the security situation in that area. I am of the opinion that the City Police will do better in minimising the accidents since they are already on the ground.

The second issue is on this mushrooming of security companies. If my mind serves me well, I think security companies only register with the Ministry of Trade and Industry as a company and later those companies transform themselves into security companies. I suggest that there be a body consisting of Security Ministries and the likes, to regulate or where these security companies can register, rather than the Ministry of Trade and Industry where they register as ordinary companies.

I am saying this because we do not know how many security companies there are currently and how many people they have altogether. All those people are armed. In an event of a coup, they can mobilise themselves and they may be around 30,000 and if you count the members of our Defence Force and the Police they are maybe less than 20,000 altogether.

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**HON DR KAIYAMO**

Those people might even be half a million because there is too much mushrooming of these security companies.

The case in point here is a security company that some years back, in the 90s, wanted to go and guard American installation in Afghanistan and we had to intervene when we heard about that. We just heard they were busy training and wanted to send people to guard American installations. This means they would serve as mercenaries. I, therefore, think that the suggestion of both the Minister of Local Government and the Deputy Minister of Defence, to put a Law in place that regulate and controls security companies, must be considered. This will enable us to have information about what type of weapons and the total number thereof because these people are an Army. I am sure most of them were also part of the Koevoet, it means they are definitely trained.

Otherwise I support the Vote. The Police are doing very well.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. I would also like to support the Vote of the Police as I have been doing for the past ten years.

My concern is also on the Programme of the VIP Protection. For the past few weeks now, our drivers do not receive S&T to travel with us. I should think that there is honestly a need to look into this issue of S&T. Cabinet decided that they will receive this in the next Budget but what about now? Our drivers are honestly suffering. They do not talk about it and if they did not tell you, you better take note of this Honourable Minister. We must please do something about it because our drivers are suffering by all standards with S&T.

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**HON NCUBE / HON BEUKES**

Lastly, I think there is also a need for the Police to know who is who in this public, i.e. who are their leaders, including the Traditional Leaders so that they also respect them on the roads. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Ncube.

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine is just to seek for clarification from the Honourable Minister on his Speech.

My question is actually similar to what Honourable Kaura has asked concerning the VIPs. I would just like the Minister to clarify about this protection to the VIPs, whether it is in general or it is per the status quo because the impression that the public out there is getting is that it also includes the Backbenchers.

It is perhaps better if the Minister can just clarify this so that people do not develop some false hopes. I so submit and support the Vote. Thank you very much.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Beukes.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to air my support to Vote 06 of the *Appropriation Bill* of the Ministry of Safety

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 06  
HON BEUKES**

and Security. I will try to tackle only two issues. First of all, I was delighted to listen to the informative review by Honourable Minister Immanuel Ngatjizeko on the strides made to ensure that we enjoy some peaceful sleep at night.

The fact that I want to address is the need for training and the capacity building within the Police itself. The Police is an integral part in enforcing the Rule of Law through their pursuit to collect accurate information for our Prosecutors in the Court of Law. In this regard, I submit to you that the allocation given to training is not adequate to empower the Police on different ranks to be properly trained and re-trained for service excellence. The effective and efficient way for Prosecutors to execute their duties is heavily dependent on the role of the Police during investigations. Our Police should be encouraged and given incentives such as financial assistance to enrol in security studies at institutions of higher learning. Gone are the days of doing police service with only basic training because every new generation is empowered with sophistication of knowledge and technology for the work of darkness.

Let us look at **Programme 1**: There, I find out that they include the purchasing of vehicles. Yes, I am a beneficiary of the VIP Unit in the Police Force. These men and women, together with all the other, the Police, both civil and uniformed members, go beyond their call of duty to ensure our Nation's safety. What I found out is that the Police are also suffering when it comes to vehicles, specifically when they bring the house guards to our houses. Sometimes these people have to sit for three hours in the vehicle while waiting for other officials to be off-loaded or uploaded for duty at the houses they are suppose to guard.

As much as I understand the shortage of vehicles, it is absolutely something terrible to think about. I think we must really look at how the Budget can assist the Police to acquire enough transport facilities in order to make their services more efficient. With these few remarks, I wholeheartedly support Vote 6.

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**HON KAZENAMBO**

**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Kazenambo, briefly please.

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**HON KAZENAMBO:** Yes, no problem. Before I continue with another topic, I will also wholeheartedly support the improvement in the conditions of the VIP Protection Unit and the drivers. These Colleagues really deserve to be supported. They work odd hours and travel long distances to provide services where they are invited from one corner of the country to the other. Therefore, I render my support for the improvement of their working conditions.

Now back to the hot topic; we are a democracy and I repeat that again, I know so many men and women of high integrity who are working at the State Security to protect this country and I understand their critical and important job, however, I will not barge because there may be a question that - *why is he raising that insensitive topic in Parliament?* Why is it insensitive if you are abusing the Human Rights of others while you know that it is insensitive? These people who listen into other people's phones do so illegally and we are not in a tyrannical totalitarian regime, we have democracy. We have Laws and these things of tapping and bugging people's phones is primitive. It is done in failing States, backward Regimes and we are not one of those, we are a progressive Nation. I know you will ask me to provide proof and I do not have any. (Intervention)

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Point of Order! Yes, Honourable Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** On a Point of Order; may I ask Honourable Kazenambo a question?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 06  
HON KAZENAMBO**

**HON KAZENAMBO:** Yes, please.

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** Honourable Kazenambo, you are saying that people may be listening to you without having followed the proper procedure of going to the Magistrate, it could be that they already went to the Magistrate before listening to your conversation because the Law does not require the one whose phone is being tapped, to be informed that – *yes, I went to the Magistrate to obtain permission to listen to you.* Maybe they received that mandate prior to doing that.

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**HON KAZENAMBO:** Thank you, Comrade Katali and it is good that you are raising that point. It only happens in dictatorial, totalitarian, primitive dark age, abusive Regime. If I had committed a crime, I am innocent until I am proven guilty. That is the reason why we have this mechanism in place; if I committed a crime or if I am a suspect, the Police should obtain a warrant of arrest, they cannot just come into my house without my consent or arrest me without having a warrant of arrest. I am saying that these kinds of things happened in dark age, dictatorial Regimes. It will start like this, (intervention)

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Point of Order!

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**HON KAZENAMBO:** *Mamuri oruveze ruandje (you are finishing my time).* Why can you not stand up and talk?

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Minister.

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**HON KAZENAMBO**

**HON KAZENAMBO:** Comrade, although I respect you, I am talking on a very critical issue.

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** I take cognisance of that fact but I am at pains, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I have no intention to interrupt the flow of ideas of Comrade Kazenambo but I am just wondering, I think Comrade Ngatjizeko is being put under a very difficult situation because I think he is not responsible for the Intelligence Sector of our security. It is a very good point that you are making, I would not condone the abuse of the rights of the citizens of this country and the Rule of Law should be followed when there is a suspicion that Alpheus /Gou-!na !Naruseb is busy undermining the security of the State.

However, is he responsible for the actions of the Intelligence? I thought of raising that point so that My Friend and Comrade is not unduly put on the spot while he is not responsible for their actions. Thank you.

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**HON KAZENAMBO:** Thank you, Comrade Beloved Brother and Senior Leader. Taking cognisance of what Comrade !Naruseb just said, *Tate Koshawana!* (intervention)

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Kaura.

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**HON KAURA:** I just want to find why is it written out here: **Ministry of Safety and Security - Department of the Namibia Police Force;** if it has nothing to do with security?

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HON KAZENAMBO**

I am asking this because you are saying that the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security is not responsible for security while here on the Speech of the Minister it is written, **Ministry of Safety and Security – Department of the Namibian Police Force**. Why is it written like that, if you say Honourable Kazenambo should not direct those comments or questions to him?

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Kazenambo, continue.

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**HON KAZENAMBO:** In cognisance of what Honourable !Naruseb has said, which I highly appreciate, here we are talking about peace and maintenance of Law and Order, you do not have to answer if it is not within your responsibility. However, what I am telling you is that there is an element, it may not be directly under your line of duty but the citizens will not enjoy peace and security, more so, if some elements of the State are abusing their positions when they have political differences.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Honourable Kazenambo, we are in a democracy, in a country of the Rule of Law.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Minister, Honourable Kazenambo is done with his contribution.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** I just want to assist him because he needs assistance.

**HON KAZENAMBO**: No, I do not need assistance, I do not need it.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE**: Order, Order! Honourable Minister, the Floor is yours for your reply.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY**: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much for having given me the opportunity to listen to the many questions that have been raised. I will try to answer them all but one thing that I have realised is that almost each one of you have supported this Vote. We have supported the men and women who actually ensure the safety of our Nation and that is appreciated.

I will try to answer to some of the individual questions that have been raised. However, let me start with My Brother *Kazenambo Kazenambo*, who raised an issue of the State Security Officers allegedly listening into conversations. Whether they are responsible for listening into conversations, I do not know. We do not know what proof we have for these things and if we say something like that, it is a matter of having concrete proof and say – *this is what I found to be happening*.

What I can say is that the Police is responsible for ensuring internal safety and security, internal peace, as well as investigating issues but they are definitely not responsible for tapping telephones, unless we can specifically say, this day the Police did a, b, c, d and e, I cannot really take that for having been the work of the Police. I hope My Brother will understand that.

Also, the very name that is appearing here; **Ministry of Safety and Security**, does not cover the entire spectrum of security because security has got different aspects. Safety and Security is an overall word but we also have State Security, there are all other different kinds of security and

all fall under the word Security but not necessarily under one single Ministry. I hope Honourable Kaura will understand that .

Let me now get back to the questions that have been raised: *Comrade Ilonga*, thank you for supporting Vote 06. The mushrooming of private security companies issue has been raised by a number of Honourable Members here that there are many security companies around, the uniforms they wear and the work that they carry out is also a concern to some of us. Our Ministry is currently looking at ways to regulate these security companies so the aspects and issues that you, Honourable Namoloh and the other Honourable Members have raised will be addressed once we have gazette the regulations concerning security companies. You thanked the Ministry for having done something for the VIP Division. Yes, the VIP Division is playing a very important role. So many questions have been raised around this Division.

Another question was whether the Backbench Members of Parliament are also included in the VIP Protection. These are different categories of VIPs. When we talk about VIPs, we have got visiting dignitaries who come to our country; for example, the Nigerian President and the delegation that we see that is here. We have got other VIPs that are also here but currently as it is, the VIP level of protection is limited to Ministers and Deputy Minister, that is what I know, unless if we want to make a Law that would make provision for everybody and of course, resources are also limited there. If you do not understand why we are taking on so many recruits in this Budget, it is to try and address some of the shortcomings because not all those VIPs that are regarded as VIPs are currently covered. Therefore, we are trying to recruit more people so that these shortfalls are addressed.

As far as their benefits are concerned, we have tried to do a lot. Many of VIPs' drivers as well as the bodyguards' service benefits have been improved. In the past but not so-distant past, they were all Constables but now they have been promoted, some of them are Sergeants and many of them are Warrant Officers, which means that they are also moving upwards, thanks of course, to the Ministry of Finance for availing resources for us to be able to do this.

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HON NGATJIZEKO**

The accommodation that was mentioned here is also one big challenge that we are facing, especially those that are operating at the border posts, that is slowly but surely going to be addressed, however, I must inform you that with every new Police Station that is being opened, barracks are also constructed. That is, every Police Station with its barracks that will be accommodating Police Officers that are going to serve there. That is happening. We have established many Police Stations even with this current Budget, many barracks and Police Stations are going to be established.

We also hope that the countrywide housing projects is going to slightly help address this issue. Members of the Police Force who are serving at the border posts are the ones living in tents, there is no proper accommodation. It is a fact that most of our members who are currently serving at the borders are the elderly, committed members who joined the Police from PLAN. However, we are trying to encourage the young ones that are joining to go and serve the Nation at border posts as opposed to only limiting this service to a number of people that has served the Nation for so long, fighting for Independence. This is, therefore, also one challenge that we are facing.

Transportation is another one but I hope that it is not going to persevere for long. Currently, for every new Police Station that we are opening, two or three vehicles are provided; for the Commander, the Operations, as well as for the Investigators. These are provided for and we are going to open many Police Stations and Sub-stations, even in the Khomas Region - Ombili is still to come, Klein Windhoek and many others. The suburbs around here are all going to be served with Police Stations. The purpose is to bring the services that are being delivered by the Police, closer to the people, that is the aim.

There is also this issue that was raised by *Honourable Namoloh*, the quotation of the Secretary of State of the USA, where this Nation has been accused of being a killing machine but all of us as Namibians, no matter from what angle of the country you are, know very well this is the most peaceful Nation. This is a Nation where peace prevails, of course there might be people who fabricate lies of this magnitude but this is not

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HON LIMBO**

the first time I have come across this. Prior to this Ministry, when I was serving at the Ministry of Labour, we were getting Reports originating from the Department of State which alleged a lots of things that are said to have happened here ranging from child labour to child trafficking. All these things were alleged to have happened here while we in our country here do not seem to be aware of some of these things. Whoever provides this information, I do not know why it is not verified before it is put in publications, it has, therefore, become a concern. As you might have noticed, the Inspector-General of the Namibian Police has responded to these allegations in order to tell the truth about the real situation on the ground.

However, I think that the concerned Ministries; my Ministry, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, actually need to get together, have a closer look at this Report and express our view on these untruths as well as correspond with the appropriate authorities. That is what I think should happen.

In my opinion, the appropriate approach to take is for us to be contacted before publication of this type of information. They should ask us - *there are these allegations, how true are they and can you give your comment this?* Instead of just publishing in the fashion it was done. That is not proper and that it is not good. Thank you, for your attention.

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

Vote 27 – “**YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE,**” put for Discussion. Any discussion? Yes, Honourable Limbo.

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**HON LIMBO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to congratulate the Minister and

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

My Dear Sister, Honourable Kavetuna. On Page 4, on the *Namibia Youth Credit Scheme (NYCS)*, I have got a few comments to make. This is a very good idea but what I want to add, can I be protected please? There is a lot of talking there so I am competing with my voice here.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Order! Just proceed.

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**HON LIMBO:** Thank you very much. The idea is very good but I wanted to urge the Ministry to make sure that all these people who are going to get loans must be mentored so that at list these projects should not die a natural death. At the end of the day, they must be able to graduate from where they started to something else and that is what I want to say on that one.

On Page 8, it is a very good idea to come with the National Troupe, I think as Namibians, we are now coming to terms with becoming a true Nation. I really want to congratulate the Minister for coming up with this idea because it will make all of us proud. Whenever you see people performing you, will be able to identify Namibia instead of one part of Namibia, I, therefore want to say thank you and keep it up.

With that said, I support the Bill. Thank you very much.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I recognise Honourable Manombe-Ncube, you have the Floor.

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**HON MANOMBE-NCUBE:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would also like to congratulate the Minister

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HON IILONGA**

and his Deputy. I, however, just have a few questions on the **Creation of a Conducive Sport Environment**. Honourable Minister, I would also like to thank you for the Independence Memorial Museum, I have no questions on that because it is completely conducive and it looks good, after the Reiterdenkmal that was really mocking us was removed. We appreciate that very much and the environment is very conducive for people with disabilities, they will also be able to attend to the museum as they wish.

However, I would like to highlight the environment of some of our sport pavilions, where people attend events. Some of us are excluded from some of the events that are taking place at the Independence Stadium, we are not able to attend activities at these places because it does not serve any purpose. You come there and you are not where other people are, this has been for such a long time. I do not know whether it is not being budgeted for or whether you are budgeting for it but then the Minister of Finance is denying you that money to make that environment conducive, or perhaps you have never thought of it.

Those are my few comments. Otherwise, I support the Vote. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Iilonga.

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**HON DEPUTY OF DEFENCE:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 27 – **“YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE.”**

Firstly, I want to find out what really went wrong that the National Cultural Festival do no longer take place as it used to? Last year we never heard our traditional or cultural groups from the 13 plus one Regions now, because of one Region which has been split into two. Why is it that they did not come together as they used to? What was really the problem? Is it

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HON DINGARA**

the money or what, since that is where we are unifying our people because it is played in all fourteen Regions now? You find some playing what we call *Ndilimani* and others play what we call the *Batswana* Traditional Songs, it is played everywhere. Therefore this is really a very important Ministry because it is unifying our people.

Lastly, I just want to thank the Ministry for taking the bull by its horn by removing that Reiterdenkmal. We not really need to be threatened because I said to our friends on this side, I did not use the word enemy but said, they are not our friends and they made a big issue out of it. If we did not have control over the removal of the Genocide Statue and the erection of the Founding Father's one, it was going to be at our own peril and you know that it means our own death in other words, we were going to be killed or be ready to protect ourselves. *Tatekulu* said - *we do not want war but we are ready for them.*

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Dingara.

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**HON DINGARA:** Thank you, Comrade Kasingo. I rise to congratulate the Honourable Minister and to support Vote 27 wholeheartedly (intervention).

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Are you rising on a Point of Order and he did not say anything?

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**HON NEHOVA:** Honourable Deputy Speaker, I want to ask the Colleague or the House a question, whether it is proper for us Members to refer to the Speaker, the Presiding Officer as Honourable Kasingo, Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab? It is a question that I want to be clarified.

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**HON DINGARA**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you for that note, I also silently noticed it but I did not say anything. Please proceed, Honourable Dingara.

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**HON DINGARA:** Thank you very much. I just want to make a small comment on Page 5. It is true that the boxing code is really making us proud in Namibia. Even the Chairperson is not listening.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Please proceed.

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**HON DINGARA:** I just want to ask a question on the maintenance of the sport facilities that somewhere, somehow, has become a little problem because if we do not maintain our facilities we will lose what we have.

Two weeks ago, I passed by one of our sport facilities in Rundu that used to be very nice, it had a lawn, a good fence and everything. However, when I passed there, the fence is not there, the lawn is not there, it has now been replaced by big grass and trees growing almost everywhere. There are also roads passing through the facility.

I was just thinking whether we could maintain the same standard it had because ten years ago it was looking very nice but now, ten years later, all that is gone. I am trying to say that we should please maintain the current sport facilities while we continue to construct new facilities. The Rundu Secondary School Sport Stadium is also in pieces. The one that I was referring to is Noordgrens.

Maybe the Honourable Minister will be able to say something about this in his response. Otherwise, I support the Vote wholeheartedly. Thank you

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 27  
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Dr Ndjoze-Ojo.

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**HON NDJOZE-OJO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I just want to support this Bill wholeheartedly because it is our Bill like I had always said.

However, I want to talk to Page 3, turning to Page 4 of the Speech of the Deputy Minister. You are doing a good job but before I say that, everybody has been commending on the Independence Museum and I just wanted to add something to that because when you approach it from the front you have the wording - *“Their blood waters our Freedom”* but at the back where you have these people sitting, those that freed themselves, there is no wording on top of it and I was just wondering that if you look at the front and then at the back, you are not getting the message. We know that the picture that has been put there came from a history book but it would also be helpful to put a caption on top of it at the back.

The second thing I want to talk to is these **Youth Skills Training Centres** that you are talking about on Page 3 and also referring to Page 4 that you need NQA accreditation for that. It is a good thing but I know that the Ministry of Youth used to be a Division within the Ministry of Education and I feel that there is a lot of detachment in terms of training and I just do not want us to move into a situation where we are going to have duplication of efforts from these two Ministries.

Even if you are doing some training, I remember that when the submission of the Ministry of Education was made, there are intentions to built fourteen Vocational Centres, one in every Region and you are already having skills upgrading centres. I do not know how you are going to work together in such a way that those will speak to each other rather than being independent training centres, because eventually you will need the NQA to accredit those courses.

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**HON !NARUSEB**

I really support the Bill but I am looking forward to a closer coordination and consolidation of efforts between these two Ministries in the future. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next is Honourable !Naruseb.

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**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you Comrade Deputy Speaker.

I am rising to support Vote 27 and I want to refer, particularly to Pages 10 and 11 of the Honourable Minister's Statement. The good work being done in terms of the construction of infrastructure at the places so cited on the two pages is commendable.

Maybe before I ask my question, I need to declare my interest. There is a small place on your way to the coast - Usakos, Comrade Ekandjo I am sure you know about it. I am also a senior citizen now and as long as I can remember, the sport facilities at Usakos gives me the impression that they have remained static. I can remember when I was growing up that there was a standard rugby field close to the then hostel for children of Caucasian descent (interjections). You call them whites but they are not white. That sport facility is even dilapidated now and in the area, there is no old location in Usakos anymore because that is where I was raised. However, the new area, the sand football pitch that we used to *skop our groot tone stukkend* - I was just wondering, Comrade Ekandjo and I know that you would be very sympathetic to this appeal, if we can find resources, maybe we can really also look into putting up something for the very promising youngsters from that area. You know, the players that you find in teams like the Premier League Teams, I see the former coach of the Namibian Brave Warriors also here, most of the household names are recruited from places like Usakos and I can cite you names. You think of Mogale !Naruseb, not that he is a relation, you think of the a late

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**HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Silvanus Nyambare, may her soul rest in peace, you think of Tsowaseb, there are so many youngsters who have been chasing leather around in the dusty streets of Usakos so if we can look into ways of also making it part of the next Budget Statement so that in the future it would also be cited as places where infrastructure have been so developed. I support the Vote, Comrade Ekandjo. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. I recognise Honourable Minister, Iivula-Ithana.

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:**  
Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support this Vote as the Founding Minister, we can claim our titles now - the Founding Minister of the Ministry of Youth and Sport. More so, I would like to congratulate you Comrade Minister and the Ministry of Youth and Sport for the accomplishment on behalf of the State to have established and built the Independence Memorial Museum and related infrastructure.

My question is related to the threat that is issued in this letter. Now that we know that the Independence Museum is not just a theory but a reality, it is an infrastructure now, standing for everybody to see and that is in terms of this letter by Mr Vaatz, that apparently whatever is standing there, in his clients' intention, is standing there at the peril. What security measures are in place to secure that nothing and nothing happens as far as this threat is concerned?

Secondly, I would also like to congratulate Namibia for the youngsters, the boxers, who have always been doing Namibia proud. Boxing, in as much as it is a violent kind of sport, and my concern that Namibia has become a violent society, with that in mind, what philosophy have we crafted to guide our young people who are intending on getting into boxing so that this sport code is not used as a training ground for violent

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HON EKANDJO**

youngsters to box and beat up all those they think are not equal to them?

It is my wish that we should, in as much as we promote this code, politicise to those who are doing so, so that they really take it as a sport and not as a training ground for advancing criminal and violent behaviour.

With those few words, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I support this Vote. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I will call upon the Honourable Minister to reply. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members and everybody.

*Honourable Limbo*, thank you very much for the support. We have taken note of your concern. Normally when we advance these credit schemes, we also provide some workshops for those who receive the loans but we will take your advice and also ensure that they graduate so that at least they know. We have taken note of your advice. Thank you very much.

Coming to the National Cultural Troupe, as you have seen, that was just a tip of the iceberg, we are now in the process of creating a Regional Cultural Troupe because what happened all the years is that, normally we have this Annual Cultural Festival - take the Four "O" Regions, in the North, for instance, whether they are from Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, their performances are just the same, it is difficult for an outsider to distinguish who is who. One starts to differentiate when it comes to the Kavango Region, Zambezi, Hardap, Omaheke, etcetera.

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HON EKANDJO**

What we want to do is to create a National Troupe, like what you have seen last time so that instead of promoting this cultural dances based on tribal lines, we come up with the National One.

Towards the end of last year, that Troupe participated, together with 25 other African countries in an African Cultural Competition in the DRC, Lubumbashi. We sent our Troupe there and Namibia came first, out of the 25 countries with the DRC in the second position, while there were also countries like South Africa, Nigeria and many others. We are trying to resolve that, thank you very much for your contribution.

*Honourable Manombe-Ncube*, we will try our level best. It is a pity that some of our people are not taken care of at places like the Independence Stadium but I promise you, of course with finances permitting, that we will make sure that the Government will do its utmost best to make all the Government Institutions, including all the Ministries accessible to all the people of Namibia, irrespective of their physical abilities or inabilities. This also include sports facilities. I have taken note of that, just to ensure that we create that conducive environment. Again, thank you very much for your contribution.

*Comrade Ilonga*, last year we did not have the National Cultural Festival because we were in the process of restructuring. Last year we tried to train them and concentrated on the formation of the National Group and by the time we finished, they were ready to go to the DRC, that is why we could not hold it at that time. We also did not want to have it the usual way - this language group having this and that language group having that. we could, therefore, not hold this event due the restructuring process. However, this year we will continue with the national one which is now going be at the regional level.

When the time for this regional competition comes, you will find that people from the Hardap Region, for instance, will be giving the same performance as opposed to the various language groups. Thank you very much for your contribution.

*Comrade Dingara*, with the Sport facilities, currently the Ministry is

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HON EKANDJO**

concentrating on improving the Regional Sports Stadiums first before we go to other towns, cities etcetera. Like in Rundu, the Regional one will be the one, behind the Shell Service Station. If you look at our Budget, for instance, it is **N\$709,000,000.00** out of which **N\$628,000,000.00** is the Operational Budget and only **N\$80,000,000.00** is for Capital Projects. It, therefore, means that the whole bag is just covering expenses, salaries and what have you. The **N\$80,000,000.00** will not cater for all. Hence, we want to first concentrate on the Regional Capitals and then we can now move on to towns like Usakos and many others.

Hopefully, places like Usakos may be considered in the next Budget. In the future, what we are thinking of doing is, once we build or renovate, for instance, the Usakos facility or any other facility, we hand it over to the Local Authorities for maintenance purposes because today if you look at the more than 45 Local Authorities, you go into the Villages, you go into the Village Councils like Koës and others, you will see that children are playing on the streets, in the dust but one cannot renovate all these facilities unless one has billions at your disposal. That is why we want to do that step by step and not at one go, starting with the main stadiums in the Regional Capitals and then filter through to others. However, once they are done, we can hand them over to the Local Authorities, perhaps for maintenance.

When we were at the Independence Stadium this Friday, My Sister was the Director of Ceremonies and she was telling people - *please do not move, do not move*. Those people were there in the sun the whole time and were now trying to move to areas where they could find some shade. As she was saying that I was seated next to My Younger Sister of Finance so I was talking to her, mobilising her. I told her- *you see the people are moving, looking for some shaded areas, do you not think that if we perhaps invest N\$20 to N\$60 million, we will be able to shade this whole stadium?* I was now trying to campaign to her and she said – *no, N\$20 million is even more*. That is what she said, not knowing that I was mobilising her and I hope she will keep her word. *(Laughter)*. Meanwhile my other Sister was telling the people not to move, I just want you to understand the situation from that point of view. I think as time

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goes on, the Government will take it one step at a time until we reach our goal.

*Comrade Dr Ndjoze-Ojo*, we may consider your proposal. I was thinking that it will perhaps also be a good idea to put some little history explaining the Statue on one of the sides, stating for instance that - *this was the concentration camp, this is what happened, this are the people hanged by who and what you see there are people who were cornered at Ohamakari*. We must perhaps add an extra plate with the whole history because the current generation might understand but fifty years from now, people may not know what this is all about. Therefore, we must add a plate that puts everything into perspective. I think this is very good and we take note of your contribution.

Coming to the **Youth Training Skills**, the Deputy Minister in her speech talked about Arts. I also had a discussion with the Minister of Education where we both felt that art should be part of the Ministry of Education because when we were young, we were taught how to draw, architecture and all those things, it must start from there so that some people can become artists, etcetera. We do have teachers in our Ministry currently, who teach arts as an out of school activity and most of them are Rastas, this gives an impression to our youth that to become an artist one has to be a Rastafarian. (*Laughter*)

We had that discussion and the Minister also agrees that arts must be part and parcel of the Ministry of Education so that people learn how to draw and so on there. That is what we are thinking.

Coming to the Vocational Training, the Ministry of Education take care of those who have passed Grade 10 and Grade 12, but what about the drop outs, those who failed Grade 5, Grade 6, Grade 7, the adolescents, especially our daughters who become pregnant and cannot continue with their school, who takes care of them? Our Ministry takes care of all those who cannot reach Grade 12, those who do not qualify to go to the Vocational Training Centres of the Ministry of Education.

Currently, we have that at Berg Aukas and then we have Rietfontein. At

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Rietfontein NQA and NTA accredited their certificates and diplomas but at Berg Aukas, they are not accredited up to now. Some students go there for a year and receive a certificate, however, when they go and look for work, they are told that this is just a piece of paper, throw it away but this person is a carpenter, a builder or a tailor. The people from the NQA who were there apparently feel that the facilities are not conducive for a proper learning environment because you find students for brick making and hospitality disciplines in the same hall. We must, therefore, just improve this situation and we are working towards that. People who are designated for white collar jobs can become blue collar employee because in the Police, dogs are trained to become Warrant Officers and Inspectors and if a dog which is an animal can do it, why not a human being?

For instance in our villages, you find a person who is a motor mechanic but that person did not attend school, however, if your car breaks down, he can overhaul the engine and put the engine together and the car can move, why can such a person not get a certificate? We are thus thinking along those lines, so that our education can serve people who dropped out at the primary school level and the Education Ministry serves Secondary Schools and Vocational Training Centres.

My Brother here, *Honourable !Naruseb*, Usakos is our home town and that is why, if I take off my shoes and you look at my toes, you will run away because when we were playing soccer there, we kicked stones upside down, however, we will take care of the sport facilities. I hope that in the next Budget, we will take care of that, Comrade !Naruseb.

*Comrade Iivula-Ithana*, security measures are there, we will put them in place but I am not going to tell you what we are going to do. All I can say is that we have taken note of that but I am not going to reveal here what kind of security measures we are going to implement.

What the Honourable Member said about boxing is true and I agree with her that the emphasis of training boxers should be more specifically directed at sport rather than training for any other purposes. My son is a karateka and he is now 28 years old, he started karate at the age of 8 but he is disciplined than anything else, he is very much disciplined, you will

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HON KAZENAMBO**

go into his mouth and come out unhurt. He is a three/four times black belt holder but very much disciplined. We must maybe also introduce karate as sporting code. Maybe we should work towards refraining boxers from street fighting because you will find that when some of our boxers, take a little too much in a bar, you will see people with swollen, red eyes, just in a span of half an hour and one will start wondering whether these boxers start exercising on others. Honourable Minister, I think it is a very good idea so that we at least bring boxing to the same level with karate.

Honourable Members, I think I have responded to all the question. Thank you very much. Let us now support the Vote of Ministry of Local Government and Housing so that we can go home. Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Any further discussions? Agreed to.

Vote 17 – “**REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT,**” put for Discussion. Any further discussions? I recognise Honourable Kazenambo.

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**HON KAZENAMBO:** Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, on Vote 17 - “**REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT,**” under **Programme 4 - Coordination of Regional Councils, Local Authorities and Traditional Authorities Affairs,** I will specifically be speaking to the Traditional Authority and not necessarily to the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development but to the Government of the Republic of Namibia, including this Parliament, regarding the issue of the Ovazemba Community in Western Namibia.

I must declare my interests, I am not an Omuzemba speaking Namibian, I

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am an Omuherero/Mbanderu speaking Namibian. Those who say, when we say these things we are tribalists, live with it! Unfortunately, that is what I am, kill me or leave me alive. I am speaking on the issue of the Ovazemba Namibians in Western Namibia.

Comrades, the non-recognition, and I am not talking to the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, I am talking to the Namibian Government.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
You have already said that.

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**HON KAZENAMBO:** Including this Parliament, I am repeating myself. Comrades, the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, be it the Chapter on Fundamental Human Rights and Freedom and you go through all the Articles and the Sub-articles in that, the non-recognition of a community in Namibia is unbelievable that it can happen under a SWAPO Government. A Government that we are in for justice, a Government that we are in for the sake of all its citizens.

You know, people call me a tribalist when I am talking about inclusivity. I marched in the war with the kids of the Ovazemba. Others have fallen in the battle with the kids of the Ovazemba. I saw them marching, handling other fellow disabled Namibians and today people talk loosely, they say that Ovazembas are Angolans. Tell me which Namibian community has not emanated from somewhere?

The Hereros with their many recognised Traditional Authorities, entered Namibia through the very same area occupied by the Ovazembas today. The Ovambos, we came together from Central Africa, read your history, it is where you are coming from and it is where I am coming from, from the same sisters.

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**HON KAZENAMBO:** The list goes on but Comrades, sometimes it puzzles you when people who were abused, who stood and fought for their rights and tomorrow, they become the biggest abusers and discriminators, read the history of the Jews, how they were treated and how they treat other people today. I hope that we will not repeat this same trend in Namibia.

You hear people talking of coups and revolutions now, you wonder, against who? I hope that this country will one day, not go into problems because of political convenience as opposed to conviction. Let us speak to our conviction of Justice and Fundamental Human Rights of all the citizens of this country and it is under **Programme 4** – the activity on Traditional Authorities.

The Ovazembas are a distinct community, you cannot say that they are Hereros or Ovambos. Some of them occupy Western Namibia. We need to look into their issue as a country, as a Nation that went to war for the Fundamental Human Rights of its citizens. Whether they are small in number, whether they are big in number, whether they are rich or poor, they are protected under the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia and it is not discrimination.

Those who are discriminating others, when people are outlining issues of discrimination, they jump to say that - *that one is a tribalist, this one is a gnomist*, we cannot build a Nation on those grounds. Let us respect the Fundamental Human Rights and the Constitution is a Law that is above all Laws. The Act of 2000 of Traditional Leaders, it talks about areas of jurisdiction, let us look into the issues of justice, of Human Rights and let us reconcile the issue of the Ovazemba Community in Western Namibia, as a country. I am saying this as a Human Rights Politician, as a person who was ready to die for justice and it was not justice for Hereros alone, it was justice for all the Namibians. I support the Vote. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. I recognise Honourable Chief Ankama.

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HON DR ANKAMA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Firstly, I would like to appreciate this opportunity and thank my humble Comrade, the General, this was well presented.

Basically, I would like to talk about the surveying of land. I was once a Mayor of a town (interjection) well I was the Founder Mayor of Oshakati for a couple of years.

What I would like to highlight here is that the surveying of land is very important. Even if we have to survey five to ten erven and provide services, the thing is, after surveying land and provision of the services, we hardly do anything. I will refer to one area that I know very well, Uukwangula. This areas has been surveyed and serviced and with this system in place for so many years that they have not been used, I think it may even be rotting underneath. Why do we not sell these erven and get money because once they are sold, the people will start building and you get money to continue with the next surveying?

I remember that Uukwangula, for example, had been surveyed for quite long, it is about seven to eight years now. The land is there, the plots are there, people have applied, they have money and plans to build but nothing is moving, what is happening there? We once more, want to get money from the pocket of the Government to survey more land while we have idle plots in the area. That is one thing.

Comrade Minister, while I appreciate this very important Vote, I also want to say something on planning, surveying and design and that is on Page 5. All that I have seen, I remember when I spoke to the surveyors and the architects some time back, I was saying - *you go to school where you learn, taught, trained and you say you are educated*, yes, these people are educated and know how to do the designs but why do they not extent their skills to apply designs within the environment? I have not seen African designs that would appeal to the African situation. When you walk across the city or town, you would want to see a building that is designed in a manner that resembles typical Africa because these guys are taught at

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HON NGHIDINWA**

school. Being trained at school and being a professional does not necessarily mean that you have to copy and paste, it is expanding your brain a bit more. The designers or the planners of cities, and our new cities in particular, should bring in an African flavour so that when we walk around we say - *this guy was at school. I tell you, he was educated properly, you can see what he is applying right now.*

I think those are the small but very important things that I wanted to touch, on this very important Vote. Otherwise, I support the Vote. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I recognise the Honourable Minister of Gender.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I rise to support Vote 17 - **“REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT.”** This is a very important Vote for the Namibian Nation because it is one of the leading institution in taking the Government to the Nation.

My most support is on the Mass Housing Project. Comrade Minister, I would like to suggest that for every thirty to fifty houses, please reserve play grounds or places for kindergarten or Early Childhood Development Programmes in those suburbs in order to reduce the long distance travelled by the children from their residential areas to where these institutions are built. This will reduce incidences of dumping of children and children who go missing, a phenomenon that is becoming common in our country. It will also help working mothers to attend to their work freely because their children are protected at those places.

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**HON DR IYAMBO**

Lastly, I would also like to see that new Zoo Parks and playgrounds are reserved in those specific areas of newly proclaimed suburbs and resettlements. With those few words, Comrade Minister, I support Vote 17. I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. Next is Honourable Dr Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to support Vote 17.

I want to make a comment and have a question to ask. The Honourable Minister of Gender has already talked about the need for playgrounds and I just wanted to add that it is very important indeed that the towns being planned today must be towns with plants to today. It will be very important that trees are also part of the planning programme.

On Page 2 to Page 3, Honourable Minister, you are elaborating on the construction of Mass Housing which is a commendable idea. I only want to say that, I do not know when we Namibians will ever be appreciative of efforts being undertaken. When you read our newspapers today on Mass Housing, there is always criticism. Some are even saying that the Programme should be stopped so that more planning be made first before the construction starts. I only want to encourage you Honourable Minister, to forge ahead with these noble ideas and where there are shortcomings, they can always be corrected but go ahead with it. That is just the comment I want to make.

On the same page, the Last but Second Paragraph, you are talking about the need - that there will be houses for those that are earning below N\$1500.00 but then you go on to say 50,000 households in informal settlements will be provided with affordable and quality housing, I just

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HON EKANDJO**

want to find out, and that is the question that I have, whether this implies the houses that are going to be rented because in informal settlements, you have some of the households that will probably not afford a house of their own. Will there be any houses to rent in this Mass Housing Project? That is the question that I have. Otherwise, I wholeheartedly support Vote 17 and I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next is Honourable Ekandjo.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT  
AND CULTURE:**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I fully support the Vote of the Honourable Minister.

I just have almost a similar question to the one I posed to the Minister of Safety and Security: Since the Western Bypass, starting from the roadblock, where the double lanes start up to where it joins the road to Rehoboth, is currently a national road, I was just wondering if it is perhaps possible for the City of Windhoek to put some lights there. It is so dark and there are many cars which drive there depending on the strength of their headlamps, that is why so many accidents take place there.

I also want to suggest, as Comrade Katali has said that the road that passes through the town can become part of the urban roads under the auspices of City of Windhoek, rather than being a national road so that the City of Windhoek can take charge because they were saying that they cannot put lights on that road because it is under the Ministry of Works. If the City of Windhoek can take charge of that whole Western Bypass, then the City Police can be in charge of the traffic control, which I think, will somehow minimise the number of accidents taking place on that road. Maybe the two Ministries can coordinate.

The other issue is, the Ministry of Local Government has expanded the

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HON DINGARA**

boundaries of the City of Windhoek up to, maybe the facilities of NamWater on the northern side, between Windhoek and Okahandja and then up to the other side of Seeeis on the eastern side, with the Mass Housing Project. I think the Ministry can just take N\$1 billion and buy these lodges up to Seeeis, it is a flat area. Once the area is bought, you start constructing there because currently they are constructing on the other side of Goreangab Dam into the mountain, that is where the Mass Housing Project is happening. It is too expensive to pump water to the mountain, why not construct eastwards where the area is flat? The other side to Omeya Town is also flat, if you can maybe consider that area for construction. Jus just take \$1 billion from the N\$45 billion to buy and service the whole area. You cannot wait for the Local Authority to service the land because they will say - *we do not have money*.

Still on the Mass Housing Project, each suburb must at least have a 20 hectare playing ground, a kind of a park. Currently, our children are playing on the streets because there are no parks. Windhoek has only one small park here, Zoo Park. If you go to other cities whether in New York or cities in Brazil, they do have parks. The Ministry can maybe consider coming up with a regulation that compels all the Local Authorities to have a 20 hectare park in each suburb so that people can go and relax there over the weekends.

Otherwise, I support the Vote, the Ministry doing very well. Thank you, Comrade.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Dingara.

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**HON DINGARA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 17, wholeheartedly.

On Page 4 there - **Promotion of Local Building Materials:** I think this

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HON DINGARA**

point has very seriously drawn my attention; the first sentence says – “*promotion of suitable local building materials is an on-going process and it will require continuous funding,*” and I am just worried about how long the *on-going* will be because it will take time to manufacture our own building material. However, we have already started, in one town in the South, on the way to Lüderitz, they are manufacturing corrugated iron and export to South Africa or wherever. If one takes that and combines it with the cement that we are also manufacturing in Namibia, those are the major building materials. We could just increase production of this corrugated iron sheets and protect this Industry by supporting it through only buying from it as opposed to importing this material from outside. If we can obtain our products at a better price, we will be able to build from home with our own products, produced locally and the excess can be exported somewhere else.

Manufacturing building material can be a huge Employment Creation Programme. We are not too many people in Namibia and if we just decide to manufacture building material in Namibia, no one will be on the streets, everybody will have a job. That is one thing that I wanted to encourage the Ministry to seriously consider.

I know about the Habitat Centre, it was well constructed but the problem is that it has started going down. However, the idea was very good of displaying all the materials that is discovered in Namibia at the Habitat Centre in Katutura. However, for the last two or three years that I have been going there, I could see that it is ignored, it is not taken seriously but there are things that people can go and see.

The other thing that I want to say concerns the turning around of the towns of the Nation. I went to Aroab and I went to Karibib, in Karibib, they looked for money from somewhere and serviced vast tracts of land and they decided not to recover all the money they have invested in servicing the land but selected groups of poor people and allocated them some plots. What I learned from that is that people know the importance of building a toilet and a shower where they are and just connected directly to the sewage system there. All of them first started building toilets while struggling to build their houses and other facilities. I think that is a very

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**HON KAAPANDA**

good example Karibib has shown. Now, coming to Aroab, the reason why I like Aroab (intervention).

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I will give you a few seconds to round up.

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**HON DINGARA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. In Aroab, there used to be a squatter camp but they have managed to do away with the squatter camp. It is a remote town, they have decided to look for some funding and the interest that they are getting from the money that the Ministry subsidises them with, they use to build houses. They have thus decided to destroy the entire squatter camp and everybody is building a proper house. Why can the whole Nation not go to Aroab and see what I have seen there? It is a shining example. Why can Windhoek and other places not copy that?

I support the Vote. Thank you so much, Honourable Chairperson.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. I recognise, Honourable Minister, Kaapanda.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. I rise to support our Vote, Vote 17 - **“REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT.”**

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**HON MEMBER:** And Chiefs!

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HON SIOKA**

**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY:** And Chiefs. Actually, I wanted to speak to Page 2 and most of the points which I want to talk about are already covered by the previous speakers, however, I just want to amplify some of the points.

You know, urban development in our country has been neglecting the provision of sport fields or play grounds. In all our towns and all our suburbs there has not been any provision for sport fields or playgrounds for our children and, therefore, you find children playing soccer on the streets. There has not been any provision made for recreation parks where our elderly people can go in the evening and relax and no provision for a small trader when malls are developed. Neither is there provision made for taxi ranks. I, therefore, think Comrade Minister, you need to look into this.

Maybe it is very important that the responsibility of urban planning should be taken up by the Ministry so that the Minister can direct and guide the development of our towns. It is currently within the Municipalities. Maybe this needs to be revisited so that the responsibility of urban planning or urban development be directed and guided by the Ministry.

I, furthermore, just want to underline my appreciation for the Mass Housing Project, whereby informal settlers will be provided with decent houses. I support Vote 17 and I wish to thank the Minister and his staff. Thank you very much, Honourable Minister.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Next is the Honourable Minister of Labour, Honourable Sioka.

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

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HON SIOKA**

Comrade Minister, I wholeheartedly support your Vote, without any reservations but I have got a small question, a very small one. This is not a question that I read from somewhere, it is just a general question.

When I went for registration in Katima, in the Zambezi Region, they requested for my water bill and when I looked at the water bill it is written in Afrikaans, imagine in Katima, Afrikaans. I was surprised because for me, being poor in Afrikaans, I could not understand where I owe and where there have been some increment and so on because nobody could translate for me but I could only read the amounts that I saw. For how long should we be informed in Afrikaans, getting information or statements in Afrikaans? Comrades, can you give me some time because I do not disturb my Colleagues most of the time, I only disturb the other side and I always protect you, if you do not know it.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Yes, you are protected. You have the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** For how long are we going to be receiving our statements in Afrikaans? It is maybe better to change it to Silozi and if not Silozi then to English which is the Official Language that everybody understands. That is my question? It has been a long time now since we have been reading these Afrikaans statements.

Otherwise, I support the Vote, Colleague. Thank you very much.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next is Honourable Minister, Nujoma.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 17  
HON NUJOMA**

**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I want to thank the Minister for introducing this very important Vote and I support the Vote without any conditions, unreservedly. However, I have just one small comment that I want to make. I have listened attentively to all the contributions here and they really make sense Honourable Minister, if you have listened. I have listened to Comrade Dingara there, telling us to look at Aroab and I think Aroab should be a very good model because if you start building houses under the Mass Housing Project, people need to pay for those houses but if you start small, as Comrade Dingara is saying, where you start with a toilet, you are eventually having a facility that allows you to move on. I think that should be a very good model but it should be planned as Comrade Kaapanda just said here, that there must be proper urban planning - planning involving the Municipality and the Ministry directly because it does not help to build these houses that the people cannot afford.

The houses must be affordable and, therefore, the people should start participating in making bricks. Honourable Dingara has made a very good suggestion, let us look at our own material locally. We have cement manufactured here, the sand is free of charge, of course everybody dig holes and get sand illegally or legally. I recall Honourable Iivula-Ithana complaining here about holes in the whole country, what are we going to do with those big holes posing a danger to human beings when they walk? Sometimes they get so full with water that you can even be drown in there.

These are good ideas and I just want to add one thing, which I have always been saying here in this House, we are complaining about Gender-Based Violence, we are talking about Domestic Violence, we are talking about rape, we are praying to God - *please help us God* but the root cause is alcohol in our townships. Go to Evelyn Street in Katutura, every second house is a *kambashu*, a liquor outlet. Alcohol and drug abuse is the biggest problem and we are complaining. Go to Herero Mall, everybody go there, drink and urinate everywhere where even the little

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HON UTONI**

children are watching. Is that the type of Nation we want to build? Honourable Minister, please, I am pleading with you that in our urban planning, in our new developments, we must not allow people to have liquor outlets there. It must be planned as Honourable Nghidinwa said, there must be children parks where the children can go and play and there must also be entertainment areas where the bars, cinemas and what have you can be build. Let the people go outside and not within the community. Honourable Minister, If we can do that, I will support you wholeheartedly. That is, however, my small comment and I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. The last speaker on this is Honourable Utoni, the Deputy Minister of Safety and Security.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I only have a very short intervention. Comrade Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, I have got a concern and this concern is also a future concern. When it comes to planning of both Towns and the Constituencies, I have got a specific issue that I want to reflect on.

People are now building around the proclaimed towns. Let me give an example, Comrade Minister, I think you know the areas very well that I am going to mention. A few kilometres away, if you are coming from Ondangwa to Helao Nafidi, the Headman and the owners of the *mahangu* fields have now decided, I do not know maybe on their own accord, to give away their *mahangu* fields. As a result, these places have become towns on their own, before or even closer to a proclaimed town. If you also take another area between Ondangwa and Ongwediva, there is another town. My concern is in terms of sanitation because the owners of

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 17  
HON NAMOLOH**

the *mahangu* fields have just demarcate the land the way they felt - people would be allocated plots anywhere. One plot would be facing this way and the other would be facing that way while these people will be getting a lot of money out of that. I have no problem with them making money but my concern is about tomorrow, when there is a cholera outbreak and the fact that it will be difficult when you want to develop that area one day. All this is taking place, yet we have the Constituency Development Committee (CDC). We also have Local Authority Development Committees, we have Regional Development Committees and we have Regional Planners. Can these people not get together with Headmen in the areas concerned? Frankly speaking, Comrade Minister, the situation in these areas that I have mentioned is going to be a very difficult and expensive one to handle.

Honourable Minister, I think you know it very well that those areas have become towns and when you come to those places, they look so dirty and no one is responsible to remove the refuse. Regional Councils have got no capacity to collect all the dirt and the places are so dirty. Maybe we should look into that. That is my concern. I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. With that said, I give the Floor to the Honourable Minister, the retired General, to respond.

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

Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Firstly, let me thank all the Honourable Members who have contributed to this Vote. It is a very important Vote, which is dealing with the alleviation of poverty in the whole of Namibia and it also deals with every aspect of our lives.

The first comment was by *Honourable Kazenambo*, on the recognition of the Traditional Authorities. The recognition of Traditional Authorities is

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 17  
HON NAMOLOH**

done through the current Act which governs the running of the affairs of the Traditional Authorities and the applications are also considered by the Traditional Council which in turn make recommendations to His Excellency on whether to recognise or not to recognise Traditional Authorities, they are, therefore forwarded there. I know you are well aware and you know the procedures, as you have been at this Ministry. As you mentioned, we currently have the areas of jurisdiction which demands that for a Traditional Authority to be recognised, it must have an area of jurisdiction of their own and not that they should be accommodated in jurisdiction areas of other Traditional Authorities. That is the current Law we have until it is amended, that is the only one which is still in force. Therefore, whether we talk about any particular community, we will always be guided by this Law. It is not that we either want to segregate or not wanting to recognise that community but because of this Law we have, this current the Act. It currently guides us as to what should be done.

*Honourable Chief Ankama*, My Chief – the surveying and servicing of land and so forth is done by the Regional Council. Of course, if they have no capacity then they will get the assistance from the Private Sector to do the surveying and servicing. On the land that has been surveyed and serviced and just lying idle - that is the sole responsibility of either the Local Authority in a given area or the Regional Council. They are the ones to make things happen there and not the Ministry of Regional and Local Government.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES**: If they do not?

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**: Well, if they do not, we will guide them but it is always their responsibility. It is our land and so on, but the development comes to them so it is the Council which takes

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 17  
HON NAMOLOH**

decisions for the development of a given area. They are the ones who sit in those Council meetings and decide what to do with the Budgets they have, therefore, in most cases it is more their responsibility than the Ministry's. We are also working within the ambit of the current Law which gives the Regional Councils and the Local Authorities the power to do deal with these things.

Honourable Chief Ankama, you also made mention of having our engineers, designers and so forth at least design some of our buildings with some African favour to it or something to that effect. Well, I do not know how we are going to design them because these guys are taught within the Laws and standards of the so-called civilised world so they design those types of houses as opposed to designing huts, I, therefore do not know in what African way they can do this. We can just say that they should be innovative enough to be able to do that. We are looking at what you said, particularly for the Regions. The case in point here could be the design of Offices of the Governors in the Regions depicting the environment of a particular Region to give the *flavour* that Honourable Ankama alluded to. I think that we will get there.

*Honourable Nghidinwa*, you mentioned that for every thirty houses we must reserve some hectares for the creation of parks and so on, however, these Mass Housing Project is an integrated system which has three components: It has the social component that we all talked about here, a financial component and it also has an environmental component. Therefore, this is what we are looking at currently because as I said earlier, we do not want to build more Katuturas but we want to build *Matutura* because Katutura is the place where we do not want to be. There is no playground, no entertainment, nothing but *shebeens*. In these suburbs that we are going to build, there will be no *shebeens*. (*Applause*)

I think whatever you have said, these kindergartens, sports fields, clinics, schools, churches and what have you, are all planned within this integrated system. We are going to have that. Concerning the environment, we are going to plant a house for every tree that we are going to built.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 17  
HON NAMOLOH**

**HON MEMBER:** Plant houses?

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I mean plant trees, but yes, we can build trees and plant houses, I can also say that (*Laughter*)

We can plant trees for every house that we are going to build. We are also looking at putting up solar systems on the houses to be build. Of course, for the poor, we are looking at prepaid metres for every house so that people are not kicked out of the house. We also want to ensure that most of the poor people do not owe anyone at the end and also considering the fact that electricity and water is a problem for those who do not have work.

*Honourable Dr Iyambo*, you also made mention of this system that we all now understand that is the integrated system. You also talked about the negative attitude some people have towards the Mass Housing Project. We are seeing this coming up on a daily basis and as these people know, they are saying - *people are already buying cars* while at the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development we have not even paid a single cent to anybody as far as we are concerned. If they are squandering money, we do not know where they got this money from. The cars and everything else are obviously not bought using this money. We have not paid a single cent to any contractor from the money of the Mass Housing Project yet, maybe they used their own money for that.

On the houses to be rented, yes, we are also going to build houses for those to who want to rent. We will build what we call flats in three storey buildings where people can rent, of course they have an option to buy if they so wish, so this Housing Programme has a lot of categories.

*Comrade Ekandjo*, lights on the Bypass - I think that can be discussed with the Local Authorities and other concerned stakeholders to put up lights on the Western By-pass.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 17  
HON NAMOLOH**

Comrade Ekandjo, we are also looking at building in, rather than building out so much because extending becomes very expensive because of the servicing of land. For instance, we want to contain ourselves to a specific area where we will be building and when that is exhausted, we can add more land instead of doing that just for the sake of extending and then the services become expensive.

*Comrade Dingara*, on the promotion of local building material – yes, this is what we are doing and you added that you do not know how long the *on-going* will be. This cannot only be a once off thing because this is something that one has to experiment, one has to innovate, it is more like doing research for your local material that could be adapted from Region to Region. This research will be a continuous process, however, for those who already have local manufacturing and supplies in place, they will be encouraged to continue and we will also encourage our people to buy from them.

*Comrade Kaapanda*, as I said, this is an integrated system and many of these things will be investigated as possibilities. The key problem that we have in Namibia is that we do not have a master plan for the entire Namibia, something like, what we are going to do in the next 100 years for Namibia in terms of towns, roads, where our railways will run and everything else. When you travel between Windhoek and Okahandja and look at both sides of the road you will see so many new buildings popping up. What if tomorrow, we want to build a railway for the train to go to Okahandja or to Rehoboth, where are we going to construct it? There is no Master Plan to guide and restrict people from putting up buildings everywhere they want.

The same answer applies to *Comrade Uutoni* on what you said between Ondangwa and Helao Nafidi, as well as between Ondangwa and Ongwediva. There is simply nothing to guide people. Nothing to guide them how many metres they should build away from the road, so everybody just put up something wherever they want. We are thus going to develop a Master Plan for Namibia and it will include the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Ministry of Works should be there, Communication should be there and all the relevant stakeholders. Only

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 17  
HON NAMOLOH**

then will we be able to have control about most of the things that were mentioned here.

*Comrade Sioka*, water bills in Afrikaans. For some of our people, there is no single S but only *Sh* so for Sioka we would say *Shioka*. Just as we would say Jambia (Zambia) and Tanjania (Tanzania) Janjibar (Zanzibar) because we replace Z with J (*Laughter*).

Comrade Sioka, on the water bills in Afrikaans, this is exclusively the work of the Local Authorities. When we put people in charge of Local Authorities to make things happen, they go and just sit and it becomes business as usual, they do not effect changes, however we would want that many of these things change. Our Official Language is English so all our bills must be in English and I think we will do that.

*Comrade Nujoma*, on planning, I have already mentioned that there is an integrated system. We are also looking at the affordability of houses and we must take cognisance of the fact that there are people in this country who cannot afford to even pay a N\$20.00. Yesterday, I was in Gobabis and I visited an informal settlements where I learned that if one wants build houses there, you must rather look for alternative technologies because what I have seen yesterday in Gobabis is appalling.

I was told these are the people who are being evicted from farms. Farm owners or some people kicked them out and then they go to towns like these. What you see there brings up the urgency in you that something has to be done. They are not even going to afford to pay rent. I think we need to revisit this situation.

*Comrade Uutoni - Blue Boy*, I think I have answered most of these questions. The key to all our planning in this country is the Master Plan. I thank you very much, Honourable Members.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Any further discussions? Agreed to.

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**ADJOURNMENT  
HON DR GURIRAB**

I shall report progress and ask leave to seek again.

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMES**

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Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The Minister of Finance should not promise special treatment to people who are closer to her, we are all your children so be nice to all of us.

Honourable Prime Minister, please tell us when we should be back or are you leaving that to me? Is this an automatic adjournment?

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In terms of Rule 90(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 19:35 until Tuesday, 25 March 2014.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 19:35 UNTIL 2014.03.25 AT 14:30**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
25 MARCH 2014**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** We shall get started with the Business for today. Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology.

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**TABLING: ANNUAL REPORT OF NAMPA**

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Annual Report of NAMPA by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, for the Year 2012. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Minister, please table the Report. Any other Reports and Papers? None. Notice of Motions? Honourable Amweelo.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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25 March 2014

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON DR AMWEELO**

**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 3, 7, 11,18, 19, 24 and 28 of the *Appropriation Bill* be, in terms of Rule 90 not interrupted, if still under considerations at 17:45. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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

The Notice of a Motion is the one of the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister. The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister has the Floor.

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**MOTION ON REAPPOINTMENT OF A  
MEMBER TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Comrade Speaker. Honourable Members of the National Assembly, in terms of Article 112(3) of the Constitution, the Public Service Commission shall consist of a Chairperson, and no fewer than three and not more than six other Members, nominated by the President and appointed by the National Assembly by Resolution.

Currently, the Public Service Commission consists of six sitting Members who are: Ambassador Eddie Amkongo, Chairperson, Mr Markus Kampungu, Member, Ms Magdalena Wilhelmina Deetlefs, Member, Ms Florence Munyungano Member, Mr Philemon Kondja Kambala, Member and Mr Stefanus Motinga, Member.

Comrade Speaker, the term of office of Ms Florence Munyungano as a

25 March 2014     **REAPPOINTMENT OF MEBER TO THE PUBLIC  
SERVICE COMMISSION  
HON HAUSIKU**

Public Service Commissioner will expire on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2014. Therefore, in keeping with the provision of Article 112(3) of the Namibian Constitution, His Excellency, Comrade President, Hifikepunye Pohamba has nominated Mrs Florence Munyungano for a reappointment as a Member of the Public Service Commission, upon expiry of her current term of office.

Comrade Speaker, I have the honour to request this august House, to reappoint, by a Resolution, Mrs Florence Munyungano as a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission, for a period of five years with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2014 to the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2019.

Mrs Munyungano's experience as a Commissioner during her first tenure will ensure that continuity and stability will be provided to the work of the Commission. Her Curriculum Vitae was distributed to the Honourable Members previously. Comrade Speaker, I am reading the name as written.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I request the National Assembly to endorse the Notice based on the above mentioned information. Therefore, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I so Move and thank you very much for your attention.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Any further discussions? Otherwise, does the Deputy Prime Minister wish to respond?

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** Yes, Comrade Speaker. Thank you very much, Honourable Members for your unanimous support, I hope that we will witness some good progress in the Public Service Commission as it has been. Thank you so much.

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

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. I now put the question that the Motion be adopted. Any objections? Agreed to.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE:  
APPROPRIATION BILL [B.3 – 2014]**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Committee Stage - *Appropriation Bill* [B.3 – 2014].

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

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

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE:**

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

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
The Whole House Committee is called to Order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill* [B.3 – 2014].

25 March 2014 **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 07**  
**HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

When progress was reported Monday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2014, Votes 01, 02, 04, 05, 06, 08, 10, 17, 25, 26, 27 and 30 had been agreed to and Votes 3, 11, 28 had been introduced.

Vote 7 – **“FOREIGN AFFAIRS,” N\$900,783,000.00** put for Introduction by the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members, the 2014/2015 Budget is being presented at a time when bilateral relations and multilateral undertakings are increasingly focusing on economic issues; a time when countries are forging new economic alliances. A case in point is the emergence of MINT that stands for Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey. Against this background, I would like to add my voice to those who spoke before me in congratulating Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Minister of Finance, the Director-General of the National Planning Commission and their staff for the 2014/2015 Budget, and for the theme: ***“Growing the Economy and Optimising Development Outcomes.”*** I fully concur with this theme as it is in line with the focus of our Foreign Policy, which is centred on economic diplomacy.

**REVIEW OF THE 2013/2014 FINANCIAL YEAR INCLUDING ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS**

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, when I submitted the Budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Financial Year 2013/2014, I had painted a picture of some parts on the African continent, being marred in conflicts such as the eastern part of the DRC, Mali and the Central African Republic. These conflicts stem partly from social and economic challenges. I painted a picture of rising African optimism, as they prepared themselves to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the continental organisation, the Organisation of the African Unity, today the African Union. I rounded up my Statement by giving you a glimpse of

25 March 2014 **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 07**  
**HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

our bilateral and multilateral undertakings for the Financial Year 2013/2014. Today, I am proud to state that with the resources allocated to the Ministry, we have successfully coordinated four (4) in-bound and Four (4) out-bound Official and State Visits. The Ministry has also coordinated the participation of His Excellency the President, the Right Honourable Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, in 18 regional and international meetings. We have also organised four (4) Sessions of the Joint Commissions of Cooperation as well as two (2) Diplomatic Consultations with several of our bilateral partners. Most, if not all Sectors of our social economic development continues to benefit from our sound bilateral and multilateral cooperation. I can refer to Education, Agriculture, Trade and Industry, Health, among others. As Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, Namibia has continued to successfully steer the activities of this body. In our capacity as Chair of the SADC Organ, Namibia led the SADC Election Observer Missions to Swaziland and Madagascar. Today Madagascar has a democratically elected President in the person of Mr. Hery Rajoanarimampianina. It is expected that Namibia will lead more Election Observer Missions to Malawi and South Africa in May this year.

Honourable Chairperson, in line with our Foreign Policy objectives of maintaining international peace and security, Namibia will assume membership of the Peace and Security Council for a two year term (2014/2016) beginning from April this year.

Further afield, the international community continues to demonstrate trust in Namibia by overwhelmingly electing Namibia to the UN Human Rights Council. This is testimony that our Foreign Policy is proactive and respected globally. We will discharge our responsibilities in these bodies consistent with our national interest and values.

As the world continues to change, so is the focus of regional and international Organisations. The Africa development blue print, namely the Agenda 2063, is poised to change the face of Africa in the next 50 years. Active participation of Namibia is essential if we are to benefit as a country from the objectives of Agenda 2063.

25 March 2014 **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 07**  
**HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

The end of the Cold War has left in place a unipolar world, with inherent insecurities, some of which are beginning to play out on the global arena. The emergence of political and economic alliances is all driven by the resultant growing insecurity of States. Therefore, the reality of today is such that for small countries like Namibia to succeed, we have to tactfully and carefully pursue our national interest in the region and beyond and position ourselves globally. In order to do that, three things must happen. Firstly, we must constantly review our Foreign Policy to reflect the aspirations of our people in this fast changing world. Secondly, we must have a structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that reflects the changing nature of the pillars of international relations, a befitting structure both at home and abroad, will maximize the benefits we derive from the resources we invest in the implementation of our Foreign Policy. Thirdly, and perhaps more importantly, we must have an effective Foreign Service comprising professional men and women adequately equipped to promote and defend our national interest at all times without fear or favour. To this end, people to be employed in the Ministry as Foreign Service Officers must have appropriate fields of studies. Similarly, diplomatic training and re-training will become an integral part of our Foreign Policy implementation. Hence, the following Budget request.

**MOTIVATION FOR THE 2014/2015 FINANCIAL YEAR**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the detailed Budget request for the Ministry is on Pages 65 - 73 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework book and on Pages 79 - 87 in the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure book. I now give you a brief summary of our Budget request.

The Ministry is requesting a total amount of **Nine Hundred Million, Seven Hundred and Eighty Three Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$900,783,000.00)** for the Financial Year 2014/2015.

**16.65% or One Hundred and Fifty Million Namibia Dollars (N\$150,000,000.00)** of the total amount requested will be utilized for Capital Projects at our Diplomatic Missions and at Headquarters. The projects for missions are all ongoing in the form of buying or construction

25 March 2014 **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 07**  
**HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

of Chanceries, and Residences as well as maintenance of the older properties. Since Independence, the Ministry has acquired a total of 47 properties. Of these, one (1) is under construction and nine (9) have been renovated during the Financial Year 2013/2014.

Regarding the Ministry's Headquarters, those of you who visit the Ministry, would agree with me that that building does not in any way project a positive image to our foreign visitors. A lot of resources have been spent over the years to bring it to an acceptable level, however, since it was built many years ago, and for a different purpose, it can never be brought to the required standard of a Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Therefore, to me, the only remedy as a long-term solution is the construction of a befitting Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At an appropriate time, the Government shall revert to this Honourable House on this issue and I believe you will give the Government the necessary support..

The remaining **83.35% or Seven Hundred And Fifty Million, Seven Hundred And Eighty Three Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$750,783,000.00)** of the total allocation will be utilised for the Operational Budget. This amount will be spread over the various Programmes the Ministry is running as follows:

**Programme 1: Regional and Bilateral Affairs Department**

An amount of **Twenty Million, Seven Hundred And Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$20,708,000.00)** has been requested for this Programme.

This Programme aims at fostering bilateral relations between Namibia and her bilateral development partners. It further aims to explore new areas of economic cooperation as well as enhancing mutually beneficial bilateral relations in Africa and the world at large. Official and State Visits as well as Joint Commissions of Cooperation are initiated and organised under this Programme. This Programme is at the core of our Foreign Policy for everything we do abroad boils down to our relations with a given country. This amount is requested to expand our diplomatic presence and visibility in all the regions of the world. Africa is considered the new economic

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**HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

frontier. We are seeking a balanced representation both throughout Africa. We are also matching our diplomatic representation with our trade and investment priorities for the attainment of the objectives of Vision 2030. Under this Programme, we shall also monitor the implementation of agreements and MoUs signed between Namibia and other countries in all areas of our cooperation. Accordingly, the Ministry is seeking the cooperation of all Line Ministries.

**Programme 2: Multilateral Policy Co-ordination**

An amount of **Thirty Nine Million, Two Hundred and Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$39,208,000.00)** has been allocated for this Programme.

Our bilateral relations as I mentioned before, impacts on our success at SADC, SACU, UN, AU, Commonwealth, NAM, to mention but some. Having strong bilateral relations with other nations facilitates success at the multilateral fora. It is, therefore, both pertinent and imperative that Namibia continues to enhance her stature internationally. Namibia continues to meet her financial obligations to regional and international organisations without fail. We also need to continue to actively participate at these fora by attending meetings; and ensuring that Namibians are made aware of job opportunities in regional and international organisations. As a member of the AU Peace and Security Council, Namibia will participate effectively to foster peace in Africa. Namibia is also expected to continue her participation in the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions, Peace building, Mediations, Post Conflict- Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Activities.

Gender equality has become an important pillar of international relations. In 2000, during our tenure in the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member, Namibia initiated an open debate in the Security Council that resulted in the adoption of UNSC Resolution 1324 on Women, Peace and Security. Since then the issue has become dormant and, in order to remedy the situation, Namibia is arranging a very important event on the margins of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly, to regain ownership as well as to reposition Namibia.

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**HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

**Programme 3: Protocol and Consular Affairs**

An amount of **Fifteen Million, Four Hundred and Ninety Five Namibian Dollars (N\$15,495,000.00)** is requested for this Programme.

The Department is the entrance gate between the Namibian State and Foreign Diplomatic Missions accredited to Namibia. It also receives all High-ranking Foreign Government Guests visiting our country.

The Department is entrusted with the coordination and support of all official functions and ceremonies involving the Head of State, the First Lady, the Founding President, the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the National Council and the Chief Justice. In addition, it renders protocol services to your good selves, when you travel, as well as to all Offices, Ministries and Agencies in the preparation of national events, hosting Joint Commissions and regional and international conferences. May I appeal to Honourable Members and through you, the would be invitees to State events, in particular State Banquets that, if you are not able to attend, please inform our Protocol Department as no show guests will be removed from the State list of invitees. It is also a waste of resources because the Government would have paid for the number of guests invited including those who do not attend without the courtesy of informing the Protocol Department.

During the second half of the year, the Ministry will organise a workshop on Protocol and appropriate etiquette and all O/M/As will be invited to send officials for this training.

**Programme 4: Foreign Missions Representations**

An amount of **Seven Hundred Sixty Eight Million, Three Hundred and Sixty Seven Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$768,367,000.00)** has been allocated for this Programme.

Like in the previous year, I would like to point out and emphasize that this allocation has to be seen against the backdrop that its execution is affected

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**HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

by the volatility of foreign exchange rates. I appreciate the understanding of my neighbour here, the Minister of Finance.

The objectives of the Missions include the promotion of Namibia's national interest and the protection and welfare of our nationals abroad, strengthening of relations with countries, regional and international organisations to which they are accredited to. On a number of occasions, we are confronted with emergency situations facing our nationals abroad but who do not inform our Missions of their presence in those countries. I wish to advise Namibians abroad, students and visitors on Government or private missions, to please let the nearest Namibian Mission know about your presence to avoid a situation whereby the Mission will be confronted with circumstances of the person they are not aware of.

The amount requested under this Programme will be to enhance the functions of the current 27 Diplomatic Missions and 3 Consular Posts. It will also enable the opening of four (4) new Missions in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, Dakar - Senegal, Accra - Ghana and Helsinki - Finland. The decision to open these Missions was informed by the need to realise the objectives of Vision 2030 and the implementation of our National Development Programme (NDP).

**Programme 5: Coordination and Support Services**

An amount of **Fifty Seven Million And Five Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$57,005,000.00)** has been allocated for this Programme.

The purpose of this Programme is to provide administrative support to the Vote's Programmes which include activities of the Minister's Office and coordination thereof including Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and the Special Advisor. It will ensure proper management of financial and human resources, the implementation of policies as well as for capacity building.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in conclusion, I want to make it clear that, all international cooperation and support rendered to all Arms of State, the Private Sector

25 March 2014 **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 18**  
**HON HERUNGA**

and to civil society is a result of our sound Foreign Policy and its effective implementation. Therefore, the budgetary allocation for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is for the success of our Foreign Policy Objectives.

I thus submit for your approval the Budget request for Vote 07 amounting to **Nine Hundred Million, Seven Hundred and Eighty Three Thousand Namibian Dollars(N\$900,783,000.0)**. I thank you for your attention and support..

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you, Honourable Minister. You have done well.

Vote 18 – “**ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM,**” **N\$725,368,000.00** put for Introduction by the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism.  
Honourable Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Thank you very much Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members, it is my distinct honour and pleasure to reflect on some of the achievements of the past period of Vote 18 and to share with this August House some prospects for the period ahead.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism has made concerted efforts to execute its mandate with high performance, in spite of the challenges we are facing.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, as we move towards our Vision 2030, industrial development continues to increase and expand in Namibia. In line with the provisions of the *Environmental Management Act*, the Ministry provides for a process of assessment and control, to ensure that development takes place with the least possible effect on the environment. This is important, given our fragile environment and given our critical renewable and non-renewable resources.

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During 2013/2014, the Ministry oversaw a number of major national development projects, including the upgrading of the Tsumeb Smelter, development of new green scheme projects, as well as estates and property development, especially at our coastal towns.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, the drought of the previous year and the flooding events of the years before have highlighted our vulnerability to extreme weather events. The financial and human toll from these events makes it critical for us to improve our resilience to such events, especially at the community level. Climate smart agriculture, increased diversification of livelihoods and value addition to our natural resources are areas where we need to commit additional resources if we are to increase our resilience to these events.

In a similar vein, biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are the basis of our fast-growing Tourism Sector, and are critical to other important socio-economic sectors including agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which was finalised in 2013/2014, calls for Namibia's biodiversity to be properly managed as the key driver for poverty alleviation and equitable economic growth in our rural areas.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, mechanisms such as the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) are in place to support the kind of interventions we need so that the environment can be an enabler and driver of economic growth. Over the past two years, the EIF has benefitted over 10,000 people with grants financing alone, through projects that address food security and livelihood improvements, green technology and waste management as well as education and training in relevant academic areas.

It is for these reasons that there should be a consideration to provide the EIF with a higher budgetary allocation, especially from the resources generated from the environmental levies and taxes.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, at the international level, Namibia hosted the 11th Conference of Parties to the United Nations

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Convention to Combat Desertification in September 2013. As focal point to this Convention, the MET coordinated this event, which was attended by almost 4,000 people from around the world. I would like to thank the range of institutions, which collaborated with us to ensure the success of this event, especially those from the 38 institutions that served on the National Preparatory Committee.

In the short term, it was estimated that the Conference generated over 1,150 temporary jobs, and employed the services of 35 Namibian companies. We estimate that around 140 million Namibian Dollars was generated by this event for the national economy.

The COP11 was hailed internationally as an outstanding logistical and technical success. As President of the UNCCD Conference of Parties until 2015, Namibia is now at the forefront of the global agenda on issues of desertification and drought, through the implementation of the 41 decisions adopted during the Conference.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, Namibia also hosted the 10th Adventure Travel World Summit (ATWs) in October 2013. The Summit was attended by almost 1,500 people and it was the first time for this Summit to be hosted on the African continent. The hosting of this Summit and COP-11 has demonstrated the need for the development of a standalone Convention Centre in Namibia. International conferencing can be important to Namibia's tourism product and increase the contribution of the Tourism Sector to the national economy.

The Summit generated around 56 million Namibian Dollars for the national economy, and a range of other benefits that are incalculable, especially the exposure, promotion and marketing of Namibia as a tourism destination of choice.

A direct result of hosting the Summit has been some fantastic international media and public relations coverage. The New York Times selected Namibia as the 6th "**Must Visit**" destination, out of 56 places around the world; Wanderlust magazine in the UK selected Namibia as the Number #1 country to visit.

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In addition, Afar magazine listed a walking tour in Namibia as the best in the World. (*Applause*)

Honorable Chairperson, Honorable Members, at the back of all this, the Namibia Tourism Board (NTB) has been pursuing stronger tourism growth by spending to date, in this Financial Year, about N\$35million on destination marketing.

Whilst taking into account the need to sustain the current source markets (German speaking Europe, UK, Italy, France and South Africa), NTB considered the diversification option to increase tourists arrivals. Meanwhile, China, Russia, United Arab Emirates and North America and SADC States were identified as emerging source markets, and efforts to lay groundwork to attract visitors to Namibia are being rolled out.

While there are no direct flights to these countries, Air Namibia is collaborating with other airlines to increase greater connectivity and airlift. Therefore, there is a need for the Namibia Tourism Board and Air Namibia to work on joint destination promotion campaigns, which is currently being considered by the leadership of the two entities.

As regard to Namibia Wildlife Resorts (NWR), a number of major capital projects have been completed. These include, Popa Falls Resort, in the Kavango East Region, which was successfully re-developed and completed for approximately N\$41 million. In addition, re-development at Tora Bay, to the value of N\$6.5 million, was completed and the facility was re-opened for business in December 2013.

Similarly, re-development at Gross Barmen Resort is in full swing. The project is expected to be completed and opened to the public in the last quarter of 2014.

The renovation of Hardap Resort is expected to be completed in October 2014 and the upgrading of Hobas and Naukluft camps are expected to be completed by June 2014.

Re-developed facilities are expected to increase the revenue generation

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capacity of the company as well as play a significant role in gainful employment creation in Namibia.

NWR has introduced the NamLeisure Card which offers 50% discounts to Namibians on accommodation at NWR facilities in May 2013. During the period under review, 1600 cards, to the value of N\$1.1 million, were issued.

Honorable Chairperson, Honorable Members, during the last Financial Year, the Gaming, Entertainment Control and Lotteries sector contributed about N\$20 million towards State revenue, through the issuance and management of gambling and casino licenses. There is scope for higher revenue collection from this Sector if effective monitoring and surveillance mechanisms can be put in place.

One of the major challenges faced in this Sector is the slow processing of the *Gaming and Entertainment Control Bill* and the *Lotteries Bill*. The passing of these pieces of legislation will be a focus for 2014/2015 as these will lead to increase revenue to the State significantly and also ensure the social welfare of the Namibian public through improved control and regulation of the Gambling and Lotteries Sector.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism is committed to ensure that our communities benefit from the Tourism Sector. With this in mind, the Ministry awarded eight (8) concessions to local Communities adjacent to Protected Areas. These concessions will create monetary benefits for our local economies and rural communities, and also empower them to participate fully in the Tourism Industry and to eventually become tourism entrepreneurs in their own right.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism, in line with Cabinet approval and Treasury authorisation, conducted an auction for 5 trophy-hunting concessions in Protected Areas. The successful companies each have at least 20% Previously Disadvantaged Namibians as shareholders. This shows that Previously Disadvantaged Namibians are now becoming part of the Trophy Hunting Industry. Money accrued from this auction is

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being used for Conservation and Community Development Programmes.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, Namibia has greatly increased its national conservation efforts and nearly 42% of the country's landmass is now under conservation management in the form of Protected Areas, private game and reserves, tourism concessions, conservancies and community forests.

National Parks continue to be the bedrock of our tourism industry, and the Ministry continues to maintain and manage them for the conservation of our wildlife resources.

Wildlife crime prevention is key to conservation. As a result, the Ministry has put in place measures to curb wildlife crimes through intensified anti-poaching efforts. At this juncture, I wish to thank the NDF and NAMPOL for assisting us in this endeavour.

Challenges related to human-wildlife conflict continue to exist. In this regard, the Ministry has committed itself to implement mitigation measures in order to reduce such conflicts.

The Community Based Natural Resources Management Programme continues to attract worldwide recognition for its innovative approaches of linking conservation to poverty alleviation. The conservation success in communal lands has also unlocked enormous tourism development opportunities. These are providing substantial employment and livelihood benefits to rural communities. During the period under review, the Conservancy Programme has been expanded bringing the total number of registered conservancies to Seventy Nine (79), benefiting more than Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand (250,000) rural people.

**BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS:**

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me then to present to this August house the budgetary allocation for the current Financial Year 2014/2015. The Ministry has been allocated a total amount of **Seven Hundred and Twenty Five Million, Three Hundred and Sixty Eight**

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**Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$725,368,000.00).** This amount represents:

- **Six Hundred and One Million, Eight Hundred and Sixty Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$601,868,000)** for the Operational Budget; and
- **One Hundred and Twenty Three Million, Five Hundred Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$123,500,000)** for the Development Budget.

This year overall allocation represents an increase of 10% on the allocations of the previous Financial Year and we would like to express our appreciation for the positive consideration to this sector despite the many competing demands the Hon Minister of Finance must deal with.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism Budget expressed in our Medium Term Plan consists of six Programmes and the following major activities are to be undertaken.

**Programme 1: Wildlife and Protected Area Management, (N\$241,786,000.00)**

The funds under this Programme will be used for implementation of biodiversity management and operations of conservation areas and national parks, support to CBNRM and direct assistance to conservancies, and human wildlife conflict management.

**Programme 2: Protection and Management of Key Species and Natural Habitat (N\$49,758,000.00)**

The purpose of this Programme is to improve our efficiency and capacity in protecting and managing key species and natural resources. The Programme will also increase access to the wildlife industry by previously disadvantaged Namibians.

**Programme 3: Tourism Development and Gaming (N\$104,907,000)**

This Programme will facilitate the promotion and marketing of destination Namibia, and regulating the Tourism Industry, through Namibia Tourism Board (NTB). This Programme also provides support to Namibia Wildlife Resources (NWR) to enhance service provision and infrastructure development, tourism awareness and Community Based Tourism Lodges. Investment in this Sector is critical for sustained economic growth and employment creation.

**Programme 4: Environmental Management and Regulation (N\$52,115,000.00)**

The purpose of this Programme is to ensure sustainable development by avoiding environmental degradation and the non-sustainable use of our resources.

The main Activities under this Program are: Environmental Assessments, Pollution Control and Waste Management; Sustainable Management of the Coastal Environment; Biodiversity Conservation; Integrated Sustainable Land Management; and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.

**Programme 5: Planning, Coordination, Infrastructure Development, Maintenance, Monitoring and Evaluation (N\$146,178,000.00)**

The purpose of this Programme is to ensure planning and implementation of development projects and maintenance of infrastructure. It is also responsible for the policy planning and coordination of Development cooperation and international Programmes.

**Programme 6: Administration, Coordination and Investments (N\$130,624,000.00)**

The purpose of this Programme is to provide support to the holistic administrative issues of the Ministry. It includes Activities such as Financial Management, Internal Audits, Human Resource Management,

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Business Process Re-engineering, Information and Technology, Asset Management and General Support.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, Tourism continues to be one of the pillars of our economy as it offers excellent opportunities for development in many parts of the country, particularly where few other economic opportunities exist. Therefore, Tourism is a vehicle with excellent potential to alleviate poverty.

Before I conclude, I would like to sincerely thank the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Director-General of the National Planning Commission for the funds allocated to Vote 18.

I would also like to thank my Deputy Minister and all my staff for their commitment.

I now, request this Honourable House to support and approve an amount of **Seven Hundred and Twenty Five Million, Three Hundred and Sixty Eight Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$725,368,000.00) only**, to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for the Financial Year 2014/2015. I sincerely thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. You have concluded within a reasonable short time.

Vote 24 – **“TRANSPORT,” N\$4,055,755,000.00** put for Introduction by the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport. Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Let me thank the Honourable Members of this House for affording me the opportunity to present to you the Programmes for the Department of Transport: Vote 24 in the Ministry of Works and Transport.

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Vote 24 is responsible for the oversight of the development of efficient and effective transport infrastructure, which contributes to the promotion of the country's economic development and social upliftment.

Namibia is daunted by the formidable task of maintaining the roads and railway lines due to floodwaters during rainy seasons. Easy mobility for the people and Industry remains our focus, therefore, maintenance and proper management of these Government assets is necessary and needs to be preserved and intensified.

Transport infrastructure and services remain crucial for generating economic growth, alleviating poverty, reducing the scourge of inequality and increasing domestic and international competitiveness.

In financing transport infrastructure, we are aware of Namibia's economic and social characteristics including various demands made on tax-based revenues. We on the other hand, welcome and encourage the willingness of the Private Sector to invest in transport infrastructure.

I am confident that Namibian's transport infrastructure can boost our prospect to flourish despite the world economic recessions.

Therefore, we need to be more assertive to open up the existing and untapped markets through the provision of adequate and world-class transportation infrastructures.

Our effort to make transport a driving force contributing to the economic growth and the alike, keeps on. We, therefore, request you, Honourable Members to render us support in order to realize our national goal.

I now wish to present to you, Honourable Members the Programmes that will be discharged by the Ministry of Works and Transport through the Department of Transport during the Financial Year 2014/2015.

**PROGRAMME 1: AIR TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable

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Members this Programme is responsible to ensure a safe, secure and efficient Civil Aviation Infrastructure that contributes to the national security and its economy. This Programme consists of three Main Activities, namely Aircraft Accident Investigations, Government Air Transport Services and Civil Aviation Infrastructure Administration.

**Aircraft Accident Investigations**

This Activity is primarily responsible for the investigations of civil aircraft accidents and serious incidents in order to determine the facts, conditions and circumstances pertaining to the accident, the dissemination of safety information and for carrying out accident prevention activities in Namibia.

It also promotes aviation safety within the Aviation Industry, monitoring and benchmarking accident trends with the international aviation community to make sure that Namibia is on par.

In addition to the National Aircraft Investigation responsibilities, the activity covers investigation of civil aviation accidents and incidents which occur to any civil aircraft in or over Namibia to aircraft registered in any country other than Namibia.

During the period under review, 28 aircraft accidents occurred in Namibia including the airline of Mozambique 470, which crashed on 29 November 2013, in the Bwabwata National Park in Okavango East Region. This accident, unfortunately, claimed the lives of all on board. The Ministry successfully led the investigation team of experts from different countries including USA, China, Portugal, Angola, Mozambique, Botswana and Brazil. The Ministry has also started with an investigation on the aircraft that crashed in Etosha on 08 March 2014.

Based on the evidence obtained so far it might be a complex exercise that might require for the aircraft components to be send overseas for further investigations.

In order to achieve the mandate under this programme I request an amount of **N\$8,282,000.00**.

### **Government Air Transport Services**

The objective with this Activity is to provide air transport services to His Excellency the President, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, visiting Dignitaries, Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies as well as private individual citizens. These air transport services are provided at national, regional and international levels. For Government Air Transport Services, I request an amount of **N\$57,744,000.00**.

### **Civil Aviation Infrastructure Administration**

This Activity ensures the construction and rehabilitation of Civil Aviation infrastructures. In addition, it is also responsible for service provision (Air Traffic Control, Aeronautical Information Services and Air Navigation and Technical Services), administration and regulations in compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) requirements.

During the review period, the Ministry constructed 90% of the Air Traffic Control tower at Mpacha Airport in Katima Mulilo and it is in the process to start with the construction of a new Air Traffic Control Tower at Ondangwa, in Oshana Region.

The construction of the Head Office of Civil Aviation has started at the end of 2013 and is expected to be completed at the end of 2015.

Another achievement made during the review period is the extension coverage of the Radar and Surveillance System by installing additional Wide Area Multilateration for the Walvis Bay Terminal Movement Area and over the Zambezi Region. Thanks to this new system, that Namibia was able to locate the missing Mozambican Aircraft, which was involved in an accident in November 2013 in Bwabwata National Park, in Kavango East Region.

In order to meet the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standards and recommended practices, Namibia is one of 192 States who

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have to comply.

The next ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) follow up audit will be conducted in July 2014. The Ministry is therefore hard at work to prepare the country for this international audit.

In order to achieve the objectives under Civil Aviation Administration, which includes Namibia Airports Company as well as Air Namibia, I therefore request an amount of **N\$1,411,099,000.00**.

**PROGRAMME 2: METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members the main objective of this Programme is to provide meteorological services to the Namibian citizens and foreign nationals. In addition to contribute to the safety and well being of Namibians, to reduce the loses of their properties and to contribute to the sustainable economic growth of Namibia.

As one of the achievements, the Ministry has managed to procure and install a state of art calibration instrument that consisting of a wind tunnel, temperature, pressure, humidity, rain and radiation chambers to ensure compliance to national and international quality standards.

Namibia attain ISO 9000-2008 certification for quality management system aimed at ensuring compliance to the International Civil Aviation Organisation's requirement for aeronautical meteorological services.

The Ministry has procured and installed the first ever local numerical weather prediction model (COSMO) in order to improve the accuracy of weather forecasts and contribute to the disaster management, as well as forecasting of severe weather phenomena such as floods and droughts.

The Ministry embarked upon the installation of one upper atmosphere meteorological data acquisition system at Ondangwa Airport to enhance aviation safety and improve weather forecasting especially for agriculture

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purposes. Expansion of meteorological services to the regions are to start soon, offices are being constructed at Rundu and Katima Mulilo Airports. I therefore request an amount of **N\$ 66,717, 000** for this Programme.

**PROGRAMME 3: MARITIME LEGISLATION  
ADMINISTRATION**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members the objective of this Programme is to ensure safety of life and property at sea, protection of marine environment from pollution by ships and to promote national and international interests. The Programme also ensures the maritime safety infrastructural development. One such maritime infrastructural development is the construction of Marine Radar main control room in Windhoek, which is 95%, completed.

The marine radar control room shall be equipped with the maritime radar surveillance system for monitoring of ships movements, offshore mining and fishing activities in Namibia's waters. This system will not only be utilised by our Ministry, but also by other Government Ministries and Agencies.

Another achievement during the period under review is the construction of the maritime administration head office in Walvis Bay which is 80% completed.

Currently the Ministry is busy reviewing the out dated Merchant Shipping and Marine Pollution Prevention Acts. I wish to table before this August House the new Bills regarding the *Merchant Shipping, Marine Pollution* and *Maritime Authority Bills* during this Financial Year. For this Programme, I, therefore, request an amount of **N\$187,415,000.00**.

**PROGRAMME 4: FORMULATION TRANSPORTATION  
POLICY AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members the objective of this Programme is to ensure the development of road infrastructures in the country and the extension of Namibia's road

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network in order to provide universal access and mobility to all Namibian citizens and foreign nationals. The Programme is also responsible for the maintenance and preservation of existing road network in Namibia. In addition, the Programme is also responsible for the review and formulation of Policies and Legislative matters affecting the transportation sector.

### **Sustainable Urban Transport Master Plan**

During the period under review and in collaboration with GIZ, the Ministry of Works and Transport developed a Sustainable Urban Transport Master Plan. This Policy document's main objective is to reduce traffic congestions, road accidents, and air pollution particularly in Windhoek, Okahandja, Rehoboth and Hosea Kutako International Airport.

### **Integrated Transport Master Plan**

Another Policy document, which was developed during the period under review, is the Integrated Transport Master Plan. The objective with this plan is to have a more integrated approach to all modes of transport, namely roads, railway, sea and air. In the formulation of this plan, I wish to register the Ministry's appreciation of the European Investment Bank for their financial assistance.

### **National Road Safety**

The prevailing situation with regard to the country's road safety is far from being satisfactory. It is saddening to note that hardly a day passes without us reading about someone being killed in a road accident in this country.

Over 3,400 injury related crashes were reported to the Police during the period under review with over 630 fatalities and about 5,800 injuries. Namibia has been reported to have the highest rate of fatalities per hundred thousand inhabitants in the world. This type of reports in international media has the potential to tarnish the country's reputation and Tourism Industry.

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During the period under review, the Ministry in collaboration with GIZ conducted a comprehensive review of the Road Safety Management System in Namibia, which revealed serious shortcomings in the current Road Safety Management System and recommended to Government the adoption of a new *"Safe System Management Approach."* I am pleased to announce to this august House that a new *Road Safety Management Bill* has been drafted and would be tabled before this august House during the current Session.

In consultation with the Ministry of Education, road safety will be integrated into the school curriculum for grade 1 to 3 as from 2015 in order to build a solid foundation for road safety culture. This integration of road safety would be extended to cover primary and secondary education.

Furthermore, new road safety enhancement policies will be introduced, for example, first aid as part of driver training while new ways to reduce the travelling speed of public passenger transport vehicles will be investigated and introduced.

As other initiatives on road safety education includes the development of Road Safety Park, which will re-enforce a positive road usage. For this Programme, I therefore, request an amount of **N\$60,238,000.00**.

**PROGRAMME 5: PROVISION AND UPGRADING OF THE RAILWAY NETWORK PROGRAMME**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members this Programme is to construct new railway lines, maintain, upgrade and rehabilitate the existing core railway line network and to ensure that the railway line infrastructure is able to handle increase volumes of cargo.

I am pleased to highlight to this august House some major achievements realised in the Railway Sub-sector during the period under review.

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**Rehabilitation of Usakos - Tsumeb Railway Line Section:**

The rehabilitation of the Usakos to Tsumeb line is still ongoing. It is planned that this section will be stabilised by September this year (2014). The improvement of this line will ensure the transportation of sulphuric acid from Tsumeb.

**Northern Railway Line Extension Project Phase II:**

The Hardening of the Container Handling terminal at the Rev. Theofelus Hamutumbangela (Oshikango) Station was completed in 2012.

**Northern Railway Line Extension Project Phase III (Ondangwa to Oshakati):**

Compensation of people affected by this project is completed and construction activities are expected to commence this Financial Year.

**Flood Water Damage to Railway Line near Aus:**

The 6 km of railway line section that was damaged by flush floods near Aus was fully repaired in 2013.

**Sleeper Manufacturing:**

The plant in Tsumeb has been performing very well indeed. One Hundred Thousand (100,000) Sleeper units were produced during the period under review.

**Upgrading and Rehabilitation of Aus - !Nami#nus (Luderitz) Railway Line:**

The rehabilitation of the Aus !Nami#nus (Luderitz) Railway Line is still ongoing. The expected date of completion is September 2014. However, the natural challenges such as sand dunes and excessively high winds are posing serious project execution difficulties.

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The main challenge before government is to rehabilitate, maintain, and upgrade the aged core national railway line network. Outdated locomotives and equipments supporting the provision railway line services also need to be replaced. I therefore, request for an amount of **N\$768,405,000** for this Programme.

**PROGRAM 6: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members as you are aware, in the previous years we embarked on major infrastructure development programmes in the Road sector aimed at providing accessibility to impoverished rural communities.

Various roads have been constructed thereby opening opportunities for these communities to access social amenities such as Schools, Hospitals and new Markets. Furthermore, in order to reduce poverty in the affected communities, the Government has made a deliberate policy to employ local folk to carry out the various tasks on these projects. This has resulted in the generation of income to households that were previously deprived.

In the same vein, various Upgrading and Rehabilitation Programmes have resulted in, and will continue to yield positive benefits to the common Namibians through reduction of motor vehicle operating costs, reduction of travel time from origin to destination and increased safety on our road network. This will invariably translate in to overall reduction of Road User Charges making the Namibian Market more competitive and hence a preferred destination and transit point to other international markets.

Honourable Members, it is now my duty to report to this august House on the achievements in the previous years. The Ministry of Works and Transport has a mandate to contribute to national social and economic growth through the provision of good road infrastructure and thereby connecting not only the major towns within Namibia but also foster regional integration.

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Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honour Members I am pleased to report to this August House that the ministry has completed the construction of the following road projects:

- Upgrading to Bitumen standards of 210 km of Trunk Road 15 Section 1 from Tsumeb via Tsintsabis to Katwitwi in the Oshikoto and Kavango West Regions is completed;
- Construction of 26 km of Gravel road from Oshikuku to Ekangolinene located in the Omusati region is completed;
- Construction of 59 km of Gravel road from Kaisosi - Cuma located in Kavango East is completed;
- Construction of 17 km of Gravel road from Onamutai via Ongwediva to Okatana in the Oshana Region is completed;
- Construction of 13.6 km of Gravel road from Outapi to Okapalelona boarder post in Omusati Region is completed;
- Construction of 35 km of Gravel road from Tjova to Divayi in Kavango East is completed; and
- Rehabilitation of Kandjengedi and Ongwediva bridges both located on Main Road 92 between Ongwediva and Oshakati is completed, plus 3 km of road was upgraded to dual carriageway.

In addition, I wish to report to this august House that the expansion of the Walvis Bay Container Terminal has also commenced and will be completed in three years time.

The signing of the Bilateral Agreement between Botswana and Namibia on the Trans-Kalahari Railway Line Project was concluded on 19 March 2014.

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**Here are road construction projects, which are currently on-going:**

- Upgrading to Bitumen standards of 212 km of Main Road 125 from Liselo via Linyanti and Kongola to Singalamwe in Zambezi Region is expected to be completed in October 2014.
- Upgrading to Bitumen standards of 99 km of Main Road 67 from Omakange to Ruacana located in the Omusati and Kunene Regions is expected to be completed in July 2015.
- Upgrading to Bitumen standards of 98 km of District Road 3608 from Omafo via Ongenga to Outapi in the Omusati and Ohangwena Regions is expected to be completed in July 2016.
- Upgrading to Bitumen standards of 48 km of Main Road 121 from Eenhana to Oshigambo in the Oshikoto and Ohangwena Regions is expected to be completed in April 2015.
- Upgrading to Bitumen standards of 300 km of Trunk Road 14 Section 2 from Otjinene to Grootfontein in the Omaheke and Otjozondjupa Regions is expected to be completed in February 2017.
- Upgrading to Bitumen standards of 245 km of Main Road 91 from Gobabis via Aminuis to Aranos in the Omaheke and Hardap Regions, this is expected to be completed December 2017
- Upgrading to Bitumen standards of 34.6 km of Main Road 120 from Okatana via Endola to Onhuno located in the Oshana and Ohangwena Regions is expected to be completed in July 2014.
- Upgrading to Bitumen standards of 23 km of District Road 3603 from Onayena to Okankolo located in the Oshikoto Region is expected to be completed in July 2016.
- Upgrading to Bitumen standards of 100 km of Main Road 118 from Rosh Pinah to Oranjemund located in Karas Region is expected to be completed in October 2016.

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- Construction of 16 km of District Road 3615 from Onamutuku (Olwani) to Oshikuku in Omusati region is expected to be completed in August 2014
- Construction of 15 km of District Road 3668 from Okalongo to Omuvelo WaKasamane border post in Omusati Region is expected to be completed in November 2014
- Rehabilitation and upgrading to dual carriageway of 84 km of Trunk Roads 9/1 & 1/6 between Windhoek and Okahandja located in the Khomas and Otjozondjupa Regions is expected to be completed in April 2019.
- Construction of 24 km gravel road from Onayena to Onankali located in the Oshikoto region is expected to be completed in June 2014.
- Construction of 23 km of Gravel road from Ngoma (Izimwe) to Nakabolelwa in the Zambezi Region is expected to be completed in May 2014.
- Construction of 33 km of Gravel road from Omuthiya to Onanke in the Oshikoto Region
- Construction of 46 km of gravel road DR 3649 from Onalulago to Epembe located in the Oshikoto and Ohangwena Regions is expected to be completed in March 2015.
- Construction of 40 km of Gravel road from Oshandi via Eembahu to Oshiweda in Ohangwena region is expected to be completed in July 2014.
- Construction of 21 km of Gravel road from Kamupupu to Mbururu in Kavango region is expected to be completed in June 2014.
- Construction of 32 km of gravel road from Oshapapa (Oshali) to Epumbu in Oshikoto region is expected to be completed April 2014.

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- Construction of the three river bridges between Okahandja and Ovitoto in Otjozondjupa region is expected to be completed in April 2014.
- Construction of the three (3) bridges between Rehoboth and Mariental in Hardap region, which are expected to be completed in October 2014

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members the following road projects are planned to be implemented during the Financial Years 2014/2015 and 2015/2016:

- Upgrading to dual carriageway of 45 km of road from Windhoek to Hosea Kutako International Airport in Khomas Region will be implemented during 2014/2015
- Upgrading to dual carriageway of 84 km of road from Windhoek to Rehoboth in Khomas and Hardap Regions will be implemented during 2014/2015
- Upgrading to dual carriageway of approximately 38 km from Walvis Bay to Swakopmund in the Erongo Region will also be implemented during 2014/2015
- Construction of 75 km gravel road of District Road 3624 from Etomba to Omundaungilo in Ohangwena Region will be implemented during 2014/2015
- Construction of 111 km gravel road of District Road 3635 from Amwaanda to Omutambogwomawe connecting Omusati and Kunene Regions will be implemented during 2014/2015
- Construction of 38 km gravel road of District Road 3681 from Epato to Onaushe in the Omusati region will be implemented during 2014/2015
- Construction of 50 km gravel road of road from Isize- Sifuna via Malindi to Shuckmannsburg in the Zambezi Region will be implemented in 2014/2015

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- Construction of 130 km gravel road from Tsintsabis to Gava in the Kavango Region to be implemented during
- Rehabilitation of 25 km from Trunk Road 10/2 from Elundu to Eenhana in Ohangwena Region will be implemented during 2014/2015
- Upgrading to Bitumen standards of 37 km of District Road 3609 from Oshakati to Omungwelume located in the Oshana Region will be implemented in 2014/2015
- Construction of 20 km bypass at Oshikango Boarder to be implemented during 2014/2015
- Construction of gravel road of 9 km from DR 3650 Onakalunga to Epinga located in Ohangwena Region will be implemented in 2014/2015
- Construction of a 50 km gravel road DR:3610 from TR1/11 north of Oshivelo- Mangetti West Quarantine Camp will be implemented during the 2014/2015
- Construction of 35.5 km gravel road from DR 3605: Uukwiyuushona to Ompundja located in Oshana Region to be implemented during 2015/2016
- Upgrading to bitumen standards of 412 km from Swakopmund-Henties Bay- Kamanjab Link located in Erongo and Kunene Region will be implemented during 2014/2015
- Construction of 47.7 km of gravel road TR10/2: Enyana- Olukula in the Ohangwena Region will be implemented during 2015/2016
- Construction of 12 km of gravel road MR123 Tsandi- Outapi to Okathitu located in Omusati Region will be implemented in 2014/2015
- Construction of 47.4 km gravel road from DR 3605: Uukwiyuushona-

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Omuntele located in Oshana and Oshikoto Regions will be implemented during 2014/2015

- Construction of 137 km of gravel road Mpora- Bravo in the Kavango West region will be implemented during 2014/2015
- Construction of 32.7 km gravel road MR 92: Ombathi to MR 111 Epato in the Omusati Region will be implemented in 2015/2016
- Construction of 19 km gravel road from MR120: Endola to Eembo located in Ohangwena Region will be implemented in 2014/2015
- Construction of 46 km gravel road from Epato- Onkani in the Omusati Region will be implemented in 2014/2015
- Construction of 32 km gravel road of MR125 Masokotwe to Machita will be implemented during 2014/2015
- Construction of 36.6 km gravel road of DR 3424: Mungunda to Shakambu will be implemented during 2014/2015
- Construction of 48.8 km gravel road DR 3654: Omuthiya to Elambo (DR 3630) will be implemented in 2015/2016
- Construction of 40 km gravel road from Oupili to Onkumbula in Ohangwena region will be implemented in 2014/2015
- Rehabilitation into a dual carriageway of 110 km from Omuthiya to Ongwediva in Oshana and Oshikoto regions will be implemented during 2014/2015.

For this Programme, I therefore request a total amount of **N\$1,008,440,000.00** for this Financial Year.

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**PROGRAMME 7: PROVISIONS OF SUPPORT SERVICES OF VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND PLANT TO GOVERNMENT.**

The objective of this Programme is to provide the Government with reliable and safe road transport service. The Government Garage is responsible for the management, maintenance and hiring of vehicles to Offices, Ministry and Agencies.

The Government Garage fleet currently stands at 2,099 vehicles, thus Government Garage plans to purchase another additional 1,430 vehicles.

The Ministry is further planning to upgrade all dilapidated government Garages infrastructure countrywide. For this Programme, I therefore, request an amount of **N\$487,415,000.00**.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members below follows the - **Summary: Vote 24 -TRANSPORT**

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Amount (NS'000)</b>
<b>Air Transport Administration</b>	1,477,125
<b>Meteorological Service Administration</b>	66,717
<b>Maritime Legislation Administration</b>	187,415
<b>Formulation Transportation Policy and Regulation</b>	60,238
<b>Oversight</b>	768,405
<b>Provision and upgrading of the Railway Network</b>	1,008,440
<b>Planning and Development of Transportation Infrastructure</b>	487,415
<b>Provision of Support Services of Vehicle, Equipments and Plant to GRN</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,055,755</b>

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Minister of Finance, Director-General of National Planning Commission and the entire staff for the well-balanced Budget for the Financial Year 2014/2015.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,

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Honourable Members it is now my pleasure to submit to this august House Vote 24 for the Department of Transport for an amount of **N\$4,055,755,000.00** for your consideration and approval. I thank you for your support.

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

Vote 19 - **“TRADE AND INDUSTRY,” N\$1,518,000,000.00** put for Introduction by the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry. You have the Floor, Honourable Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Thank you,  
Comrade Chair of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members of this august House, it is my honour to motivate the proposed Budget for the Financial Year 2014/2015 for Vote 19 : Ministry of Trade and Industry before this august House. From the outset, I wish to congratulate Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Minister of Finance for the Budget that she has so ably presented and for the proposed allocations to Vote 19. The Honourable Minister of Finance indicated in her Budget Speech that one of the priorities of the current Budget 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 of the country.”* I do agree with her wholeheartedly and I am convinced that we would accomplish even more if *“a gradual drive to enhance the Industrial Sector”* would make way for an *“expeditious transformation.”*

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, a few weeks ago, I delivered a Ministerial Statement covering several policy interventions aimed at enhancing our local productive capacity and a drive for economic development. Without wishing to repeat myself, I feel it is necessary

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before addressing the Budget Allocation, to highlight some pertinent policy issues relating to the Budget as an instrument towards accelerating industrialisation in particular, and the attainment of Vision 2030 in general.

In my view, one of the most pressing problems of our time is to overcome the challenges of what is called “*jobless growth*”, a phenomenon which is caused, at least in part, by an over-reliance on raw material exports, which in turn results in the economic inequality that we are witnessing in our country. It makes us a captive market. It is only through beneficiation and adding value to our own resources and creating the value chains that derive from them that we will be able to diversify our economy and strengthen our competitiveness and create job opportunities and wealth.

Unfortunately, we do not make a full use of our raw materials. One has to recognise that along with the export of raw materials actually jobs and other economic opportunities are exported and foregone. Furthermore, our dependency on imports places huge pressure on our foreign currency reserves and balance of payments. The only remedy we have in this regard is to increase our export earnings in foreign exchange through growing the value of our exports, value addition to raw materials and resultant import substitution. The way to achieve this is to create the necessary industrial base.

For this essential transformation of the economy, for industrialization to happen, however, we need to find ways to overcome several challenges. First, there is a lack of capital, technology, skills and know-how and innovation. Secondly, accessibility to financial and other resources that would enable our entrepreneurs to become globally competitive must be improved. Thirdly, high input and operating costs threaten to make our industries uncompetitive. If electricity and other utility costs continue to spiral upwards, if costs to acquire industrial land soar and if transport and logistics costs including port fees continue to surge upwards faster than can be reasonably expected, an industrialization process will become even more of a challenge. Fourth, as I explained in my recent statement in this House, there is the threat of erosion of policy space, often as the result of the globalized trade regime, which seeks to harmonize policies or

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international agreements that we sign.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, It should by now be evident, that without the Government committing the necessary budget resources to support the development of existing and the creation of new industries, the accelerated and sustainable growth of the whole economy is hardly possible. There is a complementary as well as, in some instances, a leading role that we expect the Government to play in domestic industry development. The economic history of developed countries shows that in the past (and today), they too extensively used various policy interventions such as subsidies, concessional financing, trade protection, investment into research and development, domestic marketing requirements and so on to build their own industrial capacity. Unfortunately, most of them now suggest that developing countries should forego the same means. In order to bring about and speed up industrialisation, Government will have to work closely with the private sector and the work force, and we will need to muster the support and cooperation of price setting utilities. We thus urge our utility companies to stand up and shoulder this responsibility to make it possible for industries to grow and remain competitive.

One of the priorities we have to address is to balance out a skew economy and the resultant income inequality, which in Namibia manifests itself through imbalanced ownership and distribution of economic assets, wealth and income. Empirical evidence has demonstrated that economic inequality retards the pace of long-term sustainable economic growth. Namibia should not concentrate on equality only in terms of political or juridical equality where persons should have equal treatment before the laws but need to extend it to fairer access to resources and economic opportunities.

A considerable responsibility rests on the Government to help build entrepreneurship, support small business development, encourage the use of new technology, provide access to productive equipment, upgrade industrial capacity, improve quality - all this has to be achieved, in a hostile environment with a Retail Sector that specializes in sourcing from outside Namibia, and a consumer society which often favours imported

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over local products. Local sourcing and consumption and support for local industries in general, including through Government Procurement, are therefore, crucial elements for a successful Industrialisation Programme.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, let me now reflect on the details of the budgetary allocations to Vote 19 for the Fiscal Year 2014/2015.

### **OVERALL ALLOCATION**

The Total Budget Allocation to the Ministry of Trade and Industry for the financial year 2014/2015 amounts to **One Billion, Five Hundred and Eighteen Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$1,000,518,000)**. This represents an increase of **Two Hundred and Fifty One Million and Eighty One Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$251,081,000)** or **33.5%** from the 2013/2014 allocations.

The Ministry's allocation consists of **Five Hundred and Ninety Two Million Five Hundred and Eighteen Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$592,518,000)** for the Operational Budget and **Four Hundred and Eight Million Namibia Dollars (N\$408,000,000)** for the Development Budget.

Activities in the Trade and Industry Ministry are now grouped under five (5) main Programmes, namely:

- Trade Promotion;
- Industrial and Business Development;
- Investment Promotion;
- Special Industrialization Initiatives; and
- Supervision and Support Services;

A new Programme is added to the previous set of four, namely Specialized Industrial Initiatives. The focus of the Programmes indicated above and the specific allocations thereto are as follows:

## 1. TRADE PROMOTION PROGRAMME

An amount of **Two Hundred and Ninety One Million, Seven Hundred and Thirty Four Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$291,734,000)** has been allocated to this Programme.

This Programme consists of two main components, namely Domestic and External Trade Management.

### **Domestic Trade Management**

This component focuses on improving the efficiency and effectiveness in the registration of companies, close corporations and intellectual property rights and the functioning of the internal market. Under this, we intend, and I am only mentioning a few highlights, to:

- Consolidate the organisational capacity of the Business and Intellectual Property Rights (BIPA) to perform registration of companies and industrial property on behalf of the Ministry. We shall during this year table before this House the envisaged *BIPA Bill*, which provides the legal framework for such an authority.
- Finalise the drafting of a policy and legal framework for rights based consumer protection.
- Provide financial support to strengthen functional capacities of the Namibia Competition Commission and the Namibian Standards Institution.

### **External Trade Management**

This component includes the international trade and external trade relations with the rest of the world.

- In the coming year we will continue to negotiate for market access in markets in Africa, the USA, China, the Russian Federation, Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates, Canada, Korea, Turkey, etc.

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Increasingly the problems that we face are not so much import tariffs but non-tariff barriers such as SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Clearance) and the like, which are imposed unilaterally.

- Namibia will together with the ACP Group and the African Union still pursue the finalisation of the full EPA negotiations for a win-win agreement by ensuring that our policy space to make policies for our growth and development are not compromised unduly.
- Construction of export infrastructure in selected countries in the Sub-region.
- In collaboration with the Ministries of Finance and Home Affairs and Immigration implement the one-stop-border post and single-window concepts to facilitate foreign direct investment and trade at our borders respectively.
- Engage in regional and multilateral trade and economic integration arrangements. (SACU, SADC, SADC-ECA-COMESA PTA)
- Establish the Namibia International Trade Management Commission (Namibia Board of Trade). We shall finalise the legal frame work for the establishment of the Namibia Board of Trade, which shall inter alia deal with issues of tariff setting, import and export permits, rebates and draw downs, Infant Industry Protection and support measures, unfair trade practices, safeguards, anti-dumping measures and Rules of Origin to mention the most important ones.

## **2. INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

An amount of **Five Hundred and Thirty Nine Million, Three Hundred and Seventy Eight Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$539,378,000)** has been allocated to this Programme.

This Programme consists of two main components, namely Industrial Planning and Development and Small Business Development.

### **Industrial Planning and Development**

The purpose of this component is to create conditions necessary for a robust and competitive industrial sector in the country. These Activities are aimed at building and boosting the capacity of local Industries, mainly Small and Medium Sized Industries (SMEs) to efficiently produce and supply goods and services to meet local and export demand.

Some of the major interventions will be the following:

- Finalising the implementation strategy for the Industrial Policy;
- Providing support to local industries in the process of upgrading their production capacity through the Industry Upgrading and Modernisation Programme (IUMP);
- Research on resource availability in the country and value chains in strategic sectors;
- Funding the NDC's current development projects and infrastructure upgrading; and
- Finalisation of the legal framework for the establishment of the Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA).

### **Small Business Development**

Under this component, a range of business supportive services aimed at economic empowerment; bolstering production capacity and employment creation are provided.

Some of the major interventions will be the following:

- Business mentorship and managerial skills development;
- Funding feasibility studies and business plans;

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- Provision of productive equipment;
- Capitalisation of the newly formed SME Bank;
- Acquisition of industrial land and construction of business premises;  
and
- Support to SME service providers and other associations.

**3. INVESTMENT PROMOTION PROGRAMME**

An amount of **Fifty One Million, Eight Hundred and Sixty Six Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$51,866,000)** has been allocated to this Programme.

The purpose of this Programme is to achieve an increase in number, value and nature of domestic and foreign direct investments in Namibia. This objective is to be achieved by, among others, creating an enabling environment for investment, which involves having in place an appropriate legal and regulatory framework; a proper plan and strategy for marketing Namibia as a preferred investment destination and enhancing a positive competitiveness ranking of Namibia.

The Activities under this Programme, and which will be pursued in the current Fiscal Year include:

- Finalisation during this financial year of the revised Investment Law, to replace the existing *Foreign Investment Act, 1990*. Amongst others, the new law provides for the role of the State, the reservation of certain categories of business and sectors for domestic investors, and the establishment of an integrated investor service (one-stop-shop) centre;
- The revision of current incentives to ensure their continued relevance as an effective tool for attracting the required quantity and quality of investments especially into the priority Sectors of Manufacturing, Agro-processing, Transport and Logistics and Tourism. This will include a revision of the current *EPZ Act*. The envisaged legal frame

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- work should include a broader approach of Economic Zones, which will house industries that manufacture for both, the domestic and export markets.
- Marketing Namibia to ensure its competitiveness as an investment location of choice;
- Organisation and facilitation of inward and outward investment missions as well as business linkages and partnerships;
- Investigations and research and on new investment opportunities especially through The Spatial Development Initiatives that seek to create a link between transport infrastructure (such as ports, highways and railways) and business opportunities along corridors;
- Providing support to the Namibian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI).

#### **4. POLICY SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

An amount of **Seventy Seven Million, Five Hundred and Forty Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$77,540,000)** has been allocated to this Programme.

This Programme consists of two main components, namely Policy Supervision and Coordination and Support Services.

##### **Policy Supervision**

This component entails ministerial leadership and overall oversight over the design and implementation of the various policies and programmes on trade, investment promotion and industrial development as well as to ensure coordination and alignment to Ministerial and national development plans.

### **Coordination and Support Services**

The activity entails oversight roles by the Accounting Officer as well as the support functions of human resource management and development, financial management, Internal Audit; Procurement and Asset Management.

### **5. SPECIAL INDUSTRIALISATION INITIATIVES**

An amount of **Forty Million Namibia Dollars (N\$40,000,000)** has been allocated to this Programme.

In order to fast track the attainment of the goals of NDP4 and the ambitions of Vision 2030, the Ministry has decided to support research and implementation of strategic projects.

This activity is aimed at the implementation of the manufacturing strategic initiative in NDP4, through expansion of industrial capacity and value chain development.

The Growth at Home initiative aims to develop local and regional value chains on the basis of the raw material resources available in Namibia.

The rationale for this Programme is to give effect to the implementation of industrial development priority projects identified through Sectoral Consultations held in the context of developing the Manufacturing Sectoral Execution Plan for the implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan and other planning processes of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Among others, these projects are within the following sectors: agro-processing (especially processing factories linked with the recently developed fresh produce hubs); fish processing; steel manufacturing and metal fabrication; transportation equipment and manufacturing; building material manufacturing; furniture manufacturing; pharmaceuticals and cosmetics manufacturing; Automotive Sector development; bush biomass value addition; mineral beneficiation, and chemical industry (especially

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value addition to sea salt). In each instance, we will endeavour to strengthen and expand local and regional value chains and improve infrastructure, such as expanding industrial and logistical zones around Walvis Bay and establishing new international convention facilities. In this year, we will focus on detailed planning and feasibility assessments as the basis for future investment and implementation.

Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, let me conclude with a quote from Karl Marx who said - *“Mankind always sets itself only such problems as it can solve; since looking at the matter more closely it will always be found that the task itself arises only when the material conditions for its solution already exists or are at least in the process of formation.”* Our task to grow the economy and improve living standards of our people is possible through industrialisation which itself is within our means to accomplish.

Therefore, I now move and request the House to consider and approve the sum of **ONE BILLION, FIVE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLARS (N\$1, 000,518 000.00)** for the current and Development Budgets of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Vote 19. I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you, Honourable Minister.

Vote 03 – “**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**” put for Discussion. Any discussion? I recognise Honourable Von Wietersheim.

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**HON VON WIETERSHEIM:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I will be very short and sweet.

I would just like to put on record again, as I did two years ago already, that I regard the idea of building a new Parliament as untimely at this moment (interjections).

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I am quoting the Honourable Speaker. I am quoting from the Honourable Speaker's Speech who said – "*as representatives of the people, we have the responsibility to work and do so with clear conscience and commitment towards achieving the vision of building a united, democratic Namibia and improving the quality of life of all citizens,*" and that with the budget process and the Debate on the Appropriation Bill, the Government informs on the Programmes and Activities of the Government and also explains the utilisation of resources for the benefit of the people themselves and this is the crux of the matter, Honourable Chairperson. This benefit that we are creating here, I feel is not for the people themselves.

The Speaker said, the only unaccomplished mission is the construction of a new building to house the National Assembly. I think there are so many unaccomplished missions in this country that this expenditure is not at this time the one that we must and will have - the new Parliament Building, especially after we have had a fully fledged renovation. Unfortunately, it maybe did not turn out the way we wished it to because the Tenderpreneurs were the wrong people. That is all I would like to say on this Vote. Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Tjihuiko.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Yes, indeed, I am also rising on the same point that my Colleague has alluded to. I just want to say, it is not just a question of wanting to preserve the architectural structure of yester years. That is not the issue. If we decided to go that route Windhoek was not built after Independence. We still have Windhoek. It is, therefore, not the issue that we want to keep the building.

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As far as I am concerned, it is a question of whether it is the right time while we have so many challenges, while we have our children being taught under trees, in tents and our hospital needing renovation. To spend N\$25 million for a building that would benefit ourselves, we are now looking more importantly at ourselves than the people out there. (Intervention)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Point of Order.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** I am seeking some guidance. I have always wondered whether it is not more appropriate that issues that relates to Parliament as an Institution, be discussed amongst the Members at different platform other than the Floor of Parliament when we are supposed to be considering Bills and I feel the same now, as I listened to Honourable Tjihuiiko.

I know that other Members of Parliament have spoken on this issue but I am just wondering whether it is not appropriate for us to agree because I know that as a Minister of Finance, I have also raised this issue on a number of occasion before that we Members of Parliament take issues with even our own Vote, only on the Floor of Parliament and I do not know whether we as a Parliament can try to get the Speaker to motivate our Vote to us or what it is that we are trying to do and whether that is appropriate. I may be wrong but I think that is an important principle that we just need to agree to.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Yes. Continue Honourable Tjihuiiko.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Minister, I would agree with you if we perhaps start looking at that. I am sure of that we have been consulted on the issue of the new Parliament. I am not saying that it is something that

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we do not know anything about. Since it is in the Budget, in the Speaker's Motivation, I find enough reason to raise it again. My concern is not on the question of having the new building but it the question of timing, looking at (intervention)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Point of Order.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, my understanding is that the Secretariat and the staff of Parliament deals with the formulation of this Budget.

They are the ones formulating this and bring it to the Committee of Parliament and that is why it is here. It is thus your Motivation and not from the Executive. The Secretariat of the two Houses compiles this, consult you and then you agree for it to be tabled. You could have discussed it there. Why bring it here and asking us now? You approved it and said - *it is fine, take it, this is what we are requesting, present it to the Ministry of Finance so that it is included in the Budget.* Why are you bringing it here?

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, maybe we need to consider establishing the Budget Committee because what the Minister is saying is correct but what the Minister does not know is that we are not involved at all. These things are being done by the staff. Where is the structure in Parliament that allows us as Members of Parliament to sit down and discuss the Budget? It does not exist. Maybe we should speed up the process of the Budget Committee so that we can be able to bring our inputs through that. (Intervention)

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, if something goes in the Ministry of which I am the Head, and the staff prepares the Budget without consulting me and it goes to Cabinet, do you expect me to come and ask outsiders, including you? I have to talk the staff - *why did you do this?*

Now it is the staff of the House of Parliament and they together with some of you, perhaps you were not physically involved but some of those Committees were consulted and they agreed to the amount.

Why are you coming here while you agreed on it there, or are you now asking your fellow Parliamentarians on that side? Who do you expect to respond to that? The Vote of the House of Parliament was not tasked by the Executive. It is from yourselves. You are the ones who said this is the amount we want. Ask yourselves.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Continue, you have the Floor, so that the other Members of Parliament can also make their contributions.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the point that the Minister is raising is relevant.

The point that the Minister is missing is the fact that there is no structure that would enable Members of Parliament, Backbenchers to participate in the Budget because there is no Budget Committee at the present moment. We did not bring our input, we could have thrown it out before it comes here. That is the point.

Let me move on. That is the reason some of us are saying the N\$25 million that was budgeted for would have been used better, given the more critical situation which we find ourselves in. Look at our hospitals, for instance. (Intervention)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

You have just one second.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** N\$25 million will make much difference. Moving on to the other point. Can you just call him to order, to sit down so that I can continue? (Intervention)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Honourable Chairperson, can I ask the Honourable Member a simple question?

Honourable Tjihuiko, you have not left Parliament for the last seven or eight years there. When we used to sit that side and we were in the same Committees with Honourable Tjihuiko, you used to complain continuously about the inadequacies of the premises we were operating from, only that there was no camera then and now there is a camera, he is now excited to talk to the gallery but he himself is not convinced that the facilities we have here are adequate. He used to share that with us. What is the point?

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Deputy Minister, I agree with you. I am not saying that this building is the best. I am talking about the timing, looking at so many needs that we need to address. If you are happy with our children being taught under tree, if you are happy with the state of Oshakati Hospital, if you are happy with the Central Hospital, then it is a different ball game altogether. (Intervention)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Point of Order. This should be the last Point of Order.

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HON TJIHUIKO**

**HON MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you, Professor, Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I was listening very carefully when our very able Speaker gave us that window opportunity to understand and for the benefit of the public out there, that the planning and the need as identified by the Organs of the State that there needed to be Institutions of the State at different levels of our State like the Supreme Court which was built and so many other structures. This planning for putting up the structure called Parliament, was not planned yesterday. What kind of a timing situation do you want to create Honourable Tjihuiko?

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** I think you put a relevant question. Honourable Minister, my concern is about what our priority is. Is our priority ourselves or the people out there?

Honourable Minister, I am saying, if I had my way, I could have spend the N\$25 million of this year to improve the conditions of the people out there and not to improve our own conditions first and then later theirs. That is where we differ. It is about priority. Your priority and my priority differs. Our people are more important to me, to be of better services to them rather than having a flashy Parliament for ourselves. Can I move on?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** If you are moving on, then I will allow the intervention because I thought you are concluding. Point of Order.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** I think the Honourable Colleague is going overboard. He is in fact insulting the intelligence of the House to make decision, when it

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

deems so necessary. The House (Intervention)

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Which House?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** The House that we call Parliament, has structures. One very eminent structure of the Parliament is the Committee of Standing Rules and Orders where many of the Backbenchers sit.

In the Standing Rules and Orders Committee, important decisions pertaining to the running of Parliament are taken. Now, if the Colleague is questioning the intelligence of the Committee, then I do not know what he is trying to do or to tell us. I think you are part of the Parliament and you should have been part of the decision-making process. As such to ask whether this is the right time, when is the right time then?

Remember, you were listening to the Honourable Speaker yesterday, when you build a country or a house you do not just build everything at one go because you do not have the capacity in terms of finances and otherwise. This is the right time that Parliament has decided that - *well, give us this money so that we can build the House.* Please be informed that it is the decision of the Parliament where you sit. I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
You have to conclude now.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** I have made my point but I do not agree with the last speaker. Moving on (intervention)

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HON KAPIA**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Move on, please.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** The second point that I want to raise, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee is on Page 3, the second Paragraph that starts with - *we must and we will have Parliament and it is now time to set the process in motion*, - I expect His Excellency to add his weight when he joined us. I am sure that all of us knows that there is a public outcry about this process, the building of a new Parliament and a serious one for that matter.

If you read newspapers, you can see it. I believe that having considered the public outcry in the past, specifically when we look at the Political Office-bearers' improvement benefits, it was stopped because of the public outcry, which was lesser than this one. I hope that His Excellency the President, having considered the public outcry, will hopefully stop the process as soon as he addresses us sometimes next week.

Having said that, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me see whether there is still a small thing that I want to touch on.

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**HON MEMBERS:** His time is up!

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Kapia. Five minutes for each Member.

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**HON KAPIA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I did not want to say anything on this Vote but when a Member of Parliament stands up and said there is no structure in

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HON KAPIA**

Parliament, I decided to take the Floor. The Standing Rules and Orders make provision in the internal arrangements of the Standing Committees that allows for Chairpersons and Presidents of all Political Parties to be present there, they are sitting there. (Intervention)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Sorry, because of time I am not going to allow intervention. You can ask question and it should be the last one because each one will just be given five minutes.

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**HON KAPIA:** Sit down please, you have already made your Political Statement, just sit down.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Can we stick to that? You can ask the question. Honourable Kapia, you may be seated.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, is it wrong for someone to say that there is no structure in place to discuss the Budget.

Rules and Order does not discuss or set up the Budget. The only Committee that would have been able to do that is the Budget Committee, which we did not have. The Honourable Member knows that there were no instances where the Budget was discussed at the Rules and Orders. It is thus not true.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Proceed, Honourable Kapia.

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

**HON KAPIA:** Thank you very much. I was saying that there is the Standing Rules and Order and there are other Committees. There was a time when all Members of Parliament were invited to be briefed on the planning and the design of the new Parliament. If there was any Member of Parliament from this House who had a problem with that idea, he or she could have already indicated that to the Standing Rules and Orders or to the Privileges Committee to prevent this idea from going ahead.

We are also going to see how many are against the development of a new Parliament of the Republic of Namibia because the Speaker properly explained that, firstly, the three Organs of State have to be put up to allow for proper governance of this country, upon which the Supreme Court and State House were completed. Now is the time for the Legislative to have a proper Parliament, not for us but for this country and its people, those who are going to come and operate from here. It is not for you Honourable Tjihuiko, you will not even be here next year.

Just look at how many seats you previously had and how many you have now in this House. If we are going to make political statements, we will continue making those political statements because yours is clearly a campaign, you want to solicit sympathy from the people of this country but the people of this country elected leaders who can develop infrastructure for their future. Parliament will not only have 72 Members but will grow as the Nation is growing.

Can we host 100 Members of Parliament in this Chamber? I am just saying that this is a Nation on the move, we are not stagnant. I, therefore, do not want anybody to mislead the Namibian people that we have N\$700 million for building a new Parliament. The Honourable Speaker clearly mentioned it yesterday, it is not there but the process has to start. The Mass Housing Project is there already and the Ministry of Health have its own billions for hospitals. The Ministry of Trade and Industry have one billion now, compared to three years ago when they had less than N\$500 million. We are, therefore, going to continue developing this country.

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

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next, I recognise, Honourable Teopolina Mushelenga.

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**HON T MUSHELENGA:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I rise in support of Vote 03 - **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**. I know I have not been there when the design was shown but it is common knowledge, as it was explained in the Statement of the Speaker that we have three Organs of the State and the other Organs of the State have their new buildings, therefore, the National Assembly which is part of the three Organs of the State need to have its new House. That plan has to continue and to support that, we know very well, including Honourable Tjihuiko, that there are Committee activities that are run from Political Parties' offices, are you happy with that? I know the Namibian people who sent us here to represent them will not be happy to hear that some of the Committee activities of the Members of Parliament are run from the Political Party offices.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Just proceed because of time, I am no more going to allow any questions or interventions.

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**HON T MUSHELENGA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I, therefore, do not want us to play politics here. We must have a new Parliament because we are here to represent the Namibian Nation and if the three Organs of the State are to assemble in one House, that House is the National Assembly and we normally do not fit in this House.

If we are not fitting here today, what about tomorrow? We need to be here for the State of the Nation Address and all three Organs of the State are to be represented. Where are they to be represented if not in National

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Assembly and they need to be well represented? As it is now, some of them just come in selected numbers while they have to be here in full force. This House, therefore, needs to be build. I support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Honourable Sarah Kukongelwa-Amadhila.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I did not intend to make an intervention. I thought I would be able to put my point across through the Point of Information but it seems that that was not successful.

I believe that the point that I am trying to make is a very important. In contributing to this Vote and supporting the Vote, I would like to make the point that we as Parliamentarians have the responsibility to ensure that the House of Parliament fulfils its mandate for which it was established under the Constitution. It is not the staff members who have that responsibility. It is us as Members of Parliament. The staff members only provide us with technical services. We are supposed to review the proposals that they put to us and provide them with guidance with regard to what we want them to do.

The issue here, specifically when it comes to whether it is a priority to build the Chamber or not, is not about budgeting and about a Budget Committee or anything like that, it is about the Members of this House defining the priorities of the National Assembly, formulating the Programme of work of the House. That is what it is about and this formulation of the Programme of work is supposed to be done separately from the formulation of the Budget. That Programme of work is supposed to guide the determination of priorities under the Budget. That is what the medium term plan is about, it is not about the Budget Committee. The staff members were supposed to draw up a budget proposal on the basis of a medium term plan that we have developed

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HON EKANDJO**

ourselves as Members of Parliament and I think what the Opposition Members want to do is either to admit in public that they are actually indifferent to the work of this House, they are not involved in the development of the Programme of work of Parliament and they now want to come to the Floor of Parliament and play to the gallery by making potshots at the Programme of the House and trying to blame the officials for what we ought to have done ourselves as Parliamentarians.

I just want to implore them not to do that. If we feel that the staff members are not meeting our expectations in terms of the technical work that they are doing, we ought to call them before these things are brought to the Chamber of Parliament and tell them that - *you are off the mark, what we want is one, two, three and you should go and work out a technical plan to enable us to realise that.* I just wanted to make that point.

It is, therefore, not about the Budget Committee and what questions should not be posed to the Executive or the Speaker, but we should actually define the Programme of work of this House and make sure that the medium term plan, on the basis of which the expenditure framework is formulated, is reflective of what we consider to be a priority. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Minister, Jerry Ekandjo.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:**

Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I fully support the Budget of Vote 03.

This amount also include the construction of accommodation for the Members of Parliament who live outside Windhoek, because some of them are maybe squatting. We do not know where they stay because they do not have accommodation here in Windhoek.

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HON EKANDJO**

It also includes Ministers who are Members of Parliament and live outside Windhoek because Ministers are appointed through being Members of Parliament. (Intervention)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

No, I am not going to allow interventions, I said. There is no exception to this Rule. Honourable Minister, can you please proceed?

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Thank you. For some Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Members of Parliament who do not leave in Windhoek, when you are elected to be Members of Parliament, you should be based in Windhoek so where do you stay?

Do not be surprise tomorrow if you find some of our Colleagues looking grey because they did not wash as the result of squatting where they stay in Windhoek. You are making a very important contribution to the Laws of this country, you must, therefore, sleep comfortably because whether you are a Minister or not, you are only appointed for a five year term. One cannot expect somebody who is appointed as a Member of Parliament or a Minister for five years and is not resident in Windhoek, to buy a house in Windhoek. If after five years you are no longer a Member of Parliament, what are you going to do with that house? You will have to go back to the village where you come. Honourable Tjihuikeo maybe has a house here in Windhoek but others do not have, they squat somewhere.

Therefore, we must support this for the better. It is for the better because My Brother on the left, next to Honourable Lucks, Honourable Moongo has been squatting for 15 years maybe somewhere in a *kambashu* in Greenwell Matongo. It is better that we must perhaps construct flats for the Members of Parliament where they can pay a limited amount for rental at least.

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

In other countries, for instance, South Africa, you find that Members of Parliament from Johannesburg, when they go to Cape Town, they stay in Government houses or flats and do not squat. I think that it is high time that we make provision for such as well. That is why we should support this Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I recognise, Honourable Shixwameni. Five minutes.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Yes, I must acknowledge that I do not squat. However, on a serious note, I want to first join in with what the Finance Minister talked about.

I think the Honourable Speaker explained the Budget of the National Assembly eloquently and for that, we would like to congratulate him. I have three things that I want to speak on. One is to first tie in with what the Minister of Finance said. I think we need to reorganise the way that Parliament is working. We all admit that we are not operating optimally as we as a Parliament is suppose to operate. That one is the work of the Standing Rules and Orders and we need to address that so that we relook the whole operations of the National Assembly and I think a lot of work need to be done by both the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the Members of the Standing Rules and Orders.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

And by yourself as well because you are part of that.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Yes, I am talking about it, and Members of the Standing Rules and Order so that we revamp the way that Parliament operates so that we are active, that we are focused and that we do a proper

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

job as Parliament. A Budget Committee has been proposed sometime ago and I think it has been approved by the Standing Rules and Order, we just need to sit down and look at how we can organise ourselves as a Parliament in order to move forward. That is what needs to be done.

My second point is on Committee work. I think when it comes to the allocation to the Committee's work, Honourable Speaker you will agree with me and the Chairpersons of the various Committees that the Committee's work is underfunded in this Assembly. We cannot do work properly because you get told - *no, the Budget has been exhausted and this has been exhausted by one Committee* and all these kinds of things, we, therefore need to look at that. That is why I am talking about us looking at how we are working as the National Assembly and that is one thing that we need to do.

I hope the Honourable Minister of Finance would be able to increase the funding for the Committee work. That is why I am talking about improving the efficiency and efficacy of how we work. The other thing that I want to talk about is the allocation to Political Parties. We know that this is the year of the elections. The formula there was set by Cabinet but I think it is time to seriously revisit this particular formula that has been set by Cabinet. I will talk more about it when we come to the Electoral Commission.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Senior Minister, I said no intervention please. No, Point of Order because of time.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** We need to revisit this formula of funding for Political Parties, most particularly when it comes to an election year. There is no way that one Party gets N\$21,000.00 on the count of the previous elections when we are fighting an election on a levelled playing field.

We need to relook this funding, particularly for those Political Parties

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**HON DINGARA**

represented in Parliament but for those Parties that are not in Parliament as to how do they contest elections. I would suggest that we as Political Parties revisit all these formulas so that we are able to contest elections on a levelled playing field but I will talk about that more during the Vote on the Electoral Commission because for us to have free and fair elections, we truly need to make sure that the playing field is levelled. Otherwise, I support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Honourable Dingara, you have the Floor.

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**HON DINGARA:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Yesterday the Speaker was eloquent and clear. One day he said, and I agree, that - *common sense is actually not common*. I also understand Honourable Von Wietersheim's Statement because he was speaking in the past, basically defending the Statement he gave two years ago. After he had listened to what the Speaker said yesterday, it was not going to be fair for him to keep quiet because people will think that he has changed his mind. He thus stood up just to defend his two year old Statement. *(Laughter)*

Honourable Tjihuiko has a lot of common sense as far as I know but it is unfortunate that he was not here yesterday and did not have the privilege to listen to what the Honourable Speaker said. What I am trying to say is that, if we move this way without putting up proper infrastructures, the future generation will laugh at us. They will question where all the money went and those questions will come after we have been dead for a long time. They will say the - *the Dingaras were there that time and did not manage to build a Parliament. Where did they take the money?*

I am trying to emphasise that you cannot go wrong putting up infrastructure like roads because we cannot be without roads or other

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HON NGHIDINWA**

infrastructure. By building infrastructure, we are not eating the money but keeping it for the future generation and there is always some misunderstanding from people (interjection). Honourable Shixwameni just keep quiet.

There is a misunderstanding from most of the people, especially the newspaper that wrote what they used to write because when we are saying we must build Parliament now, we are only taking the decision now. We are not building the Parliament for the Fifth Parliament but for the future generation. We are it building for those who will come back in 2030 because it is not a project that will finish overnight. All of us know that by the time the new Parliament building is completed, we will be over aged, sitting at home as the Dingaras and so on and the new generation will be sitting there because we are building it for them and not for the people who are sitting in Parliament now.

I think that misunderstanding must be cleared and just like Honourable Kapia said, others were saying it is N\$700 million but it is not N\$700 million as the Speaker made it clear yesterday but only a small amount is required to start with the project. It is not the actual construction that will start this year, the Programme for preparing the ground will take a bit long. This is one of the Votes that I thought we will not debate on but just pass it through within two minutes, however, those who have spoken, made us stand up and speak. I, nevertheless, support the Vote wholeheartedly.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Nghidinwa, the Minister of Gender.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I rise to support Vote 03, more specifically the erection of the new

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HON SIOKA**

Parliament building. I want to propose what I foresee, to be included in the new building because the upcoming new generation which will use that new building will be composed of the 50/50 representation, that is, 50 female and 50 male at the bearing age, not like us. In order to attract those middle aged young women and men, we need a new building to be planned now and to be build.

In that building we will have a baby-friendly room or place so that mothers can breastfeed their babies during tea breaks. I am also looking forward to having a counselling room, more specifically for people from that side to be counselled, those who may still come to Parliament at our age. Comrade Chairperson, let us plan that building for the new generation and not for ourselves. I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I recognise the Honourable Minister of Labour.

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**HON MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE :** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee for the opportunity.

I did not intend to say anything on Vote 03 as I am supporting it hundred percent. Colleagues, I was an ordinary Members of Parliament and had my office up there with no toilet. Everybody who has an office there, has no toilet facilities up to now, we had to come down to use toilet facilities. Even when I became a Deputy Speaker, I had no toilet facilities. I had to share a toilet with the staff members. We had to queue, my Colleague there is my witness.

When I was transferred to the Ministry of Gender, including to the Ministry of Labour, I came to learn about well equipped offices which even have showers. I am telling you the truth. My office has newly designed showers but I do not use it.

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HON SIOKA**

The other Arms of Government are equipping themselves while we want to leave ourselves behind as the Legislatures. We do not want to develop ourselves, even our offices are so tiny, I know all the offices. Committee Rooms are still not enough. Even when we or DTA have guests, they used to take them to their own offices because there are no boardrooms at all. This is the type of building you want to stay with. When Comrade Tjitendero was here, he fought his war with Comrade Nehova and I supported him. Today you can see the building of the National Council there. Where is the National Assembly building here?

We are still in an old building that was built in 1912. This building is 102 years old and we still want to remain in this type of building. What is the right time that we need? When we were fighting to liberate this country, we have Honourable Hidipo Hamutenya, Honourable Nehova, *Meme Agnes* and Honourable Naholo as witnesses, even Comrade Shixwameni, we had no time. We were fighting throughout winter, summer and you name it, what right time are we talking about?

What we are doing is not for ourselves, we are doing it for the future generation. Your children will be there. One day one of the leaders among you, like Honourable Shixwameni who is on the list of 22 candidates, may find themselves in the State House there.

Let us, therefore, start with something and I am happy that Dr Gurirab has started with this Programme. We support you Comrade Gurirab. If you want more design ideas, even to put perfume or small windows for the ladies or mirrors, I will assist you to put those because I am also a designer. Thank you very much. I support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Dr Kawana.

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

**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I would like to rise and support Vote 03 and also express my appreciation for the construction of the residential apartments for Members of Parliament or what we call the Parliament Village. This is commendable because our Honourable Backbenchers are suffering. That is why sometimes when we are sometimes kept up to midnight or even after midnight, they are scared to go to the *kambashus* where they are squatting because it is very uncomfortable, especially during winter. We are sometimes kept here for hours on end. (*Laughter*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Sorry, I said no interventions please. When I ask for the next round of contributors, you can rise and make your point. For now, I am saying no.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL:**

I would like to thank and commend Parliament, particularly the National Assembly for this very important project because these are our National Leaders who deserve decent places when they come to Windhoek and particularly to Parliament as part of the Legislative Arm of the State. The places where they reside must be decent. I am speaking from experience because I know where some of the Colleagues stay. Those places are not conducive for Members of Parliament. That is why I commend this Budget, I am very satisfied with the Budget. That is my first point.

Secondly, Honourable Speaker, I hope there is a Budget line item for the Honourable Members of Parliament because I experienced it in the past that whenever the Members are invited to national events, they struggle to get a budget line item that they can utilise and I think this is very unsatisfactory, in my opinion. I hope there is a budget line item which can be used so that whenever there are invitations, that money can be

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HON MOONGO**

availed to make sure that our leaders attend those national events, especially those that the President of the Republic extends invitations to the Honourable Members to attend because in the past I know there has been a problem. With these few remarks, I support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. I recognise Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I do not want to behave like some of the people who think if you look poor or if you are living with poor people, you are a cadre. I do not want to pretend. For people to become Members of Parliament they work for it and they deserve to be treated with dignity. I, therefore, do not support any idea that allows for any Member of Parliament to squatter, while the Ministers have two Government cars, we do not have anything.

We do not have proper offices here and we sit in the House that was build in 1812 and you complain about the elderly persons. This building is also an elderly (*laughter*). This building is too old. Honourable Colleagues, let us improve everything. Improve the salaries of the Messengers who receive N\$2,500.00 a month. Improve the Cleaners' salaries, improve offices and improve the S&T rate of the Members of Parliament and even their accommodation.

What is wrong with doing that, if we have millions that get lost through corruptions in your Ministries. Millions get lost in your Ministries and are unaccounted for and you talk too much. We do not want those millions to get lost while we are living like very poor people. I want dignity. Thank you very much.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. I recognise Honourable Limbo.

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

**HON LIMBO:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I also just want to add my contribute to Vote 03.

As you know, this is a very important Vote and I think the Colleagues have said quite a lot already. They talked of housing, they talked of Members of Parliament struggling when they are invited to national events. However, apart from accommodation, we must also look at the issue of transport because the majority of us come from outside Windhoek. Even when you travel to your respective areas, you have to struggle to obtain a lift while at the same time you are calling yourself a National Leader, but how, when you are struggling sometimes? Last time we were told that one would be found by the road side struggling to repair a broken car that is too old. For us, being Members of the Third Leg of the State, we need to be respected just like any other Members from the Executive and the Judiciary.

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**HON MEMBER:** Yes, Honourable Speaker!

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**HON LIMBO:** Coming back to the House itself, we have been saying that we want this House to be build. Yes, it is true but I want to urge all of us here that if this House is to be built, let us make sure that the contractors who are going to be given this tender should not make us repair a new building after two years. It must be permanent, like we are saying that this building is over a hundred years old. When we go to other countries, we see that national buildings look very nice and are strongly built. Let us also make sure that when National Assembly is built, it reflects our national identity rather than being told that we need repairs after two or four years.

The other thing I want to say is, if you go around the building, we are having the Blue Room and if we go to that room today, everybody is running away from it because it smells. The bugs have started taking over the room. Nobody wants to go there. If we are to get this new building,

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

let us make sure that we have enough Committee Rooms, we must also have media rooms, like what we see in other countries, as well as a library. Many of us do not even know where the library is because the where it is now it is designed like it is in the dugout. For those who do not know a dugout, it is like a dungeon.

Nevertheless, Honourable Colleagues, I know it is a very sensitive issue, very sensitive in such a way that everybody is looking at the N\$700 million the media has reported about. Maybe we are to blame because we did not explain things to the Nation. When Namibia got its Independence 24 years ago, all these things were not there when we came here. We are like starting from scratch. Therefore, for us to make sure that our communities out there understand the need for whatever we are doing, we must learn to explain so that they understand why there is a need for this building.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Proceed and please try to round up.

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**HON LIMBO:** I just want to strengthen what the other Colleagues were saying that we need a Parliamentary Village, we need transport for Members of Parliament and we need ample offices for Committee work. I think it is about time that we start operating like other Institutions in the world than pretending to be Parliamentarians when things are not well. With that, I rest my case. I support the Vote and I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Honourable Shixwameni, once more. Two minutes, please.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Thank you. I think I have already expressed

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

support for the Vote. All that I am saying is that, let us not portray a view out there that there are Members of Parliament who are squatting. It will truly be bad. When people receive almost N\$7,000 per month for housing, there is no way that you can be squatting in the back yard of somebody. That will be unfair to this Nation.

I think what we need to do and say is that, let us improve the living conditions of the Members of Parliament but we should not say that they are squatting because you will have to explain where do they spent this money that is given to them as accommodation allowance.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Can you round up, since I have given you only two minutes?

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** No, I am just emphasising that. All that I am saying is that, if we need to improve the conditions of service of Members of Parliament, let us improve it but we will be projecting a very bad picture to say that people who receive housing allowances and transport allowance are squatting. All that we need to do and to emphasise on is to improve the living conditions of these people so that it can catch up with what is on the market but we should not project a picture there that we do not get anything and people are thus living in Havana and Tobias Hainyeko. That would be a wrong projection of this House and I would just like to finish off and say, I think the Commission on the benefits and salaries of Political Office-bearers is tasked with looking at this thing, therefore, let them look at the whole package that a Member of Parliament receives so that as Honourable Moongo said, their conditions of service are dignified and they reflect their status in society as National Leaders.

That is what we need to look at and we need to be poignant to it and we need not to vacillate. If we have to improve then we need to improve on it but we should not denigrate ourselves to the status as if we are unemployed. With those few remarks, I thank you.

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

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Bezuidenhout.

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**HON BEZUIDENHOUT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I am speaking to Programme 2, which is **Coordination and Support Services** and specifically, the item in the Programme that is providing relevant and up to date information for research, library services and ICT services. I think the ICT services were probably here or were never here because I did not see it when I came here. I did not experience it. Now that we have moved into the era of providing or motivating for tablets for the Members as the ICT Committee, specifically for the Backbenchers, we now have the communication infrastructure to do things.

I would also urge the Honourable Members to make use of those devices fully. Those are very powerful devices you have in your hands. Make use of them fully. We want to expand the ease of work to all the Members of Parliament. At the same time, I would request that this Programme looks into the communication services for the Members of the media who are on the gallery. It used to be there but when the renovations started, it disappeared and it was never reactivated.

I tried in the background with the technicians but just get lot of stories. Last week we started with the Wi-Fi communication systems in our Committee Room, which is a slow but sure progress of the working infrastructure for the Members of Parliament. I would just like to make sure that the Members use less paper and more of the technology at their disposal. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Lastly, if there is no one else to take the Floor, I will give Honourable Nambahu a chance.

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

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to express my profound support for this Vote.

I know, through experience, the hardships that the Parliament and the staff are facing when it comes to their accommodation in terms of offices. I would also like to see that this House or Parliament as an employer of choice for our youngsters live up to that. When these youngsters come here and they look at the offices where their Colleagues operates from, it is a de-motivation, honestly speaking.

The same could be said for those who want to venture into politics, coming over here and hearing what conditions we work under and hearing about the type of salaries we receive, it is a non-starter and if we continue complaining that we want quality, we want professionals to come into the service, it is just not there. When we look at the Children's Parliament that comes here, for these kids to call themselves Speakers and so on, just to learn how much you get, I am sure they will not even want to come here.

Even when it starts from the Political Parties, when you start fielding people to come to Parliament, you have to look at these kinds of things, otherwise we will not attract people of quality. When it comes, for example, to Local Councillors, I witnessed a discussion where people were saying that, in a certain town, the Mayor might not even use a bill to go and register because he comes from a *kambashu*. Why are there no mayoral houses in towns so that that person cannot think twice before inviting a certain Honourable Member or CEO over to his house because he comes from a corrugated iron shack and maybe that person just got appointed yesterday, where do you expect him to get a salary to get a decent house, that can be accommodative? We have to inquire and query the system that we have inherited from the past in order to come up with something commensurate and that live up up to the dignity of the institution we call Parliament. I wholeheartedly support the demand for the construction of a viable and modern Parliament for this kind of august House. I thank you very much.

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

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

The last speaker on the list is Honourable Shifeta.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**

Honourable Chairperson, I was tempted to take the Floor, I did not intent to do so.

I think, listening to some of the Members, we need to create extra time to discuss matters relating to the conduct and proceedings of the House and not during this time of the *Appropriation Bill*. The Constitution makes provision for the National Assembly to discuss its Rules on how to conduct its Business and that is supposed to be done with time. Issues of staff, issues of *this* and *that* infrastructural development and other things are supposed to be discussed when we have extra time and not during this time. I thought that, especially the Members of the Opposition will provide some valuable input. If it is not done currently, we should do something for the Honourable Members when it comes to the Budget of the National Assembly because this is their Budget.

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**HON MEMBER:** It is our Budget!

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**

Yes, it is our Budget that I am talking about now. We do not need to complain to anybody. Therefore, anything that we need to discuss, has to be done with extra time and if there is anything that we need to take a resolution on, we bring a Motion here.

From my understanding, it is inappropriate for us to come and complain here now about the a, b, c that we are supposed to do while the Constitution gives us that right and power to make sure that the Conduct and the Business in this House are dealt with by the Members,

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HON DR GURIRAB**

exclusively. I, therefore, do not understand why we have to come here and discuss this (interjection)

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**HON MEMBER:** But we are discussing the Budget.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**

I understand that but it is not supposed to be done that way. The issues that we are complaining about here, are issues that we were supposed to deal with before we come here.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. With that said, Honourable Speaker you have the Floor to respond.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, this was perhaps the most strange of all the Budget Debates that I have attended.

I delivered a Speech yesterday to motivate this Vote and in it, I was doing two things. One was to make a case for the need for a new Parliament building and I was doing so, being aware of how the public has been misled.

Secondly, I was also trying to say this is not a new idea and I went back to the beginning stages, both of the National Assembly but more importantly of the National Council, one of the two people who were involved in that is present here, sitting on the other side and the one I succeeded has passed on and I ended on a note that we will have a National Parliament. I did not quite say that when the President comes here to deliver the State of the Nation Address that there would be somehow a stage where he would be supporting what I was saying.

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HON DR GURIRAB**

The decisions made that I referred to, that we must build a new Supreme Court building, were made by Cabinet and that we must have an appropriate People's House or State House, that too was a Cabinet decision. It was not the predecessor who just out of the blue thought about the need for us to have an appropriate modern Parliament Building. The Budget in our system originates from Cabinet and it was not strange to me that the President of the Republic is fully aware about this need. With all due respect to the Honourable Members, it was not a waste of time if somebody who cared about this had written my Statement that I delivered yesterday, that I have sought to clarify.

The political differences are there. The long lecturers about trying to convince the Parliament or the Speaker about where the real needs of the people are versus the need to have a Parliament building, I do not know whether when expressions like that, some Members, some are here but some have left, certainly would convince me that what they are telling is the truth that finally I have realised that there are better ways to cater for our people. We were talking about a long span of time, over this side of 20 years, we have been patching up because of these heavy rains, almost every time that I walk from one place to the other there are leaks and we have been repairing. We have been spending so much money just to keep this old building in a shape that it would serve the purpose of Parliament. We do not have N\$700 million aside in my safe, in my office.

We have got to go back to Cabinet as and when we reach that stage and when we finish that stage, we will be asking for additional funds to continue to build this Parliament until we have actually created a Parliament befitting the Republic of Namibia but if our generation is not going to do it, we do not want to leave that responsibility to the future generations. Those are our ideas, taking into consideration everything when we are at Cabinet that we should first have the Supreme Court building and we built it. Then we immediately after that jumped the next Financial Year to build a State House. We took time. That is a long time ago now and we are now putting the need to build a Parliament building on the front banner.

If I heard from some other people that I have not spoken, I might have

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HON LUCKS**

taken the idea and given it some attention. It is basically an electioneering thing but it would insult the intelligence of the Namibian voters that all of a sudden, out of the blue, some people have become great lovers of the people out there. I explained everything in my Speech. The second was equally a waste of time on both sides of the House. We have structures within the Standing Committees, certainly Rules and Orders, and Privileges to talk about the benefits of the Honourable Members. That is what we should do but not at this Vote. I accept all the support that was given and I think we should decide. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Any further discussions? Agreed to.

Vote 11 – “NATIONAL COUNCIL” put for Discussion. Any Discussions? I recognise, Honourable Lucks.

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**HON LUCKS:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. After the long interventions on the previous Vote, this will be a very short one and it will be a technical one.

I am referring to the Statement that was read by the Honourable Speaker, on the amounts that were requested. There were two different amounts, the one amount that was mentioned here is an amount of N\$12,149,000.00 for one of the Activities that was required and the second amount was an amount of N\$91,347,000.00. These two amounts together are totalling N\$103,496,000.00. If I compare that to what is mentioned in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework book and I am looking at Page 119 which deals with the Vote of the National Council. If you look at table number 5 which is called Budget Allocations to the Vote, the grand total is exactly the same N\$103,496,000.00 but if you look at the Operational Budget figure, that figure is N\$93,496,000.00 whereas the figure mentioned in the Motivation is N\$91,347,000.00.

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HON LUCKS**

There is a discrepancy there but that is not all. If you look at the Operational Budget, there are three different items mentioned there. The first one is goods and other services N\$29 million, subsidies and other current transfers N\$11 million and then acquisition of Capital Assets under Operational Budget, N\$7.4 million. If you total these figures you come to a total of N\$48, 272,000.00 but then the total of the Operational Budget is N\$93 million. There is a huge discrepancy in the figures that are mentioned, firstly in the Motivation Speech but there are also huge discrepancies in the figures that are listed in the tables of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

The only reason I can think of, why there are these discrepancies is that something has been left out because there is about N\$45 million that is not mentioned in this document that is being requested for approval by this House. I do not know how we are supposed to approve a Budget when we have a document in front of us with such huge discrepancies where amounts are simply left out. I do not know how the people who have drawn up this have come to the total that is mentioned here. I, therefore, really have a problem in approving something with a document that is not complete, that has discrepancies and that is unclear of where the funds are coming from and what exactly is it required for. We have been talking a lot about rubber stamping but if we approve this, we would be rubber stamping something. (Intervention)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Just state what your problem is and then you leave it up to the Honourable Speaker to answer.

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**HON LUCKS:** Honourable Chairperson, the problem is that the Medium Term Expenditure Framework document has huge discrepancies. The total amount is not the amount of the different items that are listed here.

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

**HON MEMBER:** Which items are you talking about here?

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**HON LUCKS:** If you can just read what I have just told you, you have three different amounts and if you add up the amounts, the sum is N\$48 million but in the table the sum is N\$93 million. It is a huge discrepancy. How can we approve this? I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Minister of Finance, would you like to provide an explanation?

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. The background documents to the *Appropriation Bill* are the documents that were tabled by the Minister of Finance, that is the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, Estimates of Income and Expenditure and the Accountability Reports.

In fact, we have considered the idea last year, to not have Vote Motivations. If we had implemented what we agreed to last year, the Speaker was not going to read what he read. We were only going to have the Bill and the documents that the Ministry has provided.

I would like to ask the Members, where the figures in the Statements that are made by the Honourable Members do not correspond with what is contained in the background documents or in the Bill, to go with what is contained in the Bill because the Bill is the Law even the MTEF, the Estimates of Income and Expenditures and the Accountability Report are only background documents to provide detailed information to the expenditures that are requested under the Bill but what we authorise is what is provided for in the Bill. However, in this current situation there is not really a discrepancy between the Bill and the MTEF, there is only a discrepancy between the MTEF and the Statement of the Speaker. If there

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HON MWANINGANGE**

is a discrepancy between anything and the Bill, what we are asking Parliament to do, is to approve the Bill. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Yes, Honourable Lucks.

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**HON LUCKS:** The issue is not the discrepancies between the Motivation and the MTEF. The issue is that figures in this MTEF document are false. There are omissions. If you try and do a manual calculation of the figures and the total that have been provided, it is totally different.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
However, Honourable Member, the Speaker did not submit that document you are referring to, if you say that there is a serious omission and the Minister of Finance did explain because she is the one who has submitted that document. Any further discussion? I recognise Honourable Mwaningange.

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**HON MWANINGANGE:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

On Vote 11 - **NATIONAL COUNCIL**, I feel very happy to see a new element in this Motivation of the National Council. At Page 4, the National Council prepares people, particularly the youth. It is within the range of the Budget allocated that the youth is taken on board, in the sense that the Members of Parliament, who are the National Council Members, have a daunting task, a very important task to reach the youth. When they are carrying out Outreach Programme, they do not only do it at parliamentary level but being a Parliament drawn from the Regions, they are doing the very same important task that sensitises the development of the youth.

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

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

What is your specific question, Honourable Member?

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**HON MWANINGANGE:** My specific question is that, the Budget considered them, the Budget did include these Activities because they are carried out with resources. However, if these particular Activities are to be effected, they need more resources in future. In supporting the Vote, I am saying that it was not previously reflected but in their Programme here it is reflected and this is exactly what I want to encourage.

However, the Motivation itself did not reveal how much and so on. I support the Vote. I see a few people who are not participating in this Vote but I am saying this, knowing it from the start, drawing from experience how important it is. In future, we need to clarify what this Outreach Programme entails and costs as far as the Budget is concerned. I support Vote 03.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Ekandjo.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT  
AND CULTURE:**

Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine is just maybe advice to both Houses.

What I have observed is, you will find that the National Assembly has different Parliamentary Committees and when a Bill is tabled in the National Assembly it is referred to a Committee, the Committee reach out to the community to get the input of the people. They may, for example, go to a village. After that the input from the Committee is brought here for our approval and then that Bill is referred to the National Council.

The National Council in turn also go to the community to get their input.

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HON EKANDJO**

Two, three weeks later they go to the same village where the National Assembly Committee was and tell the people - *we are Members of Parliament and need your input on this* and the people would ask them - *but how comes, three weeks ago you were here, we gave you our inputs and now you are back again.* They will then have to explain that it was not them but Members from the other House of Parliament. (*Laughter*)

Therefore, for the ordinary people out there, we are all Members of Parliament. When these people switch on their TVs and listen to the Debates, they do not differentiate that this on the screen is the National Assembly or the National Council. They do not see the furniture but only see people expressing themselves in the similar way.

Can it perhaps not be done this way that when a Motion or a Bill on the Table of the House is referred to the Committee before the Committee decides to reach out to the community, that Bill or Motion first goes to the National Council to get their input so that the two Committees combine their resources and send one delegation? Maybe it will work that way.

Secondly, the National Council does not have the benefit of asking Ministers questions here in the National Assembly, whether it is on a Motion, a Bill or the Budget (intervention)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Member, I am keeping to what I said from the beginning that no interventions will be allowed, you can just request the Floor. Honourable Minister can you finish?

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** We do not even receive copies of their Hansard to acquaint ourselves or maybe get their views on whatever they discuss at the National Council. It would happen once in a while that a Motion would be on their Table and someone would call you and say - *Jerry*

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HON IILONGA**

*switch on the TV, the National Council is speaking about your Ministry. Only then will one have insight about their discussions, otherwise what they discuss just ends in the air. They discuss and debate about certain important aspects that they want the Minister to attend to and it ends there - full stop. One, then wonders, what is the use of just speaking in the air?*

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

And the proposal?

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT  
AND CULTURE:**

I would have wanted there to be an opportunity, even once a year, where the two Houses come together and then they can have an opportunity to ask Ministers questions, left and right. Especially, during the Budget Debate, provision must be made so that Ministers can also go and table their Budgets there and explain or just be present there so that they can have the same opportunity like what we do here during our Committee Stage. I am just speaking for them because what they discuss there, ends there in the air. However, I support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Good proposal. Honourable Ilonga, would you like to take the Floor?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Yes, I want to express my support for Vote 11.

I just want to say that the idea of Honourable Ekandjo is good but we should not forget that this is the House of Review. They review our decisions, how can they already start reviewing us while we are still in the process of deliberations? How then will they review us? I, therefore, think that the National Council is the House of Review and they should

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 11  
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

exercising that so I do not think they will agree with that. Thank you very much, I support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. The last speaker is Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I just want to provide an explanation here so that people have clarity with regard to what Honourable Lucks was querying about.

The Medium Term Expenditure Framework presents the expenditure proposals on the basis of expenditure items which is the first table there, numbered 5, titled - *Budget Allocations to the Vote*, in the case of the National Council. The expenditures are itemised there and you will see how the Budget is apportioned to the various items.

The total is the same, N\$103 million, and there is a classification of these items of expenditure according to whether they are of a Development nature or whether they are of an Operational nature. The Operational Expenditures would account for N\$93.4 million and the Development Expenditures would account for N\$10 million. That would add up to N\$103 million. The last table at the bottom, presents the expenditures according to the Programmes and the Activities under the Programmes. These Programmes put together the Operational Expenditures and the Development Expenditures.

The same is the case with the Activities. Activity number one there is to *Strengthen Capacity of Review and Oversight* and that Activity would ordinarily incorporate Operational Expenditures and Development Expenditures and the *Parliamentary Coordination and Support Services* would in the same way incorporate Operational and Development Expenditures, ordinarily. That is why the way the amounts are apportioned under the Programme are not the same as the ones under the

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

itemisation of expenditures but they will add up to the same amounts. There is, therefore, nothing with this, this is how it is supposed to be. They all add up to N\$103 million. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Honourable Shixwameni, five minutes please.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Yes, because the people of this Vote are not in this House but after Honourable Jerry Ekandjo and Honourable Ilonga have spoken, I think that probably we need to interrogate one question which is much more fundamental to the core existence of the two Houses that makes out the Parliament. Which House does what work?

I am not directing this fundamental question to the Speaker, I am even putting it to the Attorney-General as the Legal Advisor to the Government because this struggle has come on for a long time. From the time of Honourable Kandy Nehova and the time of Dr Mose Tjitendero. Who is what in this whole equation?

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**HON MEMBER:** That is not the Budget, discuss the Budget!

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** I am talking about the issues that they have spoken about because the separation of us also entails that, the National Assembly and the National Council, are separate bodies.

I would like to put it on the Table that probably the Attorney-General raises this issue as an *ex parte* partner in the High Court so that the High Court or the Supreme Court can one day clarify the relationship between the two Chambers and make it clear which one is the hen and which one is the chicken. I rest my case. Thank you.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 11  
HON DR KAWANA / HON SHIFETA**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Attorney-General, Dr Kawana, you have the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS AND**

**ATTORNEY-GENERAL:** Honourable Chairperson, it was not really my intention to rise but since the Learned Colleague commented on this issue, this is a Constitutional issue as per Article 74(2) of the Constitution and I will maybe just read the first part of that – *“the National Council shall have the power to establish Committees and adopt its own Rules and Procedures for the exercise of its powers and performance of its functions. A Committee of the National Council shall be entitled to conduct all such hearings and collect such evidence as it considers necessary for the exercise of the National Council’s powers...”*

Unless we amend the Constitution, there is really nothing that we can do. This was just to clarify that point and this is a House of Review. Its function is different from the function of the National Assembly. I just wanted to clarify on that point.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Shifeta, briefly.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**

I think my point has been tackled.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Sorry?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**

My point has been taken.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 11  
HON DR GURIRAB**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Then you can sit down.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**

There is, however, only one point that I think was on the Floor about which House has more power.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

No, sorry, Honourable Shifeta, practising lawyers.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**

Honourable Shixwameni, asked about which House has got more power.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

No, he said that maybe the Attorney-General can apply *ex parte* so that the Court can decide or interpret. With this, I will give the Floor to the Honourable Speaker to respond. There does not seem to be anything because it was clarified already.

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**HON SPEAKER:** The only hitch was what Honourable Lucks raised and I do not know whether he is satisfied by what the Minister of Finance has said. I do not know what that means, I do the last two Votes, this one and the one of the Electoral Commission on an agency basis, since they are not Members here. The arrangement is that I should read out what they prepared, not what I like to say.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

With that said, any objection? Agreed to.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 28  
HON DR NDJOZE-OJO / HON HAINGURA**

Vote 28 “ELECTORAL COMMISSION” put for Discussion. Any discussions? I recognise Honourable Dr Ndjoze-Ojo.

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**HON DR NDJOZE-OJO:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I just want to support all the Votes that have been submitted by the Honourable Speaker. We do not have to stand up all of us to say we support the Votes because this is our Budget.

Nonetheless, I just want to add my voice to your Paragraph on Page 2, where you are commending the Commission. I just want to say, through you Honourable Speaker, that you should commend a job very well done and thoroughly done, during the voters’ registration exercise.

The people were on duty till very late, they did their job so thoroughly and they made us proud. The second point is to urge them to continue, as they have done during the registration process, with the voters’ education which they are mentioning on Page 3. The TV was laden with a lot of information about what should you take place if you do not have what, and I think an election is as free as fair and transparent as the people’s education towards that.

I, therefore, just want to urge them that the voters’ education should continue on the same vein as they have done with the voters registration for us. Let us not sleep a little bit but continue to educate the electorate so that, come the time we have to go for elections, people are very well informed. I just want to support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. Honourable Haingura, you have the Floor.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

rise to support Vote 28. Firstly, I want to congratulate the Director of the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) for going beyond their target. I know when the supplementary voters registration comes, we will again add more eligible voters but I have a concern that there is apathy when it comes to the election and I urge these officials to start now conducting the voters' education and this year will use this new machine, the EVM.

I, therefore want the officials to work hard to educate the community on this machine because for some us, when you see a machine you already get scared. So people should be educated properly and the importance that everybody should take part in the elections should be explain because it is their democratic right to vote. Every Namibian should be encouraged to take part in the election. With those few words, I support Vote 28. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you, Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I also rise to support the Vote and to encourage the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) to "*do more with less*" and to do much more of a friendly job.

I had my own horrible experience when I went to register and I had raised it and it has been settled. I hope that the staff of the Electoral Commission, when it comes to elections would be much more friendly and welcoming in order to encourage more people to vote. That is important.

The second point is on the EVM machines. I think it needs to be thoroughly explained. I already find people that are saying that - *if you vote for part A and for part B because these are machines you will be registered at a certain point where people would know for whom you have voted for*, and all these kinds of things. I think the ECN must go out all

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the way to allay the fears of some people that have reservations with the EVM, that this is already what is being explained around that you would now be known for whom you have voted for because the computers would be connected.

That is very important. Voters' education would be very critical, both in the run up to the elections but also during elections so that we make sure that every Namibian citizen actually understands what it means to vote with this EVM and that they have the freedom to cast their vote for the Political Party of their choice so that people are not being misled. I would even go further to urge the ECN to be proactive and more actively in demystifying some of the lies that are told by political organisers as to - *if you vote this, your pension would be taken away, If you vote that, you will not receive this service.* (Interjections) it is true, it is being said. Some of you even talked about it. I think the demystification process of the whole Electoral process needs to be done by the ECN and that is very crucial during voters' education. Otherwise, I support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next, Honourable Kazenambo, Kazenambo.

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**HON KAZENAMBO:** Thank you. I rise to support this Vote. This Vote for me is the master key that opens and closes democracy and this master key in Namibia is not in the hands of any participants but it is in the hands of a neutral body called the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN).

This neutral body called the ECN, according to the Laws of this country unfortunately, and I am repeating - unfortunately, is not mandated to mobilise voters for either Party A, Party B or Party C. Therefore, if Party A is being rejected by the voters, it should not be a cry baby that the ECN must mobilise the public for them, and again, you will see that mindsets are set. It is very unfortunate, I am hitting and I can see you are feeling it but just wait. Mindsets are prepared already. You know that success is

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**HON KAZENAMBO**

not an event that happen automatically, you prepare for it and the foul cry that we are already hearing in this House, are voices of people who have already accepted defeat. We are hearing the voices already, it is typical and since they say a coward dies a hundred times. He dies from suspicion and we are hearing suspicion here. A coward dies even before the battle starts and we are hearing people dying before battle has start. We are hearing about people looking for sympathy and trying to blame the ECN.

In the mind of a coward, myths exist, it is for those who know their weaknesses to address their political weaknesses than to say that the ECN must address their political weaknesses on their behalves.

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**HON MEMBER:** Page?

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**HON KAZENAMBO:** The Page is Programme - Elections. Those who are feeling the heat have already started jumping to page!

I am saying that on voters' education, the ECN must do what is within the Law. Unfortunately, it is the duty of the Political Parties to put it. They are provided with Party agents, they are everywhere, at every voting booths if we are rigging, because we do not have the master key, what stopped you from rigging? It is your own failure. If you know that the elections are rigged, why are you not rigging them?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Come to rounding up, please.

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**HON KAZENAMBO:** If you want to win, why do you not rig them? You are only cowards, you cannot even rig. We do not have the key and this is how false messages are send abroad, that people are being mislead to go to that booth and that there is going to be fear. However, what these

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**HON IILONGA**

numbers testify, speaks for themselves about who are supported by the Namibian people and these numbers will not be increased by crying in this Parliament. Let us go and mobilise our people and you will not get anything. We are going to deal with you! (*Laughter*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Order, Honourable Ilonga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. This is a very important Vote as Comrade Kazenambo Kazenambo made it clear. It is not for the ECN to campaign for them. They will always claim that something was rigged but where they win, they never say that they stole the votes. Why do they not tell us that? Why is it only SWAPO that steals the votes, since everywhere we win, we apparently steal the votes? You are insulting the Nation by saying that - *by voting for SWAPO for 24 years is a crime.*

That cannot be said by a politician and we are warning our people out there, please beware that you are being insulted. You even want to prepare to invite the Koevoet. Do you want to prepare for war or what? With this, I want to see *kutya*, a Clause is added to the new Act that states that anyone who complains must not complain in general but must complain on the voters' roll. He must pinpoint the Polling Station or a specific ballot box number and then we look at that, rather than making general complaints. The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, please make sure that all those loopholes are close. Comrade Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I support our Vote. We are going to defeat them. (*Laughter*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. Honourable Speaker, you have the Floor.

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**HON GURIRAB**

**HON SPEAKER:** Well, I thank everybody. The Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are here. I am temporarily a commoner and I just want to thank everybody. As citizens of the Republic, let us cultivate a mutual culture of tolerance because the outcome of whoever wins or whoever loses, reflects all of Namibia as a country. Those countries that conduct elections as transparently as possible and do things by the rule are applauded but when other things happen, everybody in that country carries a blot. We have a vested interest in ensuring, as we have been trying to do, the best that we can collectively do to make our elections as transparent, free and fair, that those who lose would say - *yes, it was a fair game* and those who win equally say - *it was a fair game*. Thank you for supporting the Vote.

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

I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMES**

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Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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**HON SPEAKER:** With that, the House stand adjourns, at 14:30.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 18:58 UNTIL 2014.03.26 AT 14:30**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
26 MARCH 2014**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**HON SPEAKER:** I would ask you to keep standing as I announce what you by now know, that we have lost the former Advisor to the President of the Republic of Namibia and one of the first groups of Permanent Secretaries, in this case of the Ministry of Finance - Godfrey /Khaesen Gaoseb.

We observe a Minute of Silent.

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**HOUSE OBSERVES A MINUTE OF SILENCE**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Motions? Honourable Amweelo.

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**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON DR AMWEELO**

**HON DR AMWEELO:** Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 07, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 24 of the *Appropriation Bill* be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted, if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Member, Table the Motion. The Secretary will read the First Order.

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**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE:  
APPROPRIATION BILL [B.3 – 2014]**

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**HON SECRETARY:** Resumption of Committee Stage - *Appropriation Bill* [B.3 – 2014].

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

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objections? Who seconds? Agreed to. The Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee will take the Chair or the Deputy.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Members, the Whole House Committee is

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**HON DR KAMWI**

called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill* [B.3 -2014]. When progress was reported on Tuesday, the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014, Votes 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 08, 10, 11, 17, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 30 have been agreed to and Votes 07, 18, 24 and 19 have been introduced.

Vote 13 – “**HEALTH SOCIAL SERVICES,**” **N\$6,066,803,000.00** put for Introduction. I call upon the Honourable Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members, I have the honour to present to this august House, the Motivation and explanation to support the budgetary allocation in respect of Vote 13 of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. Before I do that, permit me to recognise, in the gallery of this august House, the backbone of the Health Sector, the unsung heroes and heroines, the nursing staff of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. (*Applause*). Thank you.

In so doing, I wish to express my appreciation to the Minister of Finance, Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and her team for tabling a National Budget aimed at *inclusive growth and fiscal sustainability*. The priorities of the Government are, indeed reflected in the Budget with particular focus on the economic stability, growing the economy, improving the skills of our people, and reducing bureaucracy. The Budget equally reflects on the realisation that the wellbeing and health of the Namibian people is a pre-requisite for economic growth and sustainable human development. After all, a Nation that takes care of the health of its people is indeed, a winning Nation.

Let me also commend the Director-General of the National Planning Commission, Comrade Tom Alweendo and his team for a people-centred and purpose driven Development Budget.

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In motivating the Budget Allocation for the Ministry of Health and Social Services, I take cognisance of our expressed desire, as a Nation, to foster human resources development and skills formation.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Ministry of Health and Social Services has been allocated **Six Billion, Sixty Six Million, Eight Hundred and Three Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$6,066,803,000)**. This represents 10% of the National Budget, and reflecting a slight reduction from the 11% allocated in the Financial Year 2013/2014. We are cognisant of the increasingly demanding priorities we are faced with as a Nation and intend to utilize the funds prudently in order to ensure efficient and effective execution of the National Health Development Agenda.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I believe that it is important for the House to be aware that next year, 2015, will mark the target date for the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs were agreed upon in the year 2000, a historic date, since it marked Namibia's Presidency of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Our current Speaker, Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab and His Excellency the Founding President, Dr Sam Nujoma, personally led many of the important proceedings that culminated in the agreement on the 2000 UN Millennium Declaration.

As most of us know, the MDGs contain an important set of health targets, the achievement of which is strongly geared towards advancing human development. Namibia has made significant progress on the MDG targets since the year 2000, but regrettably, in the Health Sector we will not be able to meet some of the targets.

As the Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Public Health Sector clearly points out, the Health Sector requires considerable transformation as part of a broader Public Sector reform process. This transformation will need sustained support from all Namibian stakeholders, especially considering that our main development partners in

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the Health Sector have signalled repeatedly that they will scale down their assistance over the medium term.

As the world moves towards a global development framework beyond 2015, it is imperative that the health and wellbeing of the Namibian people should remain a top priority.

It is clear from various reports, the African Common Position and on-going discussions that health will remain high on the post 2015 agenda. Our short, medium and long term development plans entrusted the Ministry of Health with the Health Sector Framework which includes other social determinants that fall outside the Health Sector but have an impact on health.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me now focus on some of our specific priority areas in the Health Sector:

### **HIV/AIDS**

Namibia has made great strides in maintaining high coverage of ART for patients eligible for treatment with more than 84% coverage against a national target of 90%. To maintain the coverage, new treatment guidelines were launched with exciting changes that will result in better treatment outcomes for people infected with HIV.

The changes are based on the latest scientific evidence as well as on the 2013 WHO recommendations which stipulate that:

- The eligibility criteria for adult people living with HIV (PLHIV) should be expanded by raising the threshold for starting ART from CD4 350 to 500.
- The eligibility criteria for children should be expanded to allow initiation of treatment for ALL HIV-infected children (under) <15 years old at time of HIV diagnosis.

In addition we will now be able to treat all HIV-positive individuals living

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in stable partnerships with an HIV-negative person at the time of the diagnosis.

Another major change is that we will provide the single dose ART medication, which involves one tablet given once daily, as standard first line for ART. This combination is easier to take and safer than alternative combinations previously recommended. It can be used in adults, pregnant women, adolescents and older children. Implementation will be done in phases as our health care workers get trained on the new guidelines.

## **MALARIA**

As you may be aware, the World Health Organisation earmarked Namibia as one of the countries to eliminate Malaria. In fact Namibia is the Chair of the E8 (eight countries earmarked to eliminate Malaria in the SADC Region - Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

For the past five years, Namibia has seen a significant decline in both malaria morbidity and mortality. For this we received the ALMA award twice in the past two years. This achievement was a result of combination of interventions that included malaria vector control, effective case management with Artemisinin Combination Therapy (ACTs), community mobilisation and advocacy, and epidemic monitoring and response.

As a result of the above, during 2012, the outpatient Malaria cases were Three Thousand One Hundred and Sixty Three (3,163) and Malaria related deaths during the same period - four (4). However, during the year 2013, a total of Four Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty Three (4,223) outpatient malaria cases were reported country wide with 20 malaria related deaths.

This is of course a timely warning that tells us all, that we cannot relax our disease control measures at all. As soon as we slip, the various diseases will flare up. Therefore, until we fully eradicate the relevant triggering agents, for example, the malaria parasite, Namibia will continue to be faced with increasing cases of Malaria.

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It is, therefore, critical to maintain our interventions and to further strengthen the surveillance system until we achieve malaria elimination by 2020 in line with AU and SADC targets. We do not have much time left to reach the elimination target.

Communities in Malarious Regions are also urged to open their doors to allow spray men/women to enter and conduct Indoor Residual House Spraying in order to reach the required WHO coverage of 90% and above.

### **TUBERCULOSIS (TB)**

Namibia remains among countries with the highest per capita TB burden in the world. Preliminary data for 2013, indicates that more than Ten Thousand Five Hundred (10,500) TB cases were reported in the country. The contribution of HIV to the TB epidemic remains significant, with 45% of the TB patients also having HIV infection. The magnitude of the TB epidemic is further worsened by the problem of drug-resistant tuberculosis. In 2013, Six (6) patients were diagnosed with XDR-TB, while One Hundred and Seventy Four (174) patients were diagnosed with multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB).

Despite this continued high disease burden, which has earned Namibia the label of being among countries with an extreme burden according to the Global Fund, there has been a progressive and consistent decline in new case numbers since 2006.

Furthermore, Namibia continues to record good treatment success rates among the patients that are started on medication. In 2013, the treatment success rate was 85%, an improvement from the 83% obtained in the previous year. There are also significant improvements in the care of patients who suffer from both TB and HIV infection.

HIV testing rates for all TB patients have now increased to 92%, compared to 76% in 2010. Furthermore, we have seen the HIV prevalence among TB patients decline from a peak of 67% in 2006 to 45% in 2013. The coverage of antiretroviral therapy (ART) among TB/HIV patients has increased to 80%, compared to 43% in 2010. Honourable

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Chairperson, this demonstrates again that the Health Sector can indeed deliver, when given the relevant resources and support.

### **LEPROSY**

The launch of the National Guidelines for the Management of Leprosy in 2012 resulted in an increase in the number of leprosy cases reported in the country. Twenty-one cases were reported in 2013 compared to six cases in 2012. This should not be considered as alarming but as good news from a public health point of view. What it means is that every person found suffering from Leprosy is put on correct treatment. This will actively reduce the risk of other citizens being infected. Thus, we will reduce the spread of the disease and prevent more people from being infected.

This is an excellent example of prevention through good surveillance, active case finding and rapid treatment. In other words, through proactive management in line with the primary health care approach, we will reduce the number of people getting leprosy. This is a much more cost effective and efficient way of dealing with the disease, which can only be done with sufficient human resources and appropriate technology.

### **MATERNAL MORTALITY**

The main causes of death in pregnant women in Namibia now are HIV/AIDS; Blood loss during and after labour; High blood pressure during pregnancy; Prolonged labour and Septic or illegal abortions.

In line with the MDGs, Namibia is expected to reduce maternal mortality from 225/100 000 in 1992 to 56/100,000 by 2015. However, during 2012 and the third quarter of 2013, the rate was 128/100,000. More work remains to be done in this important area.

As the Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Public Health Sector states, much needs to be done to address the so called “*three delays*” which have been identified as:

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- Delay 1: The delay by pregnant women to actually go to the nearest health facility in time for a safe and properly supervised delivery. This has been attributed to ignorance, poverty or the means to get to health facilities.
- Delay 2: The delay in getting care due to distances, poor roads and non-availability of affordable transport.
- Delay 3: The delay in receiving adequate health care due to shortages of staff, poor health facilities and medical supplies, inadequately trained and poorly motivated staff and insufficient referral systems.

The Ministry supports the establishment of waiting shelters for pregnant mothers to address Delay 2. Alongside this, the Ministry will soon rollout the Health Extension Workers Programme that will not only strengthen community involvement, but also provide a key reduction to the first delay.

But as the Presidential Commission correctly points out, Namibia's main problem is the third delay involving inadequate health care due to staff shortages and poor facilities, among other causes. To resolve this, we will need large and sustainable investments in our health facilities and hospitals because that is where the largest backlog currently lies.

### **UNDER FIVE/NEONATAL MORTALITY**

Namibia has made remarkable progress in the last two decades to reduce the number of child deaths. However neonatal mortality rates declined at a slower pace and Namibia's children are still facing the preventable and treatable childhood conditions such as malnutrition, pneumonia and diarrhoea. We are currently developing the Costed Child Survival Strategy which will guide us to invest additional funding into low cost high impact targeted interventions which when implemented to scale, in an integrated manner, can reduce the child mortality from 39/1,000 live births (Inter Agency Child Mortality Estimates, 2012) to 30/1,000 live births in a short period of time to achieve MDG targets.

## **MALNUTRITION**

Malnutrition remains a challenge in Namibia. The recent statistics from our health facilities show that death related to malnutrition remains high among children under the age of five years.

Currently, the Ministry is implementing the Nutrition Assessment, Counselling and Support (NACS) Programme within the clinical setting in 224 health facilities. This means that the target population is being clinically assessed and receives nutrition counselling. Those diagnosed as malnourished are put on treatment such as Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) known as Plumpy Nut or supplementary food known as Fortified Blended Food (FBF).

The Nutrition Assessment, Counselling and Support Programme plans to expand these services to all 343 health facilities in the country over the MTEF period by training more health workers in assessing and treating all reported cases of malnutrition. We are also busy with incorporating the management of malnutrition in the curriculum of enrolled nurses trained at the Ministry's health training centres and Registered nurses trained at the University of Namibia.

## **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

As you may recall, Namibia ratified and adopted both the international and continental instruments on Persons with Disabilities that paved the way for the mainstreaming of disability issues. Nationally, this led to the adoption of the National Policy on Disability in 1997 and the enactment of the National *Disability Act*, (Act 26 of 2004). Furthermore, the Government established the Disability Advisory Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister and the National Disability Council (NDC) within the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

Shortly after the establishment of the National Disability Council, various problems related to governance and management of the Council arose. As a result, a Committee was set up to look into the affairs of the Council. The Committee conducted the investigation over two months through

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interviews, a review of documents and through questionnaires. A report with findings, recommendations and a time-line of 24 months for implementation of the recommendations was then presented to Government.

The recommendations covered aspects of legislation and policy, broad governance issues, planning and budgeting and management. In particular, the Committee recommended good governance including the stewardship role of the Ministry, the fiduciary duties of the Council, systems to improve the management of the Council and the strengthening of relationships between the Council and its stakeholders.

In its Report, the investigating Committee acknowledged Government's efforts in addressing the challenges faced by people with disabilities. Cognisant of the status of and opportunities for persons with disability, the investigating Committee was of the opinion that reasonable accommodation should be provided for people with disabilities to cater for their special needs in a transparent manner that would provide equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

### **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

Namibia is faced with huge challenges in combating Gender-Based Violence, particularly against women and children. The recently held National Day of Prayer was a direct consequence of the disturbing incidences of senseless violence against women and children. It is recognised that substance abuse is a contributing factor to such violence as well as leading to risky sexual behaviour. Substance abuse has also been identified as a behavioural risk factor for ARV non-adherence.

Calls have been made for the closure of *shebeens*, increasing of fines and severe punishment for drug traffickers and those conducting illegal *shebeens*. These are necessary measures aimed at the supply side of drugs and alcohol. However, we recognise that Namibia also needs to deal with the demand side - that is people who use and abuse alcohol and drugs.

The Ministry is tasked with rehabilitation and has developed an extensive

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response to substance abuse including policies and strategies for prevention, rehabilitation and treatment.

For this purpose, we have set up an in-patient programme at the Etegameno Rehabilitation and Resource Centre that provides community based services on alcohol prevention and education. It admits 16 patients per intake for a period of four weeks. There are also after-care groups nationwide that provide counselling services.

The most commonly abused substances in Namibia are alcohol, dagga, mandrax and crack cocaine. The challenge is to develop strategies to effectively deal with substance abuse.

In addition, we have gone as far as making available community counsellors in most health facilities. The community counsellors work closely with nursing and medical staff as well as with social workers in addressing personal issues through counselling, anger management and constructively discussing problems in family setting.

## **DISEASE OUTBREAKS**

### **Cholera outbreak**

Since November 2013, a total of Five Hundred and Fifty Four (554) cases of cholera were reported in Omusati, Oshana, Khomas, Ohangwena, Otjozondjupa and Kunene Regions, in which unfortunately, 18 people died as a direct result of the disease. The Ministry, together with partners, undertook immediate and effective coordinated actions to contain the spread of the disease and the situation is found to have stabilized in these Regions. However, the incidents of cholera shows that more work needs to be done in the area of sanitation and basic hygiene, especially in the informal settlements.

### **Measles outbreak:**

Namibia experienced several measles outbreaks in the past years. During 2013, measles outbreaks were reported in Omuthiya District (Oshikoto

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Region), Andara, Nyangana, and Rundu Districts (Kavango East and West Region) and Engela District (Oshana region). Sporadic measles cases were reported in Opuwo, Outapi and Windhoek Districts.

All measles outbreaks were responded to by means of vaccination campaigns and were successfully controlled. However, routine measles immunization coverage is still below the necessary level of 90% to 95%. Unless we reach that level of coverage for our under-fives, we will continue to experience these outbreaks.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Health Sector landscape is not all doom and gloom Health practitioners, who at great risk continue to provide care and support to the infirm and the weak in communities throughout the nation, are making significant achievements on a daily basis. Permit me, to highlight some of the important achievements of the Ministry of Health and Social Services during the Financial Year 2013/2014:

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

- The Road Map - The Road Map for the Ministry is now in place in accordance with NDP4 and Vision 2030 and was approved by Cabinet. It has considered the prevailing conditions and possible future developmental health issues. The road map provides a strategic long-term framework for the Ministry's human resources development, health facilities upgrading and establishment of specialised services or institutions.
- The Strategic Plan — The strategic plan for the next five years (2013-2018) has been developed. This will guide our focus in health for the medium term. Our vision is to provide world-class health services by 2018.
- Restructuring - The document, we have produced, if approved and funded, will ease our work, particularly at operational level. The burnout syndrome now prevailing in the Namibian hospitals and

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health facilities will be reduced. The restructuring proposal is now with the Public Service Commission for scrutiny and approval.

### **POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

The Ministry is committed to develop broad-based policies and guidelines to deal with the wide spectrum of health problems and management issues, during the reporting period, the *National Health Bill*, the *Environmental Health Bill* and the *Traditional Health Bill* were completed and ready for tabling in this august House. Meanwhile the *Food Safety Bill* is to be tabled at the Cabinet Committee on Legislation (CCL)

### **CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT**

One of the strategic interventions of improved access to health facilities and services is the upgrading, renovation and construction of clinics, health centres, and hospitals. Other structures are training centres, regional management team offices and supporting infrastructure. Planned preventative maintenance of infrastructure and equipment, and Information Communication Technology infrastructure, is also on the cards. As a result of the strategic interventions of improved access to health facilities, 17 projects were completed during the reporting period and are listed as follows:

- Ten (10) clinics (Masokotwane, Impalila Island, Kanono, Rehoboth, Daan Viljoen, Buite Pos, Omungwelume, Otjondeka, Mondesa and Hakhaseb)
- One (1) health centre (Okankolo)
- Six (6) hospital components (Usakos hospital administration block, St Mary's accommodation, Opuwo maternity ward, Oshakati maternity ward, final completion of Oshakati Hospital Nuclear Medicine, Oshakati wards 54 and 55 and Windhoek Central Hospital maternity ward).

## **HUMAN RESOURCE FOR HEALTH**

The Ministry has advertised for full scholarships for students to pursue health and medical related fields for undergraduate study. As a result, One Hundred and Twenty Three (123) students have left for the Russian Federation for studies in medicine and pharmacy.

In addition, the Ministry has introduced the Diploma in Nurse Training Project for a six-year period and the classes started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2014, with a total intake of Two Hundred and Thirty (230) students. The course is being offered at Keetmanshoop, Windhoek and Rundu Regional Health Training Centres.

Our focus is not only on pre-service training. The Ministry continuously pursue the recruitment of health professionals and as a result it has signed bilateral agreements with the Republic of Cuba, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Zambia to recruit health professionals:

## **HEALTH EXTENSION WORKERS PROGRAMME:**

The Ministry rolled out the Health Extension Workers Programme during Financial Year 2013/2014 after successfully piloting it in Opuwo District in 2012. Five Regions namely; Kunene, Omusati, Ohangwena, Kavango East and Zambezi, benefitted from the rollout. A total of Five Hundred and Sixty Three (563) Health Extension Worker trainees are currently undergoing six months training which started in September 2013, and will end in March 2014.

The Health Extension Workers will be deployed in April 2014, to work in their respective constituencies. It is our hope that the Health Extension Workers Programme will empower families and communities to improve health practices and health seeking behaviour through the provision of promotive, preventive, rehabilitative and basic curative services at household and community level. The Programme will be implemented throughout the country in phases with the next earmarked regions being

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Maras, Hardap, Oshana, Oshikoto and Otjozondjupa, in the Financial Year 2014/2015.

**SPECIALISED SERVICES:**

A total of Three Thousand Three hundred and Sixty Nine patients (3,369) were attended to at the Cardiac Outpatients Department at the Windhoek Central Hospital for procedures such as Angioplasty; Angiography; Pacemaker implantation; Complex Devices, and Renal Denervation Therapy. The Honourable Members may wish to know that 90% of these cases were attended to by our own Cardiologists and Cardiothoracic Surgeons, Namibia's own. (*Applause*)

The Windhoek Central Hospital also conducted cardiac outreach services to the Oshakati and Rundu Referral Hospitals where Six Hundred and Fifty Eight (656) patients were screened and treated for cardiac related illnesses.

The Foot and Knee Clinic at the Windhoek Central Hospital treated 75 patients while 69 patients were helped using the Special Fund to refer them to South Africa for complex cardiac operations as well as to the Windhoek Kidney and Dialysis Centre for Haemodialysis. Also, using the Special Fund, assistance was given to patients treated at the Windhoek Eye Centre.

In addition, the new Spinal Cord Unit at Windhoek Central Hospital admitted 54 patients of whom 19 were discharged after successful treatment.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, despite the achievements that I have mentioned, the Windhoek Central Hospital, as a national referral hospital needs to be equipped with the necessary medical equipment. The procurement of medical equipment is currently a challenge for the Ministry. Whilst the procurement process is cumbersome, we are also faced with the absence of uniformed standards for medical equipment. The Ministry will continue to find lasting solutions to the challenges that I have just highlighted.

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Achievements by Namibia, particularly in HIV treatment, are partly

because of donor support. However, donor support is unsustainable in the long term. There is, therefore, an urgent need to set the responses to HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB on a more sustainable footing in the context of national funding, ownership and health security. This urgency is all the more pressing given the dependent-volt external financing and foreign produced medicines for national responses to AIDS, TB, Malaria and other infectious disease.

It is critical that we take ownership of our health development agenda and mobilise domestic resources. As I have repeatedly reminded this august House, the Heads of State of the African Union pledged to allocate at least 15% of their Government Budgets towards the Health Sector, recognising the need for sustainable health financing and greater domestic resources for health. Namibia is now at 10% for the Financial Year 2014/2015. We, therefore, need to constantly reflect on our commitment to reach the set target of 15%. A 2013 Study by Stanford University School of Medicine showed that as of 2010, four countries surpassed the target: Togo (15.4%), Zambia (15.6%), Botswana (17.0%), and Rwanda (20.1%).

Our development partners continue to commit significant funding towards programmes in the Health Sector, which are funded outside the State Revenue Fund. We remain grateful for the immense support from our sister countries, the Private Sector and development partners who include amongst others, the UN agencies, USAID/CDC and Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

The funds earmarked by our development partners will, indeed, continue to make a significant contribution to the development of the Health and Social Welfare Sector, and will also help improve infrastructure, human resources, and strengthen health management systems. However, as I indicated earlier, it is critical that we take ownership of our health development agenda and mobilise domestic resources.

Honourable Chairperson of The Whole House Committee, the implementation of the budget of the Ministry of Health and Social

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Services for the Financial Year 2014/15 and the MTEF period 2014/15 – 2016/2017 will be based on the following Programmes:

**Programme 1: Public Health**

**Five Hundred and Fifty Million, Five Hundred and Seventy One Thousand, Four Hundred and Forty Two Namibian Dollars (N\$550,571,442.00)** (Page 136 of MTEF document)

**Programme 2: Clinical Health Care Services**

**One Billion, Three Hundred and Sixty Seven Million, Five Hundred and Sixty Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Nineteen Namibian Dollars (N\$1,367,564,919.00)** (Page. 138).

**Programme 3: Health Systems Planning and Management**

**Four Billion, Seventy Eight Million, Three Hundred Twenty Nine Thousand and Twenty Seven Namibian Dollars (N\$4,078,329,027)** (Page 138)

**Programme 4: Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation**

**Forty Nine Million, Four Hundred and Seventy Eight Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty Three Namibian Dollars (N\$49,478,533)** (Page 139)

**Programme 5: Developmental Social Welfare**

**Twenty Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty Nine Thousand and Seventy Nine Namibian Dollars (N\$20,859,079)** (Page 140)

I wish to thank His Excellency Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia for allowing me and my Deputy, Comrade Petrina Haingura to continue to serve the people of Namibia in overseeing national efforts aimed at improving health service delivery. Allow me also to thank my team, the Permanent Secretary, and the entire workforce

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at the Ministry of Health and Social Services for their tireless efforts towards the realisation of our primary goal of health for all.

I now have the honour and privilege to present a sum of **Six Billion, Sixty Six Million, Eight Hundred and Three Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$6,066,803,000.00)** for Vote 13 for your consideration. Thank you for your kind attention.

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

Vote 15 – **“MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY,” N\$869,453,000.00** put for Introduction. I call upon the Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy. You have the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members, the Ministry of Mines and Energy was established to take custody of Namibia’s rich endowment of mineral and energy resources and to create an environment in which the mineral, energy, and geological resources contribute to the country’s social-economic development.

The Ministry regulates and controls the Mining and Energy Sectors through the relevant pieces of legislation and administers these legislations in order to ensure that our resources are protected.

It is my pleasure to present our Ministry’s Budget according to the Activities outlined in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

**1. PROMOTION OF LOCAL AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN EXPLORATION AND MINING**

An amount of **N\$27,841 million** was budgeted for the Financial Year 2013/2014 for the design and development of Regional Small Scale Mining projects. 50% (**N\$13 920.5 million**) of that Budget was utilized in advancing the initial phases whereas the remainder had to be suspended from the current Financial Year 2013/2014 to allow funds to be released in the next Financial Year in order to finalise the projects.

A total of 238 Exclusive Prospecting Licences (EPLs) were issued while 242 Mining Claims were registered. Out of these, 222 EPLs were granted to Namibians or companies with Namibian participation. The constructions of the Husab, Otjikoto and Thscudi mines are all on schedule and Budget.

I am regrettably reporting that during the Financial Year 2013/2014, three lives were lost due mine accidents. This is indeed sad, as it affects families and the Nation at large. Our goal as a Ministry is to have a record of zero fatalities. The Ministry will need considerable additional resources to increase regular mine visits and intensify health and safety awareness to the Industry.

**2. CREATION OF KNOWLEDGE OF NAMIBIA'S GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the Geological Survey of Namibia is entrusted with management and research of Namibia's geology. The institution continued to enhance knowledge and awareness of Namibia's geological resources and to disseminate quality research information thereby facilitating the search for mineral resources, geological engineering, land use planning and sustainable development with due regard to the environment.

During the current Financial Year, five 1:50,000 scale geological maps were completed in the Warmbad area in the //Karas Region. Data from

airborne geophysical surveys which comprise one of the best data sets worldwide are now being interpreted, and continue to attract exploration investment. The minerals database is also constantly growing and is used by many potential investors.

The Geological Survey of Namibia directorate has another responsibility to minimise the negative impact of mineral resource exploitation on the environment and enhance the understanding of Namibia's geo-environment including its geological resources.

### **3. PROTECTION OF NAMIBIA'S DIAMOND INDUSTRY**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, diamonds contributed N\$2.5 billion in royalties and taxes and dividends to the State Revenue Fund in 2013. We expect similar levels of contributions to the State from this strategic resource in 2014. Separately, the Namibia Diamond Trading Company (NDTC) contributed N\$120 million in dividends to the State as a result of local sales of diamonds to local cutting and polishing factories. NAMDEB Holdings has contributed N\$74 million in dividends.

Much value is concentrated in a single stone, and thus it is imperative that Diamond Inspectors remain vigilant whenever diamonds are being handled or transported. As a strategic resource, their monitoring and regulation remains one of the major priorities for the Ministry.

Beneficiation of our diamonds continues to be one of our key objectives in line with Vision 2030 and National Development Plan (NDP) goals. However, this Sector is experiencing back braking challenges. Prices of rough diamonds has skyrocketed while at the same time prices of polished diamonds have remained stagnant, therefore, manufactures margins has diminished significantly leading to some bankruptcy.

Our factories have therefore been under immense pressure and have been fighting for their survival.

#### 4. ENERGY SUPPLY AND SECURITY

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the Ministry continues with rural electrification Programme by providing electricity to schools and other government infrastructures and churches in rural areas in all the regions. Rural electrification work has been under way in 38 localities countrywide, during the Financial Year 2013/2014. An amount of **N\$85 million** was budgeted for the Programme. However, 47% (**N\$40 million**) of that amount was used for the upgrading of overloaded distribution sub-stations in the CENORED and NORED Regions.

Qualified and adequately experienced contractors still remains a challenge, and due to that factor, many rural electrification projects could not be implemented on time. Delays and timely delivery of transformers and other exported materials also hamper the implementation of projects. The Solar Revolving Fund (SRF) continues with the issuing of loans to successful applicants at five percent interest rate. A total of 441 loans have been successfully issued, amounting to a total amount of **N\$11,933,475.96 million** during the Financial Year 2013/2014.

To ensure reliable, affordable and cost reflective energy the National Energy Fund (NEF) has paid an amount of **N\$204.8 million** for the equalization of fuel price to companies. NEF also paid an amount of **N\$68.8 million** for the fuel road subsidy to the rural/far outlying areas. The Fund collected an amount of **N\$112 million** from levies to cater for the construction of the Strategic Oil Storage Facility for the Financial Year 2013/2014.

#### 5. PETROLEUM SUPPLY AND SECURITY

The quest for oil and gas in Namibia is continuing even though the drilling campaign by HRT in 2013, did not yield the expected results. The company, nevertheless, managed to recover the first oil sample from their Wingat-1 well from their non-commercial discovery offshore Namibia last year.

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Ever since then, oil and gas exploration has been continuing at a steady pace with new international oil companies such as Tullow, Shell, Murphy, OMV and Impact Oil coming into existing licenses to participate in the search for oil and gas on our shores.

This Financial Year, we expect another well to be drilled by a Spanish company Repsol and its partners Tower Resources and Arcadia Expro in the Walvis basin. Results of this drilling exercise will be expected in the first quarter of this Financial Year.

I am happy with the progress that the upstream and downstream developers of the Kudu gas to power project have made so far in implementing this project. Tullow, Itochu and NAMCOR on the upstream side and NamPower on the downstream side are now very close to negotiating and finalising a gas sales agreement to enable a Final Investment Decision (FID) to be made by the middle of this year and Financial Close to be reached by the end of this calendar year.

In its turn Government is expected to provide the necessary support package to reach these two milestones during 2014. This will mean that first gas and first electricity will be delivered towards the end of 2017 or beginning 2018 as planned making Namibia a net importer of electricity to a net exporter.

## **6. COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

In line with the Policy of Decentralisation of the Government, the construction of a regional office in Swakopmund has been planned, in an effort to bring services closer the Nation. It is envisaged that the construction will be completed towards the end of 2015.

On policy issue side, I would like to inform the National Assembly Members and the Nation at large that, I have kept to my promise with regard to the issue of transformers. A National Connection Policy has now been completed and ready to come to this august House. This policy is uniformly throughout the whole country, but we could only be able to go back to November 2013, to get reimbursement for the connection to

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your investment in paying for the transformer.

With this Honourable Members, I assure you that the **N\$869,453,000.00** requested, will be used for the benefit of our people and the development of our country. I thank you.

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

Vote 16 “**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE,**” **N\$730,930,000.00** put for Introduction. I call upon the Minister of Justice. Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members, I feel honoured to stand before you, on behalf of the Ministry of Justice, to motivate the Budget Requirements of the Ministry of Justice, Vote 16, for the Financial Year 2014/2015.

**1. Organizational Performance**

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members; the vision of the Ministry is to be a model provider of accessible and timeous justice for all. The mission of my Ministry is to provide quality judicial and legal services.

I now turn to motivate my Ministry’s request for the resources we would like the Honourable Members to approve by providing a brief overview of the performance of the Ministry in respect of each of its Programmes as set out in the MTEF document and our Strategic Plan. This overview will give you a broader perspective and appreciation of the context in which additional resources are requested in respect of individual Programmes

and the activities undertaken in support of these Programmes.

## **2. Administration of Justice**

The Budget allocated to the Directorate Registrar of the Supreme and High Courts comprises of three Main Activities namely:

- Execution of constitutional and statutory mandate striving to live up to the Ministry's vision;
- Continuation of specific ongoing projects; and
- Execution of new initiatives.

Significant progress has been achieved in selected initiatives which are expressed in the four strategic objectives of accessibility to justice; timeliness of justice delivery; the quality of the service the Ministry delivers and the integrity of the justice system as a whole.

The High court will implement the following initiatives to attain its Strategic Objectives for the Year 2014/2015:

- the implementation of a new set of Rules of the High Court,
- increased percentage of Judgments delivered on time
- Continuous legal education Programmes for Judges, Court Assistants and other Court Staff.
- Increased resources to accommodate the case load in both the civil and the criminal streams,
- more affordable litigation for court users and the realization of the courts critical needs including the physical infrastructure,
- roll out of the E-justice Programme and

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- the appointment of permanent Judges.

The successful implementation of the E-justice Programme, rests on the successful implementation of phase 1 of the Programme, implementation of the new Rules of Court, renovations and additions to the High Court Building in Windhoek, installation of a proper and secure IT network which includes sufficient web connectivity, redirection of available resources in critical areas and the procurement of the relevant hardware. The Ministry will need additional resources during the MTEF period to secure successful implementation of its Programmes in the Superior Courts.

The introduction of Judicial Case Management in 2011 in addition to E-justice required a new set of rules to give direction to the process. The Rules of Court were finalised during the Financial Year 2013/2014 and were published in Government Notice 4 of 2014, on 17 January 2014. With the inception of these Rules of Court on 16 April 2014, the Judicial Case Management Project will reach maturity.

E-justice involves the transformation of the manual court process into a paperless electronic judiciary process and has already commenced. The web portal from which the e-justice will be accessible has been launched on 20 March 2014. The project includes digitalisation of Court recordings, e-filing and transformation of the manual court process into a paperless electronic process.

During the Financial Year 2013/2014 the Superior Courts embarked upon several projects to increase the speedy delivery of Judgments in our Courts. The results of the efforts in this area are inter alia the following:

- a 90% plus timely delivery of High Court Judgments, when compared to the approximately 70% timely delivery of judgments in the past;
- An increased figure in the speedy finalisation of criminal related cases. In the past, the finalization figure of criminal related matters in the High Court reflected an annual average of between 60% and 70%.

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Apart from the above-mentioned ongoing projects, the Superior Courts will during the Financial Year 2014/2015 *inter alia* embark upon the following new initiatives:

- Introduction of Alternative Dispute Resolution in High Court Litigation; and
- Addition of a second criminal court room at Windhoek Central Prison Court;

The new Rules of Court provides for Court induced Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The aim of this project is to reduce litigation costs and time of civil litigation in the High Court of Namibia. A Special Training Programme for the bench, legal officers, legal practitioners and professionals in various specialities has, with the help of a specialist USA judge, been developed. The Programme will officially commence during May 2014 and will continue until September 2014.

### **3.     In the Magistrates Courts**

The Magistracy has a staff establishment of 104 Magistrates, of which 90 positions are filled. More Magistrates have been recruited to fill the remaining 14 positions during the Financial Year 2014/2015.

During the Financial Year 2013/2014, the Magistrates' Commission employed 14 new Magistrates who were deployed at Otavi, Bethanie, Maltahohe, Eenhana, Rundu, Outjo, Mariental/Aranos, Karibib, Luderitz, Ondangwa, Karasburg, Outapi and Katima Mulilo.

A total number of 25,239 new cases were entered on the court roll. A total of 37,824 old existing cases were carried forward which brought forth a number of 63,063 being prosecuted and adjudicated upon in the Lower Courts.

From this total 19,019 cases were finalised whilst 44,844 remained on the court roll. In order to ensure that cases are properly investigated and that guilty people do not escape punishment, the Prosecutor-General provides

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guidelines to investigators in difficult cases. During 2013, the prosecution provided directions to police and anti-corruption investigators in 184 criminal cases.

#### **4. In Regional Court**

The Regional Courts entered a total number of 640 new cases, adding onto the older 1,229 cases already on the court roll, bringing the total number of cases to 1,869.

Regional Courts are Magisterial Courts which have a higher jurisdiction than District Courts, but are also Lower Courts in comparison to the Supreme and High Courts. These Courts try serious cases like murder, rape, robbery with aggravating circumstances and other offences where sentences to be imposed may not be higher than 20 years imprisonment or a fine not exceeding N\$100,000.00.

From the above cases set for the Regional Court, a total number of 550 were finalised and 1,319 remained on the roll.

#### **5. Community Courts**

The introduction of the Community Courts has significantly reduced the workload in the district Courts as an alternative avenue to resolve disputes within the jurisdiction of the Community Courts.

#### **6. In the High Court**

In the High Court, Main Division, Windhoek and Northern Local Division, Oshakati 198 new criminal appeals were lodged during 2013, adding on to 68 appeals carried forward from 2012 thus totalling 266 appeals on the court roll for 2013. From a total number of 266 appeal cases, 152 were finalised and 114 appeals were carried forward to 2014. During 2013, 22 applications for leave to appeal by the State were heard in the High Court of which 11 were granted, 1 was dismissed, 1 was removed from the court roll and 9 carried forward to 2014.

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The High Court Main and Local Northern Divisions heard the more serious criminal cases as courts of first instance and had 95 criminal cases on the roll. From the total of 95 criminal cases, 29 were finalized and 66 are pending.

The above statistics whether it is for the lower or high court shows that there is huge backlog in the finalization of cases in courts which is a serious concern to the nation as it undermines the constitutional imperative of delivering justice timeously. The backlog is also worsened by the fact that there are insufficient courtrooms and offices at the existing courts, with most offices only being equipped with one court room. The Ministry intends to address this shortcoming through its capital projects.

**7. Prosecution of crime:**

This Programme highlights the work of the Prosecutor General in the administration of justice through the prosecution of crime. During the past year the Prosecutor-General received 549 dockets for decision. Decisions were made in respect of 381 dockets while 168 dockets were referred back to the investigating agencies for further investigation. Of the 381 dockets decided, 95 involved corrupt activities of which 75 involved staff members of the Public Service.

While we welcome incremental increases in the Budget Allocation for the Prosecutor General over the last few years, the situation at hand requires drastic injection of resources and for the Government to prioritize the suppression of crime and administration of justice.

The incidence of crime in the country is that there has been an alarming increase in the number of new cases onto the court rolls countrywide especially housebreaking with intent to steal and theft, dealing or possession of drugs, murder and rape cases that involve gender based violence, corruption, dealing or possession of elephant tusks or rhino horns etc.

About 96% of murder cases can be characterized as being gender based because there is always a bond between a man and woman e.g. a past

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romantic relationship which ended, or a current relationship which is on the brink of ending

There are two Divisions of the High Court operating in Namibia, namely Oshakati and Windhoek. The Supreme Court of Namibia hears criminal appeals from the High Court.

All prosecutions and appeals in the Superior Courts are handled by 18 State Advocates whereas in terms of international standards this work, and the number of courts to be held should be done by 45 State Advocates.

There are 34 District Courts, 44 periodical courts, and 8 Regional Courts in Namibia. These 8 Regional Courts also sit at every District Court in Namibia. From the above, it is clear that the prosecution office in the country is in fact overloaded with work as there are only 113 Prosecutors for all the courts in the country.

The Prosecutor-General is working on a *Draft Bill* to amend the *Criminal Procedure Act* in order to introduce the plea bargaining procedure in our criminal process with a view to address the backlog of cases, especially in serious and complex cases, as well as to introduce a procedure to lead witness evidence through video link, especially for foreign witnesses.

Plans are underway to facilitate collaboration with the magistracy, the Police and Legal Aid to introduce Mobile Courts at Magistrates' Courts that are more affected by the backlog of cases to work down the backlog.

On the one hand, cases of Gender-Based Violence have become a worrisome phenomenon in our country. This has recently resulted in some sections of the Namibian people calling upon Churches to get more involved, or for Laws to be changed so that those who are charged with such crimes are not granted bail and for courts to impose severe sentences on convicts for Gender-Based Violence cases.

These sentiments are raised because there is a public perception that the courts are not taking Gender-Based Violence seriously because the accused in these offences are often given bail in Court or cases are not

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concluded within a reasonable time. However, evidence on record has shown the contrary. Since 2005 there is evidence that our Courts in the majority of cases have passed severe sentences ranging from 30 years to 90 years imprisonment.

The Prosecutor-General has always ensured that cases of violence against women and children are prosecuted by experienced and specialised Prosecutors. In these cases, the prosecution always requests courts for victims to be protected from victimisation by the accused or their lawyers by testifying via video link as well as having support persons next to them as provided for in terms of Section 158A(3) of the *Criminal Procedure Act*, (Act 51 of 1977), as amended. Further, in such cases, the prosecution has a policy that prosecutors should always oppose bail applications by accused persons.

#### **8. Legal Representation of Indigent Persons**

Article 95 (h) of the Constitution provides that:

*“The State shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people by adopting, inter alia, policies aimed at the following: (h) a legal system seeking to promote justice on the basis of equal opportunity by providing free legal aid in defined cases with due regard to the resources of the State.”*

The Policy Statement in Article 95(h) enjoins the State and, thus the government of the day to create an enabling environment for access to justice for all in Namibia. This culminated in the promulgation of the *Legal Aid Act* of 1990, (Act 29 of 1990).

The above cited legal instruments form the basis for the legal framework for the programme: Legal Representation of Indigent Persons which is being implemented by the Directorate Legal Aid in the Ministry of Justice. During the FINANCIAL YEAR 2013/2014, 5,911 Applications for legal aid were received. Out of this number 3,686 Applications were approved, while 1,459 Applications were refused. 766 Applications are pending receipt of information from Applicants.

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The Caprivi (Zambezi) Treason Trials remain the highest single cost driver on the Legal Aid Budget. It accounts for about 23.3% of the legal costs Budget. The main trial is expected to come to an end in the second quarter of 2015.

The Ministry wishes to expand legal aid services by having an office and a permanent legal officer at every Magistrate's Court to provide legal aid service to far-flung areas of the Republic and to recruit support staff at magistrate's offices to expedite the processing of legal aid applications.

### **9. Administration of Estates**

The Master of the High Court is required by statute to supervise the administration of deceased estates, liquidation of insolvent estates, registration of trusts, appointment of and administration pertaining to tutors and curators, and the administration of the Guardian Fund (in respect of minors and mentally challenged persons).

### **10. The Guardian Fund**

The Guardian Fund is established under the *Administration of Estates Act*, (Act 66 of 1965). The value of the Guardian's Fund has increased to **One Billion One Hundred and Fifty-Seven Million Nine Hundred and Eighty-Six Thousand Five Hundred and Twelve Namibia Dollar and Twenty Four Cents (N\$1,157,986,512.24)** in 2013/2014.

A total of Six Thousand Three Hundred and Forty One (6,341) accounts were opened for minors and persons under curatorship as well as other persons (creditors from insolvent estates/monies due to a deceased estate) during the Financial Year 2013/2014 compared to Seven Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Two (7,342) of the previous year.

### **11. Integrated Case Management System**

The Directorate is about to commence with the development of an Integrated Financial and Case Management System during 2014/2015 to provide speedy finalisation of deceased estates, protect information and

ensure daily reconciliation of Guardian's Fund accounts.

The keeping of manual records is a major challenge due to the high volume of files that the office is dealing with. It slows down turnaround time of applications and result in longer periods to finalise deceased estates.

The current Guardian Funds Financial Programme does not include a cashbook and reconciliation function, is outdated and it is difficult to integrate it with new software on the server. Pastel is currently used to reconcile the Guardian's Fund which is not only time consuming but unsuitable to ensure the correctness of transactions between Pastel calculations and the Guardian's Fund system.

There is also no Case Management System for deceased estates, insolvencies, trusts and curatorship. Current problems which are experienced include a duplication of files and documents which are removed from files by the public or legal practitioners.

The *Financial Intelligence Act, 2007* (Act 3 of 2007) as amended, requires the Master to keep information as prescribed by the Act on Trusts and to update such information annually. The development of a proper integrated case management system will commence in 2014/2015 to ensure compliance with the said Act and financial resources have been budgeted to develop a new integrated case management system for the Master of the High Court.

## **12. Provision of Legal Services**

### **Civil Litigation**

The Directorate of Civil Litigation (Government Attorney) continued to perform its important task of providing the Namibian Government with legal representation in civil litigation matters in all courts. The office also represented Civil Servants in criminal cases that arose from the performance of their duties.

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The Government Attorney undertook conveyancing and debt collecting work on behalf of Government.

The Government Attorney is also responsible for instituting proceedings to recover any money which is due to the Government from any institution or individuals, including staff members, arising from contractual relations or as a result of costs awarded to the State in legal proceedings.

The Financial Year 2013/2014 saw an increase in the number of civil cases opened by the office. In the year 2013/2014 a total of 890 new cases were opened compared to the previous year's total of 1,499. From the total files opened in 2013/14, a total of 180 files were closed in the year after they were finalised. Closed files increased to 734 when taking into account older files closed in the same year.

During the Financial Year 2013/2014 a total amount of **N\$8,690,971.40** was spent on legal costs and fees paid by the Government Attorney on behalf of the Government. The Government Attorney's Office continues to suffer from a high professional staff turn-over, in particular of experienced legal officers. As a result Government continues to out-source a high percentage of Government legal work to private legal practitioners during the Financial Year 2013/2014. Hence, the high amount of legal fees paid out in the year 2013/2014.

The recent introduction of the Judicial Case Management System in the High Court will have a significant impact on the operations of the Government Attorney's Office.

### **Legal Advice**

The Directorate Legal Advice is responsible for assisting the Honourable Attorney-General to execute his constitutional functions which among others include rendering of legal advice to the President and the Government of the Republic of Namibia in terms of Article 87 of the Namibian Constitution.

The functions of the Directorate Legal Advice are generally to provide

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legal advice to all Offices/Ministries/Agencies (OMAs), Regional and Local Authorities as well as to all State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs).

**Law Reform**

During the Financial Year 2013-2014, the Directorate of Law Reform continued to provide administrative and research support to the Law Reform and Development Commission. The LRDC has worked on the following Projects:

- Reform and overhaul of the *Electoral Act*, 1992
- *Locus Standi* before the Courts
- Transformation of the Polytechnic into the Namibia University of Science and Technology
- Consumer Protection
- Obsolete Laws
- Administrative Justice
- Public Sector Pension Reform
- *Insolvency Act*, 1936 Reform

The Law Reform and Development Commission, the LRDC, has completed the reform and overhaul of the *Electoral Act*, 1992 as amended, and will soon be presenting to me, in terms of Section 9 of the Law Reform and *Development Commission Act*, 1991, its report with the attached Bills recommended.

Further consultations are ongoing as to the appropriate resource persons to facilitate a National Consultative Workshop on Whistleblower Protection, Access to Information and the Protection of Information sometime this year so that we may really afford our society and its member's protection.

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I hope that the Workshop will enable us to unpack the terms and their implications so that we know exactly what we are doing and how it will impact us.

Soon, with the launching of the Namibia Legal Resources and Information Institute (NaLRII), will provide public access to legal information such as Court Judgments, international agreements and legislation, the public can really have access to law, which is a prerequisite to access to justice.

### **International Cooperation**

Namibia's involvement in the international community is rapidly increasing.

Namibia recognises the ever increasing demand for international cooperation amongst States. The world has become smaller in terms of criminal networks which pose a serious threat to a healthy global economy and global safety. Namibia can neither afford to be regarded as a safe haven for foreign criminals nor can she be regarded as a gateway for transnational organised crime.

Namibia is a State Party to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and the UN Convention Against Corruption and recently became a State party to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism of 1999.

As you are aware, the Government has already enacted legislation to facilitate the implementation of international instruments for the suppression of organized crime, corruption and terrorist financing in 2004, 2003 and 2012, respectively.

The Government has also created a regulatory and policy framework to suppress money laundering with the establishment of the Anti-Money Laundering Advisory Council and the Financial Intelligence Centre under the auspices of the Bank of Namibia.

**Human Rights:**

My Ministry is responsible for co-ordinating the implementation of Namibia's Human Rights policy as articulated in the Constitution and relevant international and regional Human Rights instruments to which we are Party.

Implementation of Human Rights mandates of individual Ministries/Offices/Agencies is monitored through the submission of periodic reports to Human Rights Treaty Bodies and through the oversight role of the Ombudsman and this House.

As a State Party to various international Human Rights Instruments Namibia is required to file and present periodic reports to the relevant treaty bodies.

My Ministry co-ordinates the compilation of information for the preparation of State reports through an Inter-Ministerial Technical committee of officials from line Ministries who are expected to provide inputs on measures taken to implement their respective Human Rights mandates.

It is important to emphasize that all line Ministries have Human Rights mandates deriving from their constitutional mandates and from relevant provisions of Treaties to which Namibia is a Party. My Ministry's role is to co-ordinate the efforts of all these Ministries and to compile their inputs in a State report which all of us own. This obvious point is often overlooked when it comes to accountability.

During the past three years the Ministry managed to compile six reports to various Treaty Bodies, including Reports on thematic issues raised by the UN.

As you are aware, Namibia is now a newly elected member of the Human Rights Council for the period 2014/2016. My Ministry is seconding a Legal Officer to be based in Geneva, to articulate and defend Namibia's Human Rights priorities on the Human Rights Council and to ensure that

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Human Rights issues enjoy the appropriate profile at home through co-operation with the UN Human Rights mechanisms.

Namibia's Human Rights profile is up for review in 2015 under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. A number of activities will need to be undertaken to ensure that we follow up on our comments during the last UPR in 2011 to be able to report progress in 2015.

My Ministry also hosts the focal person for corruption assessments in Namibia. Namibia will be reviewed on compliance and implementation of the UN Convention on Corruption in 2014 and the preliminary assessment was coordinated and finalised.

**Extraditions and Mutual Legal Assistance.**

Namibia's cooperation with other countries in Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance is governed by its domestic legal framework, namely the *Extradition Act, 1996* and the *International Cooperation in Criminal Matters Act, (Act 9 of 2000)*.

Namibia's co-operation with foreign states in these matters has been the subject of legal proceeding in our courts in recent years, especially in the area of extradition. Important lessons have been drawn from the application of the *Extradition Act*, especially on the extent to which our current legislation is appropriate to enhance or hinder co-operation.

It is important to underscore the point that co-operation in these matters depends on the existence of bilateral agreements or designations of a State by Namibia for purposes of Extradition or Mutual Legal Assistance.

Namibia has rendered co-operation according to the existing legal framework and the determinations of our Courts in relevant cases. Significant progress has been achieved in the co-operation on the provision of mutual legal assistance as Namibia rendered and received co-operation on the provision of mutual legal assistance in solving a number of cases or investigations.

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During the past year (2013) Namibia received five (5) requests for mutual legal assistance and made three (3) requests for Mutual Legal Assistance to Foreign States.

In extradition matters, Namibia received eight (8) requests for extradition of fugitives and made six (6) requests for extradition of fugitives to Namibia.

We also need to ensure effective enforcement of reciprocal maintenance orders and rendering and receiving effective and timeous Mutual Legal Assistance in this regard.

### **Authentication of Public Documents**

The Ministry is responsible for facilitating the use of our public documents abroad through the issuing of Apostilles in terms of the Hague Convention (5 of 1961) for the use of public documents in other countries.

An Apostille is a document which my Ministry issues to individuals or corporate entities in respect of certain private documents such as certificates (birth, school or marriage) which enable individuals to present these to foreign Governments and have them accepted as valid documents for various purposes.

Currently, many of our students wishing to travel abroad require this service in order to authenticate or have these documents accepted abroad. It is a process governed by an Inter State treaty, the Apostille Convention of 1961 whereby States agreed to accept each other's public documents for use in each other's jurisdiction. In the absence of the Convention it would require that private documents are authenticated by the domestic entity charged with responsibility to pronounce on the validity of relying on such documents in a country other than where it was issued.

### **Legislative Drafting**

The mandate of the Directorate Legislative Drafting is to translate government policy into legislation; which includes drafting of Bills and

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subsidiary legislation such as regulations, rules, and drafting of administrative notices in the form of government notices.

During 2013/2014 the Directorate Legislative Drafting received 19 Bills and completed 13 Bills for consideration by this august House. The Directorate also received the following subsidiary legislation and administrative notices:

- 24 Proclamations, of which all (24) were completed;
- 65 Regulations, of which 44 were completed;
- 161 Government Notices, of which 148 were completed; and
- 10 General Notices, of which 9 were completed.

Certain Bills take too long to get completed because clients do not understand their own policies and sometimes drafters are expected to work out policy issues in the legislative proposals of clients. It is not the mandate of the legislative drafters to clarify policies for Ministries.

Clients do not follow the Law making procedures for submission of Bills to the Directorate Legislative Drafting, and as a result send bills and information to wrong offices which causes delays in the completion of work. Incomplete information from clients also contributes immensely to the delays.

A severe shortage of experienced legislative drafters is an unfortunate reality. The Directorate consists of 13 legislative drafters with only 4 experienced drafters, who have to work on Bills as well as supervise the work of the other drafters. The current establishment provides for twenty legislative drafters.

Legislative Drafting is a very scarce and specialized skill and there are insufficient incentives to recruit and retain experienced legislative drafters. The Directorate experiences a huge loss when one of its experienced drafters resigns and many have left the Directorate in recent

years.

The Directorate is also faced with a high demand from Ministries, offices and agencies to prepare their layman's draft Bills, due to a lack of legislative drafters in the market to prepare layman drafts for ministries, offices and agencies.

### **13. Promotion of Good Governance**

The Main Activities in the Office of the Ombudsman in terms of the Ombudsman's mandate are the investigation of complaints relating to maladministration, Human Rights Violations and the environment, as well as public education.

In 2013, 2,343 complaints were received by the Ombudsman, 418 more than in 2012; of those, 807 (17% more than during 2012) were received during the annual nation-wide complaint intake clinics. During 2013 the Office extended the complaint intake clinics to reach more of our citizens. These events are also used as public education events.

The personnel establishment of the Ombudsman was increased during 2013. This will allow the Office to deal more effectively with complaints. A huge improvement in the current structure was the establishment of a Children's advocate position in the Office of the Ombudsman. The incumbent of this position will specifically deal with children's issues and the section established under this position will also be responsible for promotional projects around Human Rights.

During 2013 the Ombudsman launched a Human Rights baseline study for Namibia to ascertain the extent to which Namibians are aware of their rights and to provide a basis to articulate appropriate intervention measures to deepen Human Rights awareness and enforcement. The outcome of this study will guide the process for the drafting of the National Human Rights Action Plan. The study found that poverty and unemployment remain huge concerns for the Namibian people while access to health and education remain some of the biggest Human Rights issues.

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The Ombudsman further issued a Special Report - Is this Justice - highlighting systemic problems in the justice system responsible for inordinate delays in the preparation of appeal and review records of proceedings as well as the delays in the reconstruction of lost or incomplete records of proceedings.

These delays resulted in accused persons not having their appeal and review cases before a higher court for periods up to five or six years. The Ombudsman made a number of recommendations in this report which is set at addressing these delays. My Ministry has already instituted measures to implement the Ombudsman's recommendations.

December 2013, also saw the Ombudsman opening a substantive office of his own in Ongwediva in Oshana Region, in Namibia. This office was built, especially for the needs of the Ombudsman and will hopefully see the Office expanding its services to the Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Omusati and Kunene regions which are served from the Northern Regional office.

#### **14. Human Resource constraints**

The performance of my Ministry is hampered by inadequate human resources, a high staff turnover on account of uncompetitive salaries and wholly inadequate structure and staff compliment. Over the last year my Ministry operated with a staff compliment of 975 staff members constituting 76% of the staff establishment 310 posts were vacant while 200 were not funded during the year.

I am pleased to inform you that the Ministry of Finance has kindly agreed to provide us with resources to enable us to activate all our unfunded posts so that we could fill all existing vacancies, including those hitherto not funded. We have embarked on an aggressive recruitment exercise to fill all funded posts. However, we are mindful that we may not succeed to fill all posts, but we now have the resources to do so. We are also restructuring the Ministry to increase the number of staff to optimally carry out our mandate. We pray for your indulgence to provide us with the resources we need now and when we need them in the years to come. A good start has been made in at least getting an understanding that we

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**HON NUJOMA**

need to increase the number of staff. Each Directorate has a story to tell you about how understaffed it is.

**15. Capital Projects Implementation**

For the 2014/2015 - 2016/2017 MTEF period, the Ministry will undertake the implementation of the following capital projects with the allocated funds:

- Upgrading of the Ministry's Headquarters known as the Justitia Building.
- Upgrading of the High Court building in Windhoek.
- Upgrading of Magistrate's Courts at Otjiwarongo in the Otjozondjupa Region and Ondangwa in the Oshana Region.
- Construction of new Magistrate's Courts at Grootfontein in the Otjozondjupa region, Omuthiya in the Oshikoto region, Okahao in the Omusati region, Ohangwena in the Ohangwena region, Henties Bay in the Erongo region, and Katima Mulilo in the Zambezi region.
- Addition of a second criminal court room at Windhoek Central Prison Court.

The above projects are estimated to cost the Ministry a combined estimated total amount of N\$ 320.8 million during the said MTEF period.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, to summarise, the following amounts are required for each of the Programmes and related Activities that are administered by the Ministry of Justice under Vote 16:

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**

**1. Superior Courts Adjudication**

**ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN MILLION, ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLAR (N\$116,178,000)**

**2. Lower Courts Adjudication of Criminal and Civil Cases**

**SIXTY MILLION, FIVE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLAR (N\$60,578,000)**

**3. Rendering Support Services to the Magistracy**

**ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN MILLION, THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLAR (N\$118,325,000)**

**4. Prosecution of Crime**

**SIXTY-NINE MILLION, NINE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLAR (N\$69,945,000)**

**5. Legal Representation of Indigent Persons**

**FIFTY MILLION, ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SIX THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLAR (N\$50,186,000)**

**6. Management of Deceased Estates, Insolvencies, Trusts and Guardian Fund**

**SEVENTEEN MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLAR (N\$17,435,000)**

**PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES**

**1. Representing Government in Civil and Labour Cases**

**THIRTY MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED AND SIXTY THOUSAND  
NAMIBIA DOLLAR (N\$30,460,000)**

**2. Rendering Legal Advice to the President and Government**

**NINETEEN MILLION, THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-EIGHTY  
THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLAR (N\$19,358,000).**

**3. Scrutinizing and Drafting of Legislation**

**THIRTEEN MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED AND TWENTY FOUR  
THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLAR (N\$13,824,000).**

**4. Reform and Development of the Law**

**THRITEN MILLION, SIX HUNDRED AND FORTY-THREE  
THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLAR (N\$13,643,000).**

**5. Legal services and International Cooperation.**

**TWELVE MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED AND NINETY-SIX  
THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLAR (N\$12,496,000).**

**PROMOTION OF GOOD GOVERNANCE**

**Investigation of Complaints**

**NINETEEN MILLION, THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY NINE  
THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLAR (N\$19,329,000).**

**SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

**1. Policies Supervision**

**FOUR MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLAR (N\$4,889,000).**

**2. Coordination and Support Services**

**ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR MILLION, TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLAR (N\$184,284,000).**

**Totaling: Seven Hundred and Thirty Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty Thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$730,930,000).**

I now seek the indulgence of the House to approve the allocation totaling **Seven Hundred and Thirty Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty Thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$730,930,000)** for Vote 16. I appreciate that you now understand the complexity of the Ministry of Justice with its different independent Directorates and thus the complexity of the problem and, therefore, I had to explain in detail what we require as the Ministry of Justice. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Minister. That was not only a long presentation of your Vote but I am sure it will come very handy when we come to producing an Annual Report. At this stage, I have to give way for the Deputy Speaker to take over from here.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** We have finalised the Motivation of the stated Votes and are now entering into the Discussions of Votes. We are now going to enter into the discussions of the following Vote:

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 07  
HON DR KAIYAMO**

Vote 07 – “FOREIGN AFFAIRS,” put for Discussion. Any discussions? I recognise Honourable Dr Kaiyamo.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would like to support Vote 07 wholeheartedly.

I would also like to add my voice to the fact that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs needs a Headquarter because the building which they are using now is not a proper Headquarter for the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Namibia. That was Page 4.

On Page 7, I also agree with the Protocol that the Minister talked about and I also want to remind her that in my support of your Vote last year, I requested that the Protocol guidance be given to all Members of Parliament. Comrade Minister, you said that every Ministry should send officials, I want to know whether the MPs are also included because the MPs are the ones who are mostly in need of the Protocol aspect. When we have some of these important gatherings where Protocol is needed, you can see that some of us who are not quite well versed with Protocol embarrasses the Government and the Party. I would, therefore, like to know whether we are also invited to these workshops so that we can learn one or two things.

I am happy that the Ministry has decided to open a Mission in Congo Brazzaville, in Helsinki and in Ghana. That is on Page 8. Lastly, Comrade Minister, I would like to thank, through you, the officials who are helping us when we travel abroad. I support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. I recognise Honourable Tjihuiko.

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26 March 2013

**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 07  
HON TJIHUIKO**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Let me start by congratulating the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs on the way the Ministry of Foreign Affairs looks, the professionalism that comes across whenever you travel, the good picture that Namibia portrays in the eyes of the international community. I wish to congratulate you for a job well done.

Secondly, Honourable Minister, I also want to ask you to do your level best, to try and arrest the situation that has been reported recently that Namibian passports has fallen into the wrong hands and I am sure that your Ministry has got the necessary in-house capacity to correct the mistakes and to continue keeping the name of Namibia as it has been the best in the world, I must say.

Honourable Minister, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Page, on the Review of the Financial Year 2013/2014, I agree with you that the Ministry has been working very hard to help our brothers and sisters in the DRC, Mali and the Central African Republic to try and bring order into those respective countries. The Namibian effort will be appreciated but I am missing something on this, Honourable Minister. I have noticed that the Honourable Minister is quite silent on the situation that is prevailing in Ukraine right now.

Honourable Minister, I want to know, what is the Namibian Government position on the situation that has taken place in Crimea, Ukraine? We all know about the illegal interference on the internal affairs of Ukraine by Russia and the illegal regime change that is now being perpetuated in that country. Please sit down Minister, I have only got two minutes left, please sit down first.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Should we allow intervention because I thought the effective way is when you hear somebody say something and ask for the Floor to counteract. That way your statement will also be captured on NBC. So agreed.

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HON MWANINGANGE**

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Yes, we agreed. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I was saying that I also want to know the official Namibian position on this illegal regime change that was actually led by Russia to create the condition that is prevalent, by dividing Ukraine into two. What is the Namibian position on that?

Lastly, Honourable Minister, on Page 8, I wish to congratulate the Namibian Government for having been represented in twenty-seven countries, as I said at the beginning that our Diplomats, Professionals are doing an extremely good job. However, I want to know, Honourable Minister, what is the reason that has necessitated us to open three new offices namely; in Dakar, Senegal, Accra, Ghana and Helsinki, Finland, is there any need for us to increase our representations or has the Government perhaps considered opening these offices in order to make provision for those Colleagues who may lose their position in Parliament due to this 50/50 representation that will come after the elections so that some people can be accommodated? I am just asking because those who may lose out can also be accommodated that way. Having said that, I support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. Next is, Honourable Mwaningange. You have the Floor.

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**HON MWANINGANGE:** Thank you very much, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee for giving me the opportunity to make some few remarks on Vote 07. Firstly, thank you very much, Honourable Minister and indeed, the Minister of Finance for allocating this amount of money to the Ministry.

I have one or two remarks to make. Firstly, on Page 4, about our properties at foreign missions, I think you have done a lot by dedicating this amount to acquire property for our foreign missions. Together with some Colleagues of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security Committee, I happen to visit and inspect some of these missions and the Ministry has

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 07  
HON A TJONGARERO**

responded to some of the required developments or improvements at these missions. It is very important because when you have immovable property, unlike when you are renting, these premises remains forever, Namibian property in those countries. It has really been a far cry for us to buy this properties, especially the Embassies' premises.

The second remark is on Page 5, on **Programme 1**, you have underscored that, and I am quoting - "*We are seeking a balanced representation both throughout Africa*" and it is very correct at this stage, for Diplomatic relations to expand and not only Diplomatic relations *per se* but also economic activities and other things.

I would like to know whether the Ministry has taken cluster missions into consideration meaning a mission that covers several countries. I think this is one of the most cost effective ways, as long as the Embassy serves the neighbouring cluster countries equally. It is a cost effective way to consider, provided that enough resources are availed. These are the only remarks I wanted to underline, otherwise I would like to thank the Minister and support the Vote that you devoted to the nitty gritty of the foreign missions. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next is Honourable Tjongarero.

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**HON A TJONGARERO:** Thank you very much, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Firstly, I would like to thank the Minister for a well presented Motivation.

I have got only one question on Page 7. The Minister said - *If you are not able to attend, that is now on the invitation, please inform our Protocol Department, as no showup guest will be removed from the State list of invitees.* My question to the Minister is, is there any possibility that the invitations are done well in advance and not a day before the event? What if I am out of the office that specific day, when will I get it and when will

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HON BEZUIDENHOUT**

I inform Protocol that I will be able or not be able attend? What sometimes happens is that these invitations come a day before the event and many a times it is put underneath your office door and you will only find it after one or two days, how will one be able to respond when you are away from the office? Thank you very much, and I support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Honourable Bezuidenhout.

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**HON BEZUIDENHOUT:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am equally very proud to every now and then deal with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials. I think we are doing extremely well internationally, solving issues, debating issues and contributing to issues. I want to really say congratulations on the Madagascar issue, during December.

Honourable Minister, on **Programme 2 - Multilateral Policy Coordination**, I would again urge the Namibian's position to really support and make sure that we have all the diplomatic muscles to promote and keep on talking about the reform of the UN Security Council. That Body is supposed to promote democracy, equal rights but it is composed and its rules are very different to its objectives. I know it is a long and very hard political struggle but just keep on until they give in, the same what was done with the Security Council in 2000 regarding the women issues.

**Programme 3**, I personally have a very positive experience when it comes to Protocol and I believe that we will keep on receiving guests in the same fashion, as well as all those that are under the Protocol advice and guidance. Let us just be thankful for them, encourage them and do not obstruct them but allow them do their work professionally, as they do it.

Lastly, on Foreign Mission Representation - it just confirms Namibia's positive stance within the world where we can open with confidence

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

foreign missions and representation to promote the Namibian message or the principles of Namibia's democracy and the Constitution, as well as to assist in the AU. Thank you very much for the opportunity and I do recommend this Budget to the House.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I am following the flickering green light. Next is, Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Thank you, Professor for the Floor. I would like to basically tick on the sentiments that has been expressed by the previous speakers, particularly about our foreign missions and representatives abroad that they truly do conduct themselves in a very professional way and I think as the Ministry and its Members of Parliament, we should convey that message to them that we have full trust in them, that they represent the country as Namibians and as professionals. I, therefore, hope that these sentiments will get to them - that we really appreciate their efforts. I have been to several missions and you can see that they are trying their utmost best to represent the face of Namibia abroad.

On Page 2, I just have one simple question here, on the African optimism; I am an internationalist of African origin of course, in Africa we have had these big dreams of the Abuja Declaration, NEPAD and all these kinds of things. I would like the Minister to give an overview of how we as a country have benefitted from these instruments that we are signatories to, particularly NEPAD because I remember at the beginning of NEPAD, we had problems with the Peer Review Mechanisms and I see the thick document that has now come from Foreign Affairs on Africa's future – Agenda 2063, that it talks about both African Patriotism and the NEPAD Renaissance and NEPAD Optimism.

I want us to do a proper evaluation more on how we really benefit from these instruments? Are they effective, not only for Namibia but for Africa as a whole? Do we engage African men and women in the streets, in the village so that they own these agendas that we put forward for the

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HON SHIXWAMENI**

African people or are these documents just for other Heads of State, Ministers and Members of Parliament?

Then on Page 3, I think I support you fully that we need to develop a professional diplomatic service in our country with the young men and women that are graduating from the Universities, from the Polytechnic and the other institutions, that they really need to get into the system so that we push the name of Namibia higher than the name of Political Parties. Therefore, the training and retraining is of very much importance.

I think, Honourable Billy Mwaningange articulated the issue of properties, I said it about more than fifteen years ago that that is the way to go. We need to have properties.

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**HON MEMBER:** It is not 15 years.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Fifteen years ago, I was a Deputy Minister for your own information, even before you became a Deputy Minister.

I am saying, that is the way to go, we need to make sure that we have properties abroad. I think there is no negating about it, we just have to proceed in that particular regard.

On Page 6, in terms of multilateral organisations, first of all, I would like to say, institutions like our United Nations Mission in New York, what I have realised there is that they are really understaffed. Probably the Minister will have to have a look at this multilateral institutions because I have been there in New York three times and in Geneva for about two times and you see these people running around from one meeting to the other. Maybe apart from expanding the mission, which I do not have any problems with, we need to look at key missions where we really have skeleton staff, so that these staff are reinforced in order to have more people attend to the business.

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HON !NARUSEB**

On top of that, I think we also need to appreciate Parliamentary Diplomacy, it is a new term that has now come into being, where Parliamentarians travel abroad, engage their counterparts and all these kinds of things, that also needs to be appreciated. I am of course appreciative of the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that you assist in terms of accrediting people to get to these functions whether it is the United Nations Conventions on Climate Change or the United Nations Parliamentary Hearings but we need to appreciate the fact that we need to include Parliamentarians in the delegations that go and engage with people's representatives from other countries.

Lastly, I would just like to say that the workshop that is being planned, because I received a message on my Gmail, there is an advert of the workshop that is going to be held somewhere in May at the Protea Furstenhof Hotel, I do not know whether this is the workshop that you are referring to because it also, exactly invites all these categories of people that you have enumerated but then there is a fee attached to it for people to attend, that is the only question that I would like to ask. Otherwise, our men and women that are working in the foreign service are doing their level best and they need to be congratulated and be given a pat on the back. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Honourable !Naruseb.

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**HON MINISTER FOR LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** Thank you Comrade Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am rising to register my unconditional support to Vote 07.

I just want to briefly address myself to the contents of Paragraph 2 on Page 7. Honourable Minister, some of us are probably not well-versed with the order of precedence and protocol considerations but the little that you get exposure to, informs you that the order of precedence of the Government tells you that there is a certain order to be followed. However, now you come to State functions and then you realise that the

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HON NAMOLOH**

sitting arrangements, is it per order of precedence or is it a Desk Officer who decides somewhere that I like this face and I will put him/her where? I would really want some clarity on that aspect because it is confusing. You start to think - what is going on, is it my ignorance that led me see things that I am not supposed to see or what are the arrangements?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Any examples?

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**HON MINISTER FOR LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT:** For example, at State Banquets, the tables are numbered, is it not? The tables are numbered, you inform yourself that number one would be who, number 3 would be who but when you look at the hierarchy of precedence of the Government, you find yourself somewhere but then you sit at table number 30 and then you wonder what is going on? I would just want some clarity on that Comrade Minister and I fully support the Vote. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next is Honourable Namoloh.

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

Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support this Vote, our Vote and also to ask the Minister about some of the things they owe us, as we have served in this Ministry before (*Laughter*)

Honourable Minister, I am very glad that on Page 7, you mentioned that the Ministry will be organising a workshop on *Protocol and Appropriate Etiquette* with all Offices, Ministries and Agencies. Honourable Minister, I would rather suggest that you should also conduct regular courses for Parliamentarians, especially the newly appointed Parliamentarians, Ministers and even to our Governors and all those people who hold very

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HON NAMOLOH**

prominent positions. In the military, we have what is called an Officer as a gentleman and that has to do with Etiquettes and Protocols. It is something which is very important, nowadays we talk of democracy and we spoil everything, even behaviours and etiquettes, it all becomes a disorganisation in terms of being whoever you are at a banquet and so forth. His Excellency the President, even mentioned it - when you are at a banquet, you do not stand and eat, it is unheard of, it is against protocol. Even when you are at any gathering where the Head of State is present, you cannot stand up while he remains seated, this is also unheard of. It only happens in Namibia. Only the President can lead the people to stand up.

Honourable Minister, you need to conduct courses that also teach us how to address people, including the Head of State. Some people even write letters addressed to “*Mr King and Mrs Queen*” (*laughter*). I saw that. Some people do not even know when to say His Excellency and Your Excellency.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Namoloh, everything will be included in that course.

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

Yes. Some people want to disappear and only reappear when you have finished addressing them. It honestly becomes an embarrassment.

When it comes to Vote of Thanks and Introductions, Vote of Thanks and Opening Remarks become Speeches. The Keynote Address is even overtaken by the introduction. We need to talk about all this, including how to address Members of the *Diplomatic Corps* not *Corpse*, meaning they are all dead. (*Laughter*).

Honourable Minister, the other thing is that you have retired Diplomats who can be used to share their experiences. We were trained here before

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HON NAMOLOH**

we were posted and the trainer shared his experiences of countries where he served, including the United Nations. You have Diplomats here who have served at various levels, at the AU, UN and in many other countries. Our young ones need these experiences when they go to particular countries so that they know how to behave in order to save us some embarrassment. We should use our retired Diplomats for this, the Kaapandas are here, we must use them.

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**HON MEMBER:** What about yourself?

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** I am more of a General than a Diplomat, of course I can train them how to take cover and how to survive because I also survived difficulties in Angola. (*Laughter*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Your time please, Honourable Naholo.

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**HON MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
HOUSING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** The last thing, Honourable Minister, is about our solidarity with the Sahrawi and the Palestinian people.

I think we also need to embark upon mobilising the Namibian people. I hope the Namibian people have not forgotten about solidarity because they do not show it. We show our solidarity diplomatically, His Excellency the President does but if our masses are asked to demonstrate in order to express our support for them, you will not see more than twenty people demonstrating.

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**HON NAMBAHU**

Finally, I would like to congratulate you for having acquired properties abroad for our Diplomats. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next is Honourable Nambahu.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to express my profound and wholehearted support to the Vote of Honourable Ndaitwah. I Honestly see a lot of innovations there and it is commendable. But there are two or three issues that I want to raise:

The issue of etiquette and finesse is not only something that you need as a Diplomat or as a Parliamentarian, it is something that you need as a way of life. It must, therefore, be introduced in school, even if it is not an examinable subject. Our kids are not gentlemen at all, that is why they do the things they are do. I was talking to someone yesterday, who agreed that if you see a man opening the door of a car for a lady here, there are two things to it, either that car is new or the lady is new. (*Laughter*). For people who have been together for years, those things do not happen anymore.

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**HON MEMBER:** You are talking out of experience!

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Table manners for some of us was a subject where we went to school. Table manners are just table manners, you do not need to be at a banquet, you just need to be properly educated how to behave yourself when you are at a table. I am not denigrating anybody, even at the functions here, one sees people putting all kinds of things in their bags to take along, why do you do that? Just

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HON TWEYA**

imagine a Diplomat, being at a reception in a foreign country and you start putting these things in your bag to take home, how do you honestly do that? (*Laughter*). This is not something that you need to be educated on at this age, it should be something that you grow up knowing.

Comrade Minister, I would also like to see a Master Plan, for example, when it comes to our relation with a certain given country and I would like the Honourable Members to listen to this one very carefully. Many countries would have different strategies for other countries. For instance, a certain country may have a specific strategy for Namibia and everybody, even if they are from different departments, will behave according to that country's strategy towards us. Sometimes we conduct our relations with various countries without a proper Master Plan or Master Strategy towards that country and that puts us at a disadvantage, we become amateurs, we do not know what we want in that specific country and that becomes a serious problem. Even when it comes to friendship, it is not only us who are supposed to be friends to those people, we must look at reciprocity. If we are their friends, we should also read signs of friendship coming from that side towards us so that we promote authentic trade in terms of negotiations and in terms of the ways we treat each other.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Your time is up. I recognise Honourable Tweya.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me first congratulate My Daughter for the well presented Budget. (interjection) yes, she is my daughter. I support this Vote unconditionally.

However, there are two issues I want to underscore: Comrade Minister, My Daughter, when it comes to the issue of reciprocity in the diplomatic language, if the other countries do not respect us, why do we also not act in a way that shows them that we are a Sovereign Nation? I specifically

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HON AMATHILA**

have difficulty to understand as I learnt that, one specific country unilaterally decided to ban Namibians from getting into this country because of some individuals who misbehaved. I am not sure, maybe they acted correctly but they just decided without first consulting us and say - *look your citizens are causing problems in our country and, therefore, we will reintroduce the Visa requirement.*

I am afraid that Namibians who are in that particular country at the moment would end up being illegal immigrants because they went into hiding. However, the bottom line is taking unilateral decisions without consulting us as a Sovereign Nation to mutually solve the problem. Having said that, many people from that country do come to Namibia and when they come here, even ordinary tourists want to see His Excellency the President but when we go there, Protocol dictates because you are too low to see the Minister. Some of our Ambassadors have never seen Ministers in some of those countries because they are not Ministers. Can we start revisiting this type of relationship so that we can get the respect that we deserve?

Secondly, My Dear Daughter, is the issue of the UN and other organisations like SADC and the AU, I am aware that we do have job quotas for our citizens to work in those organisations. I am also aware that as a country we have not yet exhausted all our quotas, why do we pay dues if we do not fill our quotas to create employment for our citizens and yet we have a high unemployment rate here but others come and work for us here? I would want My Dear Daughter to look into this so that wherever we have got quotas for employment and paying our dues, they must be filled in order to create employment for our citizens. I once again support Vote 07 unconditionally. Thank you.

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

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**HON AMATHILA:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House

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HON EKANDJO**

Committee, let me thank the Minister of Foreign Affairs for a brilliant presentation. I should have asked this question privately but I thought it is maybe good to raise it here so that all of us can learn from each other.

The question is, how many of our Ambassadors representing our country are appointed Ambassador Plenipotentiary? I would have loved to get the response to that first but since the Minister is possibly not going to respond to that before I put another question, in an event we have those Ambassadors appointed in Plenipotentiary capacities, I guess they are representing the Head of State who is the Head of all Branches of the State and because of that ,what funds do they have at their disposal to stand in for a Member of Parliament who is supposed to attend a meeting or a conference in the country which they have been delegated to?

I know they have some money to provide lunches, dinners and things of that sort but that is possibly just from the Entertainment Budget. However, if they have to stand in for a Member of Parliament as I mentioned before, where do they get this money from or is there money allocated in the current Budget to enable them carry out these tasks on behalf of those who cannot attend those events? When it comes to reporting, how does the instructions flow? Will the instruction go straight from Parliament, for instance, or will it go from Parliament to the Foreign Affairs Ministry and Foreign Affairs will receive the report from the Ambassador after attending the said event and then report back to Parliament or to the individual on whose behalf he/she attended?

That is all I want to know from the Honourable Minister. I fully support the Vote. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. Next Honourable Minister, Ekandjo.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT  
AND CULTURE:** Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole

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HON EKANDJO**

House Committee. First of all, let me share what I have observed the normal practice to be in many countries which should also be applicable to Namibia but we do at times not practise it.

If an Embassy or a Diplomat wants to pay a courtesy call to my Ministry, it should normally be done through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs so that that Diplomat be accompanied by an Official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs dealing with that Desk. However, in our case, the Embassy or High Commission just phone the Ministers directly and visit without the knowledge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I think the practice should normally be to go through Foreign Affairs so the Ministry at least stay up to date.

What I have also observed over the years is that, when people are newly appointed as Ambassadors of High Commissions, especially those who served as Members of Parliament or Ministers, in most cases, they do not go for induction, it is perhaps understood that having been a Minister or being a Regional Councillor you know everything. Once you are accredited by the State House, you end up being ambushed by the Press outside the country, where you are asked - *Your Excellency, what are you going to do in such a situation?* and you end up saying - *“to tell you the truth, I really do not know what I am going to do. (Laughter).*

I think we need to go for induction even if we are politicians so that we know what is expected of us and we avoid embarrassment. As a result of lack of induction, especially with politicians, we have instances where some were appointed as Ambassador and just because they disagreed with the Policy of the Government, they left their offices unceremoniously. They resigned and came back home and say - *I am no more an Ambassador or High Commissioner.* They, in that way end up embarrassing the Government. As an Ambassador or High Commissioner, you have to defend the Policy of the Government at all times. You can, for instance, not just come up with your own excuses and decide to resign as an Ambassador to the DRC or whatever country. We should not allow that *(Laughter).*

Coming to the Protocol issue; I remember, in the early months of

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HON EKANDJO**

Independence, in 1990, spouses of Ministers and Deputy Ministers were also sent for induction where they were taught about the Protocol Etiquette, how to behave at functions. We have, for instance, observed that when an Ambassador pays a courtesy call to your office, your Secretary would ask - *Your Excellency, tea or coffee?* And he/she would respond - *tea, please* and when given a cup of tea, they do not finish, they just drink it halfway. That is how it should be done.

They are also taught that when they are invited to functions, they should first eat at home to avoid filling up plates to the brim, to the extent that that the food falls from the plate when walking back to their respective seats. They were also taught how to conduct themselves when they come to the head table where a Senior Person is sitting, or when visiting the Prime Minister, for instance – not to be the one to hold out the hand, but instead just say – *Right Honourable Prime Minister*. The Senior Person is the one to offer his/her hand for a greeting. However, in our case, we just come and say - *Your Excellency* and then offer the hand, we even go to the extent of hugging (*Laughter*). It is an embarrassment.

Especially after the Official Opening of Parliament by His Excellency the President, at the reception usually held in the Parliament Garden, one would observe meat and pieces of food falling from the plates of Members of Parliament as they are greeting each other – *Hello Comrade*, since it is a self service, a food buffet. Therefore, to avoid embarrassment as Members of Parliament and Ministers, I think we really need induction Honourable Minister because we go on missions where we represent Namibia and are regarded as Guests of Honour, where others would look up to you. Honourable Minister, that was briefly my contribution. Thank you very much.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next is Honourable Shifeta.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 07  
HON SHIFETA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**

Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 07 and want to confine myself to Page 7, dealing with the Protocol.

I think much has already been said but I have some few points to raise as well. One is how we respect our National Symbols, like the hoisting of flags, the National Anthem and even the AU Anthem. You go to some schools or some Government Institutions and find the National Flag hoisted upside down, the National Anthem and the AU Anthem are not sung in the incorrect order. I think, in conjunction with our Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should develop brochures, just to provide information as to how we should hoist our flags and also to convey the concept because people do not properly understand the concept. I understand these symbols are taught in schools, but perhaps children just simulate that without actually understanding the concept or the importance of our National Symbols.

I believe that the brochures can work, if they are developed. They can be disseminated through the Ministry of Information to our schools, libraries and institutions so that people could learn from that. We even hang portraits in any way we want to. These causes a very serious embarrassment, we need to have a kind of a uniformed way of doing things because Protocol refers to the official procedures and order of conducting our affairs. It is, thus not good to do things in a non-uniformed way because we end being the laughing stock. With the aforesaid, I support Vote 07.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Before I give the Floor to the next Member, concerning Protocol; Honourable Members, you must listen carefully so as not to repeat points already elaborated on by the speakers who preceded you for the sake of time and progress. I recognise, Honourable Nghidinwa.

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HON NGHIDINWA / HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 07 and congratulate the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, especially on gender balance and equality because I have seen many women posted to Diplomatic Missions, during her term of office.

I am not saying that those who were there before her did not promote gender equality but just comparing between last year and this year and I also hope that the people who are going to be send to Finland will be women.

My other point is on the invitation of guests: I would like to encourage the Honourable Minister and your staff members to always invite your guests with their spouses in order to promote a healthy relationship in family affairs. It is, however, acceptable for us widows, single mothers and fathers to go alone.

Finally, on the issue of the *Kilimanjaros*, which was addressed by Honourable Ekanjjo, I would add that the training should be extended to Regional and Constituency level in order to avoid that embarrassment because we do send our international guests there as well. With those few words, Honourable Minister, through the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I thank you very much and support Vote 07.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration.

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:**  
Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to support Vote 07. Initially, I had wanted to say a lot but since my Colleagues have already done so, I will confine myself to one issue that I regard as important in my view.

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HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

Honourable Minister, the world is becoming very complicated, international issues are confusing us so much that one does not know what is going on. What was a country today, becomes several countries tomorrow. We thank God that in Africa we have the AU principles that have appealed to many Member Countries not to claim parts of other countries, helping us, therefore, to reach stability.

As I was growing up in the struggle, we used to know countries that used to help us, GDR, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, but when our children read geography today, they read something else and some of these happenings took place while the international community is watching. Up to now I ask myself, what our stance is with a country like Kosovo, for example. Have we recognised it? What is the difference between what had happened to Kosovo, not long ago and what is happening in Ukraine, Crimea? Because we are now hearing some countries accusing others of violating the International Law and you ask yourself, yesterday they were spearheading the separation and the creation of this other new State and today they are pointing fingers, who is doing the right thing in such a situation? That is why I am saying some of us are getting confused.

We need to be clear where we stand as a Nation on some of these issues so that our media also observe what is going on and listen to the policies as they will be pronounced by our Foreign Affairs Ministry and the State rather than to confuse the society. As I am listening to our media, I ask myself, do they know what they are talking about? Is this the position of Namibia or are they just taking chances. My Dear Sister, that is the question that I would like you to shed some light on. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I recognise, Honourable Ndjoze-Ojo.

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**HON DR NDJOZE-OJO:** I concur with the previous speakers and I support the Vote. Honourable Chairperson, I just want to thank you for

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HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

giving me an opportunity. I want to talk to two or three issues. I want to congratulate the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the new four missions that you have established in Congo Brazzaville, Senegal, Ghana and Finland and I want to add my voice to say that when you decide to send people, the official Language of a country is very important, it does not help very much to send somebody who does not speak French to Dakar, Senegal or who cannot even say – *kiitos*, to Finland. I know that the Language is very important. It is just like you bringing somebody who does not speak English to Namibia, how do you communicate with the Government? The Language issue is, therefore, very important. If the people you prefer do not have the Language skills, train them in a way of short courses that they will be able to function.

The second one I wanted to talk to is the Namibian Foreign Policy that is advocating economic diplomacy. We as a country also used to subscribe to the Non-alignment of a country and that is maybe why we have to enhance and strengthen our policy of Non-Alignment so that when there are crises in countries, we will know where we start because we are not supposed to align ourselves to either/or, we are supposed to be a very objective Nation that looks at the facts rather than - *so and so is saying this*, therefore, we are moving towards that. That will help us to play a role of neutrality and objectivity in the world affairs.

The other one point is about training and I want to say, to be a Director of Ceremonies is a skill and is an art. You coordinate the programme and you are not really the speaker of the day. There is only one speaker of the day who may be the President, the Prime Minister, a Minister or whoever it is and that should be the only person to speak that day. We, therefore, have to train the Directors of Ceremonies to just direct the activities of the event. That has been touched upon already.

Talking about training, one can also use former Diplomats, I know that there are very seasoned Diplomats who have been assisting Namibia in many different ways and I do not know whether it is allowed to mention one, I know George Liswaniso, for example, who was in Washington, in Ethiopia, in the UK, he is such a seasoned Diplomat, so if we need people to train us on how to treat people and so on, let us involve people like him

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HON IILONGA**

in the training.

Finally, on Page 6, I want to encourage you to reposition Namibia favourably on the 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly because they were the ones who came up with this idea. I also encourage the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to continue to doing the good work. I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next is Honourable Ilonga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you very much Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 07 and I start with Page 7. I am not going to say anything on what has already been said. Training is very important, especially the training of Diplomats.

The issue of salutation, you will find the person who is supposed to be mentioned last is mentioned first and *vice versa*. I think that protocol really needs to be observed.

Secondly, on hanging the portrait of His Excellency the Founding President, is this a Policy or does it depend on whether someone wants to hang it together with that of the incumbent President or not? This is one of the issues we need to consider Comrades because you will find that in some offices the portrait of the current President is there and the one of the Founding President is not there, and then you ask yourself - *what is this?* Is this a directive or a wish, or is it part of the Protocol?

Then comes the issue of invitation; what is our level as the Deputy Ministers? We are appointed by His Excellency to make sure that the terms of reference of the Minister are implemented successfully but when it comes to invitations, Comrade Minister, we are not invite them. However, you find that our Accounting Officers are there with their wives

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HON TWEYA**

and friends. When Deputy Ministers from other countries come here, they are accorded the respect they deserve, they even make a courtesy call on President, but where are we placed under our Protocol? We need to really look at that.

Lastly, on the issue of Ukraine, the Honourable Minister read us a Ministerial Statement that there was a coup and we do not recognise a Government that has been taken by force. However, Honourable Tjihuike always recognised those Governments. When Russia do what others do, the people are crying, let us really be honest with ourselves.

For the upcoming workshop, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should not only request Ministry, Offices and Agencies to send their officials but Ministers should also be invited. I also want to use this opportunity to appeal to our Minister that unless you discuss in secrecy, when you have meetings with Diplomats, where you discuss situations concerning Namibia, to also invite us to listen so that tomorrow, when we meet this Diplomats we also know how to dodge questions because that is diplomacy and it is needed for all of us. Thank you very much, I support Vote 07.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Before I give the Floor to My Senior, I just want to jump in and say, I also noticed that the person who represents another Organ of the State, the Judiciary, is neglected when it comes to salutations. Sometimes the people do not mentioned the Chief Justice, Shivute while he is there, so that workshop should also address that.

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

Sometimes he is mentioned and then they jump the Chairperson of the National Council.

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HON EKANDJO**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Exactly. You have the Floor.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. A lot has been said. One of the most important day in the life of a Nation or a Diplomat is the commemoration of the Independence of Namibia. This is our most important day and it is the day Diplomats use to advertise the importance of their countries in terms of the history, geography and their cultural cuisine. I would specifically want to thank two of our Diplomats; our Ambassador to Angola and our Ambassador or High Commissioner to Zimbabwe. They organise the National Day in such a way that they invite people from here to join them and participate in the debate and discussions of the history of Namibia and ensure that these special occasions are capture on video and forwarded home for us to see to what extent they are interested. They are Grace Uushona and Balbina Pinaar respectively, and both of them happen to be ladies, congratulations Minister.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Minister, I will only give you two minutes because you had already taken the Floor.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,  
SPORT AND CULTURE:**

Mine is only that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should also invest in training our youth in French, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish and Russian as these are international Languages because if one goes outside, you do not have a person who can interpret, the host country is the one to provide an interpreter and for the delegations that visit Namibia from all over the world come with their own interpreters, whether they speak Chinese, Russian, Arabic, French or Spanish.

I, therefore, think it is also high time that our Ministry of Foreign Affairs invest in Languages. We have got the youth at Polytechnic, UNAM and

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HON ESAU / HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

IUM who can be taught and seconded to those countries so that we, in each country at least we have our own interpreters, this is just advice. Otherwise, thank you very much.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Honourable Esau.

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:**

Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also want to register my support for Vote 07 but I have a small question that is based on an observation.

I have observed that we were given National Flags to use in our official vehicles when we attended the Independence Celebrations. I want to find out, apart from the Independence Celebrations, when are we supposed to use these flags? This flag is in my vehicles and I do not know when to use it. Thank you very much, Comrade.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. With this, I will give the Floor to the Honourable Minister to respond. It was a lovely discussion but I hope you will summarise.

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members, thank you for supporting Vote 07 and also for the interest that you have shown in our Foreign Policy and our Foreign Relations. I can tell you that, for us being the ones that are given that task, we really appreciate the support that has been demonstrated through the high number of participation, the questions and the issues that were raised.

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

I have realised that about twenty people have taken the Floor and have asked quite pertinent questions. However, I must say that many of the questions concentrate on training. I am just wondering if you can allow me to address the issue of training in one go instead of going person by person.

I will start with *Honourable Kaiyamo*, who supported us when we said that the face of our Foreign Ministry, that is the building, is not in line with its purpose. I have mentioned in my Motivation that the Government will come to solicit the support of this House and now that the House agrees with me, I think it will be an easy point to pursue.

Like in my Motivation where I referred to conducting workshops to the officials of Offices, Ministries and Agencies, Hon Kaiyamo also talked about the same. Though it is not written in my Statement, the Hansard will bear evidence that I made mention that officials from all the Branches of the State will also be included.

It has come out clearly, that Members of Parliament, Governors, Regional and Municipal Councils also need to be trained. For us to be able to do this, we should be prepared to talk about an extra Budget. The current Budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is meant to take care of our international relations, however, we are ready to share with the Nation on Protocol behaviours and definitely, as I have mentioned, My Dear Colleague and Neighbour, Minister of Finance, additional funding will be required. Otherwise, we have the capacity and will be able to conduct this training, making use of the Human Resources at our disposal. That does it for training. We can go as far as training the officials we talked about and we have also planned on conducting training for the spouses but if we go beyond that, we would require additional resources. However, the Parliament, through its own Budget, if you realise some savings from the Parliament Budget and you ask us to conduct the training, we will be able to do that. This is another way of supporting one another. If the Office of the Prime Minister, which is the Administrative Office of the Government also realises some savings, they can also approach our Ministry to conduct such training.

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

I also have to inform you that we have conducted Namibia Institute for Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) to introduce tailor-made Programmes for our Foreign Service Officers but if Members of Parliament and Ministers may want to enrol themselves in those Programmes, I am sure NIPAM will not turn you away, so that is another avenue we thought can be followed.

Honourable Kaiyamo, thank you for supporting us in opening new foreign offices. You and other Honourable Members have expressed thanks to our staff abroad and I will really convey this recognition to the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly those who are serving abroad that - *your Parliamentarians highly appreciate the professionalism that you display at all time when carrying out your duties at Foreign Missions.* However, I would really want to thank you on their half for the recognition you bestowed upon them. I will encourage them even to do more because in everything you do there is always room for improvement and your cooperation and understanding also contribute to making their work easy. I, therefore, beg you to continue with your cooperation and understanding to help maintain high standards of performance of our Foreign Relations Officers when it comes to doing their job.

***Honourable Tjihuiko***, talked about Namibian Passports falling into wrong hands and what the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is doing to curb this situation. Of course, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in this particular case, has to work closely with the Ministry of Home Affairs who are the custodians of all our National Passports, the green, the blue and the red, to investigate how these Passports end up in those wrong hands. Also remember that there are some people who are having fake passports but the Ministry has now added security features and by so doing, these people are now being discovered, especially when they visit a certain country and because countries are now aware that there are unique security features in the Namibian Passport, which the fake Passports do not have. I think the Ministry is doing its level best in order to maintain the credibility and respect of our National Passports.

Honourable Tjihuiko who is not here now, also appreciated what we have done in the DRC, Mali and Central Africa and he wants to know

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Namibia's position on Ukraine. I initially thought that this Honourable Member sincerely wanted the Minister of Foreign Affairs to explain the situation but as he continued with his question, I now feel that he is not really interested in knowing what the Namibian position is because of the insinuations that he brought in. When talking about regime change and at the same time referring to interference by Russia, I am just wondering whether the Honourable Member has really followed the events in Ukraine because what do you mean when you talk about regime change? When did that regime change start and how do you now link it to have started with Russia?

Nevertheless, there is that complicated situation in Ukraine. The Namibian Government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is continuing to monitor this situation. It is a situation that has a historical connotation and when I made my Motivation, I said that we are now finding ourselves in a unipolar world that is complicating issues. However, as I said, we will continue to monitor the situation in the interests of the Namibian people.

When I made a Ministerial Statement here, of course the emphasis was on the safety of our students and you will recall that that day I said - *our records indicated that 64 students were registered with the Mission* and I made an appeal to whoever is there to register and now the number has increased to 300. We do not know how many more are there but I am saying we are monitoring the situation, complicated as it is. However, I must also tell you that there are diplomatic consultations that are ongoing between the major role players concerning this situation. We are hearing what we are hearing through the media but there are intensive diplomatic discussions between the role players going on, between the people of Ukraine, the Western countries, the United States and, of course, Russia which is the immediate neighbour of Ukraine.

If there is any change in the situation, we will definitely inform you of what is happening but our position still remains the peaceful resolutions of conflicts. In Africa, we are guided by our clear position which does not recognise States which come to power undemocratically, therefore such a Government, in an African perspective, would be suspended immediately

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until they reorganise themselves. It has happened in Madagascar, it is now happening in Egypt and Egypt is still suspended from the AU. Therefore, if this was an African country and knowing what happened before the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, Africa would have suspended this country because there was an elected Government which was forcefully removed without any election taking place. That is why I am referring to it as a complicated issue but we are following the events as they unfold.

Then on the question of opening of Missions, again I really thought the Honourable Member was sincere and I was going to provide the rationale behind why we identified Brazzaville, Dakar and so on but when he came to the point of us opening them to accommodate Members who will lose their positions when elections come in November, I realised that this is not a serious question. It is just not a serious question and I do not have time for something that is not serious. (*Applause*)

*Honourable Mwaningange*, thank you very much, we are in turn thanking our Minister of Finance for allocating money to enable us buy properties and we will continue to do so. The question about the representation, I think I can answer this together with the question by *Comrade Ben Amathila*. Most, if not all our Ambassadors, are accredited to more than one country and the Budget allocated to those Missions take into consideration the countries they are accredited to. We all know that the resources are not at the level we wish it to be because of many other demanding priorities, however, that is their responsibility and if they are to attend meetings within their area of accreditation, they are free to do so provided that their Budgets allow that. If there are events that Parliamentarians are invited to and are unable to attend, the right channel is to go through us because they cannot be directed by the Parliament, the Minister of Foreign Affairs has to be involved and we delegate them to attend and when they send the Report, it also has to come through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

*Honourable A Tjongarero*, my sincere apology if we are sending invitations too late, I will have to work with the staff of the Ministry to ensure that we send our invitations on time. The only challenge will be, if one even comes up at short notice, we will sometimes be left with no

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HON DR GURIRAB**

choice but to also send such invitations in a short notice to you. Now to prevent a situation that will lead to us removing you from the list, immediately you receive that invitation card no matter how late, please let us know that I did not attend because your event was on this date and I received your card on this date. (*Power Interruption*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Vote 07 - “**FOREIGN AFFAIRS.**” Agreed to.

Vote 18 – “**ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM.**” Agreed to.

Vote 24 – “**TRANSPORT.**” Agreed to.

Vote 19 – “**TRADE AND INDUSTRY.**” Agreed to.

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMES**

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Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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In terms of Rule 90(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 18:30, until Tuesday, 27 March 2014.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 18:30 UNTIL 2014.03.27 AT 14:30**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
27 MARCH 2014**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House is called to order. Honourable Members, I wish to announce that today, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, will address Parliament on the State of the Nation.

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. In the meantime, please remain standing until His Excellency the President's procession enters the Chambers.

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**BUSINESS SUSPENDED**

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**WELCOMING ADDRESS**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Your Excellency Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, Right Honourable Prime Minister, My Colleague the Chairman of the National Council, Honourable Asser Kapere, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Deputy Chair

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Person of the National Council, Honourable Members of Parliament,  
Fellow Citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen.

In accordance with Article 32(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia the President and the Cabinet are required, during the Debate on the National Budget to attend Parliament routinely as the Members of Cabinet routinely do but it is actually the Head of State to be present at an appointed date during the Budget Debate.

In the very Subsection, His Excellency shall address Parliament on the State of the Nation and all future Policies of the Government and report on Policies on the previous year. It is on such an occasion that the President will avail himself to respond to questions from the Members.

Your Excellency, let me take this opportunity to welcome you back to the Parliament building and to the National assembly. Some are suggesting that this may be the President, Hifikepunye Pohamba's last State of the Nation Address but I so believe that nothing in the Constitution, nor in the Standing Rules and Orders prevents the President, during his term of office and even after the State of the Nation Address, to come back to Parliament if within his judgement, there is a need for the public to know what it is that the President wants to share with them.

That said, it is now my distinct honour and privilege to invite His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba to address Parliament on the State of the Republic. You may be seated

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**STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS**

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**HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBAMBA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker for giving me the Floor.

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Honourable Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Asser Kapere, Chairperson of the National Council, Right Honourable Dr. Hage Geingob, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, Your Honour Peter Shivute, Chief Justice, Honourable Members of Parliament, Esteemed Leaders of Political Parties, Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Distinguished Invited Guests, Members of the Media, Fellow Namibians; each year, for the past 24 years, the President of our Republic has come to this Chamber during the consideration of the *Appropriation Bill* in order to account to the Nation, on the implementation of Government Policies of the passing Financial Year by the Executive Organ, and also to inform the Nation about future Policies. This Constitutional Act reinforces the very essence of our democracy, as a Government by the people, for the people. I am here this afternoon to fulfill that noble tradition, reflecting as it does, the fundamental virtues of our constitutional democracy.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, the passing Financial Year saw our country continuing to enjoy peace and stability, as we have done, since day one of the attainment of our national Independence. The institutions of the State have continued to function and to fulfill their constitutional roles, thereby making it possible for our people to enjoy their Fundamental Human Rights and Basic Freedoms.

In the policy arena, the Nation has made encouraging strides in various aspects of public administration, service delivery, economic growth, employment creation, poverty alleviation and the empowerment of communities to pursue better and more rewarding lives. Through initiatives such as the *Targeted Intervention Programme for Employment Creation and Economic Growth* (TIPEEG), Government was able to stimulate the creation of thousands of both permanent and temporary jobs in different Sectors of the economy.

We are proud that over the last twelve months, Namibia has received several international accolades and favourable economic ratings for the good work our country is doing in the areas of media freedom, economic performance, and sound macro-economic management. Other successes were recorded in the fight against malaria and combating the HIV/AIDS

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pandemic, including the reduction in Mother-to-Child Transmission of the virus.

These international accolades indicate that, while there are challenges, there are indeed many things that THIS Nation, is doing right. We will take these positive aspects, and replicate them across other areas to achieve more successes as we strive to achieve our national development goals and Vision 2030. The institutions and individuals who have helped our country achieve these important milestones have contributed to a stronger state of our Nation. They deserve our commendation and praise. Credit should always be given where it is due.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Namibia's macro-economic environment continued to be stable over the reporting period. This resulted in improved economic growth and increased development and investment in different Sectors. Since 2010, the economy has shown sustained growth rates averaging above 5% per year.

Proper and efficient tax collection is the lifeblood for the Fiscus. Our Government is, therefore, carrying out reforms to improve revenue collection. These include initiatives aimed at strengthening the tax administration system, broadening the tax base, simplifying the tax system and providing tax relief for low- income earners. Prudent fiscal management has also enabled the Government to continue using financial policies to support the local economy in order to mitigate the external shocks caused by the global economic crisis. The 2014/2015 Budget provides resources to the priority Sectors, with the view to promoting sustainable economic growth, enhancing the capacity of our economy to create long-term jobs, and at the same time, strengthen social safety nets to shield vulnerable members of our society from extreme poverty and vulnerability.

Inflation, which affects our people's purchasing power, stood at an average of 5.6% in 2013. By January this year, it fell to 4.9%, providing some relief to consumers. The Bank of Namibia maintained an accommodative monetary policy. The Repo Rate has remained at a relatively low level of 5.5%, since August 2012.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, the purpose of the Civil Service is to deliver quality services to the public. The culture of effective and efficient service delivery must, therefore, permeate the whole system. That is what the public expects at all times in its interactions with Government.

Furthermore, the Civil Service is the engine driving the execution of Policies and Programmes. Without a competent, professional and efficient Civil Service, Government will not be able to deliver.

In this regard, I wish to emphasize the urgent need for all Offices, Ministries and Agencies, and Regional Councils to improve service delivery at all levels.

Accounting Officers, Chief Regional Officers and Chief Executive Officers of Local Authorities must ensure the finalization and speedy implementation of Strategic Plans in all institutions and by all staff members, during the new Financial Year, without exception. Those who do not carry out their duties or comply with Public Service Rules must be dealt with sternly. My message to our Civil Servants is this: Professionalism, efficiency, courtesy and quality service should always be your watch-words.

In addition, Accounting Officers and other Civil Service managers are directed to apply the Competency Framework, which was developed to serve as a tool of assessing the current state of knowledge, skills, and attitude of staff members. The aim is to enable NIPAM to develop appropriate training courses, in order to bridge the identified competency gaps.

During 2014/2015, the Office of the Prime Minister will develop a Recruitment and Retention Policy for the Public Service. The Policy is aimed at tackling the challenges related to recruitment and retention of scarce and specialized skills in the Civil Service.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Namibia cannot afford to

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be left behind by developments in the Information and Communication Technology Sector. We need to harness these technologies in order to improve and expand service delivery.

As part of these efforts, the Office of the Prime Minister has finalized the *E-Government Strategic Action Plan for the Public Service* in order to further improve service delivery. Similarly, Government is modernizing the *Public Procurement System* to introduce capacities such as e-procurement and better management and processing of Public tenders. Progress has also been made in extending the *GRN Intranet* to the Regions, in line with the Fourth National Development Plan. A *Public Asset Management Policy* is being developed to ensure effective management of State assets.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, as a matter of principle, all our social and economic policy interventions must be inclusive. This is the rationale behind our core belief that no Namibian should be left behind in our social and economic development efforts.

This principle should always guide our actions in bringing justice and relief for our people, especially those who have suffered the indignity of segregation and exclusion over decades.

It is incumbent upon us to ensure that women, children, the youth, veterans of the liberation struggle, people with disabilities, as well as residents of rural areas and informal settlements, are given opportunities to fulfill their potential and enjoy access to basic services.

Our approach to poverty alleviation, especially extreme poverty in our country, must, as a matter of necessity, continue to be multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary. In this light, we will achieve sustainable results and broader impact on poverty alleviation, and eventual eradication, when all public institutions, including the State-Owned Enterprises, co-ordinate their anti-poverty interventions.

Government will continue to fulfill its social obligation and provide social

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benefits to the targeted groups as a means of lifting our people from extreme poverty. The social benefit for foster children, as well as Orphans and Vulnerable Children will be increased to N\$250 in the new Financial Year.

Steps will also be taken during the new Financial Year, to register all Namibians who are eligible for social benefits and to ensure that they receive what is due to them. This is an urgent matter because, for some of our people, this will be their only source of income.

Moreover, as part of our anti-poverty interventions, Government is paying special attention to the development of rural areas. The aim is to undo the legacies of the past, as a result of which, rural areas suffer disproportionately from under-development, marked by lack of infrastructure and public services.

It is for this reason that our Government has decentralized services such as Agricultural Extension, Issuing of National Documents, Motor Vehicle Registration, maintenance of public facilities and others.

Furthermore, feeder roads, Constituency Offices, Clinics, Health Centres and education facilities have been established in areas where there has been none in the past. The provision of these services and the establishment of facilities will be expanded in the new Financial Year and in the future, under the auspices of various Offices, Ministries, Agencies and State-Owned enterprises.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, our commitment to gender equality is unquestionable. Consequently, we have adopted domestic policies and acceded to regional and International Treaties and Protocols, such as the SADC Protocol on Gender, which calls for 50/50 representation of women in decision-making positions. We believe that by implementing these commitments, and by empowering more Namibian women to participate in decision-making processes and leadership roles, we will unlock immense energy and potential for the development of our Nation.

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A multi-sectoral co-ordination mechanism for the implementation of the National Gender Policy has been developed and will be submitted to Cabinet during the 2014/2015 Financial Year.

The Nation condemns all forms of Gender-Based Violence and other criminal acts, which have been perpetrated against Namibian women and children. I wish to state again that the Government will continue to combat this evil relentlessly, including through the implementation of measures that I announced to the Nation on 21<sup>st</sup> February this year.

I take this opportunity to commend our people for joining hands in condemning Gender-Based Violence, and for speaking with one voice during the National Day of Prayer against Gender-Based Violence, which took place on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

We will also address the situation regarding teenage pregnancies in the country, especially in rural areas. It is incumbent upon parents, guardians as well as community, spiritual and Traditional Leaders to teach, promote and facilitate a stable upbringing of our youth, based on the values of self-respect and respect for others.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, our youth represent the Nation's best hope for the future and are, indeed, a central and vital component in the achievement of our National Development Goals. To become effective agents for change and catalysts, however, our youth must acquire modern skills and competencies.

I assure our young people that Government will continue to address the challenges they face and implement interventions to promote their welfare and enable them to secure a brighter future.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Education is the foundation for our country's socio-economic development and prosperity. It is through education that we will unlock the full potential of our people and enable them to contribute to the social and economic development of the Nation.

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We will continue to plan and make the necessary investments in order to modernize the Sector, and make it more responsive to the socio-economic and development needs of our country. The year 2013 saw the introduction of the *Inclusive Education Policy*, which will regulate and guide the inclusion of all Namibian children in teaching and learning activities.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, we have demonstrated over the years that we will not hesitate to provide the resources and make the necessary efforts to achieve the national goals and objectives in this important Sector of education.

As Government, we have demonstrated our commitment to ensuring the nation deserves to receive value for the investments made, not only in education, but other Sectors as well. In this context, all stakeholders should work together in order to achieve our stated goals.

It is particularly important to prioritize early childhood development and learning. This is the best education investment we can make in our children, our communities, and our country. Research has proven that early childhood development creates a strong foundation for academic performance, reduces the repetition of grades and drop-out rates, and contributes to higher graduation rates at secondary and tertiary levels. For the sake of our country's future, the development and expansion of pre-primary education should enjoy greater attention.

Since the abolition of the payment of school development fees in Public schools in 2012, enrolment figures at pre-primary and primary school levels have increased significantly. At Pre-primary school level, enrolment increased from under 15,000 learners in 2012, to more than 24,000 in 2013. Similarly, Grade 1 enrolment increased from under 66,000 to more than 74,000 learners in 2013. From 2016, the payment of school development fees will be abolished at the secondary school level.

With support from the Millennium Challenge Account, the availability of textbooks reached the 1 to 1 ratio at secondary school level, and 1 to 2

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ratio, at the primary school level. These resources must be maximized to contribute to better performance by our learners and to the overall improvement in examination results in our schools. I challenge our learners, teachers, and all stakeholders in education to do their part to ensure higher pass rates at all levels.

Another positive development is the expansion of the *School Feeding Programme* from 270,000 during 2013 to over 330,000 beneficiaries currently. An additional amount of N\$50 million was mobilized to feed more learners, as a result of the drought.

The current school curriculum will be reviewed during the 2014/2015 Financial Year. Panels of experts will participate in the preparation of content, as well as teaching and learning materials of various subjects. The revised curriculum will be implemented through a phased-in process, starting in 2015.

At tertiary level, enrollment now stands at over 26,000 students in Public institutions. However, in Vocational Education and Training institutions, the number of graduates has not shown significant improvement, despite increased allocation of resources to this Sector. I encourage our young people to enroll and take advantage of training opportunities in our VTCs to gain skills.

From the 2015/2016 Financial Year, Government will implement the Funding Framework for Public Tertiary Institutions. The framework is designed to facilitate an efficient, transparent and equitable allocation of resources to tertiary education institutions.

Additional resources have been allocated to the *Namibia Students' Financial Assistance Fund* in the new Budget in order to benefit more students at tertiary levels. The *Vocational Education and Training Levy*, which will mobilise resources from the Corporate Sector to support training programmes, has been introduced and will become effective in April 2014. I encourage the Private Sector to fully support this worthy initiative.

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Despite challenges, our Education Sector has won international recognition. Last year, Namibia was awarded the 2013 UNESCO International Literacy Prize for our efforts in improving the quality of life of disadvantaged adults and out-of-school youth.

Many of the measures I have outlined flow from the implementation of the recommendations of the 2011 National Education Conference.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, our Government remains committed to ensuring that our Nation has access to a working, reliable, affordable and accessible public health care and service delivery system. We are, therefore, sustaining substantial public investments in health infrastructure, training of personnel, procurement of medicines, as well as the strengthening and modernization of our policies and health administration systems.

It is for this reason that I appointed a *Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Health Sector* in 2012. The Commission has made many valuable recommendations, which are being implemented across the Health Sector in order to improve the quality of services.

In addition to the maintenance and modernization of existing health facilities, new clinics and health centres were built across the country. These include eight Primary Health Clinics, Primary Health Centres, and various hospital components, such as an administration block at Usakos Hospital, accommodation facilities at St. Mary Hospital, a Maternity Ward at Opuwo Hospital, the completion of a Nuclear Medicines Unit at Oshakati Hospital and other projects.

In the area of training, there are currently, more than *five hundred* enrolled nurses and midwives who are undergoing training at various health training centres locally. Training is also being provided for Pharmacy Assistants, Radiography, and Environmental Health practitioners. We are proud that Namibia is training our own doctors locally. Fifth year Student Doctors at the UNAM School of Medicine are currently undergoing clinical trials and will graduate in 2015. This will be the first group of

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locally trained doctors. One hundred and twenty-three (123) young Namibians have received scholarships to study medicine and pharmacology in the Russian Federation.

In addition, several Namibians have been sent to countries such as Cuba, the People's Republic of China, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia to train as doctors. I wish to point out that about 65 Cuban medical doctors are now serving in our public health facilities as part of bilateral cooperation between our two countries.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, we are making deeper inroads in combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Over the last three years, notable reductions were recorded in new infections as the campaign on zero new infections, and zero HIV-related deaths gained momentum. Similarly, the prevention of mother-to-child transmission strategy has produced good results.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services will soon launch the National Strategy to Eliminate *Mother-to-Child Transmission (e-PMCT)*.

I am pleased that Namibia has received international recognition and praise for our achievements in the fight against HIV/AIDS. While we are encouraged by these commendations, all Namibians must continue to combat this pandemic relentlessly, to prevent new infections. An HIV-free generation is within reach.

I wish to express my sympathies to the families of loved ones who lost their lives as a result of the cholera outbreak in the Kunene and Khomas Regions. Despite these unfortunate fatalities, the outbreak has been contained. Steps are being taken to ensure speedy response and better preparedness in case of future outbreaks.

Against this background, I urge the health authorities, community leaders and heads of households to promote hygiene at community and household levels. This will contribute greatly to the prevention of the spread of diseases such as cholera in our communities.

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In order to further broaden access to quality health care, our Government has mandated the Social Security Commission to investigate the feasibility and funding options of the introduction of *Universal Health Coverage* in the country. An Advisory Committee has been established to co-ordinate this important work.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, adequate shelter is one of the most basic needs for dignified human existence. Therefore, we will continue to do our best to ensure that more and more Namibians enjoy access to this basic necessity. According to statistics, the housing backlog in Namibia stands at 100,000 units. This number increases by more than 3000 units every year.

In supporting existing initiatives, our Government launched the National Mass Housing Programme to address the challenge. The plan is to build at least 185,000 houses over the next 17 years at a cost of N\$47 billion.

During the 2014/2015 Financial Year, we aim to build more than 5,000 houses in different towns across the country.

The Programme is being implemented alongside other housing provision initiatives such as the Build-Together Programme and support to the Shack Dwellers Association. Government has also initiated Amendments to the *Pension Funds Act* to enable pension fund members to access their pension benefits and invest in building their own houses, including in non-proclaimed areas, such as villages in rural areas.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, the achievement of national food security through local food production is an important priority for our Government. It is for this reason that we have continued to allocate funds for investment in Green Scheme Projects and to provide support to subsistence farmers through agricultural extension services.

Significant progress has been made and major milestones were achieved at our Green Scheme Projects during the period under review. Several Projects have, not only recorded good harvests, but more land has been

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put under cultivation. To date, close to 4,000 hectares of land are now under cultivation as part of the Green Scheme Initiative.

I am happy to state that a substantial quantity of the maize meal that was distributed as part of drought relief efforts was sourced from our Green Scheme Projects. This demonstrates that we are making good progress in the area of domestic food production.

Moreover, we are encouraged that Namibian farmers have responded positively to the establishment of the National Fresh Produce Business Hubs, which are now serving as ready markets for local crop producers.

Both the Ongwediva and Rundu Fresh Produce Hubs are now operational. The construction of the Windhoek Fresh Produce Hub will commence in the 2014/2015 Financial Year.

Honourable Speaker Honourable Chairperson, the Livestock Sector remains an important pillar of our Agriculture Industry. In order to mitigate the impact of the drought on livestock farmers, the Government initiated the Livestock Marketing Incentive Scheme. This resulted in the marketing of more than 360,000 small stock and more than 104,000 large stock units. About N\$55.6 million has so far been spent on the scheme, including assistance for leasing of grazing areas.

The new *Meatco Bill*, which is aimed at securing greater participation of our communal farmers in the commercial marketing of cattle, and indeed a fairer representation in the Meat Industry, is receiving attention.

I am pleased to state that our Agricultural Research Institutions are conducting research on indigenous livestock breeds that are hardy and well-adapted, to become part of our national herd. Namibia managed to control the outbreaks of sporadic animal diseases that were reported in some parts of the country. This has ensured continued access for our beef and other meat products to our existing regional and international markets. Currently, zoo-sanitary agreements for the export of meat are being

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negotiated with the People's Republic of China and the United States of America.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, in order to mitigate the impact of the drought that was experienced in our country over the past few years, our Government availed resources to provide water, for both human and animal consumption in affected communities. This included the construction of water pipelines to extend the availability of water, as well as the rehabilitation, drilling and installation of boreholes in different parts of the country, especially in rural areas.

Another milestone in the Water Sector is the commencement of the construction of the Neckartal Dam in the //Karas Region. Upon completion, the dam will support irrigation projects covering 5000 hectares of land. A Desalination Plant is also being built at Mile 6, in order to supplement water supply to the mines and coastal towns in Erongo Region.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, the drought experienced during the review period was described as the worst in thirty years. It affected thousands of Namibians and resulted in the loss of thousands of livestock and wild animals. Government has so far spent more than N\$583 million to deal with this disaster.

The funds were used to assist affected communities and households through the provision of drought food relief, livestock marketing, and provision of water, including the procurement of water tanks and drilling of boreholes.

I commend the Office of the Prime Minister and other stakeholders for efficiently undertaking the national response to this disaster. I also wish to express our deep appreciation to all the countries, organizations and individuals who gave us valuable support to deal with the drought.

Although good rains have fallen in many parts of the country in recent weeks, other areas remain vulnerable, due to inadequate rainfall for crop

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cultivation, and poor grazing for livestock.

We should remain vigilant and plan in advance in order to deal with future droughts and floods more effectively. I call upon the Office of the Prime Minister to accelerate the development of the *Disaster Risk Management Framework and Guidelines*, as part of the implementation of the *National Disaster Risk Management Act*.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Land Reform is a standing item on the Government's agenda. It remains one of the most critical aspects of governance and transformation that is critical to bringing about social justice and poverty alleviation in our country.

We will continue to do what is necessary to ensure the success of our land reform objectives. In this context, the *Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act* of 1995 was amended to close legal loopholes that have been exploited by some land-owners to circumvent the legal provisions that give the State the right of first refusal in transactions for the sale of commercial land.

In order to improve productivity and promote sustainability, our Government has made resources available, not only for the purchase of land for resettlement purposes, but also for the rehabilitation of water infrastructure on resettlement farms. Solar-powered water systems were installed on several resettlement farms during the review period.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, for our economy to grow and for our country to prosper, we need to have world class physical and communication infrastructure. Our roads, railways, harbours, airports, and bridges must be in a good state of repair, to serve as effective conduits to facilitate economic activities and the smooth movement of people.

During the period under review, various road and bridge construction projects were completed around the country. Others are currently underway. These include Trunk Road 15 from Tsumeb via Tsintsabis to Katwitwi, as well as various bitumen and gravel road projects that have

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been finalized or are being planned for implementation in Kavango, Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena, //Kharas, Khomas, Kunene, Omaheke, Hardap, Zambezi, Oshikoto, Erongo and Otjozondjupa Regions. Several feeder roads were also constructed to facilitate safer travel and access to public services for residents of rural areas.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Namibia is determined to take full advantage of our geographic location as the gate-way to the Southern African Region. Towards this end, our Government is implementing strategic initiatives that will put our country in a position to become a modern transport hub for imports and exports to and from Southern Africa.

As part of this strategy, we have placed focus on providing services such as availing Dry-Dock Ports to neighbouring land-locked countries in SADC. Other strategic initiatives include the development of the SADC Gateway Port between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, as well as the expansion of the Walvis Bay Harbour.

Similarly, the recent signing of an agreement between Namibia and Botswana on the construction of the Trans-Kalahari Railway, which is estimated to cost about N\$120 billion, is a significant project in infrastructure development efforts, here at home and in the SADC Region. We will work with Botswana to complete this project speedily.

There is no doubt that these projects hold strategic importance for Namibia and will go a long way in strengthening the competitiveness, job creation, and increased levels of performance of our national economy.

One of the major infrastructure projects to be completed in recent years was the First Phase of the Northern Railway Extension Project from Tsumeb via Ondangwa to Oshikango on the border with Angola. Our focus in the current Medium Term Expenditure Framework will be on the construction of the railway line from Ondangwa to Oshakati and thereby link these growing towns to the national rail network.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, as our population grows and industries expand, the demand for electricity also grows. This poses a major challenge for our country due to inadequate local power generation capacity. The situation was exacerbated by a recent announcement by ESKOM, from where Namibia imports the bulk of our electricity, that the electricity available for exports will be reduced significantly. This will have a direct negative impact on power supply to our country. In order to ensure continuous supply of electricity for the country, our national power utility, Nampower has launched the Short Term Critical Supply Project, covering the period from 2012 to 2016.

The project involves the refurbishment of the Van Eck Coal Power Station in Windhoek and the replacement of turbines on Units 1, 2 and 3 at Ruacana Hydro Power Station.

It also includes the replacement of all diesel-generator sets at Paratus Power Station in Walvis Bay; and securing short-term power purchase agreements with suppliers in the SADC Region. Where needs arise, diesel generators will be leased and deployed to meet electricity shortfalls.

It is critical for Namibia to waste no time to implement local projects that will ensure security of electricity supply for our country. On this score, I take note that progress has been made by both upstream and down stream developers of the Kudu Gas-to-Power Project. This includes the signing of a power off-take and equity participation agreement between NamPower and the Copperbelt Energy Company of Zambia.

The Techno-Economic Feasibility Study of the Baynes Hydropower and the Environmental Social Impact Assessment Study for this project, have been completed. Namibian and Angolan teams will meet in the near future to iron out the remaining issues and decide on a final development scenario for this project. The completion of these two projects will add more power to our national power grid.

Our investments in the expansion of renewable energy through the Solar Revolving Fund continue. The Fund provides loans for members of the

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public to acquire solar installations for their homes and businesses. During the 2013/2014 Financial Year, four hundred and forty-one (441) loans, amounting to N\$11,9 million were issued by the Fund. Six (6) schools in Omusati Region were also electrified with containerized solar systems during the period under review.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Namibia has embarked upon the search for oil and gas. While the drilling campaigns undertaken by some companies have not discovered commercial quantities of oil, the data collected during the drilling has proven useful. We remain hopeful that oil will be discovered in Namibia in the near future.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, the infrastructure development initiatives I have outlined are aimed at improving the economic competitiveness of our country. This, in turn is vital to our country's realization of our national development goals. Towards this end, through the Ministry of Trade and Industry, our Government has adopted various policy initiatives to boost the competitiveness of our economy.

These include improving the ease of investing and doing business in our country, broadening market opportunities for Namibian products at home and abroad, as well as bringing about sustainable economic performance through the Growth at Home Strategy. The strategy focuses on increased manufacturing and value addition to local products, provision of support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and the protection of emerging industrial value chains.

It also aims to intensify the transformation and diversification of the structure and content of our economy, so that innovation, manufacturing and the development of value chains assume the centre stage of economic activities.

The objective of these interventions is to attain improved balance of payments, sustained economic growth, creation of more jobs, and poverty reduction.

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Specific measures being implemented include:

- The tabling of the *new Investment Bill* during the 2014/2015 Fiscal Year, to replace the existing Foreign Investment Act;
- Establishment of an *Integrated Investor Service Centre*, as well as a *Web-based Company Registration System* to facilitate speedier registration of companies; and
- Establishment of a *Single Window System* to consolidate the services related to import and export regulatory requirements.

Other measures to boost competitiveness include:

- Further capital injections into the *SME Bank* to enable it to provide funding to the SME Sector, and
- The establishment of the *Technology Centre at the Polytechnic of Namibia*.

The Centre will provide specific productive skills and know-how to emerging and aspiring entrepreneurs, especially the youth and women on the design and manufacturing of market-ready products, that meet local and global market quality standards. Government will also continue assisting SMEs to acquire production equipment and technologies through the *Equipment Aid Scheme*. The Scheme has been running successfully for several years and has benefited hundreds of local SMEs.

The *Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Guidelines* have been finalized. What remains is the tabling of a PPP legislation to enable government to facilitate private sector participation in National Development Programmes.

Furthermore, Cabinet has approved the review of the current *Policy and Programme on Small Business Development*. This will lead to the establishment of a more robust and effective policy framework and

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support system, which has the capacity to grow and sustain this important sector and its potential to contribute to job creation and economic growth. The review process and adoption will be completed during the 2014/2015 Financial Year.

Another aspect of this strategy, involves Government support to SMEs in order to secure finance, production technologies, serviced land and premises, as well as markets for their products. For example, market stalls have been established at several locations across the country, enable rural women and informal traders to conduct business in modern facilities.

The objective is clear. In order to empower our people, we must increasingly bring them into the mainstream economy. Towards this end, institutions such as the Development Bank of Namibia, the SME Bank and Agribank have been mandated to provide access to capital for the SME Sector.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Namibia continues to be a net exporter of capital. Steps have, therefore, been taken in order to stem this outflow and to promote the investment of domestic savings in the local economy to support development and job creation at home. Towards this end, Regulations 15 and 28, and the new Regulation 29 relating to *Pension Funds Act* and the Long-term Insurance Act were gazetted and came into force in January 2014.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Namibia remains committed to regional, continental and multilateral economic integration. We are also committed to trade facilitation processes and arrangements through SACU, SADC, AU and the World Trade Organization. We will continue to participate in the EPA negotiations with the European Union.

In all these processes, we are conscious of the need to ensure that Namibia's policy space to implement domestic measures that are aimed at growing our industrial base and safeguarding local industries is not eroded.

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As we consolidate the existing market access arrangements, we are also intensifying our effort to diversify market opportunities for our exports. Our focus is to secure markets in the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, India, South-East Asia and the Gulf Region.

Our Government has also implemented policies to facilitate trade within Africa, especially neighbouring countries. These include the installation of state-of-the-art Inspection Scanners at strategic border points, and the establishment of One-Stop Border Post operations.

Together with other SACU Member States, we have adopted a comprehensive Customs Development Programme aimed at increasing trade facilitation gains at regional and national levels. We are also committed to the on-going negotiation process on the institutional and revenue sharing arrangements within SACU, which is part of the priority areas under the new SACU Vision.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Mining continues to be an important pillar of the national economy. It is pleasing that the Sector has continued to attract significant foreign investments, thereby confirming Namibia's status as one of the most attractive countries in the world for foreign investors in mining.

Some of the new mining ventures in the country include the Husab, Otjikoto and B2Gold Mines, which are currently under construction. The construction of the Tschudi Mine near Tsumeb, will start soon. These projects will contribute to our Gross Domestic Product and export earnings. They will also create thousands of employment opportunities for our people, contribute to the revenue and boost economic development.

The Diamond Sector has shown significant improvement, as compared to reduced production experienced in the 2012/2013 Financial Year. During the review period, diamond production at Namdeb increased, mainly from the offshore sites and better carat grades. This positive trend is expected to continue with the opening of the Sendelingsdrift Mine in mid-2014.

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Shareholder representatives are currently reviewing the GRN/De Beers Sales Agreement. Full negotiations in this regard are expected to start soon.

In order to boost value addition to Namibian diamonds and secure jobs in the cutting and polishing industry, the needs of local cutting and polishing factories are being assessed, with the view to increasing the supply of rough diamonds to local factories by the Namibia Diamond Trading Company.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, other Sectors of our economy, such as fishing and tourism continue to make tangible contributions to the national economy.

Since the two Sectors are directly linked to the Conservation of our Marine and Environmental Ecosystems, our Government will continue to implement policies aimed at promoting sustainable growth and conservation in these sectors. We will pursue initiatives that are aimed at expanding economic empowerment through the allocation of concessions and rights of exploitation in fishing and tourism.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, the best guarantor of fundamental human rights and freedoms is a functioning and effective Judiciary, forming part of a strong, well-resourced and reliable criminal justice system; ensuring that our law enforcement agencies, courts and the Correctional Services work hand-in-hand to fulfill their respective mandates.

In this context, Government continues to provide resources and capacitate our law enforcement agencies to combat crime more effectively. An amount of N\$435 million is allocated to NAMPOL in the new budget to recruit and train about 2,800 Police Officers.

Government has also taken steps to address concerns about the slow delivery of justice and to reduce the back-log of cases in our courts. For this purpose, mobile Courts will be set up to try the cases at affected

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Police Stations around the country. Moreover, dedicated courts will be established to handle traffic offences, while measures will be introduced to ensure that Prosecutors maximize their allocated time in Courts.

I commend our law enforcement officials who put their lives on the line every day in order to maintain law and order in our country. Their efforts have resulted in the successful prosecution of many offenders who committed crimes in the country.

In the same vein, I would like to commend the Namibia Defence Force for the sterling work it is doing in protecting the territorial integrity of our Republic. I also commend them for their good work in peace-keeping operations as well as assistance to civil authorities during national emergencies such as the drought and outbreak of diseases. The welfare of our men and women in uniform will continue to enjoy attention.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, there should be no doubt about our commitment to combat corruption. While recognizing challenges experienced, we welcome the progress made so far in the investigation and prosecution of cases of corruption.

No effort should be spared to ensure justice and bring perpetrators to book.

In order to fight this evil more effectively, the long over-due Whistle Blowers and Witness Protection Bill is currently receiving attention. In addition, as of January this year, two dedicated courts have been established in Windhoek to handle cases of corruption.

Moreover, an Asset Forfeiture Unit will be established at Oshakati to complement the work of the Windhoek-based Unit to ensure that criminals do not benefit from the proceeds of crime or ill-gotten gains.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, I take this opportunity to commend the Electoral Commission of Namibia on the recent completion of the General Registration of Voters, which took place from 15<sup>th</sup> January

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to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2014. According to provisional statistics, released last week by the ECN, one million, one hundred, and sixty two thousand, three hundred and sixty six voters were registered, during the General Registration of Voters.

Supplementary Registration will be conducted in September this year, in order to accommodate voters who were not able to register during the General Registration and those who will have turned 18 years old, by then. The Namibian Constitution guarantees all our citizens who are 18 years or older, the right to vote and elect leaders of their choice. Our Nation is now looking forward to the National Assembly and Presidential Elections, which will take place towards the end of this year.

I would like to use this important national platform to restate our Government's position that no provocation, intolerance or violence will be tolerated, either before, during or after the elections. Our people should be allowed to exercise their democratic right to elect leaders of their choice in peace and security.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, we are an African country whose destiny is intertwined with that of our Continent. Our foreign policy is anchored on the promotion of international peace and security, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and defending what is just.

In this context, Namibia continues to support the peoples of Western Sahara and Palestine in their struggle for self-determination and independence. We, therefore, call for the full implementation of the United Nations' Resolutions on Western Sahara and Palestine.

In pursuing our foreign policy objectives and fulfilling our international obligations, Namibia continues to participate in the activities of SADC, SACU, the African Union, the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Commonwealth.

We are also participating in UN peace-keeping operations and maintenance of world peace and security. Currently, members of the

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Namibia Defence Force are serving in South Sudan as part of the UN Mission.

Last year, our Minister of Foreign Affairs led SADC Electoral Observer Missions to Swaziland as well as Madagascar, on my behalf as Chair of the SADC Organ Troika on Defence and Security.

During the period under review, I undertook missions to represent Namibia at regional and international fora, such as SADC, SACU, the AU and the UN. I also led high-level delegations to a number of countries in order to strengthen bilateral relations and economic co-operation between Namibia and those States.

In the same vein, I received a number of Heads of State and Government who paid State Visits to our country. The latest was His Excellency Goodluck Jonathan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who concluded a successful State Visit to our country last week.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, this is the last time that I am addressing this joint sitting of our legislature as Head of State and Government. I, therefore, take this opportunity to express my special and sincere appreciation and profound gratitude to all our lawmakers and their respective Parties for the co-operation and support rendered to me as Head of State and Government over the years. This time next year, you will have somebody new in State House, guess who? God knows, I am saying.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, I call upon all our people to come together as one Nation, to embrace unity regardless of political affiliation, race, creed, colour or ethnic background, to march together hand-in-hand and make the State of our Nation stronger. As we move forward, we should spare no effort in our resolve to make our country more competitive economically, and thereby achieve our National Development Goals.

Let us do our very best as a nation and as citizens to bring about social justice for Namibian children, women, senior citizens, veterans of the

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**REMARKS  
HON DR T-B GURIRAB**

national liberation struggle, and our citizens who live in rural areas and informal settlements.

Let us also continue to give honour and respect to all our heroes and heroines, Whose Blood Waters our Freedom.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, I have always and I continue to believe that the future of our country is safe and secure. Therefore, I reiterate this confidence here today, unreservedly. I have no doubt that, through efficient and effective implementation of our Policies and Programmes, Namibia will continue to grow and flourish for the benefit of all our people. Long Live the Republic of Namibia! I thank you.

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**REMARKS BY HON SPEAKER**

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**HON SPEAKER:** What an extraordinary *tour de force* of President Pohamba. What a reminder of the pledge you made when you assumed the presidency of the Republic of Namibia, what a confidence you expressed about the Namibian people to overcome the challenges as a united people, what a reminder to all of us of our responsibilities as elected representatives of the people, what a call for us to keep the Constitution and the Laws of our Republic intact, what a duty you reminded us of our responsibility to keep the Nation united, to fight for the legitimate rights of our women, youth and children, protecting our environment but always upholding the Constitution which guides our future.

We thank you. However, as I suggested, when I was calling you to take the rostrum, this may be your last State of the Nation Address, now you have confirmed that this is how you deemed it. However, you remain the President of the Republic of Namibia until that moment that you would be

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handing over to your successor. We will elect him to take over after you but until that moment of handing over, you are the President of the Republic of Namibia.

As the tradition has it, and we started this tradition when you were a Member of the National Assembly, that you would afford an opportunity to those who are Member of the Opposition, some of them were there when we started it, and that tradition continues.

I want to admire you for your long legs, you stood there for a very long time and for your strong voice, you were heard loud and clear, even Usakos heard you. Now the Floor is open for what we call interaction between our President and leaders of the Opposition collectively.

The misleading appearance on the screen is that the leadership of the National Council, the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson are seated together with the Opposition, it is misleading, they are not Members of the Opposition. It is due to the scarcity of space, one day the Chamber will look the way how Parliament is supposed to look but for now, that we understood.

Honourable Ulenga's light is the one blinking. Honourable Ulenga, you have the Floor.

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Your Excellency Comrade Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, it was certainly not my intention to be the first to stand up and pose a few questions in reaction to your long and remarkable address to the Nation with regard to the State of the Nation.

However, now that I am the one to get on to my feet, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation. First of all congratulations for a really comprehensive address to the Parliament and to the Nation. It has been a remarkable ten years, it is not over like the Speaker has just said

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and we hope to work together step by step until such time that, not only you but many of us as well, say goodbye to public life. There is nothing that comes that does not go. There is a beginning and there is an end to everything.

Comrade President, I would really like to echo most of the sentiments that you expressed with regard to the State of the Nation Address. I definitely agree with you that with effective and efficient administration and keeping to those Policies that are drawn up to take us forward, there is no reason why we cannot develop as a Nation at the pace that we have set ourselves. I have just a few questions regarding some of the issues that you addressed, Comrade President.

First of all is the question of land; Comrade President, land tops the list when it comes to our Nation's strategic resources. Historically, the current situation of landlessness and the lack of access for the majority of our people to this strategic resource, came about as a result of expropriation of land belonging to the local Namibian communities by the colonial empire of Germany during the process of colonisation of our country, barely 100 years ago.

Comrade President, you, yourself have expressed your own frustration and your loss of faith in the willing seller/willing buyer doctrine or policy. In the light of that and seeing that we have all, as leaders in this country, expressed ourselves as having lost faith in the current policies of land reform, when can the Nation expect to see justice done in this regard, seeing that land has been expropriated that is a historic fact and when can the landless farmers of Namibia of all races and of all communities expect to have equitable access to land? Comrade President, that is the first issue I wanted you to comment further on.

Pertaining to issues of service delivery; I would like to ask you to share with the House your opinions and sentiments concerning effective education of Namibians, both young and not so young. I know that you have already said quite a bit in your Speech today, therefore, let me also acknowledge the fact that during your administration, you have continued

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to provide the largest single amount in terms of Votes when it comes to the Budget to the Education Sector. It has remained about 23% in average. However, year by year, throughout your two terms in office, the pass rate has been very disappointing, at barely 50% of those sitting for their Grade 10 and 12. If we talk about this term of 10 years, it is already one third of the realisation of Vision 2030, what exactly are the reasons for this monumental failure on the part of the Government with regard to education and what optimistic thoughts and sentiments do you have, Comrade President to share with the Nation in the face of the stand of affairs?

Comrade President, similarly the Health Sector is also beset with similar gigantic challenges. However, I would like to ask the House to pay tribute as a whole to those who worked so hard in both Government and Civil Society and the Private Sector to see to it that, for example, the rate of infections with regard to HIV/AIDS had been brought down and there has been notable successes such as the reduction in the rate of Mother-to-Child infections, the distribution of ARVs, (intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** I do not really want to interrupt you but let us have brevity. Let us be brief as much as possible, everybody would want to take the Floor, you are not the only one, Honourable Ulenga.

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**HON ULENGA:** Comrade President, I will try to summarise, we have the whole afternoon perhaps. However, the hospitals in our country remain filthy, sometimes without the supply of basic needs such as water or power. What are the challenges in this regard, why does it has to continue as it is and what hope can we share with the Nation with regard to the future of the Health Sector?

Comrade President, my last question regards corruption; Similarly when you started with your term of office, you started on a very high note with

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regard to corruption and very high expectations were created in this regard. However, there are two specific issues that I raised in the House with regard to corruption; the GIPF saga started just before the President came into office about ten years ago. Now that we are approaching 2015, this does not seem to have been resolved yet. Where are we and what kind of hope can we expect to have with regard to the ending of this saga? Similarly, on corruption and I also raised the matter the last time when I spoke on this occasion on the story of the Disability Council - the reports and allegations still continue with regard to thieving, maladministration and misappropriation of monies in the Council. When can the Nation expects steps to be taken, knowing that the President already knows about this issues, or if steps will be taken, what steps will be taken with regard to correcting the wrongs that are going on in the Disability Council?

On the advice of the Speaker, I will have to cut my questions short and I hope my Colleagues will also touch on the issues that I have not touched on. I thank you, Comrade President.

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

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** Your Excellency, Comrade President, I would like to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank you for your detailed and comprehensive Statement.

Comrade President, allow me to remind myself that a person doing his or her best cannot do better than his or her best. I, therefore, trust that during the past nine years you have done your best and, therefore, you could not have done better than your best.

Comrade President, as you are preparing to clear your desk, please accept my sincere and comradely wishes on your retirement early next year. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. We have to keep Gender balance, I will take a lady, Honourable //Gowases.

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**HON //GOWASES:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Mine is not long it is only one question.

I regard myself honoured to rise once again and add my voice on his Excellency's State of the Nation Address. On the subject of the Mass Housing Initiative, I sincerely applaud His Excellency our President as the Chairperson of the Mass Housing Project for listening to the cries of our citizens with regard to our housing and accommodation needs. That is a great legacy that you will leave behind upon your retirement. The President's eagerness to take our people out of shacks is indeed very appreciated. (*Applause*)

Your Excellency, year after year, funds are budgeted to service land in our towns yet the majority of citizens have no access to land that they can they can afford and call their own. Municipalities speculate with land, plots which where serviced years ago have not reached the population. Land became too expensive for the poor and unemployed people to buy. Currently, even our average income earner cannot afford property. The rich buy the plots and develop them into unaffordable units. Land prices are spiralling out of control. House prices in Namibia grew faster in 2012 than all but three countries in the world beating powerhouses like South Africa, the United States of America and the entire Europe.

According to the Knight Frank global house price index, only Hong Kong, Dubai and Brussels recorded fast rises in property prices when these were converted into US Dollars. Which means Namibia is the fourth in the world. In the last of the aforementioned news, I wish to present the following questions to your Excellency:

- Can we not hasten the tightening of Laws to control the escalating house prices?

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- Can we not speed up the process of introducing legal instruments to curb speculation in the country. That will reduce speculative activity in valuations in the housing market.
- Can we not speed up the process of amending real estate Laws to entrench several Clauses that will ensure that industrial land and prices of properties are controlled?
- Can we not control and scrutinise property development activities more cautiously?

Your Excellency, the right to property is entrenched in Article 16 of the Namibian Constitution, the Supreme Law of this Land. We must bear in mind that the increase in house prices poses a threat to financial stability, especially in events where such high prices are not supported by any economic fundamentals, for instance, an increase in household incomes (intervention)

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**HON SPEAKER:** The same way I did with Honourable Ulenga, Can you get to the question.

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**HON //GOWASES:** How can one afford school fees, with electricity and other amenities as well as exorbitant property prices like ours? Your Excellency please, the people are in outcry, people are suffering, we need to act and act fast. Your Excellency, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Shall we take those three questions first, there are others coming too. Your Excellency?

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY HON ULENGA  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBWA**

**HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBWA:** Do I normally sit or stand when I respond to the questions?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Well, we stand in Parliament but since you are a guest you may sit.

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**HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBWA:** Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I thank the Honourable Members who took the Floor and asked the questions.

First is *Comrade Ulenga* and the question is about land, willing seller/willing buyer. As a Government, we have been having a problem and the problem that we have is; a time came when the clever land owners adopted something which is looked at as legal. They have been selling land for instance, through Close Corporation (CC) Companies and they stopped giving land to the State. Now as Government, we looked at the CC as being very dangerous because through that, you will see the land easily getting into the hands of foreigners. Somebody from Hong Kong or elsewhere can come and buy shares in the CC for a period of 12 months and on the 13<sup>th</sup> month, he buys out all those with whom he is holding shares. It is possible, he gives them the money and he keeps the land. Now the land that was owned by a Namibian initially has automatically gotten into the hands of a foreigner. Something we say should not be done.

Now, we decided on what to do. We looked at the Law and we looked at the Constitution and we decided to amend the Law. As I am talking to you now, the Law has been amended by you, the Honourable Members because it was discussed here in this House and Amendments were effected. We now see that the situation is better, we can handle the situation now because of the Amendments our Parliament has effected on this. It is true that our people have been crying for land. As you may recall, there was a time when I served our country as the Minister of

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Lands. There was a time when I took action under a certain Article of the Constitution and those clever people went to Court and convinced our Courts, while I felt that I was right, and the case turned out in their favour. I was a disappointed Minister.

Now that the Amendment to the Law has been made, I think we will have it changed. Those who are having the land may decide not to sell it on the basis of the willing seller/willing buyer. They may keep quiet and not sell, our Constitution does not allow the Government to compel somebody to sell his property. However, if it in the interest of the public, it can be done. With the case that I just told you, where I said that I was not successful when it went to Court, one fears that perhaps if you take the action that I took under Chapter 16 of the Constitution, if my memory serves me well, it may not succeed. Therefore, one has to be careful not to repeat the same thing, whereby you will always be on the side where the Courts will say - *no you are wrong* so one has to be in control of the situation. However, I am happy that our Parliament has now amended the Law. I think our Minister of Lands will now be able to use the provisions of the Law as amended.

With regard to education, I have also been disappointed, one pumps in money but the outcome is not impressive, and the outcome is not acceptable by the one who gives the money. The failure rate of young people is something that disappoints, not only me but many people, not only the Government but the parents of these children. The Ministry of Education is aware of all these and they are looking into this situation in order to improve their way of teaching. I think most of our teachers are either reluctant to teach or they are not qualified to teach, that is why education is having that problem.

In December, including last December, when I go home, I visit public places. I went to a school where I found doors of classrooms where widely open and when it rains goats get in there. It was terrible, I had to call the Minister to come and see for himself. That in itself shows you that the teachers are not serious and perhaps they are not qualified to do that. Well yes, some but I think at that particular school all of them are not qualified. This is just an example to show you that honestly speaking,

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I think our people in the education establishment have to pull up their socks, otherwise the situation is not good at all. The Zambezi Region has been doing well, I was so disappointed to learn that they became number 13 from number 2. Something is wrong. However, education should be a responsibility of us all. The question is, are we doing something about it as leaders to assist our Ministry of Education or are we just looking at it waiting for Parliament to commence and then pose questions to the President?

Honourable Ulenga, I must say, I never heard a Member of the Opposition who went to a school and looked at a school, talking to teachers and all this, maybe it has happened but I have not seen it. I, therefore, appeal to everybody, particularly the Members of Parliament to please work together. In my Speech, I emphasised and I said; *let us work hand in hand* if we want to see the development of this country in all the Sectors, I think we need to work together in education too. I appeal to the Members of Parliament to assist where they can. Some of you are teachers, I think if we can come together and contribute to the discussions, especially when the Minister of Education is having some meetings. They do hold meetings, so you can come there and give them your views. That will be a contribution that I am indeed requesting from you to make.

On health; if you can recall in 2012, and I mentioned that in my Speech as well, I put up a commission of enquiry on our health establishment. According to the Report, things were not good too. From the Report and the recommendations therein, one could see that things were not good in certain areas but it is not everything that was not good, there are many things that the Ministry of Health has done which are commendable. That is why, in two occasions I received awards at the AU because of the good things that our Ministry of Health is doing. However, the Ministry, after the recommendations or the submission of the Report of the Commission of enquiry, has started implementing the recommendations that were made by the Commission.

Again, as leaders, I expect you to also consult the Ministry and pinpoint where you see things are not going well. I realised that when you are performing, there are times that you do not see where you are going wrong

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but someone who is observing you sees a lot. Let us say, the Ministries are the performer and you the observe, you will see where they are making mistakes in their dealings. I, again appeal to you as Leaders of this country that we face this problem as being our problem and should, therefore, consult on that.

On corruption, I want to say a few words. When I came in, I said we have to take some action against corruption. The actions that I meant was not to hear that Honourable Mensah is corrupt and then I jump at her, the Law does not allow me to do that. We firstly sat down and decided to put up an Anti-Corruption Commission, it is there now, we have it. The Anti-Corruption Commission is not dictated by anybody, they work freely. However, even though they work freely on their own, they need information so that they can investigate allegations of corruption. People talk about corruption but they do not go to the institution that has been established specifically to deal with corruption and give them information. People do not do that and that is why we are now saying, perhaps people fear that they will be exposed and then get into trouble with the corrupted elements. Now let us introduce a Law that is going to protect what we call *whistle blowers*. I read in newspapers and I hear from people saying - *you said that you are going to do it*, yes, I have done it! I have established the Anti-Corruption Commission. That is the action I have taken and the Anti-Corruption Commission is there working and I do not interfere with their work. The only thing is that they should get information from the citizens of this country. If we do not do that, how do we expect them to investigate cases of corruption? It is not that I hear something as the President and I go and do it, we have authorities that are entrusted to do certain things and the Anti-corruption Commission is one of those authorities. The Police in this country are entrusted to carry out criminal investigations and it is not that the President is the one who must investigate this and that. The President must make sure that there is a Police Force, they have all the equipment, which we do give to them, and that the establishment of the Anti-Corruption is in place, we have even built an office for them. For everybody who passes the office, it is written Anti-Corruption Commission in big words, it is there. That is one of the things that I have done with my Colleagues' support. Or do you want the President of the country to go from house to house inspecting, only then

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will there be something serious? It is not done in other countries and I do not think that the President of Namibia should do that too. The President of Namibia must ensure that institutions are established to take care of that and we have done that and the doors are open. All what we are saying is that – *citizens, the Anti-Corruption Commission is there, go and report cases of corruption that you are aware of.* That is what I wanted to comment on. I felt that I should say this but I am not happy because I do suspect that corruption is here with us too. All that we need to do is for the people to go and report corruption at the institutions that has been set up specifically to do that work.

With this Disability Council, I did not catch that very well and I do not know whether I will ask the Honourable Minister but I am told that investigation is ongoing and that is another problem in this country, you have cases being investigated for years. Years of investigation and nothing comes up and it is not the President who should investigate, we have the Police who should investigate these cases, however it is disappointing to see that, especially in Government, you have somebody suspended because he is being investigated but he draws a salary and at the same time he goes and creates his small or big business where he is working during the time of his suspension. It is really disappointing. Investigation is needed but the investigation that takes five or even ten years is discouraging and your President is not happy with that.

*Honourable Maamberua*, thank you very much, I hope you and your Party will keep working with the Government and we move forward to see both social and economic development of our country forging ahead.

*Honourable //Gowases*, on Mass Housing, we felt that we needed to do this, however, again we need the support of the Opposition, particularly as Leaders, support this Programme and encourage those who are doing it even 24 hours.

You also expressed the cost of land in towns, I agree with you that it is too expensive and my Colleagues and I discussed this issue sometimes. We

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even said that there must be a reduction. Certain Town Councils have been asked to reduce this. They are part of the Government and I see no reason why the prices of land in proclaimed areas and towns are so expensive. I think that we should again, face this together. Town Councils should not charge so much money for the plot of land where people want to put up their dwellings. On this one, I am totally together with you Honourable Member. You said that Namibia is number four in the world. The world is so large and we are number four? It is disappointing. I am disappointed that we are number four when it comes to the exorbitant prices of land. Something has to be done.

What more, people are crying, as Leaders let us attend to the cries of our people. These are the comments that I felt I could make on these three interventions by the Honourable Members of Parliament.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. The next batch starts with Honourable Kaura.

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**HON KAURA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Your Excellency Mr President, I do not have many questions because questions, especially on the housing issue has already been answered and I congratulate you for the initiative on this Mass Housing Project.

My only question is on the issue of Erindi. Vultures are all over the place. On this issue of Erindi, we are reading in newspapers that as far as America, there are companies that want to buy the 65,000 hectares of Erindi. What can we do to prevent this piece of real estate to get into foreign hands?

My other question is, His Excellency remarked at the Independence Stadium that there are 22 Presidential aspirants to contest for the Presidency of this coming year. I was wondering whether His Excellency

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was just making a joke or whether there are such people because 22 is quite a number.

Honourable Speaker, I want to place an oral unopposed Motion that the tarred road from Gobabis to Otjinene and from Otjinene to Grootfontein should be christened **Dr President Hifikepunye Pohamba**. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. If I was not sitting in this chair I would have seconded it. Honourable Hamutenya, please take the Floor.

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**HON HAMUTENYA:** Thank you Comrade Speaker and Your Excellency. The question is one, Your Excellency.

My question is about the continued delay in the Electoral Law Reform. The process of reforming the electoral legislation of Namibia was prompted by the High Court Judgement of 2011, where Judge Petrus Damaseb and Collin Parker expressed serious concern about the existing Electoral Law. They in fact stated that the Law is in an unsatisfactory state of affairs and something must be done and be done urgently before the next round of elections. That was 2 years ago and we are about 8 months away from the next elections and since I sit here, I have not seen the Bill coming to improve on the legislation.

Elaborate constructive courses by the Law Reform Commission are on the table, when is it going to be acted upon to pave the way for the next round of elections? According to the Chairman of the Law Reform Commission, Sacky Shanghala, the process of drafting the new Legislation was embarked upon and was expected to be finalised by the middle of last year.

Your Excellency is aware of our concern about the delay in bringing the Draft Legislation to the National Assembly since we have approached

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you, Your Excellency on this, the last time we visited State House. When are we going to find this Draft Law here so that we can act on it and transform it into a Law? Thank you, Your Excellency.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Chief Riruako.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Your Excellency, Honourable Speaker, we had a very good farewell of the President. The Speech was well accepted in this Assembly but the legacy must be left behind. Who is going to endorse this legacy, is it maybe me? We are not talking without living something aside. It must be known that we have endorsed the legacy, are we or not? That is the query.

Now back to business, I have listened very carefully to the disappointment of the President that we do not have price control here. It is not just about houses but everything including commodities prices that are facing the Minister of Trade and Industry. Why do we not have control, what happened and why did it happen that way? During the colonial days there was price control, now there is the so called free market to rip off and root up what the poor produced. Is that the way it should be?

During the colonial days there were price control and commodity leverage. Why is there no more price control Mr President? (interjections) I go there and the President is advised by someone else but now he is here. That was point number one.

Back again to something else as usual, land is something we fought for. Some of us went to jail back and forth.

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**HON MEMBER:** When?

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**HON RIRUAKO:** Who is asking when? Where were you? You were not in any jail, what are you talking about and what do you want to know? There is no joke. They say, *their blood waters our freedom*. Now who are you and where do you come from? (Interjections) that is what you want to hear.

We are talking about Land Reform for the second time and I know why. There was the so called *Verskans* Law (interjections). Yes, *Verskans* is in Afrikaans. This is what is happening, after 24 years of Independence, we do not have any right to change our Constitution in order to meet our requirements, why? That is a query. Mr President that is the question I want to ask you, however, sometimes you answer the question but the answer may not be where we can say we are at home with it.

What happened is that the Scottish Law changed but the South Africans did not change nay Law, they came up with the *vruskans* and moved the people from !Oe-gas to Khorixas – Sori-Soris, under what Law? Their Laws are not yet repealed, they are there. What are following here? What kind of Law do we have to look for? I will leave that for the President to answer.

The other one is that we have a very peaceful administration of the outgoing President but is there going to be peace, is Law and Order going to be obeyed? You are talking about corruption. Corruption is creating a commotion because where there is corruption there is commotion, those are the two things. How are going to look at these things without them being reduced? Until when will it go on like that? There must be an end to everything. You were here for ten years and you are going but corruption is continuing and will continue for another ten years. How are we going to leave with this? I do not know how but the Judge is here.

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**HON SPEAKER:** He is just a guest in the House.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** I am going to sit down; I am not going to spoil the broth.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honorable Shixwameni and then we have one more last, after Honourable Shixwameni.

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**HON SHIXWAMENI:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, I would like to start off by actually commending you for the nine years that you have been in office, you have done quite a lot of good for our country. Particularly when it comes to breaking the ice between Political Parties, you have been inviting people to come to State House to discuss issues with you and in fact to consult and not only Political Parties but the NGOs and other Civic Society Organisations as well. I think for that you need to be congratulated and for having maintained the peace over the nine years of your tenure in office. I must again say congratulations for that.

Your Excellency, I have four, small questions that I want to put to you. One is the issue of poverty eradication and unemployment, both of which are at very high levels. The President has of course expressed himself on this issue already, however, my question is, is the President going forward, ready to embrace the Basic Income Grant and to implement it in order to eradicate extreme poverty in our society because I believe that it can be one of the ways to contribute towards making poverty history in our country. It is not the only way but I believe it is one of the ways that, by the stroke of the Presidential pen, can alleviate poverty.

The second one is the economic empowerment of Namibians. This is a country that is described as a country that is not owned by Namibians because multi-nationals control us. The wealth of this country is in the hands of less than 10% of Namibians and we know their colour, I do not need to mention it. Going forward, what plans are there, I am talking in terms of concrete plans that are there on the table, to reverse this situation

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where the country is owned by multi-nationals and foreigners whilst we are only workers and slaves in our own country. What concrete plans are we are putting on the table as a Nation to ensure that ownership and the distribution of our national resources, particularly, are owned by Namibians? That is the second one.

The third one concerns decentralisation, I know there are a couple of Ministries like Agriculture, Education and Health that have already decentralised services to the Regions but overall, most of the Ministries have not decentralised. I would like to know whether the President is satisfied with the pace of decentralisation of functions to the Regions so that Government gets closer to the people in order for people to have access to Government services at a closer distance and much more easier.

The fourth and last one is, all over the world, whether you look at investment figures or at our level on the human development index, everybody is saying that our biggest constraint, both in terms of our investment but also moving forward, is the skills shortage. Now if we all, including the international community, UNESCO, the United Nations, and everybody recognise it and admit that we have a serious skills deficit, why are we not thinking in terms of creating a lot of skills by making education free, both at university level and particularly for vocational training institutions in order to ensure that thousands of kids that drop out at Grade 12 and those that drop out at Grade 10 get accommodated in the vocational training system so that they can acquire skills that can help developing this Nation?

Otherwise, with this few remarks and questions, I congratulate you and I hope that next year when you retire you will have a splendid retirement. Thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Let us take the last question. Honourable //Garoëb.

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**HON //GAROËB:** Thank you Honourable Speaker. Please pardon me

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for arriving a few minutes late this afternoon, it was not deliberate for I had to see my medical doctor.

I have only one question so let me start with it. Your Excellency the President of Namibia, you confirmed during your address at the inauguration of our museum that the time has come that you are facing out of your political leadership position. What I might ask you may sound, on the one hand as very personal but on the other hand I believe that it has very much to do with the Namibian Nation.

Namibia is a vast country with only a handful of people. What are your intentions after leaving your office? Yes, we know that we have some able bodied young men and women to replace you, there is absolutely no problem. However, the problem is that our country does not have many people of your calibre. Your Excellency, you rightly asked us to help with education where there are vacancies and I fully support you there. You said that some of us are teachers but you unfortunately forgot to say that some of us are veterans. Otherwise, Your Excellency, thank you very much for a well structured State of the Nation Address. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. That is the lot, Your Excellency.

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**HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT POHAMBA:** I start with *Honourable Kaura*. Honourable Kaura, on Erindi, the Government once offered to buy Erindi but I understand that the owners wanted to withdraw the sale of Erindi. If they withdraw and they no longer want to sell Erindi then we will be back to square one, where we were. Erindi remains in the hands of the owner unless where we perhaps decide otherwise.

On the 22 candidates of the Presidential Election, after having said so there I received more information that they were actually 25! Then After

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having made the Speech, my source of information came and said that they have actually been reduced to 7 or 8 and this is the last information that I have of the presidential candidates and no names were communicated to me. (*Laughter*)

*Honourable Hamutenya*, on the Electoral Reform Law, I am happy to inform you that the Bill is coming to this House, the work has been completed, it will be coming, patiently wait for this so that you can contribute to the Debate of this very important *Electoral Bill*. You only had one question, which thus needs only one answer and I provided that answer.

*Honourable Riruako*, you asked who is going to endorse the legacy. By the way, somebody just whispered to me and said that you are one of the presidential candidates (*laughter*). Maybe you should work harder to convince the electorate to vote for you so that you can come in and do justice.

You spoke about the price control of goods and I had the same idea immediately when I came to this office that we should put up price controls. I was told rightly so that price control does not work in countries like ours because the market forces are apparently in charge of prices, especially when you have things imported that are manufactured in other countries. We do not produce sugar, tea, coffee, for example, therefore, when these things come here, it is controlled by the market forces. There is nothing much you can do, otherwise you will stay without sugar, coffee and tea but when it comes to *omaere*, you may not depend on import because that can be produced in the country. The problem is, what we like to consume, we do not produce in this country but imported from other countries and there are a lot of costs involved including transportation. To get rice from Thailand to Namibia will transport wise cost a lot of money and whoever is selling that will not just forget the cost of transport, it has to be added in order to make a profit. This is where we have some problems. As long as we are not working harder in Kalimbeza in the Zambezi Region to produce rice, we cannot be able to effectively control

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the prices of things we import from elsewhere.

Do I not look smart in the suite that I am wearing here,? (*laughter*). You looking smart too, however, all these things are imported that is why we buy them at expensive prices. As long as we do not have our own way of producing things ourselves, we can always have that problem.

On Land Reform, you mentioned that we fought for the land, we were in jail and you are right. We were not only in jail in Namibia but also somewhere outside the country. I recall when I came to release you from the jail in Livingston. You went to jail because you were found to have entered the country illegally and they were right to put you there. That is all because of the struggle that you were waging so I know that. However, I have already responded to the question of Land Reform question, maybe I need not to come back to that but I just wanted to touch on the word jail, that we fought for this land and we have been going to jails because of that. I am saying it is true.

Yes, South Africa forced people to move from one place to another, is this what you want us to do, the South African way of doing things at the time? We will no longer be looked as a country that follows the Rule of Law, I do not think this is the way that we should follow, I think we should follow other ways. Again, we discussed about the land issue already.

***Honourable Shixwameni***, consultation is very important, that is why I felt that we should consult as Namibians. Namibians must consult. It does not matter whether we differ politically, we are Namibians. By the way I understand that you are also a presidential candidate, maybe you will follow the same route that I took. (*Laughter*)

Poverty in our country is a reality but on your proposal of the Basic Income Grant, this issue was brought up by some clergy people, however, I felt that this is not the way we should do things. To dish out money that you do not have to the people, does not make sense to me. However, I will go along with dishing out money to people who are organised to

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produce something. That is to say, it is better to give money to people who are working than to give money to people in *kambashus* because you are encouraging many people to come. The clergy people said N\$100.00, yes, N\$100.00 is enough, you will find 20 in one *kambashu* so they will get more money for doing nothing. If we want to develop this country, I think it is not a good thing to introduce things that will make people not to think of working. People must work. He or she who is working should be given money. That is the position. If Honourable Shixwameni could mobilise the people in one of his Constituencies to do social work, I see no point why we cannot assist the people who are working, for example, clearing land for cultivation in your home area close to the river and after clearing that they dig a trench to the river and ask the Government to give you the pipes and perhaps the pumping machine to bring water to the place that you have cleared instead of this Grant giving money to people who are doing nothing. For people who are doing that, I see no point why we cannot consider giving them some money as remuneration. If you do not do that and you say that as an aspiring candidate for presidency, I think your presidency will not last much longer. (*Laughter*)

On economic empowerment and the skills deficit that you have talked about, the Government, in its effort to assist our people who want to study or do business has created banks, i.e. the Development Bank of Namibia and AgriBank of Namibia. Business has to be done properly by people with skills, in other words, trained people that is why we are working harder to ensure that we have people being trained, hence the huge expenditure on education that the Government is giving out. However, those who do not want to go to VTCs and want to run businesses can consult financial institutions that are set up by the Government with the aim to assist them.

On the issue of decentralisation, I totally agree with you. Decentralisation always has its problems; you need trained people. We want to decentralise but truly speaking, we do not have people who can take care of certain affairs, I have been receiving some Reports already from both the Regional and the Local Authority Councils, spending money without knowing how to account for their expenditures. There are Ministries that

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have effected decentralisation and there are those wanting to do that but are experiencing problems. However, I think that where there is a will, a way will always be found. It is the will of the Government to decentralise activities and you are right that it is only when you have the people on the spot, unlike having a situation where people in Opuwo, for instance, will be waiting for somebody to come from Windhoek to attend to their problem. This is really undesirable, however, we can do it because there is no other way. That is on the decentralisation.

I have touched on skills, it is very important for us to train in many ways. While we are talking about skills, I must also inform the House that we have established NIPAM and we have decided to bring the son of the soil who have been working outside this country ever since Independence to come and make a contribution. Sometimes I say he is over qualified and I think he is going to do well at NIPAM and that is Professor, Dr Diescho. He is the one we assigned to do the work.

**Honourable //Garoëb**, I missed talking about veterans but in my Speech I have spoken about veterans and you are included as a veteran. All I can say is that I wish you good health, after having said you came late because you had to consult your doctor. And now that I am going but leaving the presidency does not mean that I am out of political activities. I will continue with politics to mobilise my Party in order, to ensure that the electorate keep voting for my Party and I will start immediately. With the administrative knowledge that I acquired as the President, I think I will do well to convince the people. (*laughter*). In addition to that I am going to assist at the village with the cultivation of land. That is that.

Your Honour, Honourable Speaker, I think I have attended to the questions to the best of my ability. If I have not touched some of the issues I am asking for an understanding from the Honourable Members.

Again, I wish you well and I keep reminding you, let us consult on issues concerning our country. We can keep on saying that *I do not want to talk to him* but this country belongs to us. With the exception of Honourable Riruako, unless I invite people to consult, I do not see many people

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HON DR T-B GURIRAB**

initiating to consult me at the State House. The doors of the State House are open for us to consult whenever there is a need for us to do consultation. We had problems of the drought last year and no one has come to consult how they are handling the draught situation for the people who have no food and these are people you are claiming to be your members. The Government has a responsibility to supply food when people are hungry and as Leaders, you do not come, it is not good. Let us consult. I thank you.

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**VOTE OF THANKS**

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**HON SPEAKER:** On behalf of Parliament I once again thank you Your Excellency for your excellent State of the Nation Address. However, as you leaving the National Assembly, in my case, I am recalling the different places where you used to sit in the House, including being the Secretary-General of the Majority Party later on. We talk so much about veterans and I want you to recognise amid us, at the upper echelons of the Chamber, the presence of veteran Andimba Toivo ya Toivo. I saw him coming but I did not know where he was seated, I would have done so earlier. However, now that I see his presence, and because we live in the same neighbourhood, I want peace and stability.

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**BUSINESS RESUMES**

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**HON SPEAKER:** With that, I ask the Right Honourable Prime Minister to tell us about the Business of the House followed by my Colleague joining me to escort the President out. Honourable Prime Minister.

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**ADJOURNMENT  
RT HON DR GEINGEOB**

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you Honourable Speaker, since the others were just asking questions on that side, from this side we just want to congratulate you for your excellent Speech and inform the Members that I am proposing the adjournment so that you can go and digest the Speech. Therefore, the House should adjourn until tomorrow morning, 09:00 am sharp and not 14:30. I beg to Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. What I meant to say is that there is a small omission, we are used to inviting the Chief Justice to come and do certain things for us but we usually release him to go back to where he is mostly needed but he too had sat through our deliberations and I thank him. He too, should join us as we escort the President now.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 18:03 UNTIL 2014.04.28 AT 09:00**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
28 MARCH, 2014**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Good Morning to you all. We commence with the Business of the House. Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Honourable !Nawases-Taeyele.

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**TABLING: REPORT OF THE  
MEMBER OF THE PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT**

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**HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Report of the Members of the PAN African Parliament who attended its Fourth Ordinary Session on the celebration of its Ten Years Anniversary during the period of the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2014, in Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Will the Honourable Member table the Report? Any Notice of Motions? Honourable Amweelo.

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Thank you Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 09, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 23 of

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

the *Appropriation Bill* be, in terms of Rule 90, not interrupted, if still under consideration at 12:30, I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Can the Honourable table the Motion? Ministerial Statements? I am informed that the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs wants to say something.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

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**HON MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, you recall that on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2014, I brought to the attention of this august House an issue which is of importance to the development of the African Continent. I reminded you that we have been celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the OAU/AU and that African leaders had, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2013, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, signed a solemn Declaration in which the past successes and challenges of our continent were acknowledged and in which they rededicate themselves to the continent's development.

At that same occasion the continental leaders made commitments in eight 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;

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

- Democratic Governance;
- Determining Africa's Destiny; and
- Africa's place in the world.

The African leaders agreed to integrate those areas of progress into their respective country's National Development Plans. They also decided that, at the next AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government to be held in June 2014, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, they will adopt Agenda 2063.

We are all proud of the history of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) of the 50 years, which was instrumental in the liberation of our continent and, particularly Namibia as the last colony. With the exception of Western Sahara, Africa completed decolonisation process of the continent. An African identity is being formed and there is increasing awareness among our people of this African Project. Conflict is on decrease and social and economic development is taking shape. While 50 years may indeed seem a long time, its symbolism is important to us at this stage of our African history. Our regional organisations are becoming established and well-functioning, and are increasingly developing democratic and strong political structures.

***What is this agenda?*** It is a vision or a development trajectory for our continent over the next 50 years. It is an Action Plan for the utilisation of African Vision. This serves as a Call to Action to unite all Africans and the Diasporas around a common intention of development of a **peaceful, integrated and prosperous Africa**, directed by its citizens and taking its rightful place in the world.

Agenda 2063 aims to mirror the new era in the history of our African continental organisation, as signified by the name change from the Organisation of African Unity to the African Union. Indeed, as the AU Commission has indicated, Agenda 2063 is expected to be a source of inspiration for development of national and regional sustainable development plans.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT  
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

Agenda 2063 will, in operational terms, be divided into a rolling plan of 25 years, 10 years, 5 years and short term action plans. It will incorporate milestones and benchmarks in order for commitments to be concretely enacted over this period.

Furthermore, roles will be outlined for each stakeholder, such as the Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Civil Society and the Private Sector.

Comrade Speaker, Agenda 2063 is not intended to be the work of a small group of people. In the spirit of Ubuntu, it is meant to reflect the will of the people of Africa and, as such, is being developed following wide consultations. In order to ensure collective ownership of the document, and knowledge of its purpose and implementation, all stakeholders have been included in its development.

Consultations began over a year ago, and, following the May 2013 AU Assembly, a Joint Technical Team was set up. The African Union Commission developed the first draft of Agenda 2063, while working closely with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Coordinating Agency (NPCA), and supported by the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). This draft was then reviewed at the first ever African Union Ministerial Retreat held in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, from 24 to 26 January 2014, which exchanged views on the following areas:

- The need for a retrospective overview of the past 50 years and from which inspiration from successes and failures could be drawn in order to chart the way forward;
- Ways and means of ensuring durable peace and stability on the continent by addressing Africa's governance challenges with a view to creating a conducive environment for bringing about structural transformation to meet the development needs of Africa and to ensure inclusive growth;

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HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

- Agenda 2063 and key drivers of change, and analysed long term internal and external trends and key milestones to achieve the continental vision;
- Analysed old and new challenges and threats, as well as exchanged views on ways and means of addressing them; and
- Some factors critical to the African collective endeavour to achieve our continental vision, particularly on how to inculcate a development mindset, enhance our institutional capabilities, mobilise our own resources and utilise new technologies and innovation.

The Report of this Retreat was presented to the Heads of State and Government.

After the January Summit in Addis Ababa this year, work on the document has continued. The Technical Team has held consultation with, amongst others, stakeholders such as the Regional Economic Communities, technical experts from Member States particularly in planning and economic development, think tanks and academia, civil society, private sector, faith based and cultural organisations, and Africans in the Diaspora.

Further consultations are ongoing with former Heads of State and Government and Eminent Persons; Representatives of Sector Ministries; and, others from African Business Conglomerates. Regional and National consultations are also currently ongoing. The consultations are backed by rigorous technical analysis, reviews of national development plans, scenarios and trend analyses.

All AU Member States are part of the process as they agreed to consult nationally in order to streamline the document for discussion at the AU Assembly in June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

Comrade Speaker, for Namibia we have also started the process of consultation indeed, that is why a copy of the Working Document has been made available to Parliament. In this case the Ministry of Foreign

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**ANNOUNCEMENT  
HON DR GURIRAB**

Affairs is now presenting the Working Document to the National Assembly and we would like to consult with you so that before the end of April, we can organise a forum whereby Namibian Parliamentarians can also make their input. We are particularly giving a deadline that by the end of April 2014, all Member States should send I their inputs to be incorporated into the document that will be presented at the Summit in June s I have mentioned before.

Comrade Speaker, I will, therefore, appreciate a consultation with your Office for us to agree on the appropriate date and to impress upon Members to attend so that we can make our input. You will recall during the discussion of the Budget of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, one Member of Parliament asked a question as to how African citizens make their input in the Agenda of the AU. This is now the opportunity that we should not let go but to make our input. I so submit, Comrade Speaker.

Finally, I just want to make a small correction that I wanted to make the day before yesterday. In my Budget Speech I refer to resolution 1324 on Women Peace, it is should rather be 1325 instead of 1324. Thank you, Comrade Speaker. I will come back to Parliament as I promised, the day before yesterday.

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, we take note of that. Before we get into the Business scheduled for today, I want to give additional information further to what I said at the beginning of this week about the passing on of Comrade Godfrey /Khaesen Gaoseb. The memorial service will take place today, the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2014, at 18:30, at the Windhoek City Congregation Lutheran Church, located at Church Street Ausspannplatz. The funeral service will take place on Saturday, 29 March 2014, starting at 09:00, from the Windhoek City Congregation Lutheran Church, Church Street as stated earlier, followed by the burial at the Pioneers Park Cemetery.

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

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

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL [B.3 – 2014]**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Committee Stage - *Appropriation Bill* [B.3 – 2014].

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

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

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

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE**

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill* [B.3 – 2014].

When progress was reported on Wednesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2014, Votes 01, 08, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19, 24, 28, 30 had been agreed to and Votes

28 March 2014 **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 09**  
**HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

13, 15 and 16 had been introduced.

**Vote09 – “FINANCE,” N\$3,466,228,000.00** put for Introduction by Minister of Finance. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

**INTRODUCTION**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the House, it is with great pleasure that I motivate, before this august House, the proposed Budget for Vote 09 – **FINANCE**, for the Financial Year 2014/2015. The functions of the Ministry are organised in four main themes namely;

- (1) Financial Sector Administration,
- (2) Treasury Operations and Management;
- (3) Revenue Management; and
- (4) Central Government Procurement Administration.

**PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Hon Members, the Ministry is requesting a total allocation of **N\$3.5 billion (N\$3,466,228,000)** for 2014/2015. Of the above-mentioned amount, the Operational Budget makes up **N\$3.4 billion (N\$3,436,977,000)**, and the Development Budget amounts to **N\$29.3 million (N\$29,251,000)**.

We have clustered our activities into six Programmes.

### **PROGRAMME 1: ECONOMIC POLICY ADVICE**

The Programme entails the formulation of the Macroeconomic and Fiscal Policy framework, General Fiscal Policy Advice and the Coordination of the Financial Sector.

As part of the formulation of the Macroeconomic and Fiscal Policy Framework, industrial surveys are undertaken together with stakeholders to assess the performance of the different sectors and make projections of the Sectors performance in the medium term. Currently, a new macroeconomic forecasting model is being developed to better enable Government to project the performance of the economy.

As part of the Financial Sector Strategy implementation, the Ministry launched the Financial Literacy Initiative (FLI) in March 2012, which aims at providing financial education to the public. During the next Financial Year, the Ministry will engage in road shows and street theatres to Kunene Region, having covered all the other Regions already. The Ministry will also continue with the production of the literacy materials for distribution and we shall further continue to coordinate the implementation of the financial Sector Development Strategy and the Financial Sector Charter to promote financial inclusion, and improved development and regulations of the Financial Sector.

As a member of SADC, Namibia acceded to the SADC Finance Investment Protocol, which is aimed to achieve compatibility among economic policies of Member States and to eliminate obstacles to the free movement of goods and services of the Member States, amongst others.

The Ministry plays a coordinating role by ensuring that all stakeholders submit their reports on the implementation of Namibia's commitment in their respective Sectors, in line with our commitments under SADC.

The Ministry is requesting an amount of **N\$9.5 million (N\$4,487,000)** for this Programme for 2014/2015.

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**HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**PROGRAMME 2: REVENUE MANAGEMENT**

Under this Programme, the Ministry manages revenue collection from both domestic (Inland) sources and from international trade through customs and excise duties.

The Ministry will continue with tax reforms to enhance efficiency, broaden and deepen the revenue base and improve the competitiveness of the tax regime.

Activities planned for next year include continuation of tax awareness campaigns across the country. I encourage members of the public to actively participate in these activities in order to get better informed. The Ministry will also continue to strengthen compliance enforcement through legislative reviews, strengthening of the audit function and deployment of appropriate equipment such as scanners to curb the entry of illegal and illicit products and facilitate trade.

In July 2013, the Ministry commenced with the development of the new Integrated Tax Administration System (ITAS). As part of the on-going efforts to enhance the efficiency of tax services, the new ITAs system will modernise the administration of tax by automating the tax processes including electronic tax filing and integration of tax administration system. Further to this, the Business Process Reengineering has been initiated to redesign the flow of tax processing in order to improve efficiency in tax administration.

The Ministry will invest in a new version of customs clearance system. The new upgrade offers enhanced system security and will also offer full support to e-customs, which will enable customs and excise office to go in the direction of paper less customs.

Further, the Ministry is rolling out its services through the opening of new offices around the country. In this regard, a new regional office in Katima Mulilo and satellite offices were opened at Outapi, Tsumeb, Oranjemund and Mariental. The Ministry will open new satellite offices at Gobabis, Swakopmund, Omaruru, Eenhana, Omuthiya, Khorixas and Luderitz

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**HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

next year. These efforts are aimed at bringing services closer to the taxpayers. The satellite offices will be responsible for taxpayer returns submission and the assessment will be done at Regional Offices. Consistent with growth in outreach, additional staff members would be recruited. The Ministry will also invest in staff accommodation and other infrastructures at Omahenene, Trans Kalahari, Ariamsvlei and Noorderow. We have faced binding constraints to attract necessary skills in accounting, auditing and Law. To overcome this challenge, as announced, the Ministry is engaged with the establishment of a semi-autonomous revenue agency for Namibia.

In conformity with international trend of trade facilitation, the Ministry is at an advance stage to open a One-Stop Border Post at Trans Kalahari/Mamuno Border Post with Botswana. This will mean that, travellers and traders will only have one stop at either of the Border where they will be attended to by both Namibian and Botswana officials on immigration, customs and other border controls. The Ministry of Finance is, on behalf of the Namibian Government, leading an engagement with the Botswana counterparts on the finalisation of the Bilateral Agreement on the matter, and to ensure that the facilities at the border post are aligned to the new function. This will require funds for infrastructure development and additional equipment.

In order to find alternative sources of revenue and to incentivise value addition for our raw materials and products, as well as to encourage the use of environmental friendly products, the Ministry have finalised the draft legislation for the export levy and environmental taxes, after extensive consultation with stakeholders. The Bills are now being subjected to the legal review. Under the export levy, a levy of between 0 and 2% is proposed on the export of raw materials and unprocessed natural resources. The environmental tax will be charged on selected products, as agreed through stakeholders' consultations. Consultations will continue on further items to be considered in the future.

For the Revenue Management programme, the Ministry has requested an amount of **N\$544.8 million (N\$544,828,000)** for 2014/2015.

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**HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**PROGRAMME 3: GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE  
MANAGEMENT**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, with respect to this Programme, the Ministry undertakes the formulation of the Budget, the control over the budget execution and the consolidated reporting of the State revenue and expenditure.

The Ministry will continue to undertake Public Finance Management (PFM) reforms to address remaining shortcomings. The Ministry has introduced annual PFM workshops where it engages the key stakeholders in PFM on their respective roles, and challenges to be addressed and promote capacity building for Public Finance Management

The Ministry will rollout a training programme targeting the accounting personnel on the basics of Government Accounting. The current practice of deferring reconciliations to end of Financial Year will also see an end, as the Ministry is compelling OMAs to implement monthly closure of accounts.

One of the pillars of Public Finance Management Strategy is to ensure that public expenditure delivers value for money. The Ministry will rollout public expenditure reviews. We shall further carry out a self-assessment of public expenditure and financial accountability, using some available international assessment tools. The aim is to have an updated assessment of PFM systems, processes and institutions.

The Ministry is implementing the International Public Sector Accounting Standards as an accounting framework for government. This framework is standard for Public Sector Entities worldwide, and compels the uniform preparation and presentation of the Annual Financial Statements of the Government. The maintenance of this framework requires advanced skills in Accounting at Treasury, and which will be nurtured effective 2014/2015.

The internal audit function is also being streamlined in line with the *State Finance Act*, in order to allow Treasury to deploy internal auditors who

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will monitor the compliance by OMAs to Treasury directives and regulations. Another activity related to this is the development of a framework that will guide Internal Auditors in carrying out their functions.

While the IFMS has been in operation since 2006, it requires upgrading in many of its modules. The Ministry will invest in the strengthening of this system during the Financial Year 2014/2015. This includes enhancements of the budget control module.

We have decided to redraft the *Public Finance Management Bill* in order to take advantage of new developments in financial management. We shall pursue the finalisation of the new bill during the course of the year.

The Ministry is requesting an amount of **N\$370.1 million (N\$370,088,000)** for this Programme for 2014/2015. In a country that is exposed to effects of climate change, the Contingency Provision amounting to **N\$300 million** is, therefore, budgeted for under this Programme.

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

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, this Programme caters for the coordination of all State assets management and, the management of Government debt and contingent liabilities.

One of the Activities in this Programme for next Financial Year is the continued development of the automated Government asset register. The Ministry will further develop an Asset Management Policy to guide the utilisation, management and disposal of the State assets. Efforts will further be made to ensure that Government cash balances are optimally managed to minimise costs, optimise returns and manager risks. The Ministry has established a Debt Redemption Fund to ensure that Government remains able to meet its debt obligations, especially that arising from the foreign currency denominated loans without any

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disturbances to the capital markets and Government's financial position.

With regards to PSEMAS, Government adopted a new benefits structure in 2013/2014. The cost of PSEMAS claims amounts to **N\$1.5 billion** in 2012/2013 and preliminary figures for 2013/2014 amount to **N\$1.6 billion**. For next year, the allocation for this scheme amounts to **N\$1.8 million**.

For this Programme, the Ministry is requesting an amount of **N\$2.3 billion (N\$2,267,704,000)** for 2014/2015. Support to SOEs is provided for under this Programme, amounting to **N\$420.3 million (N\$420,300,000)** for capitalisation of DBN and Agribank and for the operations of the Financial Intelligence Centre.

#### **PROGRAMME 5: PUBLIC PROCUREMENT**

This Programme covers the administration of the Public Procurement System. Parallel with the finalisation of the procurement legislative framework which will be re-tabled in this August House this year, the Ministry is developing regulations, standard bidding documents, procurement guidelines and mechanisms for performance monitoring in order to ensure a smooth transition from legislating to the implementation of that legislation, once approved by Parliament.

We have developed the database to profile suppliers and to facilitate the monitoring of compliance with empowerment provisions that we introduced. We will develop mechanisms for the e-procurement. This process will commence in 2014/2015 with the development of a system. Training is also planned for procurement staff members in all OMAs. This is to ensure that we develop procurement cadres in the Public Service.

The allocation to this Programme amount to **N\$9.2 million (N\$9,178,000)** for 2014/2015.

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**HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**PROGRAMME 6: POLICY SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

This Programme deals with the ministerial oversight and general support services. As part of capacity building, the Ministry will continue to support training and education for staff members to upgrade their capacity and improve efficiency in service delivery.

The construction of the additional offices for the Ministry has unfortunately been very slow since its commencement in 2009/2010 due to technical hiccups in the constructions works. We have, however, received assurance that works on this project will be completed in the next Financial Year.

The Ministry has commenced with the drafting of the supporting legislation to form the basis for the implementation of Public Private Partnership (PPP). A PPP Unit is being set up, and the recruitment and training of personnel for the Unit will be made during the next Financial Year.

The IT services continue to be critical for the Ministry. This activity will oversee the implementation and maintenance of all IT systems in the Ministry. In this regard, additional personnel will be recruited to ensure optimal skills for all IT systems. An IT monitoring system will be implemented to track the performance of critical IT systems and offer immediate response. This is important for effective Public Finance Management.

The Ministry is requesting an amount of **N\$264.9 million (N\$264,943,000)** for this programme for 2014/2015.

**CONCLUSION**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the details of the Programmes and activities of the Ministry of Finance are reflected Pages 82 to 91 of the MTEF Budget Document.

28 March 2014 **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 23**  
**HON NGHIMTINA**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Hon Members, I now Move that this august House approve a Budget of **N\$3.5 billion (N\$3,466,228,000)** for Vote 09 - **Ministry of Finance**. I would just like to advise that the book of estimates on Income and Expenditure would show a total figure for the Ministry of Finance that is higher than this amount because there is also provision made for statutory expenditures, which in terms of the *State Finance Act* are deemed appropriated and are, therefore, never included in the amount reflected in the *Appropriation Bill*. It is, therefore, not a mistake but only a provision to help us with the implementation without seeking appropriation because that was already granted under the Law. Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you.

Vote 23 – “**WORKS,**” **N\$675,351,000.00** for the Introduction by the Honourable Minister. Honourable Minister you have the floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members, please accept our gratitude for this opportunity to introduce, to this august House, Vote 23 of the **Department of Works** for the Financial Year 2014/2015.

Vote 23 caters for the provision of institutional facilities, office accommodation, official accommodation (housing), as well as the management and maintenance of Government properties. This Vote also renders essential and technical services to Offices/Ministries and Agencies with regard to the implementation of Capital Construction Projects on the Development Budget, the provision of standard stock and material supplies as well as printing services and the maintenance of garden infrastructure and equipment, to mention but a few.

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HON NGHIMTINA**

Honourable Members, I am please to highlight to this august House some achievements realised by the Department of Works during the period under review.

- The Department has once again successfully managed a variety of ongoing capital construction projects on behalf of Line Ministries worth in excess of N\$400 million
- The Ministry has successfully recruited qualified and experienced professionals from Zimbabwe in order to address the shortage of engineering skills in the Department of Works. Thus far, a total of Sixty Five (65) professionals have been recruited while a further Twenty Three (23) were recommended to assume duty on 01 April 2014.
- A targeted implementation rate of 80% of capital projects have been achieved for the Financial Year 2013/2014.
- Arrangements to deploy some of these Zimbabwean Professionals in the field of Architecture, Engineering, and Quantity Surveying to assist with the development of building construction projects in the Regions are far advanced.
- As part of the Ministry's understudy Programme, a Memorandum of Understanding has been amended during the Financial Year 2013/2014 to make provision for Namibians to study and obtain professional qualifications at accredited Universities in Zimbabwe. This arrangement will see local Namibians joining the Ministry to understudy Zimbabwean Professionals, thereafter they will take over the technical responsibilities.
- The Ministry during the period under review has conducted the assessment on the conditions of medical facilities in Namibia. Three Hundred and Twelve (312) Health Facilities were visited and inspected over a period of two months. A report was submitted to the Ministry of Health and Social Services indicating a condition assessment rating as well as a priority rating with cost estimates for

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**HON NGHIMTINA**

repairs and/or rehabilitation of these facilities over a period of One (1) to Five (5) years. It is clear from this Report that Government is required to invest close to N\$3.5 billion in order bring Health Facilities in the country up to standard.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the Department of Works experienced problems with occupants in official accommodation/Government flats who could not honour their municipal bills. The Department has, therefore, requested Local Authorities to discontinue the services of those tenants who accumulated amounts in arrears exceeding N\$2,000.

With regard to illegal occupants in official accommodation/Government flats, the Department of Works sought Government Attorney's Legal opinion and obtained eviction orders, which were served on the affected illegal occupants by the Master of the Court during the Financial Year 2013/2014.

The exercise on the sale of non-assigned Government houses is ongoing and in order to accelerate the process, the Department has finalised the sub-division of properties on block erven at Oshakati, Ondangwa, Katima Mulilo, Mariental, Keetmanshoop during the Financial Year 2013/2014, and continues attending to subdivisions of affected properties in Tsumeb and Windhoek. The valuers in the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement will now conduct valuations of these properties.

The Department is also addressing the issue of properties erroneously transferred to Local Authorities. During the period under review, under the Alienation Programme the Department of Works has so far sold 67 houses and generated an amount of N\$6,084,352.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, altogether Twenty-Four (24) Ministries out of Twenty-Six (26) in total have created Maintenance Units in accordance with the Maintenance Management Framework, approved by Cabinet. Hence, I again urge those Offices/Ministries/Agencies who have not yet created their own in-house Maintenance Units to do so.

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**HON NGHIMTINA**

On the allocation of official accommodation to the Government employees, I wish to inform the Honourable Members of this august House that there are no more Government accommodation (houses) available for allocation. I, therefore, request the Honourable Members to inform the officials in their respective Offices/Ministries/Agencies to withdraw from requesting such from the Ministry because the houses have already been sold to the occupants.

I now wish to present to you, Honourable Members, the Programmes that will be discharged by the Ministry of Works and Transport through the Department of Works during the Financial Year 2014/2015.

**PROGRAM 1: PROVISION OF HORTICULTURAL SERVICES TO GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDINGS AND SERVICE CENTRES**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the purpose of this Programme is to render gardening services to Government Office Buildings and service centres including planning, layout, planting, watering, fertilizing, pruning, cleaning, general maintenance, supply and maintenance of pot plants, maintenance of swimming pools and provide plants for decorations during National events.

For this Programme, I request an amount of **N\$11,559,000**.

**PROGRAM 2: PROVISION OF STORES AND PRINTING SERVICES**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the purpose of this Program is to facilitate the provision of office furniture, equipment and other materials and supplies as well as printing services to all Government Institutions, and the administering of auctioneering services for Government. The Programme also allows budgetary provision to commence with the upgrading and renovation of the Government Central Stores and Reproduction Services.

28 March 2014 **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 23**  
**HON NGHIMTINA**

For this Programme, I request an amount of **N\$31,165,000**.

**PROGRAM 3: MAINTENANCE OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the purpose of this Programme is to ensure sustainable and reliable maintenance and rehabilitation of existing Government properties and related infrastructure to the best possible standard. The conditions of Government houses and flats continues to deteriorate countrywide, in Windhoek alone an estimated investment of N\$120 million will be required at once.

This Programme is also responsible to service, maintain and/or overhaul of water pumps and electrical generator plants, as well as the design, upgrading and/or rehabilitation of existing specialised installations of boilers, cooling plants, lifts, sewer plants to ensure sustainability of the electrical and mechanical reticulation and infrastructure at government complexes.

For Programme, I request an amount of **N\$312,358,000.00**.

**PROGRAM 4: PROVISION OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, this Programme provides for the office accommodation requirements of all Ministries. Under this Programme an amount of **N\$21,186,000.00** will be required for the Operational Budget (utilities) for paying rates and taxes to Local Authorities in the amount, while **N\$116,958,000.00** will be for property rental and related charges for rental of offices accommodation for Offices/ Ministries and Agencies to ensure reasonable and adequate facilities to operate from.

The Programme further includes the purchasing of land for development, property assessment studies as well as the finalisation of the newly

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**HON NGHIMTINA**

developed electronic Asset Register and a Fixed Asset Management System.

For this Programme, I request an amount of **N\$147,965,000.00**.

**PROGRAM 5: GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION BUILDINGS  
REGULATION, COORDINATION AND SUPERVISION**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, this is a highly technical Programme of which its purpose is to successfully plan, supervise, monitor and finally hand over to Line Ministries completed capital construction projects, renovated Government buildings and suitable upgraded and properly maintained electrical and mechanical systems in buildings. The Programme is actively involved in regulating, coordinating and initiating building quality and technical standards to an average of 450 projects running concurrently during any given Financial Year.

Under this Programme Photo-Voltaic Systems for basic power, lights and hot water, are installed and/or refurbished in existing Government schools and clinics in remote areas where the National electrification grid does not reach. Documentation was completed during the Financial Year 2013/14 and budgetary provision is made in the Financial Year 2014/2015 for the installation of Photo-Voltaic Systems at government facilities in Oshana Region.

The Programme administers and regulates the Act on Professional bodies involved in the Construction Industry (Architects, Quantity Surveyors and Engineers) and supervises and monitors the construction work by contractors on Government projects including office buildings and service centres.

For this Programme, I request an amount of **N\$84,952,000.00**.

**PROGRAM 6: SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable

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Members, the purpose of this Programme is to provide administrative support services, including budgeting and accounting of personnel affairs.

The Programme also provides and manages a stable, reliable, sustainable and cost-effective ICT services.

In addition, the Programme also oversees the implementation of the Ministerial Wellness Programmes to ensure that all staff members are well informed about deceases such as HIV/AIDS and related illness.

For this Programme, I request an amount of **N\$87,362,000.00**.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, Summary: Vote 23 – **“WORKS”**

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Amount (N\$'000)</b>
<b>Provision of Horticultural Services of GRN office buildings and service centre</b>	11,559
<b>Provision of stores and printing services</b>	31,165
<b>Maintenance of Government Properties</b>	312,358
<b>Provision of office accommodation requirements</b>	147,965
<b>Government construction buildings regulation, coordination and supervision</b>	84,952
<b>Supervision and support services</b>	87,362
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>675,361</b>

In light of the Programs outlined above, I now humbly request this august House to approve the total expenditure of **N\$675,361,000** for Vote 23.

Last, but not least, I once again wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Minister of Finance, the Director-General of National Planning Commission and the entire staff members of the Ministry of Finance for their dedication in putting up an inspiring Budget for the Financial Year 2014/2015. I Thank You.

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**HON SIOKA**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you for this very short presentation.

**Vote 14 – “LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE”,**  
**N\$1,811,729,000.00** put for Introduction by the Honourable Minister of Labour.

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

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the mandate of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is to provide labour, employment and social welfare services in accordance with the Namibian Constitution.

Our country is faced with immense challenges of high unemployment, which now stands at 27.4%, low wages that perpetuated extreme income inequality and intolerable conditions of employment in some major Sectors of our national economy. We have witnessed in recent weeks with respect to on-site housing conditions and inhuman modes of transporting workers as well as wide spread vulnerability amongst the elderly and disabled persons, particularly in rural areas. Given these precarious circumstances facing our people, the role of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare has never before been more vital to the socio-economic development of our Nation.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, allow me to first highlight the main achievements of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare for the Financial Year 2013/2014 as follows:

**1. Employment**

The Ministry achieved important milestones in its strategy to effectively facilitate employment and to coordinate employment creation efforts. As a result:

- **The Second National Employment Policy Was Launched**

This dynamic policy is a product of extensive social dialogue and collaboration between the Ministry and its social partners, the employers' organisations and the Trade Unions, together with a wide range of Ministries and Agencies, State-Owned Enterprises and Civil Society institutions, which sets forth a comprehensive strategy for employment creation in key Sectors. The Policy articulates how we can create employment that is targeted in the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4) with detailed action plans for the implementation of the strategies by key role players.

- **National Employment Conference**

The Ministry has successfully organized the Employment Conference for the period 24-25 October 2013. The Conference which deliberated on the strategies to create employment was necessitated by the high rate of unemployment in the country. Key among the highlights of the Conference is that His Excellency the President has launched the National Employment Policy at the Conference. A task force was established at the Conference to oversee the implementation of the Policy. I will report on the impact of the task force in the next Financial Year End 2014/2015.

- **Launch of the Integrated Employment Information System**

The Ministry has launched a Computerized System called Namibia Integrated Employment Information System (NIEIS) in terms of the *Employment Service Act*, (Act 8 of 2011) on the 4 December 2013. Following the successful launch, the Ministry has commenced a mass registration which was carried out in all fourteen Regions to register job seekers. The system is a comprehensive database to facilitate employment of the unemployed and employment planning, to register job seekers, identify the skilled and yet unemployed with the intention to find employment for them. Employers are required to register vacancies with the Ministry for the system and are also required to employ job seekers from the system. The design of the whole process is such that it continues to match the unemployed with prospective employers, while at the same

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time registering training and education providers so that the Ministry is in position to advice job seekers where they can upgrade their skills. The registration process is on-going. NIEIS can be accessed electronically at [Namibia@work.com](mailto:Namibia@work.com)

- **Enhanced Professional Testing Services Offered by the Ministry to Facilitate Career Planning and Employment**

The Ministry employs qualified psychologists to provide counselling and supportive services for the Labour Market.

Over the Past Financial year, the Ministry has developed for the first time localised Namibian norms for Differential Aptitude Test Form L, abbreviated as DAT-L. This DAT-L in the form of a manual is now used by Psychologist and Psychological Counsellors in Namibia to test clients on their aptitude. The manual is used for career guidance purposes and selection for interview purposes. Vocational Training Centres can use the manual when selecting their learners for enrolment and also for selecting learners who wants to engage in such professional fields as Engineering, Medicine and Law. The Psychologists and Psychological Counsellors were trained on the Neethling Brain Profiling Instrument. This instrument is used to measure the thinking brain preference in different areas including the world of work. The public can come to the Ministry and get their thinking preference tested so that they know in which field they fit in terms of work. In addition, the Ministry has bought Psychometric Testing Materials for career guidance purposes. The Ministry makes these professional services available to the public.

- **Introduction of Retirement Planning Services**

Over the same period, the Ministry has developed a Pre-retirement Training Manual. This training manual is now used by Psychological Counsellors to psychologically train people to face retirement and prepare to exit the world of work. So far, four training workshops have already been conducted in Keetmanshoop and Rundu respectively, with two pilot targeted workshops conducted in Windhoek. The training is ongoing and it will be rolled out to all the regions on rotational basis as part of the

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**HON SIOKA**

Ministry's career counselling and guidance services.

**2. Promoting Harmonious Labour Relations**

In an effort to minimize the harmful industrial actions that have taken place in past years, I convened a high-level tripartite consultative conference in Otjiwarongo from the period 18-19 September 2013. At this conference, employers' and Trade Union Leaders and representatives from a variety of Sectors discussed what should be done to avert strikes and lockouts and to ensure harmonious relations and more effective resolution of disputes. The conference appointed a tri-partite committee to carry forward the recommendations for improved social dialogue and targeted measures to improve the labour relations environment. I will report on the achievements of the tri-partite committee in the Financial Year End 2014/2015.

**3. Labour Inspection**

Equally to note over the same period, the Ministry has amplified its labour inspectors from 50 to 65 and we will continue to increase staff complement in the coming Financial Year 2014/2015. This expansion of the inspectorate will lead to more workplace inspections would lay a sounder basis to prevent the eruption of formal labour disputes.

In addition, the Ministry conducted special targeted inspections at:

- **Windhoek China Town Business Establishments to both ensure legal compliance and to promote awareness of the Labour Laws.** I am pleased to announce that the Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China, in cooperation with the Ministry, has undertaken to have the *Labour Act, 2007* translated into the Mandarin language.
- **Security Sector to Ascertain Compliance with the Industry-wide Minimum Wage Agreement in that Sector.** The Inspectorate shared the results of this report with the Tender Board. Tender Board in return is obliged not to award tenders to enterprises that are not adhering to the minimum wages and other conditions at work.

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- **Retail Establishments** to ensure compliance with the Labour Act and the *Labour Amendment Act*, (Act 2 of 2012) to particularly protect workers who have been exploited through the abuse of short-term contracts and non-compliance with the statutory Basic Conditions of Employment.

In addition, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the members of the labour inspectorate were by trained on Effective Labour Inspection Systems. This gave rise to the introduction of the e-Labour System, which facilitates better data collection, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation of the inspectorate's work.

Seventy (70) labour inspectors were trained on child labour. After the training, four Focal Persons were selected to develop child labour materials by the end of March 2014.

A new specialised unit was created to investigate child labour cases.

#### **4. Promoting the Well-being of Workers**

Wellness at the workplace remains a significant foundation for the success of any organization, and sustaining employee wellbeing is therefore one of the critical success factors. On this basis, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), has embarked on an initiative aimed at strengthening national policy and legal framework conducive to the elimination of stigma and discrimination, whilst supporting workplace interventions on HIV and AIDS. In September 2013, the Ministry committed itself to adhere to the principles contained in ILO Recommendation concerning HIV and AIDS and the World of Work, 2010 (No. 200) designed to guide and assist interventions at the workplace in response to HIV and AIDS.

#### **5. Improved Social Protection for the Elderly and Disabled Persons**

The Ministry undertakes as one of its core functions the payment of social

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grants to senior citizens and people living with disability who hold Namibian citizenship or permanent residence. As you may recall in the previous Budget, the State Social Grants were increased from N\$550 to N\$600. In addition, the value of the funeral benefit plan, which provides in-kind benefits for grant recipients, has been increased from N\$2,200 to N\$3,000.

These increases have been successfully implemented.

**6. Addressing the Situation of Domestic Workers**

Last year, the Wages Commission on domestic workers submitted its Report and recommendations concerning minimum wages and conditions of employment for domestic workers. The Report was scrutinized by the Ministry's management and specialists. The Report and recommendations were submitted to Cabinet. However, the Report was referred to the Cabinet Committee on Land and Social Issues, where it is presently under consideration.

**7. Namibia at Work Radio Programme**

In response to requests for public education on the rights and obligations conferred on employers and workers by Namibia's Labour and Employment Laws, the Ministry, in cooperation with NBC, launched a weekly radio Programme entitled "*Namibia at Work*," in January 2014. This call-in Programme will not only educate the public, but will also provide a platform for social partners to discuss important issues relating to Namibia's labour market. The Programme airs every Tuesday at 18:30. I invite you to tune in.

**8. Capital Projects**

In attempt to bring services closer to the people, the Ministry has opened a much-needed office in Walvis Bay and has completed the renovations of its office in Ondangwa.

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**HON SIOKA**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, having explained how the Ministry spent the allocation of the previous Financial Year, it is now my pleasure to motivate our request for the coming Financial Year 2014/2015 as follows:

**Programme 1: Administration and Planning**

An amount of **One Hundred and Thirty Two Million, Four Hundred and Seventy Six Thousand Namibia Dollars (NS132,476,000.00)** is required to cater for the formulation of policy and provision of administrative, personnel affairs, organisational procedures and the provisions of logistics, material and equipment and transport services. It further provides other auxiliary services in addition to assisting the Minister in carrying out oversight responsibilities. The Programme further ensures capacity building Programmes for social partners and other key stakeholders to improve social dialogue and strengthen tripartism, in addition to the implementation of capital projects.

Namibia will be hosting the Special Session of the African Union (AU) Labour and Social Affairs Commission on the Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation from 21-25 April 2014. The Special Session will be attended by approximately 400 delegates from 54 AU Member States.

The Ministry enlisted the services of the International Labour Organisation to identify gaps in our national system of administration. The result is a new proposed structure that has incorporated most of the ILO recommendations. The structure is now with the Office of the Prime Minister in its final stages to approval for the Financial Year 2014/2015. Of critical importance, will be the creation of the Directorate of Labour Relations, which will promote harmonious labour relations through collective bargaining and stakeholder education.

**Programme 2. Labour Market Services**

An amount of **Seventy Four Million, Five Hundred and Twenty Two**

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**HON SIOKA**

**Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$74,522.000.00)** is required to cater for employment planning by providing quantitative and scientific information through the conducting of the labour market surveys and researches in the Namibia.

The Programme also provides vocational and occupational guidance; register job seekers and assist them to find suitable employment. It also provides services aimed at ensuring decent work, promote employment creation, productivity and reduce poverty.

The Ministry will be conducting a Skills Assessment Survey. The survey will assess the skills of Namibians and identify the gaps within which foreign nationals can be accommodated to develop framework and guidelines for free movement of Labour migration.

**Programme 3: Labour Services**

An amount of **Seventy Six Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Two Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$76,752.000.00)** is required to cater for the Implementation of and compliance with *Labour Act* of 2007 by conducting Labour Inspections, investigation of workplaces complaints and enforcement of compliance orders. Factory, boilers and elevator inspections, to ensure occupational health and safety at workplace are also conducted under this Programme. The Programme also ensure the provision of technical information and advice to social partners on compliance with legal provisions such as minimum wages and other legal provisions Labour Relations and Labour Dispute Resolutions

An amount of **Thirty Five Million, Eight Hundred and Seventy Nine Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$35,879.000.00)** is required to cater for the prevention and resolution to labour disputes and promote the orderly collective bargaining. To promote the principles of tripartism, enhance dispute resolution mechanism and procedures and established case management system. Also to promote principles of employees basic rights at work places, monitor, manage and control industrial actions in the country.

#### **Programme 4: Social Welfare**

An amount of **One Billion, Four Hundred and Sixty Six Million, Twenty Two Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$1,466,022,000.00)** is required to cater for social and economic upliftment of Namibians with the aim of reducing poverty through sufficient and sustainable safety nets. This include amongst others strengthening the survival capacities of individuals, families and vulnerable groups of the society. This Programme administers Old age grants and disability grants in accordance with the *National Pensions Act*, (Act 10 of 1992) and the Funeral Benefit to those conforming to the said Act.

Under this Programme, it is envisaged in next year to arrange tripartite social dialogue meeting on the *Basic State Grant Bill* and to have the final draft to submit the Bill to Cabinet Committee on Legislation.

Allocations to this Programme will also allow the Ministry to undertake outreach visits to the most remote areas of our country in order to raise awareness about social grants and their timely distribution thereof. This is an activity that concerns our core mission of social assistance to the most vulnerable members of our society.

#### **Programme 5: Employment Equity**

An amount of Thirteen Million, Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand (N\$13 350 000.00) is required to cater for full implementation of the *Affirmative Action (Employment) Act*, (Act 29 of 1998) by the Employment Equity Commission. The Act seeks to achieve equity, equality, fairness and elimination of employment barriers against person in designated groups. It ensures that no person shall be denied employment opportunities for reasons unrelated to ability and guarantees that workforces are reflective of the demographics of Namibia.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in conclusion, the Ministry is requesting the approval of an amount of **One Billion, Eight Hundred and Eleven Million, Seven**

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HON MUHARUKUA**

**Hundred and Twenty Nine thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$1,811,729.000)**, primarily for operational expenses aimed at expanding and improving services. The lion's share of the Budget is devoted to the provision of the social grants for the elderly and disabled persons. The Budget also includes the ongoing work for the office of the Labour Commissioner, the Employment Equity Commission and the several Directorates and Divisions, which continues the work as already described. I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. I propose that we follow the same trend with the Motivation of Votes, as all were brief and to the point. I hope the discussions will also be very brief.

Vote 13 - **“HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES,”** put for Discussion. Any discussions? Honourable Muharukua, between two and five minutes please.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Thank you, Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I rise to support Vote 13 but I want to inform this august House about the job well done by Ministry of Health and Social Services in Namibia during the past four years. I want to thank the staff of the Ministry for having listened to the people who are not working in their Ministries, particularly the Himba people for the way they handled the Cholera Outbreak last year.

When Cholera broke out in the Kunene, I came to the hospital for my own treatment, on my arrival there, I saw a car with two people dying. One of the people died in my presence. When I went there, I called the Director of the Hospital and he was not there but on leave. I called and I informed him to please instruct his staff to go to Etanga, which he did. I then told

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HON A TJONGARERO**

him to again please call the Minister in Windhoek so that he send a group to come and help the people. My Son-in-law, did that and he sent a team to go to the Region (interjection). No, do not use my minutes, I keep quite when you talk all the time.

I want to inform the Members of this august House that sometimes they criticise things that are not supposed to be criticised. Honourable Members, please let us travel to the Regions and see what other Members are doing before we come to Parliament and criticise. For almost 24 years, we have been talking about things, the community does not even understand what we are talking about because we are different from them. When somebody makes a mistake you have to correct your Colleague, when he/she has done a good thing you have to acknowledge that by saying - *thank you, you did a good thing* and this also include the Minister of Health and Social Services. I thank you and I support Vote 13.

Comrade Minister, please continue with the good work. Thank you so much.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next is Honourable A Tjongarero.

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**HON A TJONGARERO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to congratulate the Minister on a very well documented paper.

On Page 20, *Capital Development*, I do not see anything about Katutura Hospital mentioned. We know that Katutura Hospital is too old. If one repairs one thing, something else breaks and this becomes a little bit costly for the Government in the long run but I do not see anything mentioned about Katutura Hospital. When are you going to start doing something about a new Katutura Hospital, maybe demolish the whole old one and start with a new one because this old one becomes too costly for the Government to maintain.

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HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

On Page 21, **Human Resources:** I only have one question there and that is, you talked about a new intake of about 230 students, what I do not know is, this new intake of students, are they job seekers or are they potential nurses and what do you have in place to differentiate between job seekers and those who want to take care of patients? I support Vote 13. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next is Honourable Ndjoze-Ojo.

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**HON DR NDJOZE-OJO:** Thank you very much, I stand up to support Vote 13 because a healthy Nation is a wealthy Nation and unless we do that, we cannot be wealthy as we intent to grow our economy.

I want to speak particularly to your Motivation Speech on Page 22 but it is also linked to your Review on Page 26 and this is what I have to say: I wish to congratulate the Government of the Republic of Namibia through your Ministry of Health and Social Services for setting up the Cardio Centre at the Windhoek Central Hospital. That is very good and innovative, it is the only one in SADC and I hope that we are going to tap it to the advantage of Namibia so that SADC could utilise that service. I also want to particularly mention Dr Du Toit and team who have been inspiring young men and women to think about cardiothoracic, which is a very complex process of life-saving study and they are doing a good job by enthusing young people and I want you to continue thanking him and his team for what they are doing. I know that you raised some concerns on Page 26 in the Review, as challenges in that area in terms of technicians and so on but if they carry on with the work that you are doing there, I am sure we are going to address that.

I am also speaking as a mother of two sons who are in the field of medical practice, as they are both doctors, by the grace of God. They have been working in the hospital and I have seen them work until three o'clock in the morning. I know that if my sons could work like that, other people's

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HON DR NDJOZE-OJO**

sons are also working like that and I want to congratulate you for the kind of inspiration you put in young people to work and I also encourage other mothers to encourage their sons.

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**HON MEMBERS:** What about our daughters?

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**HON DR NDJOZE-OJO:** Sons and daughters, yes lovely. To encourage their sons and daughters, especially when you notice that the child is showing special aptitude for mathematics, chemistry and so on. Having said that, I want to encourage the Ministry of Education, working closely with the Ministry of Health, especially the Namibia Student Financial Assistant Fund (NSFAF) to sponsor all the Namibian children who have the potential to be doctors, irrespective of who their parents are, they should not be discriminated against. I have noticed that there is this slight discrimination about - *your mother or father is a Minister* and you saw our packages, they are nothing to write home about, that we should train our own kids. If the children have potential, they should not be discriminated against because their parents are in one position or the other.

Finally, I want to talk to the Medical School. The Medical School setup had come ten years before it was eventually set up in 2010, when we set the Foundation Stone and then it was inaugurated by the President. It has come a long way of hard work and what we did was to tap on the existing expertise in the world. We went to Germany, Finland, Ghana and we went to SADC to see what is a good practice and a good practice is where the expertise of existing doctors are tapped on to strengthen the system, and we brought in some Professors from all over the place to come and set up this school. I, therefore, just want to urge you to please ensure that the quality that was envisaged is the quality that should be maintained. We cannot afford to go below the level that is expected of that school, otherwise we would have lost it and if we strengthen it, we will become a very good story in SADC.

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HON KAURA / HON DR IYAMBO**

On the HIV pandemic, we are really encouraged and thank you, especially for the mother-to-child transmission prevention of HIV/AIDS and the intervention that you have put in place. I support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next is Honourable Kaura.

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**HON KAURA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I only have a question to the Honourable Minister.

There is something that is always upsetting when you see, for example, in The Namibian of Wednesday, "*Tumour Steals Girl's Hopes*" - a little girl of twelve years, apparently had a pimple on her face and then it developed into a tumour and the parents need N\$160,000.00 to have surgery on this type of a tumour. Now, Honourable Minister, in your Speech on Page 22, you have a special fund for the Foot and Knee Clinic at the Windhoek Central Hospital and apparently 69 patients were assisted using this special fund to get treatment in South Africa. A few years back, parents of children with these debilitating diseases like *noma*, ended up soliciting assistance from the public so that these children could undergo the appropriate surgery while we have a special fund at the Foot and Knee Clinic in Windhoek. We are dealing with adults, giving them assistance in medical care, but we do not have a special fund for children.

Honourable Minister, how long will the parents who cannot afford continue to solicit funds from the public to deal with these debilitating illnesses in children? That is the only question I have. If there is such a fund, it is fine but if there is no fund, can the Minister perhaps think of creating that special fund to deal with these types of illnesses? Thank you very much.

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HON DR IYAMBO**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next is, Honourable Dr Iyambo.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members, I rise to support Vote 13 - **HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**. I would like to refer to Page 9, on the possibility of the elimination of Malaria, to congratulate the Ministry for the effort, if one considers that we had 7,000 deaths in 1990 and in 2012, we had only four deaths. I am sorry to say - *only four* but I am speaking of the number, the efforts being made to reduce the human costs.

Honourable Minister, I only want to say that you should not relax because in some of the recent newspapers, *Efundja* is reportedly coming and of course more water will make breeding places for mosquitoes more possible. You should be prepared now because it may become difficult later on and also to work closely with neighbouring countries, particularly Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana because mosquitoes do not recognise borders. We may eliminate Malaria in Namibia but it can come from neighbouring countries.

Then I go to Page 14, on Maternal Mortality, you are saying here that the main causes of death in pregnant women in Namibia is as a result of HIV/AIDS, Blood Pressure, Prolonged Labour and Septic or Illegal Abortions. What is the main cause of death in the population of Namibia? I thought it is also HIV, how do you differentiate between the two, if you can shed light on that?

I also want you to shed light on Page 15, about Malnutrition and Pneumonia, Diarrhoea and the rest because I want to believe that Respiratory Infection should also be a cause of concern in Namibia, if that is so, whether you can confirm that.

On Page 18, that is about the Diseases Outbreaks - I want to find out

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HON DR IYAMBO**

where do we stand now with Polio, are we now a Polio free country? I remember a few years ago we were about to be pronounced Polio free but then one naughty Polio case showed up. Are we now free from it?

I also want to find out about Cervical Cancer because it is the second cause of death in women after Breast Cancer but in the world, they are speaking of vaccination against this papillomavirus. I want to find out whether the vaccine so reported is really effective or should people perhaps concentrate on circumcision because we know that the papillomavirus also dwells in papules of the male organ's skin and if people are circumcised it may as well assist in reducing the spread of Cervical Cancer.

Honourable Minister, it has been reported that there is Ebola Outbreak in Guinea, West Africa, I want to find out whether you have already alerted your personnel, particularly at the borders of our country because it only needs somebody to travel from there to here and we may find ourselves in trouble.

I want to congratulate you, Honourable Minister, on the establishment of the Spinal cord Centre, where you reported that 44 patients have been assisted as a result. This is indeed, calls for celebration. It was reported that Cuba has an effective drug against Diabetes and there was an effort made for us to obtain that drug, I want to find out whether we have in fact done so. I am asking that because Diabetes is indeed on the increase in Namibia and it should be a cause for concern.

On the Personnel Movement, Honourable Minister, I want to state that early at the beginning of our Health Services, the practice was that Private Surgery Clinics only be limited to Specialists and those General Physicians that want to go into the Private Sector should rather work under specialised doctors but today we have most Private Surgery Clinics run by General Physicians and my concern there is, how many (intervention).

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HON ULENGA**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Minister, can you finish within two minutes?

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**HON MINISTER FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Yes. Comrade Minister, I just want to say that, if that will be the trend, it is going to be very difficult for you to retain professionals that will cater for the public patients because when one doctor opens up a private clinic, he will take two or three nurses with him and that is why you find the burnout syndrome with the remaining staff that are in the hospital today. I want to see whether you cannot do anything about that.

Finally, Honourable Minister, let me just say that health is anything but simple, health is not a beauty contest, it is not like Miss Universe, it is indeed very difficult. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next is, Honourable Ulenga.

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**HON ULENGA:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. When one states that you support the Vote, I wonder whether it is taken to mean that you like the figures or you want to affirm the importance of providing money for this kind of Vote.

While I do not think I like the figures and I do not really have much to go by in terms of whether it is really sufficient or not, I think it is one of the most important Votes that we can deal with and for that matter, I would like to say I support this Vote. I have a few questions to the Minister with regard to the booklet that deals with the Review of work in the past year and then perhaps also on his Speech.

The first question is with regard to medical aid. Honourable Minister,

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HON ULENGA**

most of the patients in Namibia who visit your hospitals are State patients because they do not have medical aid for themselves and this includes everybody, young people with complicated, very expensively treatable problems have to queue up, sometimes for weeks and months. Perhaps you will say you are not the right person to address this matter, I know that it cannot just be decided by you alone but is there a way that the money that the Minister was talking about earlier on, can be used to cover a greater number of the population.

The second issue is the Malnutrition issue that you are dealing with on Pages 16, 17 and 18 of the Review. It looks like your responsibility as a Ministry is to deal with malnutrition cases when they come to clinics. Is there no way of dealing with Malnutrition before that stage because as a layman you go around in communities and you will find people who really look like they are seriously malnourished? However, I am sure these people do not go to clinics that is why they stay without being diagnosed. Is there a way of extending this kind of services from the clinics into the communities? I see that you also refer to certain community services but it does not seem to cover Malnutrition, perhaps you can shed some light on that issues.

I also want to talk about the issues that Honourable A Tjongarero touched on, I remember that in 1972/73, I was a casual labourer when this Hospital was being built so it is more than 50 years old and it is true that everything breaks down there. Somebody among the communities was asking me, *“You guys why are you building a new Parliament when you do not have any plan to build a new hospital?”* I could not give the person a satisfactory answer and by that time I did not even know whether there is a plan or no plan to build a new hospital, so perhaps it is high time that we build a new hospital then just trying to repair stuff that is breaking down when touched.

I have some more issues to raise here. I have already mentioned yesterday that the Ministry needs to be applauded on the reduction of HIV and other communicable diseases, especially the reduction of mother-to-child transmission.

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HON IILONGA**

I think the work that the Ministry and the Government has done should be applauded, it is definitely a clear indication that there has been greater commitment put in this exercise and I hope it will continue in that way until we have completely eradicated any new cases.

With Malaria, I just have a question, is there a possibility of completely eradicating the mosquito causing it? I am asking this because I understand that Malaria was prevalent in countries like Italy during the middle ages. although I do not know whether it is true, I understand that there are areas in the world right now where the anopheles mosquito used to be prevalent but it is no longer there. Is there any way that Namibia and Southern Africa can also move in that direction?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Honourable Iilonga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 13, our Vote.

I start with thanking the Honourable Minister and his staff. I just want to start with Page 14, many things have already been touched on by my Name Sake, My Senior, Comrade Dr Iyambo. I only want to touch on the delay that causes pregnant women not to come early to the nearest clinic. Comrade *Swaer*, maybe some of the delays are caused by the shortage of accommodation at our Health Facilities. We perhaps need to cater for waiting rooms when we design maternity wards where expecting mothers can come and wait, rather than just being in the open air and being bitten by mosquitoes. If we do that, it will somehow reduce the delay because they will be nearer to the clinic.

Comrade Minister, the other issue is on Page 32 of the Review of Work of the Ministry of Health and Social Services, which goes along with the

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HON KAVETUNA**

shortage. We are talking about the shortage of doctors in Namibia but when one takes a proper look, we do not really have a lack of doctors in Namibia, they are sufficient. The only thing that we need to do is to audit these doctors and their facilities for the private services they provide amounting to N\$216.00. I think we need to employ stringent measures because our doctors, especially the blacks doctors, when they complete their internship and given a green light to be on their own, the first thing they do is to open private practices, and these people depend on the Public Service Employee Medical Aid Scheme (PSEMAS). I think we need to put some measures. If there is no Law prohibiting these doctors to render services to Public Health Facilities, we should not really be having shortages. Therefore, we just need to audit them and determine what fields they are in and allocate them specific days. We will have a doctor every day and night. If there are those who do not want render their assistance, we prevent them from benefiting from the Public Service Employee Medical Aid Scheme. This is the only way we can really curb the shortage of doctors and that is my proposal.

Back to my question of every year, do you agree with me that we should concentrate more on the training of our enrolled nurses and the midwives? Because when a reasonable number complete their studies, honestly speaking, we will have dealt with the shortage problem. Thank you very much. I support Vote 13.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Honourable Kavetuna.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE,  
SPORT AND CULTURE:**

Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Allow me first to congratulate the Minister and the entire staff for preparing this Budget. You are really *“Doing More With Less.”*

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HON KAVETUNA**

The first point is on Page 24, of the Budget Motivation, on the issue of Primary Health Care. I believe that prevention is better than cure, so when we put more effort in prevention, we will lessen the burden on the Health Care System and we can also reach out to many people.

I have observed a scattered way of our approach towards this specific issue of Primary Health Care. The Ministry that I am representing, the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, is having a component of prevention. I know that the Ministry of Safety and Security under Correctional Services is also having the same function. Maybe we can have an Inter-Ministerial component where we can talk about ways of doing this, otherwise a lot of duplication will end up wasting a lot of resources.

Secondly, I agree with the Minister that nursing is the backbone of the health system in this country and all over the world. In agreeing to that, I would like to first enquire if the Directorate of Nursing Services is in place yet or not because it is only that Directorate that can assist us in making sure that nurses are well taken care of. We can identify the needs of nurses and we capacitate them as time goes on. We should even look at training them on grieving, issues of stress relief and other things so that they can deliver their services efficiently.

The other one pertains to Diagnostic Services. I have mentioned this sometimes ago that, you have somebody coming all the way from the Great Zambezi to Windhoek only for sonar related services and this person would stay like for four to five weeks in the hospital just for sonar purposes. When are we going to equip every hospital at least with sonar equipment because this is a very expensive exercise? This person has to travel all the way from Katima Mulilo just for sonar purposes and then has to stay in Windhoek for more than three weeks, which is a burden to the Ministry. If we can buy sonar equipment, this can at least lessen this burden because people can then only be referred for surgeries and more complicated treatments.

The last one is actually on education within the Ministry. In the last era we have been putting more emphasis on the issue of doctors, yes, it is

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HON MOONGO / HON KAAPANDA**

good to have them in big numbers but they cannot deliver unless if we have a very inclusive way of training. We need Occupational Therapists, we need Psychologists and at the psychiatric wards, we also need a number of specialists that can assist the Ministry. Therefore, let us try to put some balance in our training. With the number of students that we are sending to Russia to become medical doctors, let us make sure that we also send double that number to other institutions for specialised training, like Occupational Therapists and others that we need. Thank you very much. I wholeheartedly support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. Next is Honourable Moongo.

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. First of all, let me congratulate the Minister for every success because things are much better this year in our Health Facilities. Although the hospitals are outdated and the facilities are very old, they are trying their best.

However, during the past two weeks patients died at the Katutura Hospital. I would like to know whether they died because of power failure or lack of gas? They were on oxygen support so is it due to insufficient gas that was provided or what was the cause of death for these patients who died? Otherwise, I support the Vote. Thank you very much.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. Honourable Minister Kaapanda.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. Comrade

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HON KAAPANDA**

Deputy Speaker, I rise to support Vote 13 - **MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**. I would like to begin by congratulating the Minister and his entire staff for the good work they are doing for the country. Namibia has been receiving accolades and honours because of the successes this Ministry has been achieving in the area of Malaria containment as well as in the area of HIV/AIDS treatment. This is found on Page 3, whereby the Ministry gave itself a target of 90% and hitherto, they have covered 94%. This is a remarkable fit indeed and the staff of the Ministry, the nurses and doctors, need to be commended for this achievement.

The other achievement is the treatment of HIV/AIDS patients with the new approach whereby a single dose of ART Medication is now administered to patients; adults, pregnant women and older children. This treatment is simple and convenient than the previous method used, which involved a combination. Therefore, the Ministry needs to be congratulated because they keep inventing new methods of addressing HIV/AIDS.

The other thing is that the Ministry has been given or it received an honour (intervention).

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Minister, I am not against you commending the good work but just because of time management, you can put your question first and continue with the congratulations at the end.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY:** No, I did mentioned the Page number that I am making reference to.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

When it is 14:00, I should not be blamed when we have to leave, so let us

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HON TJIHUIKO**

please manage our time well. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY:** With these few words, I would like to once again congratulate the Minister and urge him to continue with his excellent job. Thank you. (*Laughter*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Next is Honourable Tjihuiiko.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Good morning, Honourable Minister of Health. Let me start by, in a way, congratulating you for your effort. Obviously some of us who are regular visitors to our local hospitals would not deny the fact that there is indeed an improvement. Not only in the facilities but also the attitude of our nursing staff. I think we need to commend you on that.

There are indeed one or two things that I want to bring under your attention Honourable Minister, and it is something that I have been talking about for the last two years. I think we need to seriously look at motivating our nursing staff and we need to look at the things that we can do best to motivate them, after having identified some problems that may affect them as human beings. I am saying this, Honourable Minister because nurses are human beings. They are parents to their kids, they are wives to their husbands and as human beings we also need to consider their safety.

I have been calling on you Honourable Minister that nurses start at 07:00, in other words they should be at their duty station at least at 06:30, considering the crime rates that we have in this country, what is the safety

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HON TJIHUIKO**

of our nurses, walking all the way from 7 De Laan from Okahandja Park, taking a taxi at 05:30/06:30 to be at the duty station at 07:00? I think this is something that we really need to look at. It will not harm us, if we really consider providing nurses with transport. It was done in the past and I think it can be done. It will be money well spent because we cannot continue complaining about the safety of our people and yet we are putting the lives of our nurses that are more than anybody else on the line by being at bus stops and taxi ranks at 05:00 in the morning. That is one point, Honourable Minister. I have been saying this for the last two years and I will continue saying it as long as I am here.

The second one, Honourable Minister is that, with regard to the uniform of our nurses, I have also noticed that the colour of the uniform is not the same. I do not know whether it is something that was done purposely because the badge colour should be red and blue but the red and blue differs. The Honourable Deputy Minister of Justice mistook me for a prisoner when he found me in the restaurant, apparently because of my nice uniform but it is not the same with the ones worn by prisoners, mine is nicer (*Laughter.*) That is the same thing with the uniform of the nurses, it is the same blue and red badge colour but blue and red that is not exactly the same. We need to have the correct uniform, Honourable Minister, I know that resources may not permit at the moment but let us consider and put it in our Budget.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am trying to rush through the points, the third one is something that has been bothering me and that is the manner in which we are trying to motivate our nurses. Honourable Minister, I will be very honest with you, I do not like the way the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education are ambushing nurses and teachers around with cameras. If we want to do that to our teachers and nurses, it must be done to everybody. I do not know what the reaction of the Ministers will be if one day they find His Excellency the President hiding in the bushes somewhere close to their Ministries, watching people going in and going out. That is not motivating but, in fact, demotivating because you are insulting respectful people, people who may be of your age by trying to expose them to the public, what do you want to achieve by that? I think that will be more demotivating to our nurses.

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**HON ANGULA**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, I just want to call on the Honourable Minister and say, if we want to motivate our nurses through exposing them, let us do it in a proper manner. We have structures, there are Directors at the hospitals, people who are responsible for making sure that people are on duty at the time that they are supposed to be there and leave their offices at the time that they are supposed to leave. That should not be the responsibility of the Minister.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. Next is Honourable Angula.

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**HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am taking this unusual action of taking the Floor on the Budget of the Ministry of Health and Social Services by firstly congratulating the Minister for putting emphasis on the issue of nutrition. Nutrition is the basic building block for good health. It starts with expecting mothers - the lactating mother and the baby and, especially for the first 1,000 days in the life of a child.

I commend the Minister for taking concrete clinical action to try to curb malnutrition. However, I think that we have to go beyond clinical treatment of malnutrition. We must start with awareness building to make sure that every expecting mother reports at an antenatal clinics for treatment so that if this mother is malnourished or having some problems like anaemia she can be treated before the child is born. The second step is to encourage breastfeeding so that a child should at least be breastfed for the first six months and continue to be breastfed for a whole year while also supplementing with micronutrients at the same time. I think we should start from there otherwise we are not going to deal effectively with this issue of malnutrition if you just wait for a malnourished child to come to the clinic. Let us start at community level and I want to congratulate the Minister for having embarked upon training community health workers. I want to believe that these community health workers should be

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HON DR AMWEELO**

the foot soldiers in fighting malnutrition in our villages.

Malnutrition obviously goes hand in hand with the exposure to hunger and sometimes when a child dies of malnutrition, we regard malnutrition as a disease. It is not exactly a disease, it is just hunger. Lack of proper food, lack of micronutrients and similar issues. I would, therefore, like to urge the Minister to emphasise more action at community level rather than just at clinical level. I congratulate you and will give you all my support to make sure that malnutrition becomes history in our country. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Honourable Dr Amweelo, but before you take the Floor, I hope the Honourable Members who left the House will come back, otherwise there is a likelihood of a lack of quorum. Honourable Amweelo.

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**HON DR AMWEELO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the Minister and his staff for a job well done in their Ministry. Many things were already mentioned and since I do not like repeating what has already been said, I am only going to mention two things.

Honourable Minister, we experience a lot of problems with road accidents in our country and one always want to help people who are affected by these accidents but find yourself lacking the necessary protective equipment. We maybe need to have a policy that ensures that each and every car carries a First Aid Kit so that if anything happens people can help themselves.

The second point is to ensure that there are pocket gloves and masks in order to assist others who are experiencing problems while protecting yourself from being infected with HIV. I think having and pocket mask and gloves as well as a First Aid kit will help increase our safety on the

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HON ISAACKS**

road, however, we need to have a policy governing road safety. Otherwise, I support Vote 13. Thank you very much.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**

Thank you. Next is the Honourable Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy, Honourable Isaacks.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** Thank you Honourable Deputy and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Allow me to first of all advance my support to this very important Vote and commend the Minister and the entire staff for their achievement in the reduction of several diseases in the Health Sector of Namibia. I am, however, only having a slight concern when it comes to the cleanliness of the hospitals. I can recall that last year during my contribution to the Debate, I mentioned that we must make Katutura Hospital the Health Centre of Excellence. Let me also prefer to go to Katutura Hospital instead of going to the Windhoek Central Hospital or to Medicity.

On cleanliness of the hospitals, those who are responsible for cleaning, whether entrepreneurs or staff members, need to pull up their socks. I will not be able to eat under such conditions if I am admitted to Katutura Hospital.

Lastly, I am having a question to my Comrade Minister of Health. Comrade Minister, I can recall that you made a Ministerial Statement last year on the issue of high blood pressure treatment that was introduced and I believe several patients have been put on trial. I just want to find out, what are the achievements made in this regard?

With those few remarks, Comrade Minister, I am supporting the Vote. Thank you.

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HON JANKOWSKI**

**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. I would like to remind you that the E-Control Mechanism will continue. Three to five minutes, avoid repetition and thirdly, we are in Committee Stage, only concentrate on detailed discussions and not general discussions. Honourable Jankowski.

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**HON JANKOWSKI:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members, allow me to congratulate the Medical Sector for improving all the way in making a difference in the lives of the people in Namibia. I want to make a special request to care for our elders and for people with disabilities in our communities within a radius of, say, 3 to 5 kilometres, where we can place at least a nurse to look after the people, give them tablets on time in order to reduce the burden of transport to remote clinics. That will be good for them, just a small building where they can go for any minor treatment.

The other thing I would like to say is that we should respect our nurses and doctors. We should respect them and appreciate what they are doing for us because they are just human beings and sometimes we as patients are so rude to them and we can expect to be paid back in the same way we address other people. Let us show respect, be responsible and show some love to our nurses.

I would like to know if there is any problem here, I do not know if I should ask for protection, please.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Please go ahead. Order!

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HON RIRUAKO**

**HON JANKOWSKI:** I support the road map that provides a strategic long-term framework for the Ministry's human resources development, Health Facilities upgrading and establishment of specialised services or institutions because that places us on the right track.

With these few words, I would support our Health Vote. Thank you.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chief.

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**HON RIRUAKO:** There is no way out, if you are fair, you are going to get fair treatment and if you are unfair, you get unfair treatment. We are here to make a choice.

On Vote 13, I happened to be in my new In-law's office and he was not there but somewhere, somehow my In-law is here. What happened is that I found the Permanent Secretary in the office and I walked through the grass around the hospital. The grass is not only at this hospital but at most of the other hospitals you visit, the grass grows to the same height. Perhaps there is a good reason why the grass is growing in such a fashion.

That is unfair to a gentleman who takes care of himself and let his Permanent Secretary to do what he likes. That is a fact. We cannot walk through the grass to the hospital or to offices of the Minister of Health. That is not the way we ought to be because we expect an office atmosphere. It is not you but your workers there. You are suppose to give them orders on what needs to be done and how. We cannot grow up like this all the time and continue to be the same way. There should come an end to that kind of character.

Health wise it is affecting the children who visit the hospital because if the hospital looks that way we are going to behave that way too. Simple as such.

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HON DR IYAMBO**

Let me now come to the relation between the doctors and patients. There must be a kind and lovely way of understanding each other between the two people. You hit the person with your fascinating character. If you mistreated the patient he not only suffers mentally but also physically. What kind of doctor are you to a patient who sometimes is in a rush to leave. That is not fair.

I support the idea of treating the nurses well but they also have to behave when they visit patients. It is a two-way street, a give and take. That is how we are suppose to behave. We need to have patience, especially with the HIV/AIDS patients. We should not discriminate them but take care of them. Why does the Government not tell the people how to behave towards those patients? We are supposed to be close to ourselves, that nature should be there. Whether you are suffering from cancer or any other sickness, you need to be respected. A sickness is sickness and it affects everybody. We must respect ourselves and respect other people. That misbehaviour is not fair.

Honourable Amweelo, what you said is correct but even with your bare hands, you know how to treat an injured person as a doctor without Cabinet endorsing that.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Chief your microphone is off, your time is up. Thank you very much. Honourable Dr Iiyambo. Two to three minutes, please.

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**HON MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, not even three minutes . I only want to ask the Honourable Minister, maybe it is a conflict of interest but very important because it was agreed at the Party Congress - the need to establish a minimum health package in the Health Facilities, clinics, health centres and district hospital because those are the very first health points, where people, particularly in the rural

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HON NGHIDINWA**

areas will go. Of course in addition to that, is there sensitisation of the public on health matters. How far are we in this particular respect? Thank you.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Nghidinwa, three to four minutes.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Yes, just two minutes. Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I rise to support Vote 13, the Vote for all of us because of health for all, and congratulate the Honourable Minister, My *Tate*, the management and my colleagues there for the job well done, especially those nurses who are working in private hospitals are doing well. I would like the young nurses to emulate those nurses in the private hospitals. Comrade Minister, I am commending the new Programmes: the Assistant Pharmacy Programme, Community Health Programme and even the revival of the Nursing Diploma Programme which is now ongoing. Comrade Minister, I think that one will make a difference in our Health Sector and I would like the Honourable Minister to revisit the issue of nurses who want to pursue further studies but have to resign and pay tuition fees themselves. It discourages nurses who want to take their nursing profession to the next level since there is a difference between the nursing profession and other professions. That is why I would like you to revive that Comrade Minister. I humbly appeal, if it is possible, to introduce the Programme of Assistant Social Workers as the Nation experiences social problems in our various societies.

We can have the Assistant Social Worker Programme and when they want to go to a higher level, they need to complete the Professional Social

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HON DR KAMWI**

Worker Programme. That way we are going to attend to the problems of Gender-Based Violence and others we are faced with. Thank you, Comrade Minister.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Minister, the Floor is yours for the response.

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Thank you very much indeed, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members, before I respond to all the questions put to me or to the Ministry of Health and Social Services, permit me to inform you and the Nation that two days ago, to be specific, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2014, the Health Sector made another milestone - Namibia became the first country on the African continent to have introduced Nucleic Acid Testing for Blood Safety, something that you would only find in Europe, not even in South Africa. (*Applause*)

This is what my neighbour here was trying to show the Honourable Members. When we give blood as a donation through Namibia Blood Transfusion Services, in many instances this blood, if not well scrutinised, well taken care of, may end up contributing to even more serious diseases, for example, HIV itself, Hepatitis B or C, etcetera. However, what I am trying to say here is, with Nucleic Acid Testing for Blood Safety, this is the highest standard in terms of measures for preventing any other obscurity that may occur in terms of contamination. This is only in Namibia, on the African continent.

I want to thank you Honourable Members, for the keen interest that you have in the health of fellow Namibians.

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HON DR KAMWI**

To be specific on the questions, *Honourable Muharukua*, My Mother-in-law, I want to thank you immensely. It is true what you said that you were the first one to sound an alarm to us or to give us some information that something is wrong at Etanga and then we dispatched a team that went there.

*Honourable Tjongarero*, I cannot thank you more. Firstly, with the provision of a specialist that you facilitated, the contribution that you have made together with Honourable Dr Ndjoze-Ojo was immense, Honourable Members.

Honourable Tjongarero, has made a contribution by first producing a specialist radiologist whom she sponsored all the way. For that, we are enormously grateful and the same applies to Honourable Ndjoze-Ojo.

On the questions of human resources, whether they are job seekers? What we have done this time around, given our experience that we train them and then they jump out and get in to the Private Sector, we decided this time around to interview them. We have a selection criterion. They went through a rigorous exercises and those who went through the interview, whom we regarded that they take nursing as a calling than job seeking, we bonded them.

*Honourable Dr Ndjoze-Ojo*, I thanked you already. However, in terms of the Medical School, I think what people have been reading through the media should be taken as teething problems. Those are teething challenges in a new Institution such as the Medical School of Namibia. We are working around the clock, we have put a Committee in place that is composed of three institutions, that is UNAM, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry Health. They are looking into this matter. We are reliably informed that the Committee has done its work and soon we will get a Report on the way forward and indeed, in terms of the Professors, we cannot thank you more for your contribution and that of education, in particular.

*Honourable Kaura*, thank you for the support, however, in terms of the information that you want to know, I am on record in this Chamber giving

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HON DR KAMWI**

information that we have a special fund. That special fund is for all Namibians irrespective of their age. In fact, in the case of the first *noma* disease that we attended to, you may wish to know that that child was in fact not even a Namibian citizen. That child was in fact an Angolan national and yet we attended to her in terms of the WHO international Laws and Regulations. The special fund is there. It is for all Namibians but by and large, we would often see it on television or read in the newspapers, at times there is not even information provided as to where this child can be traced but I wish to reiterate again to fellow Namibians that yes, indeed, a special fund is in place. The Foot and Knee Clinic - yes, is in place.

*Honourable Dr Nicky Iiyambo*, My Mentor, you went at length providing very valuable information for all of us. We thank you for your support and for your continued advice and wisdom. Malaria elimination calls for amongst others; strengthening of border collaboration. We are doing our best and with the support of the Government, I think we will get there but as you rightfully said, the challenge remains that of natural calamities, like in the case of climate change which we are experiencing here in Namibia and elsewhere, unless we have the maximum support from our neighbours, especially our northern neighbour, we may not win what we want to achieve but we seem to be on course, where we are. We will do our best not to relax, thank you.

On maternal deaths, yes, HIV/AIDS is the major cause of death indeed, following our studies and from the surveys that we are conducting. AIDS is now number one in terms of causing deaths and you are right in the case of what is reflected on Page 15 concerning Respiratory Tract Infection, it is one of the killer ailments in Namibia. Where do we stand with Polio? I would like to inform the Nation that the WHO the World Health Organisation has already cleared Namibia. Namibia is now free of Polio and certified by the World Health Organisation. (*Applause*)

With regard to Cervical Cancer - papillomavirus, for the first time this year, we are going to introduce this vaccine, My Senior Colleague seems to be well informed. According to plans, all being equal, come April, we will introduce this vaccine. From studies carried out, and with

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information from the WHO, it looks like once we put it in place it may save the situation. In case of the Ebola virus, we remain extremely concerned at the Health Sector but we have put in place measures. Dr Vries continues sharing the national emergency information and working together with the WHO on how to prepare ourselves. For now, we stand ready, however, it is not an easy virus.

We should just keep our fingers crossed and for those who travel, please let us avoid getting there but if by any chance you get there, please keep us informed as soon as possible on your arrival at the airport so that we can respond in kind and advice in terms of the way forward. The officials are well informed. Thank you, on the spinal cord.

In relation to diabetes, yes, we are working together with Cuba. We are using their magic drug, still not on a large scale but on an experimental basis. Dr Katjita, a specialist, is heading that study.

On the personnel movement, private surgery – it is a matter for concern, you are right. The mushrooming of private consulting in the country remains a concern for us because they are taking our most valuable, most valued registered nurses but I wish to give information to My Senior Colleague that we are working around the clock on this one. In fact, with the *Public Health Bill* - that is on its way, it will be addressed and you would be given an opportunity to make a contribution to this Bill.

GPs are not supposed to be coming up with surgeries. What is happening is something that we do not recommend but there is a loophole in the sense that we do not have a piece of legislation that prohibits them not to do it, however, I am just warning them – it is a matter of time. There is a possibility that, come June this year, that piece of legislation will be introduced in this Chamber. I want to thank you for the way you concluded by saying – “*health is not a beauty contest.*” I cannot agree more with you.

***Honourable Ulena***, you were right on medical aid, he is not even here. We do not administer the medical aid but we are working together with

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the Social Security Commission and the Ministry of Labour, trying to look at the possibility of universal health coverage. With regard to the issue of malnutrition that he raised, this issue of malnutrition is a joint responsibility that cuts across a number of Ministries including that of Education, Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Agriculture, Regional and Local Government but I am so happy to inform him, if he did not know, that there is a Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of the office of the Right Honourable Prime Minister and I will come to that when I will be responding to Honourable Nahas Angula. We raised this already and Cabinet supported us on it.

Secondly, I also wish to inform the Honourable Member that we have a roadmap in place which I already indicated in my Motivation Statement that this was approved by Cabinet in relation to the areas of hospitals, and here I forgot to share with Honourable Dr Iiyambo that the roadmap that we have put in place, had responded to the SWAPO Party Congress Resolution. All the resolutions that were to be addressed by the Health Sector had already been addressed in our roadmap, including the Regional Referral Hospitals. Every Region will have its own Regional Hospital.

On how much is budgeted for Katutura Hospital, I did not have the specific amount in terms of the whole amount other than the renovation that caters for the ailing water pipes and the sewer system that amounts to a sum of N\$40 million, but there is another amount that is budgeted for both the Windhoek Central and Katutura Hospitals. You may also wish to know that, to address the issue related to overcrowding, we have decided to establish another new District Hospital for the Khomas Region and the Windhoek City Council had already given us a plot. Just last week, the Permanent Secretary and the team had gone out to see this plot. Even though it is not an easy exercise, we think that in a matter of two to three years from now, we will have a District Hospital for Khomas. Similarly, that goes with Ondangwa. We are going to have another new District Hospital for Ondangwa but for Nkurenkuru Hospital, the foundation will start this year.

The Question on Malaria was whether we can eradicate mosquitoes. Yes,

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mosquitoes can be eradicated but it is such an expense exercise.

It will also be good to know that here in Namibia, we have not eradicated but we have eliminated *Anopheles Gambiae Sensu Stricto* and we have eliminated *Anopheles Funestus*. Those are Malaria Vectors, which transmit Malaria. We are only left with *Anopheles Arabiensis*. This is another major vector mosquito which you only find on the other side of Angola but with cross border arrangements, we think we may eliminate all these three major mosquitoes but not in terms of eradicating. We may not eradicate as long as the northern border still have challenges because we do not have a standing Programme addressing residual spraying in order to control and reduce mosquito density on the other side that we are having on this side of Namibian.

***Honourable Ilonga, Swara***, on maternal death - thank you. I just want to inform you that there is an ongoing dialogue between the Central Regional and Local Authorities in order for these Institutions to consider establishing shelter for expecting mothers. As of now we only have a very few. However, if this can be introduced in all the District Hospitals, it may go a long way in addressing the challenges related to long distances.

On the attraction and retention of medical doctors; again, you are dead right. The Public Health Law, as I said, is on its way and this is where this will be addressed because it will make a provision for national service for at least three years when they were wholly sponsored by Government or alternatively, for all the years that a medical student or any other field of study they undertook using Government Financial Resources. We will seek your support on that one.

On bonding for nurses, for the training that we have introduced, all the students who are taking a Diploma in Registered Nursing and Midwifery signed a contract with us agreeing that we will have to deploy them in any part of Namibia where the need arises. They signed for a bond.

***Honourable Kavetuna***, thank you. Page 24, on prevention, I cannot agree more with your proposal. You are indeed right. About the Sonar, this is a

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good wish and it is our wish. I wish every District Hospital in the country can have Sonar Equipment but we are faced with challenges in terms of competing priorities, not only in the Ministry of Health and Social Services but the Government at large. However, once funds are made available, we think this is the way to go. On training - yes, all the students that you heard we sent to Russia and Zambia, will be trained in different fields of Public Health. They will have to specialise in some of the areas that you indicated, be it psychology etcetera.

*Honourable Moongo*, as always - *someone who died in Katutura*, it is most unfortunate Honourable Member, I was not even informed of this person. I do not even know whether what you are rightfully saying is the true cause of death. For me it remains a serious allegation.

Honourable Kavetuna, I left one thing on the medical equipment deployment. We have a total of 50 students whom we are sending to Zambia to go and specialised as medical engineers and technicians. They will be departing towards the end of this month.

*Honourable Kaapanda*, My Neighbour, thank you very much for your support indeed. Just for the information of fellow Namibians, this is not an issue of self-praise but I want to say, the WHO last year invited three countries and Namibia was one of the three countries. It was Namibia, South Africa and Ruwanda that were selected to go and address this issue of - *can we go for a single dose*. It was in Washington. We deliberated over it and I am grateful to say this is the result – *the single dose* is the way to go.

*Honourable Tjihuike*, first of all, thank you for the support. We are seeing a bipartisanship in this Chamber with regard to the Health Sector. You touched on an area of renovation and for Katutura, as I said, we have budgeted for ongoing water reticulation and electricity to the tune of N\$40 million, however that is not all, most of these infrastructures, especially that of Katutura, Windhoek Central and Oshakati have been there for well over 40 years and unfortunately, we did not put in place a Maintenance Programme but we are working around the clock on that.

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On the transportation of nurses, for your information, nurses are receiving transport allowance. If we introduce it, it will mean double allowance and we may be in trouble with the Public Service Commission. This is something that we need to look at. With regard to the uniforms, I am pleased to inform the Honourable Members and the Nation at large that we at the Health Sector remain extremely concerned too but it is one of those areas where I am pleased to inform the Nation that very soon we will receive our uniform. Last year, the Permanent Secretary and Team went to China and we engaged some people there. The uniform is ready in about two weeks. (Interjections) it is not that one.

Let me continue to give information - in two weeks from now, the Permanent Secretary and Team will be leaving for Beijing to go and look at this consignment before it will be dispatched. As if I knew that this question would come up, I demanded to have the samples yesterday. The Permanent Secretary, I do not see him but he is around here, will be leaving for Beijing to have a look at the consignment which is ready. They are just going to see whether this meets our requirements.

We had gone through all our 35 District Hospitals including the three Intermediate Hospitals and the National Hospitals to take the measurements of the sizes of all our staff, including the medical doctors, pharmacists and of course, my able and efficient nurses. All of them. Very soon they will have their new uniforms.

Regarding the issue of the cameras, when we go out there to put our staff on the spot, it is one of those things that one may wish to put out there. It is arguably one of the best methods. Let me give you our own experience in the Health Sector. The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister is here, I started it in Rundu. On day one, if you watched that, there were a total of 55 late comers and those late comers were not say 5-15 minutes late but some were as late as up to two hours. I went there last year in December, and I went there this year and there was no single late comer in Rundu Intermediate Hospital. From there I went to Katima Mulilo and on the first day there were two Supervisors who were late. One Supervisor was as late as one hour fifteen minutes and the other Supervisor was as

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late as one hour forty-five minutes. When they arrived, they found a team of their Supervisors waiting there. You know what I said? I said to the two Supervisors – *please assist me to help your team here to come early because arriving as late as one hour forty-five minutes is robbing the Government at daylight, this is simply unacceptable and mind you we work with emergencies.* Did they give a word of advice to their team? They did not. After Rundu this year, just as I did last year, I went to Katima Mulilo and were they late? Not a single one was late. I have done this throughout the country

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Minister, please wind up.

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I am trying to respond to the questions. I am not outside.

What I am trying to say is that I had actually been encouraged to do so by some of my principals whose names I will not mention because it is yielding results. I leave it to the general public.

*Honourable Nahas Angula*, Sir, I cannot thank you more for your immense support to the Health Sector, especially with regard to your most cherished goal of eliminating malnutrition in Namibia. We thank you enormously for what you are doing for NAFIN. We will continue following your advice. We will continue doing that. You may wish to know that we have a Programme, exclusively for breastfeeding. When it comes to creating awareness of breastfeeding, we have put that in place. We are also doing our level best in the training of Community Health Workers.

*Honourable Amweelo*, you made a contribution on road accidents - with road accidents, First Aid Kit and the Protection Gear, that rest with the MVA.

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HON DR KAMWI**

*Honourable Isaacks*, thank you. However, in terms of cleanliness, you know, when some people in this country, and I always use some people, when we criticise blanketly, we must know that negative contribution demotivates. Be specific, say Katutura Hospital. You come from //Karas, when last did you visit Keetmanshoop for example? Keetmanshoop Hospital is one of the cleanest hospitals that we have in the country. You can compare that to the rest of the hospitals that we have in the south, including Erongo - whether you talk about Walvis Bay, Swakopmund, Omaruru, Arandis, Karibib or Usakos, it is there in the Presidential Commission of Inquiry. Go and read it. These are hospitals which are commended, including hospitals like Katima Mulilo Hospital -when you say that hospitals are filthy.

Honourable Ulenka, you heard it from His Excellency the President, it cannot be better than that. Honourable Isaacks take note of the Policy for Health Care Delivery Services in this country which was introduced by My Mentor in 1990 through the Primary Health Care approach and we are expected to make a contribution as Members of Parliament, what are we doing?

*Honourable Jankowski*, thank you very much. There are some initiatives to improve the welfare at Directorate level, especially in terms of outreach. The health extension workers whom we introduced, we think will provide multiple services including rehabilitation and caring for the elders.

*Honourable Riruako*, grass growing around hospitals - we now have a loan mower which is pulled by a tractor. We have put that in place. If you go there now, you may not find the grass that you are talking about. It is right at the Headquarters. We welcome your comments related to the behaviour.

*Honourable Nghidinwa*, I will respond to this together with Honourable Kavetuna's question. A Directorate for Health is within our restructuring and our restructuring draft is with the Public Service Commission. Once it is approved, it will be there. On the introduction of Assistant Social

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HON KATALI**

Workers, this is something that we can work on. Overall, I want to thank you all.

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

Honourable Katali, what is the problem?

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

The Honourable Minister did very well but there is one very important issue that I would like to follow up. It is of recent that the Ministry of Education has taken a policy that all uniforms of learners in schools must be manufactured in Namibia. Now with the unemployment in our country among the youth, we are now having the uniform of nurses being ordered from China.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Order! Honourable Ministers, Honourable Members, order please. Honourable Minister, just one minute.

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** If this is already a done deal, I think it must be the first and the last. With the others, I think we must build capacity in-house so that we can manufacture the uniforms of our nurses. Maybe we can order material but we must manufacture them here. I think we have the capacity to do that. I thank you.

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HON DR KAMWI**

**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Chief Ankama, one minute.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I would like to support Vote 15. You have done very well in terms of the energy supply and security.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Order please, Honourable Members. I will only allocate two minutes for the second round of contribution.

Who wants to talk on health? Do you want to say something on health, Honourable Esau? Point of Order, Deputy Prime Minister.

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**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER:** The Vote of the Health Ministry has already been adopted, you cannot take everybody back to the Ministry of Health. We have to start with Mines and Energy, please.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister but there are some people saying they want to contribute. Honourable Minister, just reply to Honourable Katali.

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**HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:** Thank you. With all due respect, I think Honourable Katali has a point. I

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HON DR ANKAMA**

finished but there is a need for a response. I was trying to respond in pieces.

In fact, we are not just going to be ordering all the way from there, these are specialised areas. The first order is already made because we wanted to address the challenge that we are facing right now but we are going to bring in the material and once it is in the country this year, a tender will be put out to allow all those who may meet the requirements to go for it. That is the way forward. We are not just going to import them.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. We have already adopted Vote 13.

Vote 15 – “**MINES AND ENERGY,**” put for Discussion. Honourable Chief Ankama.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I already said I would like to support this Vote wholeheartedly.

In fact, you have fulfilled all your promises, the promise to electrify all schools has almost been fulfilled but I have a few concerns. My number one concern is the regular tripping zone - regular tripping meaning power outages that has been persisting many times and this has a bearing cost on the businesses and consumers at large. This also encourages the Private Sector to generate their own power, which is a serious issue.

Secondly, I would like to say, while we are talking about the energy scarcity, do we not perhaps think solar energy production and wind energy production would alleviate the problem? It may be of assistance there. I

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HON IILONGA**

am currently looking at Page 3. So far we have been talking about the establishment of factories to produce voltaic modules and also power generation plants.

On the Programme that is facilitating the acquisition of solar products, do we currently have anything in place that would facilitate the production of the solar voltaic modules? Do we also have any plant that is generating power energy or wind energy? I felt that we should think seriously on a Programme that would incorporate a curriculum within the VTCs. I do not know what you are thinking as a Ministry but let us think about the VTCs. Maybe we could incorporate subjects that would enhance or equip Namibians with skills to produce solar products within their curriculum, that would help brighten up the villages in the traditional homesteads like your house, my house and any other person's house. Lights that would just be energised by the by the sun during the day and lit up during the evening. I have seen smaller types in shops. These are very expensive for Namibia where we have abundant sun energy.

Maybe we should think along this line so that we can produce solar energy while we are working on this revolving fund or revolving programme to help Namibians access solar products. We should perhaps in the meantime work on the production systematically until we perfect it.

Then lastly, I would like to look at, when you acquire (*microphone turned off*).

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Ilonga.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** I rise to support Vote 15 - MINES AND ENERGY.

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HON LUCKS**

Comrade Katali, through the Honourable Chairperson, I just want to find out something. I think there is a solar revolving fund that provides assistance to acquire solar energy products and I just want to find out if poor Iilonga wants to apply for a loan he would qualify or are there certain criteria to be followed? I support the Vote and I am the last one.

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

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**HON LUCKS:** Thank you, Deputy Chairperson. Firstly, thank you for your very short and to the point Motivation Honourable Katali. It was very good.

I have three points that I would like to raise. The first one is concerning the precarious power situation in Southern Africa.

At this stage a lot of our electricity is imported from neighbouring countries and those are countries that have power shortages. Do you not think it is time that we implement the system of feed-in tariffs for the whole Nation of Namibia and to introduce the system of independent power producers?

If you take, for example, the cost and the time involved to put up a big power station, it takes many, many years and it costs billions of dollars of money, considering how much it cost and how long it takes to put up solar panels on, for example, the roof of your home. During the time it takes to construct the power station, you will literally have thousands of small installations being set up by independent power producers. If we have a system of feed-in tariffs, these people could produce power for the country, within the country. We are blessed with a lot of sunshine and in addition to that, Namibians could start to earn money from that. That is the first one.

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HON SWARTZ**

The second point I would like to raise is the situation of our Namibian fuel retailers - our service stations in this country. If you look at the service stations that sell fuel to the public out there, whether it be Shell, Engen, Puma, Total, name them, these are all foreign companies. We are buying our fuels from foreign companies and the profits from the sale of it will go somewhere to other Nations. When are we going to see Namibian fuel retailers, fuel service stations that are owned and run by Namibians, that sell fuel to our people? When are we going to see that? When are we going to see independent fuel retailers, where a person can put up his own service station, buy fuel through, for example, NamCor and sell the fuel to the public? That is the second point.

The last point I would like to make is, when are we going to have the fuel price and, especially the diesel price deregulated. Deregulation means, there is a maximum that can be charged for the price, but different retailers, different service stations could sell for a lower price. If you deregulate, you have a situation where you create competitiveness, different service stations can lower the price and in the end, it will benefit each one of us. When are we going to look into a situation where we could perhaps deregulate the price of fuel?

Those were my few questions. I thank you, Honourable Minister.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Swartz.

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**HON SWARTZ:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to congratulate the Minister on a very short and, as what the previous Honourable Member said, to the point, Motivation.

However, I want to ask the Honourable Minister a question on one point

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HON MOONGO**

on Page 3 in connection with Rural Electrification. Due to the fact that we do have enough experienced contractors, what is the possibility of prioritise our schools in the Zambezi, north east, north west and north?

We went to the Zambezi Region in January and there is a certain school where the pupils' pass rate was 90% despite the lack of electricity and I asked the Headmaster how the school manage to get that pass rate and he said they stop studying in the evening but worked very hard during the day. Most of the schools in the Zambezi and Ohangwena that we visited do have the line in place already, they only need someone to connect them to the power source. The contractors who are there must first accommodate our schools because most of those schools do have computers but the children cannot use those computers due the lack of electricity.

Comrade Minister, let us first look at our schools and accommodate our schools like in //Karas, all the schools are with electricity. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you very much. On the last page of his Motivation, the Honourable Minister indicated that the national connection policy is about to be tabled in this House and I appeal to all of the people here to reject it because it is selective and the Law here in Namibia prevents discrimination.

These notorious companies that are milking the poor, only want to enrich themselves. How can we adopt a policy that reimburses the few and then leave all the other people out? This is selective and the Law of selectivity

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HON NAMBAHU**

is prohibited in Namibia. It should be rejected. With that said, I do not support this Vote.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I also rise to support my Colleague here but I only have one question to ask. When it comes to these mining companies declaring dividends, do we have a mechanism in place that can help us establish, when they apply for the licence or start operating, roughly, how much to expect to be declared as dividends or do we just leave it to the market forces and then they say - *this time the price was this and then we borrowed this money from there, we are still repaying and as a result we cannot declare dividends*, or is there a mechanism because, I for one, still feel that we are receiving a raw deal as far as our minerals are concerned.

I do not know as to when we are going to have a Mining Industry in place because what I see happening now is just digging and ferrying out of the raw material and nothing else. We are over dependent on diamonds but for all the other minerals, I do not see much coming in and I would like to see much capitalisation in this area. I want us to have a formula in place so that we do not just wait to be given what we are given and without exactly verifying whether what we are given is fair. I am speaking under a point of correction because I am not an expert in this area but my instinct tells me that we are not getting a fair deal. With those few words, I support your Vote Comrade.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Limbo.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION VOTE 15  
HON LIMBO / HON KATALI**

**HON LIMBO**: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. On Page 3, the Honourable Minister talks about the solar revolving fund, which is a very good move but my problem here is that I had an experience in the Zambezi Region sometime back where there were problems with the technicians. Maybe the Minister or the Ministry at large must see to it that these technicians are well trained because some people want to purchase solar systems but they do not seem to have qualified technicians to help them on time.

Otherwise, I do support the Vote but I just wanted to point out that problem in that part of the country.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE**: Thank you very much. Honourable Minister please respond.

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY**: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and thank you Honourable Members for your questions which mostly require clarity and I am gladly prepared to provide that.

*Honourable Ankama*, on the regular trips, yes, there are some problems with regular trips but if you look in my Speech, there is a paragraph where I mentioned that we have given CENORED and NORED a loan from the NEF for them to upgrade the substations.

Because of the rural electrification to schools that we have intensified over the years, some of the substation became smaller and therefore, they need to be upgraded and that is why they have been overloaded but I think we have given money to that effect and I hope the situation will improve.

When it comes to whether solar energy can assist - yes, solar energy can

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HON KATALI**

assist and maybe I will address this more when I will address Honourable Lucks' question. With regard to the factories to manufacture solar panels, everywhere at the international fora where we go, we invite companies to come and set up solar panel factories here. Up to now, none has actually shown any interest. Hopefully, they will still come. This is something that we want but no company has come forth to set up solar power here, even after we have made so many requests.

*Honourable Ilonga*, you asked who is qualified to apply to the Solar Revolving Fund - every Namibian is qualified to apply to the Solar Revolving Fund. I must indicate that when this was with Konga, I applied for my farm and I got it and even while I was in the Ministry, I applied for the solar water heater and I was granted and many other Honourable Members whom I know have applied and they got it. There is thus, no discrimination.

*Honourable Lucks*, yes, there is a looming power shortage in Southern Africa and every country in Southern Africa is trying to put up power generation plants and your question is why can we not introduce a feed-in tariff in Namibia? I think NamPower in their measure showed something critical that they have put in place.

The feed-in tariffs are also included, if you have a generation capacity that you are not using, you can negotiate with NamPower so that you can feed NamPower. However, I must explain to you this way, the set up in our country, for example, is that you have NamPower generating and transmitting and then the regional distributors will take over but in cases of Oshakati and Windhoek it is the Municipalities that is doing the distribution and not NamPower.

If you are in Windhoek, for example, you have to negotiate with the City of Windhoek because they are the ones who will be taking that power from you. If you in other areas, you do that with REDs and not necessarily with NamPower but for the mines and the farms, which are still being supplied by NamPower, those can still go into an agreement with NamPower to do that. When it comes to the independent power

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HON KATALI**

Producers, and I think you mean this in terms of Renewable Energy, they are there. Since I took over at the Ministry of Mines and Energy, I have been coming here talking about them and I got tired. That is why I did not talk about independent power producers in my Speech because in 2013, I called them to the office. Every time, I announce to the National Assembly that wind power and solar power are at an advanced stage until I became tired of this advanced stage and I called them and asked - *why are you not starting?* I only got the true picture of the independent power producers now.

When they got the licence to produce electricity, they came and said - *we have our own money we do not need any Government money, we do not need anything from Government.* However, when I called them last year, they were now asking for the Government guarantee to cover the risk of their investment. When I went to my Colleagues in Government, the Attorney-General and the Minister of Finance who has the money, we have principle problems with investors coming here and then they want their risks to be guaranteed by the Government and I said - *no.* However, recently, I have heard about those who are saying - *we can still do it without Government guarantee,* and I said - *fine, if you are ready to do that just go and start, you have the licence.* We can guarantee NamPower for the power that they can get and on that, I think we are all in agreement but to guarantee their investment in terms of when there is a natural disaster or anything, there, we are not ready yet, although we are investigating it but I am seeing that we cannot do that because we are not doing it in other fields.

With regard to the fuel retailers for Namibians, I mean any Namibian company can just stand up and source oil from somewhere and then they put up their Namibian service station but then the challenge is to get fuel in here because fuel is not like going to South Africa and buy certain commodities. You must have a ship that will bring the fuel here and for a ship to come here, it must be in a quantity that is viable for you to transport it here. For a single individual to now try and come and open a service station here and you transport your fuel with your truck, I do not know how feasible it is, but it is open.

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HON KATALI**

Maybe it is just the nature of the business that dictates the monopoly which is there. The monopoly is there because nobody wants to take the risk. It is free for all.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Order! Honourable Moongo, order!

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** With regard to the deregulation of diesel, I think I will find answers as to why it cannot be done or whether it should be done. I do not have the answer right now with me.

*Honourable Swartz,* On rural electrification - electricity is not really the driver for learners' performance but it is a complementary factor to it, that is why you see some learners in rural schools perform very well compared to those who are in the towns because education have so many other factors.

Your question is why the lines passes some of the schools and they are not connected. The policy is like this: we have decentralised the identification of schools to the Regional Councils and the Regional Offices of Education. They are the ones who must give us the list of the schools that they think are their priorities. We combined this education and the Councillors simply because the Councillors are the ones responsible for the development while education runs the curriculum and, therefore, together they must prioritise which of the schools, either in terms of the grades which need to be electrified before others. We, therefore, always look at the priorities that come from the Region because in the past the Headquarters used to do that but then it has not been a good practice because those who are at the Region are the ones who have the knowledge of what is going on there. This has now been decentralised to them so that there would be no quarrel. What we do is just to subdivide

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the money and then appoint the contractors and consultants.

*Honourable Moongo* I am very sorry to say that I do not think I need to address your concern because you are instigating the Members of the Assembly to reject something that has not even be tabled here. I think I will deal with you. (*Laughter*)

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Moongo sit down please. Order, order!

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**HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY:** I will deal with you thoroughly when the Bill is tabled in this House.

*Honourable Nambahu*, yes, I think it is good that you have disclosed that you are not an expert in this field and therefore, you spoke under correction. You cannot beforehand conclude how much dividends the company is going to pay because dividends are paid in accordance with the production and the profit that has been made. Therefore, production has to take place first before you can see whether there are profits made or not in order for the dividends to be declared.

In as far as the profits are concerned, I think these companies are international companies. They are being audited and the audits are open. It is thus up to us to see whether they have made a profit or not. There are those who are saying they are crooks, if they are crooks, we will not be able to see what they are doing and so be it. If they cook the books and we eat the books, fine, what else can we do if we cannot cook ourselves?

Industrialisation is for the Ministry of Trade and Industry, meaning that for us in mining, we produce, we extract and anybody who needs to process this raw materials, it is available. However, I think it is

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HON KATALI**

something, which is necessary in the country.

The last one was *Honourable Limbo*, but before I go to Honourable Limbo's solar revolving fund, when I announced yesterday that the national connection policy would be retrospective to November 2013, that was a mistake. The correct one is, retrospective to November 2012. Why November 2012? Because that is when we gave the guidelines but let me perhaps explain little bit.

When we say 2012, we are not talking about those who have put up the transformer in 2012, you might have put up your transformer long time ago but you can actually get a refund for any connections that took place from November 2012 up to now and beyond. That is what it means because you are not being refunded only for having bought the transformer but you are refunded for somebody who is connecting, the new connector is the one who will then be required to contribute to the cost of the transformer. That is how it is. It is quite fair now.

Honourable Limbo, the problem with the technicians - these technicians are not officials of the Ministry of Mines and Energy but private contractors, even if I mentioned the fact that we lack technicians and that is why our Programmes are not going as we wished, in my Statement. We are just contracting them through the consultants for them to do the work, however, I agree with you. I thank you, Honourable Members.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Minister. Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 16 – “Justice,” put for Discussion. Any discussion. Honourable Tjihuiko.

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

**HON TJIHUIKO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have one or two comments to make, sorry that I am being disturbed by this export of jobs to China..

Anyway, on Page 5, Point 3, Honourable Minister of Justice, I was looking at the figures that you have shown here (intervention).

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Point of Order. Yes, Honourable Minister.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** No, you cannot allow that. You have stopped that and now you are allowing it.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Point of Order is allowed.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** But you are using my time. What inconsistency is this? You must be fair.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** It is allowed, please sit down. Yes, Honourable Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF YOUTH, NATIONAL SERVICE, SPORT AND CULTURE:** Honourable Chairperson, is it allowed for someone to

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HON TJIHUIKO**

come with a hospital pyjama to the Chamber like the Honourable Member? *(Laughter)*

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Tjihuiko, please proceed.

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**HON TJIHUIKO:** Now he took my ideas away. On Page 5, Honourable Minister, I have seen the figures that you have shown here, at 3.3, looking at the figures of cases that have been dealt with and the cases that have been forwarded, I am being disturbed because I am seeing justice delayed and therefore, justice denied. From what I am seeing here, out of 63,000 cases, only 19,000 were dealt with. This is very serious. Honourable Minister, what I want to ask is, what is going on in the Ministry? If we go at this pace, are we really providing justice to our people?

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, before I conclude, can the Ministry of Justice be classified as the Ministry of Justice or is it the Ministry of Injustice? Because the Ministry must provide justice to the people and looking at the record that came from the Ministry, there is no justice here. I am very disturbed by this.

On Page 7, Point 6.3, I just want to propose that in order for us to help resolve these chaotic situations, we should perhaps try to recognise the legitimate Traditional Authorities in order to empower the Traditional Authority Courts to deal with minor cases rather than just pushing everybody to the Magistrates Courts. That will perhaps help to reduce the unnecessary backlog that we have.

Thirdly and lastly, I think we need to seriously look at these minor traffic cases that always go to Court. Can we perhaps not set up a Special Court to specifically deal with traffic related cases? That way we can perhaps reduce the backlog. Otherwise, let us declare the Ministry of Justice to

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HON SHIFETA**

become the Ministry of Injustice. I rest my case and I support the Vote.

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**  
Thank you very much. I have five minutes, which I will utilise effectively.

I want to commend the Ministry of Justice, especially on the introduction of the Judicial Case Management (JCM) and E-Justice. That is a very important introduction in our legal system and it will help to expedite the court cases so that they are speedily delivered. I think E-Justice has been one of the impediments because of the lack thereof, especially now that we have that, it will assist not only legal practitioners in terms of litigants and their lawyers but also Judicial Officers so that instead of cases or courts documents done manually or with the paper centred systems, this can be done electronically and it will eliminate cases of stress. Legal Practitioners experience stress having to move from their offices to rush to the Registrar's Office and at times as late as 16:00. You may not be surprised to hear that many Legal Practitioners have been breaking traffic rules. I, therefore think that is a welcome introduction.

Another thing is the salaries of our Legal Practitioners in the Public Service. I think we need to revisit that. Their counterpart in the Private Sector are getting five times better than those in the Public Sector and this may definitely result in our Legal Practitioners moving out of the Public Sector to either enter their own private practices or go to the Private Sector and we will continued to have a high turnover as we used to have all these years. I, therefore, think it is worthwhile to consider their salaries.

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HON KAURA**

The other point is on the High Court office space and that goes hand in hand with the appointment of Judges to the bench. I think that is the reason we have a backlog of so many cases. The backlog of cases can somehow be resolved by the speedy appointment of High Court Judges to the bench, as well as looking at expanding our High Court. We currently have one Main Division and a Local Division in Oshakati, perhaps it will be better if we look at establishing further divisions, maybe two or three Local Divisions and transferring some of the responsibilities to those Local Divisions that are currently non-existent.

We, for instance, have very serious cases, especially when it comes to divorces. The Divorce Law is very complicated and apart from that, it also has to be revisited since it is disadvantaging our people in the rural areas because for one to divorce, you have to come to Windhoek. Even if you are in Katima, the resolution can only be done in Windhoek. In many instances, those who have no power, especially the financial capacity, lose out. A husband in Windhoek can just go to Court and file for divorce while the wife somewhere in Katima who has nothing, does not even understand the divorce papers when they are delivered by the Messenger of Court. I think we should revisit situations such as these so that justice is done because many people end up losing in that way. They do not even know whether there is a recourse after a Default Judgement because the high cost of travelling from Katima to Windhoek is inhibitive in the first place. Secondly, they do not understand the serious consequences that will affect their status. Due consideration should, therefore, be given to that. With said, I support the Vote.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Kaura.

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**HON KAURA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I only have a small comment here on what appeared yesterday in *The Namibian* newspaper. Mob justice, "*Father*

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HON MOONGO**

*Attacks Rape Suspect - An angry father, cheered on by a mob, yesterday beat a man he suspected of raping his teenage daughter.” Then of course, the father found his daughter’s cell phone and watch in the suspect’s possession.*

Honourable Chairperson, I am very much sympathetic to this mob justice because I am imagining myself, if somebody does this to my daughter, he goes out on bail and I find him walking around in Katutura, I might be the next one to go to prison and come out on bail. I do not know what the justice system can do to curb this violence against women and children.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Order, order please!

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**HON KAURA:** I am very much sympathetic to this mob justice, if I were there, I could have cheered this man on to beat this guy up because if I was strong enough I will do it to anybody who does this to my daughter but I am 50 years old.

Honourable Minister, what do we do with our justice system to deter violence against women and children and to prevent mob justice from becoming the order of the day? Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Moongo

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**HON MOONGO:** Thank you very much. First of all I would like to congratulate the Minister for the effort he made, however, we at the

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**HON NUJOMA**

Village Court are still looking up to him for recognition. When are we going to be recognised and be given administrative money to administer justice at the Village Courts? This is a Community Court, where we use our local Languages, do you prefer vernacular Languages?

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**HON ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you very much. Honourable Minister the Floor is yours to respond.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** Thank you very much. I will start with the questions by *Honourable Tjihuiko*. He ran away as usual, he poses questions and then he disappears.

The backlog cases at the Magistrates Courts continues to be a serious problem. It is a concern to the Ministry of Justice, it is a concern to the community and we are dealing with this problem. The problem is compounded by several other factors but the crux of the matter is that in a democracy and if you have a legal system like ours, which is based on the Rule of Law, democracy and transparency, you will always have a problem.

Let me give you an example; there was a murder case in India. This case has been on the roll for over 40 years. Only when some Samaritans realised that this issue was persisting, even moving towards the 41<sup>st</sup> year, some people realised that they needed to assist this lady with some money and as a result the court roll was brought forward. India is a democracy but there are so many other cases, therefore, the backlog is everywhere with regard to court cases. However, we are making efforts and I can explain to you that the PG, the Police and the Ministry of Justice are going to introduce Mobile Courts in order to try and reduce the backlog.

The backlog will continue to be there because the number of cases you are

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disposing of are the same number of cases that are coming up. Let us say in a day you have dealt with hundred cases, another hundred cases are registered on the same day. Whatever the backlog you are working on, you will continue to have a backlog, however, it is something that we are taking seriously and I must tell you that with the help of the Community Courts, as *Honourable Moongo* had said, petty cases are being resolved at this level. They are, therefore, doing a tremendous job and we need to support them but they have limited jurisdiction because they only have to deal with civil matters and when it comes to serious matters, they have to be referred to the Higher Courts, however, we appreciate their assistance.

We are going to introduce Small Claims Court where petty matters and disputes such as trade disputes can be resolved. As you are aware of, Parliament has recently passed the High Court Rules where the Judge President is suggesting a mechanism that he calls the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADRM) system. This will be introduced in the High Court as well and we hope with that, we will be able to deal with some of the matters.

*Honourable Shifeta*, on the Judicial Case Management, of course, this is also one of those issues which will help us to file normal court processes electronically. It will no longer be done manually. This will also enhance efficiency at all the Magistrates Courts and not only at the High Court. We are introducing this system at the High Court but we will cascade it down to the Lower Courts.

It will take time but we will continue to train our personnel, as you were told yesterday here, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has introduced the E-Passport system. You can now make electronic inquiries, we are moving in the same direction. Very soon mothers will be able to access their maintenance money by simply inquiring via cell phone whether the money is paid in or not and only then will she be requested to go to the Court instead of waiting in long queues or travelling to the Court just to learn that the money is not paid in.

I think the Minister of ICT, Honourable Kaapanda will be very pleased

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HON NUJOMA**

that we are embracing this concept of E-Justice, E-everything, everywhere so that we avoid the use manual systems.

*Honourable Shifeta*, I agree with you entirely that we have a high turnover of staff members because of the low salaries. We simply train Magistrate, Prosecutors and Legal Drafters but the moment they are qualified or have gained the necessary experience, they apply to the Private Sector for higher salaries. They even come to Parliament, they are here. The Deputy Speaker, is also one of them - who is well trained. (*Laughter*). I can tell you that we have even trained most of our experienced Legal Drafters, Honourable Ndjarakana, for example, the former Director of Elections is a qualified Drafter. We send him to England and to Barbados. Then the Private Sector snapped him up.

However, we will continue to train Judicial Officers because this is a duty. We are going to train Legal Officers but unfortunately, we remain a training ground and that is the disadvantage we have. We will remain a training ground and continue to suffer but will only remain with those patriotic Namibians who are ready to serve the Ministry of Justice. Our Colleagues here, like Honourable Pohamba Shifeta, once you are done with your political career, you are welcome to join us so that we deal with these matters.

With regard to the Divorce Law. You know, when two parties decide to get married, it is easy, they decide to go to the Magistrate Court or the Community Court where the marriage is solemnised. That is easy, however, to get out, you now need new procedures, why is that? We have been asking these questions but I am pleased to inform you that the new Divorce Law has been finalised. It will be based on new factors because in the past one had to prove fault, and as a result, in order for the divorce to be granted, people had to introduce some extraneous issues like - *I was doing this and you were doing that, you have not been faithful*, but the new Law will be based on this concept of irretrievable breakdown of marriage.

If you can no longer agree as partners, why should you continue? It must not be based on a false system but it must be based on an agreement that

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the understanding between the parties has irretrievably broken down.

*Honourable Kaura*, Mob justice - we are living in a democracy where the Rule of Law must be upheld. You see, sometimes we blame the Ministry of Justice, you blame the Minister and that the justice system is not working but if you look at the *Combating of Rape Act* which this Parliament has passed and you look at the Divorce Law, these are good pieces of legislation but the problem lies with the implementation.

We have dealt with the issue of bail and the issue of sentences, however, because I am one of the Chiefs, I can be described as a *Chief without Indians*. In this Ministry we have so many Chiefs, why *so many the Chiefs and no Indians*? It is because they have been given powers by the Constitution and by Statute. You were criticising me here yesterday that I am reading a long Statement but the Ombudsman told me this is what you are going to read about my Directorate. (*Laughter*)

If I do not do that, I will be in contempt, I will interfere with his discretion. Because of the independence of the Judiciary, for example, if a serious rapist is not found guilty. How will you blame it on me? I do not make the final decision and I do not appoint them, they are appointed somewhere else. Those are the problems we are facing, but what I can assure you of is that our Laws are effective. Where we see the need for Amendments, this House will do it properly but for now, I beg you to give me my money please. (*Laughter*)

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

Honourable Speaker, I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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**ADJOURNMENT  
HON DR GURIRAB**

**ASSEMBLY RESUMES**

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Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. The House stands adjourned until Monday, at 14:30.

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In terms of Rule 90(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 13:47 until Tuesday, 31 March 2014.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 13:47 UNTIL 2014.03.31 AT 14:30**

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