

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SPEAKER

Prof P. Katjavivi (Mr)

DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Prof L Kasingo (Ms)

THE CABINET MINISTERS

(21 March 2015 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)

Ms S Kuugongelwa-Amadhila	<i>(Prime Minister)</i>
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah	<i>(Deputy Prime Minister & International Relations and Cooperation)</i>
Mr P Ya Ndakolo	<i>(Defence)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Ms S Shaningwa	<i>(Urban and Rural Development)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>
Ms K Hanse-Himarwa	<i>(Education, Arts & Culture)</i>
Dr A Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr C Schlettwein	<i>(Finance)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development)</i>
Dr B Haufiku (Mr)	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Mr F Kapofi	<i>(Presidential Affairs)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Land Reform)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>
Mr L Jooste	<i>(Public Enterprises)</i>
Dr O Kandjoze (Mr)	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr B Esau	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Sport, Youth & National Service)</i>

Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Bishop Z Kameeta (Mr)	<i>(Poverty Eradication & Social Welfare)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Dr I Kandjii-Murangi (Ms)	<i>(Higher Education, Training and Innovation)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Information & Communication Technology)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Mr T Alweendo	<i>(Economic Planning & Director General of the NPC)</i>

DEPUTY MINISTERS

(21 March 2015 – Elected in terms of Article 133 of the Constitution)

Ms Manombe-Ncube	<i>(Veterans Affairs & Marginalised People)</i>
Ms M Hinda	<i>(International Relations & Cooperation)</i>
Mr E !Nawatisheb	<i>(Public Enterprises)</i>
Ms C //Hoebes	<i>(Deputy Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister)</i>
Mr D Klazen	<i>(Urban and Rural Development)</i>
Rev A Kapewangolo (Ms)	<i>(Poverty Eradication & Social Welfare)</i>
Ms P Beukes	<i>(Poverty Eradication & Social Welfare)</i>
Mr A Muheua	<i>(Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation)</i>
Mr S Simataa	<i>(Information and Communication Technology)</i>
Mr N Ithete	<i>(Finance)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(International Relations and Cooperation)</i>
Ms A Tjongarero	<i>(Sport, Youth & National Service)</i>
Dr S Ankama (Mr)	<i>(Fisheries and Marine Resources)</i>
Mr E Utoni	<i>(Home Affairs and Immigration)</i>
Mr T Nambahu	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Ms S Makgone	<i>(Urban and Rural Development)</i>

Mr B Mwaningange	<i>(Defence)</i>
Ms A Nghipondoka	<i>(Education)</i>
Ms A Shiweda	<i>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>
Dr Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)	<i>(Higher Education, Training and Innovation)</i>
Ms L Shapwa	<i>(Justice)</i>
Mr S Sankwasa	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Mr B Swartbooi	<i>(Land Reform)</i>
Mr D Kashikola	<i>(Safety and Security)</i>
Mr Van Der Walt	<i>(Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development)</i>
Ms L Witbooi	<i>(Gender Equality and Child Welfare)</i>
Ms J Kavetuna	<i>(Health and Social Services)</i>
Ms K Shilunga	<i>(Mines and Energy)</i>
Mr R /Ui/o/oo	<i>(Veterans Affairs & Marginalised People)</i>
Ms L Iipumbu	<i>(Economic Planning)</i>

SECRETARY

Mr. J Jacobs

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

DEPUTY MINISTERS IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Mr K Nguvauva	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Mr T Diergaardt	<i>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

ALL PEOPLE'S PARTY (APP)

Mr I Shixwameni	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr R Nauyoma	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

DTA OF NAMIBIA

Mr M Venaani	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
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Ms J Van den Heever *(Chief Whip)*
Ms E Dienda
Mr V Muharukua
Mr N Smit

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

Mr A Mbai *(Party Leader)*
Mr M Jahanika *(Chief Whip)*

RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (RDP)

Mr S Bezuidenhout *(Chief Whip)*
Mr Kavekatora
Ms A Limbo

REPUBLICAN PARTY (RP)

Ms C //Gowases *(Chief Whip)*

SWANU

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

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

Prof P Katjavivi *(Speaker)*
Ms S Kuugongelwa – Amadhila *(Prime Minister)*
Ms N Nandi-Ndaitwah *(Deputy Prime Minister)*
Dr S Ankama (Mr) *(Deputy Minister)*
Ms P Beukes *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr J Ekandjo *(Minister)*
Mr B Esau *(Minister)*
Prof L Kasingo (Ms) *(Deputy Speaker)*
Ms J Kavetuna *(Deputy Minister)*
Dr A Kawana (Mr) *(Minister)*
Ms S Makgone *(Deputy Minister)*
Ms A Manombe-Ncube *(Deputy Minister)*
Mr N Mbumba

Mr C Schlettwein	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr A Muheua	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Mushelenga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr J Mutorwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr B Mwaningange	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr T Nambahu	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr C Namoloh	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms E !Nawases-Taeyele	<i>(Chief Whip and Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee)</i>
Mr I Ngatjizeko	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr E Nghimtina	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr U Nujoma	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms D Sioka	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Tweya	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms A Tjongarero	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr B. Ndjoze-Ojo (Ms)	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr E Utoni	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Van der Walt	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms L Witbooi	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms S Swartz	
Ms S Shaningwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms Hanse-Himarwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr F Kapofi	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr L Jooste	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms L Mcleod-Katjirua	
Dr I Kandjii-Murangi (Ms)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr T Alweendo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr H Hambyuka	<i>(Deputy Whip)</i>
Ms M Hinda	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Me !Nawatiseb	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms C //Hoebes	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr D Klazen	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Rev A Kapewangolo (Ms)	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr N Ithete	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr P Yandakolo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr S Shanghala	<i>(Attorney-General)</i>
Ms A Nghipondoka	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms A Shiweda	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>

Ms L Shapwa	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr S Sankwasa	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr B Swaartbooi	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms K Shilunga	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr D Kashikola	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Mr R /Ui/o/oo	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms I Hoffmann	<i>(Assistant Whip)</i>
Ms L Nghaamwa	
Ms A Sikerete	
Ms J Kandjimi	
Ms N Munsu	
Mr S Karupu	
Mr G Kasuto	<i>(Assistant Whip)</i>
Ms A Kafula	
Mr V Nekundi	
Ms B Jagger	
Ms E Nuyoma-Amupewa	
Ms F Caley	
Ms L Shinavene	
Ms L Iipumbu	<i>(Deputy Minister)</i>
Ms L Namupala	
Ms P Kavita	
Ms R Ipinge-Nakale	
Mr L Katoma	
Ms M Mahoto	
Ms M Kandumbu	

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)

Mr A !Auxab	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Ms T Shikongo	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

UNITED PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT OF NAMIBIA (UPM)

Mr J Van Wyk	<i>(Party Leader and Chief Whip)</i>
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WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (WRP)

Mr S Fleermuys	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr B Kaapala	<i>(Chief Whip)</i>

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

Ms Hanse-Himarwa	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr Kawana (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr B Haufiku (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Dr O Kandjoze (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms P Iivula-Ithana	<i>(Minister)</i>
Mr J Ekandjo	<i>(Minister)</i>
Ms H Sibungo	
Bishop Z Kameeta (Mr)	<i>(Minister)</i>

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
20 MARCH 2015**

The Assembly met in terms of Article 55 of the Namibian Constitution.

SECRETARY: Please be seated, thank you. We will start with our proceedings.

Your Lordship Chief Justice Peter Shivute, Honourable Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab - who will for a few minutes still be the Speaker, Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Vice President Designate, the Prime Minister Designate, Deputy Prime Minister Designate, all the candidates declared as elected to the National Assembly, Ladies and Gentleman, good morning. My name is Jakes Jacobs, I am the Secretary of the National Assembly and, this is one of the few rare and occasions that I have the opportunity to chair this meeting, so thank you for that.

Being probably my last assignment of this nature, I just thought that you give me a minute to express my profound gratitude to Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab, the Speaker of the National Assembly for having appointed me. To him and the Deputy Speaker, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for working alongside them for a long time. It was a worthwhile experience, thank you very much. (*Applause*)

As you are all aware, the 10th Session of the 5th Parliament ended yesterday, Thursday, the 19th of March 2015. During this term the, 5th Parliament considered and dealt with many issues of national interests, which includes the passing of 79 Bills, 27 Motions and numerous Reports to improve service delivery for the better administration of the State.

On the eve of the 25th Silver Jubilee Independence Anniversary of our Republic and inauguration of the Right Honourable Dr Hage Geingob as President tomorrow, we are gathered here on Friday 20 March for this Swearing-in Ceremony of the newly elected Members as provided for in terms of Article 55 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, which basically reads – *Every member of the National Assembly shall make and*

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OATH/AFFIRMATION BY NEWMEMBERS

subscribe to an oath or solemn affirmation before the Chief Justice or a Judge designated by the Chief Justice for this purpose, in the terms set out in Schedule 3 hereof. Basically the Honourable Members know the Constitution, so you know Schedule 3.

After all the Members have taken the Oath or Solemn Affirmation, the Members will constitute the Sixth Parliament and will then amongst themselves elect the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. That is basically the procedure that we will follow.

Your Lordship Chief Justice Peter Shivute, candidates declared as duly elected Members of the National Assembly, Ladies and Gentlemen; we will now be calling the newly elected Members in alphabetical order or as close as possible to alphabetical order in groups of ten to come to the front table to take the prescribed Oath or Affirmation as provided for in Schedule 3 of the Namibian Constitution.

I want to say that we did try to make life easier by asking the Honourable Members to indicate whether they will be taking an oath or affirmation and many ended up signing both forms so it proved a futile exercise.

Once you have taken the prescribed Oath or Affirmation and signed your Oath or Affirmation Certificates, which will also be signed by His Lordship the Chief Justice, you will return to your seats. We will then proceed to call the next group of ten until the process has been completed.

I now have the honour, in terms of Article 55 of the Namibian Constitution to call on His Lordship, Chief Justice Peter Shivute to proceed with the swearing-in of the new Members who will constitute the Sixth National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia. Mr Harker will call on the persons who have to be sworn in and when you approach the front desk just give a quick indication whether you will take an Oath or Affirmation so that you are given the right form to sign. Mr Harker, can you start?

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**OATH/AFFIRMATION BY NEWMEMBERS
HIS LORDSHIP CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE**

**OATH AND/OR AFFIRMATION BY NEWLY
ELECTED MEMBERS**

“I, ..., do hereby swear/solemnly affirm that I will be faithful to the Republic of Namibia and its people and I solemnly promise to uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the Republic of Namibia to the best of my ability. (In the case of an oath:) So help me God.”

DEPUTY SECRETARY: I will call the Members elect in groups of ten as stated, to form a half circle in front. We have pens on the desk to sign and hand to the Chief Justice, where-after you will make the declarations. So please go back to your seats after you have indicated. I call on Chief Samuel Ankama, Emilia Nuyoma-Amupewa, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Thomas Alweendo, Apius Auxab, Priscilla Beukes, Stephanus Bezuidenhout, Faustina Caley, Clara //Gowases, Elma Dienda.

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE administers the Oath/Affirmation to the Members.

DEPUTY SECRETARY: Jerry Ekandjo, Bernhardt Esau, Salmon Fleermuys, Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, Bernard Hafiku, Ida Hoffmann, Hambyuka Hamunyera, Christine //Hoebes, Rebekka Ipinge-Nakale and Nickey Iyambo.

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE administers the Oath/Affirmation to the Members.

DEPUTY SECRETARY: Paulus Iithete, Lucia Iipumbu, Leon Jooste

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**OATH/AFFIRMATION BY NEWMEMBERS
HIS LORDSHIP CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE**

Bernadette Jagger, Meundju Jahanika, Gotthard Kasuto, Obed Kandjoze, Albert Kawana, Zephania Kameeta and Leevi Katoma.

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE administers the Oath/Affirmation to the Members.

DEPUTY SECRETARY: Daniel Kashikola, Johanna Kandjimi, Aino Kapewangolo, Frans Kapofi, Derek Klazen, Priscilla Kavita, Juliet Kavetuna, Loide Kasingo, Peter Katjavivi and Sebastian Karupu.

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE administers the Oath/Affirmation to the Members.

DEPUTY SECRETARY: Agnes Kafula, Benson Kaapala, Mike Kavekatora, Laura McLeod-Katjirua, Agnes Limbo, Billy Mwaningange, Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Norah Munsu, Maureen Hinda and Sylvia Makgone.

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE administers the Oath/Affirmation to the Members.

DEPUTY SECRETARY: Peya Mushelenga, Alfeus Muheua, Usutuije Maamberua, Asser Mbai, Themostikles Murorua, Vipuakuje Muharukua, Nangolo Mbumba, John Mutorwa, Anna Nghipondoka, Lucia Nghaamwa

20 March 2015

**OATH/AFFIRMATION BY NEWMEMBERS
HIS LORDSHIP CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE**

and Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE administers the Oath/Affirmation to the Members.

DEPUTY SECRETARY: Penda Ya Ndakolo, Alexia Manombe-Ncube, Tommy Nambahu, Liina Namupala, Charles Namoloh, Engelbrecht Nawatise, Immanuel Ngatjizeko, Erkki Nghimtina, Alfeus !Naruseb and Reinhold Nauyoma.

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE administers the Oath/Affirmation to the Members.

DEPUTY SECRETARY: Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, Utoni Nujoma, Veikko Nekundi, Becky Ndjoze-Ojo, Annakletha Sikerete, Heather Sibungo, Loide Shinavene, Sakeus Shanghala, Kornelia Shilunga and Bernardus Swartbooi.

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE administers the Oath/Affirmation to the Members.

DEPUTY SECRETARY: James Sangwasa, Anna Shiweda, Lidwina Shapwa, Sophia Shaningwa, Ignatius Shixwameni, Nicolaas Smith, Calle Schlettwein, Stanley Simaata, Sophia Swartz, Doreen Sioka and Pohamba Shifeta.

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**OATH/AFFIRMATION BY NEWMEMBERS
HIS LORDSHIP CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE**

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE administers the Oath/Affirmation to the Members.

DEPUTY SECRETARY: Torka Shikongo, Agnes Tjongarero, Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele, Tjekero Tweya, Royal /Ui/o/oo, Erastus Uutoni, Jan Van Wyk, Jennifer Van den Heever, MacHenry Venaani, Pieter Van der Walt, Lucia Witbooi.

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE administers the Oath/Affirmation to the Members.

SECRETARY: Honourable Members, I trust that we have not missed anyone. It is my honest and sincere pleasure to declare you all, duly elected Members of the Sixth National Assembly. Congratulations. (*Applause and ululation*)

At this stage we wish to convey a sincere word of gratitude to His Lordship Chief Justice Peter Shivute who has taken time off his very busy schedule to assist us this morning and since we know that he has other pressing issues, we will release him now. Thank you very much, Your Lordship. (*Applause*)

Please be seated. At this stage, I would just like to announce that for all the duly elected Members, there will be an induction training, starting from Monday to Friday, that is, 23 to 27 March 2015, in this very Chamber and it will be appreciated if you can be here by 08:30, so that we can start at 09:00. Thank you very much.

We will now proceed to the election of the Speaker of the National Assembly and I would now like to call for nominations for the position of Speaker of the National Assembly. Honourable Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

20 March 2015

**NOMINATION OF SPEAKER
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA / HON KAVETUNA**

NOMINATION OF SPEAKER

RT HON PRIME MINISTER (DESIGNATE): Thank you very much, Mr Presiding Officer. Before I make the nomination, I would like to extend warm congratulations to all the newly sworn in Members of Parliament for the honour that has been bestowed on all of us by the Namibian people to serve as Members of this august House and to carry out, on their behalf the process of lawmaking for our country. I wish all of them wisdom, strength and courage in the discharge of this sacred National duty. Having said, that I have the honour to nominate, for the position of Speaker of this august House, someone who is an experienced Leader, a seasoned Politician and Diplomat, a distinguished Scholar and someone with impeccable National Liberation Struggle credentials and, that person is Ambassador Professor Peter Hishitevi Katjavivi. I Move so *(applause)*

SECRETARY: Who seconds the nomination?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES (DESIGNATE): I Juliet Kavetuna, hereby second the nomination of Professor Peter Katjavivi as the Speaker of the National Assembly. *(Applause)*

SECRETARY: Thank you very much. Are there any further nominations? Is that your final answer? Thank you very much.

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**HANDING OVER OF THE TOKEN OF
AUTHORITY
HON DR GURIRAB**

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you, Presiding Officer. I would like to congratulate all of us duly elected Members and I want to put it on record that I am very much in favour of our nominee to be elected as the Speaker and I wish all of us will lend him a hand to assist him going forward in managing this Chamber. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

SECRETARY: There being no further nominations, I hereby have the distinct honour and privilege to call on Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi to come forward so that the outgoing Speaker can give him the tokens of authority for your new position and then you can take the Chair as the Speaker of the Sixth National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia. Professor Katjavivi, please come forward.

HANDING OVER OF THE TOKENS OF AUTHORITY

HON DR GURIRAB: I am still the Speaker (*laughter*). I need to say one or two things and, therefore, please be seated because some of you might collapse.

By a dictate of history, continuity, consistency and change, here we are again pushing democracy forward, yet again. Namibia as a State started doing its own political innovations in 1990 and now 25 years onwards, we relive once again the memories and innovations from thenceforth to here today, yet again.

Now here I pass on to my worthy successor this hallowed instrument of authority and power as the third Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia. My respect, best wishes and God's speed. (*Applause and ululation*) I think we have met before (*laughter*). In the

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**NOMINATION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

office that you have now entered, you have no other protection, you would have somebody called the Sergeant at Arms but what you think he will do, unless you have this document forever next to you, will be questioned. Hold on to it, next to the Holy Bible, sleep with it.

These people that you would be looking at called Honourable Members, are sometimes not as honourable as assumed. So this is what will guide you on how to handle them - the Rules and Orders of the National Assembly. However, since they are what I said they are, do not hesitate to use them to maintain Law and Order in the House and keep them in line (*ululation*).

I will take my walk but I will be watching you, should you need help. Once again, congratulations. I want to tell those whose act it was collectively to have elected you as next the Speaker, the best that they can be, except for myself (*laughter and ululation*).

SECRETARY: Please be seated. Having been duly elected and given the tools of trade, I now hand over to your new Speaker to preside over the election of the Deputy Speaker (*applause*). Mr Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The House is called to order. I now call for nominations for the position of the Deputy Speaker. May I have the nominations please? Yes, Honourable Member, you have the Floor.

NOMINATION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

**HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION
(DESIGNATE):** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Firstly, let me

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**NOMINATION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER
HON P MUSHELENGA**

congratulate you, Honourable Speaker on your well deserved election to serve as Speaker of our Sixth National Assembly. I believe I am speaking on behalf of all of us that we will assure you our cooperation in order to enable us execute the tasks entrusted to us by the people of the Republic of Namibia with Honour and integrity.

Let us also thank our outgoing Speaker for the manner in which he conducted the last Parliament or National Assembly and also for his words of encouragement during the handing over of power and we believe that with this tools we will be able to perform our duties.

Let me also congratulate all of us, the Honourable Members of Parliament for being elected to this position and I am sure we will serve our Nation to the best of their interests.

Honourable Speaker, I am standing to nominate for the position of Deputy Speaker, a person who is well known to us, a Unionist, Political Practitioner for many years, with extensive experienced on Parliamentary activities, particularly in the last Parliament in which she has served as the Deputy Speaker. Even before that - having served in different Committees both at home and internationally, particularly when it comes to the African Parliament. I am nominating, for the consideration by this House, Honourable Loide Kasingo to be the Deputy Speaker of the Sixth National Assembly of the Namibian Parliament. I so Move, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Do I have any seconder to the nomination? Yes, Honourable Mushelenga please.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION (DESIGNATE):** Honourable Speaker, I rise to second the nomination for the position of Deputy Speaker, Honourable

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**ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Loide Shoopala Kasingo. I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further nomination? There is none. In the absence of any other nomination, I have the greatest pleasure to declare Honourable Loide Kasingo as the Deputy Speaker of this House. Congratulations. (*Applause*)

I am assuming that we have concluded this important subject and there are a number of other positions – Whips and Chairpersons of various Committees but I am sure that require further consultations for us to be able to complete that aspect of work of the House.

ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT

HON SPEAKER: For now, may I proceed by making a formal Acceptance Speech or Remarks? May I do so? Thank you.

Honourable Members of Parliament, this is a big day for me personally. I cannot start making my remarks without saying something brief on the reference made to me by, let me call her the Right Honourable Prime Minister of our country, when she called upon me and presented me before you, she referred to the middle name that I hold dearly to myself Hishitevi. That is the first name I have ever known. When I came to this world my father was informed by an old lady who emerged from a hut to announce my arrival. Totally delighted and not knowing what to say, he said - *what shall I do - Hishitevi?* It always touches my heart because it takes me back to my roots.

Honourable Members, I wish to express and register my profound thanks and appreciation for the honour that the Members have bestowed upon me

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**ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

as a new Speaker of this august House.

I wish to place on record my thanks to the incoming President, His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob for the confidence he has in me and equally thankful to the outgoing Head of State His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba for the support and cooperation I have enjoyed while serving in the Office of the Government Chief Whip, better known as the SWAPO Chief Whip in this House. As you know, this role entails working with all Political Parties and their Whips and I would like to sincerely thank all of them for the cooperation that they extended to me. We have developed a positive culture of respect and mutual understanding of our roles in this House and I sincerely, from the bottom of my heart, hope that this culture will continue as we preside over the Sixth Parliament.

My Colleagues in this House, Members of my Party and those in the Opposition, the English words - *thank you*, are not enough to express how I feel by entrusting me with this particular position. I am conscious, as I sit here that it is you collectively, together with the leadership of my Party, SWAPO, headed by the President Elect, that saw it fit that I assume the new role of Speaker of this House. I acknowledge with appreciation a very touchy moment in my own life and in the life of this House the handing over whereby the outgoing Speaker, Honourable Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, an old friend, a Comrade, a Brother, has taken time to come here and see to it that we do what we witnessed a minute ago - handing me the ceremonial mace, which is one of the major symbols of authority of the Parliament. We are making history and we are setting in motion a tradition, a culture that we want to see extended from generation to generation.

The Constitution and the Standing Rules and Orders are key documents that are going to guide the work of this House as it has been done earlier. This act symbolises the bestowing of jurisdiction of the office of the Speaker and the responsibility of this position towards the people of this country. I very much appreciate this.

Honourable Colleagues, I am conscious of the fact that I am stepping into

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**ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

the shoes of a Giant who has made an immense contribution to our country and he is a well known personality at home and abroad. He too succeeded other equally well versed Giant in Parliamentary Affairs, that being Honourable Dr Mose Penaani Tjitendero. Both Dr Theo Ben Gurirab and the late Dr Mose Tjitendero have been close friends and Colleagues of mine with whom I have shared a very close history of association as young man growing up together and facing many years with a spirit of determination and perseverance.

On this note I would like to especially thank my dear wife Jane up there, my children and grand children for everything they have done, particularly my dear wife who has been by my side throughout the challenges life brings. (*Applause*)

Equally, I wish to extend my appreciation to my communities back home in the village, the village of Ovitoto and the place of my birth – Okahandja, and those elders who have continuously kept faith in me and with whom I have to consult from time to time for their guidance and support in my efforts to better serve Namibia our country.

Honourable Colleague, I look forward to working with all of you in this House and I count on your support in discharging our common duties in the best interests of our Nation and the people we are here to serve. The Parliament is one of the three Organs of the State, the other two being the Executive and the Judiciary. It is indeed an honour and privilege to serve in this Honourable Arena.

May I also take this opportunity to wish the President Elect, Dr Hage Geingob full strength and wisdom as he presides over the affairs of our country. We admire his tenacity and the vision that he has expounded in the recent weeks and look forward to working with him. This is the time of excitement and hope, and in this House together with other Organs of the State we can work to implement the President's agenda. There is a great deal to be said but for now I simply wish to thank you for what you have done to me to have me sitting here in front of you and to preside over the affairs of the National Assembly.

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**ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT
HON PROF KASINGO**

I think that is what I wanted to say for now, from the bottom of my heart I now revert back to the presiding of the House (*applause*).

I would like to ask the Honourable Members who nominated me and seconded me whether they would like to say a word or two before I touch on another issue before me? Is there any? Thank you.

I have received a written communication from the SWAPO Party with respect to its nomination for the position of the SWAPO Party Chief Whip in the National Assembly and the name forwarded to me is that of Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele, an outstanding Parliamentarian, a PAN Africanist, her name has been put forward as my successor in that position. May I call upon her just to indicate her acceptance? (*Applause*)

Thank you and my warmest congratulations. If need be, I am available to share one or two things, as well as handing over a file that I have put together for the purpose of facilitating whoever comes to that office. Thank you. Honourable Deputy Speaker, you have the Floor.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. First of all, I have to congratulate you for being elected as the Speaker of the National Assembly and I am proud to work under you. Let me start off with a saying in one of the vernaculars that says - *wapandula noyaka*, means that if you do not appreciate the efforts of others then you are doomed.

To be re-elected for the second term in the position of Deputy Speaker of one of the most important Organs of the State - the Legislature, I have to, first of all, thank the Almighty God who coordinated the rank and file of the Members of SWAPO who voted for me and all the others *en masse* to ensure that we are here (*applause*)

I have to thank the leadership of my Party, the SWAPO Party, the outgoing President of the Country and President of the Party, the incoming President, the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and, of

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**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS
HON VENAANI**

course, the other Leaders who will be sworn in tomorrow as the Vice President, Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister.

To you all Colleagues, when we have taken an oath and signed, it means that we have cemented the contract between us and the people who have elected us and I am part of you. We have to work hard to make Laws that will address the challenges that are facing our Nation and to follow up projects under the oversight function of the Committees and to ensure that the Executive also makes relevant projects that will benefit our people.

Last but not least, I have to thank my mother who brought me on earth and is still alive, and I think I have inherited her characteristics. I have said this in 2010 and I will repeat it, I know that my father's spirit is following me and protecting me.

To all of you all, thank you very. We will work together and if I fail you fail. Henceforth, I will listen to you all, irrespective of your Political Parties because I am elected by all of you. Thank you so much.
(Applause)

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I call upon Honourable MacHenry Venaani.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. We, on this side of the aisle would want to congratulate you - this side of the aisle
(laughter).

Honourable Speaker, we want to congratulate you, for one you have the

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

necessary prolific experience, both as a seasoned Politician and Diplomat. I view you as a great consensus builder and a person that has demonstrated an ability to work across Party lines. I want to congratulate you on your election and congratulate our country and also pass a word of congratulations to our former Veteran, seasoned Diplomat the country has ever produced Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab (*applause*) whom we have worked with - the man who has made our Republic very proud when we assumed the Presidency of the IPU and the General Assembly of the United Nations. I bid good farewell to you for being a man of great standing.

Madam Kasingo, we further wish to extend our congratulations to you as a woman, a Leader, the Vice President of the PAN African Parliament, to continue leading the affairs of this House.

I want to say the following in conclusion; all Members of Parliament elected here are elected to honour and to serve the people of this country. Let us, during our Sixth Parliament not degenerate our Parliament into a circus as it is happening in other countries (*applause*). Let us engage one another on the issues and not the man - we should tackle the issues and not the man. Of course, this Parliament has brought a lot of young Namibian Leaders to this House that we must have respect for, irrespective of age, disagree and know that we are African children who also argue with elders in a befitting manner and fashion (*applause*).

Mr Speaker, with this few remarks, I also want to announce that from our side we have also elected the Chairperson of our Party as the Chief Whip of the Official Opposition - Ms Jennifer Van den Heever behind me and our young Lawyer, Mr Muharukua as the Deputy Chief Whip. Thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Well done. Thank you very much, that sounds great. What a way to begin our work? We will do the very best to honour our country and keep Namibian flag flying high with pride.

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we will hit the ground running. We will spend time on the induction, which I want to recommend to everybody. Never mind whether you have served earlier in Parliament, I think it is a very useful source of information and helping you to build capacity so that when we come back here, we will know our roles and we know how to guide the work of this House.

In the absence of Any Other Business, can I simply adjourn the House until the 31st of March 2015, at 14:30. The House, therefore, stands adjourned until then. Thank you very much and have a good day.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 12:25 UNTIL 2015.03.31 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
30 MARCH 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER IN TERMS OF
RULE 20(B) OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, let me once more say how much I appreciate my Party for nominating me and motivating my candidature for the elections as the Speaker of the National Assembly. In the same vein, I also want to express my profound gratitude to you all the Honourable Members for the trust and confidence you have bestowed upon me by unanimously electing me as your Speaker of this august House.

I will do my part as a Speaker to defend and uphold the Constitutional responsibility of this august House and I know I have your support and cooperation in doing so.

Honourable Members, last Friday, we concluded a week long induction training for all the Members of this House. I commend you Honourable Members for having actively participated in the induction workshop. It was remarkable for me and many other observers to witness that throughout the week long Deliberations, the majority of you actively participated in the proceedings of the workshop.

It is my belief that we are now fully equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to do our parliamentary oversight responsibilities to the best of our abilities. My office will continue to engage with our Government and our development partners to ensure that from time to time we undergo refresher courses and training that might be provided to Members and

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI**

staff in order for us to effectively and efficiently undertake our oversight responsibilities. Once again, welcome back. Let us resume with the real Business of the House and I thank you. (*Applause*)

Honourable Members brief announcement: I would like to inform Honourable Members that the current sitting arrangements are of a temporary nature. It is an attempt to make sure that we organise and have everybody seated but we will be undertaking the final arrangements - we will revisit them and after we have made the necessary consultation with stakeholders of this House, which will also include consulting with the Prime Minister and Whips of the different Political Parties. For now, please bear with us. What we have is not necessarily final. We will make sure that we do our job and do it very well, hopefully to the satisfaction of all of you.

I now wish to continue with the rest of the Business before the House. Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Honourable Venaani.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 01:

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on the 2nd of April 2015, I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture Water and Forestry Honourable John Mutorwa the following:

In view of the fact that many Regions are lagging behind in their poverty index and many citizens are suffering from unemployment and under development. One of these Regions is the alarming Ohangwena Region.

1. May the Minister appraise this august Assembly as to the current

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI**

underground water reservoir capacity in the Ohangwena Region and if utilised, how much irrigation project capacity will be created?

2. In view of this wealth of aquatic resources, how many jobs and food capacity could be created?
3. How many Regions can benefit from this water reservoir and what is the actual cost to access this reservoir?
4. Has the Ministry engaged the Angolan Authorities on the use of these waters and if the answer is in the affirmative, may the Minister share the agreements?
5. May the Minister further share information on other underground water reservoirs that exist in the country that can enhance modernisation of our Agriculture Industry through irrigation projects and in particular the Eiseb Block Water Reservoirs?

QUESTION 02:

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I further give Notice that on the same day, I shall ask the same Honourable Minister of Agriculture Water and Forestry the following:

Due to the overuse of our South African neighbours of the Orange River waters stretching from Lesotho and its feeding tributaries.

1. What is the agreement reached between our two Nations' Water Commissions and how long will this situation be allowed to continue?
2. What is the maximum water wage capacity that we are allowed to use - are we currently over or under capacity?

Thank you very much. I so move Honourable Speaker.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Honourable Member, you have the Floor.

QUESTION 03:

HON DIENDA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on the 2nd of April 2015, I shall ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Honourable Sofia Shaningwa the following questions regarding the Municipality of Okahandja.

1. How much money did the Municipality receive from Government for the Build Together Programme during the Financial Year 2011/2012?
 2. Furthermore, what portion of this money has been spent, and how many houses were built? May the Minister kindly provide the House with a detailed Financial and Progress Report pertaining to this project?
 3. Can the Minister explain the amount of N\$3,656,674.00 (Three Million Six Hundred and Fifty Six Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy Four Namibian Dollars), which was allocated as interest from internal loans during the Financial Year 2011/2012?
 4. How many erven were sold during the Financial Year 2011/2012 and to whom and for what amount and for what amount? Thank you, Honourable Speaker I so move.
-

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Can I move on? Any messages from the Head of State? Ministerial statements?

Actually, the Minister of Finance could have come earlier but for some reasons, I might have skipped you and I now offer you the Floor for the Notice of Motions.

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: thank you, Honourable Speaker for giving me the Floor.

Before I table my Motion, if I may - I just want to, by way of introduction, share how humbled but excited I am to serve this Sixth Parliament of Namibia. I will do my proper salutations and introductory marks when I motivate the Motion but for now I am very happy to be here and I am very thrilled, humbled and thankful to be here.

Honourable Speaker, I ask leave to introduce the Bill to Appropriate amounts of money to meet the financial requirements of the State during the Financial Year ending the 31st of March 2016; and

To request leave for this House to consider Estimates of Revenue, Expenditure and Income for the Financial Year 2015/2016 and the corresponding Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the Financial Years 2015/2016 to 2017/2018. I so move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Well, that is all I have on the agenda for today's sitting. Yes, please?

MINISTERIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Speaker, I beg your indulgence, there is a document on the tables of the Honourable Members referred to as the

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**QUESTIONS ON MINISTERIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT
HON MAAMBERUA**

Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. I must apologise that this document has a couple of errors in it and I beg your indulgence that I withdraw all these documents because we only saw them towards the end of last week.

We need to withdraw them because the Attorney-General, who is also new like myself as Minister of ICT, needs to correct them before we further publish them. I will appreciate your cooperation, if you please just allow the officials to withdraw all these documents so that there is no confusion in the land. Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I think the announcement by the Honourable Minister is correct. Do you want to take the Floor? Yes.

QUESTIONS ON THE MINISTERIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I have also seen those mistakes. I just wanted to inquire from the Honourable Minister how many of these documents were actually printed and at what cost? What would the total cost of reprinting all these documents be?

HON SPEAKER: Can I suggest something? The Minister is going to come back with the revised version and obviously, in presenting the revised version, he will deal with some of those issues. For now, I think we should leave it at that. Thank you.

I do not see anyone else wanting to take the Floor and since I do not

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HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

have any other agenda items before me. May I, therefore, request the Prime Minister to adjourn the House until tomorrow, the usual time.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Members, I Move that the House adjourn until tomorrow at 14:30.

HON SPEAKER: The House stands adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday at 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 14:51 UNTIL 2015. 03.31 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
31 MARCH 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I know that we are still going through the process of adjusting the sitting places for you, so please bear with us, be patient, we will in due course finalise everything, hopefully to the satisfaction of everyone in this House. Bear with us. It is not unreasonable for us to ask you to bear with us as we undertake to finalise the sitting arrangements in the manner that would be in keeping with all your expectations. Hopefully, we would be able to finalise this as we return next week.

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

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 04:

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 9th of April 2015, I shall ask the Minister of Mines and Energy, Honourable Obed Kandjoze the following:

In view of the fact that we import high volumes of electricity from our neighbouring Republic of South Africa, having notice that there is a current power crisis with their power utility Eskom, and the current periodic load shedding in many of their cities, may the Minister answer the following:

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI**

1. What capacity of electricity do we import from South Africa and how are we influenced by their current power crisis?
2. May the Minister further appraise this House to the current general picture of our electricity generation capacity and the economic demand we have to keep up with?
3. A few years ago our power utility NamPower, loaned their Zimbabwe counterparts millions of dollars to help our sister Republic jumpstart one of their power plants. How much of these funds were loaned to them and how much was paid back? If no repayment was made, when do we expect payment from them?

QUESTION 05:

HON VENAANI: I further give Notice that on the same day, I shall ask the same Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy the following:

1. What downstream benefits could be accrued from Namibia setting up a refinery in the northern Regions from Angolan oil?
2. Will there be any down prize effect that could stimulate the northern Regions' economy? If the answer is in the affirmative, may the Minister appraise this august Chamber?
3. Has there been any conclusive agreement between Namibia and Angola to date on the matter of oil refinery or access of Angolan oil products.
4. Will the Minister agree with the assertion that our Namibian negotiating team has no broader understanding on the business values and strategic approach on how our counterparts conduct business and this negatively influences the process in the negotiations? If this

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**FIRST READING - APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

assertion is correct, how does the Minister intend to mitigate the situation and to put the talks on course?

5. May the Minister appraise this august House on the current diesel and petrol prices in our neighbouring Republic Angola and how a refinery may influence our future oil prices in general? Honourable Speaker, I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Further Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? I see none.

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

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

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any Objections? No objections, thank you. Will the Honourable Minister please table the Bill?

The Secretary will now read the Bill for a First Time.

FIRST READING - APPROPRIATION BILL [B.5 – 2015]

SECRETARY: *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 – 2015]

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**SECOND READING - APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

HON SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister Move that the Bill be now read a second time?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes, I do, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Who seconds? Any objections? Thank you. Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

SECOND READING - APPROPRIATION BILL [B.5 – 2015]

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, thank you for giving me the Floor.

INTRODUCTION

Honourable Speaker, I have the distinct honour today to present the first Budget under the Presidential Administration of His Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob.

I wish to thank His Excellency, the President, for the trust and confidence he has bestowed on me to serve as the custodian of our Public Finance Management and the Financial Sector.

Honourable Speaker, I am grateful to the Founding President and Father of the Nation, His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, for the firm foundation that he has laid and for entrusting me to serve as an Accounting Officer in his first Government and thereafter in the various portfolios.

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**SECOND READING - APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Former President, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, under whose exemplary leadership I was privileged to respectively serve as the Deputy Minister of Finance and the Minister of Trade and Industry; and especially for the quantum progress that the country has made in various facets of socio-economic development agenda during his Presidency.

Honourable Speaker, I wish to sincerely thank my predecessor, the former Minister of Finance and now the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, for her great contribution to building a robust Public Finance Management System and for her effective stewardship of the Financial Sector. Indeed, I thank her for her sound guidance during the memorable months and years we worked together - as the Permanent Secretary and later as the Deputy Minister, as well as for her support during the last few days of finalising the Budget preparation.

Honourable Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Speaker of the National Assembly. In the same vein, may I also congratulate Honourable Loide Kasingo as the Deputy Speaker of this House. I also want to congratulate all the Honourable Members of the National Assembly, new and old, for their successful elections. Under your able leadership, this House is destined to steer the legislations to provide for the bread and butter issues affecting our people and our Nation's socio-economic development agenda, including, of course the *Appropriation Bill* before us.

I recognize the Opposition Parties, especially the Official Opposition Party, and want to thank them in advance for the positive contribution in the common responsibility for advancing the socio-economic development agenda for our country.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I wish to draw your attention to Article 126(1) of the Namibian Constitution, which states that - "*the Minister responsible for finance shall, at least once every year and thereafter at such interim stages as may be necessary, present estimates of revenue, expenditure and income for the prospective Financial Year*".

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**SECOND READING - APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

Based on this constitutional obligation, I table for the favourable consideration of the National Assembly the following documents:

- (a) The *Appropriation Bill*, 2015; and
- (b) The Estimates of Revenue, Expenditure and Income for the Financial Year 2015/2016 and the corresponding Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for the Financial Years 2015/2016 to 2017/18;

In addition, Honourable Speaker, I present to this august House the Fiscal Strategy Policy Framework, the Development Budget and the Accountability Report as important policy and information documents.

**ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE – RESULTS-BASED
MANAGEMENT**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, barely a week ago, on the 21st of March 2015, our country and people celebrated twenty-five years of Independence, borne out of decades of protracted struggle and selfless sacrifices for the liberty and prosperity for all Namibians.

I wish to recall what Jane Addams had asserted about a hundred years ago, and I quote - *“The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain, until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.”*

Honourable Speaker, we, the SWAPO Party-led Government, too, are aware and concede to this assertion. Twenty-five years down the line, Namibians look back with firm confidence, because we have made great strides.

Our country has been able to make notable progress and register key achievements, which include:-

- *The expansion of the economy by a factor of 15 since 1990, from*

N\$8.3 billion to N\$126.6 billion by 2013, with the corresponding income per capita having increased more than 10 times, from N\$5,500 to N\$58,300, thus propelling Namibia into the league of upper middle-income economies by global comparison;

- *improved access to education, health facilities and the provision of basic amenities;*
- *reduction in relative poverty from 38 percent in 1993/1994 to 20% by 2009/2010 and pushing back extreme poverty from 9% to 2.0% over the same period;*
- *an impeccable record of democratic governance, peace and stability epitomised by our outgoing President, the indefatigable His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, having been bestowed the 2015 Mo Ibrahim Award for excellence in African Leadership;*
- *upholding of macroeconomic stability and fiscal prudence, which enhanced the competitiveness of our economy and the capacity of the State to expand the provision of public services to all our people; and*
- *in spite of the difficult adjustment period stemming from the effects of the global financial crisis, Namibia was able to have its investment grade sovereign credit ratings by the two international reputable rating agencies, Moody's and Fitch, reaffirmed as stable.*

SEIZING CHALLENGES, CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Indeed, Honourable Speaker, we made this notable progress amidst daunting challenges and difficult circumstances, borne out of our historical past of glaring inequalities and exclusion. We have not yet fully prevailed over these challenges.

Making a significant dent in the development challenges requires prompt

implementation of targeted intervention measures and increased service delivery, alongside a robust tracking mechanism to assess the remit of the interventions.

In his inaugural address to the nation, His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob stated, and I quote - *“We plan to expand and spread the opportunities for growth and prosperity to be enjoyed by all Namibians in all parts of the country, with a specific focus on the disadvantaged sections of our population. We will do so by pursuing policies and strategies to safeguard macroeconomic stability, promote economic diversification and transformation of the Namibian economy to be more inclusive and resilient to internal and external shocks”*

WHAT DOES THIS BUDGET OFFER?

Honourable Speaker, the Budget and the Medium-term Expenditure Framework I am tabling today, are aimed at tackling the structural challenges that affect the development potential of our economy, unlocking opportunities for jobs and wealth creation and improving the welfare of Namibians in an inclusive and sustainable manner. It is a pro-poor, pro-growth Budget, with deliberate scaled-up resource allocations to the targeted Programmes for broad-based economic growth, job creation and poverty eradication over time.

Honourable Speaker, Fellow Namibians, to bring about better results in these focal areas of social and economic transformation, we need to depart from a *business as usual* mindset by making measurable efforts to hold Offices, Ministries and Agencies entrusted with programme execution accountable for their action or inaction. We have to move in top gear in this our journey to Vision 2030.

In particular, we need to make bold decisions and commence with targeted policies to transform and diversify the economy, alongside a package of strategic interventions to amplify the policy impacts in the targeted areas.

POLICY PRIORITIES FOR THE MTEF

Honourable Speaker, His Excellency President Hage Geingob's administration came into office on the basis of a strong foundation laid over the past twenty-five years. As a matter of policy priorities, this administration will seize the opportunity to address the socio-economic challenges in a very expeditious manner.

By and large, Namibia's economic growth so far has been positive and moderately high, but it largely remained jobless, with unemployment perpetually high, and now standing at 28.1%. A key challenge that we face is the narrow production base with growth being concentrated largely on the production and export of raw materials and commodities on one hand, and a high import bill of its goods on the other hand. This state of affairs limits the job creation potential, continually drives our trade balance deeper into deficit, exerts pressure on the stock of international reserves and renders the economy highly vulnerable to external shocks.

Thus, the **first priority** in this budget and MTEF is to bring about an inclusive growth agenda for our country by the following:-

- *diversifying and industrialising the economy, through targeted budgetary allocations to the Priority Economic Sectors with high economic growth and job creation potential,*
- *continuous development of functional and technical skills through increased access to tertiary education and vocational training,*
- *developing and supporting domestic and regional value chains in the areas of comparative and competitive advantage,*
- *crowding-in the much needed investment through Private Sector and SME Support Programmes as well as harnessing PPPs,*
- *enhancing greater access to development finance through the operations of domestic Development Finance Institutions and tailor-*

made commercial credit offerings, and

- *leveraging PPPs for infrastructure development and public service delivery.*

Honourable Speaker, although we have, undoubtedly, made a remarkable dent in poverty, deep pockets of poverty and vulnerabilities still remain.

Thus, the **second priority** for this Budget and MTEF is to reduce poverty and improve social welfare. A sustainable and long-term strategy to address poverty is the provision of opportunities for income generation as well as promoting the creation of decent jobs. We believe that this can be achieved through:-

- *strengthening social safety nets in coverage and quantum as the first line of defence against poverty for the vulnerable members of our society,*
- *supporting the creation of decent jobs and self-employment opportunities in the Private Sector,*
- *implementing policies that promote local access to, and ownership of the resources, and nurturing the capacity to exploit the resources profitably,*
- *developing social security networks that are sustainable and meaningful, and*
- *designing and implementing redistributive tax policies that are pro-poor and pro-growth*

Honourable Speaker, the interconnectedness across the skills deficit, joblessness, poverty, income inequalities and skewed ownership levels, pose an unyielding barrier to wealth creation for the majority of Namibians. We need to recognize that there is no silver bullet to address these challenges. A package of policies and instruments is needed to

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HON SCHLETTWEIN

break this barrier over time.

The **third priority** for the budget and MTEF is, therefore, the achievement of prosperity and wealth creation through:-

- *empowering Namibians in a manner that creates sustainable and broad-based wealth creation,*
- *promoting affordable and sustainable access to finance and means of production, while maintaining responsible lending,*
- *developing facilities to support SME access to finance and mentorship Programmes,*
- *increasing the share of local ownership and value share in the value chains across various industrial and service-oriented activities,*
- *encouraging wealth accumulation and prudent management, and*
- *expanding the provision of basic amenities to all Namibians.*

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, a performance-oriented and results-based work culture needs to be strengthened in the realm of public service delivery to ensure accelerated service delivery, accountability and value for money. Hence, the **fourth priority** is to:

- *improve service delivery by strengthening internal efficiency of the Public Service Sector through performance measures and accountability;*
- *continuous skills development, and*
- *reform of public enterprises to ensure affordable, competitive, reliable and sustainable service delivery.*

Honourable Speaker, the extent to which we can address these priorities

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today depends on the multiplicity of internal and external factors impacting on our growth potential, the revenue generation capacity of our economy and the measures that we can deploy to address these constraints. Allow me, therefore, to highlight the economic context and constraints under which this budget and MTEF will be executed.

**GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL
CONTEXT**

Honourable Speaker, the global economy is projected to grow, but at a weaker pace of 3.5% in 2015 and marginally improving to 3.6% in 2016. With the exception of the United States of America, the growth outlook is weaker for other major economies, such as the Euro Zone, China and Japan.

The Sub-Saharan African region is also not spared, with growth projected to remain relatively flat at 5% over the MTEF period.

Closer to home, the South African economy, which is closely linked to Namibia through strong trade and financial ties, is projected to remain subdued, having only registered an estimated 1.4% growth in 2014 and is projected to grow by an average of 2.5% over the MTEF, mainly due to the effects of electricity supply shortages.

The prolonged low growth spell for the South African economy poses inescapable consequences for Namibia, particularly with regard to export growth and revenue accruing from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU).

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY

With regard to developments in the domestic economy, growth is estimated at 6.2% in 2014, an acceleration from the growth rate of 5.1% recorded in 2013.

Growth in 2014 was anchored by the strong expansion of output in

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secondary industries, on the back of a booming construction activity and the recovery in the Primary Industry Sector as well as associated increased investment in the mining sector, a strong surge in the Retail Sector and strong public consumption expenditure. Looking ahead, a stronger economic expansion could benefit from increased value chain developments in agriculture, agro processing, minerals beneficiation and stronger output from the Services Sector.

Inflation and Monetary Policy

Honourable Speaker, inflation remained relatively low, having been declining since 2012 to reach 3.6% by February 2015, thanks to lower oil and transport prices. After a sustained period of accommodative monetary policy, the Repo rate was, however, increased by a cumulative 75 basis points since June 2014, from 5.50% in May 2014 to 6.25% by February 2015, mainly as a measure to contain the rapid rise in household credit extension.

Balance of Payments and Foreign Reserves

The Overall Balance of Payments recorded a deficit of N\$1.8 billion, from a surplus of N\$598 million in 2013, mainly as a result of a widening current account deficit. The current account continued to register a deficit as a result of strong inflows of imports over exports, which further puts pressure on the stock of foreign reserves, although the stock remains sufficient to support the currency peg. On the other hand, the capital and financial account recorded an increased surplus, primarily due to large net capital inflows from other long-term investment, albeit not enough to offset the deteriorated current account deficit. These inflows were due to increased borrowings by the Private Sector, especially in the Mining Sector.

Exchange Rate and Currency Movements

The exchange rate has been depreciating against all major currencies in the recent years which, coupled with low inflation, augurs well for the

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competitiveness of the Export Industry, but comes with a higher import bill and increased debt servicing costs. This, together with improved market access into Africa and other major markets, such as the EU, offers a competitive opportunity for Namibia to further expand her exports.

Capital Market Developments

Government's borrowing strategy continues to promote domestic capital market developments, with about 90% of borrowing sourced from the domestic capital market during the Financial Year 2014/2015.

Regional Economic Integration

Honourable Speaker, in terms of the regional integration agenda, progress remains stalled regarding the current SACU revenue sharing and institutional arrangements.

Namibia believes in the relevance of SACU as the engine of regional integration and industrialisation. We believe that SACU revenues are currently broadly shared in a manner that reflects the realities of the SACU economies and the proportional benefits accruing from the market share of the Member States in the Customs Union.

Regarding the drag on the SACU Revenue Sharing Formula and the perceived dependence on SACU receipts, our stance is that revenue matters cannot be seen in isolation. Associated trade and balance of payment benefits, rebates, duty drawdowns from the pool and industrial/agricultural development policies must be considered as well. A more balanced view on the revenue sharing formula through which all Member States of SACU can grow should, therefore, be our common aim.

In regard to SADC, the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement between and among the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is envisaged for launching in June this year. This promises for a larger market of some 625 million people and representing

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about 58% of the continent's GDP. However, to optimise trading opportunities, Namibia needs to significantly improve her productive capacity and avoid the trap of becoming a captive market for those countries with an ability to trade in finished goods.

Fiscal Developments

Honourable Speaker, on the fiscal front, total revenue outturn for 2013/2014 stood at N\$41.91 billion, which 10.3% increase from the previous year and 4.4% better than the Budgeted Revenue.

For the financial year 2014/2015, the preliminary revenue outturn is estimated at N\$53.91 billion, which represents a 28.6% increase over revenue collected the previous year and about 2.7% better than the Budget Forecast, supported by robust growth in domestic revenue streams and better SACU receipts for this year.

Total expenditure for the Financial Year 2013/2014 stood at N\$46.73 billion, or 35.7% of GDP. The Budget execution rate stood at 98.2%, a much better utilisation rate, compared to 95.5% spending rate in the previous year. A larger part of the unspent amount is from the Development Budget Allocation unfortunately.

In this regard, **Honourable Speaker**, I must stress again, as my predecessor, Right Honourable Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila has done on numerous occasions, that unspent budgetary allocations, particularly those of development nature, have an attendant opportunity cost of foregone development outcomes. Public infrastructure and service delivery are compromised by our inability to fully implement the budgeted Development Projects.

The preliminary expenditure outturn for the financial year 2014/2015, including expenditure commitments, amounts to N\$54.32 billion, representing 90.2% of the N\$60.20 billion Budget. We expect this ratio to improve as outstanding information becomes available and the last payments being made..

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The Budget balance stood at 3.7% of GDP in 2013/2014 and an estimated 4.2% of GDP by 2014/2015, much better than the budgeted deficit of 5.5%. While the debt stock has risen in nominal terms, as a proportion of GDP, debt stood at 23.5% in 2013/2014, and 23.7% by 2014/2015, seen against the threshold of 35%. Contingent liabilities stood at 4.3% of GDP in 2014/2015, well below our ceiling of 10% of GDP.

Honourable Speaker, the Government Accountability Report gives a detailed account of achievements by Vote and Programmes. Let me now turn to the details of the medium-term outlook.

THE MEDIUM-TERM ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Over the medium-term, our economy is projected to grow above global averages, but the growth rates are expected to be moderate in line with global trends. GDP is estimated to have grown by 6.2% in 2014 and it is projected to moderate to 5.7% during 2015 and average at slightly above 5.0% over the MTEF.

Revenue for the Budget Year is projected at N\$58.44 billion, an increase of 8.7% over the previous year. For the MTEF, revenue is projected to increase at a moderate pace of about 9.0%, to reach N\$69.18 billion by the end of the MTEF or about 35.0% of GDP.

Honourable Speaker, the major drag and significant risk for revenue growth is the projected reduction of SACU revenues, on account of lower growth outlook for the South African economy and clouded by the uncertainty regarding the pending negotiations on SACU institutional and Revenue Sharing Formula arrangements. Going forward, Namibia remains open for dialogue and reiterates the need for constructive engagements on this matter, which should be seen in the wider context than mere revenue sharing.

The FY2015/2016 Budget and Expenditure Outlook for the MTEF

Honourable Speaker, the Budget that I table before this house, proposes an

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expenditure outlay of N\$67.08 billion for the Financial Year 2015/2016, equating to 40.8% of GDP. This represents 7.0% nominal increase over the past year, a much moderate expansion rate, compared to 27.7% over the previous year. For the MTEF, total expenditure is forecast to moderately increase to N\$72.06 billion by 2017/2018 and average 39.0% of GDP.

Total non-interest expenditure for 2015/2016 will increase to N\$63.23 billion, from N\$57.69 billion in 2014/2015, and average around N\$65.56 billion over the MTEF.

Interest payments, which represents Government obligations to debt servicing is estimated at N\$3.87 billion in the Financial Year 2015/2016 or some 6.6% of revenue, seen against the limit of 10% of revenue.

Non-interest Operational Expenditure for the Budget Year is set at N\$52.12 billion or 31.7% of GDP, representing a 3.0% nominal increase over the previous Financial Year, due to expenditure commitments arising from Public Sector remuneration corrections as well as adjustments to the Government structure.

The Development Budget, which is key to infrastructure development and fiscal countercyclicality is proposed to increase at a much higher rate of 15.9% to N\$11.10 billion in the Budget Year and average around N\$12.05 billion over the MTEF. As a portion of GDP, the Development Budget allocation increases from 6.4% in 2014/2015 to 6.7% in 2015/2016 and averages around this level over the MTEF.

In addition to the Development Budget allocation, budgetary allocations are made under the Operational Budget for targeted transfers to State-owned Enterprises for investment in strategic infrastructure projects such as the Kudu Gas-to-Power Project, railway and road network rehabilitation, Walvis Bay Port expansion and the Mass Housing flagship projects.

Going forward, Government must seek a better alignment of the

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Development Budget to our economic priorities, Industrialisation Policy and our Growth at Home Strategy. This alignment would further be optimised through leveraging local sourcing requirements, PPPs, improved Namibian ownership and the development of value chains across the development initiatives.

Budget Balance and Financing Options

Honourable Speaker, in terms of the projected revenue and expenditure proposals for the MTEF, the budget deficit is projected at 5.3% of GDP in the Financial Year 2015/2016 and average 3.8% over the MTEF, which is well within the 5% target cap.

Total debt is projected to increase to an average of 31.5% of GDP over the MTEF, seen against the threshold of 35.0%. Government intends to finance the substantial component of the deficit from domestic borrowings. Contingent liabilities are projected to increase to an average of 8.7% over the MTEF, as Government extends support to SOE project financing on the strength of their own balance sheets.

The sovereign guarantees in the pipeline include the construction of a dual carriage between Windhoek and Okahandja to the Road Fund Administration, the construction of the national fuel storage facility, fuel pipeline and the fuel offloading jetty at Walvis Bay by National Energy Fund, and guarantees to NAMCOR and NamPower for the Kudu Gas-to-Power Project and the Mass Housing Programme through the NHE.

**EXPENDITURE PRIORITIES AND INTERVENTIONS FOR
MTEF**

Honourable Speaker, fundamental changes have been made to the structure of the Government to enhance functional specialization and efficiency in service delivery. These institutional and administrative changes are an expression of the urgency with which the Government wishes to tackle the socio-economic challenges with renewed momentum and strategy.

It is with this renewed approach in mind that the sectoral and Vote allocations have been made in this Budget and over the MTEF.

Economic and Infrastructural Development

Honourable Speaker, In this Budget, a total of N\$34.41 billion, or 15.7% of non-interest expenditure is allocated to the Economic and Infrastructure Sectors over the MTEF to stimulate growth and enhance the competitiveness of our economy through developing a robust Transport and Logistics Sector.

These allocations will cater for growth-enhancing infrastructure in the Logistics and Energy Sector as well continued interventions in the Agricultural Sector to boost national food security. Railway and roads rehabilitation, the expansion of the Port of Walvis Bay and the Kudu Gas-to-Power Project, are the flagship projects over the MTEF. The following key project financing allocations are made:-

- N\$4.93 billion over the MTEF to support the balance sheets of Nampower and Namcor for the Kudu Gas-to-Power Project. In addition, the State will provide a guarantee for the financing that will be sourced outside the Budget,
- N\$1.25 billion over the MTEF for Mass Housing Project. In addition, Government will issue a sovereign guarantee to the tune of N\$2 billion for NHE to access funding for this vital project,
- N\$3.27 billion over the MTEF for the roads projects, in addition to N\$1.7 billion to be raised by the Road Fund Administration, and
- N\$945.84 million for railway projects, with funding outside the scope of the State Revenue Fund to the tune of N\$3.79 billion over the MTEF.
- N\$7.75 billion is allocated to the Agricultural Sector to cater for, among others, the Green Scheme Programme and other interventions

in the Sector over the MTEF.

On the Social Sectors, Honourable Speaker, Namibia has an impeccable record of according the highest share of the National Budget to the Social Sectors, particularly education, health and social safety net systems. Commensurate attention is also being accorded to the Housing Sector. Thus, a total of N\$23.99 billion is allocated to the Social Sectors, which is 38.9% of the total non-interest budgeted expenditure. Over the MTEF, this allocation amounts to N\$74.42 billion.

- the largest share of this allocation accrues to the **Education Sector**, with a combined allocation of N\$15.35 billion in the Budget Year and N\$ 48.07 billion over the MTEF,
- The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture receives N\$11.32 billion in the Budget Year or 73.7% of the total allocation to the Education Sector. The Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation gets N\$4.03 billion in the Budget Year and N\$12.04 billion over the MTEF,
- For basic education, we shall be able to provide both primary and secondary education for free with this allocation (*applause*). Access to tertiary education will be further expanded through a formula based funding and enhanced financial assistance to students. In addition, better facilities and equipment will be provided for vocational training,
- The Old Age Pension Grant as announced by His Excellency, President Hage Geingob is going to be increased by N\$400.00 to N\$1,000.00 per month (*applause*). This will further be increased annually to reach N\$1,200.00 per month by the end of the MTEF period (*applause*). Other social grants will be strengthened in coverage. This places our elderly above the national poverty line, which is estimated at N\$530.00 per month in 2015 and compares very favourably with R1,410.00 per month offered to the elderly in South Africa currently.

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- the **Health Sector** receives N\$6.49 billion for the coming Financial Year, and a total of N\$19.78 billion over the MTEF to expand and improve the quality of health service delivery,
- N\$303.81 million is allocated for National Youth Service Development Programmes over the MTEF to implement a host of Youth Empowerment Programmes.

Public Safety and Order

Honourable Speaker, investment in peace, public safety, security and Rule of Law remains key to our national development as it was depicted over the last 25 years. Therefore, a total allocation of N\$14.29 billion in Financial Year 2015/2016 or some N\$42.77 billion is made over the MTEF to the Safety and Security Sector.

Administrative Sectors

Maintaining democratic governance and an effective State, such as ours, requires continuous investment in institutional and administrative capacity. A total allocation of N\$8.16 billion is made available to the Administrative Sector. This is 10.8% increase from the previous Budget and funds for the rendering of services emanating from the constitutional changes and functional realignments to the structure of Government. Over the MTEF, this allocation amounts to N\$23.76 billion.

Four new Budget Votes have been created as a result of the changes to the Government structure. New functions and offices have also been defined, while some functions have been re-arranged.

An amount of N\$499.24 million is allocated to the Contingency Provision for the Budget Year and N\$1.10 billion over the MTEF to cater for unforeseen emergencies. An amount of N\$334.0 million was allocated during 2014/2015 and N\$319.48 million was spent. I will distributed the information regarding the use of the Provision in the last Financial Year.

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POLICY INTERVENTIONS FOR THE MTEF

Honourable Speaker, in the coming Financial Year and MTEF, Government will implement and undertake specific policy interventions and reforms in the areas of tax policy, public finance management and Financial Sector reforms

Tax Policy Proposals

The Government tax policy plays a key role in contributing to Government socio-economic development objectives, through enhancing competitiveness of the economy, income distribution and the generation of revenue for the State to provide public services.

We have noted that our tax system rests on a narrow base and displays varying levels of skewness, in terms of the taxpayer community and the relative contribution to the fiscus.

This is especially in regard to the relative high tax burden on individuals *vis-à-vis* corporations. Our aim is to make it easier for SMEs to meet their tax obligations, and curb tax evasion especially by entities which conduct their activities as corporations but they are registered as charitable organizations, trusts and Non-governmental organizations which are exempted from tax.

I am thus going to commission an investigation into the equity and effectiveness of the tax system, with the view to broaden and deepen the tax base, improve the fairness of sharing the tax burden, while keeping in check the efficiency and competitiveness of the system and the taxpayer's ability to pay.

I wish to make the following tax policy proposals, to be implemented upon favourable consideration of the *Appropriation Bill*:-

- *reduction of the withholding tax on services rendered by Non-residents from 25% to 10%,*

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- *implementation of the reduction of the non-mining corporate income tax from 33% to 32% as announced last year,*
- *introduction of the first phase of environmental taxes on carbon dioxide emission tax on motor vehicles, incandescent light bulbs and motor vehicle tyres as considered and announced last year,*
- *lifting of the Value-Added Tax (VAT) threshold for registration from N\$200,000 to N\$500,000 as announced last year, following a lengthy consultation process,*
- *introduction of criteria for voluntary VAT registration and VAT import accounts,*
- *introduction of mandatory security requirement for the deferral of VAT goods,*
- *introduction of electronic communication rules, which enable online filing of tax returns and online payment of taxes,*
- *introducing taxation of restraint of trade payments, as well as proceeds from the sale of a petroleum licence or right to explore, develop and produce petroleum,*
- *introducing transfer duty on the sale of shares in companies and membership interest in Close Corporations owning residential property, commercial property, land and mineral licences, as announced previously,*
- *tabling of the Customs and Excise Bill, following regional harmonisation and modernisation of customs and excise procedures,*
- *strengthening the provisions for recovery of tax debts, and*
- *introduction of taxes to promote domestic value-addition in the*

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Primary Commodity and Natural Resources Sectors.

In line with the SACU common excise policy, the excise duty rates - *sin taxes*, on alcoholic beverages and tobacco products will increase as follows:

- *the tax on a quart of beer goes up by 15½ cents,*
- *a bottle of wine will cost 15 cents more,*
- *a bottle of sparkling wine goes up by 48 cents,*
- *a bottle of whisky will go up by N\$3.77; and*
- *a pack of 20 cigarettes goes up by 82 cents*

Honourable Speaker, alongside the tax policy proposals, we will press ahead with the implementation of various tax administration and business process re-engineering reforms in the collection of domestic taxes and customs and excise duties.

By 2016 tax returns and tax payments are envisaged to be on line, heralding the full implementation of the e-filing system.

I will pursue work towards the establishment of the Revenue Agency for Namibia, in line with the work calendar approved by Cabinet.

Public Finance Management Reforms

Honourable Speaker, with regard to Public Finance Management, I intend to introduce and further take forward the following reforms:-

- *introduction of a Mid-Year Budget Review and Pre-Budget Statement, to be presented in October/November each year, as a measure to assess the budget execution and budget policy implementation as well as to further inject greater transparency in the budget process*

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(applause). The review for coming Financial Year will greatly assist in further refining expenditure Programmes for the newly established portfolios,

- *extending the Public Expenditure Reviews and Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) self-assessments to major Budget Votes, as a mechanisms of assessing the quality of expenditure in terms of outcomes and enhancing value for money,*
- *strengthening the capitalisation and supporting the market operations of our Development Financial Institutions to enhance access to development finance,*
- *improving Government accounting standards to strengthen the accounting system and accounting skills in line with best international practices,*
- *tabling the revised Public Procurement Bill, pursuant to further consultations and legislative inputs provided,*
- *develop and implement a policy framework for the structuring and management of Government sovereign guarantees to diversify risks, realise improved financial terms and manage the macro-fiscal exposures,*
- *finalising work on the Public Private Partnership legislation and facilitating the preparation of bankable projects for Private Sector investment in the potential areas of Mass housing, energy, railways, ports, health and industrial parks, and*
- *working closely with the Law Reform and Development Commission on the drafting of a new Public Finance Management Bill.*

Financial Sector Law Reforms

With respect to policies to advance Financial Sector development, our

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Government will continue to work collaboratively with the Financial Services Industry to implement the commitments set out in the Financial Sector Strategy and the Financial Sector Charter. This is especially regarding to initiatives to promote access to finance and modernise the supervisory regime, elevate the role of the Sector in the economy, strengthen financial safety nets, and improve Namibian ownership in the Sector.

These measures and interventions set out in this budget will benefit from other sectoral policy and legislative reforms aimed at improving the general business environment and administrative efficiency across the spectrum of the Public Sector.

On the Banking Sector, I intent tabling the Banking Institutions Bill to bring the legal framework in line with recent international developments, introduce a framework for regulation of microfinance (second tier) banking institutions as well as clarify local ownership provisions.

Regarding the Non-banking Financial Sector, I intend tabling the new NAMFISA Bill, Financial Institutions and Markets Bill and the Financial Adjudicator Bill once the legal drafting and scrutiny is completed.

The budgetary allocations and other policy intervention measures set out in this budget represent the Government's resolve to address the socio-economic challenges that we face in a more targeted manner.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Honourable Speaker, over the past twenty-five years, we have laid a strong pillar for macroeconomic stability, robust public finance management and robust financial policies. This is the framework which I am honoured to preserve and improve as a foundation for accelerated inclusive economic growth and wealth creation.

I wish to thank the Honourable Minister of Economic Planning and

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Director-General of the National Planning Commission and his staff for his supportive role in formulating the Development Budget for this MTEF and for his role played in monitoring and evaluating Development Projects and Programmes.

I also wish to thank Governor Ipumbu Shiimi and his staff at the Bank of Namibia for ensuring financial stability and a monetary policy that is supportive of the country's development goals. I thank Namfisa for the stern efforts to improve supervision and compliance in the Non-banking Financial Sector.

I also welcome my Deputy Minister of Finance, Honourable Natangwe Ithete (*applause*). I believe he will be a strong asset in the Ministry of Finance.

I thank the Budget Team in the Ministry of Finance, under the leadership of the Permanent Secretary, Madam Erica Shafuda, whose passion to serve their country surpasses the countless hours they devoted in the preparation of this Budget (*applause*). I equally extend my sincere gratitude to the Receiver of Revenue and Commissioner of Customs and Excise and their staff for meeting or even exceeding the revenue collection targets as well as the trade facilitation functions they render.

I thank the staff of the Government Printers under the Ministry of Works and Transport for their hard work to ensure the timely delivery of the Budget documents.

On behalf of the Ministry of Finance, the Government and the people of Namibia, I wish to acknowledge the financial and technical support we continue to receive from our development partners.

CONCLUSION

Honourable Speaker and Members of the National Assembly, the Nobel Prize winner for economics some years ago, Joseph Stiglitz once said that, and I quote "*macroeconomic policy can never be devoid of politics: it*

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involves fundamental trade-offs and affects different groups differently”

We are experiencing such trade-offs vividly, hence our struggle for a free and prosperous Namibia.

And now we have taken the following route:-

- Achieving greater inclusiveness and prosperity for all and we know that this requires high and sustainable economic growth, grounded on strong macroeconomic fundamentals.
- In this Budget, we have scaled-up allocations to the Economic and Social Sectors to spur growth, job-creation and long-term productivity gains.
- We have increased Old Age Pension grants and made a commitment to future adjustments in line with resource availability and regional best practices. Anti-poverty policy packages and instruments are being streamlined through the deliberate intervention to create a dedicated Government Ministry.
- Government is taking measures to improve internal efficiency and accelerate service delivery to all Namibians.
- We have extended free education to the secondary education phase, increased the support to tertiary and vocational education, Land Reform Programme and the provision of basic services so that no Namibian must feel left out.
- We are investing in the youth through continuous skills development and empowerment opportunities.
- We are keeping fiscal operations within sustainable levels, and working collaboratively with organized labour and the Private Sector for the common good of our country.

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- Through this Budget, we will move a step closer to our objective of inclusivity, reduction of poverty and income inequalities.

Honourable Members, targeted resource allocation proposals have been made. What matters is effective implementation and results-based management. And we need to act decisively and in the shortest time possible. I thus seek for your support and insights going forward.

Honourable Speaker, I want to end with a quotation from Charles Darwin who quite rightly said, and I quote “*If the misery of the poor be caused not by the laws of nature, but by our institutions, great is our sin.*” (Applause)

It is now my distinguished honour to submit for your favourable consideration the *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 – 2015], and the 2015/2016 – 2017/2018 MTEF. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much for that comprehensive presentation of the Budget that set a scene in terms of our timetable as we embarked upon comprehensive review as we go through this important Budget.

A great deal of good news Honourable Members. I am sure we will do justice to the Budget. Any further discussion? Honourable McHenry Venaani.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I wish to adjourn the Debate until next week Wednesday.

HON SPEAKER: Next week Wednesday, that is the 8th of April 2015. Any objection to that? Agreed to and we will meet as usual, 14:30 sharp.

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ADJOURNMENT
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

Since there are no further issues, may I request the Prime Minister to adjourn the House? Do we then convene the House on Wednesday or Tuesday? That is actually intended to allow the Members to use the opportunity to do a good job. Thank you very much.

HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I propose that the House adjourns until next week Wednesday, at 14:30.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The House stands adjourn until next week Wednesday. Thank you.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 14:51 UNTIL 2015. 04.08 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
08 APRIL 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER IN TERMS
OF RULE 20(B) OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

HON SPEAKER: Please be seated. Honourable Members, you have been requested that you be provided with identity cards and most of you have already received them. This is just a friendly reminder for those Members of Parliament who have not yet had their photos taken. You are, therefore, requested to do so before 17:00 today, the 8th of April 2015, and those who are not able to do so are requested to do so by Thursday, the 9th of April 2015, from 09:00 am until 17:00 pm. Staff members are ready in Room 14 on the ground floor to assist you in this regard. I urge all the Honourable Members to make use of this opportunity.

Furthermore, I also have additional announcement to make: With regard to the Second Reading of the *Appropriation Bill* for today, preference to be given to the following Political Parties as indicated on the Draft Budget Programme:-

DTA - The Leader of the Official Opposition – Unlimited time
RDP - 45 minutes
SWAPO Party - 85 minutes.

Furthermore, few Honourable Members were interested in knowing when they might be able to take the Floor with regard to their Maiden Speeches. I can only advise that Members are informed that this can be done during the Second Reading or the Committee Stage of the *Appropriation Bill* or during any other time that you would have the opportunity to do so. All

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that is required is for you to prepare accordingly and make use of the opportunity given to you by raising your hand and by indicating the fact that you are ready to do so.

The allocation of sitting in the Chamber is not yet finalised and we have some changes so far but it is not yet final. Please bear with us because we need to consult further to make sure that we have these arrangements finalised. Bear with us and we will do so as rapidly as possible.

Lastly, all SWAPO Party Members are informed that there will be a Party Caucus immediately after the sitting this afternoon, and I think the meeting will be in Conference Room 1, today, immediately after we adjourn from here.

Those are the few announcements I wanted to make.

Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committee? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Yes, Honourable Maamberua.

QUESTION 06:

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 16th of April 2015, I shall ask the Minister of Basic Education, Arts and Culture the following questions:

In doing so I also acknowledge with thanks the removal of the Reiterdenkmal, which was replaced with the Genocide Statue last year.

1. Is the Minister aware that in Windhoek, in front of the Municipal Offices the Statue of Curt von Francois was erected under the dubious distortion of history purporting him to be the founder of Windhoek? Could it be possible that the man who arrived in Windhoek mid-October 1890, could be regarded as the founder of Windhoek while Jonker Afrikaner had settled in Windhoek decades before him?

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2. Is the Minister aware that the statue of Von Francois faces Berlin, indicating paying allegiance to the Kaizer and his military decoration called the iron cross is visible on his uniform?
3. Is the Minister and Government not aware that colonial Statues of this nature represent celebrations of atrocities committed during colonial times and the upholding of white supremacy, even after Independence?
4. Could the Minister inform this House as to what Programmes are in place to remove all colonial Statues from open public places?
5. Is the Government not aware that Von Francois being one of the Governors of German South West Africa was responsible for, what I regard as the phase 1 of genocide in Namibia, which is:
 - He ordered an attack on 13 April 1893 on the Nama under the leadership of Hendrik Witbooi at Hoornkranz, with the following words “..*The object of this mission is to destroy the tribe of the, Witboois ..*”
 - The order was to exterminate the people (±1000 people that included women and children).
 - The attack was an ambush in the early hours of the morning.
 - Von Francois’s men also seized eighty women. They were brought to the new German fortress in Windhoek – that is the place called Alte Fest and distributed among the troops as house slaves. Though it is reported that there is no record of their ultimate fate or how they suffered, Von Francois is said to have argued that their capture and abuse was ‘*an appropriate form of punishment.*’
6. Would the Minister, therefore, agree that the statue of Curt von Francois is an abomination?
7. Is it not time that this Statue and others, representing colonial

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personalities of brutal and inhumane characters be removed before the end of this year from public places? I so Move. I have another one.

HON SPEAKER: You may continue.

QUESTION 07:

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on the Thursday, the 16th of April 2015, I shall ask the Minister of Higher Education Training and Innovation the following questions:

The congratulatory advert by UNAM in the local newspapers of Thursday, 02 April 2015 caught my attention because this publicly funded institution has used these funds to place adverts to congratulate members of the Ruling Party who have made it to the Legislature and to Cabinet. My questions to the Minister need to be contextualised in my relationship with UNAM, because I am not an obscure, non-entity insignificant persona who could easily have been forgotten.

Despite the facts that an UNAM official came to interview Parliamentarians, including me at Parliament to confirm who had worked or studied at UNAM, I a SWANU member was nevertheless excluded from the advert in reference. For this contextualisation I have to mention the following:

1. I was a staff member of UNAM at Namibia Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER) from 1992 - 1993 March. (*Interjections*) no, I was a Researcher at that time. I had already finished my studies in the United Kingdom where I obtained a Masters Degree in Accounting and Management Science. It is from the University of Nambia 1993, where I was:

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

- Recruited to join African Development Bank (ADB), as an Advisor to the Executive Director of Southern Africa
- I published a book together with Yaron, Gil and Gertie Jansen - *Rural Development in the Okavango Region of Namibia: An Assessment of Needs, Opportunities and Constraints* in 1992 under the auspices of UNAM
- Helped to secure funding for the Information Resource Centre at UNAM from African Development Bank

2. Rejoined UNAM from 2003 – 2010

- Was a Senior Lecture and the Head of Department (HOD) of Accounting, Auditing and Taxation for 3 years
- Was member of the Senate and Council
- Completed a Master of Law degree (LLM) - Economic Law with UNAM
- Introduced the Post Graduate Diploma Internal Auditing at UNAM
- Introduced the Certificate / Diploma in Accounting at UNAM

3. Still part of UNAM in 2008

- Charged with violating UNAM Council's Resolution C/07/387/27 of 27 November 2007. Which says that UNAM staff members shall not hold office in political parties
- Was never dismissed
- Was elected to Parliament whilst still a staff member of UNAM in 2009

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

- It is a question you cannot interrupt me. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: It is a Point of Order. Yes, Honourable Member you have the Floor. Can I just come in now? Can I ask the Honourable Member to please take his seat? I actually thought you are going to conclude quickly so I did not want to come in, however, honestly speaking, the last issue you are raising has nothing to do with this House.

It is a matter between you and the University of Namibia and I will confirm you ought to have been listed among those Members of Parliament who are listed in that particular newspaper and I think you can take up that issue directly with the University of Namibia. There we have to answer for that. It is not a matter for the Minister of Education to deal with that. You may continue.

HON MAAMBERUA: I can cut on the contextualisation, now for you to appreciate why I had to contextualise, these are the specific questions:

Questions:-

1. Is the Ministry in a position to explain why UNAM is pursuing me through exclusion?

HON SPEAKER: No, no, please with due respect we cannot pursue this line of questioning. It is not on please. Honourable Member, I will rule you Out of Order. Honestly speaking, none of us can answer on behalf of the University of Namibia and I do not think it is fair to say that they have actually taken a deliberate action to isolate you.

I am sure if they get the message, they will be the first ones to accept the

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON MAAMBERUA**

fact that you have a legitimate reason to complain and let us leave it at that.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. My questions relate to the policy from the Ministry. Therefore, just allow me to read my questions to the Minister please. The next question is what is:

2. What is the Ministry's policy regarding this UNAM policy of barring staff members from holding positions in Political Parties?
3. Is there such a policy in the education sector? Are teachers/lecturers in other institutions, for example, the Polytechnic, Colleges, etcetera prohibited from holding positions in Political Parties?
4. Why did UNAM choose to congratulate only SWAPO MPs, yet in their advert they have the following caption and I quote - *"Congratulations UNAM Ambassadors - The University of Namibia heartily congratulates members of the Executive and the Legislative Branches of the Republic of Namibia, with special recognition to our Alumni and former staff members."* (Interjections)

Comrade Speaker?

HON SPEAKER: Can I give him a chance to conclude please?

HON MAAMBERUA: Yes, please. The interventions are getting more interesting.

5. It is public knowledge that there are staff members of UNAM holding political positions in several other political parties, in my view why

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON DIENDA**

has UNAM not charged them with their regulations? Would you agree with me that this is selective morality?

6. Does the Ministry condone this UNAM policy?
7. Would the Minister tolerate that a publicly funded institutions promote one Political Party at the expense of others, using public resources?
8. Honourable Minister, do not you think that this act of UNAM gives a perception that it is being used by members of a certain Political Party as a springboard for the advancement of their political careers?
9. In your view, does a public institution that behaves in this manner deserve public funding?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. May I ask the Honourable Member at the other end, my system does not yet indicate names, however, I am giving you the Floor. Yes, you are welcome.

QUESTION 08:

HON DIENDA: I give Notice that on Thursday, the 16th of April 2015, I shall ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Honourable Sofia Shaningwa, the following questions regarding the Mass Housing Project. *(Interjection) muffy tuffy, it is a mess because it is in a mess! What do you not understand? (Laughter)*

HON SPEAKER: Let us have order please.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON JAHANIKA**

HON DIENDA: It is my turn! Please shut up and let me finish.

1. How many tenders have been awarded so far in all 14 Regions, to whom were they awarded and what is the monetary value of each?
2. What is the amount of houses that have been awarded per tender?
3. How many houses have already been completed and already been handed over to the owners?

HON MEMBER: Work in progress!

HON DIENDA: I know what is meant by work in progress.

4. How many houses remain outstanding and by when will all these houses be completed?
5. What criteria is used to determine and choose the potential owners from this scheme? I so Move, Honourable Speaker?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, you have the Floor please. Can we give him a chance to be heard?

QUESTION 09:

HON JAHANIKA: Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, 16th of April 2015, I shall ask the Minister of Urban and Rural Development the following questions based on suspended Omaruru

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON JAHANIKA**

Councillors - December 2013:

1. What is the timeframe the Honourable Minister is authorised in accordance with *Local Authority Act* of 1992 as amended to suspend Councillors?
2. Why did the Honourable Minister failed to implement the former President instruction in June 2014, at the State House that the Minister should finalised his investigation within 30 days which will enable him to take appropriate actions against the Councillors, whether to dismiss them if found guilty or re-instate them if they are not guilty and pay them backdated from December 2013?
3. Why was the Honourable Minister not happy with the forensic audited report which was conducted by a professional audit firm PriceWaterhouseCooper?
4. What was it, which the Honourable Minister wanted to see in the report, which was not there when he sends back the report?
5. Honourable Minister, do you not think that delaying the finalisation of the case is denying the Omaruru residents their democratic rights to be governed by the Councillors of their choice as it is happening elsewhere in all towns?
6. Honourable Minister, do you not think the suspension of Omaruru Councillors was politically motivated in order to prevent the Opposition Coalition from continuing running the Town Council as they performed better than those who were running the Council before them? I so Move, Honourable Speaker?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Honourable Venaani please.

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**ORAL QUESTION
HON VENAANI**

HON VENAANI: In terms of Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders, I want to ask an urgent question to the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

HON SPEAKER: Yes, you may do so.

ORAL QUESTION

HON VENAANI: Right Honourable Prime Minister, this question is not personal but has aroused debate in the country.

1. Can a sitting Governor of the Republic sits as a Member of the Legislature?
2. Is the Honourable Governor of Khomas still the Governor of the Khomas Region or not?

It is not a personal question but it is an urgent question. In our Rules we have urgent questions. It is quite urgent. (*Interjection*) no, read your Rules.

HON SPEAKER: Can I ask a question? What constitute an urgent question? You cannot make this as an urgent question, on what basis do you determine that?

I am not trying to prevent the Right Honourable Prime Minister from responding but I am asking myself. Yes?

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HON MEMBER: Are you answering yourself?

HON VENAANI: No, I am answering the Honourable Speaker. The urgency is the matter of constitutionality - for the Government to clarify the constitutional position because if there is a constitutional mishap, it cannot be allowed to continue.

That is the matter of urgency. Answer the question, that is why you are there!

HON SPEAKER: Well, I would say it is a perception. I personally, do not really consider this as an urgent question that will necessitate the Prime Minister to answer. Honestly speaking we cannot pick and choose and I will leave it at that. I will continue.

Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statement? Yes, please - Honourable Minister of Home Affairs.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:
Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this being the First Session of the Sixth Parliament, I hope nobody expects me to deliver a Maiden Speech at this stage in history. I hope nobody expects this.

Honourable Speaker, that being common cause, allow me to congratulate

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

you on your deserved election to be our third Speaker since the attainment of our Independence a little over 25 years ago.

Allow me further to congratulate the Honourable Members for their election to this House of honour representing the people of this great Nation. My sincere thanks and appreciation goes to our President, His Excellency Dr Hage G Geingob for the trust he has in me by nominating me amongst his 8 nominees to this House and further entrusting me with the most sensitive responsibilities amongst others safekeeping of the national population register.

Having said so Honourable Speaker, I rise to appraise this august House on progress of the Turnaround Programme of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration.

Honourable Speaker, the Ministry of Home Affairs is where we all belong from the cradle to the grave. In our interactions with the public, we have noticed with regret the inadequacies in the system as relating to:

- long queues at Head Office and Regional Offices;
- slow turnaround times on the processing of documents;
- poor staff attitude; and
- the general lack of information related to documents requirements.

Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, these concerns and many more, undoubtedly warranted strategic thinking and on the best methods of how to turn around the way we do things. It is, therefore, against this background that on the 21st of May 2014, the Turnaround Strategy Programme was launched. The adoption of this Programme, therefore, is an initiative to improve how we do what we do, and this includes:

- streamlining business processes;
- reducing production backlogs and waiting periods;
- improving queue management and waiting areas;
- designing new office signage;
- developing staff through a robust customer care training; and

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- implementation of new and effective management process to ensure sustainable results.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members the contract for the Turnaround Programme was officially signed on the 25th of June 2014, between the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and Fever Tree Consulting Company. As a result, a team within the Ministry has been established, which spearheads the Turnaround Strategy Programme, working with the consultants. They critically overhauled ministerial operations and I am proud to inform this august House that some of the initiatives the Ministry has introduced have already begun to yield tangible results.

We are encouraged by positive comments made by some members of the public over the past few months. The Turnaround Strategy Programme has started at the Head Office in Windhoek as a pilot site for the implementation. Many of the initial results of the Programme can be experienced such as:

- improved signage and overall cleanliness;
- shortened client waiting times and sitting arrangement in the waiting areas;
- optimised line flow and office layout;
- information desk and proactive assistance of the public by the dedicated staff;
- elimination of backlogs in the passport section;
- faster processing of passports on collections;
- daily submissions submission of applications from Regions and dispatch of processed documents; and
- installation of computers at passport counters for speedy inquiries.

Therefore, many more benefits will be realised across the services and also for the internal support system. With many of the concepts being finalised and embedded the Head Office, the public has already begun seeing some changes at the Khomas Regional Office, Hosea Kutako International Airport, Eros Airport, Katutura State Hospital, Central State

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Hospital, Hardap, Omaheke, Oshana and Kavango East and West Regions.

Currently, we are implementing the improved initiatives in the Omusati, Ohangwena and Kunene Regions. Significant progress has been made in the passport and ID sections since the 23rd of June 2014. Over a period of approximately three months, the backlog in those sections were completely eliminated. At passport section the backlog was 3,342 application and as at the 23rd of June 2014 and by the 10th of July 2014, this backlog was completely eliminated. The backlog at the ID section was 45,861 applications as at the 25th of July 2014, and contained applications that were approximately one year old. By the 10th of September 2014, these backlogs were eliminated.

The elimination of backlogs was made possible through set targets per staff members per day. The backlogs within the visa, study permits, work permits and permanent residents section have been considerably reduced and efforts are ongoing to eliminate these completely.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members a high level regional rollout plan has been developed to ensure on time delivery and is updated on a weekly basis using an office tracking tool.

Detailed project plans and supporting project management tools have been created for each of the work streams to ensure on-time delivery of results. The Ministry has introduced a queue management system at Head Office with a view to further improving customer care service time and counter efficiency. I am proud to inform the Honourable Members that this system is operating very well.

A sustainability monitoring team has been established and has commenced operating within the Regions to ensure that they improved initiatives and high operating standards are maintained at all Ministerial Offices countrywide.

A business improvement staff team has been embedded into the rollout

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
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teams to retain the knowledge transfer and act as change champion at our offices.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members in conclusion, the scope of this Programme is comprehensive and reaches the Ministry from top to bottom. With so many work streams generating results in different areas of the country, it would be essential for the Ministry to keep the public well informed at all times. I should also inform this august House that this Programme is a new initiative that would require adequate funding - Honourable Minister of Finance, if the business improvement initiatives are to be sustained.

It is our desire to see the new ways of doing things in the Ministry sustained and activities sufficiently resource. The overall goal is to transform the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration into a highly effective organisation with faster turnaround time, effective systems, shorter queues, efficient office management and improved customer service.

Finally, the Ministry would like to thank the public for their patients, cooperation and opinions expressed since the announcement of the Turnaround Strategy. Hence, the public opinions, feedback and suggestions are highly welcome as we embark on this long journey. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is for all of us, from the cradle to the grave - not with the grave part, but at least the cradle.

Let us all be part of this Turnaround Strategy Programme as it continues to yield tangible outcomes. I thank you all for our kind attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, indeed. I expected the Minister to conclude by way of inviting the relevant Committees to visit as usual but I will leave it at that. I know you, know what I mean. I think we have concluded the usual list.

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**QUESTIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS/COMMENTS
TO MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON BEZUIDENHOUT / HON VENAANI**

May I ask the Secretary to read the First Order of the Day? Yes.

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

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I know we do not discuss Ministerial Statements.

I just want to seek clarity from the Minister on one particular aspect. Firstly, I want to congratulate you for the very positive Statement and experience.

Honourable Minister, last year there was a problem or a challenge, when people apply for ID cards, they do not go to pick them up. What is the situation now? With all these improvements, do the public respond by coming to collect their documents or are they still leaving them to pile up at the Ministry of Home Affairs? Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Minister.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister, do you wish to respond to that quickly or let me first allow Honourable Venaani to put his question.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much. I have been thinking - what is the magic that the Honourable Minister is doing there but I am marvelled by what the Ministry of doing.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON THE
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

Secondly, in terms of percentage, how many Namibians have identification cards because most of the time when it comes to elections we have these Sworn Statements? I am seeing a lot of improvement, I am talking about my own research that I carried out to just check whether you are doing what you are doing, and you are really doing a marvellous job.

However, in terms of IDs, where are we and how can we make sure that hundred percent of our citizens are having those Identification Cards?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister, a quick one or two?

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:
Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I thank the two Colleagues who have posed questions.

It is a fact that ID cards are not being collected. We are sitting with thousands of uncollected IDs and we are in the process of seeking mechanisms as to how to deal with them because every asset of the State belongs somewhere, it does not belong to us and, therefore, we must go through the legal ways of arriving at an acceptable measure of dealing with it. When the time comes, we will inform you as usual.

How many Namibians have ID cards? Yesterday, I had a submission to Cabinet and if I knew this question was going to come, I would have come with that particular document, nevertheless, the survey or the assessment that we have made reveals that around 88% of our population have ID cards while almost 90% have birth certificates. We are, therefore, making progress. Thank you.

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**SECOND READING - APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We move on. The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND
READING - APPROPRIATION BILL [B. 5 – 2015]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading - *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 – 2015].

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. When the Debates was adjourned on Tuesday, the 31st of March 2014, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Minister of Finance that the Bill be read a Second Time.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Honourable Venaani adjourned the Debate and he now has the Floor.

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members.

Honourable Speaker, permit me to devote a few paragraphs, probably 5 Paragraphs as my Maiden Speech, as an old/new Member of the House and to be protected a little bit just for those few Paragraphs and then we can go on all attack.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august Chamber, the biggest question that one has to ask is; what defines our national interest, how and at what cost shall we as people's representatives work hard to

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**SECOND READING - APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

defend the Republic and its fortitude?

The last election campaign was long, enervating as they always are - full of phoney ups and downs and startling happenings. The night of announcing the result was by far my most criticized day by some fellow Opposition Leaders, apparently I accepted the results and congratulated the winner His Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob on his victory. Accusation where thrown at my persona and our Party. We were accused of having been wheelbarrowed by Swapo to become the Official Opposition. Some retracted their unfounded conspiracy theories and apologised in decent ways whilst others maintained their tirade.

Honourable Speaker, I believe to be a political moderniser both at our Party level and at national level. I believe in raising the bar when transacting the political discourse in transacting in way to win in the realm of battles of ideas as oppose to belittling, petty transaction of gossip and self-impose important theories of oneself and ones Party.

I want to put it to those who critique me that no Leader is bigger and should consider him or herself bigger than the national interest. By acting the way I did, I demonstrated to our people in our country and further afield that our is a Nation worthy to be called democratic, a country of worthy leadership of give and take and a country whose representatives are not bigger than it is, regardless of level and strata.

Democracy is system of winners and losers and both have a role to play in its circle and processes. Those who work with me know my internal and external wars against complacency and hard work. I am today the Leader of the Official Opposition and our Party is here as product of hard work. Nothing more and nothing less. I respect the current President a great deal as someone I work with for years but I want to put it on record that I do not fear him a bit and I would challenge him without fear or favour and will keep his Government on its toes.

A few days ago, I was a prouder citizen of Africa when President Goodluck Jonathan a sitting Head of State of the Federal Republic of

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HON VENAANI**

Nigeria calling his adversary President Elect Muhamed Buhari regardless of imperfect electoral processes conceding defeat and wishing his brother well, this is the new breed of leadership I wish to associate myself with. We extend, to the people of Nigeria our warmest felicitations and congratulations on their transition and democratic process.

Honourable Speaker, I believe that Opposition Politics and its transaction should not be only a loud noise making tirade without substance, it must carry the argument critique and offer ideas and solution for the fortitude of our Republic! Equally, the Ruling Party politics should not base its transaction on the principle that *might is right* but on a much bigger robust arguments that must win the day. More so, to listen to what minorities view and arguments are and to seek consensus for a better tomorrow.

Lastly, before I turn my attention to the *Appropriation Bill* at hand, let us all transact in a respectful and discipline fashion and manner to make this House worthy as people representative. Politics has no rule but surely as Africans, we have moral values and they should guide our deliberations now and in the future.

Our resolve must be to fight for a better country for all our people making sure we expedite the socio-economic agenda, to push back the frontiers of poverty and to remain the midwife of a better tomorrow. Let me quote the famous Indian poet Saint Tiruvalluvar who once said – “*What clearly eye discerns as right, with steadfast will. And mind unslumbering, that should man fulfil.*”

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I now open the Floor for attacks. The welfare State and public services as we recognise them today were created after the tumultuous events of the Second World War, but their inherent foundation lays in the groundbreaking economics of Keynes. In the combination of vision and mastery of detail, that was Beveridge. The State would provide.

Capitalism has driven the Industrial Revolution. Unregulated, unrestrained, untamed, its giant wheels roll over the great mass of

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HON VENAANI**

people's, squeezing both labour and profit out of them.

Society today is largely a beneficiary and funders of the welfare State and public services. It equally translates that society want more of the welfare and public services and demand to pay less for them.

Honourable Speaker, Let me quote a famous Politician Marcus Tillios Cicero, he once remarked and I Quote – *“What is morally wrong cannot be advantageous, even when it enables you to make some gain that you believe to be to your advantage. The mere act of believing that some wrongful course of action constitutes an advantage is pernicious.”*

Honourable Members, as political adversaries and players of one great country, it is my Party's fervent objection that the Ruling Party is expanding the Civil Service without a comprehensive reform plan of 10 years to downsize it. We know that the Civil Service is too large and all our money will go to the salaries bill as opposed to the projects that are intended. The IMF Report for a number of years have clearly stated that Namibia has a very large Civil Service and up to this day – I wish the Prime Minister was here, Deputy Prime Minister please convey that, our Government needs to put up a comprehensive reform plan of 10 to 15 years to make sure that we downsize the Public Service.

We believe in a minimum Government and maximum governance with focus on easing pressure on the citizenry. On this score, those of us privileged to have engage Government Leaders on the last Constitutional Amendment remembers vividly the Motivation that was motivated to us as Political Leaders that the reason why we wanted an enlarged Legislature in this House, was to make sure that we do not erode and overpower the Legislature. That is the reason why we moved from 72 Members of Parliament to a 104. However, we negotiated and promises that were made were not kept and we are sitting here today, a few months after these Constitutional Amendments and the situation that we wanted to avert is the situation that is persisting unabated. We say things that we do not mean and make deals on promises we cannot keep. Words must have meaning and the audacity of honour.

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HON VENAANI**

Honourable Members, our Nation's poverty and vulnerability is somewhat similar to that of other Sub-Saharan Africa; a high incidence of poverty in rural areas, and sharp rural-urban income differentials, a high prevalence of female-headed households, persistently high unemployment rates and urban migration and a growing burden of children of HIV/AIDS-infected parents.

These, coupled with its ungenerous agro-climatic condition, renders most households unable to permanently escape from poverty. Given these risks, a comprehensive National Policy should be linked to a proper and well-target Budget that mitigates these risks to constitute an indispensable ingredient for sustained and inclusive economic growth.

Therefore, allow me to scrutinise the current Budget tabled to Parliament and to highlight some major areas that will bring about sustained and inclusive economic growth that ensure poverty reduction and increased prosperity to the Namibian Nation as a whole.

Pro-Poor Growth

I understand this concept as it underscores most of my contribution. Pro-Poor Growth is the term used for primarily national policies to stimulate economic growth for the benefit of poor people.

Pro-Poor Growth can be defined as absolute, where the benefits from overall growth in the economy, or relative - which refers to targeted efforts to increase the growth specifically among poor people.

Given this clarification and the trend in growth over the last 25 years, the focus should be on the relative Pro-Poor Growth, which focus is on targeted efforts to increase the growth specifically among poor people. The overriding solution, then lies in the poverty profile of Namibia by targeting the Key Sectors where the majority of the people are and by involving them in the planning process. Let us always refrain from thinking and planning for others, "*without them,*"

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**SECOND READING - APPROPRIATION BILL
HON VENAANI**

Expenditure Side of the Budget

I commend the Minister of Finance for maintaining a positive note on the Budget that has more or less maintained the trends as previous ones, with the focus tilted towards the Social Sectors. I concur with the positive priorities underscored in the Budget Statements, however I would equally echo, for the necessary implementation, monitoring and evaluations of projects underscored under these allocations. The budget execution rate, particularly on Capital Projects in key Economic Sectors remains the major stumbling block in our quest for development.

Spending on the Social Sector

Honourable Speaker, allow me to delve deeper on the allocations to the Social Sector.

When one considers the sizable allocation to the Social Sector in the form of Education, Health and Social Grants, one is prompted to call the Namibian Budget to be pro-poor and I commend the Namibian Government of today for that. Clearly, this is not a new trend, we have witness this for the last 25 years.

Notwithstanding, this noble gesture of Government - one remains sceptical on the returns on this particular investment and tangible outputs from these Sectors. At best, our educational outputs have been far from ideal, let alone being the future drivers of transformation or envisaged industrialisation. Here, we need to go back once again to the drawing boards by evaluating the effectiveness of Programmes such as the ETSIP and the general transformation of the vocational and technical education especially in light of the high drop-out from our education system.

We need to reform the education system to make capabilities rather than information the concern of the schools and to ensure that every subject is approached dialectically, from contrasting points of view, it is better to create a Nation of innovators and experimentalists.

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HON VENAANI**

Social Grants

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to focus on the social safety nets:

The current Budget underscores the increment of social payments to the elderly to N\$1,000.00, reaching N\$1,200.00 in the next three years - a commendable initiative. However, my critique is on other social welfare payments such as OVC payments - they remain critically low to bring out any tangible changes in the lives of the intended beneficiaries. It is my view that we should attempt to strike balance as we have already established, at their inception, that they are equally essential and thus should be afforded equal consideration.

Honourable Speaker, my other main consideration is the whole concept of Social Grants as an instrument of pro-poor. You must imagine yourself the day when the *granny* is no longer alive. The main question remains: What will happen to the majority of dependants who rely on his/her income as a means of survival?

Therefore, we should realise that, although it is welcome, social welfare is of short-term nature - we should look for more long-term measures to seriously make a dent on poverty - such as Agricultural Transformation and Modernisation, as the majority of Namibians are rural-based. I will elaborate further on this.

Important to note: - is the newly established Ministry of Poverty our reference would have been to see Government policy on poverty reduction, and then institute an institution to deal with this - I guess this can become *a-chicken-and-egg* Debate. I am aware of the various studies that were undertaken such as the comprehensive study by the ILO in collaboration with the then Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare titled ***Floor Assessment in Namibia***. I hope this can form a foundation for crafting the much needed Namibian Policy and I look forward to discuss a comprehensive Government Policy on Poverty Reduction by Honourable Kameeta in this House, in a matter of a few months. I also want to pre-

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alert the Government, through its new Minister of Poverty that struggling single mothers should and must not be forgotten as many of our African households are led by single mothers and we have a lot of single mothers in this country who are struggling to make ends meet and to take their children to school.. Fathers you are running away, you know what you are doing (*laughter*). There is a big Debate that men must be supported, we all know that the situation is not the same. However, for single mothers that are raising children in this country and in Africa, we must make sure that they get the necessary support. A Brazilian policy of *Bolsa Familia* has taken over 43 million Brazilians out of poverty and where other countries ran before us, let us not try and reinvent new wheels, I think we can also use them as a starting point to have a Comprehensive Anti-Poverty Policy in this country because they have succeeded in what they have done. 43 million in 9 years and we are struggling with 2 million after 25 years, therefore, let us learn from them.

Otherwise - we foresee under-execution of projects in the absence of a Comprehensive Anti-Poverty Policy and money allocated for this purpose, returning to the Fiscus at the end of the Financial Year while the majority of Namibians continue to experience hardship.

In the case of Namibia, the engines of growth during the last decade have been branches within the Service Sector rather than hardcore Primary and Manufacturing Sectors whose multiplier effects onto the rest of the economy in terms of employment and/or value addition chains are expected to be huge. This is the reason, why unemployment remains stubbornly high in Namibia. Rather than the concepts of industrialisations which unfortunately, in my opinion, does not seem to be well understood or broken down into smaller yet manageable projects of milestones, I advocate for agricultural transformation and modernisation as well as value addition in the Sector to create incentives for the majority of the Nation which depends on it.

On the issue that I want to bring to the attention of this House; there are a number of jobs that are created in other countries by the export of our raw materials to those countries and I want to use Spain as an example in the

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Fishing Sector. More than 6,000 direct jobs are created. Our fish gives 6,000 jobs to Spaniards - we must do something, Honourable Minister of Finance and Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry to make sure that we address the question of value addition because we cannot be people who are giving jobs to others while we can compete with them. Therefore, value addition is of utmost importance. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Yes?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: May I ask the Honourable Member a question?

HON VENAANI: Always.

HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Is the Leader of the Official Opposition aware of the fact that we have a policy called Growth at Home and does he know the content of that very Policy that promotes value addition, job creation and growth at home?

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON VENAANI: Yes, but we are giving 6,000 direct and indirect jobs from our Fishing Sector, I can even provide you with figures.

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HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:
But I am asking if you are aware of the Growth at Home Policy?

HON VENAANI: Yes, I am – *ek slaap by die huis, nie by die werk nie jong* (I sleep at home, not at work). (*Interjections*) Honourable Speaker, can I be protected please?

HON SPEAKER: Yes. Please allow him to continue.

HON VENAANI: Please listen to this.

Agricultural Transformation and Modernisation: What is the role of Government?

Agriculture has small contribution to GDP of about 5%, but it employs about 30% of the total labour force of Namibia. The largest part of the economic contribution from agriculture is from relatively large, commercial farms, but traditional subsistence farming remains crucial for supporting a large share of the population. About 70% of the population depends directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihood.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that we need to start talking about Agricultural Transformation, Modernisation and Value Addition if we aim to make a sustainable and visibly permanent dent on poverty. Permanent measures to reduce poverty in Namibia should be guided by the structural nature and peculiarity of Namibian economy.

Therefore, given the reality of the skills level and the poverty profile of Namibia, Value Addition in Agriculture should be the major pre-occupation of Government, among its other policies.

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My suggestions to the Minister of Agriculture is that I want to see the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Programmes targeting some of these few areas such as crop-based Production. In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture Budget should reflect the following Programmes/Projects as it has been internationally proven to increase higher yield of production, which serves to ensure food security and thereby reducing poverty permanently.

- 1. *Quality Seeds Programmes and Projects:*** Under this, I would emphasise the concept of ensuring proper seeds distributed to farmers, both subsistence and commercial - quality seeds provision to attain a higher yield in this area. I hope the Minister of Agriculture will take note of this or has proper Projects and Programmes of ensuring quality seeds production and distribution in Namibia.

One other issue that I want to bring to the attention of this House is that we have subsistence farmers everywhere – in the Northern Regions, Kaoko, Caprivi, etcetera, (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Zambezi!

HON VENAANI: Yes, Zambezi, it is the same difference. I will tell you about Caprivi another day.

Honourable Minister of Agriculture, if you go to Katjina-katji, you will find a farmer who is having a large piece of land but he is literally only planting on an acre of land and it is everywhere in Africa whether you go to Ghana or to the DRC - where they have arable land, Africans have the tendency of just planting for the stomach. One of the things that the farmer are struggling with in this country is that they cannot afford fences around their lands and the reason why many farmers in the Northern Regions are herding cattle today is because these cattle will feed on other

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people's crops. I think that the Government is serious with the modernisation of agriculture. We must pursue a policy to help the poor get fences around their lands to ensure that the foodstuff that they are growing on their land is protected.

2. Increased Use of Quality and Environmental-friendly Fertilizers:

In a greater scheme of our production, we need to support the natural recovery of the soil which tends to be overused particularly in the rural areas, year in-year out, and thus not given a chance to recuperate, and subsequently, coupled with low rainfall in recent years, yielding increasingly less and less output.

3. Improved Irrigation Versus Rain-fed Agriculture: The other day I asked the Minister of Agriculture about our aquatic resources underneath, in the Ohangwena Region (interjection) – I know in Eiseb, they are sitting with this resources but yet we have not initiated Green Scheme Projects using our underground water, we are just looking for the perennial rivers.

HON MEMBER: There is no water in Ohangwena!

There is water in Ohangwena my Brother. About Eiseb, ask the Minister, they have discovered water in the Eiseb Block that they want to transform into (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Yes, please.

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:
I just want to establish whether in terms of our Rules who on the Floor of

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this House, posed a formal question to be answered on Thursday, tomorrow is permitted to answer himself? (*Laughter*)

HON SPEAKER: I am sure he will be the first person to admit that he cannot answer himself. It is risky because the question might lapse.

Can I use this opportunity, and that is to suggest, do we go for a Tea Break at 16:00 as usual or can we permit the Honourable Member to conclude so that when we go for tea we will come back and continue? Yes, Honourable Member, you may continue and hopefully conclude so that we can permit you to have a cup of tea.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Speaker, I shall not answer myself but I know their answers anyway. Namibia is a drought prone country, and for us to realise high yield and productivity, a targeted effort is required from the Government to move the whole Sector from being rain-fed to irrigation supported agriculture. Experiences from North Africa can be utilised, if the aim is to make a permanent dent on poverty.

Honourable Speaker, we are sitting with over 1,6 million head of cattle north of the redline and our farmers are struggling with prices, all that we need to do is to put a border fence between Angola and Namibia. The Governor of the Ohangwena Region was arguing that their cattle is roaming in Angola, which country in this world has a free roaming agreement with another country? If we put a buffer zone between Namibia and Angola and we bring the European inspectors to inspect, those cattle have been free of disease, we are going to unlock a big economic potential for farmers in this country. Whether we like it or not, Meatco has proven it, we must do it and it is not in our Budget.

You are wasting my time now, but I could answer you. Let me speak through the Speaker

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HON SPEAKER: Let us please have order, allow him to continue. Thank you.

HON VENAANI: The lack of contemporary drought policy, last one drafted in 1997 and re-polished in 2001 whereas we are drought hit country nearly after three years, tells a story of weak planning, that we are planning to fail and should really pull up our socks.

Allocation to Defence

Honourable Speaker, the other day I had the opportunity to meet the Generals of our Republic and I commended them, this is one thing that one cannot shy away from. (Interjections) no, I do not need to mention names, let your intelligence tell you. (*Intervention*)

HON MEMBER: Was it a meeting?

HON VENAANI: No, it was not a meeting, just a bypass meeting. These people are derailing me now, It has been a long time.

I said to the Generals that – one thing (*interjections*)

HON MEMBER: I am here!

HON VENAANI: Not you (*laughter*). One thing that I marvel our Army is the high professionalism that they have maintained (applause). In other

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African countries, if one wants to reshuffle Cabinet, you have to consult the Generals. Yes, it is happening under our eyes.

Now let us go to the facts, facts and not fiction. Defence has inherently been one of the largest Ministries after Education in our country, in terms of staff complement, accounting for 22.6% of the total Civil Service. Defence has over the years been among the top three in terms of budget allocation. With close to 4.2 % of GDP spend on Defence alone in the current Budget (2015/2016), Namibia is becoming among the highest military spending countries around the globe. The world average military spending is estimated to be around 2.5 % of GDP for 2012 and we are spending 4.2%. Countries like Saudi Arabia, which is currently topping the list, spend 8.9% of their GDP but do you know what? The USA that has military equipment starting from the Korean Peninsula up to Syria spend 4.4% on GDP in 2012 (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. Please switch on your microphone.

HON MINISTER OF YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: May I ask the Honourable Member a question? On the 2nd of August 1999, the DTA under Muyongo launched an attack in Katima and now you do not want our Army to be strong so that you can launch a second attack?

That time the General was there and Erkki was the Minister of Defence, we crushed them then. Why did you launch an attack on the 2nd of August 1999 in Katima at 02:00 in the morning?

HON VENAANI: A hyena does not change its spots. I know Honourable Jerry Ekandjo to be that political man. He is aware that DTA did not launch the DTA did not launch the attack and he must withdraw.

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We all know that Muyongo was suspended because of the surreptitious activities of the rebellion.

However, let us bring the argument closer to home. It does not mean that for you to have a professional army, you must spend 4.2% of your GDP on the Army. You must spend less than the international benchmarking. I am talking about facts here! When the Ruling Party is doing good on the GDP, they say - *no, the international benchmarking* and when they are telling you about Defence (*interjection*) I am trying to be very kind now.

Our Defence Budget is high rocketing and we cannot maintain it. Even if we have these needs, in the next ten years you shall not industrialise Namibia with such a large Army, whether you like it or not. I am telling you like that.

HON SPEAKER: Let him continue please.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Minister, on the Revenue Side of the Budget, I would like to highlight the uncertainty surrounding the SACU revenue. Given that SACU revenue has been Namibia's primary revenue source over the years, the current projected trends in the South African Budget could adversely impact the country's fiscal position. This is more so in light of the identified infrastructure funding gap and other funding requirements which are inevitably expected to increase Government expenditure further. SACU payments project difficult times, assuming that Namibia's share of the SACU payment remains unchanged: Here, I can only assume that they are making an assumption about changes in the SACU Revenue Sharing Formula.

That started from R51,737.7 million in 2014/2015, R51,021.9 million - 2015/2016, R36,513.3 – 2016/2017 and ends at R45,444.3 million in 2017/2018.

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Honourable Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am well informed that during the last Fiscal Year 2014/2015, our South African counterparts on the SACU revenue continue to boycott the meetings and deliberately delay the decision making processes on SACU, both at technical and other levels. Unless the smaller SACU (BLNS) partners agreed to their agenda with special references to SACU formula - which does not only render Namibia vulnerable but also put the country fiscal position at risk. These tactics continue to be applied even now as we Debate.

If the newspapers article are correct - I would like to draw your attention to the article that appeared - in the South African Business Day Live on the 26 March 2015 titled: ***“SA Sticks to Its Guns Over SACU Revenue Deal”*** - According to this article and I quote: *“SA was pushing hard for the ‘unfair’ revenue-sharing agreement between the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) members to be reworked, both in terms of the formula itself and the way in which the money was used once it had been distributed, Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene said on Tuesday.”*

This implies quite a different picture in terms of fiscal sustainability and fiscal space to continue with business as usual for government. The current Budget is quite silence on this issues. This calls for major transformation in the way we mobilise revenue in this country. This cannot just be business as usual - the Finance Minister will need to announce bolster steps of increasing revenue and reigning in unproductive investment and other non-essential expenditures, S&T and overtime claims that have become part of our Government system - not outcome-based.

I want to turn the attention of this House to a very important matter. Honourable Minister of Finance, the issue - **The Issue of Transfer Pricing Among Our Big Companies:**

Another important issue in the revenue mobilisation is the company taxes, which remain quite low compared to taxes on individual contributions. In the absence of proper data I suspect here that most of our companies are involved in transfer pricing, particularly in the Mining and Fishing

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Industries. This is what is happening and I want the Members of Parliament to be involved. Inputs are sourced from foreign mother-companies on debt and as a result domestic company will never report any profits and, therefore, end up not paying taxes. I am also informed that some companies have engaged in equity -debt swaps. All these points to mechanisms aimed at reducing tax payment capacities/obligations. One of the dangerous trends that we have is that we do not have internal capacity of tax experts to ensure that these companies are held accountable, since these companies employs international tax experts to make sure that they continue to profit unabatedly from our resources while we do nothing about this. I think the Minister of Finance must come up with a robust proposal on how he really wants to address this question of transfer pricing in our country.

2000 years BC, the Indian Statesman and Philosopher Kautilya the Contemporary of Aristotle of the Greek remarked – *“Possessing immense Gold is better than a friend governing over a vast population because armies and other desired objects can be purchased with Gold.”* That was the wisdom of those years.

Honourable Speaker, also equally puzzling is the continuing issuance of EPZ status on mining companies. We are a resource- endowed countries - why should we confer an EPZ status on companies that are going to mine our finite resources, thereby not paying taxes. We cannot allow such a situation to continue unabated in this country. 2000 years before our time, Kautilya speaks of gold and he says it is your precious mineral that can give you sovereignty but yet we compromise on our sovereignty. People come here to mine on EPZ status. Big companies are mining on EPZ status and we really have to relook at how these mining companies are doing business in our country.

Namibia tax burden is heavy on individual as compared to corporations:

Honourable Speaker, is it a statistical mirage? Taxes on income and profits are increasingly becoming a primary source of revenue for Government and have been growing at an average growth rate of 3.5%

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over the last 5 years. However, individual income tax continues to dominate the contribution to tax revenue accounting close to 26.5% on average, while company taxes that are supposed to be more than the individual taxes, on average account accounts for 12.2 % of tax revenue in Namibia. This tells you that these large companies are not paying enough tax in our country, it is only the individuals who are contributing more as oppose to all the mining and big companies in this country. We must make sure that we rein on our business colleagues to ensure that they pay their fair dues in our country.

Individually, tax revenues from individual incomes are expected to grow by an average rate of 22 % compared to the annual growth rate of 15% on the corporate taxes between 2012 to 2016 respectively.

In considering what taxes to use in order to raise additional tax revenues as part of a fiscal consolidation, international experiences suggests that increasing broad-based taxes on consumption and/or recurrent taxes on residential property would be a more growth-oriented strategy than increasing taxes on income -especially individual income tax.

Efficiency and effectiveness of the tax system in Namibia

Honourable Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen - we need to bring-about efficiency in the tax administration in Namibia. Tax assessment and refunds in this country take a longer period to be finalised, especially for small companies. We need modern systems in the revenue administration department of Government. The envisaged revenue agency should be the platform for such a reform. I remember that during my time in Parliament I urged the *big side* and they did not listen, I am very glad that this time around we are going the route of making sure that we have an independent revenue authority. I want congratulate the Honourable Minister for having taken that bold step. That is what we need in this country because the notably, of the 15 SADC Member States, Namibia, Madagascar, DRC and Angola are the only countries with independent revenue authorities. We are, therefore, better off to be amongst our peers as opposed to some of these colleagues of ours.

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During last year's Budget an announcement was made by the previous Finance Minister about the reduction in the corporate tax rate which did not materialise because it was not Gazetted. It is important that announcements made in the Budget Speeches are followed by speedy legislative and regulatory changes to give due effect during the same Fiscal Year so the intended impact is felt in the economy.

The Financing of the Budget Shortfalls i.e. the Borrowing and the Resulting Debt:

While debt stock remains within the threshold of 35% of GDP, nominal debt and interest payments continue to grow. Interest payments, which represents Government obligations to debt servicing is estimated at N\$3.87 billion in Financial Year 2015/2016 or some 6.6% of revenue.

I hope GDP as a measure of future taxable capacity is within the reach Government i.e. as GDP grows the revenue collections also do. As a matter of interest, I just read that the City of Shanghai has done away with measuring their economy in terms of GDP because GDP does not represent the true situation. I think that we should perhaps also rethink this because the gini coefficient that we have in this country – you are told that Namibia is a middle income country but only less than 20% of people in this country are in the middle income bracket and the rest of us are at the bottom (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Do not include yourself!

HON VENAANI: No, I am part of them, believe you me.

Is the Namibia tax system elastic enough for us to continue to talk about debt/GDP thresholds? International standards are that for sustainable debt, the growth rate of the economy should at least match the borrowing

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or repayment rate. However, this does not seem to be the case here. Moreover, we should harmonise our borrowing with the funds returned by some of the Ministries such that we only borrow what we indeed need and thus keep the debt level with manageable level.

For this threshold to remain meaningful any increase in debt should be linked directly to the goals of the NDP4 so as to ensure that any debt spending delivers measurable results in line with the NDP4. Further, while national debt levels may increase on account of NDP4, this should be kept to a minimum through efficient prioritisation of projects that can deliver results as per the NDP4.

Finally, the funding of NDP4 should be achieved through innovative use of funding mechanisms, and should not be reliant exclusively on debt funding. Innovative equity based Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) schemes can be utilised to balance Government and Private Sector Equity Stakes, and for debt capitalisation of funds to execute projects.

Additional Policies Needed to Propel Pro-Poor Growth and to Induce Poverty Reduction:

(i) *Institutional Savings and Capital Outflow*

Honourable Minister of Finance, capital continues to flow out of Namibia for as long as our financial markets are thin and remain underdeveloped. Nonetheless, I believe there are a lot of opportunities for access liquidity within our borders. For instance, within the housing and other infrastructure financing gap identified recently. There are other opportunities in various Economic Sectors that the Private Sector is hesitant to take part in, citing risks and guarantee of the returns. I think this is where the Government should focus and partner with the Private Sector in order to minimise the risks cited. Further, the Amendments made with regards to Regulation 28 and others on local investment need to be brought back to the table so that we ensure that access capital is invested in the economy where it is reaped through exploitation of our human and natural resource. You might very well aware that Chile is one of the countries that has used capital outflows to propel its development.

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A lot of this money that is mainly flowing out of Namibia to South Africa is used to fund their current South African development agenda and South Africa is probably the only country in the world that is building free house for its inhabitants – giving these RDP house to their communities for free. These could be funded with our own money.

(ii) *Land Delivery Mechanism in Local Municipalities Remains a Major Concern*

Conventional land and housing delivery systems have perpetually failed to serve millions of the urban poor in cities of the developing world in general, particularly so in almost all African cities such as Namibia. It is unfortunate that 25 years after Independence we are still discussing the land issue. There is a need for proactive and timeous identification, and efficient allocation of planned land to the urban poor for housing development purposes. Physical planning and land surveying services should be improved and relevant personnel that is well resourced should efficiently respond to the demands of land by the urban poor.

In Academia erven were sold by the City of Windhoek – and this happening under our noses, the input costs of those erven, that is, the actual money spent on servicing those erven would be around N\$300,000.00 but the Municipality will go for the kills. Since they have to pay CEOs and have to run their projects, on an input cost of N\$300,000.00, they would sell a single erf of less than 600 square metres for N\$1,600,000.00. This is happening right under our noses.

To make sure that we bring down the house prices in this country that is the second highest in the world, we need to proliferate the access to serviced land. How can we do this? Sometimes I argue that we must listen to one another as Leaders. In India, Brazil and Chile and in our neighbourhood – Kenya today is having what is called urban resettlement. The same way that we are resettling farmers on commercial land, we can use N\$1 billion to allocate serviced land to poor communities free of charge as we are giving the farms free of charge. If we spend N\$1 billion in one year on urban resettlement, you will solve the *8de Laan* and

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Kuryongava debacle in this country. Other countries are doing it. However because the idea is coming from the wrong man – *no we do not listen*. Let us listen to one another to make sure that we bring down housing prices in this country, which is a timing bomb. Mass Housing is a commendable strategy, however, Mass Housing on its own - it cannot achieve the desired results if land delivery mechanisms in local municipalities are not addressed. *(Interjections)* I brought a Motion here but you never implemented it. You talk about things that you do not implement.

Joseph Stiglitz said the following - *“There is a compelling moral case for equity; but it is also necessary if growth there is to be sustained. A country’s most important resource is its people.”*

We should strongly consider an urban Resettlement Policy to avail land to the poor and to put equity in their pockets, a Policy that would lead to low prices of housing.

Honourable Speaker, a few years back I visited the slums of Kibera out of curiosity as I habitually visit downtrodden areas at home and abroad, what was said as a joke remained so true and dear to me up to this day that I am standing here. I met an elderly women and our conversation was around their life story, its trials and tribulations, consequently she had two tall and beautiful daughters. I asked in joke - *how much cattle would it be for asking their hand in marriage*, and Meme Karua, not Kaura, says to me - *my son my daughters will not cost you cattle, any man who can guarantee them a flushing toilet in their life time can marry them*. *(Interjections)* listen to the argument.

This is how people in homes around the world see the question of hygiene and sanitation as so important to their lives yet a week ago I visited our slums areas. You should go there during the rainy season. Our people are using plastic toilets, it must be within our time to address the question of hygiene and sanitation. If a lady in Kibera could tell me that *only a flushing toilet is her biggest price for her beautiful daughters* - it tells you how many of our citizenry are going through suffering just to dream of a

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flushing toilet. We really need to work towards making sure that our people are having sanitation.

We should at appropriate intervals debate the need to start to subsidize Local Authorities to guarantee better service deliveries.

Let me conclude by saying – we are all guilty, the Ruling Party and the Opposition alike, we have witnessed the crafting of world-class policies and strategies in Namibia that should improve the livelihood of our people, however, the implementation and evaluation of major projects remains elusive. When it comes to implementation you have some Colleagues on this side of the isle who always uses a, b, c, d and political filibustering never to implement some of these policies. This could be either due to deficiencies in skills or a lack of political will but either way we need address that. Government needs to assume full responsibility and accountability, and non-performers must be brought to book. We cannot continue to starve the majority of the people of the much needed development. We are a small Nation with a good number of resources. We should be able to deliver prosperity to the Nation as whole.

Honourable Minister of Finance, in conclusion, we have again given money to Air Namibia. As an old Member of this House, the former Government - because I accept that this is a new Government of the same Party, I proposed that for strategic alliances we should get a foreign company to fly our flag and let them run the company - *no we are going to do it, we have a turnaround strategy* and this Ruling Party comes here with turnaround strategies. I am very glad that your turnaround strategy has worked; many of them have not worked.

We pumped over N\$5.8 Billion to Air Namibia. Where is our Return On Investment? Should Namibian children wait until Air Namibia turns around its strategy one day? I am glad that we have a Minister of State-Owned Enterprises, whatever you are called but I respect your office. Make sure that when people come here to borrow money, they go out to implement those strategies. One thing that you hear about corporate governance in this country, people run to the Minister saying we want a

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turnaround strategy and the next thing you see is that the salary of the CEO has increased three fold.

Is this the turnaround strategy that we are getting in this country. Corporate governance is eroding in our country and if you look well, comparative reports year in year and year out are telling us a story that we really have to do something about corporate governance.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you very much for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I jumped the gun by proposing a Tea Break but we should maybe continue.

Do we go for a cup of tea and come back? Can we come back at 17:45? Thank you very much.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:15

HOUSE RESUMES AT 17:52
PERSUANT TO THE ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: Be seated please. Thank you very much. We are back and I have the pleasure to ask Honourable Peya Mushelenga to take the Floor.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATIONS:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I

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rise to make my contribution to the Debate on the Budget tabled by Honourable Calle Schlettwein, Minister of Finance.

Allow me at the outset to thank the peace-loving Namibians who voted for the SWAPO Party, thereby electing me and my Colleagues to this august House for the next five years. I congratulate all Honourable Members for having been elected by their respective party members and supporters.

I seize this opportunity to congratulate you, Honourable Speaker, for your well-deserved election as the third Speaker of the Sixth National Assembly of Namibia, and Honourable Kasingo as Deputy Speaker. I believe that having the two of you at the helm of Parliament, our legislature is in capable hands.

Comrade Speaker, I recall the journey we walked together when I, then as Secretary-General of the Student Representative Council of the University of Namibia (UNAM), closely worked with you, when you were UNAM's Vice Chancellor. My association with you benefitted me a great deal in terms of the wisdom and guidance that you provided on dealing with pressing issues affecting students. I have high regard for your unassuming character and willingness to listen to and accommodate the views of others. You ascend to that dignified seat armed with a rich experience and I have no doubt in my mind that you are equal to the task before you, being a hailed academic, skilful diplomat, revered Cabinet member, committed legislator, effective Chief Whip and above all - a good man. *(Applause)*

I would like to thank His Excellency, Dr Hage G Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, for entrusting me to continue with the responsibility of forging the relations between Namibia and the outside world. I will fail in my duty, if I do not express my profound gratitude to His Excellency former President Hifikepunye Pohamba, for having availed me an opportunity over the past uninterrupted period of five years to serve in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In that position, I gained valuable exposure and expertise in international relations and diplomacy, enabling me to make my humble contribution in the field International Relations studies.

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Honourable Speaker, the Budget tabled by the Honourable Minister is introduced against the background of a narrow production base, given our non-industrial based economy. Accordingly, the Honourable Minister of Finance stated that among the priorities to be addressed by the Budget is the diversification of the industrial economy. The importance of industrialisation is underscored by scholars of Economics as an academic discipline. In his publication titled - *Industrialisation As an Engine of Growth in Developing Countries, 1950 - 2005*, published in the United Nations University (UNU) Merit Working, Paper Series, Adam Szirmai avers that industrialisation started in Great Britain in the 18th century sweeping through Europe and Asia, bypassing developing countries. However, some of the developing countries developed their industrial economies, following their Independence from colonialism. The majority focused on the Manufacturing Industry. The learned scholar stated that this Sector offers unique opportunities for capital accumulation in developing countries, resulting also in aggregate economic growth. Developing this Sector further results in spill over effects.

The renaming of the Ministry of Trade and Industry to Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development speaks volume about the industrialisation priorities. I welcome the allocation of N\$335 million in the current Financial Year to the Industrial Development Programme. The total allocation for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period to this programme is N\$1,057 billion.

It is stated that the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development will be developing industrial infrastructure that will be leased to the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), at below market rental charges. This move is welcome, as the SME Sector largely comprises the previously disadvantaged persons. Highlighting the challenges to industrialisation among the SME, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and African Union (AU) Commission in the issue paper titled - *Industrialization for an Emerging Africa*, cited the issue of access to finance. This because financiers consider more large firms and Government Institutions, compared to small private entrepreneurs. It is further stated that there is hesitation in the

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Banking Sector to finance SMEs as they are regarded to be high risk. I am pleased to note the allocation of N\$880. 4 million to the SME Development Programme in the current Financial Year. The MTEF document states that capitalisation of the SME facilitates the expansion of the SME Bank to various Regions. My appeal is that special attention should be given to youth entrepreneurs in the Regions, who are not yet in a position to be financed by commercial banking institutions, given the fact that they are just upcoming. They should further be assisted with mentoring programmes to prudently manage the finances lent to their firms.

I would like to address the issue of rural industrialisation, which affects two Ministries, the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development and Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. An Indian academic, Dr Sanjeev Kumar argues in his discourse titled - ***Rural Development Through Rural Industrialisation: Exploring the Chinese experience*** that industrialisation had generally only benefited urban centres.

However, China and India are an exception. China introduced the Township and Village Enterprise (TVEs). These economic entities have contributed to employment and support to agriculture in rural communities. Rural industrialisation further serves to mitigate the influx of persons to urban centres. K Sundar and T Srinivasan, too, writes in their discourse titled - ***Rural industrialisation: Challenges and Proposition***, published in the Journal for Social Science, Vol. 20 (1) that Governments should formulate rural industrialisation policies, encouraging participation by rural communities on large scale. It should be aimed at alleviating poverty. Among the industries found in the rural communities are food processing, hand and power-spinning, leather goods, carpentry and blacksmith industries.

Honourable Speaker, over the past years, I developed a passion for legal affairs and have, therefore, been following issues related to the justice system. In this respect, I would like to address the issue of effective and efficient justice system. The efficiency of the justice system is

characterised by, *inter alia*, the expeditious manners with which cases are disposed of. In the MTEF document, it is stated that Ministerial target for criminal cases before the High Court to be finalised during the current Financial Year is 65%, with 70% and 75% set as targets for the subsequent years during the current MTEF period. I, however, noted with concern that the target for the registered criminal cases before the Lower Courts to be finalised for the current Financial Year is 35%, with 40% and 45% set as targets for the subsequent years during the current MTEF period. These figures are not encouraging. Expeditious finalisation of criminal cases is important for fair trials. In his discourse titled - ***Right to a Fair trial in Criminal Matters*** under article 6 of the European Court of Human Rights, published in the Judicial Studies Institute Journal, Vol 4 (2), Paul Mahoney propounds and I quote - “*The reasonableness of the length of the proceedings is to be assessed according to the particular circumstances of the case and with reference notably to the complexity of the case, the conduct of the defendant and the conduct of the (prosecuting and judicial) authorities. Where there are inordinate delays, it falls to the respondent State to come forward with explanations.*”

The issue of reasonable time in trials is underscored in article 12(b) of the Namibian Constitution. Similarly, article 7 1(d) of the African Charter on People and Human Rights, too, prescribes that every individual should have the right to be tried within a reasonable time. Reasonable time refers to the entire process, from commencement of the trial to passing of the Judgement and it considers the investigation process that is involved. This was so decided in the Canadian Supreme Court case of *R v Finta* [1994] 1 S. C. R. 701. Further, in the case of *R v Askov* [1990] 2 S.C.R 1199, the Court laid the principles of determining whether delays are unreasonable. These four principles are:

- (i) The Length of the Delay: It is inexcusable when a delay becomes longer, though complex cases would justify longer delays. Delays caused by the State counts in favour of the Accused;
- (ii) Explanation for the Delay: When a delay is caused by inadequate resources of the justice system, it counts against the state, which

bears the burden of justifying such a delay;

- (iii) A Waiver of the Right by the Accused. Only when the Accused waive the right to reasonable delay, will the Court be able to justify. This is rare and the waive should be given by the Accused freely, unequivocal and on the basis of informed decision; and
- (iv) Prejudice to the Accused. The State stands responsible for causing prejudice to the Accused when there is substantial delay in finalising the case.

I am reliably informed that the problem of delayed in the finalisation of cases is largely caused by the following in Namibia:

- (i) Inexperienced Police Officers involved in the investigation;
- (ii) Resignation of Prosecutors;
- (iii) Resignation of Magistrates. We can make whatever budgetary provisions, but if the three factors have not been addressed, we will not be able to realise efficiency in the administration of justice.

With regard to investigation, two issues should be considered. The shortage of investigating detectives, resulting in one detective handling over 100 dockets leads to a slow process of investigation. The issue of training of detective officers, too, should be reviewed, with regard to the duration, curriculum and nature of their training. A stakeholders meeting should be convened to look at the Training Programme for investigation officers. I support the allocation of N\$133.9 million to the training and Development Programme for Police Officers, with the total allocation for the MTEF period being N\$ 425.8 million. Part of these funds should be used for designing a new curriculum that is aimed at promoting efficiency in investigation. The soliciting of inputs into the Training Programme by the relevant stakeholders will close the gaps that currently exist in managing investigations and presenting them to Courts.

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The resignation of Prosecutors and Magistrates is caused by the shortage of personnel, which resulted from continuous resignations. Hence, the available personnel is overworked. It is public knowledge that Prosecutors and Magistrates leave their professions for greener pasture as they are relatively lowly graded comparing to the Public Service. It is absolutely unacceptable to grade these professional on par with school teachers, for example, Engineering, Law, Medicine and Pharmacy are fields that generally pays well in the wider labour market. While I welcome the allocation of N\$472 million for the administration of justice in the current Financial Year, I maintain that if we continue to pay legal professionals meagre wages, we will frustrate the administration of justice. Too often the Accused persons are kept for long in custody, only to be found innocent at the end of the trial. The length of the trial, while in custody is a torturing process. We should, thus, aim for a higher percentage of finalising cases at all levels of the Courts.

Honourable Speaker, as a custom, let me now focus on my favourite field - **International Relations**. Last year, the United States Government announced measures to improve their relations with Cuba. We welcome such development. For too long, the people of Cuba had been subjected to unjust economic blockade, resulting in the suffering of the Cuban economy. Further, Cuban nationals had been at the receiving end of raw forms of justice, disguised as the fight against this and that unwanted trend, whereas it is clearly known that Cuba's hands are off the said undesirable inclinations. President Obama has done a right thing to start a process of bringing to an end what the United Nations General Assembly had been calling for during the past years. At the end of the day, harmonious relations weigh above antagonism in a world that strives for goodwill interactions.

Turning to the Middle East, this year the Israeli Prime Minister addressed the United States Congress, dedicating his speech to perceived threats from Iran. This comes at a time when progressive people in the world are taking stock of the consequences brought by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It does not augur well to relegate the Palestinian problem to the backyard of conflict resolution centres, and divert the attention of the

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international community to other issues. Playing victim by aggressors is common experience in the world where the disregard of the welfare and security of others is a prevailing trend. For long, some in this world had been treated with kids' gloves and been allowed to cause the suffering of others. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: Point of order.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: On a Point of Order Honourable Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Comrade a small, tiny question?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION: Accepted.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Comrade Mushelenga, addressing the Palestinian issue in the context of the world politics. When you mentioned the words - *the international community*, what exactly do you mean because those words have assumed a very narrow connotation or interpretation.

Is it the understanding that Asia, Africa, Latina America do not have a place in what is called today the international community? Am I correct to assume that that is now what is meant when people talk about the international community?

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Member, you may continue.

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND COOPERATION:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. As I go on with my Speech, the answer becomes obvious that indeed we have moved from a bipolar to unipolar world.

I was saying, for long some in this world had been treated with kids' gloves and be allowed to cause the sufferings of others. Over the past year on a number of occasions, innocent women and children from Palestine experienced the wrath from their territory's opponents.

Honourable Speaker, a Nation should never forget its history. In this respect, we strive to strengthen ties with our old friends, further taking into consideration the mutual benefits that our relations bring. Thus, last year, among the countries where new diplomatic missions were opened are the Republic of Congo and Senegal, where SWAPO opened diplomatic missions during the liberation struggle and Ghana that supported our cause for Independence. Further, a new mission was opened in Finland, whose relations with Namibia dates back to over 100 years ago, when Finnish missionaries came to our country and later extended support to the Namibian cause for Independence. The opening of new missions serves to create avenues for trade and investments not only in those countries, but also in their respective Regions. Accordingly, I support the allocation of N\$773. 4 million to the Namibian diplomatic missions during the current Financial Year.

Honourable Speaker, there is a geographic area that our foreign relations appear to be neglecting, and this need to be improved. Yours truly stated here on this rostrum a few years ago that we need to focus on Eastern Europe. Countries in this region supported our cause for the liberation struggle. These countries have joined the European Union and we should use our old ties to forge economic relations with such countries. If we do not make a move, history will judge us harshly that we seem to be

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selective when we hail countries that supported us. It is good when we laud some countries, but it is totally unacceptable to be inconsistent, remaining mum of European countries that formed part of the eastern bloc that provided all round support to the Namibian cause during the difficult days of Cold War politics in the history of human kind. We should move a step further, else our action in terms of establishing diplomatic presence could be interpreted to be confirming that unfortunate omission. It is high time we do damage control.

Immediately coming to my mind in that region is the Czech Republic, where hundreds of Namibian children received education. In the publication by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) titled - ***OECD Economic Surveys, Czech Republic***, published in November 2011, it is stated that the Czech economy has a strong component of the Manufacturing Sector which contributes enormously to that country's economic growth, exports, investment and employment. Being a Member of the European Union (EU), the Czech economy is reported to be perfectly integrated in the regional supply chains, with the foreign direct investment (FDIs) stock well above the EU average, while capital stock is arguably on par with that of other EU Member States. Namibia's vigorous economic diplomacy towards the Czech, therefore, stands to benefit our businesspersons to tap examples of growing the Manufacture Industry, necessary for value addition on their primary products.

Romania is another country worth mentioning. This country hosted a diplomatic office for SWAPO during the Liberation Struggle. This country, too, is a Member of the EU that is in a favourable position to engage in trade and investment. In his discourse, titled – ***Romania's Recent Trends of Romania's International Trade in Goods***, published in the Centre for Economic Studies (CES) Working Paper, Vol VI, Issue 2, Andrei -Cristian Balasan surmises that Romania engrossed the technology of more advanced countries and has witnessed improvement in economic performance, resulting in export growth. Further, the Factor Development Regional Centre's publication titled - ***Trade and Investment Opportunities in Romania*** - Q1 2015 reveals that Romania has a large

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scale agricultural products in the form of grapes. It was recently reported in the local daily that a Regional Councillor for the Karasburg Constituency complained about the foreign ownership of the grape crops along the Orange River. If Namibians were to take ownership and we extend the horizons of our economic diplomacy to Romania, our people could learn from the Romanian agricultural techniques of grape production, given Romania's advanced technology. This type of economic diplomacy focus fulfils the aspirations of the National Development Plan (NDP) 4, which cites agriculture as one of the four priority areas.

The importance of intensifying of diplomatic relations with the Eastern Europe region is a reality. While we may not necessarily have a permanent diplomatic establishment there, we could explore other diplomatic methods. For example, a South African scholar, Anthony Du Plessis, writes in his discourse titled - *Foreign Policy and Diplomacy*, which is a chapter in the publication titled - *Power, Wealth and Global Equity*, edited by Patric McGowan, Scarlet Cornelissen & Philip Nel about types and levels of diplomacy that include governmental-to-governmental personal diplomacy at various levels. Economic Ministries, in particular, are ideal partners in this venture. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Yes, Point of Order.

HON VENAANI: Honourable Mushelenga, I have been listening to you very attentively talking about the need for us to expand to Eastern Europe and I agree with you but I seem to be missing something, are you saying that we must create these relations only with States that had political relationship some 30-40 years ago with SWAPO or are you generally talking about States that can increase economic partnerships with Namibia?

As a Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, would you argue that our economic policy is based on political ties or economic interest?

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION: Honourable Speaker, I thought the Honourable Member was listening attentively because if he has listened attentively he was not going to ask that question.

I have clearly stipulated that these are all countries with which we have ties but now we must go there because of the economic considerations and I have cited examples using empirical evidence with research by scholars. Maybe my level was too high (*laughter*)

Honourable Speaker, the Joint Commissions of Cooperation plays an important role in our foreign policy, these are vehicles through which trade and investment matters are pursued. However, nothing would come out of these exercises if we try to bite what we cannot chew. I have on numerous occasions advanced the view of moving away from the trend of wholesale diplomacy, where we want to sign too many agreements in various fields with one country, while knowing very well that it is impractical to implement all such agreements. We need to start prioritising key two or three areas of cooperation and devote our energy to the implementation of the agreements that we sign. I have noted that our delegations to Joint Commission meetings are too large, with some officers ending up loitering in the corridors of meeting venues. Too many officials from half of Government Ministries is not what makes the work of our Joint Commissions successful. At the end of the day it is the quality and not the quantity of the delegations that matters.

With these words, I now register my support to the Budget for the Financial Years 2015/2016 and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the Financial Years 2015/2016 to 2017/2018. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Well, thank you very much. Honourable Nujoma, I think you wanted to catch him but I think he managed to get away. (*Laughter*)

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HON DR ANKAMA**

I just wanted to remind the Honourable House that today we have SWAPO, DTA and RDP, can I ask the front desk to please communicate the information to the Members because they do not know because they do not have the information. Please make sure that we share that information.

In the meantime, may I ask Honourable Chief Dr Ankama to take the Floor?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. At the onset, I would like congratulate everybody for your election to this very important Parliament. Honourable Speaker, we have had a long collaboration, way back during our heydays of the academic administration at UNAM.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, at first my sincere salutations and congratulations to the entire SWAPO Rank and File as well as the whole Namibian Nation for the peaceful elections and smooth transfer of power showing maturity, thus assuring tranquillity, a prerequisite for economic development in any given country.

As history reveals, Robert Walpole, 1st Earl of Orford, was a British Statesman who is generally regarded as the first Prime Minister of Great Britain (1721-1742). According to Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, Sir Robert Walpole was one of the greatest politicians in British history who is said to have initiated the “*practice of presenting Budgets and Fiscal Policy to Parliament... in his position as Chancellor of the Exchequer, in an attempt to restore the confidence of the public after the chaos unleashed by the collapse of the South Sea Bubble in 1720.*”

Understanding that Government Budgets are of economic, political and technical nature, we should realize how National Budget speak to us in various uncomplicated ways; e.g. what we should eat at home, drink or

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wear, our means of transport, choice of medical treatment, determine property ownership and how much each of us may afford to save, etcetera.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, generally Budgets allow us all an opportunity to economically manage and grow personal or public money in the manner that gives us positive output and confidence for the future.

The Finance Minister Comrade Schletwein clearly refers to the *Appropriation Bill* [B. 5 – 2015] and the 2015/2016-2016/2017/2018 MTEF as *“aimed at tackling structural challenges that affect the development potential of our economy, unlocking opportunities for jobs and wealth creation and improving the welfare of Namibians in an inclusive and sustainable manner.”*

That this Budget is Pro-poor, Pro-growth *“with deliberate scaled-up resource allocations to the targeted Programmes for broad-based economic growth, job creation and poverty eradication over time.”*

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Statement by the Minister of Finance is heavily loaded and it is up to our individual Ministries and more so the Public Servants to perform to the expectation and even beyond. The question, however, is how this will be feasible without amending some of our enabling laws such as the. *Public Service Act, 1995* (Act 13 of 1995).

In particular, I would like to echo my usual call during National Budget Debates in past years as an MP. A call for the scrap of the *Public Service Act, 1995* (Act 13 of 1995). This one remains my annual priority as long as I am in Parliament.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am quoting what I stated a year ago and some other years back, that *“review of prime instruments are an urgent requirement by this august House because they stall the smooth implementation of our National Budget to full use.*

Imagine how heads of institutions are unable to-dismiss an alcoholic, a

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thief, a lazy or, an undisciplined Civil Servant who deliberately and with impunity continues to neglect work one is paid for. For this I strongly feel that Public Service Act, 1995 (Act 13 of 1995) should be repealed and a new Public Service bill be brought here, even if it means to require that Public Servants be contracted for a limited time with a possibility of renewals depending on individual skills, commitments etc, etc."

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is morally unacceptable to have members in your team who while the team is building, some others are at where you have started demolishing the work you are about to complete. In fact, some Public Servants are shamefully a nuisance as they are just not doing their work at all as expected, however, they are paid a salary every month. This creates a mismatch between the workforce and productivity. You have somebody who is working, do not do much but at the end of the month they expect some salary.

There is clearly a lack of moral ethics and commitment amongst some Public Servants and these transmit negative influence on the good ones which further leads to non-deliverance of the essential services. Eventually our clients - the electorates whom we are representing here, madly suffer the consequences.

The non-performance or poor delivery attitudes of the nasty ones may easily be reflected to our governance that "*the SWAPO Government is not doing enough to fulfil its mandate*" as some media houses and individuals jump to conclude. It is our noble duty, therefore, Honourable Members, as a team, to speedily first introduce a proactive Public Service legislation and scrap the outdated *Public Service Act, 1995 (Act 13 of 1995)* in order to bring efficient service at the level obligatory. Thus, a request to repeal *Public Service Act, 1995 (Act 13 of 1995)*, replaces it with *a down to business* legislation, is urgent in order for us to align it with the call of the Finance Minister's "*policy priorities for the MTEF*" outline in his Budget Statement, Pages 7, 8 and 9. It is my personal opinion that there is no substitute to *hard and smart work*.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I must openly thank His

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Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob the President, for being thoughtful to create the Ministry responsible for parastatals or Government Agencies. It has been a thorn in the flesh to bring some of the State Owned Enterprises to book, especially those who impudently spent beyond their limits and would get Government bailout year in year out. Now there is a window of monitor to see culprits of non-performance. My advice is that those who fail to perform let them feel the heat of the system. They must be shown the exit door.

MTC AND TELECOM NAMIBIA

Indeed the 2 SOEs are trying hard to bring competition on service delivery to the clients, but a mixture of lip-service is quite evident characterised by lack of professionalism, lies and more shortage of technical skills (*laughter*). For instance, if one applies for service, what you are promised is not what you get. When service is provided, it usually takes months to deliver to the client.

Further, if they so deliver ,the service is either deficient and or flawed by many-many technical problems. The worst is that technical teams would not even turn up for a long time no matter how many times they are called in. It happens to individual households, private individuals and businesses alike and this has negative financial implications to especially investors. With regard to network coverage, especially with MTC, this national company should take cognisance of the need to critically review admin, technical training and recruitment to address the said.

In Oshakati radius of about 6-10 km, just like in the surrounding of Katima Mulilo and many other places, cell phone communication is terribly a nuisance. They should seriously review footage between their towers and calibrate accordingly. Even though they provide bursaries to students, they must as well put their house in order to provide value for money service.

AIR NAMIBIA

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, Air Namibia appears to be

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improving right now. We still need to watch if they will come again for another bail out. Funny enough, they would come with a turnaround plan to beg for money; six months later, they would return asking for another bail out after diverting from the presented turnaround plan without informing Government.

Air Namibia recently announced that as of the 1st of April 2015, there will be a direct flight from Johannesburg to Walvis Bay and similarly from Walvis Bay to Cape Town. This two new schedules are a great initiatives but they fail to benefit Luderitz because it will still take a person two days to travel from Luderitz to Walvis Bay which is very costly as most of the time one is forced to use the road or to overnight in Windhoek. It would be very important if the route to Cape Town or Johannesburg is via Luderitz because most of the travellers having business in Walvis Bay also have business in Luderitz. It is also very convenient for those in Luderitz to be able to fly directly to and from Walvis Bay without going via Windhoek.

TRANSNAMIB

TransNamib is another irritating Government business entity (*laughter*) when it comes to bailout as if they are the only ones by creation of this august House.

HON SPEAKER: Just a moment, Honourable Chief. I am honestly sorry, I did not want to interrupt you, Honourable Member, I was hoping that you will conclude soon

HON MEMBERS: No!

HON MEMBER: He will take some time!

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON SPEAKER: However, it appears that you still have a long way to go, if so, could I then perhaps bring the House to conclude so that we ask the Honourable Member to continue tomorrow? Is that the consensus?

HON MEMBERS: Yes!

HON SPEAKER: If that is the case, may I ask the Deputy Prime Minister to adjourn the House?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I adjourn the House until tomorrow, 14:30.

HON SPEAKER: I would, therefore, adjourn the House until tomorrow the usual time. Thank you.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:50 UNTIL 2015. 04.09 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
09 APRIL 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Please be seated. Honourable Members, I seek your indulgence, we are facing the constraints of time and we need to manage our time in a manner that will be in the best interests of this House and the country at large. We have a Budget before us that is already putting pressure on the time and today being Thursday - *Questions Day*, I wonder whether you would agree with me to actually delay or postpone the discussion so that we can concentrate on the Budget. I seek your indulgence on this because I do not want to impose it on you. Do I have your support on this? Thank you.

With that understanding, any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Honourable Mutorwa.

**TABLING: COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION
AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME FOR NAMIBI 2015 – 2019**

HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY: Thank you, honourable Speaker. I lay upon the Table a document entitled - *Comprehensive Conservation Agriculture Programme for Namibia* for information, reference and use by the Honourable Members as they interact with their various Constituencies. I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Please table the Report. Notice of

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON VENAANI**

Questions? Yes, Honourable Venaani.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

QUESTION 10:

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on Thursday the 16th of April 2015, I shall ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah the following:

Mr. Venaani (DTA) asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation:

Since the passing of the former Libyan President, Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, the country has been in political turmoil and various factions or groups have been fighting for the control of Libya. Most political commentators refer to this as the “*Second Libyan Civil War*.”

During 2014, two groups that enjoy support from the majority of the populace began to come to the fore and it can now generally be said that the country is led by these two groups, each being in control of specific areas and parts of the country.

In the past, Namibia has expressed support for the erstwhile Gaddafi-led Libyan Government, and the time has now once again come for us to clearly state our position and indicate which of the two factions or groups we officially recognise as the legitimate and Sovereign Government of the State of Libya.

Having noted with concern that former President of Namibia, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba publicly refused to recognise the

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
HON //GOWASES**

Transitional National Council and only recognised the Gadaffi Regime, it is imperative that we now publicly state our stance and have an unambiguous and concise foreign policy. Thus I ask-

1. Do we recognise the Council of Deputies, also sometimes referred to as the "*House of Representatives*" based in Tobruk and led by Abdullah al-Thani, which seems to enjoy the most international support and recognition?
2. Or do we instead recognise the New General National Congress (NGNC) based in Tripoli and led by Nouri Abusahmain?
3. Who occupies the Libyan Embassy in Namibia and does that occupant have legitimacy? Which group does that occupant represent?

I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Please table the question. Yes, Honourable //Gowases, you have the Floor.

QUESTION 11:

HON //GOWASES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I give Notice that on 7 May 2015, I shall ask the following question to the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation, Honourable Erkki Nghimtina the following:

The plight of our women who walk on foot for kilometres in the rain and sun from different Constituencies of Windhoek, particularly informal settlement and townships to receive services at Khomasdal main offices of Social Security Commission irks me. Women are the ones who fall

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS
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pregnant and give birth and experience 90% of problems relating to sustaining their newborns and families in this regard as well as domestic workers related scenarios.

Can the Minister look into the possibility of establishing sub-offices in the highly densely populated areas of Tobias Hainyeko Consituency, Moses Garoeb Consituency and Samora Machel Consituency in order to make lives easier for our people and women folk, especially in accessing these services?

I sincerely believe that in modern technology and cyber age, offices are linked to computerised databases and the decentralisation of services to sub-offices will be an added value to current service delivery. Bring services closer to the people. I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Can you please table the question? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements?

I believe we have concluded the list we can now safely move to the Order of the Day.

May I ask the Secretary to read the First Order of the Day?

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND
READING - APPROPRIATION BILL [B. 5 – 2015]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading - *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 – 2015].

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SECOND READING - APPROPRIATION BILL
HON DR ANKAMA

HON SPEAKER: When the Debates was adjourned on Wednesday, the 08th of March 2014, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Minister of Finance that the Bill be read a Second Time.

I am sure we all have the Budget Time Table before us and we can take note of the fact that today's time is allocated to APP, SWAPO and UPM. Of course, depending on how well we do with time management we might be able to have time for others. However, for now, I expect those Parties to fully participate. I, however, need to conclude the discussion of yesterday and, therefore ask Honourable Chief Ankama to take the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Yesterday, I was just about to start with TransNamib.

TransNamib is another irritating Government business entity when it comes to bailout as if they are the only ones by creation of this august House. Today they want money and tomorrow they want more money - very annoying. In the light of the current budget and Government new structure, I would suggest that any State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) management that deviate from the business plan presented to Government, runs out of money or under-spends, be dealt with severely, first to account for the mess **before** shown an exit door. I strongly feel that outstanding performing SOEs should be recognised in kind.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, on drought, which haunts the world over, including Namibia, we should understand that these natural calamities are here to stay and we should devise appropriate mechanisms in response thereto.

Reference to the said, we should think out of the box and plan on long-term projects 5-10 years even beyond, on mega projects that will turn Oshana's or perennial rivers into man-made MEGA-DAMS to contain floods, reclaim land and keep water for our use especially during the dry

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season. Above all, Namibia such a dry country runs out of water just after six months of the rainy season. We can even use stored water for food production and other related economic boosters such as camping, fishing, lodging and more.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Budget on the Table appropriates a lot of money to Ministries and Agencies, however, appropriate skills shortage haunts the said. (Intervention)

HON SPEAKER: On the Point of Order.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Honourable Speaker, Sir, I am at pains to say what I am about to ask the Honourable Deputy Minister. I was listening very carefully and I heard the Honourable Deputy Minister referring to TransNamib as one of the irritating entities. I would like to develop an understanding of what the Deputy Minister means because I happen to be the one responsible for that entity right now?

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Chief Ankama, in the new spirit that we want to develop, can I request or urge, if you could answer what the Minister is asking now? In the same vein, can I also request you move a bit faster? Thank you.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES: That is right. Honourable Speaker, all that needs to be done is for the management to do their work that they are employed for. Should they do that, with the appropriate business plan they have

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presented, there will be no problems.

We, therefore, need to send as many Namibians both to local institutions as well as abroad for training and skills acquisition. There is need though to know how many skills type are required to avoid training for the streets. A National Data Bureau on skills shortage and training is required to help planning determine the probable need of skills in the country. We must have a Data Bank that informs us how many people to train in a specific area and not just training for streets.

Equally of importance, our institutions of employment should be compelled to offer opportunities for internships with some technical and financial assistance from the Government.

There are also opportunities for training that are provided by many friendly countries out there who still want to assist Namibia in terms of long and short-term trainings. These scholarships and bursaries are forwarded to our Ministries, especially for people in employment but, those colleagues we have in positions, are either ignorant, pathetic, greedy or jealous as they do not allow juniors to get such chances. There are only a few of them who repeatedly get onto these on-the-job-training as offered. In some instances, senior officers also take up these opportunities that are not even in the fields of their operations.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, these on-the-job trainings will enhance the necessary skills transfer from world over; enable us match our skilled cadres into appropriate positions, thereby reducing ineffectiveness and underperformance.

While Ministries Budget for vacancies, a Financial Year would end without filling vacancies budgeted for, thus returning money to the Treasury that could have been used by another needy Ministry. A very painful practice while we have a number of well-qualified youthful Namibians roaming the streets. If you doubt, simply get closer to learn. There are so many of them and I have seen some of them.

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To conclude; Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would thank the Finance Minister and his entire team for being considerate of the elders just to have a N\$1000 per month in their pockets. You watch out, many will make significant difference at their homes, towns and villages. This may also improve their health and prolong life expectancy. Hoping that all recipients will utilise their budgets-maximally as requested for, I support the Budget. Thank you for your attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Utoni Nujoma.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you, Comrade Speaker.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I take this opportunity to contribute to the on-going discussion on the National Budget Statement for the Financial Year 2015/2016 before this august House.

I would like to register my unconditional support for the Budget that was presented by the Minister of Finance, Honourable Calle Schlettwein (*laughter*) - earlier in the House - *Ich spreche gut Deutsch!*

I would further like to extend my gratitude to the Honourable Minister, Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and the entire team for an inclusive Budget.

Honourable Speaker, let me also take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Speaker of the National Assembly. In the same spirit, I also extend my congratulatory message to Honourable Dr, Professor Loide Kasingo for her election as the Deputy Speaker of this House. I

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also want to congratulate all the Honourable Members of the National Assembly with special mention to the incoming Members, notably for their successful elections and we look forward to their contribution. I will read a little bit faster because the time is not conducive for long Statements.

Having said the above, I would like to point out that the Budget is about our people and it is expected that their aspirations are articulated even though the prevailing economic challenges are still fragile. As a country we have socio-economic and structural challenges, as Comrade Calle indicated, that need to be addressed and that include: unemployment, poverty, unequal access to the benefits from natural resources, labour skills shortages and a narrow industrial base. It is my humble submission that Namibia will be able to rise to these challenges. I am sure you will concur that the Sectors of Education, Health and Economic Development remain pivotal and play an important role in bringing about immediate change in the lives of our people.

Following Independence, the economy expanded from a GDP of N\$8,3 billion, to a GDP growth of N\$126, 6 billion in 2013. The annual income rose from N\$5.5 billion to N\$58,300 billion and the proportion of the population living in poverty decreased exponentially from 38% to 20%. In its assessment of progress made towards achieving the MDGs in Namibia, the National Planning Commission indicated that progress had been made but challenges were still apparent.

The economic growth momentum established from Independence has been sustained in this Budget and we applaud the provision of N\$2,7 billion to the new Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare to address unemployment, which is approximately 28% although Namibia's economy has been experiencing positive growth. Politically, Namibia has maintained peace, security and stability, ensuring a conducive environment for a thriving multi-party democracy.

Investment in public infrastructure and increased agricultural production are identified as key drivers for economic growth. I note that this Budget

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has made significant investment in energy through the Kudu Gas-to-Power project – this is very important because I am one of those who believe that we must invest in the resources at our disposal while some others are saying that we must build coal-powered Power Stations, which will only be temporary, therefore, let us concentrate all our efforts in making sure that the resources we have are utilised to the benefit of our people (*Interjection*) I did agreed with Venaani yesterday that those are the right ideas, we do listen as well. The expansion of the Walvis Bay Port, the building and rehabilitation of the national railway and road networks, and the additional funding for the Mass Housing Project, the construction of the dual carriageway and the construction of national fuel storage facilities at Walvis Bay. A total of N\$34,41 billion or 15,7% of non-interest expenditure has been allocated to the Economic and Infrastructure Sectors over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework to stimulate economic growth and thus address poverty.

An effective educational and skills training system is important for generating appropriate skills that are important for the country to grow. The current expenditure on education should be able to address the demands of our Industry today and in the future. The current Budget through the combined allocation of N\$15,35 billion to the Ministries of Basic Education and Higher Education has rightly identified this Sector as a priority area and should be applauded. Enrolment at the Polytechnic of Namibia and the University of Namibia has increased. Although Namibia has made strides in the provision of training in scarce technical fields, more still needs to be done to close the skills gaps.

The Ministry of Land Reform face a critical skills shortage in the areas of Survey and Mapping, Valuation and Land Use Planning. I urge these institutions to broaden the curriculum and address these specialised skills. The provision of quality health care and social services is important.

The 2015/2016 Budget sets aside an allocation of N\$6,49 billion to the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Rehabilitation towards the different Programmes in the Health Sector, an allocation that is 29% higher than the N\$6,067 billion allocation during the Financial Year

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2014/2015. While Health care funding continues to shrink in most countries, health needs are constant, increasing exponentially through the challenges posed by HIV/AIDS and recently by Ebola, as you have witnessed in West Africa.

At this juncture, allow me to focus on a key issue that is imperative in bringing about economic empowerment to Namibians, the issue is land. The Lands Sector received a total of N\$1.07 billion under the 2015/2016 Budget with N\$807 million earmarked for Land Acquisition and Farm Infrastructure Development. The Land Reform Programme is premised on the Recommendations and Resolutions of the National Conference on Land Reform and the Land Question of 1991 read together with our current policy and legal framework.

It is with a sense of gratitude and humility that I recognise the legacy and sterling work done by my predecessors in this Sector, who laid down the respective framework under which our current Land Reform process is being undertaken. I would also like to thank my Dear Brother, Comrade !Naruseb, the former Minister of Lands and Resettlement for the progressive induction course that he put me through in order to acquaint myself with the various Directorates and very complicated issues. The Government has invested substantial financial resources in this Sector. To date a total of 365 farms measuring 2,6 million hectares at a total cost of N\$ 1 billion has been acquired and 5,000 beneficiaries have been resettled. Of course, the target during the MTEF is to acquire 20 million hectares by 2020, which would be the challenge. The other challenge is that once money is made available, the prices of land also shoot up. That is one of the challenges we need to address.

It is my humble view that this Budget will address its stated objectives and once again, I congratulate the Minister of Finance for tabling the 2015/2016 National Budget and I fully support it. I thank you for listening attentively.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kavetuna.

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HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Hon Members, allow to express my gratitude to thousands of Namibians who exercised their democratic right by taking part in the last election in large numbers, their votes gave me the opportunity to come back to this august house. My thanks to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr. Hage Geingob is unending, for his wisdom to assign me to the Ministry of Health and Social Service, as a Deputy Minister, here is where my passion for care is rooted.

With humility, I am singing a long lasting praise song for our former President, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba for his discovery of this Human Gem and gratefully to assign me the huge responsibilities as a Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, what an experience?

Honourable Speaker, honourable Members, today I am delivering to things in one, my Maiden Speech and my contribution to the *Appropriation Bill*.

HON SHIXWAMENI: You are an old Member.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I am a new Member, Honourable Shixwameni, if you do not know that.

I am standing here to educate, to advocate and to create awareness for better understanding on mental illness among fellow Namibians. I deemed it necessary to inform this House of the socio- economic impact that this situation is having on our communities, how stigmatization and discrimination against mental disorders can become an economical burden to our GDP and to enlighten this august House on why we should

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invest on mental Health. In the same vein, I am raising my voice on behalf of thousands of Namibians who are suffering in silence, who are stigmatized and rejected by the ones they once gave their whole. This condition can affect anybody, even in this House; it is only our reaction to the problem that distinguishes one group from the other.

Honourable Speaker, mental health is a level of psychological well-being, or an absence of a mental disorder; it is the psychological state of someone who is functioning at a satisfactory level of emotional and behavioral adjustment. According to World Health Organization (WHO) mental health includes subjective well-being, perceived self-efficacy, autonomy, competence, intergenerational dependence, and self-actualization of one's intellectual and emotional potential, among others.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, a mental disorder, also called a mental illness or psychiatric disorder, in our different vernaculars this state of mind is often referred to in very derogatory phrases, like madness, *malheid*, *oviyoze* and the list goes on. Mental illness is a mental or behavioural pattern or anomaly that causes either suffering or an impaired ability to function in ordinary life -disability, and which is not a developmental or social norm. Mental disorders are generally defined by a combination of how a person feels, acts, thinks or perceives. This may be associated with particular regions or functions of the brain or the rest of the nervous system, often in a social context. Mental disorder is one aspect of mental health. The scientific study of mental disorders is called *psychopathology*.

The causes of mental disorders varies and in some cases are unclear and theories may incorporate findings from a range of fields. Services of mental illnesses are based in psychiatric hospitals or in the community, and assessments are carried out by psychiatrists, clinical psychologists and clinical social workers, using various methods but often relying on observation and questioning. Clinical treatments are provided by various mental health professionals. Psychotherapy and psychiatric medication are two major treatment options, as are social interventions, peer support and self-help. In a minority of cases, there might be involuntary detention or involuntary treatment, where legislation allows. Stigma and

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discrimination can add to the suffering and disability associated with mental disorders, leading to various social movements attempting to increase understanding and challenge social exclusion. Prevention of mental illness became the modest paradigm shift in some mental health strategies

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, there are many different categories of mental disorder, and many different facets of human behaviour and personality that can become disordered. Anxiety or fear that interferes with normal functioning may be classified as an anxiety disorder. Commonly recognised categories include specific phobias or better known extensive fear, generalised anxiety disorder, social anxiety disorder, panic disorder, agoraphobia - fear for crowds or openness, obsessive-compulsive disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder. I think the people who are saying some things in between may be suffering from one or another condition; there is a kind of a disorder here. (*Laughter*)

Other emotion or mood processes can also become disordered. Mood disorder involving unusually intense and sustained sadness, melancholia or deep sadness is known as major depression. Bipolar disorder involves abnormally “*high*” or pressured mood states, known as mania or hypomania, alternating with normal or depressed mood.

Patterns of belief, language use and perception of reality can become disordered, for example, delusions, thought disorder, hallucinations. Psychotic disorders in this domain include schizophrenia, and delusional disorder. Schizoaffective disorder is a category used individuals s of both schizophrenia and affective disorders.

Personality is the fundamental characteristics of a person that influence thoughts and behaviours across situations and time, this may be considered disordered if judged to be abnormally rigid and maladaptive. A number of different personality disorders are listed, including those sometimes termed as “*eccentric*,” such as paranoid, lack of interest in social relationships, secretiveness and solitary lifestyle personality disorders; types that have been described as “*dramatic*” or “*motional*” are

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Anti-social, borderline, excessive attention-seeking emotion and inappropriately seductive behaviour personality disorders; and those sometimes are fear-related, such as dependant or obsessive-compulsive personality disorders. The personality disorders in general are defined as emerging from childhood, or at least by adolescence or early adulthood. This also has a category for enduring personality change after a catastrophic experience or psychiatric illness. There is an emerging consensus that personality disorders, like personality traits in general, actually incorporate a mixture of acute dysfunctional behaviours that may resolve in a person to develop an extensive complex about oneself, like all a sudden to see yourself very superior or very superior or inferior. Acting like being a President of a country and to address non-existing big crowds are most-common in this disorder. (*Laughter*)

HON MEMBER: Tell them!

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order. She does not have any objection.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Can I kindly ask my Sister to please speak the common man's language because what she is speaking is above all of us in this Chamber. Can you please lower down the vocabulary?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I think the only thing that Honourable Shixwameni did not hear is that we experience these kinds of disorders during the election campaign period, where people will be speaking to themselves and pretending there is a big crowd (*laughter*).

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Eating disorders involve disproportionate concern in matters of food and weight. Categories of disorder in this area include anorexia nervosa, which is a lack of eating, bulimia nervosa - too much eating, exercise bulimia – too much exercising or binge – eating during the night disorder. *(Intervention)*

HON SPEAKER: Yes, on a Point of Order.

HON MAAMBERUA: I just have a tiny little question to the Honourable Deputy Minister, if she accepts?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Yes, please.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Deputy Minister, you have identified so many complicated disorders around in our social environment. Now, the Budget that we are discussing, particularly the allocation for your Ministry, do you think that this Budget is sufficient to deal with all these different disorders?

HON SPEAKER: I thought the Honourable Deputy Minister was making a case for wellness centre.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Exactly, and the Budget needs to be increased as well.

Sleeping disorders such as insomnia involve disruption to normal sleep patterns, or a feeling of tiredness despite sleep appearing normal. Various kinds of paraphilia or extensive sexual arousal are considered mental disorders - sexual arousals to objects, situations or individuals that are considered abnormal or harmful to the person or others.

People who are abnormally unable to resist certain urges or impulses that could be harmful to themselves or others, may be categorized as having an impulse control disorder, and disorders such as kleptomania -stealing no reason or pyromania -setting things on fire. Various behavioural addictions, such as gambling addiction, may be classed as a disorder. Obsessive-compulsive disorder can sometimes involve an inability to resist certain acts but is classed separately as being primarily an anxiety disorder.

The use of drugs -legal or illegal, including alcohol, when it persists despite significant problems related to its use, is defined as a mental disorder. Disordered substance use may be due to a pattern of compulsive and repetitive use of the drug that results in tolerance to its effects and withdrawal symptoms when use is reduced or stopped. There a number of memory or cognitive disorders, amnesia or various kinds of old age dementia, includes Alzheimer.

A range of developmental disorders that initially occur in childhood may be diagnosed, for example, autism spectrum disorders, oppositional defiant disorder, conduct disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), which may continue into adulthood. Conduct disorder, if continuing into adulthood, may be diagnosed as anti-social personality disorder. Popularist labels such as psychopath or sociopath do not appear on their own, but are linked by some to these diagnoses. Factitious disorders, such as munchausen syndrome, are diagnosed where symptoms are thought to be experienced are deliberately produced and reported for personal gain. This might be instances like when a husband fakes a seizure or pretend to faint every time when the wife decides to go out, just to keep her home. (*Laughter*)

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this are some facts that I would like the Honourable Members to take serious, as mental health is a real problem and require a massive intervention from all of us as individuals, parents and Leader in our respective spheres. The situation needs real champions like me and you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Yes, Deputy Speaker, do you want to rise on a Point of Order?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to ask the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services a question. Yes, we are listening with much interest on mental disorder. Can you link that mental disorder to the level of violence in Namibia, particular to the killing of another person and the killings of oneself, if possible?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Yes, Honourable Deputy Speaker. It is unfortunate that I cannot really link this currently, maybe we should bring a Motion or I will make an effort to bring a Motion linked to that. This is directly pointing to the Budget and just to sensitise people on the reason why I talk about the Budget and the existence of these disorders because if I just go directly to the disorders or request money, people might not even understand the severity of these disorders in our country.

20% of the children and adolescents have mental disorders or problems! And these are facts. About half of the mental disorders begin before the age of 14 and similar types of disorders are being reported across cultures. Neuropsychiatric disorders are among the leading causes of disability in young people. War and disasters have a large impact on mental health and psychosocial well-being. Human Rights violations of people with mental

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and psychosocial disability are routinely reported, these include physical restraint, seclusion and denial of basic needs and privacy. There is huge inequity in the distribution of skilled human resources for mental health: In Namibia shortages of psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, psychologists and social workers are among the main barriers in providing sufficient treatment and care. There are less 5 psychiatrists and a handful psychiatric nurses in the entire Namibia. Among the facts is the reality at our Psychiatric division, which is self-explanatory and that sends an alarming sign to us as leaders. In 2014/2015 the statistics are as follows:

We recorded 613 new first visits; Our Patients/Clients, which include Revisits, Home Visits, and Admissions, were 6,436 in total while Forensics Psychiatry recorded 125. The State President Patients were 7 and those who are awaiting trials or under observations are also 7.

What are the long term benefits of investing in mental health for health and non-health systems?

In principle, there are many benefits to be realised from better mental health. Good mental health implies that an individual is able to cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and can make a contribution to the economic wellbeing of society. Children who experience better mental health and wellbeing may be more likely to do well at school, increasing the career prospects later in life. In contrast, children who experience severe behavioural problems generate high demands on the education and social care systems as well as on health services, with adverse consequences that can persist into adulthood. Positive mental health or mental capital allows for cognitive and emotional flexibility, which is the basis for social skills and resilience in the face of stress. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Yes? A Point of Order.

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HON VENAANI: Listening attentively to the main disorders you are talking about, every now and then when one opens the newspaper, maybe Honourable Nujoma knows, you will come across a person calling himself a Traditional Healer who can heal disorders, *this* and *that*, is that allowed? Opening any paper today, you will find a marriage healer and whether it is a problem with your head or any other disorder this person can healing. (*Interjection*) are you sure he is not there (*laughter*). It was just a *cousinary* remark!

What do we do with the people that are pretending to try and help our people but yet they do not have the necessary skills or even the *mutis* that they are using are just fake? How do we address this problem?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much. There is a Bill that they have passed in this House on Traditional Healers needs to regulate them and give them certification in order for them to practise. This Bill will come and when it comes, we can then draw up the necessary regulations and other things (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Another Point of Order.

HON NUJOMA: In response to my Young Honourable Member Venaani, I just want to tell him that I do not believe in witchcraft and I also do not believe in ghosts, so I am a practical living human being. When I am sick, I go to doctors. (*Interjection*) Yes. (*Laughter*)

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I want to encourage you to please

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conclude because we were saying the maximum is eight minutes.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Yes, but the interventions Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: I know you are being disrupted but could you conclude?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Yes. Positive mental health or mental capital allows for cognitive and emotional flexibility, which is the basis for social skills and resilience in the face of stress. Better mental health has been associated with better creativity and innovation. In contrast, workers with recurrent bouts of depression will have higher than average absenteeism rates, and may be relatively unproductive when at work. Having a mentally healthy labour force is important strategic goal. Older people may be at higher risk of depression and social exclusion, which in turn can have negative aspects on their physical health.

New mothers can experience post-natal depression which can have long term adverse consequences not only for their health, but also the health of their children and their work. Yet while work has been undertaken to support investment in health systems in general to help promote health and generate economic growth, however less attention has been paid to the specific contribution of mental health; in fact, this lack of attention has meant that the potential economic benefits of investment in health systems are probably underestimated. This is of concern, given that historically mental health services can be very vulnerable to cuts when economic conditions are tight. Strengthening the emphasis on mental health within the public health and health promotion functions of health systems could

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help avoid some of the economic burden of poor mental health and potentially be economic attractive. Focusing on population level interventions, with major emphasis on prevention, small improvements can translate into significant public health gains.

In conclusion Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, if I might touch a disorder that is persistently bothering you in this Speech, I humbly urge you to consult a Psychologist or any other professional as soon as possible, this can be treated.

At this juncture, allow me to remind the Honourable Members, that we are having the right tools to change the negative perceptions regarding mental illnesses. Just go out with a positive outlook on these conditions inspired by the powerful phrase of Bill Clinton that says - *“a mental illness is nothing to be ashamed of, but stigma and bias shame us all.”* I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I honestly want us to move rapidly now. May I call upon Honourable Jan Van Wyk.

HON VAN WYK: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I greet you in the Name of God the Almighty. I rise to deliver my Maiden Speech under your protection and would, therefore, not entertain any interventions.

Please allow me to thank the electorate for their support during the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly Elections. Also allow me to congratulate His Excellency, President Hage Geingob for his election as our President and of course, congratulations to all the Members of this august House. It is my prayers that we would serve the Nation with the respect and pride they deserve.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the time has come for all

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Namibians to benefit from the fruits of Independence. We have experience Peace and Stability over the past 25 years. The Namibian dream of prosperity for all has arrived, Glory be to God the Almighty. We have overcome several problems during the elections last year and it would be wise to revisit existing Electoral Act to ensure that we have credible elections later this year.

His Excellency the President Geingob has appointed his Cabinet that includes dynamic women in very key positions. It is my believe, that the heart of a mother always have a better understanding of the problems we face (*applause*). One dynamic woman has already proof that women can do it. Congratulations, Honourable livula-Ithana for the job well done, keep it up. It is expected from us as the elected and appointed Leaders, to bring to the fore positive changes that benefit ALL. However, in order for us to meet these expectations, we will have to overcome the many challenges ahead. In short, Honourable Members, we will have to destroy the establishments that contribute and promote poverty. The Church as a uniting force, has played a huge role during the struggle for Independence and we as Leaders and the Nation at large, need that uniting force again to help us to tackle and to destroy the establishments of Gender-Based Violence, corruption, alcohol and drug abuse just to mention a few. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Let him talk. Please let him continue.

HON VAN WYK: The Church has become silent on issues of concern as some Church Leaders has turned the house of God in to profit making businesses instead.

Honourable Members, we will have to revisit certain legislation urgently to ensure that we achieve the required results. The *liquor Act* is one of the many Acts that needs attention. The Special Liquor Licenses is a burning

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issue. There is nothing special about alcohol (*laughter*). In fact, in most cases the misuse or over use of alcohol has moved us to abuse, hurt and killed the supposed ones that we love and that are special in our lives. Our mothers and daughters live in fear, therefore, the abuse and killing of our mothers and daughters should be condemned in strongest possible terms.

One cannot claim to love someone but you are prepared to kill that very person. If these evil deeds continue, we should amend the Constitutio to give our authorities the mandate to violate the rights of those who do not want to become human, since it seems that we are suffering from a certain disorder. The bible teaches us that he who loves his wife, loves himself (Ephesians 5 v 28). It is clear from our deeds that we men are angry at ourselves.

Honourable speaker, the mushrooming of *Shebeens* in residential areas is another concern, we have, however, convinced ourselves that having a *Shebeen* is part of job creation. What a big lie? We should instead have gardens in our backyards to produce food that would help us feed our families and generate an income for ourselves. Unfortunately, we cannot have these gardens because we do not have land and if we acquire land, it is too small to serve that purpose because the size of the land matters so does the access to water.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we have seen many changes since Independence, some bad and some positive. The idea of inclusiveness might help us to address some of the changes that have negatively affected some communities. Namibia as a country should recognise the right to self-determination. Indigenous rights and the rights of minority groups should be respected, something we as a country struggles with.

The unjust expropriation of property of the Rehoboth Basters after Independence and the centralisation of some services thereafter needs the urgent attention from Government. The commitment to include all Namibians to benefit and to prosper, would open up channels to address the plight of former soldiers and prisoners of war as they had been left out

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for the past 25 years. The time has come to find solutions and to close this chapter in our history. The question on the relevance of the *Affirmative Action Act* 25 years down the line also needs attention.

Honourable Speaker, I would also like to make use of this platform to address issues concerning the quality of life of pensioners, vulnerable children, people living with disabilities and those with social problems, to ensure that their economic status change for the positive.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, what this Nation wants is action, it is up to this House as to how, where and when ACTION should take place.

The *Local Authority Act* also needs urgent attention. Some Local Authorities have succeeded to frustrate the electorate by always having an excuse not to have land available for the low-income groups, yet land is always available for those who claim to be rich. Some Local Authorities have become the playing field for those without the political will to serve the interest of the ratepayers.

The Budget as presented to us by Honourable Schlettwein, shows to a certain extent, the Government's commitment to address issues of concern. It also gives hope as the commitment made by the President of the Republic of Namibia, that he has declared war against poverty has taken momentum. I for now will only touch on a few issues and would elaborate more during the discussions on the different Votes.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the question is how inclusive is this Budget, for example, the Mass Housing Project automatically excludes the poor and the low-income groups.

HON SPEAKER: Order please!

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HON VAN WYK: The Built Together Programme was merged with the Mass Housing Programme whilst no attention is given to the efforts of the Shack dwellers Federation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the re-implementation of free Primary and Secondary Education, the increase of the old age pensions and the plans to address Land Reform are just some of the commitments referred to. Poverty eradication with the unemployment rate just under 30% is challenges for all of us and should not be seen as a Government responsibility only. Unfortunately, this 30% also includes those of us who do not want to work. The fact that old age pensions were increased at national level, should encourage Local Authorities to add to efforts of Government to reduce living cost of pensioners.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we have seen the allocations made to the different Votes, however, the question is, would these plans/commitments address the Nations concerns? For Namibia to be a prosperous Nation we need to have the political will and commitment to implement, monitor and evaluate, something we are not good at. As Local Authorities are the first level of Government, what role will they play in addressing problems such the land issue? I would further urged the Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development to seriously attend to Local Authorities that have failed the electorate, starting with the Rehoboth Town Council as the Reports from the Attorney-General over the past four Financial Years has reported high levels of corruption and incompetence. A Forensic Audit Report by Adonai IT Solutions and an independent legal opinion confirmed that an amount of over N\$89 million could not be accounted for during the Financial Year 2008/2009.

Honourable Members, another national issue that does not get the required attention is the free moving of domestic animals on our national roads. Many lives were lost whilst the owners and responsible authorities sit idle. Recently, the residents and commuters between Windhoek and Rehoboth wanted to handover a Petition the Rehoboth Town Council with regard to the free moving of domestic animals on the national road within the borders of the town. Unfortunately, no one from the Council was able to

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receive the Petition, a clear indication that they do not have the concerns of their residents at heart. It is a common fact that Local Authorities across the country always fail to respond and or attend to Petitions of the ratepayers. The attitude of Local Authorities official also resulted in confrontation with members of the public, which negatively affects the image of Political Office-bearers, however, such Office-bearers are not eager to take action against the culprits.

Honourable Speaker, I am convinced that we on behalf of the electorate should demand the fair share of tax and gross national returns for each Region in order to contribute towards essential development in all Regions. Local Authorities should be compelled to provide for sanitation, water and affordable standard housing. Corrupt practices at Local Authorities should get urgent attention and leadership that allows or are involved in corrupt practices should be called to order. STEWARDSHIP should become the key, towards effective management at all levels of Government. Elected Leaders should make the necessary sacrifices for the sake of responsibility, or rather STEWARDSHIP, towards God and towards the Nation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we have over the years participated in various international sport events without getting the expected results. We cannot blame our sports men and women for not performing. As they do not have the financial resources to prepare and compare themselves with the best before competing in international events. Namibia will be at the Rugby World Cup this year. Something we should be proud of. Why not investing in our National Rugby team that really struggles at this stage.

Honourable Members, we have seen that a lot of money spent on Defence over the past years, the questions is why? We are in the process of constructing a Naval Base at Walvis Bay. My question is, is the plight of our vulnerable children who receive as State Grant of N\$250 per month less important than this Naval Base? Should we not rather invest in sport and youth development instead of constructing infrastructures which we would not be able to maintain?

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Honourable Speaker, more attention should be given to the agricultural Programme and projects in all Regions. Whilst the upgrading of road infrastructure in the Hardap Region should also get attention, Maltahohe – Solitair, Schlip-Maltahohe and Klein-Aub-Bul-spoort. These road are used by tourist and are really in a bad state.

Honourable Speaker, reference was made to the poor performing Parastatals and I fully agree that the time has come to call them to order. With regard to MTC and Telecom, I believe that soon we will have mobile phone coverage along our national roads and the Rehoboth Rural Constituency, in particular. Listeners in the mentioned Constituency would also like receive the Afrikaans Radio Service, that is off air for the past 25 years. I have to congratulate the NBC for its efforts to take television and radio services to the Nation, including the coverage receive during elections last year.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we witnessed under-spending by all Ministries over the past years, it is my prayers that this trend would stop as we deprive our people from the much needed services. We need ACTION to ensure that the Namibian NATION gets WHAT THEY DESERVE.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I have taken note that a lot of Government positions are vacant and that budgetary provisions are made to fill these vacancies. It is my humble request that this particular vacancies be filled as a matter of urgency to ensure excellent service provision to our Nation.

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, please allow me to inform this august House and the Nation that the Rehoboth Basters will on 4, 7 and 8 May 2015, commemorate 100 years since the battle of Sam-khubis. It is unfortunate that we are not allowed to make use of *Die Kaptein Hermanus van Wyk Gedenksaal* the venue is in a very bad state and would unfortunately portray a bad image to foreign guest. It is the prayers of the Rehoboth Basters that 08 May would be declared a national holiday in the

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years to come. I would like to urge employers to grant leave to the decedents of my brave forefathers, who successfully with the help from God Almighty on 08 May 1915 overcame the mighty German attack, and to enable them time to commemorate this special event on 08 May 2015.

I rest my case for now. GOD BLESS. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am now trying to find out from you if we can have a brief tea break and come back as usual upon hearing the bell? Thank you.

HOUSE ADJOURNS 15:15

HOUSE RESUMES AT 15:30
PURSUANT TO THE ADJOURNMENT

HON SPEAKER: Yes, we are back. May I call upon Honourable Nauyoma to take the Floor please?

HON NAUYOMA: This is in fact the other one (*laughter*). Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is a great pleasure for me to address this august House during my historic address as a new Member of Parliament.

It is with profound pleasure and appreciation of the Namibian people and my Party, in particular to accord me the opportunity to be part and parcel of the Sixth National Assembly to represent them.

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Honourable Speaker, I would like to make my promise from the word go to work with all Members of this august House to move the country forward. This opportunity has not come at any better time when the administration of the day has taken a bold step to address the issue of poverty eradication, especially with regard to our elderly and less fortunate Namibians. It is heartening to note that education is becoming free from Primary to Secondary level and hope to continue to Tertiary level, which has always been our dream in the APP as well as all other progressive Namibians. Being a former student Leader it is my wish to make a positive contribution with regard to education, being well vested with the challenges that faced and faces students in this country.

Honourable Speaker, I hope that this Budget, which is popularly known as *pro-poor, pro-growth*, will be implemented to its fullest and benefit the most vulnerable people of our society. The Budget should not remain a talk show of this august House; we wish to see proper implementation of all the Programmes intended in our MTEF period. We want to take ownership of this Budget and see it through to its logical conclusion. We will follow up the Budget to make sure that all its aspects are implemented.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we look back at our 25 years of Independence and reflect on what we have achieved so far and promise ourselves to even work harder eliminate poverty from the face of this country once and for all. It is my wish to see poverty become history in our lifetime, in this country.

Honourable Speaker, in my conclusion (*laughter*), I want to take time seriously, we cannot waste time by coming here and just talking, we need implementation. I wish to extend my hand of congratulation and best wishes to all of us who are accorded this opportunity to be part of this House and to tackle the daunting tasks that were bestowed upon us with humility and appreciation. I am looking forward to have *One Namibia, One Nation* regardless of our colour, creed, political persuasion and origin.

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HON KASHIKOLA**

May the Almighty Bless this wonderful Nation. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Member for your brief intervention that was to the point. It is very much appreciated. I know we have some time constraints but we can have one more Member before I make a special announcement.

Can I ask, the Honourable Member at the back to take the Floor.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY: Thank you, Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members. First of all, let me take this opportunity to salute and congratulate you Honourable Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for your well-deserved elections to lead and direct the proceedings of the Sixth National Assembly. I wish you renewed courage and strength in executing the noble task of presiding over this august House.

I further congratulate and commend the SWAPO Party, my own Party, for the trust it has in me for making it possible for me to be one of its representatives in the National Assembly, as well for its landslide victory in last Presidential and National Assembly elections, which pushed the Opposition on the verge of collapse.

I congratulate His Excellency, Dr. Hage G. Geingob for his election to the Presidency and I would like to thank him for the trust he has in me by appointing me as the Deputy Minister of Safety and Security together with my old Senior Commander, General Namoloh. I would also like to congratulate those SWAPO Party who have made it to this House. I wish all of you undivided commitment, courage, strength and vitality in articulating the needs and aspirations of the electorates through active participation in the deliberations of all matters of national importance and interests brought before this august House.

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HON KASHIKOLA**

We must ensure that we pass Laws that facilitate accelerated socio-economic development, enhance employment creation, social empowerment and poverty eradication.

Outdated Laws which may hinder progress and, which are still in force need to be amended or repealed altogether. Some of these legislations include the *Town Planning Ordinance* of 1954 and the *Townships and Division of Land Ordinance of 1963*, which according to me, cause considerable delays in the establishment of townships and urban land delivery system. These and other Laws inherited from the colonial dispensation cannot be left as they all served different purposes and unless we have established their particular relevance, they must be repealed.

The procurement and the tendering procedures and processes need to be revisited, in order to remove inherent bureaucracies and reduce the time it takes to procure public goods and services; to speed up the implementation of Development Programmes and Projects, and to ensure allocated funds are spent and not return to Treasury at the end of the Financial Year. The procurement and tendering process need to be simplified and shortened. However, such simplification and shortening of the tendering and procurement procedures and processes must be done in such manner so that it does not compromise the principle of transparency and accountability.

I believe these are some of the issues the Sixth National Assembly has to deal with in order to ensure speedy implementation of development Programmes and to steer our country towards prosperity, which requires commitment by all Members of this august House.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, may I now be allowed to make my contribution in support the *Appropriation Bill* as tabled by the Minister of Finance? To me the proposed appropriation is in line with our National Development Agenda, Vision 2030 and National Development Plans (NDPs) in, which Education, Defence and Security, Health and Public Infrastructure are given prominence. These are important pre-requisites for the socio-economic development of any Nation. I maintain

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that, the proposed appropriation needs our unreserved support.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is common knowledge that every Nation needs highly trained and educated workforce for it to be able to achieve its development agenda and Namibia is not an exception. I therefore, support the allocation of **N\$11,321,689.00** to the Ministry of Education Arts and Culture of which **N\$639,681,000.00** is earmarked for Capital Development, during 2015/2016, which amount to a total allocation of **N\$32,742,585,000.00** to this Ministry over the MTEF period. I believe this allocation will go a long way in alleviating the acute shortage of classrooms and teachers' accommodation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, insufficient classrooms and teachers' accommodation remain a concern in the Education Sector and hinders teaching and learning in rural areas. For example, Four hundred and Twenty (420) classes in Ohangwena Region, Three Hundred and Sixty Two (362) classes in Omusati Region and Five Hundred and Thirty Two (532) classes in Oshikoto Region are either made out of corrugated iron sheets or poles and grass thatched roofs affecting approximately Fifty Two Thousand (52,000) learners under the sheds in the three Regions only. The situation is not likely to be different in the Zambezi, Kavango East and Kavango West and other rural Regions. I believe the allocation of **N\$3,020,491,000.00** over the MTEF, though not sufficient, will somehow address this problem, hence enhanced delivery of quality education.

I further wish to state that no meaningful development will take place if the territorial integrity, sovereignty and internal peace and security is not protected and safe guarded. Development and prosperity without peace, stability and security is not worthwhile, we, therefore, as a Nation need to invest in our own defence and security as to create a conducive environment for social and economic development. The investment in this Sector must, therefore, be seen as necessity and not a waste of tax payers money as some people on the Opposition bench would want us to believe. Everyone in this country needs be safe and secure. Some people argue that money allocated to the Defence and Security Sector should

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HON KASHIKOLA**

have been allocated to Education, Health or other Sectors.

However, they have failed to appreciate the fact that teachers in classrooms, doctors and nurses in hospitals and even Honourable Members of this august House need to feel safe and secure in order for effective service delivery. Investors need to feel secure in Namibia, if they are to invest their money here. Therefore, investing in the country's defence and security does not only aim at protecting the hard won Freedom and Independence but also make business sense, and does contribute to the Socio-Economic Development of our country.

I therefore, support the allocation of **N\$7,229,351,000.00** to Defence for 2015/2016. Our country needs strong Defence capable of repelling any possible attack from the enemies of peace and Sovereignty of our Nation. I further support the allocation of **N\$4,772,679,000.00** to the Police Force whose mandate is the preservation of internal security of our Nation, combating and preventing of crimes as well as the maintenance of Law and Order. Though the allocation to this Sector slightly increases over the MTEF period, I am a bit disappointed to note that the amount allocated for Capital Development was reduced from N\$647,480,000.00 for 2015/2016 to N\$523,937,000.00 and N\$530,160,000.00 for 2016/2017 and 2017/2018, respectively.

Honourable Speaker, in order for the Police Force to carry out its mandate effectively, we need to establish new Police Stations, those men and women need accommodation, they need houses, the existing barracks needs refurbishment and new ones need to be built. They also need sophisticated equipment in order to improve their operational efficiency. Therefore, it is my hope that Minister of Finance will give due to consideration to this matter and avail more funds.

In conclusion, I wish to state that investing in the Defence and Security Sector is investing in peace and stability. Therefore, the allocation to these Sectors need to be supported by all people of good will. Defence and Security ensure peace, which is a foundation on which other Sectors will develop.

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Finally, I wish to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance for tabling a well-crafted Budget, which is line with our Development Agenda and in line with the SWAPO Party Manifesto, which made us to be here today.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I so Move.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I need to communicate with the Honourable Members directly. I have got two lights still on but in view of the fact that there is an event that has been organised by the Government that is going to require the presence of a number of Members of Parliament, I wonder whether you will not agree with me to adjourn the House to allow these Members to find their way to the Country Club as soon as possible, that is before 17:30.

Are we being reasonable?

HON MEMBERS: Yes!

HON SPEAKER: Good, if that is the case, the same event that I am talking about would require quite a number of Parliamentarians to be present there tomorrow morning - for that event that I would like to characterise as being an induction exercise and, therefore, it is not possible for us to meet tomorrow morning. Can I then have your understanding of that? Thank you very much. If that is the case then, would it be too much for us to suggest that we meet on Monday rather than Tuesday to make up for the lost time?

The House is not unanimous on this idea of meeting on Monday. I have got the message loud and clear that we will meet next Tuesday the usual

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ADJOURNMENT
HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

time. With that understanding, may I call upon the Prime Minister to adjourn the House?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Speaker, I Move that the House adjourns until next week Tuesday, at 14:30.

HON SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned until Tuesday, 14:30 as usual.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:13 UNTIL 2015. 04.14 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
14 APRIL 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

**OATH AND/OR AFFIRMATION
BY NEW MEMBER**

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, as you are aware Ms Margaret Mahoto was hospitalised when the rest of the Members of this Parliament were sworn in on the 20th of March 2015 and was, therefore, not sworn in as a Member of Parliament.

I now call upon the Chief Justice to administer the Oath and Affirmation to Ms Margaret Mahoto. Can she step forward with the help of the Chief Whip?

“I, ..., do hereby swear/solemnly affirm that I will be faithful to the Republic of Namibia and its people and I solemnly promise to uphold and defend the Constitution and Laws of the Republic of Namibia to the best of my ability. (In the case of an oath:) So help me God.”

CHIEF JUSTICE SHIVUTE: Administers the Oath/Affirmation to the Member.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER IN TERMS
OF RULE 20(b) OF THE STANDING RULES AND ORDERS**

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**ANNOUNCEMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON SPEAKER: I now declare Ms Mahoto a duly elected Member of the National Assembly. Congratulations and please take your seat.

Having done that, may I now ask the Sergeant at Arms to escort the Chief Justice from the Chamber? Thank you very much.

We revert to the Business of the day. Honourable Members, Parliament in partnership with the Parliamentary Support Programme and Namibia Business Innovation Institute is extending an invitation to all of you to attend a Blue Economy Conference to be held in Windhoek on the 27th and the 28th of April 2015, from 08:00 to 17:00 at the Safari Conference Centre in Windhoek. The conference strives to create a platform for Members of Parliament, Stakeholders, the Private Sector and Academia to reflect on Topical National issues under the ambit of the Blue Economy Philosophy and its potential for enhancing the living standards of Namibians and the country at large. We are privileged to have managed to secure the participation of Professor Gunter Pauli, author of the book Blue Economy, someone with vast experience in development and related issues to be available for this important event.

Honourable Members, those of you who are interested in attending the Conference, kindly indicate to our clerks at the Table Office here by Thursday, the 16th of April 2015, of your intention to participate in this important event.

That is the piece of information I wanted to share with the Honourable Members.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? As I can see, there is none of all those, so we go straight to the issue before this House.

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**SECOND READING - APPROPRIATION BILL
HON MAAMBERUA**

The Secretary will read the Order of the day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND
READING - APPROPRIATION BILL [B. 5 – 2015]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading -
Appropriation Bill [B.5 – 2015].

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Thursday, the 9th of April 2015, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be read the Second Time.

Any further discussion? For that I will give the Floor to Honourable Maamberua.

HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, good afternoon. Thank you.

Introduction

I rise to make my fifth Budget Maiden Speech in this august House and every time I am rejuvenated (*laughter*). Therefore, I am in a position to draw strength from my institutional memory about the outcomes of previous Debates to guide my submission today. However, before I proceed, I would like to congratulate the former Minister of Finance, Honorable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila on her appointment as the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Namibia. Comrade Speaker, let me also take this opportunity to congratulate you and your Deputy for your appointment as our new Speaker and Deputy of the National Assembly, respectively.

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HON MAAMBERUA**

Let me also say thank you to all the thousands of Namibians who voted last year and all those who returned SWANU to Parliament to continue as a Government-in-waiting. (*Laughter*)

Comrade Speaker, my sympathy with the people and youth of Kenya for the many young lives lost in a day. Similarly, my heartfelt condolences go to the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Germany for the big loss of that great Nobel Laureate, thinker, writer and poet, Gunther Grass, particularly as we remember his great work *Die Blechtrommel* (*the Tindrum*).

I want to reiterate the quotation by the Hon Minister of Finance from Charles Darwin and I quote – “*If the misery of the poor be caused not by the laws of nature, but by our institutions, great is our sin.*” Comrade Speaker, these are great words, and although this great natural scientists might have been correct with that assertion, the notions of class and racial superiority have been wrongly attributed to him and misinterpreted the Social Darwinist abusing his theory of natural selection. Therefore, it is befitting that if we are to present a Budget with pro-social objectives that we also draw from the dialectical materialism philosophy of Karl Marx and I quote him – “*From each according to ability, and to each according to need.*”

As I said last year in my contribution to the Budget Discussions, Political Parties are products of their own historical experiences and ideological perspectives. For those who have forgotten it is perhaps timely to cordially remind this august House that the struggle for the Independence of Southern Africa was fought on a socialist agenda with a strong emphasis on solidarity internationalism linked to the protection of the interests of the exploited working class and landless peasantry.

Hence, allow me to urge all our socialist Comrades and Parties in the House to re-dedicate ourselves to the socialist ideals so that our Budgets are designed, debated and passed in the interest and aspirations of our people.

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HON MAAMBERUA**

Now that I have concluded my introduction which is more theoretical, please allow me once again to recall Karl Marx '*assertio*' that – "*The philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways, the point, however, is to change it.*" (interjection) I have 45 minutes. And to emphasise change I will provide proof of our recommendations that have materialised today.

- (a) We recommended free education up to university level, but it has materialised only up to secondary level SWANU, therefore, in a Comradely manner acknowledge with appreciation that Government has now taken action towards achieving these goals. This is albeit for the fact that free education up to university level has not been introduced and we are yet to see a public secondary school of the calibre of Windhoek High School or Jan Mohr in Katutura.
- (b) We have over the years recommended the establishment of a Revenue Collecting Agency. Although this recommendation was at first met with mixed thoughts, I want to comment the Ministry of Finance for having taken the decision to implement this recommendation in order to make the tax collection function of Government more efficient. However, I must stress here that it must be an independent body with minimum Ministerial interference. Their operations must be subjected to the scrutiny of the Auditor-General just like any other State Agency.
- (c) We recommended an increase in the old age pension. I can only say that common sense has finally prevailed because this has been long overdue. However, I was also expecting that the monthly allowances of the Veterans of the Liberation struggle will be adjusted in line with inflation and current living standards. It is my recommendation today, that this must also be reviewed. I know you are a Veteran of the Liberation Struggle so you are happy with this recommendation. I can see you are smiling.
- (d) We recommended a Mid-Year Review of the Budget. This time around, we welcomed the Minister's decision to implement this excellent concept as it will keep Ministries and State Agencies that are

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not performing on their toes. It will ensure that money is spent on targets and not returned to Treasury as has been the case. Therefore, thank you for heeding our recommendations. I tabled a Motion last year here that was rejected, it is back and I thank you now that we have a position to have Mid-Year Review to enhance the efficiency and management.

- (e) We also recommended a commuter-railway to ferry commuters between Rehoboth and Windhoek, Okahandja and Windhoek, I am extremely happy to note that this gigantic Capital Project is receiving the attention of Government. Thank you very much.

New Recommendations

Having achieved all these changes SWANU will not stop our advocacy and campaigns to achieve more milestones for the Namibian people. To this end, I will now get down to the specifics in respect to the key issues and allocations in the current Budget followed with specific recommendation to attain the targets listed under those allocations. However, before I do so, again I would want to commend certain Ministries: the Ministry of Health and Social Services, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and some others because over the years I have drawn attention to this book of the *Estimate and Revenue - Income and Expenditure* of some of the inconsistencies of basically cutting and pasting in some the Ministries. This time around, I went through that and I can see that things have improved in a big way, and therefore, I would like to congratulate all those Ministries that have done a very good job in doing their sums in a different, better and more professional manner. Very good! I shall, therefore, not get into this book this time around because things have improved.

Defence Budget (Military Industrial Development)

Comrade Speaker, to go to some of these specifics, allow me to start with the Defence Budget from a perspective of *Military Industrial Development*.

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We are advocating the concept of Military Industrial Development under the Defence Budget. On face value, the Defence Budget can be misleading, therefore we need to interrogate the allocation to the Ministry of Defence further. To have the allocation to Defence at the second place in the Budget does not go down well with the public at large but at a closer look, from the industrialisation point of view and economic growth, huge allocations to Defence could actually be justified, more especially for a country like Namibia where some level of industrialisation under the auspices of the Ministry of Defence is taking place. Therefore, the allocation to the Ministry of Defence should be targeted at Military Research, Manufacturing and Technological Advancements. It is said that if we are not defended well, tomorrow cannot be relied upon to come and if there may not be tomorrow, there is much less point in investing or innovating today. So growth will be poorer.

Comrade Speaker, allow me an opportunity to provide fresh evidence from current research on the macroeconomic impact of Defence spending on the aggregate economy. It is becoming evident that the Defence Economy has become a driving engine of industrialisation with spin-offs or benefits in job creation, contribution to the GDP, diffusion of new technology, research and strengthening of Public Private Partnerships, considering our efforts to achieve an industrialised Nation by 2030.

Honourable Mushelenga, I want to refer here to an article published in the Journal of *Innovation Economic and Management* - February 12, 2013. The article takes Israel as a Case Study. However, references are also made to other Defence Economies of countries like Germany, Russia, USA, France etc, whose economies have benefited from Defence spending in terms of industrialisation and retainment of capital. According to this case study, Israel has emerged as a rapidly growing and relatively developed economy over the last six decades yet continues to have one of the highest military expenditure as share of the GDP. In other words, the jury is out as to whether the more one spends on the Military or on Defence, it has a negative or positive impact on economic growth. It has not yet been determined because as we noted from other researches around the subject matter, many of the studies that have been conducted

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have used panel data, time series data, etcetera and not specific case studies like what we are talking about here and, therefore, in this particular instance of Israel and some other countries it is actually justified even if your ratio of Defence spending *vis a vis* your GDP is so high that indeed you can still have positive economic growth because of all these other spin-offs that I talked about, that emanate from industrialisation. Therefore, if Namibia can spend more on Defence but specifically for the purpose of industrialisation, manufacturing and so on, we could still derive positive spin-offs in that area.

In the past and even now, the Private Sector in Namibia has not taken industrialisation seriously even with the enabling investment environment created by Government and excess capital which is available to the Private Sectors in Namibia. We continue to export our capital to other countries for them to use our money to industrialise and that is a fact. So why not looking at other areas where we can put in money in order to industrialise? Military industrialisation and manufacturing in Namibia has spread its wings by establishing eight industrial subsidiaries: August 26 Logistics, Windhoek Maschinen Fabrik, August 26 Industries, Sat-Com, August 26 UBM, August 26 Textile and Garment, NamForce and Agri-Tour. I should submit that these are all good efforts to lead Namibia toward industrialization, but they should be concentrated on big industrial and manufacturing projects so as to spare space and opportunities for the smaller upcoming SMEs or businesses.

Honourable Speaker, although these efforts can be commented, the main company called August 26 is notoriously known for its lack of accountability and transparency as reported in the local media. Therefore, I strongly recommend that all these companies under Defence must be subjected to full audits to ensure transparency and accountability. And I expect them to submit their Financial Reports and be open to public scrutiny soonest.

Nevertheless, I would like to urge fellow Parliamentarians in our function of oversight to ensure that part of the allocation to the Ministry of Defence is used to compliment our industrialisation efforts.

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Health Allocation

Let me now move on to the Health allocation. Comrade Speaker, considering that only 16% of the Namibian population is medically insured and equally leaving 84% outside that net and that we are also equally informed by our social desire towards the realisation of social justice, we persistently advocated for a universal medical insurance. Hence, we became the only Party that heeded the call by the Presidential Commission of enquiry on Health Matters to make a submission in 2012. We convincingly argued for the introduction of such insurance in Namibia. That is, the Universal or sometimes also called Social Medical Insurance.

I am happy to say that the result is that the Commission amongst its other recommendations stated: *“The Government should study the feasibility of either Social Health Insurance or National Health Insurance.”* That was the recommendation in that Report and I think it is actually one of the rare Reports that has been made public of all the Presidential Commission Reports. This one was made public that is why I am able to quote it.

The current Minister of Health may be amenable to this idea, I think and trust that he is amenable to that idea, and therefore, we wish to comradely and in conformity with the Commission recommendation, urge the Ministry of Health and the Social Security Commission, since that task is also provided for in the Act of the Social Security Commission, to explore it as a matter of urgency.

The administration of PSEMAS, including its financial management also need to be re-examined in the context of these broad idea of Universal Health Insurance. I think that we spend something like N\$2 billion every year on PSEMAS but for only about a maximum of 150,000 members and their dependants. Therefore, this big fund called PSEMAS can actually be part of this broader Universal Health Insurance for purposes of equity and justice to all the Namibians as far as medical treatment and so on is concerned. PSEMAS must, therefore, also be studied in the same manner so that things can be integrated.

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Land Question

Honourable Speaker, let me now move on to the land Question. In Africa we have the tendency of wanting to re-invent the wheel instead of learning from other Africans who have travelled successful routes in tackling what some of us are still grabbling with. For example, Robert Mugabe says – *“We are no longer going to ask for land, but we are going to take it without negotiating.”* In Namibia we are still re-inventing the failed project of *willing-seller willing-buyer* trying to re-invent a failed wheel. Others have travelled successful routes and they have given back the land to their people while we are still experimenting with *willing-seller willing-buyer*. We know that it had failed, even here in Namibia. The Government has already admitted it, so why are we still continuing on that route? Why do we not go the *Mugabe* way so tha we can give the land back to the people as he did?

Compilers of the annual Budget ought to be reminded of an African saying: *When they first came, They had the Bible, We had the land, We now have the Bible and They have our land.*

Resolution of the land question in Namibia remains the most important issue on SWANU’s political menu, period. In fact, enabling constitutional provision exist to be invoked so that Namibia can acquire land and redistribute it equitably and that is provided for in Article 16 (2) of the Constitution, which reads as follows: *“The State or a competent body or organ authorised by law may expropriate property in the public interest subject to the payment of just compensation, in accordance with requirements and procedures to be determined by Act of Parliament.”* We are all aware that we are empowered to do so and we have already enacted an enabling Act of Parliament to serve this purpose. We have an Act of Parliament that guides us, if we want to embark on expropriation. It is there, why do we not use it? (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

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HON MAAMBERUA: Honourable Members, this is my Maiden Speech.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Comrade Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity. I would like to pose a question to the Honourable Member.

HON MAAMBERUA: Yes.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: Thank you. You have mentioned something in the Constitution on Article 16(2) about how to expropriate land and you outlined that the Constitution states that we have to follow the procedure.

If you compare the current situation with the procedures that are in place as per the Constitution in terms of acquiring land with what you are advocating for, would you like us to ignore the Constitution and grab the land without following the procedures? Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: I just want to remind the Honourable Member that you have ten minutes left, according to the time allocated for various Parties in the House so that you can make use of the time in the most economical way. Thank you.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. This is the

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most economic way I am using my time (*laughter*). I said that we have an enabling Act that will guide us if we have to embark on expropriation, so there is no problem with that.

The ostrich approach to land and agrarian transformation is just postponement of the inevitable problem of mass uprising in the future. We propose the following Land Acquisition “*Cocktail*.”

- a) Second Land Conference before end of this year;
- b) Invoke and Apply Constitutional Provision to Expropriation with fair Compensation as provide for;
- c) We need to introduce Steep Progressive Taxation for every Additional Unit of Land above a Certain Hecter, for example, Zone A - maximum 5000 hectors and anything above that can be taxed progressively;
- d) Zone B, for example, maximum 7,500 hectors, anything above that should be heavily taxed to dissuade those excessive land owners from continuing holding that land -and I am talking about this ecological zones that are already divided in Namibia;
- e) Moral Suasion, to get this people understand that it is to the benefit of all of us for them to sell, donate, share of land with the rest of the population of Namibia.
- f) Massive Investment in Rural Development, this is also another way of reclaiming land by capacitating our people in the rural communities to farm and invest better because land is available;
- g) Virgin Land Reclamation for Agricultural and Industrial Production;
- h) Resettlement only for those below poverty line until need met, why do we have to resettle the elite and in the process deprive those who do not have means to acquire land?

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- i) Further reduction on Agribank Agricultural Interest rates for land acquisition. The AgriBank rate at the moment is about 9% or there about and it is too high, we want accelerate the formerly disadvantaged communities land, we can then reduce that interest rate maybe to 3% or less. That way many people will be able to have the capacity and the ability to acquire land through AgriBank. However, the interest rate of AgriBank is too high at the moment.

I am talking about a “*Cocktail*,” put all these together or implement them separately but that is the way to go about acquiring land.

- j) Cap land prices per Agronomic Zones (A, B, etc.)

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON VENAANI: May I ask the Honourable Member a question?

HON MAAMBERUA: Yes.

HON VENAANI: The Honourable Member has quoted the Zimbabwean *motto* but are you aware that the President you have quoted has also been quoted as saying that the land problem in Zimbabwe has failed?

HON SPEAKER: Let him respond.

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HON MAAMBERUA: The land has been given back to the people in Zimbabwe. Let me proceed (*laughter*).

Study of Optimality of Mining Revenue

Honourable Speaker, we move to the next point. Even in the midst of vast economic and resources *cum* endowment, Namibia is not only technologically backward but wallow in neck-deep poverty and joblessness. This is what has come to be known as the “*paradox of plenty*.” Poverty amidst plenty.

The contributions of the Mining Sector to the national economy is under question because of various issues. Therefore a study is needed to determine the optimal revenue that we ought to receive from the mining sector and investigate the malpractices carried out by the private companies to estimate the actual revenue accrued from this Sector and as well as the illegal ways in which profit is repatriated. The study could specifically focus on the following areas of investigation areas of possible creative accounting (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Point of Order.

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: May I ask the Honourable Member a question please?

HON MAAMBERUA: Yes, please continue.

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you very much. I just want to seek

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clarity from the Honourable Member to define the term - *Technologically Backward*? Namibia is *technologically backward* - can you define and explain that so we understand?

HON SPEAKER: As you are doing that let me remind you that you have three minutes left.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you very much. Then I will not be defining those things because of the time limitation (*laughter*).

Let me proceed. There are certain mechanisms that should be employed as we recommend, to conducting a study by the Government to look at how we may be losing money from these multinationals:

- **Transfer Pricing:** When purchase and sale contracts are signed between the subsidiary and the parent company, at trade terms that favor the parent firm, it results in profit repatriation through transfer pricing.
- **Royalty Payments:** The best part about royalties is that they are not considered as profit transfers and hence, lie outside the purview of profit repatriation restrictions. A parent company can charge its subsidiary with royalties, for the usage of the parent's trademarks and copyrights. These royalties can serve as effective means for profit repatriation.
- **Leading and Lagging Payments:** Profit repatriation can be accomplished by leading or lagging payments between the parent company and the subsidiary, based on calculated expectations of currency exchange rate movements.
- **Financing Structure:** Funding an international business with a loan from the parent company, can help the subsidiary to repatriate its

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profits. This is better than equity because interest payments are tax-deductible on the subsidiary side while dividends are not.

- **Parallel Inter Company Loans:** Two parallel and independent companies can give parallel loans to each other's subsidiaries to counter the fact that the subsidiaries may not be allowed a profit repatriation according to the previous point.
- **Re-invoicing Centres:** Re-invoicing centres that act as invoicing intermediaries between two parties, can be set up in countries that have low capital controls. Non-repatriable cash flows can be converted into repatriable cash flows, when the payment to the parent company is routed through them.
- **Counter or Barter Trade:** This can be established with both parties (the parent and the subsidiary) buying and selling from each other. This is a barter system with no payments and so to repatriate profits, the subsidiary must sell the parent higher value goods than it receives from the parent. Profits are repatriated to the amount of the difference in value of the goods sent and received.

Those are all creative accounting methods that are used by some of these multinationals. All these should actually be studied so that we can determine how we are losing our revenue from this multinationals. We, therefore, recommend a thorough assessment be made on the introduction of capital gains tax.

Strengthening Accountability

Article 125 (Section 2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia reads: All income accruing to central government shall be deposited in the State Revenue Fund and the authority to dispose thereof shall vest in the Government of Namibia.

In as much as we thank donors for their assistance, we need to make them

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aware that spending State money outside the State Revenue Fund is illegal in Namibia as per the above provisions and should be stopped forthwith. It is worrisome that the trend of donors funding of the State of Namibia that do not go through the State Revenue Fund continues.

I am highly disturbed by the possibility of permitting State-Owned Enterprises to apply for International Loans and Grants independently as this could open the door for indebtedness, unaccountability and corruption. If these Parastatals have not proven to be prudent enough with Government funds and bail-outs, what guarantees do we have that they will manage these loans without getting the nation state into a vicious debt-trap, especially if government is expected to guarantee these loans?

My party recommends that such International Loan Agreements must be sanctioned by Parliament to ensure transparency and financial prudence. Recent media reports that NHE is in discussion with the Swiss Bank to acquire a loan for the purpose of building houses needs both Cabinet and Parliament scrutiny. This Government has lost millions in dodgy deals that could have been invested in poverty reduction programs. The NHE and its mass housing scheme raises many questions on how tenders are approved and there is a general public outcry that Government funds are not utilised appropriately. I think all International Loan Agreements must be put in the scrutiny of the National Assembly in the future.

Funding of Regional Authorities

The Constituencies ought to be given their own Budget, so that the Constituency Councillor have a specific amount for the Constituency urgent matters and some development. The delay experienced in implementing Capital Projects in the Constituencies results from the bureaucratic red tape. The *Decentralization Act* has to slowly give financial and budgetary autonomy to the Regional Constituency Offices. However, it is also important that Regional and Local Councillors should refrain from political nepotism, favouritism

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when dealing with communities. This will help Central Government to trust them with funds.

Political Parties Funding Audits

Political Parties funding shall probably increase in terms of the current formula. However, this Budget has not placed any obligation on the Political Parties to present Annual Financial Reports as a way of accounting for the state appropriated amounts and or to be audited by or under instruction of the Auditor-General. I attach a pro-forma layout of how this Financial Report should look like for your consideration.

All Political Parties that receive public money from the National Assembly, must actually now be subjected to reporting, rendering Audited Reports to this House (*interjections*). No, we must actually have such an Act (*interjections*). No, then it is not being complied with. If it is coming, let it come as quickly as possible because we need that to enhance our accountability and transparency.

Genocide Reparations Negotiations Fund

Parliamentary resolution exists for Government to take this process further. Resources to enable Government and the concerned communities to engage the German government should have been budgeted for. Negotiations for genocide reparations may prove to be expensive, more especially if you engage an unwilling partner like German. DNA test are necessary to confirm certain facts and research needs to be funded to ascertain historical information.

Since the reparations demand is the State of Namibia's obligation in the interest of its citizens, such costs should come from the State Revenue Fund. Provision was not made in this Budget to meet this State obligation; hence, it falls short of meeting this critical State obligation.

Therefore, I recommend that this issue must be budgeted for by setting up a fund for negotiations with the Germany Authorities.

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Similarly, it is appropriate at this juncture, to recommend that after consultation with affected communities and Namibians in general, that a **Genocide Remembrance Day** be created as an official day on our calendars and I propose the 2nd of October, the day of the extermination order.

Green Schemes

This is perhaps one of the noble ideas that the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has come up with. However, the concrete results are still to be realised. Judging from the Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General dated July 2013, there are many unanswered questions. Before funding is released, I recommend that we need to determine the extent to which it is benefiting the local people. Amongst other things, the investigation should also focus on the following:

- a) Ownership and Management structures
- b) Employment Creation
- c) Performance since its introduction to ensure food self-sufficiency
- d) Whether a Master Plan exists that guides its implementation
- e) Lease Agreements
- f) Revenue accruing to the State

Gender-based Budgeting

Where has the gender-based budgeting gone? Even the economic and Budget Analysts have not pronounced themselves on this issue recently and currently. I am throwing this to the House as a thought provoking concept.

Comrade Speaker, As a Cabralista, let me leave you with this wisdom from Amilcar Cabral:

“Always bear in mind that the people are not fighting for ideas, for the things in anyone’s head. They are fighting to win material benefit, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward and to guarantee the

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future of their children.” That is Amilka Cabural. Thank you very much for listening.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. May I also appeal to the Honourable Members to please help your Speaker. When the time is up, please try to conclude because as you can see, there are many people who would like to participate.

Let me ask Honourable Shikongo of the United Democratic Front (UDF) to take the Floor. This is her Maiden Speech, so let us give her proper attention.

MAIDEN SPEECH

HON SHIKONGO: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this is my first time to address this august House.

HON MEMBER: We know!

HON SHIKONGO: Allow me to start by stating that this is the moment of truth. The Ordinary Namibian People, the ones who go on empty stomach to bed, the ones who do not even own even a small piece of land or have a proper roof over their heads, the ones whose votes are more valuable to place Leaders in the **GOLDEN CHAIRS**, have as usual demonstrated their unconditional democratic right by voting us into power during the November 2014 Elections.

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As a result, more women are today in Parliament to become *Champions of Change*. From what I have observed thus far, we women in this Chamber will strive to be the *Change We Want to See in this Country* and I thank the Almighty God for that.

Honourable Speaker, the voters are looking upon us as Leaders of the 21st Century:

- To address *their burning needs* and find permanent solutions;
- To address *their immediate interests*;
- To *rekindle their hopes* and, above all; and
- To deliver to their *expectations*

How?

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this possible only if all Political Party Members sitting here in this august House take the bull by its horns and walk together *towards genuine Nation Building and reconciliation*.

Let us leave our political party colours outside the Chamber and become a true symbol of One Namibia, One Nation inside and outside this Chamber. Instead of wasting time with cornering one another with questions and others trying to defend themselves, let us all try to find ways and means that will lead us towards Nation Building and Reconciliation.

Honourable Speaker, it is high time that we as Members of Parliament take our responsibilities seriously and stop acting like in a circus when others are presenting and make use of the allocated precious minutes to come up with possible remedies towards Nation Building and Reconciliation. (*Laughter*)

HON SPEAKER: Can I call the Honourable Member to order. I am sure it was an error on your part to refer to this august House as circus. I do

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not think you intended that but as I listened to you, I think it came by mistake. Just withdraw that please.

HON SHIKONGO: Okay, I withdraw that.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you.

HON SHIKONGO: May I proceed? And also to make use of those precious minutes to come up with possible remedies and solutions.

Honourable Speaker, let us become the Servant Leaders of our people. Leaders who can feel their pain and can sense the sufferings of others.

This I quoted from the Minister of Finance, Hononourable Calle Schlettwein, during his 2015/2016 National Budget Speech, and I quote – *“No Namibian must feel left out.”*

Yet the Namibian Society is very happy about:

- Free school level education;
- The promise of free secondary education from next year;
- The increase of the Pensioners Grant from N\$600 to N\$1000.
- The establishment of the Ministry of Poverty Eradication, just to mention a few initiatives

However, I would like to pose a question to all of us so that we think about seriously. Are Namibians in general aware of the National Debt

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that keeps on increasing Thirty Thousand Billion up during the last Budget to Thirty Five Thousand (*sic*) during the current Budget and it is estimated that it will keep increasing over the next two years to Sixty Three Billion, that is during 2017 and 2018.

As responsible Leaders, let us be careful not to plunge this Nation into a debt trap which our children will not be able to pay. Non-payment of a national debt will surely make one Nation a slave of another Nation. As Mahatma Gandhi once said - *the future depends on what you do today*. Whether Namibia will fall into the debt trap depends on our decision when we discuss and adopt the current and future Budgets in this august House.

Honourable Speaker, it is our duty to be honest with the ordinary people and to bring awareness to them about the national debt through the National Radio and Television. Let us benefit from the advice and wisdom of our people on how to reduce the National Debt.

With these words, Honourable Speaker, I feel privileged to be part of this august House and to make constructive contributions aimed at uplifting our Nation socially and economically. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Can I call upon Honourable Swartz.

HON SWARTZ: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is an immense pleasure to be part of the discussions of the Appropriation Bill. More-over, it is my honor to convey my warmest congratulations to our new Minister of Finance Honourable Calle Schlettwein and his entire team for the formative Budget outline.

Of particular, not that our Senior Citizens daily struggles to survive are less burdensome, thanks to our Government for adding N\$400.00 a month on top of the N\$600.00 that they are already receiving.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we want to reduce poverty and improve social welfare and this is a good beginning. Anyone who wants to investigate the causes of poverty will undoubtedly come to the conclusion that the lack of education and skewed distribution of people with some form of education across the country, are major contributing factors to the prevalence of abject poverty in rural areas.

Most of our sickly, elderly people stay alone and care for themselves. The drifting of the youth to urban towns unfortunately places a very unwelcome additional burden on the aged, who merely survive on meagre pensions, in the form of babies whom the youth procreate in towns and who are dumped on grandparents in rural settlements.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the empty promises to care for the children usually never materialise and consequently the aged have many mouths to feed and care for. Although no statistics exist to express the impact of this form of baby dumping on the already destitute situation of the elderly, it cannot be disputed that it dramatically aggravates the level of poverty in rural settings.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, therefore, poverty is a call to action not only for the poor, but for the affluent as well. It is an urgent call for action, to change the world, so that many more may have enough to eat, to have shelter and education.

My personal believe is that reduction of poverty in Namibia is not a challenge which should be addressed by Government alone, but rather as a joint venture between Governments, Non-Governmental Organisations, Donors, the Private Sector and Churches.

**1. ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE IN WINDHOEK — LACK OF
CYCLING LANES**

Statement of problem:

Compared to other major cities in the world, Windhoek have a

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numerically small vehicle number count. However, traffic jams in Windhoek have become a major cause of frustration over the past few years and the problem continues to escalate. Although we recognise the work and planning that the City of Windhoek is carrying out, the pace at which projects are implemented are frustrating and non-responsive to the ever-increasing problem of commuters. Windhoek as a capital City, is probably one of the very few cities where bicycle lanes are not a common trend. Apart from providing alternative transportation means, bicycle lanes are an excellent means to promote good health and encourage people to cycle.

Imagine the time saved for a poor construction worker who lives in Okuryongava and have to walk to work in Academia. If he had a bicycle, his commuting time from his house to his workplace would be reduced by more than half, and will ensure that that worker is more productive at his place at work.

Namibia is renowned as a country with extraordinary beauty, and the many rivers in and around Windhoek can also be used as travelling lanes for cyclists and will not only provide routes of travelling, but also a serene setting for peace and tranquillity or for those who want to travel by bicycle and enjoy nature. Cycling is a low impact cardio-vascular activity which improves health and promotes family cohesion if practiced by the whole family.

If considering the many benefits associated with this initiative, it is surprising that we as policy decision makers have not strongly pushed this agenda in the past.

Proposed solution:

- a) The City of Windhoek should include cycling lanes as a standard amenity in road planning. Consequently, cycling lanes should not be an after the fact luxury add-on, but a basic planning mechanism for cleaner and healthier modes of travelling which is an international trend.

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- b) To start off with, all new roads should include provisions for cyclists. Compared to other cities, we certainly have the space for such provisions, we only lack the drive to implement it. I personally want total peace of mind to send my child of to school on a bicycle in a safe and friendly environment.
- c) The national cycling federation should be consulted for ideas on how we can promote cycling in Windhoek and what simple infrastructure solutions are available to get Windhoekers mobile cyclists. This is an example on where Local Authorities can piggy-bag on creative ideas already formulised by local community groups to solve local community problems.
- d) Promoting cycling as a popular mode of transport has numerous entrepreneurial advantages - cycling repair shops will be a more responsible and commercially feasible business proposition than *Shebeens* or liquor shops. In addition, the Cycling Industry is a low physical exertion practice which offers numerous opportunities for women.
- e) It is noteworthy to commend the City Police for starting to set an example on how cycling can improve the delivering of policing services in Windhoek. We want to see more Police Officers in uniform riding bicycles and smiling.

2. MAINTENANCE OF GOVERNMENT ASSETS/PROPERTY

Statement of problem:

Many State-owned property/assets have deteriorated beyond the state of reasonable repair. These assets remains a financial liability for the State and because of the said deterioration they are not used optimally. Apart from being a sight for sore eyes because of their state of dilapidation, these State-owned properties are posing a significant threat to safety and hygiene to individuals who continue to inhabitate them. The image of Windhoek, being one of the cleanest cities in Africa and in fact, the world

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does not deserve to be clouded with cosmetically unpleasing faces of dilapidated Government buildings.

Proposed solution:

If we cannot renovate and repair them, the Government needs to consider selling these assets to private investors who are willing to renovate and repair such properties. Getting rid of unproductive assets will free up the maintenance time of the Ministry of Works and force us to focus on assets which can provide a positive return on investment, instead of milking the State of much needed resources which can be used elsewhere.

**3. PROVISION OF LAND TO ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGED
NAMIBIANS**

Statement of problem:

- a) The GRN has gone through tremendous efforts to promote the equal division of land to previous disadvantaged citizens. The prioritisation of this contentious issue is indeed evident in the latest Budget, where more than N\$1 billion has been allocated to the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement and a further few billions allocated to Capital Housing Projects through State-Owned Enterprise like the National Housing Enterprise (NHE).
- b) However, the reality is that most Namibians do not want farms - they want houses. In addition, holiday destinations in Namibia, including simple camping sites at the coast, are unaffordable to 95% of Namibians, but this contentious issue will be addressed at a later stage.
- c) The current escalation of housing prices, as well as prices of erven, are the result of simple supply and demand dynamics in the property market. The demand for housing is increasing, while the supply of land by Local Authorities, is limited - this continues to drive up housing prices and makes it more unaffordable to the majority of Namibians.

- d) I need to emphasise here that the root of the problem, where the real bottle neck occurs, is the servicing of erven (i.e. water-, electricity-, roads-, sewerage infrastructure) before it is made available for sale to the public. This is simply not happening fast enough to meet the increasing demand for property, hence the escalation of prices.

Proposed Solution:

- a) The Government should provide financial loans to Local Authorities to service erven and increase the supply of land. Loan repayment occurs after land has been sold to prospective buyers
- b) Since many Local Authorities do not have the machines, equipment and resources to service erven on a large scale, the servicing of land should be outsourced to private vendors to speed up the availability of land. An increase in the supply of serviced erven will dampen the escalation of prices of property.
- c) Local Authorities should be encouraged to straighten and improve the logistical red tape associated with the acquisition of erven and properties and create a fast moving enabling environment for investors in smaller cities.

An example of this is Gobabis, which is a geographically strategic location for growth and development. However, the availability of land to outside investors is extremely difficult to obtain. This in itself is hampering the town from becoming a business hub and centre of trade for economic activities with Botswana and South Africa. Clearly, the availability, supply and provision of land in Gobabis, should be addressed as a central priority for that specific Local Authority and the process of delivering land should be fast tracked and efficiently implemented, without the logistical red tape and extended lead times which is currently being experienced.

- d) Lastly, this complex social problem should be addressed by experimenting with cheaper building methods of construction,

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using cheaper local products and implementing cost effective and creative solutions to provide one of the most necessities to our citizens.

- e) It should also be mentioned, that the provision of housing and land in rural cities and towns, will decrease the diaspora of people flocking to bigger cities such as Windhoek, and inadvertently also limit the expansion of shacks and inferior accommodation establishments as is currently seen all over Windhoek and other cities.

4. HEALTH CARE SERVICE PROVISION IN STATE HOSPITALS

Statement of the Problem:

- a) Service delivery in State Hospitals has deteriorated over the past few decades, with the exception of a few, and a clear trend of mediocre service delivery seen in most State Hospitals. This has caused a diaspora of good health care service providers, from the Public Sector into the Private Sector and even out of the country. The consequence of this is decreased access to important health services.
- b) I need not mention the dilapidated state in which some of the State Hospitals facilities are in, as was reported extensively over the last few months in the printed media, and Governmental reports.
- c) Because of the lack of quick and accessible health care services, some patients are forced to remain in hospital for longer periods of time, and the Government pays for this extended period of hospitalisation.

Proposed solution:

Consider outsourcing some medical facilities at State Hospitals. Start with a pilot study to outsource certain areas such as Physiotherapy Departments or X-ray Department at one or two big State Hospitals. This will not only attract more qualified personnel to those

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departments, but will ensure improve access to patients, improved quality services and reduced medical insurance cost.

Honourable Speaker, I cannot hear myself.

HON SPEAKER: Order please. I think this is not fair.

HON SWARTZ: In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, such outsourced areas can also become centres of excellence where interns can be trained, broadening the service delivery and expanding health access to a wider audience than is currently the case. The cost of health care will then indirectly be reduced. I thank you and I support the Bill.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. A very brave Honourable Member who stood her grounds. I am now trying to improvise, I am prepared to surrender the time for tea and continue because there are so many of you who would like to take the Floor. Yes, may I call upon the Honourable Mbai.

HON MBAI: Hon Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, this is my Maiden Speech. I rise, first of all, to make use of this opportunity to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to the Namibian voters for having mandated all of us here to represent them in this august House and in particular, my Party the National Unity Democratic Organisation (NUDO). The commemoration of 25 years of our Independence last month is a very good sign and testimony of good governance and determination, guaranteed by legislative and oversight functions presided by this very august House.

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In the same breath Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me one minute to comment the former Head of State, His Excellency President Pohamba for the stand he took to accord a State Funeral to the late former President of NUDO, the legend Dr Kuaima Riruako - MAY HIS SOUL REST IN EVERLASTING PEACE.

Secondly, it has become more and more evident that the Head of State, His Excellency the President Dr Hage Geingob brought for a better tomorrow for all Namibians, and a strong believe that in his hands this great Nation will charter a new direction.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the opportunity now is to discuss the Budget for 2015/2016 and the projected revenue and expenditure proposals for the remainder Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

My Party appreciates the intention by the Honourable Minister of Finance to introduce reforms with regard to Public Finance Management, more specially the introduction of a Mid-Year Budget Review and Pre Budget Statement to be presented in October/November each year. This will not only be a measure to assess the Budget execution and policy implementation but an opportunity to take stock of ourselves of what was implemented and what is still outstanding.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as part and parcel of any budgeting process, we shall have to continue undertaking consultations with general stakeholders. Such consultations shall enhance the transparency of our budget preparation process and improve the understanding of the National Budget by the general public.

If for instance this consultations for 2015/2016 Budget have taken place exactly the time the Honourable Minister proposed the budgetary review, a broad consensus on the challenges facing this country such, as unemployment and poverty, as well as the endorsement by the general stakeholders of the economic priorities, of promoting growth and economic diversification should have been revealed by now.

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Honourable Speaker, despite some positive domestic economic outlook for the Financial Year 2015/2016, there is a need to continue with prudent management of our resources, given the continued uncertainty over the recovery of the global economy. To this end, expenditure management and control should remain a priority, if Fiscal Policy is to continue to be supportive of a stable macroeconomic environment, which is necessary for growth and economic diversification. This means that the implementation of the Programmes and Projects should be guided by the principles of efficiency, effectiveness and above all, financial discipline.

PERFORMANCE OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

There is a need to closely monitor the operations of Parastatals Organisations with a view of ensuring that they continue to contribute to growth and employment creation. To facilitate this, the newly Public Enterprises Ministry will be required to implement the guidelines for the exercise of stakeholders oversight over Parastatals Laws, if need be also to be introduced to regulate and oblige their books to be audited by the Auditor-General.

PROMOTING INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Honourable Speaker, despite the positive economic growth registered in the past years, the country continues to face development challenges of unemployment and poverty. To address this, Government will be promoting inclusive growth by creating a conducive environment for productive economic opportunities while ensuring that the benefits of economic growth are equitably shared among various sections of the society. While the focus will be on productive employment, Government must continue with its efforts to eradicate abject poverty by providing Social-welfare Programmes to the poor and most vulnerable groups in the society.

My Party welcomes and appreciates the increase of the Old Age Pension Grant to N\$1000 per month and would like to propose that other Social Grants that receive mere N\$250 per month for Orphans and Vulnerable

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Children increase to N\$500 per month. HIV/AIDS victims subjected to ARV need to be assisted financially to purchase food in order to prevent taking drugs on empty stomach.

POVERTY ERADICATION

Honourable Speaker, the theme of the Budget is – *“Pro Poor, Pro-Growth Budget”* and *“No Namibian Must be Left Out.”*

To address one dimension of inclusive growth which is, the protection of the disadvantaged and marginalised groups of the society, Government must continue to put in place measures to improve the efficiencies of our Social Welfare Programmes. These measures will ensure food security, availability of social safety nets to reduce poverty, and the promotion of opportunities for special groups such as women, the elderly and people living with disabilities.

Honourable Speaker, inclusive growth cannot be achieved without empowering citizens to take an active role in economic activities. It is for this reason that Government continues to make concerted efforts to empower citizens in order to benefits from economic growth.

EDUCATION

It pains to see that irrespective of what we budget, learners are still taught under trees, learners in some remote areas are walking long distances to attend schools. Many teachers are sharing accommodation facilities something so deplorable.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I believe the time is now for us to streamline our system of education to meet the set targets so that our system produce job creators other than job seekers. For the past 25 years of our Independence our education system has been failing to meet International Standards with our students having been subjected to undergoing bridging courses first before they could be taken in to continue with their courses at various universities around the world. On education,

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I finally acknowledge the Minister's provision to make both Primary and Secondary Education free.

AGRICULTURE

Honourable Speaker, I am of the opinion that although of late we have received good rains over the past few days, this does in no way diminish the dire constraints caused by the drought situation. It is a given fact that many households will face a severe food, especially those who depend on crop productions.

We are thus, urging Government to put mechanisms in place without delay to facilitate prompt reply and response should the need arise to assist those affected by the drought.

Honourable Speaker, another constraint many farmers in the Otjozondjupa and Omaheke Regions are facing is the shortage of water. The capacity and the volume in some areas of the eastern water carrier pipe scheme really need to be upgraded.

The Ministries of Agriculture and Environment should now join forces to address threats to life and farming caused by Buffaloes, Elephants and Lions when they escape from game parks. This has become a national problem and should be addressed.

HEALTH

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we appreciate the fact that there is provision made in this Budget for the renovation and extension of the Katutura State Hospital. This is long overdue as this is one hospital that serves the vast majority of our people. It is my profound belief that Primary Health Care and Out Reach Programmes also need to be streamlined because of the vastness of our Country. This must be provided free of charge. Health Care in any State is an important pillar of socio-economic advancement.

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Lastly, Honourable Speaker, so far, Government has created some ideal strategies in addressing social, political and economic challenges. However, as it has been a norm over the years, the implementation component has always been lacking. The Government should strengthen implementation efforts ensure all these great plans do not remain a dream to the Namibian people, but rather a reality.

Here I am pertinently referring to the Motion introduced by the late Dr Kuaima Riruako in this august House in 2006, on Genocide and consequently Reparations demands, adopted unanimously by this House but up to now it is still unresolved and concrete measures have not been taken to address this long standing issues. I strongly believe that the time now is to act without any reservations. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Please bear with me, I am hopping around, the lights are on, I am going to come back to you. I call upon Honourable Tom Alweendo.

HON MINISTER OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:
Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to commence my Inaugural Speech by expressing my sincere and deepest respect to this Parliament and.

I would like to pledge my unreserved dedication in serving to the best of my ability within this sanctuary of our democracy. In this respect, I owe a huge debt to former President Hifikepunye Pohamba for having nominated me to form part of the SWAPO Party list of Parliamentarians. In the same vein, I thank His Excellency, President Hage Geingob for having appointed me as a Minister in the Presidency, responsible for Economic Planning.

Honourable Speaker, I would also like to thank all the Namibians who

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voted for my Party, the SWAPO Party, in the last elections with an overwhelming majority (*applause*). It is my intention to be diligent so that I may serve the electorate to the best of my ability. As a Member of Parliament, I am an ordinary person that has been entrusted with an extraordinary job - a huge responsibility only bestowed on few Namibians and one that I do not take lightly.

Honourable Speaker, I wish to extend my warmest congratulations on your election as the Speaker of our Sixth Parliament. This is a fitting recognition of your widely - acclaimed service to this Nation. I, like those who spoke before me, extend to you my total support in this vital role as Speaker. I would also like to warmly congratulate all the Members of Parliament, especially those who are joining Parliament for the first time.

Honourable Speaker, Namibia is not an ordinary country. We are a country that is capable of extraordinary things. Just think of the remarkable men and women who, against all odds, waged a liberation war and today we have a free and Sovereign Namibia. Think of the exceptional leadership that, over the years, managed to promote and keep the peace and stability we are all enjoying today. Since Independence the size of our economy has grown 16-fold to N\$126 billion to date.

Honourable Speaker, while optimistic about the future, I am not blind to the development challenges that are still confronting us. However, with the kind of an illustrious achievement over the last 25 years, we have clearly demonstrated that we have what it takes to address the development challenges still facing us. I see no reason, therefore, why we should not be able to join the ranks of developed economies in the next fifteen years - the time remaining to achieve our development goals under Vision 2030.

Honourable Speaker, His Excellency President Hage Geingob has undertaken to deliver prosperity to our citizens. The only way we can deliver prosperity to our people is to transform the economy in such a way that it can create new wealth. It is for us to identify the primary wealth creators both Public and Private Entities – and incentivise them to create

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the needed jobs. If those who have been identified to create the necessary wealth fail, indeed we all fail. And if no new wealth is created, it will be an impossible task for us to cater for the vulnerable members of our society. It will not be possible to employ those Namibian heroes and heroines that provide us with the essential services - our Police Officers that are responsible for maintaining Law and Order in order for us to feel safe; our teachers without whom we cannot talk of the future; our nurses that have the self-sacrificing job of looking after the health of our citizens.

Honourable Speaker, the theme of our current National Development Plan (NDP4), is that of - ***Changing Gears Towards Vision 2030***. This theme was informed by our realisation that a business as usual attitude towards the implementation of our development plans is indefensible. While we need to recognise the complexities of our socio-economic development challenges, let us also know that our challenges are not preordained to us. There is nothing that is natural to us having too many young people that are looking for jobs they cannot find; there is certainly nothing that suggests that the level of inequality we have currently is something we cannot change. These are all challenges that we can overcome, provided of course, that we are prepared to change the gears and do what it takes to solve them.

Honourable Speaker, there is no doubt that our prestige as a Nation depends on the skills and innovation that we possess. As a small open economy, our long term economic success will solely depend on our ability to sell goods and services - that we have invented ourselves - to external markets. For this to happen, we need to build sufficient skills that are fit for the 21st Century. Therefore, Honourable Speaker we have no choice but to innovate. The time is now for us to encourage our young potential innovators to do research and also give them all the necessary incentives to do so. Currently our investment in research and development is minimal. That is why, as part of our 4th National Development Plan, we have proposed that we invest at least 0.3% of our GDP in Research Development and Innovation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in steering Namibia to the

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next level of development and, therefore, prosperity, we need to create a caring Nation where - as His Excellency, President Hage Geingob has been saying - *no Namibian must feel left out*. A caring Nation where the strongest among us feel compelled to protect the weakest among us; where minorities do not feel to be made objects of scorn by the majority; where the most vulnerable are made to feel not abandoned; where the younger ones are made to feel afforded the necessary opportunity to fulfil their dreams; and where the elders feel that their contribution to what Namibia is today is well appreciated. A Nation that feels as one, the one that recognises and encourages the contribution of everyone, is in a better position to overcome the challenges that lie ahead.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the electorates who have elected us all here expect us to do what is right for Namibia. It is also a fact that in the process of representing our people, there will be differences of opinions. There will be different views as to not only what to do but also how to do it. These are all necessary differences that need to be embraced. Let us, therefore, embrace our differences and exercise the necessary tolerance - tolerance that says that a different opinion has the potential for us to do better. In exercising tolerance, however, we must guard against paralysis. There is nothing worse than a situation where we do nothing simply because you cannot agree. I think our people expect better than that from us.

Our commitments as Members of Parliament should, therefore, be not relent. As representatives of our people, our pledge should be to do everything in our collective abilities to make Namibia a better place to live in for all Namibians. That calls for us to be the agents of change in transforming our economy into a dynamic economy capable of generating descend jobs that our people are looking for.

Experience has, however, taught us that change in any context, particularly in economic development, is always challenging and never just happens. It needs change - Leaders as we are all, by nature, comfortable with the *status quo*.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, in concluding, it is my wish that the Sixth Parliament will be diligent, (*interjection*).

HON MEMBER: No, do not conclude!

HON MINISTER OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION: Yes, I need to conclude. The Parliament needs to be diligent not because it is easy but because it is expected of us from the electorate; that we will be audacious - not because it is a choice but because it is the only way we can overcome the challenges that lie ahead; to be innovative and pioneering - not because it is fashionable - but only because it is the only way we can catch up with the competition.

It is one thing to give an eloquent speech about our socio-economic development and declare it as a priority like we do, and it is another to have genuine priorities that we publicly measure. If we choose to talk the talk, our pledge to deliver prosperity will be illusive and poverty and inequality will grow. However, the alternative is that we walk the talk and poverty and inequality will soon be a thing of the past. I thank you Honourable Speaker. (*Applause*)

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. May I now call on the Honourable Kavekatora - RDP.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Honourable Speaker, this is my Maiden Speech or I would request the same silence that was awarded to Honourable Mbai.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, first and foremost, allow me to thank my Party RDP and the Namibian people for their trust and confidence they bestowed on me to be part of this august House.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Honourable Speaker, on your election as Speaker of the National Assembly. Let me also congratulate Honourable Loide Kasingo for her re-election as Deputy Speaker of this august House. I also want to congratulate all the Honourable Members of this House, from all Political Parties represented here, for their election to this Sixth National Assembly and those who made it to the Executive Branch of Government. I hope that we will take the task at hand seriously and synergistically because the Namibian Nation has placed high hopes and expectations on us as elected Law-makers.

Let me now turn to the *Appropriation Bill* of 2015 that is before us. I am being reliably informed that the Budget is a holy cow and no changes can be effected from the Floor of this House. If that is the case, Honourable Speaker, I would like to request the august House to seriously consider the tabling of the various ministerial strategic plans to the National Assembly for consideration and input. That is the only way we as Legislators will understand the assumptions and priorities set by the Executive. Otherwise, the tabling of the Budget in its current form will always be seen as a mere Public Relation exercise.

The above, notwithstanding, Comrade Speaker, the Budget tabled to this House by the Honourable Minister of Finance appears to be inclusive and poor friendly. If one looks at the significant allocation of N\$23.9 billion to the Social Sectors of Education, Health and other Social Safety Nets Systems. I just hope that this huge allocation on the input side will translate in a corresponding benefit to the Nation on the output side because there is always a difference between input *versus* output.

In other words what remains to be seen is how this allocation will impact the lives of the ordinary Namibian citizens. Of particular significance, is the increase of Pension Grants for our elderly citizens from N\$600.00 to N\$1,000.00 in total agreement with the RDP 2014 Election Manifesto.

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(Interjections) I have a copy here. As we move forward my appeal is that pension for the elderly should be linked to the price of basic goods and services and they need to be adjusted annually to beat inflation. The introduction of free education - secondary education is another positive feature deserving our appreciation, even though it has been delayed for 25 years.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, poverty in Namibia is manmade and there is no logical or just explanation as to why a country endowed with natural resources is trailing behind some countries with little or no resources at all. There is no justification whatsoever, that 25 years after Independence we have a considerable number of our fellow Namibians going to bed hungry. It all boils down to leadership, the level of understanding, how resources are being allocated and the political will of the Government of the day.

The creation of the Ministry of Poverty Eradication is a commendable move and more significantly with the appointment of Dr Kameeta to this Ministry. The Honourable Minister's record in fighting for the wellbeing of the poor and his involvement in the Basic Income Grant Pilot Programme is testimony that he is uniquely qualified to head such a critical Ministry.

Having said that, Honourable Speaker, my humble request goes to all the other Ministries to regard poverty alleviation as a cross-cutting and collective responsibility of the Executive Branch of Government.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, over the past 25 years Namibia has seen a large influx of people from rural to urban centres. Most of these migrants ended up living under these squalid conditions in shanty towns surrounding most of our cities and towns. These squatter settlements have no access to decent housing, sanitation, water and electricity. Invariably, such inhuman conditions have brought a lot of social hardships such as high crime rate, prostitution, teenage pregnancy and alcohol abuse.

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Honourable Speaker, the housing situation in Namibia for our low income Namibians is extremely dehumanising and the Mass-Housing Project in its current form will fail to address the social needs of housing in this country. It will fail for the following reasons:

- The project was not properly planned;
- It is not clear who the ultimate beneficiaries are and whether or not the poor of the poorest will be accommodated in this project;
- The project was given to an implementing agency without probing the capacity of such agency to implement a project of that magnitude;
- Newspaper reports indicate that favouritism and nepotism have become a norm in the awarding of tenders with different criteria and rates applying to different tenderers;
- Therefore, this project will fail because, like many others before, it was initiated and conceived as a political pronouncement.

I call upon the Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development to humbly redefine, restructure and reengineer this project before the N\$1.25 billion of tax payers' money over the MTEF ends up in the pockets of the few usual suspects, the politically well-connected, with little impact on the poor Namibians in need of housing.

Honourable Speaker, please do not get me wrong, I am not against the investment of Government in housing for Namibians but I am against the misappropriation of tax payers' money.

Honourable Speaker, education and skills development is generally regarded as a heartbeat of any economic transformation. However, Namibia current economic system does not meet the needs of the country's economy. Our educational Sector continues to produce functionally illiterate youth who in most cases end up on the streets exposing them to all sort of social evils. While congratulating the two

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Honourable Ministers and their Deputies for their appointment, I urge them to hit the ground running in replacing the failing education system with one that will create the required knowledge and skills to make our country more productive and more competitive.

Honourable Speaker, I support the allocation to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. The Agricultural Sector has got the greatest potential to create permanent jobs to feed the Nation. It, however, needs a serious intervention by the Government if we are to realise its fullest potential. The study that was conducted in 1992, revealed that 26 million hectares of both commercial and communal land is invaded by bush. I am sure that the situation has worsened ever since. This reduces the per capita carrying capacity of farmers, mainly commercial farmers. They are now forced to acquire more farmland, like the Honourable Member is complaining about, to carry the same livestock. According to the Combating Bush Encroachment for Namibia's Development Report, bush infestation in Namibia has led to a 60% decline in commercial livestock over the past 40 years, causing losses in the national economy estimated at N\$700 million per annum. An investment in de-bushing by the Central Government will be money worth spending in contributing to economic expansion.

Honourable Speaker, let me come closer to home, every Region in Namibia has got its unique comparative and competitive advantage. The Kunene Region and, particularly the former Kaokoland is no exceptions. Let me draw the attention of this august House to a study that was commissioned by the Millennium Challenge Account between November 2012 and December 2013. The study revealed that in many of the Regions of the Northern Communal Areas (NCAs), 70% of the household owns 30 cattle or less with the exception of Kunene where the number is significantly high. It basically means that the Kunene Region is the only Region in the Northern Communal Area that has got a viable market for livestock. It is with this in mind, Honourable Speaker, that I request the Honourable Minister of Agriculture to seriously consider the establishment of a modern abattoir with processing facilities in Opuwo. Such a move will make economic sense.

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The allocation to the Defence Ministry can only be supported if it is aimed at improving the living conditions of our military personnel and not only the acquisition of military equipment and technology. I am saying this because like any country in the world, Namibia is exposed to external threat, that is true, but the imminent threats to peace and stability in this country are more internal. (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Are you sure?

HON KAVEKOTORA: Yes, I am very sure. Contemporary issues such as the high rate of unemployment, poverty, unequal distribution of wealth, lack of service delivery, lack of land, crime, discriminatory practices and corruption, in my view are real threats to peace and stability in Namibia. Therefore, instead of pointing fingers to the other people let us collectively address these issues effectively to mitigate the risk to national security.

Honourable Speaker, at an appropriate time I will speak about what in my view, we are doing wrong that other countries like Mauritius and Singapore have managed to do well. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Now the time has come for me to call upon the Honourable !Auxab please.

HON !AUXAB: Honourable Speaker Sir, let me first and foremost thank the Almighty Heavenly Father for making it possible for us to meet this afternoon in the discourse of what our people has entrusted us, that is to represent them and to serve them without fear and favour.

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Honourable Speaker Sir, Honourable Members, I rise to add my voice to the current discourse before the august House but before doing that, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you, Honourable Speaker and Honourable Kasingo for your well deserved election. I do believe that under your guidance this House will deliver what is expected from it.

In the same vein, allow me to congratulate Honourable Schlettwein on his appointment as a Minister of Finance and also for the well crafted and presented Budget for the current Fiscal Year. The current Budget highlights four policy priorities for the ongoing Mid Term Expenditure Framework which are interconnected. Amongst these priorities, the inclusive growth agenda and poverty reduction top the list. I would subsequently want to limit myself to these two priority areas. A Budget of N\$67.08 billion has been proposed as expenditure outline for the current Financial Year. This, Honourable Speaker, is quite laudable, however, how this amount is distributed into the various Sectors of the Namibian economy, should be the determining factor in terms of achieving our national objective.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I have noted with deep sense of satisfaction that the largest share of the Budget has been allocated to the Social Sectors with a combined value of 23.99 billion - Education, Health and Social Safety Net Systems. The Education Sector has been constantly receiving the lion share of our Budget. Judging from the past Budget estimates, this is an indication of the kind of future that we want for our children. In the words of President Barrack Obama, we should encourage our children to have abiding faith in the possibilities that this Nation, the Namibian Nation, can offer them.

Our children should believe in the tolerant nature of our society and systems and that name should not constitute a barrier for our children to achieve success. They should imagine attending the best schools in the land even though they are not rich because in the generous nature of our Republic you do not have to be rich to achieve your potential.

Having said that, unfortunately not expressing the same sentiments

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towards the investment being made in peace, public safety, security and the Rule of Law as I am contend that Namibia is a peace loving Nation. I would have wanted to see a better allocation for the Health Sector and Namibian Police instead of Defence Force, this would to a certain extend curtail the rising corruption, bribery charges within out Police Force. A lean and professional Defence Force is what Namibia requires. We should, as a Nation guard against the current tendency of creating jobs for selected few, especially in the Defence Force as this will greatly compromise our claim of creating a professional force - here I am referring to so-called Struggle Kids.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, I am quite contend with the Budget as presented. However, I am a bit apprehensive about the deficit that we are facing, the amount of N\$8.64 billion as opposed to the N\$7.62 billion of last year, 2014, is quite worrisome to me and I shall most certainly appreciate it if the good Honourable Minister can assure us that this is not going to worsen our indebtedness be it from the domestic of foreign sources.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, people do not expect Government to solve all their problems but they sense, deep in their bones, that with just a slight change in priorities, we can make sure that every child in Namibia has a decent shot at life and that those opportunities remains open to all.

The inclusivity approach to growth has been on-coming, so is poverty reduction. This has, however, largely remained on book shelves and has not as such entered the realm of our citizenry. My only hope is that this time around it will also be felt into our kitchens and living rooms.

We as Namibians are faced with a huge dilemma, we seem to be good at producing wonderful documents in the form of Laws, Policies, Regulations, etcetera, but there is a general lack of monitoring and implementing those Policies which result in failure. This applies to the current Budget as well. Because of the lack of implementation, huge amounts are returned to the Treasury at the end of almost every Financial Year. I hope to see some improvements in this regard.

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Honourable Speaker, Sir, almost 54 years ago the late President John F Kennedy of the United States of America said the following and I quote - *“The world is very different now. For man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty and all forms of human life... And yet the same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe - the belief that the rights of men come not from the generosity of the State, but from the hands of God.”*

It rings true today as well. We the Namibian Lawmakers hold the key to the abolishment of all forms of human poverty by enacting Laws and putting into place mechanisms which will rectify the poverty situation in our country.

In this regard, I wish to applaud His Excellency Dr Hage G Geingob for the wisdom in establishing a fully fledged Ministry that is solely dedicated to the reduction of poverty. It only shows the extent to which His Excellency the President is serious in attacking poverty head-on. The Presidential generosity of increasing the Old Age Pensions from N\$600.00 to N\$1,000.00 is yet another example of His Excellency the President’s pragmatic approach to reducing poverty. Through increasing the Old Age Pension, a certain number of Namibians will have food on their tables.

I do not intend to go deeper into individual Budget Votes at this stage, but will make my contribution during the Committee Stage of the Budget discussions.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, Honourable Members, I think we have decent documents in front of us that spells out what we as Namibians intend to do for the next twelve months. We should thus, focus, once the *Appropriation Bill* of 2015 has been agreed to, on the implementation of the projects budgeted for within the said period.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to say the following in my own language (*interjections*).

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HON NEKUNDI

HON SPEAKER: Please, give him a chance.

HON !AUXAB: /husa /geis #homi khaubahe /aes xa tara... Honourable Members, Sir, Honourable Members of this august House, with that I support the tabling and introduction of this *Appropriation Bill* of 2015. Thank you very much for having listened to me.

HON MEMBER: Translate please!

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. The Honourable Members are requesting you to give them the gist of what you just said in your language, just briefly.

HON !AUXAB: It simply means the going is tough in this term, it is not Government business – it is not business as usual.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Can I now move and call upon Honourable Veikko Nekundi please. I know your microphone is not working but you can move to your neighbour's.

HON NEKUNDI: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Deputy Speaker, in context of my privilege to rise in delivering my personal historic Maiden Statement, it is my equal exuberant moment to extend my congratulations for your ascension to the chairmanship and deputy of this profound House

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respectively. Honourable Speaker, fellow esteemed Honourables Members, allow me further to congratulate our Dear Esteemed Comrade President, His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geigob on his rise to the highest office of our beloved country. In the same vein, I congratulate all my Comrades who have been appointed to the Executive of the Republic and wish them 100 percent success in the execution of their duties.

Comrade Speaker, Comrade Deputy Speaker, my last journey has always been guided by my family, friends, my Party Leadership, fellow Comrades and the society I find myself in. Indeed, I am a proud product of a collective Namibian society across all trades. Thus, I thank them all for the individual and collective all round support as their association with me saw my arrival in this august House. I, therefore, pledge that my business here shall be to deliver to the best of my abilities in fulfilling the noble cause of my Party as contextualised in the copy and paste free Manifesto, the premise on which of our Nation vehemently voted for the Party they trust.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Fellow Members of Parliament, as a progressive Member of the only progressive Party in Namibia, although I stand (*interjections*)

HON SPEAKER: This is a Maiden Speech, Honourable Members, can I allow him to continue uninterrupted? Okay.

HON NEKUNDI: Although I stand in totality to support the 2015/2016 Budget as tabled by my Comrade, the Honourable Minister of Finance allow me to say the following:

1. While overjoyed by the long overdue increment of the N\$1,000 Old Age monthly Grant it is my wish that this august House consider to

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explore the possibility to introduce a Child-Parent Care Law. The Child-Parent Care Law, should aim to compel a person to take care of his own parent(s), provided that his/her earnings, state of mind, physically abilities, scientifically proves his/her ability to take care of his/her parent(s). That such a person should be punishable by Law if he/she fails to take care of his/her own parent(s).

2. While appreciating the state of revenue from our natural resources, it is my wish that this House seriously considers to enact a Law that compels value addition to our natural resources in order to maximise our God Given Beneficiation Right (GGBR) from these resources, and that the Law governing the Infant Protection be reviewed in order to force the Infant Protections to benefit the general populace, and do away with the current scenario where these corporate citizens multiply their margins after being granted the Infant Protection Rights to the disadvantaged of the Nation.
3. Housing being an important right, it is my wish that this House consider to pass a Law governing the pricing of land for housing as a measure to facilitate the principle of affordable and accessibility to land for housing. Equally, this august House should consider Laws that provide for free land for housing for the poor, especially in urban areas. In the same context, the multiple ownership of land for housing by individuals, be it natural persons or juristic persons, must be regulated. Similarly, I carry the wish that all prices of basic needs as administered by various State Agencies be strictly regulated in order to ensure that the poorest of the poor of our Nation have unhindered access to the basic commodities and services.
4. On the issue of commercial land, it is my wish that this august House consider a Law that provides any person with commercial land to enter into a productivity agreement with the State and when such productivity targets are not met, the State be empowered by the same Law to reposess such land and reallocate same to citizens who best economically utilise such land.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I have a zero doubt

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that our capable team of Comrades entrusted by our President to lead various Ministries will deliver on all Programmes as outlined and budgeted for under their respective Ministries. Thus, my optimism that under the SWAPO Party Government we shall deliver on all spheres of our people's socials and economic needs and aspirations.

To this end, Comrade Speaker, I wish us all an unselfish and maximal productive five years of Public Service, as I beseeched us to pass the Budget under discussion in the shortest possible time. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The question of keeping time is much appreciated because I have a long list that I want to do justice to. Now I call upon Honourable Bernadette Jagger. You have the Floor.

HON JAGGER: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members. As I rise to speak on this occasion as a new Member of Parliament, I want to sincerely thank the Namibian electorate for having exercised their democratic right and thereby ensured victory for the SWAPO Party and mandated it to rule this country for the next five (5) years. Honourable Speaker, this is my Maiden Speech.

I want to thank the former President, His Excellency Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba for having nominated me to the SWAPO Party list for Parliament; a nomination that secured me a seat in the Sixth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia.

Whilst thanking His Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba and wishing him and our Former First Lady Madam Pohamba a blessed retirement after having led this country to the doorstep of prosperity, I equally would like to seize this opportunity to personally congratulate our former President on being a recipient of the prestigious *Mo Ibrahim Award*; an award that we shall forever treasure as a Nation.

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Honourable Speaker, May I take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Finance, I would rather not call the name because I do not want to make a mistake (*laughter*) for a well documented 2015/2016 Budget. Congratulations are extended to the team that worked with the Honourable Minister of Finance on this Budget, and here I must mention the name of the former Minister of Finance, now the first female Prime Minister of our Republic, Right Honourable Saraa Kuukongelwa Amadhila for having groomed the team that served under her leadership during her tenure as the Minister of Finance. It is an example that we all need to follow suit so that all those working with us and under our leadership should be in a position to do business without us if we move to any next level.

Honourable Speaker, let me congratulate you on your well deserved election as the Speaker of the National Assembly; the Honourable Deputy Speaker, Comrade Kasingo and all Members of Parliament for the elect and appointed positions.

Honourable Speaker, Honorable Members, now a little background of myself. Some might know while others might not know that I hail from an ethnic group namely the Riemvasmakers Traditional Community who were forcibly removed from the Northern Cape, and repatriated to the northwestern parts - what was known as Damaraland. It was in actual fact a forceful repatriation programme from South Africa to Namibia, then SWA in 1973/1974 under the Black-spot removal by the then Apartheid Government. Honourable Speaker, although I am a Parliamentarian in this august House on a SWAPO Party ticket to represent the Namibian people, I would be unfair not to acknowledge the honour and privilege bestowed upon me by His Excellency former President, Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba to be the first ever person in history hailing from the Riemvasmakers Traditional Community to take up a seat in the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia (*applause*)

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I am happy and excited as to what the Budget offers for the 2015/2016 Financial Year and I will, therefore, not dwell on the Budget of the Financial Year 2015/2016 for the

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various Ministries and Industries, nor shall I dwell on the Development Programmes and Estimates of expenditure for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2015/2016 to 2017/2018, but rather prefer to alert the House as to what I would like to see within the five years that lie ahead of us, of course, within the context of the Budget.

Firstly, I would like all of us as Parliamentarians to deal promptly and appropriately with the most pertinent issues that will bring bread and butter on the tables of our people. Our people were dreaming about prosperity. We, therefore, need to dream together with the Namibian Electorate. It is imperative to emphasise that our dreams should not be different from theirs, but it should be the same big dream to realise prosperity. We need to dream about a stable economy so that people can get stable jobs that would provide a living wage, with fringe employment benefits that would ensure that they would live decent lives.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is not just our responsibility as Parliamentarians to craft Laws and Policies that would propel the electorate and our country towards prosperity but indeed, it is our sacred duty to execute for the people of the Land of the Brave. I am absolutely confident that, if we would hold hands as Members of Parliament and push party-political agendas to the back-seat and hard work to the front seat, together, we will grow a country with a stronger economy, and a Prosperous Nation. A strong economy with jobs in Tourism and Manufacturing is the cornerstone on which we can build the foundation for a Prosperous Nation.

As I envision a Prosperous Namibia with happy and healthy communities, having access to quality social welfare and economic services, I want to see all 14 Regions offering increased local employment opportunities and attracting serious investors, and constructing infrastructure such as tarred roads. That is why, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I kindly advise that we adopt a coordinated approach to delivering Government funding and Programmes geared towards addressing these issues. I recognise the importance of working closely with all Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies, especially in particular the Education Sector in

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order to assist our youth to complete tertiary education and vocational training.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is so much appreciative that the largest share of allocation of N\$74,42 billion over the MTEF period is allocated to the Social Sectors of which the Education Sector will receive a combined allocation of N\$15.35 billion in the Budget Year and N\$48.07 billion over the MTEF period. It is, therefore, very important that we must ensure access to quality education for all our children, especially in public schools, as well as to institutions of higher learning and vocational training.

Quality education and training can only realised if schools and institutions are adequately resourced. Staff members deployed to render Government services in remote rural areas where there is a lack of basic amenities such as housing must be provided with incentive packages or improved hardship allowances that would attract qualified and skilled individuals to seek employment at such places. We need a schooling system above all that ensures that our youth have acquired the basic skills and knowledge they require for life and instil the values needed for a united and democratic Nation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we must support teachers, especially those teaching in isolation in remote rural schools, and treat them with the utmost dignity they deserve, if we want those teachers to deliver quality education to the future-generation administrators, managers, entrepreneurs, innovators, doctors, scientists and the likes of the Republic of Namibia.

As I speak now, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, there are teachers in some rural schools who live in tents and mud houses yet are expected to perform quality teaching services. In many cases principals are not treated with the necessary dignity if some of them have to share a small room that is meant for storing textbooks, cleaning materials and gardening tools as an office with secretaries. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, some of our towns and villages are inaccessible

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because of road roughness. It is hard and tough, for example, if a teacher has to travel from his/her duty station to get to a banking facility to do business., It can take a teacher a whole week's stay-away from work, especially during rainy seasons. Inspectors and Education Officers also find it hard to visit schools during rainy seasons.

Comrade Speaker, earlier this year, we have all learnt about the passing of our committed Special Advisor to the former Kunene Governor, Mr Muharukua, who drowned in a strong water stream. This is also what teachers experience and cannot have access to and from town, back to their villages - May His Soul Rest in Peace.

It is, therefore, important that we look at road construction in rural areas so that communities have easy access to facilities such as schools, clinics and shops. These are but a few I mention as first-hand experience but the best would be for all of us to reach out to the meet the Electorate and or communities who have voted for us to realise first-hand experience. Communities complain heavily that after voting, they are left in the same ditches, meaning - *nobody cares*. Honourable Ministers or their Honourable Deputies, and in general, Honourable Members of Parliament we need to go back to the people who voted for us into these positions.

Honourable Minister and Honourable Deputy Minister entrusted with the provision of basic education, hostel renovation is a must so that our the children can enjoy homes away from their homes. Given that some of our hostel conditions compromise quality and effective teaching and learning, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, with most of our Government Hostels in a state of disrepair, we cannot expect positive learning outcomes on the part of hostel dwellers at year-end. It is my personal take that hostel conditions deteriorated when the positions of Hostel Inspectors and Hostel Fathers and Mothers were abolished, and these duties were entrusted to Inspectors of Education, Hostel Superintendents and Supervisory Teachers who are teachers with full teaching and learning programmes.

I am speaking from personal experience of having been an Inspector of

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Education and a Deputy Director for years, that it is almost impossible for a School Inspector to take care of all the schools and hostels in a circuit, given that the staffing norm is above more than twenty schools per one Inspector of Education, inclusive of hostels. The role of teaching should never be under-estimated, since is a very demanding job and, therefore, needs the greatest attention it deserves. Right Honourable Prime Minister as the Head of Public Service, Honourable Minister and Honourable Deputy Minister entrusted with the provision of basic education, it is, therefore, very important that due consideration should be given to the re-introduction of the posts levels of Hostel Inspectors, Hostel Fathers and Hostel Mothers in our education system, so that teachers can be relieved from performing hostel supervisory duties and give full attention to teaching and learning activities. Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I indeed acknowledge the good work done by our by our Inspectors of education, Principals, Hostel Superintendents and Hostel Supervisory Teachers.

However, many a times teachers who are also doubling as Hostel Superintendents and Hostel Supervisory Teachers have to leave the Hostel children alone and get to important activities because they have to attend other activities as well. Hostel Superintendents and Hostel Supervisory Teachers have lots of teaching related work to do in the afternoons and definitely cannot attend to the hostel boarders as expected. That is why I suggest that this august House must craft a legal provision to bring back posts of Hostel Inspectors and Hostel Fathers and Hostel Mothers so that the necessary attention is given to our hostel boarders. Let us bring back workable policies. Teacher are overworked yet we expect 100% performance. In so doing In so doing, those who do not have jobs can apply to work as Hostel Fathers and Hostel Mothers and also Superintendents to enable us to share the bread in an equal way.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we have learners that are “camping” on school premises and this leave Principals to accommodate learners during week days in classrooms and send them home over weekends. These learners enjoy only one meal per day during the mid-morning break at school from the Namibian School Feeding Programme.

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I would, therefore, appeal that Regional Directorates be assisted to upgrade Informal Hostels to meet the set requirements as per the Health Standards in order for such Informal Hostels be registered for Government subsidy and for learners who are accommodated In informal Hostels, to enjoy, like others, three meals per day from a set menu.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I recommend that Traditional Communities who meet the set requirements to apply for recognition status and thereby recommended for approval via the Ministry responsible for Traditional Authorities, be accorded that recognition status. By implication, in the absence of a recognized status, Traditional Authorities do not have any legal right to dictate matters when it comes to the allocation of land tenure on the land that their communities inhabited. That will secure peace and harmony among Traditional Communities, Neighbouring Traditional Communities with one recognised and the other not recognised pick up fights which cause disturbance in the communities.

I am happy tha special provision is made in the Office of the Vice President for Physically Challenged People and for the San, Ovatua and Ovatjimba Development (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: May I request the Honourable Member to conclude please?

HON JAGGER: Yes. . What one would like to see are well coordinated National and Regional Committees that will attend to the needs of these people in terms of Health, Education, Social Welfare, Agriculture for food production and animal husbandry. The former Deputy Prime Ministers by the names of Dr. Libertina and Honourable Marco Haushiku have worked so hard to develop these communities and we really need to commend them for that. On the aspect of the physically challenged people, we need to work towards more physically challenged people friendly facilities, for

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example, soccer stadia for those who are physically challenged to also enjoy the sport life like others. (*Interjection*) Honourable Speaker can I be protected?

HON SPEAKER: Please, please can you allow her to conclude?

HON JAGGER: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I want to say “*Thank you very much!*” to the Voters in all the Seven (7) Constituencies of the Kunene Region, for having voted for the SWAPO Party and thereby having made history in ensuring victory for the SWAPO Party in six out of seven Constituencies in both the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly Elections.

HON SPEAKER: Order please!

HON JAGGER: As Constituents, we did not take last year’s elections for granted. We ran a vigorous campaign in the Kunene Region. It is, therefore, that I express my particular thanks for the support our from the Party side our campaign received from our the Leaders assigned to the Kunene Region and many friends and acquaintances around the country.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, I will remain indebted to all my constituencies and hereby publicly pledge to them and the rest of the citizenry of the Republic of Namibia that I commit myself to serve the people of all fourteen regions of our country with utmost dignity, integrity and conviction for the improvement of their livelihood and that I will be a strong voice for the voiceless in this esteemed House where laws are crafted. Fellow citizens, be rest assured that each and every early morning session and late night work in Parliament will be a form of small

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repayment on the big debt that I owe them.

I will remain indebted to all my Constituents and herewith publicly pledge to them and the rest of the citizenry of the Republic of Namibia that I commit myself to serve the people of all the fourteen Regions of our country with utmost dignity integrity and conviction for the improvement of their livelihood, and that I will be a strong voice for the voiceless in this esteemed House where laws are crafted. Fellow citizens, be rest assured that each and every early morning session and late night work in Parliament will be a form of a small repayment on the big debt that I owe you.

Honorable Speaker, Honorable Fellow Parliamentarians, I am so much aware just like all of you of the challenges that lie ahead of you and me in the next five years. However, although I am not under-estimating these challenges, please take note that I am ready to face any such challenges head-on in order to realize what the SWAPO Party Manifesto preached throughout its Election campaigns, because the Namibian people are looking forward and looking up to the Sixth Parliament to free them from the bondage of abject poverty and unemployment. The time for hide and seek play is gone forever.

Lastly, but definitely not the least, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me to congratulate our incumbent President, His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, on having taken over the reigns as the 3rd President of the Republic of Namibia, and wish him and the First Lady, Madam Monica Geingos, nothing else but God's guidance and His richest blessings on this noble journey. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Can I say that, Honourable Member when you spoke you made reference to the history of the Riemvasmakers, and you made reference to the fact that you are the first Member of Parliament to hail from that community and to be part of the National Assembly, I

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think that is very important. That should not escape our attention, it is very much appreciated. We are indeed a Nation out of various communities, and it is those communities that form part of our Nation in a united Namibia. I just wanted to put that on record because I attach great importance to that (*applause*).

With that, we move on to hear Honourable Penda Ya Ndakolo, our new Minister of Defence. Honourable Member, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Speaker, first of all, I have to thank you for according me this opportunity to deliver my Maiden Speech. May I also join my fellow Namibians in their thousands for congratulating you Comrade Speaker as the Speaker and Comrade Kasingo as Deputy Speaker of this august House. I am honoured and privileged to be amongst you today as a Member of this august House and Minister of Defence of the Republic of Namibia.

I would also like to join my Colleagues in thanking and congratulating them for being elected as a Member of this august House, God Bless Namibia.

Comrade Speaker, I will fail in my duty if I do not congratulate the SWAPO Party and our President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hage Geingob for their victory. I would also like to thank our fellow Namibians for voting for the SWAPO Party *en masse*. Thank you very much, fellow Namibians.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, I am honoured and privileged to be amongst you today as a Member of this august House and as a Minister of Defence of the Republic of Namibia. I am looking forward to joining you and working together with you for the

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best interests of our Nation.

Firstly, allow me to thank the Founding Father and Father of the Namibian Nation and the then Leader of the Namibia Revolution, Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, His Excellency Former President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba and most importantly His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob for the trust they had bestowed in me to serve the Namibian people in different capacities; first as the Regional Governor of the great Oshikoto Region under auspices of the Administrations of Presidents Nujoma and Pohamba. I am grateful for the rare opportunity they have afforded me to serve the Namibian people in that capacity.

With the investiture of His Excellency, Comrade Hage Geingob as the Third President of the Republic of Namibia, I still find myself assigned a very important national duty as Minister of Defence of the Republic of Namibia.

Comrade Speaker, because of this, I would sincerely like to thank His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob for entrusting me with this important Ministry, that is, the Ministry of Defence of our country. I will do my utmost best to make sure that the excellent work that has been carried out by my predecessors; I am referring to the late Comrade Peter Mueshihange, Comrade Philemon Malima Comrade Erkki Nghimtina, also including Comrade Major General Charles Namoloh and Right honourable Nahas Angula, is sustained accelerated so that Namibia maintains a dependable Defence Force.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, let me also join other Honourable Members of this august House who had spoken before me by extending my appreciation and thanks to Honourable Calle Schlettwein and his team for presenting a well-balanced Pro-poor Budget to this august House and in particular the Budget allocation to the Ministry of Defence.

My Deputy Minister, Honourable Billy Mwaningange and I, are very

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happy and proud to have found a strong foundation having been laid by the previous Defence Ministers of our Republic. We will do our best not to disappoint the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr. Hage Geingob, our predecessors and the Namibian Nation at large. As Veterans of the Liberation Struggle of Namibia, both of us have always had the defence interests of Namibia at heart and we are glad to be back home at the Security Sector, especially at the Ministry of Defence.

We are joining a highly competent and welcoming team at the Ministry of Defence and the Namibian Defence Force, led by Mr. Petrus Shivute, the Permanent Secretary and by Lieutenant General John Mutwa, the Chief of the Defence Force.

Comrade Speaker, with this Defence team, we can assure the Namibian Government and its people that the defence of the country, its people and national interests are safe. Our approach will be based on the principles of teamwork, sustainability and the improvement of the existing Defence Systems and structures.

We take cognisance that most of the paperwork, in terms of Policies and Regulations for both the Ministry and the Namibian Defence Force have been put in place. Our effort will only be to make sure that such Policies and Regulations are put into effect to bring about the desired level of efficiency and effectiveness in the administration and the management of the Ministry of Defence and the Namibian Defence Force.

For us to succeed, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we will need the support of every Namibian who takes the defence of our Motherland seriously. We will need the support of the Honourable Members, the Government and the Private Sector to continue making sure that Namibia is a safe place to live in and do business.

Of paramount importance is the understanding and appreciation that modern defence forces the world over are expensive to run. Therefore, the Namibian Defence Force will continue to require a significant amount of national funding in order to enable it to continue to procure the necessary

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Defence Assets and to carry out Military Research and Development for the equipment and maintenance of a satisfactory defence posture, including the training of our members.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as we join the Defence Team, we count on your support and cooperation for the improvement of the defence capabilities of our Defence Force and to continue looking after the welfare of the members of the Namibian Defence Force.

Having mention this, Comrade Speaker, Honourable Members, I proudly thank you very much for your kind attention.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much indeed. I now call upon Honourable Muharukua.

HON MUHARUKUA: There is a Point of Order.

HON SPEAKER: Are you speaking on the Point of Order?

HON !NAWASES TAEYELE: Honourable Speaker, I just want to interrupt (*intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Please wait for the light. Yes?

HON !NAWASES TAEYELE: I am sorry to interrupt the process but I

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just want to draw the attention of the Honourable Speaker to the fact that DTA does not have time allocated for today to speak. If we could request the indulgence of the Honourable Speaker to proceed and give the remaining time to the Ruling Party because it is the only Party that has time left for today. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Wait, I think there is an error. I think you are down for tomorrow.

HON MUHARUKUA: It is not going to be long.

HON SPEAKER: Okay, you continue to finish if it is not a long intervention. We will deduct the time tomorrow please.

HON MUHARUKUA: Honourable Speaker, the SWAPO Party has 40 Minutes (*interjections*)

HON SPEAKER: Let us make progress because we do not have much time, please.

HON MUHARUKUA: Am I protected Honourable Speaker? Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of the National Assembly my name is Vipuakuje Muharukua and I rise to deliver my Maiden Speech and I shall confine myself to such.

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I rose actually say something simple - *Thank You!*. I thank all the Namibian people who ensured that today we can partake in this democratic process. Our people showed love for our Motherland and commitment towards our democracy by queuing for long hours into the night and morning of the 28th and 29th of November 2014, respectively. It is evident from this that our people want us to maturely steer our young democracy in the right direction.

I shall also not fail to thank those heroes and heroines whose blood, sweat and tears waters our freedom. For sure, they have paved the way for me to stand here today. Their brevity created us, Modern Namibians. Modern Namibians should, therefore, be people who are irredeemably linked by a set of values and practices that make us recognisable as being members of one united Namibian body of people who share a Namibian identity; an identity that should transcend our regional geography, political and tribal or other boundaries.

The Capital price paid by the likes Kakurukaze Mungunda, should not only unite us, but should also remind us that NEVER AGAIN should our people be deprived of what rightfully belongs to them; and that NEVER AGAIN shall our people be landless. The commitment gives me the confidence to say that we must be relentless in ensuring that no other Nation reigns supreme over Namibian affairs, and that our people shall never seek, nor continue to seek, political or economic refugee from any other Nation.

The Namibians lived up to their end of the bargain, standing brave in the face of death since before 1904 and voicing their opinions at the ballot boxes last November. The onus is now on the members of this august House to be brave as we deliberate in these Chambers to deliver solutions to the modern socioeconomic problems facing Modern Namibians. We must collectively strive to deliver to the people a modern and open economy inspired by our respective well-crafted policies, imagination and vision.

It is my firm view that we must reconcile aspirations and compassion to create an economy where economic efficiency and social justice are not

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opposites, but partners in progress. To do this our education institutions must create some of the best business brains in the business world and our products must set the world business trends. Not only that, our social policies must offer our people the quality of life admirable to Africa, and the world at large; a quality of life that is worthy of Modern Namibians living in a country as naturally gifted as Namibia.

Hence, our duty to the Namibian people obliges us: to stand firm for social justice; to be fair in all our choices and decisions; to recognise all citizens to be equal and view no groups or individuals as superior or inferior to others. We must aid those who are not able to aid themselves; the race cannot only be for the swift and survival of the strong. This brevity cannot only be evident in the declaration of our values, but the public must see it expressed in our raw courage to act upon those values and convictions.

The public will become weary of us if we do not collectively put an end to the perceptions that: Opposition Parties will always oppose purely for the sake of distinguishing themselves from Government; and that the ruling party will always flex its muscle even in the face of reason. We are, therefore, called upon to be genuine in our differences and cannot allow our ways of thinking to be clouded by the trapping of old elegancies and distrust.

The public will increasingly test our political and economic imagination, as we push through our respective Parties' socio-economic policies. The people will judge whether or not we are going to use the opportunity we have to define and drive our politics with progressive ideas in their favour. It is my sincere wish that we will all apply real political will to solve the challenges that face our people and that we will harness our skills to represent our Namibian brothers and sisters effectively and efficiently. AFTER ALL WE ARE OUR BROTHERS' KEEPERS. Thank you (*applause*).

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We are moving. May I call

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upon Honourable Ithete the Deputy Minister of Finance please? You can take out the card and then put it back in.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: New comers (*laughter*). Honourable Speaker, thank you very much for granting me this opportunity to address this august House for the very first time, since becoming a Member and in my distinct capacity as Deputy Minister of Finance.

Honourable Members, today, I rise in this Honourable House for the first time as a humble yet proud Namibian Servant, and at the outset, I wish to place it on record and herewith extend my appreciation and gratitude to the people of Namibia for their trust in the SWAPO Party Government and in turn the SWAPO Party Government's trust in me.

I further wish to put it on record that I will always honour and cherish this trust bestowed upon me.

It is therefore, with a sense of humility that I wish to point out that Namibians have in me:

- Someone, who would listen and fight for them;
- Someone, who would defend values, traditions and uphold the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia,

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, allow me at this juncture to thank His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of our Republic, for the trust and confidence he has bestowed on me to be the second in command of the custodianship of our Public Finances.

I wish to rightly acknowledge our Founding Father, Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, for steering the ship that made it possible for all of us to be

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seated peacefully here today.

In the same vein, I also wish to extend my appreciation to former President Hifikepunye Pohamba, whose contributions to take our country to greater heights were vividly noticed, thus earning him the prestigious Mo Ibrahim prize.

Honourable Speaker, let me seize this opportunity to publicly congratulate you on your well-deserved elections as Speaker of the National Assembly. I also congratulate Honourable Loide Kasingo, as Deputy Speaker of this House.

I am pleased to inform this august House that my Minister, Comrade and Honourable Calle Schlettwein, has warmly embraced me at the Ministry of Finance, and I now in turn publicly pledge to assist and work closely with Comrade Schleittwein (*laughter*), as indicated to him in persona. In so doing I look forward to deliver services to the best of my ability.

Honourable Members, while 2015 marks the Silver Jubilee of Namibia's achievement of freedom and democracy; this month of April marks the celebration of the Nation's young people and their contribution to that democracy and freedom.

The *National Youth Council Act* of 2009, sets 27th of April of each year as National Youth Day and the week following that as National Youth Week. It is these themes of National Unity, Unity of action and the role of our youth in the project of building a prosperous Namibia; I wish to speak to the subject of my Maiden Speech, Honourable Speaker.

This moment, leading up to National Youth Day, in this year, the 25th Anniversary of our Independence must lead us to reflect on the status, opportunities, hopes and challenges faced by our Nation's young people. Namibia is at the start of a new era, one of high economic growth, accelerated social development and equally as important is the new found thrust towards better social unity. We are all bound together by the knowledge that our destiny as a nation is one and that our people are indivisible.

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In fact, it would be prudent to invoke the struggle slogan united we stand, divided we fall to drive home the fact that Namibia belongs to all who live in it. Namibia, in order to achieve our national goals of rapid economic expansion, social unity and income equality, needs all Namibians to work together.

Prosperity, Hon (*sic*) Speaker,

HON MEMBER: What is Hon? Read the whole word.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, sorry (*laughter*).

Prosperity, Honourable Members, for our youth is a society in which there are equal opportunities, despite their social, economic, gender and other social attribute. It is a future in which all young Namibians can claim a stake in, one in which the economic horizon is ever increasing, for me it is one in which young Namibians are able to attain an education allowing them to be competitive, at home and elsewhere adding value to the development of our country and our continent.

Equally so, I appeal to the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service to ensure a speedy review of Namibia Youth Policy and for the urgent development of a National Youth Development Strategy in line with the SWAPO Party Manifesto of 2014.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I do not wish to dwell on policy, budget and related concomitant matters, which have been dealt with fully by my Minister in his Budget Statement, a few days ago.

Nevertheless, I am of the view that our Nation Building processes remain incomplete and require all of us to continue to instil a sense of obligation

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and patriotism to the republic in our young people.

Many of our youth continue to display worrying tendencies of despondency and anti-social behaviour, despite the serious and credible gains we have made in our nations development.

Since Independence, our country's economy has increased 15 times from N\$8.3 billion to N\$126.6 billion by 2013, with income per capita having increased more than 10 times, from N\$5,5 billion? to N\$58,3 billion, thus propelling Namibia into the league of upper middle-income economies by global comparison. This is an exceptional economic performance by any standard or measure. The SWAPO Party led Government should be congratulated for this outstanding achievement.

However, despite the high average income levels, poverty and income inequality is still prevalent in our beloved country. Therefore, Namibia is still a country of plenty in the midst of poverty, earning Namibia the unenviable distinction of being one of three most unequal societies in the world. Despite the latter, I appeal to all young Namibians to heed the call of our President Dr Hage Geingob, for us to hold hands to overcome our historical and current burdens.

Honourable Speaker, poverty is a worldwide predicament, no continent nor is any society immune to it. It deprives people of their basic human needs and it hinders community development.

In the long run this leads to the children parading the streets and will more than often resort to crime related activities because they lack the skills and knowledge to get proper employment.

Given the vast income disparities in our country, the Government has been consistently allocating enormous Budget resources toward the Education and the Social Sector in order to push back the frontiers of poverty and vulnerability.

This has been realised mainly through income generation opportunities

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and an extensive Social Safety Net System created through various Government Policies interventions. These concerted policy actions and Programmes of the SWAPO Party led Government have resulted in a gradual decline in poverty and income inequality indicators over time.

I am of the opinion that the notion that - *No Namibian is Left Out*, also implies that all Namibians must join in and support the path our President has chosen to move our Nation forward attaining Vision 2030 and ultimately as a people towards 2060.

Those who seek to defeat the predestined unity and posterity of our people, stand against the tide of history. I, therefore, urge us to abandon our tribal, sexist, racial and class cleavages. Namibia will only move forward if all who live in it play a role towards its advancement.

The revolution of the Namibian people ended on the 21st of March 1990, when His Excellency Dr Sam Nujoma and the SWAPO Party were elected into Government after a long and protracted struggle for, unity, freedom, democracy and equal opportunity.

On this day the inherent dignity of our people was restored, our people could now stand tall amongst the peoples of the world and proclaim themselves as Namibians; free master of our destiny.

In conclusion, it is common cause that prosperous Nations are to be moulded and transformed out of the ashes of the past, using the hopes and aspirations of our people as the foundation from which to forge a new future. As Leaders it is imperative that we sell hope and not despair to our people, for the African people deserves better. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. I hope you permit me to do justice to the rest of the three Members. Because of the time constraints we have to adjourn and continue tomorrow.

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

I just wanted them to know that the Speaker was willing to have them take the Floor but the Rule does not permit (*laughter*). On that note may I ask the Deputy Prime Minister to adjourn the House?

HON MEMBER: She is not around.

HON SPEAKER: Okay good. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow, the usual time.

In terms of Rule 90(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 17:46 until Wednesday, 15 April 2015.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:46 UNTIL 2015. 04.15 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
15 APRIL 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER Honourable Members, there is no special Announcement from the Speaker.

Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? We move on.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON SECOND
READING - APPROPRIATION BILL [B. 5 – 2015]**

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading - *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 – 2015].

HON SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Tuesday, the 14th of April 2015, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be read the Second Time.

Any further discussions? I obviously have the lists and I will go through them. I will start with those who were left out yesterday for whom I had hoped to avail the opportunity but was unable to do so due to the constraint of time. I now call upon Honourable Erastus Uutoni.

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HON UUTONI**

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

Honourable Members, allow me to join those Honourable Members who spoke before me, to congratulate the Minister of Finance Honourable Calle Schlettwein, his Deputy, Honourable Ithete, the Permanent Secretary and the entire staff of the Ministry of Finance for the job well done in crafting a good Budget. Let me also use this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob for his election as the third President of the Republic of Namibia. In the same vein, let me also thank His Excellency, the President, for appointing me as the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration and for having accorded me the chance to be a custodian of our National Identification Documents.

Honourable Speaker, the reason why I am congratulating the Minister of Finance and his staff is because the Ministry of Finance is really making us Walk Tall and Proud as the Ruling SWAPO Party as well as the Nation at large, including the Opposition Parties in Namibia. I think this is a good Budget, and therefore expect no one to complain about it. It is evident that this Ministry is being managed effectively and efficiently by competent pre and current Ministers as well as their officials over the years since 1990. If one will ask why I am saying that:

Honourable Speaker, if you look at the history of the Government Revenue Outturn and Expenditure Outturn, the two are always presenting a balance despite the Global Financial and Economic crisis for the past six years and the drought situation in the country. I would, therefore, like to applaud our previous Minister of Finance who is currently the sitting Prime Minister, Right-Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for the role she played in the ongoing success of the Ministry of Finance during those economic difficult years. Our revenue outturn for all those years has just been improving and there has been no turning back because of you and the dedicated staff of the Ministry of Finance that are so determined to assure the Namibian people that the financial resources of the country are in good hands. Having realised that the finances are managed well and professionally, the Namibian Nation in return, overwhelmingly supported

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the SWAPO Party by giving it votes that guaranteed 77 seats in the National assembly. Are you not clapping hands, are you not happy that the people supported us (*applause*)

The Ministry of Finance from the start and is until now determined to put measures in place by establishing moderate growth in the Public Expenditures and strengthen revenue modification strategies to achieve a sustainable balance between expenditure and revenue growth.

Honourable Speaker, Comrade Minister, having perused through your Fiscal Strategy Report of 2015/16 to 2017/18 that was presented to us here:

Under 4.4: **Revenue Output**, I quote – *“The Government revenue has grown progressively over the time since the Financial Year 2011/2012, in line with economic growth and tax administration reform measures. Total revenue and Grants increased by 10.3%t in the Financial Year2013/2014 to N\$41.9 billion, from N\$38.0 billion collected in the Financial Year 2012/2013. This outturn represent a 4.4% better turnout than the N\$40.1 billion budgeted for. The revenue outturn for the Financial Year 2014/2015 is estimated at N\$543.9 billion, which would represent a 28.6% increase over the previous year, driven by improved economic growth projected for the Financial Year 2014/2015, better SACU receipts and an increased collection effort, especially collection on outstanding arrears.”* This tells us that this Ministry has developed the Human resource capacity that others can emulate. Congratulations, Honourable Minister of Finance. This apparent that your staff are well-trained to collect such an huge amount.

Today, due to effective budgeting, we have realised the introduction of free Primary Education for all Namibian children as from Grades 1-7. Tomorrow, which is the future, and next year it will be Free Secondary Education and hopefully in years to come, and God willing, it will be Free Tertiary Education as well as further improved Pension payouts for our Elderly in this peaceful and stable Republic of Namibia.

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Comrade Speaker, even with the revenue growth and the moderate Public Expenditure outturn, there are a number of issues, which still need to be improved. One of them is the Auditor-General's Reports that are brought to this House. Once these Reports are tabled and immediately taken to the Committee on the Public Accounts, they remain there even for a whole year. By the time that they are brought back from the Public Accounts Committee, you will find that most of the Members in the House might have already forgotten its content and sometime it even turns out that the officials who knew about the Report details in the affected Ministry happen to change offices of employment for that matter. I, therefore, propose that we find ways to discuss these Reports while they are fresh in the minds of the Members of the House. Again, while waiting for the Reports to be brought back, one realises that the media has gotten hold of the content and already disseminate information in that regard.

The other issue of concern Honourable Members is the lack of budget provision towards the Constituency Development Committees in the Regions. These structures are there without any Budget since the Decentralisation Programme in 1998, and even if they make proposals of good projects in their meetings, they never materialise due to the lack of budget provision in that regard.

Honourable Speaker, my last concern before I conclude, is the question of the Protection Order under the *Domestic Violence Act*. We have learned about citizens losing their lives despite the Protection Orders being served. My understanding is that the Protection Order does not fully solve the problem at hand. The Order is just given to one of the parties as an instruction by the authority - to prohibit one person from getting closer to the other. There is no further assistance to the conflicting partners from the authority figure even with at least some measures such as continuous counselling for the couple. The affected people are just served with Orders and left totally on their own accord without any education or awareness. I propose that money be set aside for the establishment of a unit within a given Magistrate area that will further support these individuals and if the unit cannot be established within the Magistrate area, I propose that this functions be outsourced to our psychology

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graduates from UNAM or other institutions with skills and knowledge to remedy this situation.

Honourable Speaker, with this few word, I support the *Appropriation Bill*.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I call upon Honourable Agnes Tjongarero.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: Honourable Speaker, allow me to extend my congratulations to Fellow Lawmakers for their elections and re-elections and I look forward to their lively contributions to the National Debate.

I also want to congratulate the Minister of Finance, Honourable Calle Schlettwein and his staff, as well as the Minister of Economic Planning and Director-General of the National Planning Commission, Honourable Tom Alweendo and his staff on a job well done in the preparation and tabling of the people centred Economic Budget.

Honourable Speaker I want to congratulate His Excellency, President Hage Geingob and the mighty SWAPO Party for a landslide victory in last year's National and Presidential Elections, which gave the SWAPO Party and overwhelming mandate to govern this country for the next five years. I extend my personal gratitude to His Excellency, the President, for the trust he has put in me for appointing me in the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service.

Honourable Speaker, let me also congratulate you on your election as Speaker of this august House and also your Deputy, Honourable Loide Kasingo for being unanimously elected as Deputy Speaker.

Having said all of the above, I am sure that the Budget will lend itself

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greatly in addressing the critical challenges our country faces such as; unemployment, particularly among the youth. The onus is now on the Members of this august House and all those tasked with a responsibility of implementing the Projects and the Programmes in the Budget.

In his Speech the Minister of Finance said, and I quote – “Making a significant dent in the development challenges requires prompt implementation of targeted intervention measures and increased service delivery.” If we want growth and prosperity to be enjoyed by all Namibians in all parts of our country, then we have to do something about some of the Civil Servants who delay the implementation of any Government Projects and Programmes. We have a serious problem with the implementation of Programmes and Projects in our country.

Honourable Speaker, education remains central to all Government activities. I must also hasten to say, and alert this House that despite the remarkable achievements in the Education Sector, the Hostels remain a big challenge. You will agree with me that most of the Hostels are in a very bad situation. This is mostly true for the Community Hostels and I think it is high time that the Government take over all those Community Hostels.

While still on the issue of education, there is a serious problem with some of the contractors who are awarded tenders to built education facilities, health facilities and most of the other facilities. Not all of them, but some construction work are of a very poor quality. I do not know what the problem is with the Inspectors who sign off these buildings. One gets the impression that the signing off is done in the offices instead of on the site, after proper onsite inspections. It also creates the impression that the inspection at different stages of construction is never done.

Honourable Speaker, another area where we face some problems is decentralisation. We will not get to the point where growth and prosperity can be enjoyed by all Namibians in all parts of our country if we do not decentralise our Programmes and Projects.

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Honourable Speaker, with these few remarks, I support the *Appropriation Bill 2015/2016* and I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, for that brief intervention. Can I now call upon Honourable Sylvia Makgone please?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you honourable Speaker, for granting me the opportunity to make my short intervention.

Let me first congratulate all the Honourable Members of the Sixth Parliament with their assigned portfolios. Secondly, I would like to thank all the Namibian people, who on the 28 November 2014, patiently exercised their constitutional and democratic right to vote, in some instances, through unfavourable conditions that prevailed on that day. It was a sign of commitment, patriotism and that needs to be applauded.

The majority of the people chose to give their precious votes to His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, the SWAPO Presidential candidate by then, and the SWAPO Party to form the current Government of which I am thankful to be part of, and I am humbled by that. Through the election, the people have spoken and it was rightly so accepted by all, it is a sign that our democracy is maturing.

His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, during his Independence Speech stated that the overwhelming mandate given to the SWAPO Party and to him is clear indication of the confidence of the citizens and that, it is also an indication of the Namibians' high expectations. Thus, the new Government and the Sixth Parliament, recognises and can feel through the energy flow experienced, the magnitude of the responsibility and accountability placed on each of these institutions.

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The Leadership of SWAPO, and especially the President of the Party, Former President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Pohamba, last year took a bold step to make women representation a SWAPO Party constitutional issue (*applause*). As women we are thankful for that, I am not excluding the trail blazers, some who are still part of this august House, the likes of, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of International Relation and Cooperation, Honourable Nandi-Ndaitwah, and Minister of Home Affairs, Honourable Ithana and all the others. Although we did not meet the 50% target of the SADC Gender Protocol, the fruits of such a decision can be seen today, as our Parliament is filled with these beautiful "*flowers*."

As women here in Parliament, we are not equal to our total number here, or equal to a percentage, we are not going to boast with our 40+% representation.

For interest sake, the IPU world classification of women in National Parliaments, place Namibia 11th out of 190 countries, according to the information provided to them as on 1st of February 2015, which is not the right information. With our current numbers, we are the 5th out of 120 African countries, Rwanda is at the 1st place with 63,8%, Seychelles at the 4th place, and Namibia at the fifth place. This is an achievement, but as I said, we are not equal to our social numbers, we are more than numbers. We are here for decision making about people's lives, we bring different backgrounds, we bring different experiences and we bring different perspectives, being here is to exercise democracy, with the legitimacy derived from those who are affected.

As women our presence in Parliament is a reality and should make an impact on the social, political and economic fabric of the Nation. If the two Constituencies of women and youth are excluded from decision making, than our goals as a Nation will not be fully realised. Poverty in Namibia is so evident because women and the youth who form the majority of the population are the ones affected. I am convinced that when poverty will be tackled from these two groups, we will make much impact in a shorter timeframe.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the latest statistics of the Namibian Labour Force Survey 2014, that was released 3 weeks ago indicates that the Namibian population stands at 2,247,124 of which 1,095,005 are male while 1,156,119 (51%) are female. Unemployed female youth are 44.6% while male are 33, 8%.

Having that in mind, Honourable Members, we are all aware that NDP4 has identified specific Sectors with the potential for growth and job creation, namely: Tourism, Manufacturing, Transport and Agriculture, and the Budget presented also reflects that. The expenditure priorities and interventions as given in the Budget over the MTEF shows, and I want you to listen to this:

- N\$4.93 billion over the MTEF for the Energy Sector;
- N\$ 3.27 billion over the MTEF for the Roads Projects;
- N\$ 945.84 million for Railway Projects; and
- N\$ 7.75 billion is allocated to the Agricultural Sector.

I did not take into account the funds to be raised by the Sectors themselves, this is good, because we have seen the impact of these interventions to the economy for the past 2 to 3 years.

My curiosity was to match these allocations, which is mostly construction, with the poverty face, which according to me is reflected in women and the youth of this country.

Honourable Speaker, I just took three Industries from the Namibia Labour Force Survey 2014 Report to do my comparison. The Report shows the following, employed persons by industry and by sex in 2014:

1. Manufacturing

Female	8,990	2, 6%
Male	19, 716	5, 3%

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2. Transport and Storage

Female	2,790	0, 8%
Male	23,776	6, 4%

I am only taking the Sectors that were identified through the MTEF as potential for growth and job creation

3. Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

Female	104,156	30, 4%
Male	105,750	28, 6%

I think the Fishing Sector is the one that is making up for that percentage of women because they are in the factories. When we look at these statistics with the MTEF we would say something should be done even after the Budget has been approved. Those Sectors are dominated by male and if it goes like that, the poverty face of Namibia will not be improved.

The survey showed that more females than males are employed as unpaid family workers whether in subsistence farming or other activities.

I wanted to look at the wages, however it was mentioned in the Report that it is difficult to collect data on wages and salaries from a survey, but it was indicated that at national level the average wage per month is higher for males than females.

I acknowledge what the Ministry of Finance is doing and they need to be applauded for the initiative of gender sensitive budgeting that was introduced, but more still need to be done during the implementation. In general, Honourable Speaker, the Budget was hailed from all corners as a reasonable Budget: the allocations to Developmental Projects, the increment of the Old Age Pension, tax reduction and the public financial management reforms, were all positively received. I, therefore congratulate the Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister and the entire staff.

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“No Namibian must feel left out.” I support the *Appropriation Bill*. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. May I now call upon Honourable Nghipondoka. In her absence, I will call upon Honourable Katrina Hanse-Himarwa please, the Minister of Education.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. I rise in this House today with inspiration from my Creator and through the inspirational work, which I quote Honourable Speaker that – *“I am able in all things through Christ who gives me the strength.”*

Allow me to express my sincere thanks to the SWAPO Party and as well as the entire membership and fellow Namibians for their trust and confidence that has paved my way into this august House. My thanks also go to the former President, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba who has recognise my abilities and potential early in the morning, His Excellency Hage Geingob who has made it possible for me to be here today.

I am happy that I have joined my fellow Namibians in this House because it is through the humble talks and contribution in this House that the lives of our fellow Namibians are improved. Comrade Speaker and Deputy Speaker, I sincerely wish to extend my felicitations facilitations to you on your respective election to your Honourable positions.

Honourable Speaker, on behalf of my Ministry, as you are aware of, I have been given the Portfolio of Education, Arts and Culture - this is indeed, a very important and central Portfolio in our Government. It is also one of the biggest and most challenging Portfolios, not only in managing it, but also in share numbers of both staff and learners. It is the biggest Portfolio representing well over 800,000 learners with over 38,000

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staff complements. It is challenging and yet rewarding in that it focuses on shaping our human resources capacity for both the present and the future.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to start by acknowledging Article 45 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia by which the Members of this august House are called to serve as representatives of all the people and it is required in the performance of their duties, to be guided by the objectives of the Constitution and the Laws of Namibia, and to advance the objectives of Namibia's independence. Hence, I am delighted to form part of this Honourable House and trust to build on the expertise and experience of the long serving Members.

I would like to appreciate all my predecessors who have laid a good educational foundation for our Nation under very challenging and difficult circumstances. Building a new education system on the backdrop of Bantu Education was not that easy, nor without its challenges and controversies. However, we were able to overcome and today have a solid foundation upon which we can continue to consolidate and improve on. As you all know, education is a mirror reflection of society. As we grow, develop and consolidate, so does our education system. I am, therefore, humbled to take over such a system and together with my Deputy, our staff and society at large, I am confident to state that we will continue to improve and achieve better results year in; year out (*applause*).

Honourable Speaker, in his Opening Speech of the "First Cabinet Meeting", His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia stated, and I quote: *"The second phase of the struggle is well and truly underway. We need to make haste and fire the first salvo, in unison, in the spirit of harambee."* He further went on and said that he has declared all-out war on poverty, making it a priority to remove our most vulnerable citizens from the cruel grip of hunger, homelessness and squalor.

Namibia is a signatory to major agreements that shape the Global Development Policy Agenda; notably the 2000 Millennium Declarations which commits countries to cut the 1990 incidence of income poverty by

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half and a range of other social development objectives. The reduction of poverty and inequalities remains an overarching priority for the Republic of Namibia. Vision 2030, finds that in the current situation: Inequality and poverty endangers social harmony, peace and democracy and sets its long-term objectives, namely that poverty is reduced to the minimum, the existing pattern of income-distribution is equitable and disparity is at the minimum.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, I am under no illusion to think that the mandate before me can be achieved overnight, because I know that education is a journey and definitely not a destination. However, I know that with the support this august House and the entire Namibian people, with vigour and determination, we can achieve the impossible, we can move mountains. May I remind all of us that before us is a Namibian child whose future we collectively hold in our hands. It is, therefore, imperative that we all own to our national responsibilities and to a brighter future for our children and this great Nation.

Honourable Speaker, while the principle of sustainable development is the cornerstone on which strategies for the realisation of the objectives of Vision 2030 is based, the driving force amongst others, for our development is education, science and technology. The efforts required in inculcating and realising the objectives of the Namibian education system is not the sole responsibility of Government, and that we have realised very early already. The business community is, therefore, required to make increasing contributions to the Education and Training Sector, since they are the major recipient of our products. In addition, the Business Sector will be required to make realistic inputs into development plan formulation at national and regional levels, as well as to make contribution to the implementation of such plans. Vision 2030 is expected to reduce inequalities and move the Nation significantly up the scale of human development. There should thus, be a pervasive atmosphere of tolerance in matters relating to culture, religious practices, political preferences, ethnic affiliation and differences in social backgrounds.

Honourable Speaker, in the context of the above, I am confident to state

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that the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture is committed to improve quality at all levels in education and to address the mismatch in demand for and supply of skills. The Ministry is actively engaged with the review of the primary and secondary education curriculum; the development of the new curriculum material; teacher training; and acquiring of textbooks as important activities. This is all towards the attainment of improved learning standards and curriculum development, and ultimately, to enhance the quality in education. I would like to highlight specific interventions and achievements recorded by the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture during the preceding period, which, *inter alia* included the following:

1. Division, Programmes and Quality Assurance (PQA) carried out training of all Principals, Heads of Departments and Teachers in view of the preparations for the implementation of the new curriculum;
2. The Inclusive Education Policy was launched;
3. The instructional leadership for Principals has commenced;
4. In terms of Global targets on Education for All and Millennium Development Goals, the Namibian Education System is reported to be on track, especially with net enrolment, adult literacy, gender parity and will reach most of the targets by the end of 2015;
5. The policy on the implementation of free secondary education was approved by Cabinet and is earmarked to kick-start during the 2016 academic year.

Honourable Speaker, despite the achievements highlighted above, significant number of challenges still remained of which amongst others some were noted as follows:

- 1) Shortage of classrooms and hostel facilities;
- 2) Underperforming Teachers and Principals;

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3. Lack of parental involvement contributing to low performance and discipline;
4. High dropout rates in some Regions due to socio-economic and cultural factors;
5. Accommodation of Teachers in rural areas etcetera.

Based on the challenges noted; Honourable Speaker, as an effort to support 2030; the following priorities will enjoy the objectives of Vision preference from my Office:

1. Urgent Amendment and review of the *Education Act*, 2001 (Act 16 of 2001);
2. Urgent implementation of all Cabinet directives which emanated from the National Conference on Education;
3. The implementation of Ministerial Regulations that all current school building projects must include toilet/sanitation facilities and Teachers housing;
4. The implementation and periodic assessment of the Ministerial 2012 to 2017 Strategic; Plan;
5. Provisioning of more in-service teacher education and more teaching and learner materials for mathematics, science and technology subjects;
6. The setting of minimum standards for all Namibian schools; the classification of all schools in terms of the set standards and the subsequent development of strategies to upgrade those schools that are below the required minimum standard;
7. Provisioning of leadership within and outside Education Sector for the effective implementation of Learner Pregnancy Policy with emphasis

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on preventing learner pregnancies;

8. Putting up measures to effectively engaged parents, community and stakeholders in education as the collective responsibility of all;
9. Expansion of preschool classes and Early Childhood Developmer and last, but of least;
10. Improved accountability of education leaders, including performance agreements as well as the training of school Principals in management.

Honourable Speaker, I am conscious that it will not be easy to achieve all of the set priorities in a short period and, therefore, will rely on the collective contributions of all stakeholders. I note with appreciation that as a Ministry we have greatly benefit from our association with other sub-regional, continental and international interventions. We will continue to bring these experiences on our activities as we seek to strengthen our education system. We remain committed to play our part in ensuring that we contribute to SADC activities in the implementation of SADC Protocol on Education and Training.

Our voices will continue to be heard in the *think tank* of Africa through our participation in the activities of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) and other structures of the African Union, such as the meetings of Ministers of Education, Science and Technology. We commit and re-dedicate ourselves to contribute towards the realisation of Agenda 2063. UNESCO and UN Agencies involved in education are very dear to us because they play a critical role in acting as a mirror of the education system given their vast international experiences.

Honourable Speaker, I indicated that my Portfolio has three legs; Education, Arts and Culture, and I want to assure this august House that I intend to pay equal attention to all these components. A Nation t:hat does not cherish and celebrate its past is a lost Nation. We as Namibians have a rich, diverse and most exciting cultural heritage that we need to jealously guard, preserve and protect at all costs. Our rock paintings popularly

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known as the **White Lady** and many others artefacts depicts who we are today and provides a critical link to our ancestors. As I indicated, during the Official Opening of the National Conference on Cultural Heritage and Creative Art on Monday this week, I see Art and Culture as a source of mediation during the times of conflict and uncertainty. I also see it as medium we can use for dialogue, create understanding and tolerance. Building on these benefits, I intend to create a unified cultural identity that is truly Namibian, and that is not only my intention but also an instruction from His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia that we would be moving towards a Namibian Dance, moving towards Namibian Food, moving towards Namibian attire instead of focusing on our traditional, tribal corners where we are practising our food, attire and dances - a cultural identity that will showcase the beauty of our country in all its diversity in one place. It is time we fully explore our creative talents at home before looking outwards. It is time Namibian begins to bring the world to Namibia in order to fully explore and exploit talent, both young and old for the betterment of tomorrow.

Honourable Speaker, our literacy rate has been improving over the past years, particularly among the female folks. We are, however, worried and will do everything possible to ensure that we understand the reasons why our male folks are reluctant in joining our literacy classes. We will continue to improve the delivery of such Programmes to ensure that no Namibian is left behind.

Having said the above, Honourable Members, please allow me to provide a few remarks on the new Budget and Fiscal Strategy as follows:

The systematically scale-up expenditure allocation to the priority Sectors identified in NDP4 is a much welcomed initiative. (*Intervention*)

HON SPEAKER: Can I appeal to the Honourable Member, we are a little bit squeezed, not only of time but the actual minutes available please.

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HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: I am completing.

1. The systematically scale-up expenditure allocation to the priority Sectors identified in NDP4 is a much welcomed initiative. The budget allocation of N\$11.32 billion in the Budget year to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture will reposition Namibia to address inherited deficiencies in the education system from the colonial era with the primary aim to improve learning standard, and curriculum development, and ultimately, to enhance the quality education.
2. Investment in peace, public safety, security and the Rule of Law remains key to our national development. Hence the total allocation made over the MTEF period is a demonstration of commitment to the Republic of Namibia to place *the welfare of the Namibian people* as its ultimate goal. I would, however reiterate the importance of training Police Officers in social studies. This would enable Police Officers to understand the social context in which their duties ought to be performed. This will strengthen the relationship between Police Officers and the community and subsequently reduce the crime rate with the support of the community. In addition, I would urge that the expansion of ICT innovation in safety and security be explored. With ICT innovation, evidence-based tools and equipment can be introduced that could be considered as admissible in the Court of Law and could ease our efforts to bring justice in criminal proceedings.
3. The Government initiatives for the expansion of tertiary education through a formula based funding and enhanced financial assistance to students is a much welcomed intervention. This initiative will address the mismatch in demand for and supply of skills and would eventually lead towards a productive workforce.

Honourable Speaker, despite commendable initiatives as highlighted above, I would strongly recommend that we reconsider the budget discussion process so that funds are available at the beginning of the

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Financial Year in April. It is advisable that required mechanisms be developed by the Ministry of Finance to ensure that all monies appropriated for in a relevant Fiscal Period be accessible, effective from April of the relevant period.

In conclusion, I would like to agree with the Statement made by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia and I quote – *“We have the right mix of age, experience, wisdom and energy. If we are prepared to trust one another, confide in one another, mentor one another and support one another, then I am sure that in future, we will look upon this moment as a moment in which we began sketching out the blueprint for prosperity.”* I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Can I call upon Honourable Smit? Yes, you have the Floor please.

HON SMIT: Honourable Speaker, I rise today to make my Maiden Contribution as a Member of this august House.

Honourable Speaker, first of all, I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to you on your election as the Speaker of this House and also to Honourable Loide Kasingo as the Deputy Speaker of this august House.

I wish to congratulate the Ruling Party, SWAPO, for their election victory in 2014 (*applause*) and would also like to congratulate SWAPO's Presidential Candidate, His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia (*applause*)

From the outset I wish to state that it is an honour and a privilege for me to have been elected as a Member of Parliament, and I shall endeavour to serve the Namibian Nation with distinction.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, by design our country's electoral system creates a dual accountability. Those elected to political positions are accountable to the Party they represent by virtue of them being on its Party List. However, as elected representatives we are also accountable to those who voted for our Parties, for it is through their votes that we have secured seats in this August House. But as elected representatives we have taken an oath to protect the Constitution of this country and serve and advance the interests of all Namibians, and, therefore, it is imperative that we balance this dual accountability in our effort to effectively discharge the mandate placed upon us.

In our pursuit of a common identity we must with similar vigour and conviction do away with the tendency to identify primarily with a specific tribe. Where the ethnic/cultural and racial identity supersedes the national identity, it goes without saying that the individual goals and objectives of cultural, racial and ethnic groupings supersede a collective national goal or objective. We must make the Nation our main sources of identity .

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is my candid conviction that at Independence at 1990 some people, both locally and globally, gave the Namibian Government under the leadership of SWAPO very little chance to lead and develop this country and this Nation. I wish to state honestly that one can be proud of what the Namibian Government has achieved over the past 25 years (*applause*) - of course, with the cooperation of the Opposition Parties in Parliament.

Honourable Speaker, all Namibians should be proud of the freedom, stability and economic growth that we have enjoyed since Independence. Nevertheless, one often hears people, alarmingly say that things were better under Apartheid than it is at the moment. I want it to be clear that such thinking is highly irrational, unjustifiable and quite frankly it is inconceivable to me how anything in this country can be seen as being better than during the Apartheid System. Such sentiments are counter revolutionary.

Honourable Speaker, a sentiment I wish to share relates to Namibia's

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Policy of National Reconciliation, which I believe to be amongst the most successful of such policies executed and implemented throughout the world. Furthermore, I wish to commend the foresight, vision and spirit of those who wrote the Constitution of Namibia that underlined the decision to embark on such a process. However, such process is seldom, if ever, perfect as it deals with a very complex and dynamic set of factors.

Honourable Speaker, it is encouraging that our recent Silver Jubilee Independence celebrations were celebrated as a national event. In the past such events have been used for party political purposes, and it is my sincere hope that we have turned a page in this regard. This is essential if we are to develop a common Namibian identity and a shared sense of nationhood.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I now want to turn to the *Appropriation Bill*.

GDP or as it is known as the Gross Domestic Product is the fundamental metrical tool from which all other calculations, ratios, projections and estimates are derived. As such, it is critically important to follow a standardised framework to come to a meaningful current and future view of expected growth.

Organic Growth is where an economy follows a growth trajectory that corroborates closely with the natural population growth curve. Has the Namibian economy not been stimulated artificially, nominal growth rates would have ranged between 5% and 6%.

After the economy contracted by 1.2% in 2009, the Ministry of Finance adopted a so-called counter-cyclical budget approach. In practice this means the Government took an intentional decision to expand or stimulate the economy artificially by identifying four key Sectors namely:

1. By substantially increasing the Government debt stock mostly through issuances in the domestic capital market (about 90%);

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2. By accelerating Government employee incomes or operational expenditure;
3. By designing a Private Public Partnership framework, and
4. By implementing a Targeted Infrastructure Development Programme.

Commensurate with the introduction of this expansive phase was a marked expansion in Private Sector Credit Extension (PSCE). This metric is divided into credit to the Commercial Sector and credit to private households. The explosion in this last category is what prompted the Bank of Namibia to engage a rising interest rate cycle to curb the growth in household indebtedness. The latest available figure, this only from February 2013 put household indebtedness at 89%. Since that time the Bank of Namibia has stopped publishing this statistic instead only referring to household debt levels without stating exactly what the level is. It can be assumed that this statistic has passed the 90% mark, hence the reason for the silence since February 2013. The growth in household debt is the major reason for the two consecutive 25 basis point increases in the repurchase rate.

Honourable Speaker, the Private Sector Credit Extension (PSCE) closely reflects broader economic growth. This means there is a direct link between the growth in credit and the growth of the overall or national economy expressed as Gross Domestic Product (GDP). If Namibia is viewed as an incorporated entity, in other words like a company, then it is obvious why credit growth translates to GDP growth. Statistically, during the five years from 2010 to 2014 credit grew typically about 14% monthly compared to the same month a year ago. Credit growth continued to accelerate until it exceeded 19% monthly year on year during the first half of 2014. This is clearly when the authorities started to become concerned over credit growth.

During the years which Private Sector Credit Extension (PSCE) grew at

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more than 14% monthly year on year, nominal GDP growth recorded 15.92% in 2012/2013, 13.73% in 2013/2014, and 11.43% in 2014/2015. In last year's Budget, this was used as a benchmark to project GDP growth for 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 increasing every year by about 12%. From this short historic overview it can be seen that 15% nominal annual growth was employed as a broad benchmark on which to model GDP growth. The median annual nominal GDP growth from 2011 to 2014 was always around 15% - a little bit lower or a little bit higher.

The 2014/2015 GDP growth rate is estimated at 14.06%. This is still an estimate although the Financial Year has come to its conclusion since the final data across all the Ministries and Departments, across all the Regions are only consolidated from March to August every year. Once all the data has been collected and incorporated into the national economic model then a final growth rate will be published in the National Accounts, usually released around September. But by that point it is mostly of academic value since more than 18 months has elapsed since the actual reporting period started.

HON MEMBER: We do not understand what you are saying.

HON SMIT: Honuorable Speaker, the most noticeable feature of the 2015/2016 to 2017/2018 Medium Term Expenditure Framework is that the GDP projections are no longer based on an assumed 15% nominal growth. Instead, GDP is expected to grow by 10% during 2015, 9.1% during 2016 and 10.14% during 2017.

Since the GDP projections are the foundation of the budgetary process it demonstrates that the Government is planning for, and expecting a three-year period to normalise Government expenditure, to reduce the amount of stimulation and to ensure that the national debt stock does not exceed 35% of GDP.

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To sum up, the published GDP projections clearly indicate that Namibia has moved from a growth regime of about 15% annual nominal growth to about 10% annual nominal growth. This is a 33% slowing in the tempo of growth and its effect on revenue growth and expenditure growth must be tracked closely. There will most definitely be a noticeable effect. This is also corroborated by both revenue and expenditure projections. In this context, 2015 can be seen as a watershed year from a Budget perspective. All the available data for economic performance to date still reflect highly elevated components but going forward and all projections as published have been brought in line with the 10% nominal growth regime except for the growth in debt.

Honourable Speaker, the revenue data for the just-completed 2014/2015 Fiscal Year show an estimated growth of 24.6%. Following the marked deceleration in projected growth, this will moderate to 11.38%, 7.97% and 9.72% respectively for 2015/2016, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.

It has been a feature of fiscal revenue since the 2010/2011 Budget that tax collection has always exceeded projected income, in some years by as much as 5%. 2014/2015 was no exception.

Historically, revenue income was split into three major components namely:

- Tax on income and profits, about one third;
- Tax from consumption – VAT, about one third; and
- Tax on international trade, that is, SACU transfers, also about one third.

All the other revenues together account for less than 7% of Government income.

From this, one can see that personal income and company profits have been, and remain a very important component of revenue.

Similarly, VAT receipts will continue to remain an important tax contributor.

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Honourable Speaker, the risk to revenue lies with SACU transfers, and that is serious. The potential negative impact from this source must not be underestimated. It has been on the agenda since 2003 when Namibia first adopted the IMF budgetary model, and it will probably remain on the radar since South Africa contributes about 90% of the SACU revenue. However, it is not ignored by the Minister, Honourable Schlettwein and his team and there are many references in his Budget Statement to the outcome of the next round of negotiations to determine the Revenue Sharing Formula. Yet, it is disconcerting that during the MTEF, Namibia will remain highly dependent on this source and although a substantial increase is not budgeted the revenue model assumes that SACU transfers will remain about N\$17 billion per year. Then N\$17.12 billion, N\$16.6 billion, and lastly N\$16.87 billion over the three-year MTEF period.

The budgeted SACU revenue as published, obviously does not make provision for a reduction in revenue but assumes a static model where SACU transfers will remain on the same nominal level, thus decreasing as a percentage of overall revenue. This anticipated outcome remains to be seen.

Honourable Speaker, the data on expenditure reflects most clearly the end of the expansionary phase. Whereas total expenditure still grew by 27,2% from 2013 to 2014, the MTEF projections indicate that expenditure growth will slow dramatically to the 5% growth level. Expenditure for the current Fiscal Year 2015/2016, will only expand by 5.05%. For 2016/2017 by 5.43% and for 2017/2018 by a mere **0.26%**. I think this last figure is incorrect as published, since I cannot foresee expenditure growth of only 0.26% in 2017. Nevertheless, the point is only of academic interest since it is two years into the future and I assume it will be corrected in subsequent Budgets.

There is not much else to say about expenditure except that the published figure indicates a marked rationalisation of Government expenses. Neither the Minister's Statement nor the Fiscal Strategy document is clear on how this is to be achieved, although there are many references in the latter document that fiscal consolidation will be applied following five

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years of aggressive fiscal expansion.

It must also be remembered that the Government has a history of underinvestment or more correctly of under-utilisation of allocated resources. There is a reference to this by the Minister in his Statement but it is not a new issue. Under-utilisation has been on the agenda for at least five years. It is the so-called execution rate that has improved to 98% from around 92% but the Minister stated that this is mostly due to the almost 100% execution rate on the Operational Budget and that the Development Expenditure usually falls short.

This was also a very disconcerting aspect when said on numerous occasions that under-execution of the Development Budget carries an opportunity cost that reduces the potential growth of the economy at large. The principle is very simple. Development funds that are not invested now as allocated and as envisaged push out the timeline for these investments to starts generating a return on investment.

The execution rate of Development Expenditure is a key aspect to watch as the year progresses as this is where historically surpluses occurred.

Honourable Speaker, the national or sovereign debt has grown more or less in tandem with GDP. For instance, during 2014/2015, the national debt grew by about 16.67% from a nominal value of N\$30.85 billion to N\$35.5 billion. The projected growth in the total national debt is the most disconcerting aspect of the new Budget.

Debt during 2015/2016 is projected to grow a massive 36% from N\$35.5 billion to N\$48.3 billion. It is probably a hangover of the five expansionary years and an attempt to keep the domestic capital market above a certain level.

It is not clear why this massive jump in debt will occur when all other metrics are reduced to the slower growth model. Maybe the Honourable Minister of Finance needs to explain this to us. The biggest increase will be in domestic debt instruments meaning Government Bonds issued on the

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Namibian Stock Exchange. I would have assumed that more provision will be made for US Dollar denominated borrowing to compensate for currency depreciation but there is no reference to this in either the Minister's Statement or the Fiscal Strategy document. The latter does, however, lists currency depreciation as a possible scenario risk that must be planned for. But there is nothing I can find in any of the documentation that merits a 36% growth in the debt stock.

In the subsequent two years 2016/2017 and 2017/2018, the total debt is projected to increase by another 18.22% and 7.42% respectively, also reflecting a slowdown in growth and a consolidation of the fiscal position.

However, the warning lights must go on because the total national debt stock will have more than doubled from 2013 to 2017. It remains to be seen whether the GDP growth will actually occur as envisaged to be able to carry this debt as a percentage of GDP. Total debt as a percentage of GDP is projected to grow from 23.7% to 29.3%, then to 32.9% (2016) and finally to 32.1% (2017). The reliability of these last two projections for 2016 and 2017 is little bit suspect.

It must be pointed out that the so-called debt ceiling was hastily increased in the 2010/2011 Fiscal Year from 30% of GDP to 35%. However, it must also be stated that it never approached 35% since GDP growth always exceeded the expected value as budgeted. In short, overall economic growth exceeded expectations in 2010 during the three-year TIPEEG Programme and last year saving the Ministry from a debt debacle. The Ministry also has a well-founded Sovereign Debt Management Strategy (SDMS) in place, moderated by the Bank of Namibia to execute and to ensure debt serviceability. According to the Fiscal Strategy on Page 10, interest payments are capped at 10% of revenue and Government guarantees also at 10% of GDP. These are key benchmarks for the Sovereign Debt Management Strategy (SDMS).

If total revenue grows only by 11.38% in 2015/2016 while the debt stock explodes by 36%, at some point access to capital markets, both domestic and foreign will be impaired. Once this has happened interest payment

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will balloon and for sure cause serious financial problems.

Honourable Speaker, in conclusion, the key Fiscal Strategy for Namibia over the next three years is to reduce both the nominal and the relative debt level. Again, extravagant interest payments on an exploding debt stock are just as much an opportunity cost as is under-execution. The reason why I say this is because Namibia is a consumer economy and the Government borrows much more every year for current expenses, that is, the Operational Budget, that go to salaries and staff benefits than it borrows for capital investment. At some point, fixed capital formation will begin to suffer.

Honourable Speaker, I am sorry for the boring message but this is my message. I thank you. (*Applause*)

HON SPEAKER: May I now call on Honourable Clara //Gowases please?

Honourable Members, I actually owe you a sincere apology. The reason for that is that we have a number of Members who would like to take the Floor and I know you are all committed to wanting to get this Budget out on time. I am, therefore, availing you the opportunity to have a go at the Budget and get on with the job. We can always individually skip, and have a cup of tea and come back.

With that understanding, I sincerely beg for your support and cooperation to get on with the job. Thank you.

HON //GOWASES: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is a remarkable honour and privilege for me to stand here today as a Member of this august House and I thank the Almighty Father for the opportunity

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to represent, not only the Republican Party supporters but the Namibian people as a whole.

HON MEMBER: Oh yes!

HON //GOWASES: I am truly humbled by the confidence and trust of my President Mr. Henk Mudge, for having nominated me to take his place in Parliament (*applause*)

HON MEMBER: Very good!

HON //GOWASES: And I would like this opportunity to sincerely thank him. I am ready and I know I am able to represent my Party with **pride and dignity**.

It is a distinct honour and privilege to make my humble contribution to the Budget Statement for the Financial Year 2015/2016 presented by Honourable Calle Schletwein, the Minister of Finance.

The overall summary convince me that the Budget is Pro-poor and is trying to uplift the poor out of poverty and confront poverty alleviation to grab the bull by its horns.

I am satisfied that at least 2.7 billion Namibian Dollars will be utilized for poverty issues, as well as the increase of 66.7% of the Old Age Pension, in comparison to the escalation in previous years from N\$600.00 to N\$1,000.00, plus the expected increase to N\$1,200.00 by the year 2018.

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I am equally concerned about the Budget shortfall of N\$8.6 billion against the revenue of N\$58.4 billion. However, N\$67.08 billion was budgeted for this Financial Year while we have an Operational Budget of N\$52.1 billion, while N\$11.1 billion was earmarked for the Development Budget. My sincere gratitude for the revenue collected from SACU to the tune of N\$15 million where outstanding debts remain at N\$ 44 billion. The expansion of our economy by a factor of 15 since 1990, from N\$8.3 billion by 2013, with the corresponding income per capita having increased more than 10 times from N\$5,500 billion to N\$58,300 billion and declare Namibia as the upper-middle income economy by global comparison, does not hold water and the true economic sense of the reality on the ground.

The real equilibrium is that the wealth of this country is in the hands of 20% of the super rich and 80% of the extremely poor. The 20% include the former advantaged and elite and the 80% the former disadvantaged segments of our society. It is here where we must address the practical implications of the horizontal based BEE concept in contrast with BEE, where the economy is in the hands of the selected few BEEs sitting with all the EPLs, fishing quotas, flats in towns, partnership in infrastructure developmental projects. The same faces, same names, butter their bread on both sides.

I have few questions:

1. When will the people at grassroot level share the cake of Independence, and taste the profits of our uranium, gold, fish and copper?
2. When will the local construction companies rake in huge profits and share those profits with workers as shareholders at that company?
3. When will the woman empowerment organisations have part ownership in the companies and distribute dividends at grassroots, in order to initiate projects that will put bread on their tables; far away from bank collaterals bureaucratic rules of exclusion?

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4. When will we incorporate the Laws that will compel foreign companies and mines to at least have 10% of shares for grassroots organisation to ease the burden of Government and SME Banks and development?

I hope that Honourable Bishop Kameeta will take note of my input.

May I quote my current President, His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob in his inaugural address to the Nation - *“We plan to expand and spread the opportunities for growth and prosperity to be enjoyed by all Namibians, in all parts of the country, with specific focus on the disadvantaged sections of our population. We will do so by persuading policies and strategies to safeguard macro-economic stability, promote economic diversification and transformation; Namibian economy to be more inclusive and resilient to internal and external shocks.”* That explains a lot.

In Saudi Arabia the oil belongs to the Saudi Arabians; costs is shared, profits are shared equally. In Namibia, the EPL holder is the owner of the country resources. How do we control our resources? Do we sell it by an EPL of an individual who pockets a few dollars on sales? Will we sell the EPL and buy our own uranium from foreigners if we have nuclear power one day? Who determines the price of EPL?

My Sincere gratitude towards the Budget allocation of N\$11.32 billion to Education and free education at Secondary School level. I hope that one day we will reach the status of Botswana and Libya, where education up to tertiary level is free. 50% of learners in grade 10 and 12 are ending up in the streets. I propose expansion of VTC in all Regions to cater for this grade 10 and 12 dropouts.

We need improvement and quality health service delivery. Cleaning services at hospitals must be outsourced. Cockroaches and rats invade our Hospitals flattery and job creation did not help the attitude of workers and lack of supervision broke down the power of authority checks and control.

I also propose rehabilitation centres for drug and alcohol addicts.

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I further propose a tax free bonus for all Government employees because it is received only one month, once in a year.

On the Financial Sector Law Reform, I propose that we incorporate a Law that will enable us to find ways and mechanisms how to transfer the money that was earmarked for capital projects for that Financial Year, into trust accounts and not back to the Treasury. The current Tender Board is ineffective. Time is wasted, Budget Debates are up to February, March and release of money is done late, projects stand over to the following year.

Now that enough money was budgeted for the safety and Security Sector, my concern about crime must be addressed. I was equally shocked that an American engineer based at Otjiwarongo was brutally gunned down at his house in the early hours of Sunday morning; a couple assaulted and robbed at Uis Village - Newspapers are full of crime and domestic violence. The Minister must find ways and means how these crimes are reduced and eliminated properly.

Car accidents left much to be desired - speeding, overtaking, exhausted truck drivers, driving under the influence of alcohol. We are a small population but with a high accident rate. What must be done?

I want to send a stern warning against those who want to grab land and make this country in-governable. We all need land, land to build, land to farm, land to do business, but there are rules; municipalities should stand up and service land; if land grabbing transpire, let the Police intervene and stop Lawlessness; let us join hands and help Government to develop the country instead of breaking it down.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members the SMSs in the newspapers are voices of the voiceless. It is the platform of peoples Parliament to us so that we can address these issues as Law-makers. Let us take them up seriously and hear their cries.

In conclusion, I wish to state that we have in front of us a well prepared

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Budget but it goes beyond figures as it will only become tangible to the people when implemented.

People from all Regions voted us into our Political Offices to address their needs and they trust us with the distribution of their resources. They wait on the delivery of our promises, promises that was made during election campaigns.

Remember the pre-independence slogan on the lips of all Namibians: **One Namibia - One Nation**. That is what kept us going in our curse (*sic*) (*laughter*)

HON MEMBER: Cause!

HON //GOWASES: ...for Independence. Each and every Namibian contributed in his or her own way for us to achieve this objective.

HON MEMBER: Tell them!

HON //GOWASES: Let us, therefore, distribute the National resources equally across all Sectors of the Namibian economy.

If we refuse to develop together and equally, as men and woman were created equally, then our development agenda is equally defeated.

Let us move from promise into targeted interventions, translated into a prosperous Namibia. I support the Bill and I thank you.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Members, please remember that today is the last day for the Second Reading, henceforth, I will give the chance to the Honourable Members as follows:

I will give the Floor to the Member of WRP, Honourable Kaapala followed by Honourable Loide Shivavene, Honourable Van den Heever, Honourable Katoma, Honourable Hambyuka, Honourable Munsu and finally Honourable Fleermuys. Honourable Kaapala you have the Floor.

HON KAAPALA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it correct that you belong to WRP?

HON KAAPALA: Yes, it is correct.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have the Floor then.

HON KAAPALA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Honourable Members of Parliament, this is the first opportunity that I have to deliver this Speech on behalf of my Party, the Workers Revolutionary Party and this is my Maiden Speech I believe.

Therefore, before communicating to you the position of my Party on the proposed Budget, let me utter a few words both about this Party and myself.

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Firstly, I wish to congratulate all the 13,328 people around this country who supported the Workers Revolutionary Party and voted to bring this into this Parliament. I believe they did not make a mistake.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I feel honoured to have been chosen, with my Comrade Salmon Fleermuys, to be that voice, and I promise to do my best to give back to the people who voted for us into this Parliament. We will be able to stand and make sure that we support the Constituency that has voted for us.

My Comrade Fleermuys and I, from the WRP belong to the Organisation that was known as the Conscripted People during the time of the South African Government which was known as the SWATF. We and almost all of our Comrades in arms returned a long time ago into the working class of Namibia from which we were removed by the Apartheid Regime in the 1970s and 1980s. After the Independence was consented to Namibia by the so-called imperialist powers through the implementation of Resolution 435 of the United Nations Security Council, we did our best to help build our country, Namibia. In the process we have been receiving paying lip service from the side of Government on the basis of the evaluation of all the people of this country together as one. We were withheld from our rights as war veterans and I believe all of us know that - the pension fund and our rightful property.

We remain reduced to poverty in this country. We fought for our pensions on our own for a very long time until we understood that it was so difficult for us to get through to Government. We also have other people in this country, the workers, people that we call miners from Tsumeb Copper Mine Limited whose pension fund was also shamefully stolen. We have to investigate and find out by whom.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Stolen by whom?

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HON KAAPALA: Stolen with the help of Namibian Banks and Namibian Courts. It is also the same as that of former the PLAN Fighters who were falsely accused by the SWAPO Leadership.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry Honourable Member, you are saying who have stolen what? Can you repeat that? I know it is your Maiden Speech but what did you say?

HON KAAPALA: It is a Maiden Speech, yes. I am talking about the Tsumeb Miners, that their pension was stolen.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: By whom?

HON KAAPALA: In this case, we believe that their pension was in the banks and the statistics shows that. We, therefore do not know what happened to their pension at the end of the day.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Was the case concluded to prove that there were people who have stolen their pension?

HON KAAPALA: Sorry?

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Was there any Judgement from the Court of Law which decided that somebody was responsible for the money that you are saying was stolen?

HON KAAPALA: No, this is just an (*intervention*)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Allegation?

HON KAAPALA: An allegation – we see that they have never received their pension that for such a long time while the pension was in the banks.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can probably say it is suspected?

HON KAAPALA: Yes. (*laughter*) Finally (*interjections*)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can just proceed. You were about to say finally?

HON KAAPALA: Let me put it like this – let me say after Independence and up to date we see a situation where some former PLAN Fighters were completely excluded from the war veteran benefit.

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HON MEMBER: Which people were excluded?

HON KAAPALA: We will follow up Honourable Members and see who the people who were excluded are.

I still stand here to make it very clear that our Party, the WRP is not happy with the situation that has taken place in the Caprivi Region (*interjections*)

HON MEMBERS: Zambezi, there is no Caprivi!

HON KAAPALA: It is fine whether you call it Zambezi it is one and the same thing.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry. Honourable Member there is a new name now and as an Honourable Member you have to stick to that name please.

HON KAAPALA: Okay. Let me say Zambezi. These people are arrested perpetually without being sentenced and we believe that it is up to this House and the government.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry again. Honourable Member, we do not discuss cases that are before the Court here.

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HON KAAPALA: Yes I understand but I just wanted to bring before this House that for 15 years these people have not been sentenced.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, you belong to one Organ of the State called the Legislature and there is another Organ of the State which has to decide the fate of those people.

HON MEMBER: Just talk to the Budget!

HON KAAPALA: Thank you very much. I now want to concentrate on the Budget (*interjections*). Thank you Honourable Members.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, just continue talking on the Budget.

HON KAAPALA: Let me concentrate on the Budget. Honourable Members, we followed the Budget very well. On Page 5, Paragraph 14, the Minister stated that - "*our country has been able to make notable progress and register key achievements.*" He does so on amongst other claims that "*the ... income per capita increased more than 10 times, from N\$5,500 in 1990 to N\$58,300 by 2013.*" However, our observation from this statistics shows that per capita income varied from International Dollar of 4,120 in 1991 to 5,840 by 2013. This is not 10 times, but 1-and-a-third times.

The Minister further claims a relatively poverty reduction from 38% in 1994 to 20% in 2010 and we also find this difficult considering the steady

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rise of unemployment, from an estimated 20% in 1990 to 52% by 2008. This latter figure was obtained from the National Labour Force Survey of 2008.

He claims that moreover extreme poverty has been pushed back from 9% to 2% over the same period. One only needs to look at Katutura and Otjomuise with their seas of shanty slums to know that this reduction is not true.

It should be clear that a Budget may not be justified on the basis of untruths. It is self-evident that a Nation needs to have an accurate estimation of its tax base to be able to make a meaningful Budget.

Spain, Russia and South Africa are allowed to fish in Namibian waters with factory ships over which we have no control and of which we do not know the amount of exploitation. Yet all of us believe that fish is a major source of in this country revenue.

In 1991 the O'Linn Commission of inquiry into the Procedures and Practices applied in the Allocation and Utilisation of Existing Fishing Rights was appointed. The Report - a presumably crucial instrument to determine the state of fisheries - was suppressed by the State President. This Report has still not being released

The Thirion Commission Report published in March 1986d found that De Beers overmined diamonds, exported diamonds through its subsidiaries and consequently defrauded the Namibian State by R5 billion. In November 1990, Honourable Deputy Speaker, President Sam Nujoma signed an exoneration of de Beers from liability. In 1998 de Beers was once again found to have defrauded the State by 8 billion Rand.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, to this day diamond mining remains uncontrolled with various South African companies operating in the sea and on shore to mine diamonds over which the Namibian State has no control and no knowledge.

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The Namibian State has no meaningful knowledge of its tax base to produce a meaningful Budget. When we look at the Budget, Honourable Deputy Speaker, it states that it will cover the renovation of the Katima Mulilo Soccer Stadium, and according to our own investigation, as I also come from the same place, we realised that there is no Stadium, we only have a sport ground. I, therefore believe this was perhaps a computer error because if it comes up as renovation, it will stay renovation. This was perhaps suppose to be *construction*.

Honourable Speaker, it is very difficult for our Party to accept the construction of Army Bases around towns like Keetmanshoop, Rehoboth, Karibib, Oshivelo, etcetera for no rational strategic reason other than to probably plan for a civil war or something.

The Budget states clearly that it is Pro-poor and every Namibia has to be included and no Namibia should be left out. Even though it is true, we found out that from the Budget the Pension Fund of the former South African soldiers, the TCL Miners, the Rossing Uranium and GIPF are not included.

More than a billion Rand which is owed to the former soldiers disappeared from their pension fund. There is an estimated 800 million to a billion Rand which accrued to the pension fund of the former TCL miners. GIPF has been defrauded of more than 12 billion Rand that we know of. We have to understand that the recovery of the said pension funds will immediately add value to the economy of this country.

We do not agree with the 1% reduction in Corporate Tax and do also not agree that N\$2 billion on loan guarantees should be given to the Private Sector to build more houses for the rich while the poor remains poor without shelter.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, in conclusion, we believe that it is very difficult for the Party to understand the Budget and we, therefore, want to propose the following in order to ensure some of the things that I mentioned are covered and also to add value to the

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economy of the country:

- The Housing Industry must be nationalised under workers control to train young people to build houses.
- The fishing, diamond and uranium Industries also have to be nationalised and put under the control of Workers Committees.
- Pension Funds should be restored because it is retired workers who need the money now due to the adverse effect on their quality of life. Restoration would form part of poverty eradication and generate income for the State by way of taxation. The Pension Funds should be restored to the Pension Fund boards of the owners of the pensions.
- The 1976 PLAN Fighters and SWAPO Youth League Members and the former South African soldiers should be declared war veterans and accorded benefits under the *War Veterans Act*.
- During the Budget Debate, in terms of the Defence Budget we want to hear about the payment that is going to the private August 26 Company for catering and construction. It is very important for us to understand what is happening House.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rest my case and thank you very much for this opportunity.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Honourable Loide Shinavene and I humbly request the Members of Parliament from the Ruling Party to at least keep your Speeches with a five minute timeframe because there are many people who want to take the Floor.

HON SHINAVENE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable

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Members, Good Afternoon. Let me take this opportunity, to once more congratulate the President of the Republic of Namibia, his Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, his Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers and all Members of Parliament of the Republic of Namibia.

At the same time, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Speaker on his appointment as the Speaker of this august House and also the Honourable Deputy Speaker.

It is with great humility and a deep sense of honour that I stand before you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Members of Parliament and the Namibian Nation to first and foremost commend the Namibian Government, on behalf of the elderly community of our Republic of Namibia, for increasing the monthly Pension Grant from N\$600.00 to N\$1,000.00 per month and I would like to encourage our Senior Citizens to use this money consciously in bettering their lives and those of their loved ones.

In addition to that, let me also applaud our Government for having courageously established the Ministry of Poverty Eradication that will improve the lives of the Senior Citizens and all Namibians.

Furthermore, as a campaigner and advocate of gender equality throughout the struggle of Namibia's Independence, I am pleased to see such a great number of women present in Parliament, playing an active role in decision making on issues pertaining to national development (*applause*). It is a notable fact that Namibia is the first country in Africa if not the whole world to; implement and introduce gender equality through 50/50 representation, which is all thanks to the SWAPO PARTY (*applause*).

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, Although we are grateful to Governments efforts to ensuring that the Namibian people's needs are catered for, there are a few issues that play a major role in hindering the progress of Namibia.

We the elders feel that Government should conduct a thorough land

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acquisition and distribution review of all Laws that have not been amended since Independence and those that were enacted immediately after Independence, inclusive of the policy of Willing Buyer - Willing Seller and Absentee Landlords. Moreover, Government must enact a legislation aimed at barring landlords from converting their farms into Closed Corporations.

On the Bylaws applied by the Local Authorities of selling land through auctioneering to the highest bidder, we propose that it be done away with, in order to avert potential political and economic alleviation of the youth whose future livelihood on land is being threatened.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, it is a known fact that many young Namibians are relocating themselves for better employment from rural areas to urban areas in order to have a brighter future; it is, also, so that with the migration to Urban areas that are distant from their inhabitant areas, they are unable to provide accommodation to their parents in their own houses even if they desire so. However, some elders in Namibia find themselves in situations where they are too debilitated or ill to take care of themselves or get medicinal help in any urgent situation. It would serve the Senior Citizens well to have a place of safety where they can be well taken care of. There is a need for Government to increase the amount of Old Age or Elderly homes in Namibia.

Also, the eviction of Senior Citizens from their homes and land should be done away with and Colonial Laws that infringe on human dignity should be amended or totally abolished with immediate effect. Additionally, all evictions orders for Government owned land should be authorized by the line Minister.

The elders also feel that all formally dispossessed persons should be allowed resettlement farms through the acquisition of land by the Government and must be provided with agricultural implements, start-up financial resources other extension services and market access to empower them to achieve a level of productive farming.

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Lastly, Comrade Deputy Speaker, on Education and Health issues; the Ministries that deal with Education and Health are among those who received the greatest portion of the National Budget; these Sectors need to be closely monitored and evaluated on the progress of all implemented projects for next Financial Years.

Let me once again applaud the Namibian Government on its efforts to enhance the lives of the Namibian people noting the President of the Republic of Namibia's philosophy which states that - "*No Namibian will be left out.*" Indeed, this is a challenge the Namibian Government is faced with for the next 5 years, as we draw closer to attaining Vision 2030. Honourable Speaker, I support the Bill and that was my contribution.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The next following Honourable Members should keep it even shorter. Before that, I just want to remind Honourable Van den Heever to take note that the DTA was yesterday given a chance where they talked. Are you aware of that?

If there is some time left over, I will give you an opportunity to talk for five minutes but that will be after the Honourable Katoma and Honourable Agnes Kafula. I will give you just five minutes to say something so that we can also give the other Members a chance. Yes, Honourable Katoma.

HON KATOMA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, at the onset, I would like to use this golden opportunity, to extend my earnest gratitude to the SWAPO Party and its rank and file, through which I have emerged from to become M member of this august House.

I, therefore, wish to congratulate you, Honourable Speaker and your Deputy for being elected to preside over this House. I equally congratulates you fellow Members of this House for your election to serve our people as law makers in this house. I am equally also delighted to

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thank the Namibian electorate for the overwhelming support they have accorded to the SWAPO Party and its Presidential Candidate, Comrade and His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, our third democratically elected President.

The overwhelming victory which resulted in the SWAPO Party scooping 77 seats in the Sixth National Assembly during the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly Elections, remain a clear testimony that the Namibian people have full confidence and trust in the SWAPO Party to run and manage the affairs of our country for yet another five years.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the expectation upon which the people of Namibia in the rural and urban areas of our country have accorded the SWAPO Party such resounding victory is high and real. We have entered into a social contract based on the vision we have articulated in our SWAPO Party Manifesto and our people have bought into that ideal picture of the future captured in the fundamental concepts of peace, stability and prosperity. The latter means that we should deliver by accelerating meaningful economic growth, provide much needed social amenities, create a favourable environment to attract investments that create jobs, enhance productivity, address unequal distribution of wealth and implement aggressive anti-poverty measures.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, as a Namibian who rose from a rural Constituency of our country, I have full knowledge and practical appreciation of the enormous challenges and development needs faced by our people among the rural communities. These are, but not limited to unemployment among the youth, insufficient health facilities which normally make people to walk long distances to access health services, lack of entertainment facilities for youth which forces the youth to spend time idling at coca shops and *Shebeens*. What is required are interventions that ensure that our youth is incorporated in the mainstream of the economy, that they are engaged in meaningful economic activities through progressive and deliberate interventions to change the *status quo* and mitigate this challenge.

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I consider myself as a fortunate citizen to have been elected to this august House out of many other capable Namibians. I consider this as a challenge to make a contribution to our National Building efforts. This requires fundamental understanding and full knowledge of the aspirations and expectations of our people as presented in regional development coordinating structures such as the Constituency Development Committees and Village Development Structures respectively. Our people aspire to live a better life which means have food security, potable and clean water, access to affordable electricity, improved road infrastructure to access health and educational facilities, especially during the rainy season when their livelihood is severely disrupted.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, while highlighting the challenges I enumerated above, credit must always be given where it is due. The creation of the Ministry responsible for Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare as well as that of Labour, Industrial Relation and Employment Creation by our dynamic President, His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob coupled with the increase of the Old Age Pension Grant to N\$1,000 is a move in the right direction and highly commendable. I must emphasise the fact that Old Age Pension Grant represent a serious Safety Net that make a significant impact in the life of not only the elderly but more so the household in totality.

I must at this juncture commend the 2015 Pro-poor and Pro-growth Budget, which proposes an expenditure outlay of N\$67 billion for the Financial Year 2015/2016 and N\$72 billion for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework by 2017/2018 presented in this House by the Honourable Minister of Finance, Comrade Calle Schlettwein.

This Budget demonstrates that where there is a will there will always be a way. I believe that we have the courage to ensure that the challenges facing our country and the needs of our people are at the forefront of our development agenda. The Budget allocated necessary funds to economic and infrastructure development areas such as housing, energy, roads and railway network and green scheme programmes. The budget also in my view, address key Social Sectors necessary to address the plight of

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Orphans and Vulnerable Children, people living with disability, National Youth Service Development Programmes for youth empowerment.

I must also commend the progressive effort and bold decision taken to also make secondary schooling free. In the same vein, the special attention given to Micro, Small and Medium Traders or businesses through the creation of the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development is a welcome move. I further commend the budget allocation to the public safety and order area because investment in peace, public safety, security and Rule of Law should and must remain fundamental to our national development.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have one minute.

HON KATOMA: In conclusion, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would like to state that during my Term of Office as a Member of the National Council for which I served as a Member of the Constitution and Legal Affairs Committee, we came across many obsolete Laws that are no longer serving the purpose in our legal system. Our task is to ensure that these are continuously identified, repealed or modernised for them to serve our people and our country better.

With these remarks, I thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Please, I still want to emphasise that the next Speakers will be given five minutes each because I keep on receiving request.

Unfortunately, I took over from the Speaker and I do not know who have provided their names but I want each and everybody, particularly the people who want to take the Floor for the first time to speak for just five

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minutes. Next is Honourable Agnes Kafula followed by Honourable Van den Heever. And I accord all of you only five minutes each.

HON KAFULA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. This is the greatest honour, and responsibility bestowed upon me by the Namibian people through the election process in November 2014, to represent them and speak on their behalf in this highest decision august House of this country.

Please allow me, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, to extend my appreciation to the SWAPO Party for having put its trust in me to ascend to our Nation's National Assembly.

I wish to sincerely thank my Comrades who voted for me during the SWAPO's electoral college that made it possible for me to be part of the list to this august House.

I wish to use this opportunity to congratulate the President, His Excellency, Dr Hage Geingob for his commitment to lead us towards prosperity and wish you, Your Excellency, Comrade President and your family good health and God Bless you.

I am grateful to the Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation, His Excellency, Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, for the firm foundation he laid during the struggle for Independence which lead to peaceful independence for 25 years and beyond.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Former President, His Excellency Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba for his exemplary leadership that maintained peace and stability of our country.

Honourable Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as a Speaker of the National Assembly and in the same vein, also congratulate Honourable Loide Kasingo as the Deputy Speaker of this august House.

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Honourable Deputy Speaker, I would also like to congratulate the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila and the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, for being entrusted with the responsibilities of overseeing the functions of the Civil Servants, in particular and those of the Republic at large. I trust and am convinced that you will lead us to the greater height in this Land of the Brave.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Namibia, this Land of the Brave, home of the proud, has rightfully resolved to extend its quest of poverty eradication, and to usher in prosperity for all Namibians. It has placed this noble battle of poverty eradication high on its list of priority issues.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am rising today, in this august House, with complete and unwavering resolve, to apply my full support to this noble battle of poverty eradication, and to start this exciting journey of growth, progress, and prosperity for all Namibians. In doing so, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Comrades, Honourable Members, I believe that this august House will today, pay due diligence to several pertinent aspects of this battle against poverty, which the people and the Leaders of this country have declared.

It is a well known fact that poverty is experienced upon this Nation and, that the war to eradicate this scourge of poverty is not an easy one. However, it is our charge to face this battle head-on, with courage and resolve to win. In order to win against this destructive assault of poverty upon this Nation, there are definite and pertinent issues of this case to be placed under stringent consideration and drastic scrutiny.

So far, success over poverty has been elusive, and the increasing destruction by poverty is frustrating to both the victims and the Leaders of the people. Poverty's onslaught and its relentless hold on the Nation, are felt through the destructive results of its assault. The results of hunger, starvation, homelessness, unemployment and crime, are all known too well.

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The battle, the scourge, the challenge facing us is relentless. We are facing a formidable enemy. A cunning enemy, which devours everything it encounters.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, this enemy is formidable. This enemy is ruthless. This enemy has the resolve to destroy. We are in a war here. Each day as Leaders and victims of this onslaught, we are entering a battle field. And that is why we all in here have to be prepared to the utmost possible degree.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, we as a Nation, Leaders and citizens alike, together have decided to do away with poverty right away. My question is, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, where do we go from here? Is it failure or success? Failure is not an answer. It is not choice. Success is the only option. However, for success we have to be prepared, armed to the teeth, as it were. But again, Comrades, Honourable Members, how do we achieve this much urgently needed success, and how do we get to that success?

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, we have all the necessary and formidable resources, weapons, resolve and abilities at our disposal, and these counter attack weapons at our disposal, come in the form of most the powerful principles available. These are the powerful principle of good governance, transparency, best practices, benchmarks, interventions, and strategies. We have this multitude of weapons in our arsenal to completely push back and eradicate poverty out of our midst. Our charge is to put together and create legislation, resolutions, action plans, strategies, policies of a formidable kind within this great agenda of poverty eradication for success.

This scourge of poverty has victims. These victims so far have been inadequately equipped and empowered. They are Governmental platforms and Private Sector, and Non-Governmental Institutions, all these lack abilities to deal with the challenges, and that is where this august House must come rushing in with the much needed legislation and leadership.

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On the human capital level, much needs to be done, especially to empower local and regional leadership, structures and institutions, as well as the people on the ground. On the institutional level, inadequate financial resources have been the order of the day across the country.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute.

HON KAFULA: That day must become something of the past. Inadequate skills, inadequate infrastructures, inadequate resources, all conspire against success. They block progress, growth and prosperity, and are creating fertile grounds for poverty and all related ills. This House has to look thoroughly at these inadequacies on the ground. It needs to introduce legislation to maximize revenue creation through thoroughly entrenched local economic development practices. Local economies must be empowered enough to be able to meet their own financial obligations, through their own efforts. Proper service delivery and, therefore, poverty eradication, and consequently prosperity for all Namibians will not be possible, if local and regional abilities remain compromised.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members of this august House, we must achieve our national agenda of poverty eradication and prosperity for all Namibians.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Deputy Speaker and Honourable Members for your kind attention. I support the Budget Statement.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Van den Heever five minutes even three.

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HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Leader of the Official Opposition Party, Honourable Members, all Protocol observed - thank you for giving me an opportunity to table my Maiden Speech.

It is with a sense of pride and much humility that I rise to speak in this august House as a perpetual Deacon from the Anglican Diocese of Namibia and having served at the Parish of St Peters in Lüderitz now the !Nami#nus Constituency in the !Karas Region, my first instincts are to form a consensus based on bringing the different Parties together.

I am not sure whether those skills will be useful in this House. Allow me to congratulate all the Honourable Members on their election and wish them a fruitful, productive and prosperous Sixth Parliament.

The subject of poverty has been a theme that has been a pervading threat throughout my life. I do not own a house registered in my own name nor do I have some of the luxuries that some of our more affluent people in our society, including some of the Honourable Members, have. That notwithstanding, I stand before you here today a wealth of talent and unfulfilled promise. My school life taught me the value of hard work, education, loyalty and the importance of empathising and caring for others.

After Secondary School, I worked as an Immigration Officer at the old Department of Labour and now the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration in Windhoek.

When I got married I moved to Luderitz and this is where political bug bit and I got involved in community work and the Local Governance Structures. I served as a Local Authority Councillor for 2 consecutive terms and was the only Opposition Member in the Luderitz Town Council. As the only Opposition Councillor, largely relied on the community members and colleagues to sustain my projects and debates and thus, I have learnt that when the joint vision is the betterment of the Namibian

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society, there is no reason why opposing parties cannot work together in unison to move Namibia forward.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, whilst I am duly aware of the recent progress in the area of poverty eradication, which includes reduction in relative poverty from 38% in 1993/1994 to 20% in 2009/2010 and pushing back extreme poverty from 9% to 2% over the same period – according to 2008 statistics, the unemployment rate was at 51%. This is indeed a worrying figure and I think we can all agree that Namibia will not meet the Millennium Development Goals of eradicating extreme poverty if we proceed in this trend.

I would, however, like to congratulate the President for listening to the plea of our old age people, especially given that, addressing the plight of our elderly citizens was one of the key points in our Election Manifesto and other campaign material. I am also aware that the issue of poverty indexes might seem like a dry academic debate to some people within our society, and even perhaps even to some in this House, but if an official poverty measure is changed, it can be used as a respectable excuse for faking any support systems from those who do not fit the new criteria. The Government has promised to reduce unemployment with 10% by 2017, given the Government's recent track record pertaining to service delivery I shall watch this with interest.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: We are a country of extreme inequality and this is reflected by us consistently being ranked as one of the top 5 countries in the world with the greatest rich-poor divide on the Gini Co-efficient.

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Let us listen to the Honourable Member.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: It is not enough that we have x percentage of well-off or affluent people and it thus, shows that prosperity - to use the buzz word of the new Presidential Term, is possible.

I make a plea to this Government that more work should be done as we remain a relatively low-wage society. Not enough attention is given to at risk young mothers and youth and developments in this area will need to be pushed with greater efficiency and productivity.

Cabinet took a decision DD 30th/16.10.01/2003 on the National Poverty Reduction Action Programme 2001-2005, highlighted Civil Society poverty initiatives 6.2.1.4 and regional poverty forums 6.2.1.3.2 (National Planning Commission) these initiatives need to be continuous Programmes, otherwise they will not bear any tangible results.

Local Government Institutions, which remain an important service delivery mechanism, not only for Central Government services but for those that directly affect the quality of life on the ground are not properly utilised and key projects are derailed and delayed by unnecessary bureaucracy.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, remember I told that you only have five minutes.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: I Am almost done

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HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I give you only one minute.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: In order to properly utilise these structures we need to seriously consider reform geared at making them more efficient, productive and accountable.

New global issues that have emerged at the end of the last century have generated new opportunities but at the same time created challenges for National Governments. The impact is often experienced at the sub national levels and affects the poor and most vulnerable in our societies.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Members of the House, I am indeed privileged to be an advocate of change for the electorates who voted us into Decision-making and Law-making positions and I commit myself to be a champion for the issues affecting the most marginalised people within our country, especially at risk youth, young mothers and elderly people.

One of the best known and, in my view, the most powerful and insightful quote from Nelson Mandela remains this extract from his Defence Speech at the time of his trial, at the end of which, in 1964, he was condemned to life imprisonment with hard labour, when he was already serving a five year prison sentence from 1962. He was to repeat these phrases with the same fervour in the Speech he gave on the day of his release, 11 February 1990: *“I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.”*

These too are my ideals and it is the backbone of how I will approach all discussions, Debates, questions, Motions and Committee work I undertake as a Member of this august House.

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With those words, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, that was my Maiden Speech and I thank you for affording me this opportunity. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, let us listen to her.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I want at least to give a chance to all the people who have registered, particularly the new Members. Unfortunately, the old Members, no.

The following Honourable Members will have the Floor: Honourable Munsu, Honourable Sibungu, Honourable Shapwa, Honourable Gotthard Kasuto, Honourable Fleermuys and Honourable Sankwasa and I will only allocate five minutes to each Member. Yes, Honourable Munsu.

HON MUNSU: Thank you very much for being given this Floor. Sorry, I am having a flu. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Honourable Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of Order. Yes?

HON VENAANI: *(Interjections)* Muatje puratena arikana! Honourable Speaker, with all due respect on a Point of Order, we have time allocated and allotted to Parties. The Honourable Minister of Education spoke for 45 minutes, we were timing her.

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We have Parties that are allocated time to speak for 45 minutes like WRP. Please Honourable Deputy Speaker, be fair to give chances to those Parties to use their time. By the way, the Budget is a SWAPO Budget. You are the Ruling Party, this is your Budget.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you please sit down?

HON VENAANI: Just sit down, I am on a Point of Order. You cannot stand up on a Point of Order while I am on a Point of Order.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Leader of the Opposition Party, I take note of that. Can you keep quiet please?

I take note of that but are you also aware that yesterday, the Speaker has given a chance to your Party where you were not supposed to talk. It is on that basis that I have given your Member the Floor.

Order! I rely on the Chief Whips and the Leaders of the Opposition Party to help me to keep the House in order. You have the Floor.

HON MUNSU: Thank you very much to be given Floor. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Honourable Speaker, Comrade Peter Katjavivi and his Deputy, Comrade Loide Speaker for your appointments to lead this very important House.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I interrupt you a little bit my Sister, I

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know it is your Maiden Speech but because of the time, can we leave out the congratulations please? Perhaps just thank your Party and then continue with your Speech.

HON MUNSU: In the same vein, allow me to thank my SWAPO Party and indeed for the majority of the Namibian people for trusting and electing me as one of the representatives in the National Assembly. My gratitude and appreciation also go to the Minister of Finance for tabling the Pro-poor Budget.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, it is with great pleasure and pride to see a big number of women Legislators in this House actively engaged in decision making for the good of the Namibian Nation. As we all know the demographics of our beloved country, women are the majority. I applaud the initiative of increasing women representatives in the National Assembly and ministerial positions.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

HON MUNSU: Globally, women are marginalised in their respective societies and for many years, have been kept at back doors of decision making as men dominate the show. As women, we should therefore individually and collectively use this golden opportunity that we have been accorded to make the lives of all Namibian women better by coming up with initiatives that empower women economically and otherwise. This opportunity should be used to put a smile on the face of a very Namibian women right from the grass root level to the corporate ladder. As women, we can make Namibia a better place. Our President has demonstrated his trust in our varied abilities as women to serve this Nation by appointing women to key ministerial position. I would like to

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applaud our President Dr Hage Geingob for appointing women to head key positions in Government, most notably, the Prime Minister's position among other senior positions. It is a first time to see a women Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister in this country (*applause*). The ball has been put in our hands and the Nation of Namibia, and indeed the whole continent is watching with expectancy to see what we, as women, can do to create a memorable impact in our people's lives.

The role to build the Nation has also been put directly in the hands of women by appointing two women, both female Minister and Deputy Minister to be at the engine of the Ministry of Education. Ministry of Education plays a very important role in our Nation Building. As women, let us support one another to ensure that those appointed to such positions execute their duties with relative ease.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency, President Hage Geingob for taking a bold step to increase the Pension Grant of the elderly people from N\$600 to N\$1,000. This decision by our President speaks volumes of words and shows that he truly appreciates the different ways and capacities that our elders have contributed towards making Namibia what it is today. I strongly believe that there is still a lot in our President's treasure house that is yet to be released for the benefit of our people.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we please attention to the Honourable Member?

HON MUNSU: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, please allow me to make two requests:

1. Reviewing of our children's Grants from N\$250 to N\$500 to enable them acquire basic necessities of life. As we all know, prices of goods

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and services have tremendously increased over the past few years. A bag of maize meal, for example, now costs N\$300, way past the Grant of N\$250 that our children are currently receiving.

2. Increase the number of medical doctors in the Zambezi Region. As a Region, Zambezi is faced with a critical shortage of doctors, which compromises on the life expectancy of our people. Currently, our people are forced to travel long distances to seek medical help from other Regions. This request is directed to the incoming Minister of Health.

With this few words, I support the Bill. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Honourable Heather followed by Honourable Shapwa, Honourable Fleermuys and then Honourable Gotthard Kasuto will be the last speaker I think.

HON SIBUNGO: Honourable Speaker, Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Members of this august House, allow me to take this opportunity to rise in this august House thanking the almighty through his grace that oversaw Namibia emerging more united than before, from our last historical Presidential and Parliamentary Elections during which the democracy our country was tested to the limit through an electronic voting system first of its kind in Southern Africa and the entire Continent at large. Namibia has demonstrated a matured democratic system of governance. Namibia is multi tribal country with a cocktail of a populace that have mixed origins and I will not be doing justice to my conscious by not giving a synopsis of my being and the origin as a Namibian. I was born in Nsundwa District, Kabbe Constituency that is annually flooded, out of a family of six (6) by my mother who is a teacher by profession and a traditional farmer and by my father who is a Christian. In my growing I have been moulded by a blend of values and behavioural skills learnt

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through my entire upbringing and exposure. I would like to first and foremost, thank my family for making me who I am today that I am here confidently to serve the Nation as a Namibian without fear or favour and to the best of my ability.

In the same light, I would like to thank the SWAPO Party stalwarts for having laid a strong foundation upon which the Namibian Development Agenda foundation has been developed. Most profound appreciation goes to the appointing authority, His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia for his trust and believe in the youthful strata of our society for having appointed me as the youngest, MP amongst the 8 Members of Parliament appointed by the President (*applause*).

Comrade President, be rest assured that your tall orders have already been translated into our marching orders. I would like to congratulate our First female and youthful Prime Minister Right Honourable Saara Kuukongelwa- Amadhila for your appointment as the Prime Minister of this country, we will accord you the necessary support. Furthermore, I would like to congratulate our mother, the Deputy Prime Minister for her appointment - Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, we will remain available to be guided by you.

Comrade Speaker, Comrade Prime Minister, Fellow Members, Comrades and peace loving Namibians, let me thank the Honourable Minister of Finance for having presented yet another progressive 2015/2016 Mid-term Budget having inherited this sound fiscal success over this past years from Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa- Amadhila, our longest serving Finance Minister.

I am delighted by the special attention that our Government has directed to the Education and Health Sector as confirmed by the lion share of the Budget allocated to this Sectors. However, we want to see the creation and construction of libraries, science and computer laboratories in every cluster of our education fraternity and expansion of Vocational Education and Training. Keen and prioritised attention should be directed towards

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the most educationally deprived and marginalised cluster of our Nation being the rural community, even after Independence the situation continue to bring poor results in the country due to the unequal distribution of resources. Further, I would want to request my fellow Comrade to consider prioritising the erection of health facility within 5 km of reach in every remote area to avoid losing lives to unnecessarily though avoidable causes. The Rural Electrification Programme should target every school in the remotest areas of our society for us to attain the ambitious Vision 2030. Every Leader should live, eat and dream the National Development Plan Goals and targets.

Comrade Speaker, Comrade Prime Minister, our Government has good plans on paper but people do not eat papers. People want results, let us instil and develop a culture of implementation but in an accountable and transparent manner. I am highly disturbed by the hardship our remote community undergoes due to lack of service. We daily hear that our fellow citizens in remote areas use candles to do their schoolwork, schools are convened under trees, Teachers are drained through own resource usage for the sake of the learners. This is unacceptable in a small populace State like Namibia. The Electrification Programme should go ahead without financial constraints and unnecessary bureaucratic hindrances and we unwaveringly put our political will behind this Programme.

More resources should be made available to Regional and Local Governments to address the plight of our ordinary people who have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to a better Namibia through participation in the every democratic elections held since Independence. We need to appreciate their God given efforts by delivering and extending basic and human needs promptly, Comrade Speaker, the Decentralisation Policy have to be implemented without further delay to pave way for regional developments. The National Youth Development Agenda has to be the central point of socio-economic development to ensure that all young people are included in building this Nation through a pro-youth development approach. The income distribution gap of our country is unacceptable and the all-out war against poverty as declared by the

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President should be our Anthem in everyday life. I would like to denounce the returning of money to Treasury by Ministries while the masses are in extreme poverty.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, Comrade Prime Minister, in conclusion, I urge this House to support the Honourable Minister of Finance by passing the *Appropriation Bill* for the sake of developing our Mother Land. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Next is Honourable Shapwa, the Deputy Minister of Justice, five minutes please.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity to speak for the first time in this August House. First of all, allow me to use this opportunity to wish you, Comrade Speaker and your Deputy, strength, wisdom and good health so that together you can continue to lead this House in deliberating on issues of national importance.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I owe it to the SWAPO Party members and supporters, who in their own wisdom decided to once again mandate the SWAPO Party to continue to rule this country and who made it possible for me to be in this august House during the Sixth Parliament. I feel greatly honoured by this gesture and may God bless them all.

Comrade Deputy Speaker, I will fail if I do not congratulate the President, Comrade Hage Gottfried Geingob, in his overwhelming victory, as President of this great Nation. I also take this opportunity to thank the President for having entrusted me with the responsibility as Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Justice in his Government. I am very humbled by the trust he has in me and I wish him and our First lady, good

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health and wisdom so that they lead Namibia to prosperity.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, let me also congratulate all the Members of this august house for having been elected to represent your respective Political Parties and Constituencies. I hope we all live up to the great expectations the Nation have on us irrespective of our political ideologies.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I always cherish the bravery of women and men who sacrificed their lives while fighting for freedom and Independence of this beautiful Motherland. The peace stability and all the freedoms we are enjoying today came as result of their love, dedication and commitment to this country. I hope as a Nation we jealously guard the freedom and Independence we are enjoying today.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, there is no doubt that the Government of the Republic of Namibia has done a lot in improving the lives of many people of this country in the areas of education and rural development and in many other Sectors. However, there is still a lot to be done in rural areas, especially with regard to provision of Teachers housing and electricity to rural schools. With regard to education, I want to inform this House that some rural schools continue to suffer from the lack of better qualified Teachers. Those who go there are in most cases are new graduates who are trying to get a job and gain some experiences and transit to towns. This situation in my opinion is aggravated by the lack of electricity, proper housing and sanitation in some of the rural communities, including some schools. It is also a fact that most Teachers teaching in rural schools prefer to stay in nearby towns where housing, sanitation and electricity is available. Consequently, such Teachers arrive at schools late and tired as they have to walk or have to struggle to find lifts to schools. At the end of the day learners are seriously disadvantaged.

My plea, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, is that provision of better housing accompanied by electricity and sanitation be made in order to attract better qualified Teachers to live in the proximity of their

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respective schools in rural areas.

I am speaking from the premise where electricity is provided to *cuca shops* under the pretext of businesses. Yes, a *cuca shop* may be a business but what positive impacts does it have to the surrounding communities? Does it not just promote alcoholism and attract school learners and adults alike to hang around there, get drunk, fight and in some fatal instances kill each other.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, there would be more advantages if electricity is provided to households. Learners living there will be able to study during night and early hours, and this will increase their chances of performing better during their exams. With electricity, they will be able to use computers at home after classes. They will also be able to watch television and learn something developmental on a daily basis. Let *cuca shops* take electricity from the nearby houses to their businesses. They should be able to afford it because they are businesses.

Having said that, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, let me now conclude by thanking the Minister of Finance for a very well balanced Budget and for continuing to allocate the biggest portion of this Budget to the Education Sector. However, the Minister of Finance as well as the Ministers responsible for Education should have in mind that there is a dire need of proper teacher's accommodation for Teachers near rural schools equipped with all the basics such as water, sanitation and electricity. We can no longer allow our Teacher to squat in nearby houses or live in zinc houses near schools.

Once provided with decent accommodation, Teachers will not only gain respect in communities they serve but learners will also respect them. Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I fully support the *Appropriation Bill* and I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Very good. It is exactly

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time but I would like to ask the concurrence of the House to extend the time in order to enable us allow the only two new of Members of Parliament to at least take the Floor please. Can we? So Agreed. Thank you.

Honourable Fleermuys, followed by Honourable Kasuto – only five minutes each please.

HON FLEERMUYS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, I was already becoming frustrated because of the long queue of waiting while I can even not see properly.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you just start please? I want to give you the Floor before your Colleague but you are not taking your time. Only five minutes please.

HON FLEERMUYS: (*Interjection*) Honourable Member, I think it is none of your business thank you (laughter).

We at the WRP are coming to Parliament to use it to speak to the matters of working people. We are using the Parliament to advance the demands of the working class, including the poor peasantry and in particular the demands of the TCL workers and the former SWATF families and relatives in relation to stolen pension, loss of income and losses in general through economic sanctions, marginalisation, victimisation and discrimination, landlessness and homelessness..

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we listen to what the Honourable Member is saying please?

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HON FLEERMUYS: We will articulate and support the demands of the Herero and Nama people for War Reparations for Genocide between 1904-1908 from the German State. We will put forward the seizure of our natural resources to enable us to fund the upliftment of the working class and poor peasantry in general and the neglected TCL families and former soldiers in particular.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please!

HON FLEERMUYS: We will put forward the immediate cessation of the wanton sale of our natural resources through Exploration Licenses (EPLs) with seizure of it without compensation to enable us to fund the upliftment of the working class and poor peasantry. The demands of the TCL workers and former soldiers will also highlight the demands of the working class in general.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Ministers, can we have your attention please!

HON FLEERMUYS: We will further advance the demand for basic needs of the working class families to be provided and subsidised by the Government on the first tier level - municipalities, housing, water and electricity, public transport, clinics, kindergartens, sport and recreation facilities, etcetera to be brought to the people.

We will advance heavier taxation to be levied on corporate businesses and demand living wages tied to the rate of inflation and not minimum wages.

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We will demand land to the landless and subsidies for the upliftment of the poor peasantry.

We demand immediate steps such as public works to build roads, schools, hospitals and develop the general infrastructure to stop the slide to extreme poverty and pauperisation officially from 2% to 16% seen in the growth of shanties.

We demand that the land of the Southern Peoples Allegiance in Keetmanshoop of 400 families be handed over to them for development and building of houses to be funded from the National Planning Commission.

We articulate the demands of the Truth and Justice Committee of the 1976 PLAN Fighters and SWAPO Youth League for the restoration of the true history of Namibia and the accounting of the hundreds of persons unaccounted for in exile and whose whereabouts are still unknown, the truth about the thousands of Namibians who lost their lives at the hands of the SWAPO Leadership (*interjections*) and the Regimes of Zambia and Tanzania in exile.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member can you please conclude now?

HON FLEERMUYS: And with this hard facts, I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kasuto only five minutes and then we conclude. Before that, Honourable Minister of Justice.

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HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am really terribly sorry to interrupt the Speech of the Honourable Member. I do not know whether he attended the Induction Course. If he did, then he is really ungraded.

The Rules are that you do not attack a foreign Government in this House. He is attacking the Zambian Government and he is attacking the Tanzanian Government, which has nothing to do with what he is talking about. Comrade Speaker, I plead with you, please let us just stick to the Rules.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, next time you will face a heavy response from the other side. Proceed, Honourable Kasuto.

HON KASUTO: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker. Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Members, I am rising today in this august House to express my profound gratitude and honour of having to serve the Namibian Nation in this capacity as a Lawmaker. I would like to thank the Founding Father of the Republic of Namibia and our SWAPO Party Founding President who laid a strong foundation of unity and reconciliation through his determined and unwavering leadership qualities.

My profound gratitude goes to the former President of the Republic of Namibia and President of the SWAPO Party, His Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba for having lead our beloved Motherland through various socio-economic challenges. His outstanding leadership qualities have set Namibia on the world map as an example of excellent leadership and Good Governance that earned our former Head of State and President of the SWAPO Party an international recognition by winning the Ibrahim 2014 Prize for Achievement in African Leadership, which celebrates Excellence in African Leadership. This reward is a clear testimony of the

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SWAPO Party's Government commitment and dedication towards our national socio-economic and development agenda. This recognition is a lesson to our Opposition Parties that SWAPO means business (*applause*).

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, my appreciation goes to the Almighty God who accorded us through his grace the 3rd democratically elected President of the Republic of Namibia and who is also the Vice-President of the SWAPO Party, His Excellency Dr. Hage. G. Geingob. The last election results (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: The last erection?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please!

HON KASUTO: I said the last election results are self-explanatory of how high the expectation bar is raised by the electorates. The SWAPO Party has made history for having scored an overwhelming majority votes of 80% while its Presidential Candidate scored 88%.

His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia has declared an all-out war against poverty and as the captain leading us through this war, it is our responsibility as foot soldiers to rally behind him and ensure that not only do we win the battle but rather win the entire war against poverty in totality. We can achieve this through a transformational and forward thinking approach knowing that the Nation is hungry for excellent service delivery, the Nation is hungry for results and we should deliver what is expected of us.

I would like to thank the former President for having launched a targeted housing delivery Programme known as "Mass Housing" (*interjection*)

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HON MEMBER: Mess housing!

HON KASUTO: Mess Housing? (*laughter*) You are confusing me! Known as Mass Hosing on the 26th November 2013, as a comprehensive drive by the Government to address the challenges of housing shortage and backlog in our is country.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you please listen to him.

HON KASUTO: It is evident that the Mass Housing Initiative is in full swing nationwide and has created significant job opportunities for our citizens.

in the same vein, I would like to appeal to our Government to subsidise our Local Authorities sufficiently to enable them service the land timely and on a larger scale so that Targeted Programmes like the Mass Housing are implemented according to schedule and without delays, which might be attributed to the lack of serviced land.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, the SWAPO Party 2014 Manifesto speaks volume. We must ensure that the Programmes and Projects outlined in that document are implemented without further ado.

I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources for having accorded our citizens an opportunity to participate in economic development activities through fishing rights. I would like to appeal to the Honourable Minister to ensure that beneficiaries of this fishing quotas adhere to their corporate social responsibilities and promote a culture of local value addition as opposed to the selling of this rights/licences.

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Honourable Members, the Youth Development Agenda remains the core and fundamental principle of national economic development it is thus vital that sufficient resources are made available towards Youth Development Programmes and Initiatives. My humble request is to the Ministry of Sports, Youth and National Service to increase budgetary allocations to Youth Development Institutions such as the National Youth Council (NYC) and National Youth Service (NYS) to enable them expand the scope of the National Youth Development Initiatives.

I also would like to thank the Minister of Finance for having tabled a pro-development and progressive Budget for the Fiscal Year 2015/2016. I, therefore, support the *Appropriation Bill* as tabled by the Honourable Minister.

In conclusion, I want to assure you, Honourable Deputy Speaker and the entire Namibian Nation at large that I will be performing my national duties in my capacity as a Member of Parliament and other roles that I might be assigned, to the best of my ability. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. That brings us to the end of the Second Reading. Tomorrow the Minister of Finance will reply. With that, I will adjourn the House till tomorrow 14:30. So adjourned.

In terms of Rule 90(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 18:05 until Thursday, 16 April 2015.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 18:05 UNTIL 2015.04.17 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
16 APRIL 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have one announcement and a comment to make. I start with the announcement: Honourable Members, as a reminder, you will find on your desk the invitation to attend the Blue Economy Conference to be held in Windhoek on Monday the 27th and Tuesday the 28th of April 2015 from 08:00 to 17:00 in the afternoon at the Safari Conference Centre in Windhoek. The Honourable Members who are interested to attend the aforesaid Conference are kindly reminded to inform the Table Clerk today if possible, if you are intending to participate.

The next one is a comment. The Office of the Speaker has received a letter of complaint from the Workers Revolutionary Party, complaining about what happened yesterday. The letter was copied to the media and to other Political Parties. I am going to provide each one of you with a copy to read for yourselves. The Subject Matter is - ***Objection Against the Obstruction by the Deputy Speaker's Denial of the Right of the WRP Representative to Speak in Nama and the Time Allocations:***

Concerning the time allocation I have to explain that I was forced to use common sense due to the fact that we had to conclude our deliberations on the Second Reading yesterday and we were not having sufficient time to do so. I thought prudently and reasonably to particularly afford all the Members of Parliament who have just entered the Parliament for the first time with an opportunity to speak.

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I purposely requested two Members from the Executive who wanted to take the Floor to hold until I have granted the new Members of Parliament a chance to talk. What worries me most is that the Speaker is not here. I am a Deputy Speaker and my name is mentioned there that I objected to Honourable Fleermuys and Kaapala to talk and I did not receive that Report. Honourable Fleermuys did not speak in Nama or requested to do so, did you? Can I give you a chance to clarify this issue?

HON FLEERMUYS: Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, of course, I am very sorry about that issue, specifically the story of speaking in the Nama Language. That part was not meant for the deliberations in this House, I do not accept the typing error as my fault because I have not asked to be allowed to speak in Nama here, although I have requested the Secretary to allow me to speak in Nama and, of course, it is not about yesterday. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. With that, the issue is put to rest there. It was signed by Mr Beukes, the Leader of your Political Party and you can read it for yourself. Can you please distribute that?

We shall proceed. Any Petition? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? None.

Now we go to the Order Paper. Can I ask the indulgence of the House to set aside the Response to Questions to next week so that the Minister of Finance can respond? No problem? So agreed. Thank you.

The Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

SECOND READING - APPROPRIATION BILL [B. 5 – 2015]

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SECOND READING - APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN

SECRETARY: Resumption of Debate on Second Reading - *Appropriation Bill* [B. 5 – 2015]

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the Debate was adjourned on Wednesday, the 15th of April 2015, the question before the Assembly was a Motion by the Honourable Minister of Finance that the Bill be read a Second Time.

The Debate on the Second Reading was concluded. Does the Honourable Minister of Finance wish to reply?

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes, I do.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker, I am very happy and thankful that I have the opportunity to respond to questions and comments raised during the Second Reading of the 2015/2016 *Appropriation Bill* and the 2015/2016 - 2017/2018 Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

I am grateful to the Honourable Members for raising pertinent issues during the Second Reading of the *Appropriation Bill* and I am sure these inputs have, no doubt, improved the insight into budget process. I hope that the intended introduction of the Mid-year Budget Review and Pre-Budget Statement later during the year, will further improve our ability to better evaluate the Budget and enhance transparency in the Budget process.

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Honourable Deputy Speaker, today, I will take an objective approach to respond to the policy and some of the specific matters raised during the debate. However, I would rely on my Cabinet Colleagues to provide details of the Sector-specific Programmes under their Ministries during the Committee Stage, when their specific Votes are under discussion.

However, before I respond, I wish to acknowledge support and contributions by all the Honourable Members of this august House, and specifically the following, I listened carefully to:

Honourable Madala Nauyoma	APP
Honourable Jan Van Wyk	UPM
Honourable Asser Mbai	NUDO
Honourable Mike Kavekatora	RDP
Honourable Usutuaije Maamberula	SWANU
Honourable Torca V. Shikong	UDF
Honourable McHenry Venaani	DTA
Honourable Clara Gowases	RP
Honourable Nico Smit	DTA
Honourable Jennifer Van Den Heever	DTA
Honourable Apius !Auxab	UDF
Honourable V. Muharukua	DTA
Honourable Benson Kaapala	WRP
Honourable Salmon Fleermuys	WRP
Honourable Maria Jagger	SWAPO
Honourable Daniel Kashikola	SWAPO
Honourable Veikko Nekundi	SWAPO
Honourable Natangue Ithete	SWAPO
Honourable Penda Ya Ndakolo	SWAPO
Honourable Lucia Swartz	SWAPO
Honourable Utoni Nujoma	SWAPO
Honourable Peya Mushelenga	SWAPO
Honourable Heather Sibungo	SWAPO
Honourable Katrina Hanse-Himarwa	SWAPO
Honourable Loide Shinavene	SWAPO
Honourable Leevi Shiimi Katoma	SWAPO

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Honourable Agnes Kafula	SWAPO
Honourable Erastus Utoni	SWAPO
Honourable Ludwina Shapwa	SWAPO
Honourable Gotthard Kasuto	SWAPO
Honourable Sylvia Magone	SWAPO
Honourable Norah Munsu	SWAPO
Honourable Agnes Tjongarero	SWAPO

KEY BUDGET INTERVENTIONS

Honourable Deputy Speaker, during the Second Reading of the *Appropriation Bill*, several Honourable Members expressed their consensus with the budget policy intentions, and emphasised the need for timeous implementation of the proposed measures. I am grateful to those Honourable Members who used this opportunity to express their support for certain budget interventions.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I will not dare to repeat the budget interventions as I had them in my Budget Speech. I, however, agree with the need for expeditious adoption and implementation of the proposals.

The Budget proposals that have been mentioned include the following:-

- *Firstly*, Namibia is the only Member State of the five –SACU countries that has no Independent Revenue Office. This is in spite of the public knowledge that a decision to this effect has been taken and the Task Team dealing with this matter has been at work to formulate the policy framework and other transitional arrangements over an expressed timeline. I should, however, emphasise that a country does not just establish an Independent Revenue Office because it has become fashionable. Establishing an Autonomous Revenue Office is for achieving well-defined national objectives and to achieve improved tax administration services to the tax payers.

When a comparison is made against other jurisdictions, the focus should be on the overall outcomes such as the operational efficiency

and revenue productivity of the tax administration system measured by the ratio of revenue against GDP. Our revenue to GDP ratio stood at 32.0% in 2013/2014, even at the time when Government made substantial tax rate cuts. This revenue to GDP ratio is outperforming most of our neighbours that have tax authorities in place. So, in spite of having agreed to establish the tax authority and having established a Task Team to look into the modalities of that, I just want to give the assurance that our tax administration as it is, is outperforming at least some that have tax authorities in place.

- The second intervention was focused on the equity of the tax system and the proportionate tax burdens across the tax payers classes. This commend was made ignoring the ongoing reforms, whose progress has been explained at several platforms already and also at post-budget discussions this year. It remains our expressed intention to investigate the efficacy of the system in this regard. I have announced during the post-budget discussions, our intentions to review the current tax system with the main aim to address problems and indistinct depth.
- *Thirdly*, are the issues surrounding the outlook of SACU Revenues and domestic revenue policy responses in this regard. Government has on many occasions expressed the importance of SACU in the Regional Economic Integration and Industrial Development Agenda. We have taken into account the projected outlook on SACU revenues, which is based on a fairly dynamic revenue sharing formula. The formula is driven by factors, such as the extent to which Member State import from within SACU and the growth in GDP of Member States. Since Namibia along with the other smaller Member States imports more from South Africa than South Africa imports from the rest of the Common Customs Area, creates the impression that smaller Member States benefit excessively from the Customs Pool to the detriment of South Africa.

However, Honourable Deputy Speaker, we must recognise that South Africa, on its part, is granting substantial customs rebates to some of its Industries and this makes a considerable dent into the Customs

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Pool available for distribution to the BLNS Member States. We are facing a complex situation at the moment, and I intend giving a more elaborate explanation on the SACU dynamics to this august House through a Ministerial Statement in due course. Domestic revenue mobilisation, on the other hand, is an integral part of the ongoing tax policy and administration reforms, whose details are provided in the Budget Statement.

- *Fourth* is the pro-poor and inclusiveness of the Budget. This is one of the central priorities extended by His Excellency the President, Dr Hage Geingob, and hence, it was incorporated into is Budget and the MTEF. Budgetary emphasis has in any event consistently been given to the basic enablers, such as skills formation, education and health, scaled-up allocations to Economic Sectors, including agriculture, supporting SMEs and strengthening Social Safety Nets. Going to an extent to create a dedicated Ministry on poverty eradication is a remarkable expression of the Government to address poverty in a holistic and unprecedented manner.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Honourable Smit expressed concern that the growth in GDP in nominal terms was reduced from the previous MTEF to the current MTEF. In this regard, I would like to state that the nominal GDP is influenced by mainly two factors, namely the real growth of the economy, on the one hand, and inflation, on the other hand. While we know that our economy is growing in real terms, the GDP inflator slowed down due to low domestic inflation as well as low prices of the commodities that we produce, especially minerals. However, I wish to refer the Honourable Member to the Fiscal Strategy, which contains detailed assumption on which GDP projections are based.

The Honourable Member was also concerned about the consistent exchange rate depreciation that we experienced since 2012. Honourable Deputy Speaker, as a Member of the Common Monetary Area (CMA) and as a small open economy there is not much we can do to influence or

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reverse the deteriorating strength of our currency. The only way to shield ourselves against the impact of the exchange rate depreciation is to avoid as far as possible borrowing in foreign currency, to reduce our dependency on imports and to take advantage of our exports becoming more competitive. Another thing we can do is to maintain a certain amount of fiscal savings that we can utilise to tackle shocks that are coming as a result of such exchange rates.

EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Honourable Deputy Speaker, concerns were raised that the channelling of development assistance outside the State Revenue Fund contravenes the Constitutional Provisions and we take it that all income must be paid into the Government Revenue Fund.

In this regard, the National Planning Commission is mandated to mobilise external development assistance through Grants. In terms of the Programme Budgeting System, all expenditure is tracked to set outcomes, a process that enhances transparency on the use of public resources. This is equally applicable to external development assistance.

The Medium Term Plans (MTPs) show external development assistance it use to fund Programmes in the MTP. MTP guides O/M/As to plan their activities for implementation over the MTEF period. At the end of the Financial Year, O/M/As are required to account for the extent to which such outcomes have been achieved. All of these are in-built checks and balances to enhance the effectiveness of the Public Finance Management System.

However, what is important to note here is that it is unfortunately the case that development partners often attach very specific conditions to their Grants, for example, they would only finance specific Programmes outside the State Revenue Fund using their own Procurement Rules and even their own Public Financial System. They hardly provide conventional Budget support that is not tied to specific projects or conditionality.

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**EXPENDITURE PRIORITIES: SOCIAL SECTORS, SAFETY
NETS AND DEFENCE**

With regard to expenditure priorities, I am very happy to note that there is a common view that we should continue to prioritise allocations to the Social Sectors, such as Education and Health. These are the core areas of national competitiveness; whose outcomes hold key long-term reduction of poverty and unemployment.

Indeed, the concern on the quality of outcomes in these areas is shared. The House will appreciate that concerted actions have been taken, which include the following:-

- undertaking education expenditure tracking that will enable the respective Ministries of Education to establish a better link between spending in the Education Sector and whether the allocated resources are in fact reaching the reaching targets;
- introduction of complete universal primary education and the commitments to achieve free secondary education by 2016; and
- introduction of a training levy and scaling-up of budgetary allocations to the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund and Institutions of Higher Learning to expand access to tertiary education. In parallel there is an improved and enhanced emphasis funding vocational training.

When the Government announced the increase of the Old Age Grants by two-thirds this Financial Year, a commitment was also made to strengthen all other Social Grants and services in coverage and quality. It is, therefore, not that we forgot about foster parents and orphans.

I want to, however, state that the Social Safety Net should be seen as a system and no single component should be seen in isolation. They are parts of the system and mutually reinforcing. These are the matters that

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the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare will be engaged in. We acknowledge that the effect of Grants on poverty eradication is significant, but we must at the time recognise that such impact flattens off at a certain threshold if this is not accompanied by efforts to grow the economy and bring about poverty eradication.

Government lays primacy on the on the Old Age Grants because our elderly play foster parent role for children, including grandchildren and vulnerable children, given the high social dependency ratio that we experience. Making primary and secondary education free, alongside a targeted School Feeding Programme, are all measures aimed at supporting educational access for all our children in the country and addressing vulnerability among children in the long-term.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, much has been said about budgetary allocation to the Security Sector. These in our view represent investments in peace and stability, and the upkeep of public order, which indeed are prerequisites for social and economic advancement. Much of these allocations go to the maintenance of infrastructure and accommodation facilities for our uniformed men and women who have served and continue to serve our country admirably well. They have also contributed significantly towards regional stability through intraregional peacekeeping operations in countries, such as the DRC, Lesotho and Madagascar, all in which Namibia played a significant role in bringing about constitutional democracy.

MATTERS RELATED TO STATE REVENUE

Honourable Deputy Speaker, some views were raised regarding the revenue productivity of our tax system and revenue mobilisation strategies in the light of the projected dwindling of SACU revenues.

Firstly, the view that the budget proposals are silent about the projected outlook on SACU revenues is not quite correct. Such outlook is considered in the revenue projections of the MTEF. We have also emphasised the immediate course of action needed to address the

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outstanding policy and institutional reforms to make SACU a robust engine of growth and industrial development in the sub-region. It is not for the first time that some revenue streams, either from SACU or domestic streams are negatively impacted by external shocks. However, we have consistently remained with enough fiscal space to compensate for that.

Honourable Members, during the past 25 years, our economy expanded by a factor of 15, while revenue increased by a factor of 20 over the same period, and that gives us comfort that we have a strong elasticity within the tax system and buoyancy of tax administration measures that would compensate one or the stream.

The Tax Policy and Administration Reforms that have been initiated in recent years have served the country well. Among the reforms implemented to date are the segmentation of the taxpayers and the establishment of the specialised offices, such as the Large Taxpayers Office, the Small and Medium-sized Taxpayers Office and Special Investigations Unit within the Receiver of Revenue. Contrary to the pessimistic view by some Members of the House, the feedback that we have received from the business community is that these innovations have improved the delivery of taxpayer services. And, we remain committed to future improvements. I have announced the various reforms and tax proposals for implementation this year.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I should also indicate that the actual Government revenue stood at 32% of GDP, while estimated at 35% in 2014/2015, which is sufficient to fund total Operational Expenditure of Government. Suffice to say that total revenue from own source constitutes about 99.3%, with grant components from external donors making up about 0.7%. During the MTEF, revenue from own source is estimated at an average of 99.8% of total revenue, while grants are estimated at an average of 0.2% of total revenue. Moreover, the fact that Namibia has been reclassified as an upper middle-income country by the Bretton Woods Institutions and the African Development Bank (AfDB) that, of course, has limited our capacity to solicit grants from these and other institutions. What has been and is given as Grants to these

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developed countries is given to Namibia as loans.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, in regard to capital outflow, capital mobility in a liberalised trade and integrated economy, does not necessarily bring about financial repression. A fine balance is, however, needed to ensure that optimal level of domestic capital is leveraged to fund local investment. This is the objective of the Amended Regulation 28, and the new Regulation 29 issued under the *Pension Funds Act*, 1956 and introduced during 2012. The effect of these Regulations is that not only the domestic institutional investors keep 35% of their assets invested locally, but also 1.75% of the local asset requirements is required to be invested in unlisted investment opportunities as part of the domestic resources mobilisation strategy.

Other reforms in the Financial Sector and support provided to the domestic financial institutions complement the domestic resource mobilisation efforts, Private Sector development and the promotion of access to finance.

DEBT SUSTAINABILITY

Honourable Deputy Speaker, regarding the public debt sustainability, Namibia has set itself a national debt ceiling of not more than 35% of GDP, and Government debt has consistently remained below this upper limit. The debt level stands at about 23.7% of GDP in 2014/2015 and it is estimated at 29.3% of GDP by 2015/2016, which represents an increase in total debt stock of 22%.

This level of debt is well within sustainability level of the debt sustainability ceiling of SADC, which is set at 60.0% of GDP. At the global level, the average world gross debt is estimated at 80.0% of GDP for 2014, with countries like Japan standing at 246% and debt level of the United State of America estimated at about 106.0% of GDP. What makes our debt position sustainable is the fact that the borrowed money is invested in productive projects that will stimulate economic growth in the medium to long term.

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To allay the concern that the autonomy granted to SOEs to raise funding poses the risk of a debt trap, I am happy to report that SOE debt constitutes an integral part of total public debt.

Furthermore, the inherent risks are minimised by the fact that the creditworthiness of some SOEs, the most important ones, are assessed by independent credit ratings agencies. Hence, the chance that any SOE can engage in irresponsible borrowing is rather slim.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am coming to the end and on a lighter note I have reconsidered the sin taxes and I want to introduce a special sin tax for *Sleg Wein*, another one for *Soet Wein*, and the third one for *Seloto Win* (*laughter*).

Let me close, Honourable Deputy Speaker, I wish to once again express my unreserved appreciation for the support shown for the Budget by the Honourable Members and the public at large.

I may not have answered each and every question individually, but I do believe that I have covered the main themes of your interventions. As I said earlier, my Cabinet Colleagues will provide detailed clarifications on their Votes when we go into the Committee Stage.

With these remarks, Honourable Members, I appeal for your support of the *Appropriation Bill*. I thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Minister for your short response. I now put the question that the Bill be read a Second Time. Any objections? Agreed to.

The Secretary will now read the Bill a Second Time.

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**SECOND READING - APPROPRIATION BILL
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SECOND READING - APPROPRIATION BILL [B. 5 – 2015]

SECRETARY: *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 – 2015]

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. With that, I think we can maybe revisit the questions because there is still time. Can we revisit the questions or should we defer them because it is not even 16:00 yet, and today is Thursday, the day set aside for questions. Are the Ministers ready with responses? Thank you. We will now proceed with the questions.

Question 1 is by Honourable Venaani put to the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. Is the Minister or Deputy Minister here? Can we defer the response?

HON MEMBER: Honourable Venaani is not here.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are going to defer the response to this question then..

Question 2 the same, the Honourable Member is not here. Anyone from the DTA who would like to put the question on behalf of the Leader? Would you like to put the question on his behalf? Thank you.

Question 3 is by Honourable Dienda to the Minister of Urban and Rural

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HON DIENDA
HON SHANINGWA**

Development. Would you like to put the question?

HON DIENDA: Yes, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, would you like to respond to the question? You have the Floor.

QUESTION 03:

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Madam Loide Kasingo. As the first voice of the Minister of Urban and Rural Development in this Chamber, let me congratulate you Comrade Deputy Speaker, the Speaker in *absentia* and all the Honourable Members. Yes, we are up to task and we are here to deliver.

I rise to respond to the questions that have been posed to the Ministry and to myself by Honourable Dienda last time.

Without wasting much of the time, I definitely want to go straight to the responses. Honourable Dienda wanted to know how much did the Okahandja Municipality received from the Government for the Built Together Programme during the Financial Years 2011/2012. I would like to respond as follows:

From our records, as the Ministry responsible for the Okahandja Municipality, no funding was provided to the Okahandja Municipality by the Ministry, or the Central Government for that matter for the Built Together Programme during the Financial Year 2011/2012.

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HON DIENDA
HON SHANINGWA**

The next question; the Honourable Member wanted to find out what portion of this money has been spent and how many houses were built, as well as whether I can kindly provide the House with a detailed financial and progress report pertaining to this project – As I have indicated already, no funds were budgeted for and provided to the during the Financial Year 2011/2012 as per our records. I think the two question are self-explanatory. I do, therefore, not need to give any detailed Financial Report.

There were again questions posed by Honourable Dienda requesting the Minister to please explain the amount of N\$3,656,674.00, which was allocated as interest from the internal loans during the Financial Year 2011/2012 - The information received from the Okahandja Municipality indicates an amount of N\$3,656,674.00 as referred to in the question posed by the Honourable Member. However, an analysis of the document for 2011/2012 Budget that was submitted to the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development by then Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, indicates that Okahandja Municipality only indicates a provision for interest on internal loans in a total amount to N\$1,854,460.00.

According to Section 84 Sub-sections(4) and (5) of the *Local Authorities Act, 1992* (Act 23 of 1992) as amended, it is required that the Minister authorise the Annual Budget of Local Authorities of part 2 Municipalities, Towns and Villages. In this connection the Budget that was submitted by the Okahandja Municipality for 2011/2012 only indicated an estimated amount of N\$1,854,460.00 as interest from internal loans. The difference indicates the variance between the Budget estimate and the actual, which variance indicates that the Municipality did not stick to its Budget as approved.

The Ministry will definitely request for an explanation from Okahandja Municipality in this regard. However, for the benefit of the other Members I would just like to maybe explain that internal loans of the Municipality are those loans that are to be utilised for emergency services,

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HON DIENDA
HON SHANINGWA**

cemeteries, street lights, cleaning services and all these types of things, and this is not money that comes from outside but internal money that is used for those type of services to be provided to the community.

The Honourable Member also wanted to know how many erven were sold during the Financial Year 2011/2012, to whom and for what amounts. Before I address the question that has been asked, I wish to point out that in terms of Section 30(1)(t) of the *Local Authorities Act*, 1992 (Act 23 of 1992) as amended, Local Authorities are obliged to seek and obtain prior approval of the Minister for all sales or leasing of land.

Having said this I now wish to respond directly to the question posed as follows: From the records of the Ministry five (5) industrial erven were sold to First Wall Property for a purchased price of N\$1,624,032.00. On top of those ones, four (4) industrial erven sold again to Popular Bricks Investments for a purchased price of N\$837,650.00 and there were also 4,458 hectares of business erven that were sold to Oban Investment 1288 Pty Ltd during the period under review. For the erven that I have mentioned, I am not going to read erven numbers and their sizes, etcetera but the Honourable Member is invited to view or if the Honourable Member maybe wish to want to get the details, I would be able to afford you with the copy of what I am talking about. Thank you.

I, however, requested Okahandja Municipality to provide me with the information on the issues raised by Honourable Dienda. To my surprise, the information provided by the Municipality indicates that the Municipality has sold more erven, both serviced and un-serviced, than the few that I have just referred to.

The Council of Okahandja have to provide me with an explanation on this because I am following up the issue. I send my officials to Okahandja to obtain documents from the Municipality to prove that all the land sale transactions that it has indicated its Report to me have been approved by the Minister as required by Law but so far, no such proof could be found or be provided by the Municipality. I will definitely get to the bottom of this. As a matter of fact, I am informed that my predecessor already

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HON DIENDA
HON DIENDA**

commissioned a forensic investigation on Okahandja Municipality and investigation is under way and a Report hereon is awaited. I will definitely pursue this matter.

Before I conclude, I would like to say that this matter of allocating erven the way we want and the way we wish is a story of the past during my administration as a Minister (*applause*)

In conclusion, I should thank you very much Honourable Dienda for the question and I promise that I will get to the bottom of what obviously appears to be a gross irregularity and it will be felt everywhere and not only by Okahandja Municipality. The serviced erven sold during 2011 and those sold in 2012, I have the list and their prices thereof. I am not going to read all of them but the Honourable Member is always welcome to have the copy of what I am talking about. In the nutshell, this is your response but I am not done. Can I proceed Honourable Deputy Speaker?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will come to the next question.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
Thank you very much for your kind attention.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any follow up question.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Minister, I am very satisfied thank you.

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY
HON MAAMBERUA
HON HANSE-HIMARWA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Question 5 is standing over and we go to Question 6 by Honourable Maamberua to the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture. Would you like to put the question?

HON MAAMBERUA: Yes, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister you would like to respond?

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: I have realised a slight shortcoming in the response and would, therefore, ask to defer it.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will defer it to the next Thursday.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: This question was also put by Honourable Maamberua to the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation. would you like to put the question?

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HON MAAMBERUA
HON DR KANDJII-MURANGI**

HON MAAMBERUA: Yes, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister would you like to respond?

QUESTION 07

HON MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INNOVATION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Again, this is the first time I am rising in this House and, therefore, I would like to congratulate you, Deputy Speaker for your election and indeed also the Speaker for his election, and I also want to congratulate everyone who has been elected to their respective positions. Congratulations.

With regard to the questions posed by the Honourable Member, the first question was: **Explain why UNAM is pursuing me through exclusion.**

To respond; the advert was meant to congratulate those in Cabinet and not the rest of Parliament. The intention is to issue another advert that will take care of all UNAM *alumni* in Parliament. Patience is, therefore, expected from your side.

The next one, questions the Ministry's Policy regarding UNAM Policy of barring staff members from holding political positions in Political Parties. The policy does not prohibit the holding of positions in Political Parties but has some limitations, including promoting party politics positions on campus and conducting party politics on campus. I think we need to differentiate between that. The policy does not prohibit members from becoming members of Political Parties. All that is prohibited is actually to engage in political activities on campus.

The third one: **Is there such policies in the Education Sector?** That is the policy of barring staff members; the *Public Service Act* that regulates the affairs of the Public Service clearly stipulates this in Section 30.

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HON MAAMBERUA
HON DR KANDJII-MURANGI**

It says the following: - *“The staff member can engage in political activities but they are prohibited to do the following in the discharge of their duties to perform any act that influences impartiality - staff members in management are prohibited to preside over political meetings or to be an office-bearer of a Political Party.”*

Section 30(a) stipulates that - *a staff member is elected to the National Assembly or Regional Council will be deemed to have resigned from the Public Service.*

The fourth question: **Why did UNAM choose to only congratulate SWAPO Members of Parliament.** I think that was covered earlier by the fact that, indeed they chose to congratulate Cabinet Members and not so much everyone who is in Parliament.

Are there staff members of UNAM holding political positions? Indeed, in my consultation with the Institution, they indicated that they are not aware of such staff members.

Does the Ministry condone this Policy? I think we need to realise one thing and this is the fact that UNAM is a juristic body with legal powers to make operational policies and their policy is in line with the *Public Service Act*.

Does the Ministry tolerate that Public Funded Institutions promote one Political Party? Again, I think that you are taking this out of context. This was one advert and the intention for this advert has already been explained. The Institution has used its allocation to train many Namibians in different tiers of our Public Service. Some in Cabinet, others Parliamentarians but as I said earlier, indeed the advert was meant to congratulate Cabinet Members and perhaps as they said, the one for the Parliamentarians is in the offing.

The last but one question: **Do you not think that this Act of UNAM gives a perception that it is being used by the Members of a certain**

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**RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY
HON MAAMBERUA
HON MAAMBERUA**

Political Party as a springboard for the advancement of their political advancement. This is an unfounded statement and I think that is the best I can say.

Does the Institution deserve to get public funding? Yes. Higher Education is such a critical area that we cannot afford to sidestep. Therefore, we all know that it plays a very important part in the social economic development of our country, hence it is critical that UNAM is funded. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Minister for the respond. Any follow up questions or comments.

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker and I would also like to thank the Minister for answering the question albeit with some necessity to seek further clarification and perhaps to make some corrective comments. Actually, my first follow up question is the advert that was issued read as follows: ***Congratulations UNAM Ambassadors, the University of Namibia heartily congratulate Members of the Executive and the Legislature Branches of the Republic of Namibia with special recognition to our alumni and former staff members.*** It was, therefore, not specifically Cabinet Members.

The Legislators including myself, and the others who are not Members of Cabinets were not included. They only congratulated certain people and not others. Be that as it may, if the other advert for the Members of Parliament who are not Cabinet Members is on its way, I trust that this will come and of course is long overdue and I have no doubt in the statement of the Minister.

The follow up question is the one relating to the *Public Service Act* that

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prohibits Civil Servants to be active or to hold positions in Political Parties and that one is clear. It is only for staff holding management positions. It is only for management categories. My question was, and that is why it is a follow up question; are teachers who are not in management, if it is to be aligned with the *Public Service Act*, are teachers and others also prohibited through an Education Policy or by the Ministry of Education in this case because the *Public Service Act* does not prohibit primary school teachers and all other teachers, and anybody lower than the management category to hold positions in Political Parties and we have examples that we can cite?

My question still is; as far as the Education Policy is concerned, are teachers prohibited or to hold positions in Political Parties or is it only UNAM staff and the management in the Public Service. Those are the follow up questions. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, maybe you can just respond to the last question.

HON MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INNOVATION: Thank you, Honourable Maamberua I think the substantive question that I could gather from the Honourable Member's Statement is the last one that he made and that is a new question and I think it will be unfair for the Honourable Member to expect me to respond to that right here. Maybe I will defer that one to next time.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Very good. Thank you. The next question is Question 8 by Honourable Dienda of DTA to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development. would you like to put the question?

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HON DIENDA
HON SHANINGWA**

HON DIENDA: Yes, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister you have the Floor if you are ready to respond.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much. Yes, I am ready to respond to the questions but this was not your question, Honourable Dienda?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is another question. That is Question 8.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I have a question.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Or did you include the answers in your first respond?

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I am sorry, Comrade Deputy Speaker. I do not know but I was provided with an opportunity to respond on the questions of Honourable Jahanika.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is Question 9, it is still coming and

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this one is Question 8.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Please hold on. Thank you very much Honourable Member. The tenders by NHE and all that transpired is not an easy thing to handle now. We defer this until I have all the detailed information, although I have dispatched my team to get more physical information to enable me to respond to your questions accurately.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The question is deferred for further research. Question 9 is a question by Honourable Jahanika from NUDO. Would you like to put the question?

HON JAHANIKA: Yes, Honourable Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development.

QUESTION 09:

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Yes, Honourable Jahanika, thank you very much for the questions, through you Honourable Deputy Speaker. I rise to respond to your questions with regard to:

What is the timeframe the Honourable Minister is authorised in accordance with Local Authority Act of 1992 as amended to suspend

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HON JAHANIKA
HON SHANINGWA**

Councillors? The answers are as follows:

The *Local Authority Act*, 1992 (Act 23 of 1992) as amended have not stipulated a specific timeframe in respect of the suspension of Councillors by the Minister. The length of the suspension will really depend on the nature and extend of issues to be investigated. Among others, the severity of identified or suspected transgressions and the availability of the records and the parties who have, and are required to be interviewed and to provide requisite evidence or information.

Having said that, let me provide a bit of a background on the matter, especially for the sake of the other Members of this august House and also to give a brief general update on the matter. The Councillors of Omaruru Municipality were suspended on the 16th of December 2013, Government *Gazette* number 336 of 2013 in terms of Section 92(2)(a) and (b) of the *Local Authority Act*, 1992 (Act 23 of 1992) as amended. The Councillors are still on suspension to this day. As an interim measure, the Minister, my predecessor, appointed a retired former Chief Regional Officer of Erongo Region Mr Linus //Garoeb as the Minister's representative to fill the vacuum left by the suspended Councillors. With the help of the Office of Auditor-General, the Minister enlisted the services of PriceWaterhouseCoopers to carry out a forensic investigation, which investigation kicked off in June 2014.

Due to various challenges, especially difficulties in assessing supporting documentary proof, the audit took longer than anticipated and the Consultants could only present their first initial Report to the Ministry in December 2014. The Ministry reviewed the Report, which was presented by the auditors and provided feedback on the completeness of the investigation and resultant Report.

Among others, the auditors informed the Ministry about some challenges that they encountered such as in assessing the information that were required to carry out their investigation. In order to assist the Minister to make an informed decision on the matter, it is crucial that the forensic

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HON SHANINGWA**

investigators have access to all the information that they were required to carry out and complete their assignment. I wish to inform this august House that I have now received the latest Report, which I am studying and should finalise as a matter of urgency. Procedurally, the Report also have to be cleared by the Office of the Auditor-General. Let me now move onto the other questions posed. I think that one is clear.

Why did the Honourable Minister failed to implement the former President instruction in June 2014, at the State House that the Minister should finalised his investigation within 30 days which will enable him to take appropriate actions against the Councillors, whether to dismiss them if found guilty or re-instate them if they are not guilty and pay them backdated from December 2013?

As I have pointed out, due to factors beyond the control of the Ministry and the forensic auditors such as the difficulties in accessing the records at Omaruru Municipality and lack of cooperation from some of the parties who were approached to provide information in some cases, the investigation has taken longer than anticipated. I am informed that His Excellency the President was duly informed of the challenges. My predecessor, Honourable Namoloh may wish to provide any further clarity and unfortunately he is not around. I proceed.

Why was the Honourable Minister not happy with the forensic audited report which was conducted by a professional audit firm PriceWaterhouseCooper?

The purpose of the investigation is not to make the Minister happy but rather to provide information that adequately address the agreed scope and deliverables of the investigation and will enable the Minister to make an informed decision.

What was it, which the Honourable Minister wanted to see in the report, which was not there when he sends back the report?

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HON SHANINGWA**

As I have just pointed out, and Honourable Member will most probably agree; an investigation is commissioned and conducted on the basis of a defined scope or Terms of Reference with defined expected outputs. As such, the resultant Report has to be assessed on the basis of, or against such fact parameters. Again, as I have earlier pointed out, the auditors were not able to access all the information that they required to cover all aspects of the scope of their assignment and their Report was thus found to have some gaps, which as I have said were as a result of factors beyond their control. This is the feedback that the Ministry provided to the investigation team and the team agreed to go and address the remaining aspects and come back to the Minister.

Number five: **Honourable Minister, do you not think that delaying the finalisation of the case is denying the Omaruru residents their democratic rights to be governed by the Councillors of their choice as it is happening elsewhere in all towns?**

It is not correct to suggest that there is a deliberate delaying of the process Honourable Member. As I have attempted to explain, there was a need for a comprehensive forensic investigation and that such investigation could not be finalised as anticipated by the Ministry due to factors beyond the control of the Ministry and the investigation team.

In response to the reference to the governance Honourable Member, I wish to point out that as a matter of fact the interventions by the Minister was exactly triggered by the fact that the suspended Council of Omaruru was found, or suspected to be conducting itself in a manner that was not in the interest of those residents of Omaruru who elected the Council to serve them. This view is supported by the fact that a good number of residents of Omaruru have lodged complaints and allegations of all sorts against the Council and it is these allegations that are being investigated so that the Minister can make an informed determination of their validity and the corresponding corrective measures. I wish to add that in the meantime, that is while the investigation is underway, the management team under the leadership of Mr Garoeb and with the assistance of the Ministry is

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HON SHANINGWA**

administering the affairs of the Council and resolving matters as well as putting in place proper systems and procedures to ensure that this Institution is back to normality. I must point out that the team constantly has to deal with complaints and lethal challenges brought against the Municipality by members of the public, residents and service providers who are aggrieved or negatively affected by the actions and decisions of the Council under the leadership of the suspended Councillors and Chief Executive Officer.

Question 6: Honourable Minister, do you not think the suspension of Omaruru Councillors was politically motivated in order to prevent the Opposition Coalition from continuing running the Town Council as they performed better than those who were running the Council before them?

My response to this one is a big **NO**, Honourable Member. As you know amongst the suspended seven Councillors are also three SWAPO Party Councillors who are also suspended. As to whether or not suspended Council, properly ran the Town Council, I would say - let us await the findings of the investigation but for sure the numerous serious allegations complaints and other factors that were considered and necessitated the suspension, and the investigation suggests that all was not well in Omaruru under the suspended Council of both SWAPO and other Members together. I wish to add that the suspension of the Council in totality was a last resort after the Minister has exhausted all possible avenues to get the Council on course.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Honourable Member for the questions and I assure this august House and the public out there that I have committed myself to pick up where my predecessor left and namely, to ensure that the investigation is wrapped up and the decision taken is as soon as possible and I can just not do, if I do not have it all, I must get the facts right. Comrade Deputy Speaker, thank you very much and once more, thank you very much, Honourable Member for your questions.

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HON JAHANIKA
HON JAHANIKA**

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any other follow up questions?
Honourable Jahanika, you have the Floor.

HON JAHANIKA: Thank you, Deputy Speaker and thank you Honourable Minister. I have two additional supplementary question to the old questions.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Provided they do not need additional responses.

HON JAHANIKA: No. **Can the Minister be specific as to what was not in the Report when it was send back?** That is the first follow up question.

The second follow up question is - **who was actually responsible for the investigation?** because I am having two letters; the first one from the Minister and the second one dated February from the Permanent Secretary stated that the forensic investigation was conducted by the Auditor-General's Office. I have two letters but I can unfortunately not show you now, however, I can give you later on - that states that the Ministry and the Minister was saying that the forensic investigation was conducted by the Auditor-General's Office. They were never referred to PriceWaterhouseCoopers until during the training. I did ask the Auditor-General himself and was only then when I knew that the whole information that I was given by the Minister and the Permanent Secretary was not correct all along. Who is what now?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes?

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HON JAHANIKA
HON SHANINGWA**

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Thank you very much, Honourable Member for the additional questions. I think the additional questions should also be provided to me as you have done, Honourable Member before, to enable me to do further research on the questions.

Secondly, having listened to what you have just said, it is as if you like transparency but you are saying you do not want to give what you are having. I think for transparency sake, you should provide what you have to enable me to provide transparent answers. Thank you, Honourable Member.

HON JAHANIKA: I would like to correct her.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me hear your correction.

HON JAHANIKA: I did not say that I will not give the letter. I said that, unfortunately I did not bring the letter with me. I can give it to you later on.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is why, on that basis, she probably first wants to see the letter and then she will be able to respond.

Next is Question 10. We can stand it over because the person who put it is not here and the Deputy Prime Minister is also not here. The last question is by Honourable Madam //Gowases to the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relation and Employment Creation. Would you like to put the question Honourable Member?

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HON //GOWASES
HON MUHEUA**

HON //GOWASES: Thank you Honourable Deputy Minister (*sic*), I would like to put the question.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am the Deputy Speaker. Would you or the Deputy Minister like to respond? Honourable Minister?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: I am the Minister of Gender Equality now!

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who is the Minister of Labour now? (*Laughter*) Honourable Deputy Minister, you have the Floor. I am sorry, I was still under the impression she is still the Minister since she was the last Minister of Labour.

QUESTION 11:

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATION AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: Comrade Deputy Speaker thank you very much. My Minister is not here today but I would like to take the opportunity to join the calls of all those Honourable Members who have congratulated you and the Speaker on your election in your respective positions as Speaker and Deputy Speaker. I would also like to extend the same to the Honourable Members of the National Assembly.

The question by the Honourable Member to the Minister to look into the possibility of establishing sub-offices, in our view is a fair one and it is a question that resonates with the views of the Ministry. We shall surely

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HON //GOWASES
HON //GOWASES**

investigate and provide appropriate responses at the appropriate time.
Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does it mean that the question is deferred?

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL
RELATION AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION:** No we will revisit
her suggestion.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any follow up question, Honourable
Member?

HON //GOWASES: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am a little bit
confused.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes?

HON //GOWASES: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I will
wait for a response in writing. Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. With that Honourable

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ADJOURNMENT
RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

Members, I think we have come to the end of today's deliberation and we are supposed to meet tomorrow to start with the Committee Stage but due to the fact that there is a possibility that a reasonable number of Members of Parliament will not be able to be here and with the concurrent of all Chief Whips from all the Political Parties consulted, I would like to propose that the House be adjourned to Monday so that you can dispose of the item (*interjection*). Honourable Members, can you give me a chance to explain?

We are suppose to start tomorrow already with the Motivation of 3 Votes in the Committee Stage and the old Members know exactly that when you start with Committee Stage, the Introduction of the Votes have to continue uninterrupted like that. Therefore, I thought, to be fair to us and to Parliament, unless we say that we will have a Session tomorrow - if we cannot postpone until Monday, there are Votes that are supposed to be motivated on Tuesday already. I, therefore, thought that we can adjourn items we deferred to Friday, to Monday afternoon, at 14:30.

I humbly request the Right Honourable Prime Minister as you are one of those people who are supposed to start with the Motivations, to prepare yourself for Monday afternoon and I think the Minister of Presidential Affairs as well. Try your level best to be here on Monday afternoon, at 14:30.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: I understand that there is an event that will take most of the Members of the House out of town and they will travel tomorrow and travel back on Monday but considering the fact that we are operating on a very tight schedule, maybe we should consider whether it would not be appropriate for us to have a short Session, since there will only be Introductions of Votes tomorrow, and not discussions.

Therefore, we can be here promptly at 09:00 for the Votes that are going to be introduced and be done even by 11:30, the Members can then travel, and they would have Monday to travel back so that they do not have to

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HON MAAMBERUA**

rush, but it is only a proposal.

Otherwise, we could agree to not have a Session tomorrow and meet on Monday but then it means that those Members who have to travel back on Monday have to drive by 06:00 so that they are here by 12:00 for 14:30, so that we can have a quorum. That looks a little risky for me. I think that, since there is no Debate because the Debate is what takes up most of the time, it is only Introduction of Votes, and we have agreed to shorten our Introductions because we have the MTEF document that contains information on the Medium Term Plans and all the activities for which funding is requested, as well as the Accountability Report which gives an account of how the allocations for the previous year were utilised - the Statements can really be very brief so that we conclude the Session on time for people to travel. However, it is up to the House to decide.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you think? Yes, Honourable Maamberua?

HON MAAMBERUA: I would like to second and agree with the proposal of the Right Honourable Prime Minister but I am hearing people are travelling - and on Monday morning they are travelling to be here. Where are they going to? (*Laughter*)

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to be honest, on this issues we always understand one another and we do congratulate one another whenever a certain Political Party come of age, etcetera. I think the biggest reason is that the SWAPO Party is celebrating its 55th anniversary and the celebration will be held in the Oshana Region. So that is the reason, for the travelling. Yes, Honourable Nauyoma?

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HON NAUYOMA / RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

HON NAUYOMA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, my worry is that I do not see any assurance from the faces of the SWAPO Members that they will be here tomorrow. I am afraid to just wake up in the morning and come here and the SWAPO Members are already on the road to Oshakati.

Since they are in the majority, do we really have any assurance that they will be here in the morning up to 11:00? Some of the Members maybe travelled already, that is why the House is empty and some may leave tonight.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you are right the other side is half empty.

HON NAUYOMA: Can we maybe have some assurance from the Right Honourable Prime Minister?

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The thing I want to prevent is hurrying up driving. It is very dangerous. On that basis, are we going to meet tomorrow? Otherwise, the people should travel back on Sunday.

Who can help us out of this dilemma? Madam Right Honourable Prime Minister do you still feel the same way? Are you sure that if the Deputy Speaker adjourns the House until tomorrow 09:00, the people will be here?

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I expect that the Chief Whips are going to make sure that their Members are not only here tomorrow but that they are here on time. We have a responsibility as a Parliamentarians to make sure that an important Bill that is on the Table of this Parliament is finalised and approved by this

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RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

House on time, and if we are not going to be here on Monday, we have to be here tomorrow and do that because we cannot miss both Friday and Monday. Otherwise, we will fall behind.

I am relying on the Chief Whips to make sure that their Members are here tomorrow at 09:00, even if it means that we have a roll call tomorrow and take disciplinary measures against our Members who are not here, except those that are on official missions, like myself. I will be on an errand requested by the Head of State tomorrow here in Windhoek. I am not going to drive before others have finalised the work of the House.

I will not be here at 09:00, but I will be in Windhoek to carrying out a task that was delegated to me by the President. However, I am trusting that the Chief Whip will make sure that the SWAPO Members are here and the Chief Whips of the Opposition Parties will also make sure that their Members are here and I am sure in two hours or even an hour and half, we will have disposed of this matter.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: On that note, we shall resume Business tomorrow, at 09:00 sharp. Right Honourable Prime Minister, Can you please adjourn the House now?

HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I propose that the House adjourn until tomorrow, at 09:00 in the morning.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is adjourned until tomorrow 09:00 sharp.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 61:31 UNTIL 2015.04.17 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
17 APRIL 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have an announcement to make. I would like to announce that Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele has been appointed as a Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. (*Applause*) Thank you.

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

TABLING: REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Comrade Deputy Speaker, I lay upon the Table, the Report of the Auditor-General on the Accounts of the Government of the Republic of Namibia for the Financial Year that ended 31 March 2013.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please table the Report. Any other Reports and Papers? None. Notice of Questions? None. Notice of Motions?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

None. Message from the Head of State? None. Ministerial Statements?
None.

The Secretary will now read the Order of the Day.

COMMITTEE STAGE - APPROPRIATION BILL [B.5 – 2015]

SECRETARY: Committee Stage - *Appropriation Bill* [B. 5 – 2015]

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

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

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any objection? Agreed to. I now call the
Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair to
coordinate the Committee Stage and at the same time I will leave the
Chair.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE:** The Whole House Committee is called to order. The

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HON KAPOFI

Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 – 2015].

Vote 01 – **“OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT” - N\$750,058,000.00** put for Introduced by the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs. Honourable Member, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I rise to motivate Vote 01 - **OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**, to this august House. In presenting this Motivation, I would like to thank my Colleague, Honourable Calle Schlettwein, the Minister of Finance and his team for their hard work in producing the 2015/2016 *Appropriation Bill*.

Honourable Chairperson, allow me to join fellow Members of Parliament who spoke before me to congratulate Honourable Dr. Peter Katjavivi and Honourable Loide Kasingo on their election as Speaker and Deputy Speaker, respectively. At the same time, I wish to extend my fraternal congratulations to all the Members of the National Assembly for having been elected to this august House as Lawmakers. I look forward to be working with you and learn from your valuable experiences, more so from the Veteran Members of Parliament.

It is a great honour and privilege for me to deliver this Statement, my first ever as a Member of Parliament. I would like to express my profound gratitude to His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia for according me this opportunity to serve my country and people by appointing me as Minister of Presidential Affairs.

Getting here, has been a long journey, indeed. I am indebted to His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba for the confidence, trust and the opportunity he gave me to serve as the Secretary to Cabinet during his tenure of office, and also for nominating me as one of the nominees for the SWAPO Party Parliamentary List.

Similarly, I will remain forever indebted to the Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation, Dr. Sam Nujoma who moulded me from the young age and assigned me important responsibilities before and after the attainment of our Independence. This includes appointing me as the Secretary to Cabinet and as Head of our the Public Service. It was through his guidance and stewardship that I underwent the proverbial baptism of fire to get here.

I am also indebted to the martyrs of our revolution, especially those who made supreme sacrifices and did not live to witness the dawn of our Freedom. We shall not forget their unwavering dedication and commitment to the just cause of our struggle for liberation. *Their Blood Waters Our Freedom.*

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Namibia is a constitutional State, governed according to the principles of the separation of powers and checks-and-balances. It is for this reason that each Financial Year, the Executive Branch of the State presents the estimates of revenue and expenditure to the legislature for approval. This has been done for the past 25 years of our Freedom and Independence. This culture of accountability, transparency and the Rule of Law has been nurtured by our Leaders starting with the Founding President of our Republic and then our second President. The legacy is continuing under the leadership of His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob.

Our wish is that the *Appropriation Bill* be implemented without delay in order for our Government to achieve the goals and objectives outlined in the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto and the initiatives outlined by His Excellency, the President.

On 21 March this year, our Nation witnessed another peaceful transition during which His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba handed over the reigns of power to His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, the third democratically elected President of our Republic.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, Article 27 of the

Constitution of the Republic of Namibia establishes the Presidency and vests in the President and Cabinet executive powers to manage the affairs of the State. The specific duties and responsibilities of the President are outlined in Article 32 of the Constitution. In addition, the President is entrusted with various other functions under other Laws of our Republic, including International Law.

It is, therefore, self evident that the responsibilities on the shoulders of our Head of State and Government are enormous. He is required to provide the necessary leadership on matters affecting the social and economic development of our country, the protection of our territorial integrity and the well-being of all our people.

Thus, the Office of the President has to be fully capacitated and adequately resourced with human, financial and technical resources to enable the President to carry out his duties as Head of State and Government, Commander-In-Chief of our Armed Forces, Chief Diplomat and Chief Defender of our national interests. To get people with requisite skills and committed to the task at hand comes with cost, but this is an investment worth making

Honourable Chairperson, the President does not lead in isolation, and as he has clearly stated, he will serve as a consultative and inclusive Leader. He will, therefore, consult with various stakeholders, both inside and outside of Government.

It will be necessary for the President to travel to different parts of the country in order to gauge the implementation of Government Projects and to further familiarise himself with the challenges faced by communities around the country.

Our country is still faced with many social challenges such as poverty, unemployment, lack of decent housing and rural development. Therefore, our Government has placed deliberate focus on these areas. As the Honourable Members will recall, in addition to various development priorities that His Excellency President Geingob has outlined, he has also

17 April 2015 **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 01**
HON KAPOFI

declared a frontal war on poverty. He has called upon the entire Nation to rally behind him in order to bring about the transformation of Namibian society through inclusive development. As the President stated in his Inaugural Statement:- *“Our first priority will be to declare all-out war against poverty and concomitant inequality. Our focal point will be to address inequality, poverty and hunger, and that will involve looking at a range of policies and interventionist strategies to tackle this issue.”*

In this regard, the President’s commitment is unquestionable. Thus, it is important that all stakeholders in our society are called upon to work together so that we can roll back the frontiers of poverty and achieve a brighter future for all our people. As the President also said: - *“as a Nation, we must pull together, in the same direction.”* Allow me, therefore, Honourable Chairperson to say this: Community Leaders need to do their part. The Private Sector needs to do its part. Our tertiary institutions need to do their part. Indeed, as a Nation, each one of us has a role to play in order to make Namibia a better place.

Similarly, in promoting our national interests in the region, on the continent and further afield, the President will interact with Leaders of countries and international organisations. This also requires resources. The Nation should rest assured that our President has taken a principled stand to insist on the prudent utilisation of resources. He has made it clear that resources should be utilised in a manner that brings about intended results. In other words, Government should always strive to realise value for money.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the Office of the President has an allocated ceiling of **N\$516,214,000.00** for the Financial Year 2015/2016, a figure much lower than the ceiling of the Financial Year 2014/2015, which was **N\$614,966,000.00**. Based on the activities of the different Programmes under Vote 01, the Office requests an additional **N\$150,563,000.00** for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

In addition, an allocation of **N\$48,291,000 (Forty Eight Million, Two Hundred and Ninety One Namibia Dollars)** was also made towards the

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Marginalised Community Development and Disability Programme. This was necessitated by the realignment of Ministries.

Vote 01 is sub-divided into four (4) Programmes in line with the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. The Programmes under Vote 01 and the funds allocated to each of them are as follows:

Programme 1: Supervision and Support Services has been allocated an amount of **N\$434,962,000 (Four Hundred and Thirty Four Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty Two Thousand Namibia Dollars)**.

The objectives under Programme 01 are:

- to provide support to the President to act in the national interest and uphold the dignity of the Office; and
- to ensure that the Namibia Central Intelligence Services (NCIS) detects and identifies threat or potential threat to the security of Namibia and thereby contributing to the maintenance of peace, security and stability in the country.

Programme 2: Marginalised Community Development Programme has been allocated an amount of **N\$48,291,000 (Forty Eight Million, Two Hundred and Ninety One Thousand Namibia Dollars)**.

The main objective of Programme 02 is to integrate identified vulnerable rural communities into mainstream processes of socio-economic development and delivery of public services. This is further encapsulated in the broader theme championed by our President that *“No Namibian Should Be Left Behind.”*

This highlights the critical importance of pursuing inclusivity as one of the central tenets of development in order to spread prosperity to all Namibians.

Towards this end, the Office of the President will play a coordinating role

in ensuring that all communities, especially the vulnerable households in our society are provided with basic services such as potable water, health care, education, housing and sanitation and other amenities, including food. The aim is to ensure that Government institutions coordinate their roles and functions to serve all our people effectively.

Programme 03: Protection of the National Constitution has been allocated an amount of **N\$177,216,000.00 (One Hundred and Seventy Seven Million, Two Hundred and Sixteen Thousand Namibia Dollars).**

The purpose of this Programme is to ensure compliance with Chapter 5 and other relevant provisions of the Constitution, as well as to maintain peace and stability and good governance.

Programme 4: Democracy Consolidation and Promotion has been allocated an amount of **N\$54,599,000 (Fifty Four Million, Five Hundred and Ninety Nine Thousand Namibia Dollars).**

The objective under Programme 04 is to ensure that the Office of the Founding President and that of the Former President are properly maintained and that efficient and effective services are provided to these two Offices.

It should be noted, Honourable Chairperson, that under Programme 4, support is provided to the Office of the Founding President and the Former President in line with the *Former Presidents' Pension and Other Benefits Act, 2004* (Act 18 of 2004).

This underscores the important role that the Founding President and the Former President of our Republic will continue to play in consolidating the culture of democracy, the Rule of Law and constitutionalism in our country. Under this same Programme, technical, logistical and administrative support will also be provided to the Vice President. Apart from deputising the President, the Vice-President is tasked with other responsibilities assigned to him by the President or by any other Law.

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Equally, the activities of the First Lady of our Republic will also be supported under this Programme, to enable her to carry out her outreach and advocacy role for the benefit of vulnerable communities in our society.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, as I stated earlier, and as it is well-known by all Honourable Members of this House, our President is charged with carrying out important national functions. In order to discharge these duties successfully and thereby keeping our country on the path of progress, development, prosperity, peace and stability, I urge all Honourable Members of this august House to give our President and his support staff, the means to do so.

I, therefore, humbly request you, Honourable Members to support and approve the total allocation of **N\$715,068,000.00 (Seven Hundred and Fifteen Million, Sixty Eight Thousand Namibia Dollars)** in respect of Vote 01.

Of this total allocation, an amount of **N\$548,231,000.00 (Five Hundred and Forty Eight Million, Two Hundred and Thirty One Thousand Namibia Dollars)** is earmarked for the Operational Budget, while the remaining **N\$166,837,000.00 (One Hundred and Sixty Six Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars)** is earmarked for the Development Budget. I thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson and Honourable Members.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Minister of Presidential Affairs for a well presented Statement.

Vote 02 – **“OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER”** – **N\$616,675,000.00** only, put for Introduction by the Honourable Deputy Minister in the Presidency. May I ask the Honourable Deputy Minister to present the Vote?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER:

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members of Parliament it is a gratifying moment for me to address this august House today as a Member of Parliament. This would not have been possible if not for the grace and favour of God upon my life, the one in whom I live and move and have my being. For the Word of God says that promotion does not come from the East nor from the West nor from the South but from the Lord, may all the Glory, therefore, this morning go to Him.

I wish to honour the Founding Fathers of our democracy those who could not be able to see the dawn of Independence but have tirelessly, fearlessly and selflessly fought the war for the independence and freedoms we enjoy today. His Excellency Dr Sam Nujoma for having championed the bitter struggle for our independence and self determination for having ushered us into newness and restoration of our dignity as a people. My profound gratitude goes to His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, the Former President under whose tutelage I served for almost ten years.

I appreciate his nominating me to the list of candidates for the National Assembly elections held last year which has culminated in my election to Parliament. He influenced the course of my life in an unprecedented fashion through his leadership and wisdom in a stern, yet just manner. He polished and refined me over the years. My heartfelt sense of appreciation goes to His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob who appointed me as Deputy Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister. I pledge my support to serve you and the people of Namibia with honour and dignity, Your Excellency.

Last but not the least, my family and children who support and stand by me in everything I venture into. I have now the honour, Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members to present to the National Assembly the motivation for the budgetary allocation of Vote 02, Office of the Prime Minister for the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I now have the honour and privilege to present to the National Assembly the Motivation for the budgetary allocation of Vote 02 - **OFFICE OF THE PRIME**

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MINISTER, for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to provide you with a brief overview of the Office of the Prime Minister's Programmes and activities according to the seven core Programmes to motivate the Budget allocation of **N\$616,675,000 (Six Hundred and Sixteen Million Six Hundred and Seventy Five Thousand Dollars)** for the Fiscal Year 2015/2016 for the Office of the Prime Minister.

Out of the total budget request of **N\$616,675,000 (Six Hundred and Sixteen Million Six Hundred and Seventy Five Thousand Dollars)** the amount of **N\$485,574,000 (Four Hundred and Eighty Five Million Five Hundred and Seventy Four Thousand Dollars)** is meant for Office of the Prime Minister's Operational Budget for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

The total Development Budget is **N\$131,101,000 (One Hundred and Thirty One Million One Hundred and One Thousand Dollars)** for 2015/2016.

Honourable Members, before I deal with the Programme for the execution of Vote 02, I wish to emphasise that our Programmes are in line with our Strategic Plan for 2013 to 2016, which is based on NDP4. Our main strategic objective is to improve service delivery and improve the quality of life of our people. Our Medium Term Plan, thus, indicates the extent to which we have aligned our resource allocation to improve service delivery and quality of life of our communities.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the Medium Term Expenditure Framework provides that the Office of the Prime Minister is expected to execute its Budget according to the following Main Programmes:-

Programme 01:

Policy Coordination and Support Services

An amount of **N\$257,1 million (Two Hundred and Fifty Seven Comma One Million Dollars)** is allocated to this Programme to provide financial, human resources and logistical support for efficient administration of the Office of the Prime Minister.

This amount includes: **N\$32,0 million (Thirty Two Million Dollars)** allocated to NIPAM for the Operational Budgetary Expenses.

Programme 02:

Government Leadership Administration and Coordination

An amount of **N\$51,9 million (Fifty One Comma Nine)** is allocated to this Programme to provide support to the Prime Minister in the execution of her constitutional mandate.

Programme 03:

National Disaster Management

Honourable Members, you are aware of the drought experienced throughout the country during last year. Our country still continues to experience drought due to poor rainfall. The findings of the crop assessment conducted during the month of February 2015 in rural areas of the crop producing northern Regions indicates that overall crop production is negatively affected by poor rainfall, which resulted in poor crop germinations and wilting. Grazing conditions in various parts of the country are reported to be poor and the levels of earth dams and underground water are reported to have dropped.

The crop assessment is mainly to assess and estimate the crop performance in the communal crop-growing Regions of Namibia and provide early warning Report on geographic locations of agronomic anomalies and any other significant events. The result of this assessment was presented to Cabinet. Cabinet approved interim measures to be undertaken to assist affected people by providing food commodities, water

provision through borehole rehabilitation and drilling, assistance to farmers and seed provision. The total cost of interim measures is **N\$359,093,106.25**. This amount is to be covered from the National Disaster Fund and Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry Budget for the current Financial Year. The exact financial implications for drought interventions will be determined after the outcome of the post harvest crop and vulnerability assessment missions planned for May/June 2015. These assessments will provide information on number of people affected and amount of assistance required. Provision of funds is made under contingency for drought mitigation in addition to the amount of **N\$121,1 million (One Hundred and Twenty One Comma One Million Dollars)** which is allocated for operational expenses for Disaster Risk Management.

Furthermore, Government is busy distributing food commodities (Maize Meal and Rice) donated by the Federal Republic of Nigeria this year.

Programme 04:

Public Service Management

An allocation of **N\$91,1 million (Ninety One Comma One Million Dollars)** is made available to this vital Programme. This Programme is aimed to respond to citizens' expectations with regard to efficient and effective service delivery by fostering ethical and professional Public Service delivery culture and practice. The second objective is to design attractive conditions of services and conducive working environment for Public Servants.

The main activities under this Programme are as follows :

- a) Public Service Reform Initiatives. This include:
 - (i) Introduce, Public Sector Innovation Awards.
 - (ii) The continued popularisation and domestication of the

African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration.

- (iii) Conducting a countrywide Citizen Survey on service delivery to solicit feedback from citizens on their perceptions about the state of service delivery in the Namibian Public Service. This will help to entrench continuous Public Service improvement and citizen engagement.
- b) Human Resources Planning and Development aiming at finalising the ongoing implementation and the maintenance of the Human Capital Management System. This is an ongoing major project for the automation of the entire HR management and administration in the Public Service. In addition, this allocation include the provisioning of the Public Service HR Planning Framework, Human Resource capacity building initiatives, implementation of the Public Service Competence Framework, ongoing Training Needs Assessment and the Office of the Prime Minister participation in local and international development initiatives.
- c) Benefits and Industrial Relations;
- d) Performance Improvement.
- e) Organisational Development and Grading.
- f) Public Service Employee Wellness, HIV and AIDS Impact Assessment study conducted;
- g) Human Resource profiling. This project is aimed at closing the Human Resource planning gaps. It is quite clear that for Namibia to meet its objectives in terms of Vision 2030, MDGs and NDP4, it is essential to develop an HRP framework for the Public Service. There is a need to profile the current staff members to enable the Office of the Prime Minister to determine the current and future HR needs as well as to come up with an appropriate HR Planning

framework then a Public Service HR Plan for the short-term, medium and long term. The HRP framework will support the realisation of the National Development Goals.

- h) Africa Public Service Day (APSD) celebrations. It is a tradition to bring Public Servants from all Sectors together to celebrate the APSD in Namibia every year.

The Purpose of the Africa Public Service Day Celebration is among others:-

- To reflect on the function of the Civil/Public Service -its mission and objectives, Programmes and projects, successes and challenges.
- To give recognition to and make known the importance of the civil/public service, its positive contribution and benefits to Public Servants, Population, Civil Society, Private Sector and Government.
- To motivate and encourage Public Servants to continue the good work done and to come up with new initiatives and innovations.

Programme 5:

Constitutional Obligation of the Public Service Commission

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, an allocation of **N\$22,7 million (Twenty Two Comma Seven Million Dollars)** is made available to provide administrative services to enable the Public Service Commission to advise the President and Government on the appointment of suitable persons to specified categories in the Public Service and other public bodies. To carry out the exercise of adequate disciplinary control over such persons in order to ensure the fair administration of personnel policy; the remuneration and retirement benefits of any such persons and all other matters which by Law pertain to the Public Service.

Programme 6:

Public Service Information Technology Management

Honourable Members, an amount of **N\$76, 3 million (Seventy Six Comma Three Million Dollars)** is allocated to this Programme to implement eGovernment Strategic Action Plan (eGSAP) with the view to improve service delivery to the Namibian Public Service in line with the NDP4 agenda.

The above mentioned allocation includes the following activities:

- The establishment of a Government Unified Data Centre and expansion of Government Internet/Intranet services to the Regions. This is work in progress, 14 Internet centres, that is, the Internet Points of Presence (POPs) are being established in all fourteen Regions and will be operationalised during this Financial Year. The centres are all inter-connected with fast high speed broadband fibre optic cables providing inter-regional connectivity and back to Windhoek. The purpose of these centres is to take Government services closer to the people.
- Designing and adoption of the interoperability solution -the X-Road, as it is known in Estonia, our co-operating partner on this project). We all know that O/M/As and Parastatals or even Private Sectors, have some sorts of data to share among them as stakeholders, but very often those diverse systems or databases do not talk to one another. The X-Road will be a mechanism for data exchange in the Namibian Public Service, thereby making it possible for those silos or diverse systems in various O/M/As, Parastatals and Private Sector to share data and talk to one another irrespective of the platform or language used.
- The establishment of a Network Operation Centre and a Disaster Recovery Site with the main purpose to monitor the whole operation of the Government network which is crucial to enable the Office of the Prime Minister to restore services in case of failure or disaster.

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- The development and maintenance of the GRN portal; the provision of online services and establishment of the eGovernment Helpdesk for the Namibian Public Service.
- IT Skills Development; the review of the e-Governance and IT Policies for the Public Service of Namibia; and the adoption of relevant IT Standards Procedures that will ensure effective implementation of the eGovernment Strategic Annual Plan.

Programme 7:

Cabinet Secretariat

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, an amount of **N\$22,5 million (Twenty Two Comma Five Million Dollars)** is allocated to this Programme to carry out its Secretariat Services effectively.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, this in short is a summary of our Programmes under Vote 2, Office of the Prime Minister.

In view of my Motivation of Vote 02, I request this august House to approve the expenditure of **SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN MILLION SIX HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (N\$616,675,000)**, as set out in the schedule of the *Appropriation Bill* for 2015, for the Office of the Prime Minister. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I thank the Deputy Minister for that eloquent introduction.

Vote 04 – **“OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL” - N\$84,725,000.00** put for Introduction by Minister of Presidential Affairs. May I ask the Honourable Minister to present the Vote?

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It states here that it is supposed to be done by Minister of Presidential Affairs. Maybe there was no coordination in that regard, so we move to the next Vote.

Vote 30 – “**ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION**” - **N\$53,248,000.00** put for Introduction by the Prime Minister, so the Deputy Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister will do that again. Honourable Deputy Minister?

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: Honourable Chairperson, I thank you once again for this opportunity to address the House on the budget proposal of the Anti-Corruption Commission for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

Firstly, allow me Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, to place anti-corruption efforts in the context of our national development.

An honest and ethical business environment is a necessary condition for both domestic and foreign investments, which are essential ingredients for economic growth and poverty eradication.

Corruption on the other hand, is a key element in economic underperformance and a major obstacle to poverty alleviation. Corrupt deals hurt the poor disproportionately when funds intended for development are diverted to corrupt deals. Illicit deals undermine Government’s ability to provide basic services, thereby feeding inequality and contributing to economic underperformance.

The Anti-Corruption Commission was established to prevent and investigate corruption. The establishment of the Commission serves as a warning to the corrupt, that betrayal of the public trust cannot be tolerated in Namibia. Government, by establishing the Commission further reaffirms the importance of core values such as honesty, respect for the Rule of

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of Law, accountability and transparency in the efforts to develop our country.

Honourable Chairperson, you will recall that the Commission has a separate Vote, which is in line with statutory requirements that its operations should be independent.

By virtue of it being a statutory institution, the Anti-Corruption Commission's functions are set out in its empowering statute, the *Anti-Corruption Act*, 2003 (Act 8 of 2003). These functions are highlighted in Section 3 of the *Anti-Corruption Act*, which I cannot enumerate here due to time constraints.

In respect of the Medium Term Plan 2014/2015 to 2016/2017, Vote 30 reflected three Programmes, namely –

- Investigation of allegations of corruption
- Corruption prevention
- Co-ordination, management and support

The total allocation for the Financial Year 2014/2015 was **N\$54,792,000.00.**

Utilising the above resources, the Commission carried out its investigative work, delivered anti-corruption messages to the public and provided measures to prevent or curb corruption.

With regard to investigative work, the Commission carried out the following activities during the Financial Year 2014/2015;

- Received 427 Reports of alleged corrupt practices. These reports were investigated, at times preliminary investigations were conducted to first ascertain whether there were merits for criminal investigation under the provisions of the *Anti-Corruption Act* or whether the allegations were mere Common Law offences that warrant investigation by the Namibian Police or whether it is a mere

administrative dispute that must be referred to the Office of the Ombudsman for mediation or to an administrative authority for internal investigation and appropriate action to be taken.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it is necessary to take note that the Commission did not only conduct investigation on allegations that were referred to the Prosecutor-General with recommendations for prosecution. Many of the cases investigated were referred to the administrative authorities with recommendations for internal disciplinary actions against the suspects. Investigating Officers of the Commission, therefore, spend part of their valuable time testifying in disciplinary proceedings by virtue of the reason that in many of these matters they are the ones who unearthed the wrongdoings through investigations and statements obtained. This has resulted in some officials found guilty or resigning from their positions before disciplinary proceedings are concluded.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, investigations, whether to prove administrative wrongdoing or criminal wrongdoing can be cumbersome and complex sometimes. The Criminal Court require to be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt about the criminal wrongdoing of the suspect. All necessary forensic documents in support of the allegations must be obtained which sometimes take relatively longer, depending on the institutions from where the evidence must be obtained. It takes even longer when part of the evidence must be obtained from outside the country or when the Headquarters of such office is outside Namibia. The investigation may as well be prolonged if evidence obtained must be submitted for forensic analysis by forensic institutions. The only forensic institution with the Namibian Police handle many criminal forensic cases and thus take time before finalising the forensic reports. Corruption is a crime which is perpetrated in darkness and behind closed doors. It is often hidden behind many layers. It takes time and meticulous investigation to unearth evidence of a corruption offence.

- Out of the 427 cases reported during the Financial Year 2014/2015, **177** reports were, after carefully considered, found to be either

baseless, malicious or unfounded and, therefore, did not fall within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Thirty-Four (**34**) cases were, after lengthy investigations and gathering of relevant evidence, referred to the Prosecutor-General with recommendations for prosecution. This number adds to many other cases referred to Prosecutor-General in the previous Financial Years many of which are pending before Court or the criminal hearings had been finalised.

- Thirty Eight (**38**) cases were referred to other institutions with instruction to be dealt with internally. Eighty-One (**81**) other cases were closed after lengthy investigations or preliminary investigations. The statements and supporting documents, were appropriate, could not substantiate the allegations made to the Commission.
- Currently of the 427 cases received for the Financial Year in question ninety seven (**97**) cases are still under ongoing investigations. In most of the matters that were reported, the Commission had to conduct an investigation to establish whether the allegations of corruption could be substantiated or not before deciding on the referral of the matter.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I again wish to inform this august House that investigation can be an unwieldy process. In many cases it requires the use of a variety of technological ways and contacts with counterparts in other countries in order to gather evidence. The Commission requires financial resources to ensure the building of the capacity of the investigators. They need to undergo relevant training skills and get more exposed with the use of modern investigative technologies.

With a view to ensuring efficient and accurate financial investigations, the Commission acquired a Financial Investigation System. The system has significantly reduced the period during which financial investigations are carried out. The investigators need to undergo extensive trainings in the use of such system.

Honourable Chairperson, in the area of **Public Education and Corruption Prevention**, the Commission achieved the following:

- Acquired an Integrity Management Toolbox that is used to review, test or examine the practices, systems and procedures of public bodies to facilitate the discovery of corrupt practices and secure the revision of practices, systems or procedures which may be prone or conducive to corrupt practices;
- Produced a draft National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan;
- Embarked upon an Anti-Corruption Communication Strategy utilising billboards at major entry points into Namibia;
- Disseminated anti-corruption adverts and messages in various languages through the print and electronic media;
- Held anti-corruption seminars for a variety of its stakeholders and distributed anti-corruption publications through trade fairs, industrial shows and career fairs.

Through these public awareness campaigns and interaction with members of the public, the Commission sensitised the public and largely fostered public support in anti-corruption awareness activities.

The Commission continues to enjoy national, regional and international support. The regional and international fora attended during the Financial Year 2014/2015 provided a platform to exchange experiences and best practices with regard to, amongst others, the investigation and prevention of corruption.

Honourable Members, despite accolades on good governance that Namibia receives, corruption remains a challenge. Further, the Commission itself continues to experience challenges of which the critical ones are: –

- the insufficient number of offices at strategic Regions countrywide,
- insufficient human resources capacity and staff turnover,

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- delays in the finalization of corruption cases caused by, amongst others, unnecessary postponements in our Courts of Law

The above factors seriously hamper productivity and optimal service delivery to the public and if not addressed timeously, have the potential to erode public confidence in the Commission and the administration of justice.

The Anti-Corruption Commission needs Government support to effectively and efficiently fight the scourge of corruption. Adequate funding is needed, in particular, to continue increasing and developing the Commission's human resource capacity, which will enable the Commission to effectively and efficiently combat corruption.

The proposed allocation for the Financial Year 2015/2016 is **FIFTY THREE MILLION TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY EIGHT THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLARS.**

The allocation is to be divided among the three Programmes in the Medium Term Plan of Vote 30, namely -

- Investigation of allegations of corruption;
- Corruption prevention;
- Coordination, management and support.

If allocated, with regard to **Investigation of Allegations of Corruption** the funds would enable the Commission:-

- to improve and extend its intelligence gathering capability;
- to successfully conduct and conclude investigations into alleged corrupt practices;
- invest in a modern interview recording system;
- to continue conducting examinations into the regulatory frameworks of

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public and private institutions in order to facilitate the discovery of corrupt practices in such bodies;

- to maintain the ACC's Case Management System, which controls and monitors investigative work;

With regard to **Corruption Prevention** the funds would enable the Commission:-

- to conduct a National Corruption Perception Survey that would provide the Commission with the public's perception on corruption, guide the Commission's public education initiatives as well as provide a baseline data on corruption;
- to conduct Corruption Risk Assessment in Public and Private Institutions;
- to finalize a National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Plan for implementation which aims at promoting accountability and providing a framework against which amendments to legislation and other interventions may be undertaken.

With regard to **Coordination, Management and Support** the funds would enable the Commission:-

- to fully implement the Performance Management System with a view to improving the performance of staff members;
- increase and effectively develop the Commission's human resources capacity to ensure a workforce with improved productivity and service delivery;
- to ensure through the execution of regular internal audits, proper financial management, transparency and improved accountability;
- to continue developing its regional infrastructural capacity to ensure accessible and enhanced services to the public;

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- to secure a high level of customer satisfaction through improved communication mechanisms;
- to better regulate the activities of the ACC through improved legislative and institutional frameworks changes.

More effort is required to eliminate the scourge of corruption in Namibia. In addition to addressing the above three challenges, the Commission will be reviewing its enabling legislation with a view to making its work more transparent and accountable as well as to eliminate loopholes through which perpetrators of corrupt acts continue to evade the justice system. The commission shall further strive to increase anti-corruption education through promotion of partnerships with other Governmental Institution, Civil Society and the Private Sector.

The funds earmarked for the Commission's activities over the next Medium Term Plan period will go a long way towards achieving the aforementioned outcomes. The approval of this Financial Year's proposed allocation will also clearly underline the Government's political will to fight corruption.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, in view of the above Motivation, I request this august House to approve the expenditure of **FIFTY THREE MILLION TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY EIGHT THOUSAND NAMIBIA DOLLARS** as set out in the Schedule of the Appropriation Bill for 2015 in respect of the Anti-Corruption Commission. I thank you.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: I thank the Honourable Member for a job well done. I shall Report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again. Thank you. (*Applause*)

17 April 2015

**ADJOURNMENT
HON NANDI-NDAITWAH**

ASSEMBLY RESUMES

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: I suppose we are all happy and I am pleased that we have succeeded to finalise the items before us and I congratulate the Minister and the Deputy Minister who have motivated their Votes in the shortest period possible. I hope this will be the trend.

With this, I would like to humbly request the Deputy Prime Minister to adjourn the House to next Tuesday, the 21st of April 2015, for the State of the Nation Address by the Head of State. Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, can you adjourn the House?

HON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker. I Move that this House adjourns until Tuesday, the 21st April 2015, when we are going to listen to the State of the Nation Address by His Excellency the President and I wish you all a restful weekend. Time, as usual 14:30 sharp. I Move so, Comrade Deputy Speaker.

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: With that, I also join the Deputy Prime Minister in wishing you a safe journey to your respective destinations. Please come back fresh so that we can start at 14:30 on the 21st of April 2014.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:30 UNTIL 2015.04.21 AT 14:30

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
21 APRIL 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

HON DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members of the media, you do not pray with us. You just take photos while we are praying (*laughter*). Next time please join us and pray with everybody.

I have an announcement to make; Honourable Members, I wish to announce that today, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hage Geingob will address Parliament on the State of the Nation.

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

BUSINESS SUSPENDED

WELCOMING ADDRESS

21 April 2015

**WELCOMING ADDRESS
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON SPEAKER: Please be seated. I suppose the time has come for us to get on with the job of the day.

Thank you very much, members of the Media. Your Excellency Dr Hage Geingob President of the Republic of Namibia, Your Excellency Dr Nickey Iyambo, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia, Right Honourable Prime Minister, Chairman of the National Council, Deputy Chairperson of the National Council, Your Lordship, Chief Justice Peter Shivute, Your Lordship Deputy Chief Justice Petrus Damaseb, Honourable Members of Parliament, Members of the Diplomatic Corp, Honourable Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, the former Speaker of the National Assembly, Fellow Citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen;

As you can observe we have a challenge in accommodating most of you and particularly when both Houses of Parliament come together in the Chamber like this, and this is obviously due to limited space at our disposal. The situation will become even more challenging when the membership of the National Council will increase later this year in line with the Constitutional Amendments, thus the urgent need for a new Parliament building has become an absolute necessity. Honourable Members, please bear with us for now, and I apologise for the inconvenience that you might experience.

Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, I extend warmest welcome to you on this historic and auspicious occasion when both Houses of Parliament come together for the Joint Session of Parliament for the State of Nation Address by Your Excellency.

Mr President, we also feel privileged by the fact that this is also the time when you are delivering your first State of the Nation Address. I recall your own words when you were addressing the Nation upon the assumption of the Office of President of the Republic of Namibia, you spoke movingly when you said, and I quote - *“This is the day that the Lord has made and we will rejoice and be glad in it.”* You also spoke about the overwhelming scope of the Presidential mandate and by the mere fact that the Nation voted very favourably in your support and in

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support of the SWAPO Party. This has demonstrated overwhelmingly the confidence that the Nation has in your Term of Office.

You also went on to state that, and I quote - *“The citizens need food and good nutrition, clothing, shelter, jobs and better housing.”* Furthermore, you highlighted that the Electorate, and I quote - *“Want a Leader who will bring prosperity to the Nation and they want that Leader to act so quickly.”* Honourable Members, that Leader is His Excellency Dr Hage Gottfried Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia (*applause*).

I now have the honour and privilege in accordance with Article 32(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia to request Your Excellency to address this Joint Session of Parliament on the State of the Nation. Your Excellency, Mr President you have the Floor.

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HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT DR GEINGOB: Thank you.
Please be seated.

Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Asser Kapere, Chairperson of the National Council, Your Excellency Dr. Nicky Iyambo, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia, Your Excellency, Comrade Pohamba, Second President of the Republic of Namibia, Right Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, I am supposed to recognise my wife too, Mrs. Monica Geingos, First Lady of the Republic of Namibia, Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Honourable 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;

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I would like to commence my address, by extending my warmest congratulations to you, Honourable Katjavivi, on your election as Speaker of our Sixth Parliament. Let me also use this opportunity to thank our foremost diplomat and former Speaker, Dr. Theo Ben Gurirab, who has acquitted himself exceptionally well in all the roles assigned to him. Equally, allow me to mention the former Prime Minister, Honourable Nahas Angula, who has left Parliament after helping to draft the Constitution and serving Parliament since Namibia's Independence. In the same vein, I bid farewell to the former Deputy Prime Minister, Honourable Marco Hausiku and Honourable Katuutire Kaura, two Founding Parliamentarians who have retired from this august House.

I am pleased to note that the State of the Nation Address is coinciding with the First Session of the Sixth Parliament. I would also like to extend a warm word of congratulations to the newly elected Members of Parliament, especially first time Parliamentarians. It is gratifying to note that this Parliament is the most diverse since Independence. The number of first time MPs is 49%. We look forward to fresh perspectives and robust Debate.

Due to the 50/50 policy spearheaded by the SWAPO Party, women now represent, 48% of the National Assembly (*applause*). Gender equality is an enabler which allows all people to reach their full potential to contribute to and benefit from economic, social, cultural and political participation. It is pertinent that women have greater access to high level decision-making roles.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, the Supreme Law of our Republic enjoins the President to give account on the State of the Nation during the consideration of the *Appropriation Bill*. This is a practice that has been carried out for the past 24 years under the leadership of our Founding President Comrade Sam Nujoma, as well as my predecessor, Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba. I wish to commend these two icons for having laid a solid foundation for the development and prosperity of our Republic. (*Applause*)

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The State of the Nation Address is a *Constitutional Act* that reinforces the very essence of our democracy as a Government by the people and for the people.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Nation Building is similar to building a house, and in our case, building the Namibian house. Firstly, you clear an area on which you build a solid foundation. You then lay the bricks and use cement to ensure that the bricks are kept in place. Allow the house to dry and firm up. Finally, you plaster the wall and it is important to let it dry before you paint the house with your chosen colours.

The same is true for building the Namibian house. We cleared the area with United Nations supervised elections. After which we drafted the Constitution as our foundation. The bricks of our house are the different ethnic groups and the mortar is the various Laws passed in Parliament to hold us together. Allow the democracy to firm up and mature.

We are intent on building and maintaining a high quality house in which all its residents have a sense of shared identity. We are determined to build a house that will be a place of peace and refuge for all its children and a house in which **no Namibian will feel left out.** (*Applause*)

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Fellow Namibians, I am sure you are all aware of the parable of two men who built their respective houses, as narrated in Mathew 7 of the Holy Bible. One of them was foolish and built his house on sand, the other one was wise and built his house on rock. When rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against the house of the wise man, it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. Conversely, the house of the foolish man, who built his house on sand collapsed.

In Namibia, we are not foolish. Wise builders have built our Namibian House on rock.

Other aspects of the strong foundation of the Namibian House,

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, include peace and stability, respect for the Rule of Law, and good governance.

Without peace and stability in the House, development becomes impossible. We should, therefore, not take our peace and stability for granted. We not only treasure our own peace, we also treasure the peace of others. To this extent, we contribute, within our means, to peace keeping in the world and in particular on our own continent, Africa. I am particularly proud of the peacekeeping role we have played, and continue to play, on the Continent for we are, first and foremost, Africans. Africa stood by us during our long and bitter struggle and in turn, we stand by Africa. (*Applause*)

We have deepened and strengthened the democratic governance and culture in our Namibian House. Free and fair elections at national and local level have become part of our democratic experience. We are a country where freedom of the media and freedom of speech flourish. In fact, Reporters without Borders has consistently rated Namibia as the country with the freest press on the African continent. (*Applause*)

Another strong foundation of our Namibian House is good Governance. It was, therefore, no surprise that our former President, Hifikepunye Pohamba, received the Mo Ibrahim Award for African leadership. Congratulations once again, Comrade President (*applause*). According to Transparency International, Namibia has remained one of the least corrupt countries in the world. It is important for public officials, to take note that corruption, in any form, whether it is a kickback, commission or any other benefit in the regular execution of duty is unacceptable. The Private Sector should also take note that by paying a bribe, it perpetuates and entrenches the very corruption it laments.

As a rules-based Nation, we must capacitate and allow our institutions such the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Namibian Police and our Courts to investigate and prosecute cases of corruption without fear or favour.

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The Anti-Corruption Commission and the Courts are only able to successfully prosecute cases of corruption if they have sufficient evidence. In this regard, I urge service providers to the Government, or any user of Government service to ensure that if he or she is asked for a bribe by a Civil Servant, not to oblige. Instead, please inform the Anti-corruption Commission and provide them with the necessary evidence. Corruption requires a corrupter and a corruptee. Businesspeople that pay bribes and the Civil Servants who solicit or receive bribes are engaged in an evil, which undermines our development and weakens the fibre of our society.

A key requirement in preventing undue benefits accruing to Public Officials is preventing conflicts of interest and the disclosure of assets. The Law does not require the President to disclose his personal assets. However, managing conflict of interest is a matter which requires political will. Therefore, I feel obliged to publicly declare my personal assets.
(Applause)

To this extent, I have engaged PriceWaterHouseCoopers'(PWC) Tax and Advisory Services to assist me with an independent assessment of my assets. PWC will also assist me to prepare a Financial Disclosure Report, which I will disclose to the public in the second week of May 2015. For the sake of consistency, the First Lady will also disclose her personal assets, despite there being no legal requirement for her to do so. In the same vein of transparency, I will also release my Medical Health Reports for public scrutiny. These disclosures will be made in line with the belief that transparency starts at the top. I am deeply convinced that accountability, transparency and inclusive leadership are "*conditio sine quo non*" for sustained socio-economic development and the improvement of the lives of all our people.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairman, I trust you will ensure the timely and adequate disclosure of assets by Parliamentarians. I assure you and the Namibian nation that the Prime Minister will ensure that Civil Servants equally disclose all outside interests and sources of income.

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All Ministers and their Deputies will be required to issue Ministerial Declarations of Intent that will constitute a contract with the public on delivery to which they will be held accountable.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Fellow Namibians, the Namibian House is solid. The foundation is firm. The State of the Nation is healthy. Now it is time to make sure that all who reside in the house, are healthy, well educated, have decent employment and are well nourished. These are basic prerequisites in the maintenance of a harmonious home.

Twenty-five years after Independence, we have made significant progress in the fight against poverty. Official statistics shows that the poverty rate declined significantly from 69.3% in 1994 to 28.7% in 2010. This means that the poverty rate halved during that period. This is unprecedented progress, as globally only a handful of countries have been able to halve poverty over such a short period of time (*applause*). In absolute terms, more than four hundred thousand Namibians were lifted out of poverty during that period. The introduction of Targeted Social Safety Nets, including Old Age Pensions and Social Grants for people living with disabilities as well as for orphans and vulnerable children have played a significant role in reducing poverty levels in Namibia.

These statistics are testament to the work done in alleviating poverty but the cold facts are that poverty, even at 28.9% is still too high. Poverty at 10% would still be too high. If we were to halve that to 5%, it would still be too high. The war on poverty is focused on eventual eradication so we will not hide behind statics as our focus is on sustained poverty reduction measures and eventually eradication.

Research carried out by our National Statistics Agency shows that the Old Age Pension has played a major role in the prevention of childhood poverty. In the absence of an Old Age Pension, the childhood poverty rate would have been ten percent higher than the current figure. That is why one of the first priorities was to increase the Old Age Pension by 66.7% from N\$600 per month, to N\$1,000 per month, starting this Financial Year

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(*applause*). Further increases will be effected so that old age pension grants reach N\$1,200 by 2017. This has already been factored into the National Budget.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Fellow Namibians, the war against poverty and the quest for economic emancipation must be a multifaceted war, which we will fight on many fronts, using a myriad of methods at our disposal. Some of these measures are outlined below.

The first step in the fight against poverty is the recognition that all Namibians deserve a dignified life. A dignified life includes decent employment and decent shelter. This will require the input of Government as well as all employers. Government has, and will continue to formulate a legal framework focused on reducing the income gap. What is also required is a mental framework where Namibian employers empathise with and remunerate their employees appropriately. What is required is that all Namibians treat each other with dignity and respect and that all Namibians play their role in uplifting their fellow human being. This sharing mindset in individuals will go a long way in making sure **no Namibian is left behind**.

In the Namibian House, **no child should go hungry**. I am committed to the introduction of a Food Bank. The willingness of several farmers to get involved in this initiative on a voluntary basis is indicative of how Namibians recognise that we will only eradicate poverty if we work together. (*Applause*)

The Ministry of Poverty Eradication is tasked to co-ordinate all aspects hereto and harness the political will of government and the goodwill of Namibians as a tool in the eradication of poverty.

There is a saying that says - "*Love only grows by sharing. You can only have more for yourself by giving it away to others.*" Let us adopt the virtues of sharing in our Namibian House. Let us allow the spirit of *Harambee* to manifest itself for the good of all Namibians. We must succeed as *One Namibia, one Nation*.

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Many of the residents of the Namibian House are poor because they do not have a job nor access to proper education or marketable skills. We will, therefore, tackle poverty from all fronts, through Safety Nets, access to quality education, and by creating jobs and growing the economy. This is why the Ministry of Labour has been renamed to the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Job Creation. This renewed focus must ensure that we target one of the root causes of poverty, which is unemployment.

The good thing is that our people are not lazy. Our people want to work. Our people will excel when given the opportunity. I would like to acknowledge the role of entrepreneurs whose enterprises create employment opportunities for others. Their efforts must be acknowledged and supported through our development finance institutions such as the Development Bank of Namibia, the SME Bank and the procurement muscle of the State. Political self-determination is meaningless without economic self-determination.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Fellow Namibians, a House in which the few are affluent while the rest are poor is not a healthy house (*applause*). During the past twenty-five years, considerable progress was made in reducing income disparities in Namibia. This was through a mix of pro-poor, pro-growth interventions and redistributive policies targeted at the poorest of the poor. The Gini-Coefficient that measures income disparity declined from 0.70 in 1994 to 0.58 in 2010, maybe it went down a little bit down now as well.

Admittedly, one would have liked to see a sharper reduction in the levels of inequality, but what is most important is the fact that we are moving in the right direction. It also shows that it is possible to grow the economic cake.

Due to the structural nature of wealth accumulation, the average Namibian was dispossessed and does not possess much wealth in terms of homes or shareholding. The only way out of this conundrum is to introduce a targeted approach to unpack and reverse the existing structural

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imbalances. In this regard, I want to appeal to the business community to introduce new co-ownership practices in which workers are able to own shares in the companies they dedicate their labour to (*applause*). This will help them to feel part of the business while at the same time also assist them to begin creating real and long term wealth. Quite often, we are told that the workers are stealing but one cannot steal what is your own. Therefore, if you have shares in a company, you cannot steal from the company, nor can you be lazy, but you will work hard because you are working for yourself. These are the principles included in the draft policy framework on Broad-Based Economic Empowerment. The finalisation of this policy is overdue, Comrade Prime Minister, and it is time to re-ignite the consultation process on this long outstanding policy framework.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Education remains the greatest equaliser. Nationally, our literacy rate has increased from less than 75% at Independence to approximately 90%, according to the latest Census count of 2011. In some Regions such as Khomas and Erongo, the literacy rate is virtually 100%.

We removed school fees in 2012 which made education free at primary school level. This led to a significant increase in enrolment rates at pre-primary and primary school levels.

This year, we are going to introduce free secondary school education, which will enable thousands of young Namibians to have a better shot at a brighter future (*applause*). This will immediately arrest the high youth unemployment rate.

At the moment, large subsidies to our local tertiary education institutions translate into the State covering up to 80% of university costs. Therefore, the fees payable by Namibian university students are significantly reduced by Government subsidies and make it tantamount to free tertiary education. This, as well as increased funding of scholarships through the Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund has significantly expanded access to affordable tertiary education.

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The Private Sector, should also contribute more towards building the skills set of our Nation, by providing more scholarships and training to our young adults. When I was on an official visit to China last year, I met with 30 Namibian medical students who were provided full bursaries by a Chinese philanthropist. This is commendable and the contributions of Namibian companies and individuals who provide bursaries are also commended.

In addition to training locally, we continue to send out and support our youth to further their studies in various disciplines at top universities in the world.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Fellow Namibians, a house that is not healthy cannot be productive. Access to quality and affordable health services is equally important for poverty reduction and economic development. How can we expect sick people to work and to be fully productive? The Namibian House has made great strides in the provision of quality and affordable health services to all our citizens.

The appointment of a practicing medical doctor is a game changer and we expect accelerated improvements in the Health Sector.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Fellow Namibians, the Namibian House has made solid progress in essential services such as housing and sanitation, and expansion of critical enablers such as electricity, including rural electrification, telecommunications, and the expansion and upgrading of roads, rail lines, ports, dams and airports. This is critical infrastructure needed to keep us competitive in an increasingly globalised world. We must take care of these critical enablers, and this starts with their procurement.

Corrupt practices in the awarding of infrastructure tenders are costly and take away from the enabling function that such infrastructure should play. It can thus not be condoned as it retards our development as a Nation.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Fellow Namibians, I

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would like to spend a few minutes on the important topics of land and housing in the context of the Namibian House. These are two emotive topics, and sober-minded dialogue is required to mutually find effective and lasting solutions. We all have the same interest at heart and moving in opposing directions seeks to undermine our shared needs. It appears nobody disagrees on the problem of urban and rural land non-availability and lack of decent shelter. What we appear to disagree upon is the modality. The renaming of the Ministry of Land Reform and the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development underscores the importance the new government attaches to this issue (*applause*).

Firstly, as head of the Household, I want to reaffirm my personal commitment to addressing land reform and provision of affordable housing to all Namibians. Land reform, therefore, remains one of the areas of transformation that is critical towards social justice, inclusion and poverty alleviation in Namibia.

I would like to reiterate that these two important matters should be addressed within the confines of the Laws and the Constitution of our Republic. Our Constitution permits for the implementation of Policies and Programmes aimed at redressing social imbalances. If we need to align our laws with our constitutional ideals for human dignity and appropriate shelter, that is what we will do. Disobeying the Law should never be an option.

Secondly, it is not true that Government has not paid attention to urban and rural land reform. What is perhaps true is that the pace of land reform did not happen at the speed which we would have liked. This was due to numerous legal and technical obstacles, which slowed down our progress.

This is true of poverty alleviation and wealth redistribution measures as well. These three issues are closely related and it is opportune to initiate a national dialogue under the over-arching theme of wealth re-distribution. This discourse will be facilitated by the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation in a structured and formalised manner and will include all key Ministries and stakeholders. As President, I will personally chair some of the sessions of

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the dialogue to ensure that the legitimate concerns of our people are not only heard but also translated into effective strategies and action (*applause*). I would imagine that the concerns addressed would include issues such as expropriation of land owned by absentee landlords; the restriction of foreigners buying agricultural land; expropriation of urban and agricultural land; construction of dignified dwellings for farm workers. Further discussion points may include the issue of previously disadvantaged Namibians who have become successful farmers, but still carry out farming activities, especially animal husbandry in communal areas. These emerging farmers should graduate to become successful commercial farmers outside communal areas, as their larger herds of stock puts immense pressure on land in communal areas (*applause*).

Finally, I would like to remind us all that the Constitution does provide for the expropriation of land, and if and where necessary, we shall invoke the expropriation Clause as part of our Government's policy to address a burning national issue such as this of the land. Yes, people are watching, they would not like this word but I saw many foreigners encouraging our youth to be active. They are actually, even telling them indirectly to grab land so that there will be a disorder here. Therefore, it is for us to take action. In addition, to the extent that National Laws are prohibiting development, they will be reviewed and amended to facilitate development.

While on the issue of farming and land, I would like to note that due to poor rainfall this year, our nation faces a looming drought, whose effects will be felt in most, if not all parts of our country. I want to assure the nation that Interim measures will be introduced during the next four months, pending the conclusion of the Final Drought Assessment for the country. An amount of more than N\$300 million has been set aside for this purpose and will cover measures such as:

- (1) procurement of food for affected communities and households;
- (2) provision of water for human and animal in the form of drilling new boreholes and rehabilitation of old ones; and

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(3) assistance to crop producers and livestock farmers (*applause*).

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Fellow Namibians, to fast track the delivery of affordable and quality houses for all, Local Authorities, especially those with required capacity, we will have to play a constructive role in the provision of serviced land. To this extent, the Minister of Urban and Rural Development must be commended for investigating errant Local Authority Councillors who are suspected to be abusing their positions of authority for their own benefit as opposed to the common good of the people (*applause*).

These investigations are not to victimise the innocent or vilify the accused. This is meant to prove or disprove the persistent claims of corruption within institutions tasked with delivering land to the people. Another key issue is ensuring that the costs of serviced land are urgently reduced. An immediate measure is to cut out the middlemen and direct and, if need be, subsidize, municipalities to directly service the land(*applause*). Thirdly, the criteria for land and property valuations must be re-assessed as it appears that the science behind land valuations is imprecise and leading to anomalies in pricing. The fourth measure will be to investigate the entire supply chain of building materials and costs. The fifth measure involves dissuading speculative behaviour in the land and property market, and the focus should be strictly on first time buyers. Finally, where possible, the use of local materials should be promoted as much as possible together with more local manufacturing of building materials.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, the numerous Programmes and Policies to address social issues would not have been possible if it was not for the way we have managed the financial and other resources of our Namibian Household. Through the implementation of prudent and smart macroeconomic policies, our economy has performed exceptionally well during the past twenty-five years. The size of our economy has increased and accordingly, the average income per household has also increased. The economy also became more diverse and resilient against internal and external shocks.

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According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development [UNCTAD], Namibia is a front-runner with respect to economic diversification on the African continent. This was not always the case. At Independence, the economy was small, measuring only about N\$8 billion in nominal terms, and the scope of economic activities was limited. Today, we boast an economy that is valued at N\$145 billion Namibian dollars, an 18-fold increase over 25 years, and with more diverse areas of activity (*applause*). This is proof that Namibia and Namibians have become wealthier. Statistical evidence suggests that more black people have entered the mainstream of the economy and this is to be celebrated. Do not pretend to be poor, wherever (*laughter*). More work, however, needs to be done in ensuring a fairer distribution of this growth and concomitant wealth to a wider circle of Namibians.

Our economy remains in our own hands, in the sense that we are not dependent on external sources of finance and their stringent conditions to fund our Development Programmes. So far, there has been no need to approach international financial institutions to bail us out, and I believe as long as we prudently manage the financial affairs of our Household, this will not happen as our macroeconomic fundamentals remain strong.

Nevertheless, being a Child of International Solidarity, we have, and continue to work with our development partners from all over the world, in the quest to develop our country. In this regard I would like to mention the significant contributions made by our development partners including the People's Republic of China, United States of America, Germany, the World Bank, Japan and others in the form of loans, grants and technical assistance. Programmes such as the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), for example, have had a significant impact on our Education, Tourism and Agriculture Sectors and have taken us along way down the path of development. And for this we remain very grateful.

Going forward Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, we must aim to create an economy that is inclusive, sensitive and responsive to national developmental objectives and imperatives. Our duty is to ensure that these complicated technical terms we use, translate into measurable

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improvements in living standards for ordinary Namibians (*applause*). The Honourable Members are apparently tired – either you clap or you do not clap! (*Laughter*) Although low inflation is important for growth, people need sustainable jobs that pay them a living wage so that they can feed their families. It is our obligation to distil everything we do into bread and butter issues which affect our brothers and sisters living in rural communities and townships.

We need to move with urgency. We should however be cautioned by Mahatma Gandhi who said - “*one can go very fast but in the wrong direction.*” This, of course, is not what we want for Namibia. Ideally, we would like to go fast, and go fast in the right direction. We can only ensure we go fast, in the right direction if we work together in the spirit of *Harambee* (*applause*). Breaking down is easier than building. Let us build our Namibian House together!

Whilst efforts to transform the production structure of the economy and making the economy more competitive will continue to be pursued, we shall also raise the bar regarding transformation of ownership structures. To redress imbalances of the past, we have adopted the model of a pro development State. In other words, the State will play a more active role in the economy. This is not to compete with the Private Sector but to acknowledge that the so-called “*invisible hand*” of the market does not always work as it should. Therefore, restriction of ownership over our natural resources will also be explored and enforced. I will also direct that the *Procurement Bill* be brought back to Parliament as soon as possible (*applause*). This Bill should deliberately favour local business especially the previously disadvantaged. Equally, the completion of the Retail Charter should be fast-tracked and finalised before the end of 2015. It is unacceptable that, a quarter century after Independence, locally produced goods are denied shelf space in retail outlets.

I call upon our Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development to ensure that our Industrial Policy and accompanying Growth at Home Strategy get implemented expeditiously. Everything we do should be aimed at adding value locally and developing the local economy.

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Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, Fellow Namibians, the world is now a global village made out of different communities. The Namibian House exists within that global village. We are a Child of International Solidarity, who has had friends who have stood by us through thick and thin and there are no bigger friends than Angola and Cuba, whose sons and daughters paid the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the construction of the Namibian House takes place.

Building this house has not been easy. It was said by William Pfaff that, *“The achievement of nationhood is a product not only of time and circumstance but usually of war and suffering as well.”* This is why, for the suffering that our international friends and African brothers and sisters had to endure, they are always welcome in the Namibian House not as guests but as brothers and sisters. As family. *(Applause)*

Namibia is part and parcel of New Africa. Africa’s time is now. The New Africa consists of many countries that played a pivotal role in stifling the Apartheid Regime and helped bring its cruel legacy to an end. Never has the spirit of Pan Africanism had a more profound effect than during the fight against colonial rule. Now we want to carry the same spirit into the next phase of the struggle.

As we enter what we refer to as the second phase of the struggle, we are committed to joining our African brothers and sisters all across the continent to promote intra-African trade as well as value addition, which we believe will take our continent to the next level and usher in the era of a New Africa.

In the New Africa, we have ensured that the days of *Coup d’ états* have been banished and are incidences of distant memory. There are also no more One Party States. We as Africans, as the African Union (AU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) amongst others, have ostracized those who come to office through unlawful ways. In New Africa we respect our former Presidents. They live in Africa and are revered. We know it from our own situation. They are not in exile, jail or six feet under. They are with us. *(Applause)*

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With regard to SADC, Namibia is committed to the future of this Regional Economic Community. Last week we visited a giant to the North called Angola where I discussed several issues of bilateral interest. My next visit will be to a giant to the South, which is South Africa. Likewise we are committed to increasing political, economic and cultural cooperation with our other neighbours in SADC such as Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland and Botswana as well as non-neighbours being Tanzania, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In a New Africa, we should no longer talk about lack of skills but rather sharing of skills. No longer should we talk about lack of business opportunities but rather increased Intra-African Trade. No longer should we talk about brain drain but rather brain gain.

As with all communities, one's house is never safe if other houses in the neighbourhood are burning. We, therefore, appeal to all our African counterparts to ensure peace, stability and the Rule of Law. Furthermore, as those who have experienced the difficulty of oppression, we reiterate our solidarity with the people of Western Sahara and Palestine and urge the International Community to ensure that the people of these countries attain freedom from oppression and aggression. *(Applause)*

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairperson, my Fellow Compatriots, **nobody in this House must feel left out.** Let us remain committed to this House. Let us remain committed to the spirit of One Namibian Nation. Let us remain united.

As Kwame Nkrumah said - *"The forces that unite us are intrinsic and greater than the superimposed influences that keep us apart."*

The key to our victory in the war against poverty is unity, pride in our country and our house. Let us exude the spirit of the New Namibia, a spirit of peace, integrity, sacrifice, strength, passion, patriotism, love, togetherness and bravery. These are the characteristics that helped us win the struggle for our Independence and they will surely help us win the second phase of the struggle.

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I am therefore calling upon all of us, to hold hands to ensure that our House does not disintegrate. As I have said before, there will be problems from time to time, but every time this happens, we should have the resilience to overcome and emerge stronger as a united Nation. We should embrace diversity and steer away from tribalism and other *isms* that can only detract us from achieving our common mission of developing our country.

We must pull together in the same direction. We are all sons and daughters of this soil. This land and the precious blood shed for it is what makes us Namibian, not the colour of our skin or the languages we speak. When born in Namibia you are a Namibian. If one of your parents is Namibian you are Namibian. This is your birthright that nobody can take away from you. We must stop trying to make people feel guilty for things that are not in their control (*applause*). No one should be made to feel guilty or inadequate because he/she is white or black, old or young, from a minority group or a majority group or living with a disability (*applause*). Let us respect our women and children. Women are the bearers of life. They are an integral component of humanity and its future, and to violate the rights of women is to violate this whole Nation's conscience. We all came into being through a woman so let us in our collective Namibian voice say -no - to Gender Based Violence! Namibia is big enough for all of us and no one should feel as if they do not belong here.

Fellow Namibians, the future is bright, Namibia is on the march and on the move. We are fortunate to be here at a pivotal point in our Nation's history where we are in charge, where we can determine the path we want to take. Shakespeare once said that - "*It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves.*" We have the power to pursue a path towards equitable wealth distribution. We have the power to pursue the path towards peace, development and prosperity. We have the power to determine our own destinies, as Africans as Namibians, standing together as *One Namibia, One Nation*.

It is now my honour to declare the First Session of the Sixth Parliament officially open.

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Thank you and God Bless Africa. God bless Namibia. God Bless all of you. (*Applause and ululation*)

HON SPEAKER: Thank you indeed. Your Excellency Comrade President, may I sincerely thank you for this comprehensive and reassuring Speech on the State of the Nation.

Comrade President, you have indeed chosen a well defined path, which we all hope will enable us to address the key challenges facing our country. Honourable Members, His Excellency the President is now available for questions as per Article 32(2) of the Namibian Constitution and during his interaction with the Honourable Members of Parliament, Rule 110 of our Standing Rules and Orders will be enforced.

Your Excellency, we are now availing the opportunity to the Honourable Members to pose questions. May I please ask Honourable Venaani to take the Floor?

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Can I add to the fact, that you are the Leader of the Official Opposition? Honourable Venaani you have the Floor.

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HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hage Geingob

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first and foremost, I want to congratulate you on your ascendance to become the Leader of your Party.

Secondly, I want to wholeheartedly and with all sincerity congratulate you for the bold step that you have taken to raise the Old Age Pension from N\$600.00 to N\$1,000.00. As you might be aware, our Party has remained consistent on this matter and the fact that you have taken that bold step is worthy of congratulations. However, as you spoke very eloquently and very electrifying on the new economic trajectory of hope that we as a country must put together, I want to ask you these few questions pertinent to our economy and putting it back on a much faster trajectory.

Mr President, as a direct consequence of the provisions of the *Export Processing Zone Act*, 1995 (Act 9 of 1995), our country is faced with a situation where tax revenue from individual income tax is double the revenue garnered from company tax, whereas the reverse should be true. Therefore my question:

1. Given the vast majority of companies that are granted Export Processing Zone status, particularly in the Mining Sector, in which your Government and your Administration continue to allow mining companies to extract our valuable natural resources without value addition. Will the President continue to grant this Export Processing Zone status to mining companies and thereby enable them to continue exploiting those valuable and cherish natural resources?
2. On the questions of capital outflows and again transfer pricing:

Of course, we are hearing and noticing that many international companies that are putting shop in our country are using transfer pricing as a means to avoid tax and not contribute enough to the State coffers. Since these companies are employing international tax experts to evade tax on our shores - will the President make sure that our revenue body will be equipped with tax experts to make sure that we can rake in from these needed resources that goes missing under transfer pricing?

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On the question of capital outflows, Your Excellency, Mr President will your administration revisit Regulation 28 of the Pension to make sure that the billions of dollars that are leaving our country through capital outflows would be reinvested in our country for us to continue reaping benefits from the profits that are made in our Republic?

Your Excellency, I want to ask you a question on agriculture (*intervention*).

HON SPEAKER: Can we then keep it to three because I see there are so many other hands? Just repeat the last one?

HON VENAANI: The question I want to ask Your Excellency, Mr President, has to do with the fact that farmers, not of the *redline*, are sitting with an amount of 1,600,000 herd of cattle and the reason why they are not getting fair prices for their animals is because we need to build a buffer zone between Namibia and Angola and the potential is so immense if we do that; will your administration during your tenure commit itself to building a buffer zone, to make sure that farmers north of the *redline* would receive fair and good prices for their cattle? Your Excellency, thank you very much.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Maamberua?

HON MAAMBERUA: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for the opportunity. Your Excellency Comrade President, I would also like to congratulate you on your election as the President of our country.

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Comrade President, I have noted with appreciation, your in-depth, well informed, broad State of the Nation Address. Obviously, it covers various important issues that need to be internalised. Much as you have covered many areas, I am of the opinion that some specific issues need in-depth interrogation.

I would, therefore, in the context of your open door policy, and also if and when space and time permits, arrange to have some conversations with you, Comrade President, on the following national issues.

The first conversation is on the state of Public Financial Management but, especially on the Regional and Local Authorities. This is because of the perennial concerns, very serious concerns being highlighted in the Auditor-General Reports, particularly on the side of qualified audit opinions. Though to a less extent, this negative experience is also found at the Central Government level, I would suggest that the conversation should be around both levels - Local Government and also Central Government.

The second conversation, Comrade President, will be to deal with the issues around Genocide. Amongst other things, this could entail strategies on Reparation demands, the need for broad national discourse in an effort to conscientise Namibians in general on this important matter, and the relationship between Government and the communities affected.

Comrade President, you have touched on the land question and on that particular issue, we have actually converged ideologically speaking, and I thank you for that.

However, the fourth conversation should actually be around the matter that seems to be illusive and that seems to have graduated to the level of what I call State Capture - and that is corruption. Over the years, the discourse around corruption has been about its manifestations but the conversations that are envisaged, Comrade President, should centre around the institution itself, whether we should resource it, the reporting channels, appointments and linkages with other accountability institutions.

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Those are the three conversations that I would want to pursue with yourself and your Office because in the past these conversations have yielded positive results in the spirit of broad consultations as initiated by your predecessor. It is, therefore, also my preferred approach with your administration. I, therefore, do not have a specific question today. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. We move on to Honourable Bezuidenhout.

HON BEZUIDENHOUT: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. Your Excellency, my congratulations towards you and as well as to Madam Geingos for what you have achieved in your life. Thank you very much. (*Laughter*).

You have spoken very eloquently about the house and a house built on a rock. Let me take this opportunity to assure you that you have a partner in securing and ensuring that that house is functional for all its inhabitants. I pledge my full support to your Administration to achieving all the noble goals for this Nation.

I would also like to put in your head, not for an answer today, to think about the democracy aspect of our country. We have regular elections, we have good elections - and congratulations after the last elections to you and your organisation, but you must maybe improve it a bit more. Let us look into events, let us look at Governance, let us look at how we proceed further with regard to our democracy as a Nation. If that element comes with all the good things you have mentioned, we will have a very solid State on the African Continent.

I also think the President touched on it without spelling it out so clearly - we are a child of African Solidarity, all Africans are welcomed

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here and I want to use this opportunity to ask Namibians to desist and to refrain from what is happening currently in the other parts of the world, that we do not try and make other Africans victims of not feeling welcome here. They are welcome in Namibia and not try and break hands with them. Your Excellency, the question is centred around our democracy as well as the future of our elections. Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I call upon Honourable Mr Fleermuys.

HON FLEERMUYS: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I would like to find out Honourable Speaker, if it is possible that I can speak in Nama? (*Laughter*)

HON SPEAKER: Can I state this very clearly? Anyone who would like to speak in any of our national languages is welcome. All that you need to do is to indicate so that we can make the necessary arrangements. You cannot just do it out of the blue. If you could have alerted me earlier, I could have made the necessary arrangements because I would like you to be understood. I am sure you are conversant in English, I am sure you can try, and I am now giving you the Floor to do that.

HON FLEERMUYS: Thank you Honourable Speaker, it is not because I cannot speak English, I just feel confident when I speak in Nama and I accept the fact that I have not notified you of my intention early enough. Thank you very much.

I would like to ask our President, His Excellency Hage Geingob – Your Excellency, it is already 25 years after Independence and still the former TCL Workers’ Pension Fund as well as the former South West African Territorial Force (SWATF) members’ *(laughter)* Pension Fund is not yet given to them. I, therefore, wanted to find out from our President, since “*No one is supposed to be left out in Namibia,*” where are we after 25 years now? *(Laughter)* It looks like we are not Namibians.

I would like to ask His Excellency, President Geingob, so that he could take responsibility on this issue because I, and we accept that the President is Head of State and we are part and parcel of the Namibian State. Therefore, Your Excellency, I will await on you, to see what exactly you are going to do to restore these Pension Funds to the rightful owners in order to address the question of poverty in one way since, about more than 350,000 people are directly affected by that issue. Thank you very much President.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I knew you will be able to make your point and you have done it, thank you very much. I am now going to move on to Honourable Mbai.

HON MBAI: Honourable Speaker, Your Excellency, thank you very much.

Since your Inaugural Statement at the Independence Celebration a month ago, many more interventions ever since, created a strong confidence and belief that in your hands, and able leadership, this great Nation is heading towards a new direction.

My question, similarly to the question posed by Honourable Maamberua, is on the issue of Genocide. Your Excellency, the Motion on Genocide and Reparation demands tabled and adopted in this august House in 2006,

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experience a very slow progress.

Your Excellency, what is the advice and possible measures your High Office will consider in order to find an amicable solution in the best interests of the affected communities and Namibia as a whole? I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable Van Wyk, and thereafter, I would like to give the opportunity to the President to respond to the first round of questions and then we take up others so that we give him a bit of time. Thank you.

HON VAN WYK: Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for the opportunity to ask some questions.

Your Excellency, you have put emphasis on inclusiveness, which our country and our people really appreciate. Mr President, my question is:

In this country we have many people who were excluded by mistake, we have those who were excluded on purpose, and of course, those who excluded themselves. Now, Mr President, my question is - what measures will your Administration put in place to reach out to these people who are currently outside? (*Interjections*) I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am now going to ask His Excellency the President to respond to some of those first questions and then we will go for the second round, if time allows.

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HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEINGOB: Thank you very much, Comrade Speaker. I used to be a Parliamentarian, and Maiden Speeches are never interrupted and you are not asked so many questions. You are welcome in a very friendly way but now I am being bombarded with so many questions (*laughter*)

I am sorry that I did not acknowledge you as the Leader of the Official Opposition Party, but I am told by the Speaker now and have it at the back of my mind. I did not say the Leader of Official Opposition, I said Leaders of the Opposition Parties - so I accept that I acknowledge you as a Leader of the Official Opposition but do not just oppose for the sake of opposing, the words must be changed.

On the tax revenue that we are losing on the EPZ status: When I was a Minister of Trade and Industry, I travelled around, initially there was some expectation that we are going to have so many EPZs and jobs will be created and so on, but when I went to Walvis Bay, there were very few EPZ companies. Some were working very well like the car manufacturing companies, but many of them closed down. Therefore, we are really losing revenue through that, because there are not so many EPZ companies since they closed down. In fact, there are less than maybe ten who are still there.

However, the EPZ status idea was started – like what middle eastern countries are doing, to allowing companies set up, manufacture and export products but creating jobs, of course, and in turn help develop our country. I must admit that that did perhaps not really work as expected because the companies are very few. When they manufacture, some of them manufacture and want to sell in Namibia, they are taxed. Automatically, they are told you will be taxed 30% because you are going to sell here. I think my Colleague, the Right Honourable Prime Minister has been there, it is not the fact that we are losing how much, but we must revisit the whole thing because it is not that effective, and therefore what we are losing cannot be that big too, since the companies are very few. They are actually closing down.

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I must also thank you for wishing me well and claiming that you are going to challenge me and ask me questions, I heard you on Television, but you only asked very friendly questions (*laughter*).

The capital outflow and transfer pricing has been an old thing used by people all over but definitely, for instance, Stocks and Stocks used to be here, and they have a company in South Africa - I just mentioned this as an example, and they make some money here, they will definitely transfer it to their accounts in South Africa and they are not registering here.

However, again the practises so sophisticated, we now have the Stock Exchange here that ultimately links to that of South Africa electronically. We think that it is an achievement, is it not? They definitely do some transfers, how do you control that? You are, therefore, right that it is a problem but how do we solve it? It is a process that exists all over the world but our Tax Officers are definitely working very hard. There was a young man who was really working on this to show how people are cheating us, but the transferring funds out of the country is going to continue. We have to reinforced, we have to be awake. I am not saying we cannot stop it, but it is a process that is very difficult to stop because of the interrelatedness of our economy with others. We are not an island, as I said. We are connected to the international global village and South Africa is our closest ally, and we have similar things, it is very easy to take the money out. I, therefore, agree with you, something must be done.

On capital outflow I will say the same thing - in a free market economy, which we have in Namibia, capital outflow is going to continue. The Law we have right now is giving 100% foreign ownership and one of the attractions was to guarantee the movements of capital like the repatriations of dividends, and that is capital going out. Therefore, the capitalist system, that is the market oriented system that we have, is going to continue but again, we must make the facilities and opportunities available here, like create foreign investment opportunities at home here so that the people do not take their money out but invest. When you look around, walking around Windhoek and elsewhere, you will see Namibians

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Investing. Their own money is being invested, they are constructing buildings here as you will see everywhere. I thank you for making us aware that it is something we must look into, but I admit it is very difficult.

The redline is an old story. The Red line was meant for many other reasons but it was in our own interests after Independence, that we are exporting our beef to the European Union's (EU's) lucrative markets and there were diseases in that area, as they claimed. The Angolan Border was also very fluid so it was very difficult to open it up at that time because then our beef quota would be cancelled in one consideration. However, that is what I was saying when we were negotiating the EPAs, I hope you could have joined me. I was saying that the beef we are sending to the European Union is only from 2% of our population. I said rightly about millions of cattle and the populations in the north, that we are depriving them from selling or exporting their beef to where the majority of people are living. This is, therefore, something that the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is definitely seized with. Unless we also go to the Angolan side maybe that cannot work. So what you can do is to also to clean up the other side in a spirit of cooperation, that way you wipe out the diseases, and people are moving freely. Right now we are threatened by the drought, our people are already crossing over to Angola for grazing. We are neighbours and the only thing is to clean the whole mess so that we can move freely. I thank you very much.

SWANU Comrade, thank you very much for your welcome and what you have said in congratulating me. In fact, you did not ask too much but you are talking about a national dialogue. Yes, I announced that here. I talked about land but dialogue is dialogue, which can be on anything. Maybe we can have a pattern on how we do things. Let us have dialogues like that provided that we do not just oppose for the sake of opposing in the dialogue. However, when we are dialoguing as Namibian people, in a Namibian House, *One Namibia One Nation* and holding hands, I will welcome that dialogue. The open door policies is not a joke, it is a serious

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approach. We will pursue it with vigour and determination and you will definitely be welcome to come and discuss.

On the question of Genocide; I was wondering whether I have to answer here or say let us have dialogue. Come and pay a visit so you can get my views because it is a sensitive matter and I would not like to be talking in public where I will be misunderstood. It is a very emotive thing, just like the land question so it will be good that we dialogue so that we can first find one another outside.

Yes, the question of our institutions that are corrupt - again I covered that, whether I talk about State National Institutions or Local and Regional, it is the same things. Auditors Reports are replete with some money not spent or returned to Treasury and some money missing but we must also be honest. I am not saying we are not honest, wherever there were cases of corruption, I keep on asking people to give me the cases - ODC, GIPF and Avid and Social Security are the three things they talk of but all of them are not swept under the carpet, they are with the Courts and they are being pursued. Therefore, we should not also over publicise ourselves as corrupt, people from outside listen to you and they mark that accordingly. I challenge them; where do we get the stigma from? This is from the Opposition and business people when they come and rate us, where we also see our President being honoured and that left some wondering - *how can he be honoured when the country is not number one*. We are saying - *we are number one* and they have seen it.

Again, I would like to have a dialogue and explain certain things to see how we can go from there. If we do not follow what we agreed outside they will open up here, but let us start it from a good position, as you have started. I will thank you there.

Honourable Bezuidenhout, thank you very much for the support that you have pledged here. Yes, I do not know where the scholars are in this country. Where are the scholars? These days, I see them, they were analysing my Speech before I delivered it, but there is no single book

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written about our Constitution after 25 years, analysing its shortcomings - there are shortcomings but there is no scholarly work on that. Our democracy; is providing the Party list system, is it providing proper accountability, who analyses that? Who kind of unpacks the *pros and cons*? Yes, in one instance, it is very good that some of you cannot sit here if we have a Constituency based election and as a small country, we want everybody to be here - I will come to the inclusion question. If we honestly did not have that, those smaller Parties would not be here, so it is a good system in the sense that we now have seven Parties sitting here. However, in a first-past-the-post voting system, the winner takes everything - we can analyse that, let us debate.

Equally, the question of many other things that I would have even raised if I was outside about our Constitution and our democracy; we cannot doubt that we have an electoral democracy and there is no question about it but it is one thing to have an electoral democracy or procedural democracy, however, it is another thing that democracy translates into basis liberties both political and civil. We do have that, but how far is it? We definitely have that, do we not have it? Let us analyse and then those who are socialist inclined, like you, would say where is the economic democracy I think we can interrogate this and see what is the best.

It is one thing, when the whole socialist system has collapsed to stand up and say you are a socialist. We will think that you are not serious because the world has changed. It is like somebody is telling me, when we have stopped the war, that the people have become serious revolutionaries and want to fight (*laughter*). Let us hold hands and move onto a new Africa.

Honourable Fleermuys, the official language in Namibia is English. I was proposing that we must declare all our languages as official, that way Parliamentarians can stand up and use any language. Now, you basically have to first give Notice, you must be prepared - bring someone to translate and say - *look I want to speak in Nama and he can translate*, that could have been much better preparation but now you lost out. You cannot ask me questions in Damara, not Damara but in Nama.

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Now on the serious one question; who is actually excluded? I am saying we all belong in this House. You are in this House, you are not excluded. Here you are! So my Statement of inclusion is here. We are sitting here from different Parties, differed colours, we are inclusive, but we are not going to bring 2 million people here, therefore, let us not also take this literally and in a ridicule manner. Somebody wrote me a letter when I kind of thanked him for the services rendered. He was on a special contract and he wrote a letter to say - *"But you are always claiming about inclusivity, why do you let me go?"* (Laughter) I think we are taking it at different levels. You should, therefore, not feel excluded. As to the other Colleagues who were asking for their pension - who is asking for pension?

HON FLEERMUYS: It is me.

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEINGOB: It is you, yes. Well, Honourable Fleermuys, was it the pension that your employer was deducting when you were working and, therefore, you are entitled to it? If you are talking about the time before Namibia's Independence, we as a State are supposed to inherit the State in succession, but when we did that, I think we are not accountable for what the South African Government was doing because they did many bad things. We were fighting the war against South Africans and some of the Namibians out of their own choice joined that war on the other side. Now the problem with defeat and winning is, you know what you get after the war is over, dictation comes from the victor, it will be the history of the victor – it is *his story* that is being told, so Koevoet and SWATF history is gone (*applause*). It is gone but you are sitting in this Parliament and you are not stigmatised as Koevoet or SWATF, you are accepted as a Namibian. However, to claim certain things that South Africa was supposed to give you, go to South Africa, we are not accountable for that. There is always that talk about the money and I know this issue of the N\$36,000,000 that people are talking

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about that was going to be given to SWATF and our President said we are creating reconciliation, why do we not share it with all those who were fighting and then Pik Botha and the Administrator General agreed to give N\$12,000,000 to PLAN Fighters and N\$12,000,000 to SWATF and kept N\$12,000,000. We never asked him whether he was going to give this to SWATF and the other things that were administered from the bank, the bank should have paid that out but to imply that we now have the money somewhere - we are not responsible for that. Maybe some people have just gone to South Africa to see whether South Africa can provide answers but even in South Africa, there is a new Government (*laughter*). Therefore, let us just remain as Namibians, we are Namibians. You are accepted and we are together. The pension that you are going to get from here is your pension. In fact, my pension was just paid out to me now and I was with you here (*laughter*). By serving here, you will be paid your pension.

Honourable Mbai, thank you very much for your comment. Again on the question of this Motion, if we understand properly, those who are concerned should come and see me and I will have my Colleagues so we can see where we can go. We started already, I do not want to start all over again from what I have said here last time, so let us discuss it outside, privately.

Honourable Van Wyk, I am a new comer here now, you guys are in the Parliament. Welcome to Parliament. Again, people are excluded, who are these people really? I would like to know because when I talk about inclusivity, I mean it. Perhaps you have to tell me who these people are who are outside or who are excluded? Who are they really, I would like to have a follow up question?

HON SPEAKER: Can I suggest something? Make use of the opportunity of having a private conversation like some of the Colleagues have indicated and maybe then you can elaborate on some of those issues.

Can I appeal to you? Thank you very much. I think we will have another platform where we will deal with some of those issues.

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT DR GEINGOB: Very good.

HON SPEAKER: I am now going to move on because of time. Honourable !Auxab please.

HON !AUXAB: Your Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chairman of the National Council, Honourable Members of both the National Council and the National Assembly, while congratulating His Excellency the President on the ascendance to the Presidency of our Republic, and having listened to the State of the Nation Address, I rise to pose three small questions to His Excellency, if I am given the consent.

Your Excellency, you have beyond all expectations increased the Old Age Pension from N\$600.00 to N\$1,000.00, which to me signifies the importance you attach to the poverty eradication and you went ahead and created a Ministry solely for the purpose of eradicating poverty. This is a very noble deed in our Namibian context.

My question, however, is; while the Old Age Pension has been increased to lighten the plight, the very same people are being charged rates and taxes by the Local Authority Councils and Municipalities. This in fact reverses the benefits through the increase - what is the likelihood of exempting the pensioners from paying rates and taxes or subsidising them for that matter?

Secondly, Your Excellency, you also suggested in the past week that all

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HON //GOWASES

Ministers should not engage in any business practices, this is indeed laudable, however, could the same principle not be extended to the Members of the Parliament, all high ranking Public Servants like Permanent Secretaries, Governors, Regional and Local Councillors etcetera; to secure equal distribution of wealth to all Namibians?

Thirdly and finally, I am very concerned about the movements of most, if not, all the Government Offices from Khorixas Constituency to Opuwo Constituency. These institutions were providing employment to most people living in the Khorixas area. Their removal has increased the level of poverty in that area and has registered Khorixas in the stream of exclusivity. Your Excellency, are there any plans in arresting the levels of poverty caused through this act or how does your administration plan to arrest poverty, which is manmade in these specific areas? I thank you, Your Excellency.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Honourable //Gowases please? Remove the card and then you put it back in. Okay.

HON //GOWASES: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Your Excellency, the President of Namibia, Dr Hage Gottfried Geingob, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I feel extremely honoured and privileged to be given an opportunity to make a humble contribution in the form of advice on national issues but I will withdraw all my questions in honour of your Maiden Speech (*laughter*).

However, I have only a comment to make. I bid you to accept our humble appreciation of your approach and declaration of work on poverty. As a first bold step, you started by increasing the Old Age Pension from N\$600.00 to N\$1,000.00. Our National Budget is aimed at eradication of poverty and the Ministry headed by Retired Bishop Kameeta speaks volumes.

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Mr President, I am hopeful that you will continue the discussions with the citizens, appraising them of the progress made. You started on a right note. If your team collectively supports your vision and objectives without fear and with favour, you will make a huge contribution to ensure that our resources are better spent on improving the lives of our people.

On behalf of the Republican Party and the President, Mr Henk Mudge, kindly accept our genuine congratulations on your victory of 87% of votes from the people of Namibia during the Presidential Elections with high hopes and expectations. I thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. This takes us to Honourable Shixwameni, you have the Floor.

HON SHIXWAMENI: Thank you Mr Speaker. Your Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, I actually did not want to speak today because I thought it is the Maiden Speech since my Vice President asked me this morning, *“Are we going to ask questions?”* and I said *“no, let us give him the proverbial benefit of the doubt”* and I was not mistaken.

HON MEMBER: Can you withdraw the questions then?

HON SHIXWAMENI: I was not mistaken, I think what I heard here is music to my ears and to the ears of many Namibians. All that we can do as Namibians is to stand firmly behind you and support that vision, without us negating from our responsibility as Members of the Opposition that – *yes, we shall keep a watch on you and your Administration.* I would, therefore, like to congratulate you for being elected as the

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President of the Republic and also for your assuming the position of Acting President of SWAPO. We shall make sure that we keep you monitored and that we evaluate all the projects. It is very important as you just explained, that we engage in a dialogue as a Nation.

We in the APP for today, promise you that you keep on holding the bull by its horns - the proverbial horns, and make sure that the bold decisions that you have announced so far are implemented. We shall be watching for the practical implementation of all the measures that you have announced and you have our support. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That concludes the questions that I have taken note of. Now I call upon His Excellency the President to respond to some of those questions.

HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GEINGOB: Thank you very much. They have now treated me as a person who has made his Maiden Speech. I expected that all of you will welcome me as a newcomer and, therefore, not put me to task of answering difficult questions but thank you very much.

Firstly, the easier way is that both the last speaker and the speaker before him did not ask questions but just made comments by way of welcoming me and giving me their support, if I do the right things. Yes, I hope we will be in touch. Whether it is the President or a Party, it is not one person that can solve all the problems, it is our House. We will live in that House, so I will welcome contributions without making you not to oppose, but there are things we have to hold hands on as Namibians. I, therefore, thank both of you very much.

Then I go to UDF, again you have welcomed me as a newcomer but you

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seem to be worried. You also welcomed the bold step we took to increase the pension, then you are saying, and this is not to be addressed to me only, you must address this question to all of us. We are Namibians and we have parents - where are the children of those people? Where are the family members? We are talking as if these old people are just dropped from heaven, where are their children, where are the families? In the past we did not have these kinds of pension systems, how were we maintaining our elders? Let us also interrogate that aspect. Let us start anew, including Churches and so on.

Yes, we can maybe talk about the Government not taxing them but we have different types of Governments. We have a three tier Government, this is a national Government, there are Regional Governments where you were serving for such a long time and then now Local Authorities. The shops that may ask taxes are, if in Windhoek, in a Municipal area, so it is really an issue that we can discuss because we need the revenue too to build schools. When we are increasing the pension by such a margin, we need income from somewhere so it is a matter of *a catch 22* situation but we will make it a point to see that our old people are respected, are recognised for what they have done for us who are now running around and not helping them. All of us must also teach our children, our neighbours who do not treat their parents as old people, even going to the extent of stealing the money that they receive to go and consume alcohol with it. It is our duty, all of us, to see to it that this must be stopped.

Yes, as for taxes, I can definitely not tell you untruth, it cannot happen now because these are taxes that everybody has to pay when we are buying something. It is, therefore, difficult, it is not the Government's tax that the retailers add to their products even if we are going to take that later on, but that is how systems work, otherwise our system will collapse.

Yes, very a good question and suggestion that what we have announced must also translate to Parliamentarians. You are new here, but Parliamentarians also declare their assets. As I was saying, sometimes it is very interesting, not Comrade Shixwameni, but the socialists of these

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days want to remain poor forever and some of them have been working since 21st of March 1990, but they still want to pretend that they do not have anything. If that is a case then something is wrong with you. I think Parliamentarians are declaring their assets but do not declare that – ‘*I have nothing to declare.*’ After 25 years, the form is just stating – “*nothing to declare,*” that is not declaring. Let us, therefore, declare honestly. Are you going to follow my bold example? I am living by example, I hired a company to do mine, why can we not all do it in public? Okay, I do not want to interfere with the Parliamentarians (*laughter*).

Permanent Secretaries are also supposed to get permission when they get something outside their own regular income, they declare it. However, what we are trying to do is, to see to it that we tighten this knot so that people do what they say they will do. We must see to it that the Permanent Secretaries and Civil Servants do not have two jobs because one will definitely suffer and mostly the Government will suffer. This thing of people sitting in their offices and running their business must stop and we mean it!

Thank you very much for the questions, I think you were very kind to me since I am a *new boy*. However, next time I will be ready to take all your tough questions. Comrade Speaker, thank you very much. (*Applause*)

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HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much indeed. Comrade President, allow me to once again express our collective appreciation, on behalf of all the Members of Parliament and the people of Namibia for your comprehensive encouraging message to the Nation.

Your Excellency, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your Cabinet all the best in executing the mandate bestowed upon you by

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the Namibian people. Once again a big thank you. (*Applause*)

BUSINESS RESUMES

HON SPEAKER: There being no other Business, I will now call upon the Right Honourable Prime Minister to adjourn the House until the 22nd of April 2016, at 14:30. Right Honourable Prime Minister.

RT HON PRIME MINISTER: Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I join you in thanking His Excellency our President for that very insightful and very inspiring Statement that he has given to us and through us to the people of Namibia.

I would also like to, in line with the procedures that we have adapted in this House, propose that the House adjourns until tomorrow at 14:30. I Move so.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow.

I now call on the Sergeant at Arms to escort the Presidential Procession out of the House. However, in the meantime, I would like to ask the Honourable Members of Parliament and Guests to remain standing.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:30 UNTIL 2015.04.22 AT 14:30
