

## **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 &amp; 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 &amp; Forestry)</i>
Ms K Hanse-Himarwa	<i>(Education, Arts &amp; 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 &amp; National Service)</i>

Mr A !Naruseb	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Bishop Z Kameeta (Mr)	<i>(Poverty Eradication &amp; 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 &amp; Communication Technology)</i>
Mr P Shifeta	<i>(Environment and Tourism)</i>
Mr T Alweendo	<i>(Economic Planning &amp; Director General of the NPC)</i>

## **DEPUTY MINISTERS**

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

Ms Manombe-Ncube	<i>(Office of Vice-President – Responsible for the Disability Sector)</i>
Ms M Hinda	<i>(International Relations &amp; 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 &amp; Social Welfare)</i>
Ms P Beukes	<i>(Poverty Eradication &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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>(Office of the Vice-President – Responsible for Marginalised Communities)</i>
Ms L Ipumbu	<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 &amp; 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 Uutoni	<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  
24 APRIL 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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**HON SPEAKER**: Honourable Members, there is no question that you are hardworking Parliamentarians and it can be testified by what we have all witnessed last night, putting in a number of hours until 21:50. That simply augers well and shows that whenever there is something to be done you are not willing to shy away from taking your responsibilities like you have done last night. Well done.

On a sad note, this morning we have been told that one of our Colleagues, Honourable Rudolf Kamburona, who served in this House a couple of years ago, passed away this morning. The news came early this morning. I think he passed away in one of the local hospitals around 5 am this morning. May I ask you to rise and observe a minute of silence in his honour?

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**MINUTE OF SILENCE OBSERVED**

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**HON SPEAKER**: Thank you. Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? Chief Whip.

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**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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24 April 2015

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE**

**HON !NAWASES-TAEYELE:** Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Vote 03, 04, 05, 06, 11, 17, 21 and 28 of the *Appropriate Bill* be, in terms of Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted, if still under consideration at 12:30. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Further Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements?

The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE -  
APPROPRIATION BILL [B.5 – 2015]**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Committee Stage – *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 – 2015].

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

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Any objection? Agreed to. I now call on the Deputy

24 April 2015    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 03**  
**HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE**

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Speaker who is also the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

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

The Whole House Committee is called to Order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 – 2015]..

When progress was reported on Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2015, Votes 01, 02, 09, 23, 26, 29, 30 had been agreed to and Votes 05, 06, 17 and 21 had been introduced.

Vote 03 – “**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**” – **N\$209,501,000.00** for Introduction by Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, you have the Floor.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise to motivate budgetary allocations for Vote 03 – **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**, for your consideration. Allow me, once again, to thank you all Honourable Members for the honour you bestowed upon me by electing me as the Speaker of this august House. I would further like to thank Honourable Calle Schlettwein, the Minister of Finance and his entire team for the well crafted Budget with an overarching theme of “*No Namibian Must Feel Left Out.*” Honourable Minister, we subscribe to your notion of a “*Pro-poor, Pro-growth Budget.*”

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

As we all know Namibia is a Constitutional State, governed on the principles of separation of powers. Being the Legislature and the representative of the people, we are compelled to work towards the prudent management and utilisation of limited financial resources at our disposal, leading to nation-building and sustainable socio-economic development, including the fight against poverty.

The Budget Process and Debate on the *Appropriation Bill*, is one of the most significant events for our Nation. This process continues to foster a culture of accountability and transparency within the Government, as the electorate are enlightened on the benefits of the Programmes and Activities of the Government of the day.

During the past Financial Year, the National Assembly successfully implemented most of its Operational Activities as planned. An amount of **Thirty Six Million, Four Hundred and Ten Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$36,410,000.00)** was allocated to the Development Budget.

**The Construction of the New Parliament Building**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the proposed new Parliament Building was allocated an amount of **Twenty Five Million, Two Hundred and Thirty Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$25,230 000)**. However, due to a shortage of Capital Project experts at the Ministry of Works and Transport the execution rate did not meet the desired expectations. However, I must underline the fact that notable progress has been made in the Financial Year 2014/2015, in terms of the Feasibility Study and documentation. An amount of **Twelve Million, One Hundred and Eight Thousand, One Hundred and Seventy Namibian Dollars (N\$12,108,170.00)** was paid to that effect.

Having said that, I wish to sincerely acknowledge and appreciate the tireless efforts of my predecessor, who started the process towards the construction of the new Parliament Building some years ago. We are all committed to the completion of this important milestone project within a reasonable timeframe.

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

During the Financial Year 2014/2015, the renovation of SADC Parliamentary Forum Building received an allocation of **Five Million, Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$5,550,000.00)**. The project did not commence as planned due to the fact that the recommended Tenderer was disqualified by the Tender Board. We, therefore, expect the Ministry of Works and Transport to re-advertise the tender in the very near future.

The construction of additional carports at the Parliament Building was successfully completed in the last Financial Year. I am pleased to inform you that we are in the process of finalising the installation of access control and security cameras in and around the Parliament Building. A wireless network (Wi-Fi) has also been upgraded and will soon be accessible to Members of Parliament and the Secretariat.

**Constitutional Oversight Role of the National Assembly**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, regarding the Operational Budget, apart from the practical administrative activities of the Secretariat and the House, the Standing Committees have continued to conduct their oversight activities in different Regions of the country. In line with its duties, the National Assembly during the year under review considered thirteen Bills of which four were passed without Amendments, eight with Amendments and one referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee. Ten Motions were tabled of which three were agreed to, two were referred to a Standing Committee and three lapsed, while two were rejected. One Hundred and Forty Three Reports of the Auditor-General were tabled. Thirty Nine questions were tabled and twenty nine replied to, while nine lapsed and one was withdrawn.

*“Taking Parliament to the People”* is an important platform to engage the electorate on issues of national concern, including sensitising them on the legislative process. The National Assembly participated in various trade exhibitions and numerous schools and tertiary educational institutions visited Parliament.

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

The Energy workshop by the Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration was conducted in April 2014, and the Deliberations of this workshop should culminate in a *Draft Bill* on Renewable Energy in due course.

**The International Cooperation Mandate**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in relation to regional and international parliamentary relationships, Namibia successfully hosted the Executive Committee Meeting of the SADC-Parliamentary Forum in collaboration with the SADC-Parliamentary Forum Secretariat. This is all in effort of promoting partnership and goodwill.

Study visits were also undertaken to other Parliaments in Africa and internationally, to further strengthen inter-parliamentary relations. Here, it is important to note that the former Speaker was the President of the IPU, whereas the Deputy Speaker was elected as one of the Vice-Presidents of the PAP, while I led the Namibian delegation to the Pan-African Parliament and served as its Vice-Chair of the Rules, Discipline and Privileges Committee. In that capacity I was able to pilot the presentation to the African Parliament, the Code of Conduct that has now been accepted as the document that will guide the African Parliament on very important issues relating to conflict of interest, etcetera. Equally important, a number of our Parliamentarians served on various international parliamentary bodies. Parliament also participates in various Parliamentary organisation activities, including the PAP, SADC-PF, IPU, CPA and pays membership fees to these organisations.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in cooperation with EU's Parliamentary Support Programme, a workshop on the Development Budget was conducted in September 2014.

Members analysed **Two Hundred and Thirty Three** Development Projects contained in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and visited a significant number of these projects in our various Regions.

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, for the Financial Year 2015/2016, the National Assembly is requesting an amount of **Two Hundred and Nine Million, Five Hundred and One Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$209,501,000.00)** for both the Operational and Development Budgets.

This allocation consists of **One Hundred and Eighty Two Million, Eight Hundred and Sixty Three Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$182,863,000.00)** for the Operational Budget and, **Twenty Six Million, Six Hundred and Thirty Eight Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$26, 638 000)**, for the Development Budget.

Notably, financial assistance to Political Parties represented in the National Assembly remains an item and represents **almost 21.44%** of the Operational Budget.

May I now take this opportunity, to elaborate, on the funds required for the development of the SADC Parliamentary Forum House, the new Parliament Building and the Upgrading and Renovations to the current Parliament Building.

Namibia, as a host country to the SADC-Parliamentary Forum's Headquarters, has the obligation of ensuring that the Forum is taken care of in terms of office accommodation in order to facilitate efficient and effective service delivery. Currently, the SADC-PF is housed in an old, dilapidated building, which needs extensive renovation. Hence, an amount of **Three Million, Seven Hundred and One Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$3,701,000.00)** is requested for this Financial Year to create a conducive working environment for SADC-Parliamentary Forum.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, as you are all aware, the current Parliament Building's office accommodation is inadequate, as it is not tallying with the number of seats of Members of Parliament, which increased as a result of the last Constitutional Amendments. Moreover, the envisaged creation of the

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Parliamentary Service Commission will also have an impact on the Secretariat's organisational structure, which will culminate into more office space being required.

Experience has proven that most of the new intake of Members of Parliament do struggle with accommodation in Windhoek. We are all aware of this and, of course, the discussion of last night highlighted this particular issue. We are, therefore, contemplating the addition of a Parliament Village to the proposed new Parliament Building. This Village is intended to provide decent accommodation to those Members of Parliament that come from outside Windhoek on a temporary basis.  
*(Applause)*

The provision of a Parliament Village for Members of Parliament is a norm practiced in South Africa and Botswana amongst other countries. I personally visited these facilities in Cape Town and Gaborone and they are actually highly regarded as being an important facility to provide access to Members who come and go. The aspect of the village will certainly require further consultation with other stakeholders. I am convinced that you will accept our Budget request, in order for us to fast-track the process of the construction of a new Parliament Building.

For the MTEF period from 2015/2016 till 2017/2018, estimates for the new Parliament Building are indicated in equal amounts of **Twenty Million Namibia Dollars (N\$20,000,000.00)** per each Financial Year. It should, however, be noted that the remainder of the required amount will be requested according to the progression of the phases of the Parliament Building project. *(System Off)*

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Speaker, it is on now.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I was actually at accommodation – in light of the

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

above, an amount of **Twenty Million Namibian Dollars (N\$20,000,000.00)** is thus requested for the Financial Year 2015/2016, to start with the preparatory earth work on the earmarked site, for the construction of the new Parliament Building. It is a well-known fact that the current Parliament Building is over a century old. For a couple of years now, this building has been affected by recurrent pipe bursts, water leakages and low water pressure due to the ailing condition of the current Parliament building. You will indeed agree with me that this state of affairs is undesirable for a permanent office like Parliament, and that, therefore, necessitates the changes that we are proposing to undertake. Hence, the need to design a new water reticulation system that will be connected from the Parliament Building to the existing Municipal connection points, which will call for the overhauling of other obsolete piping networks. An amount of **Two Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty Seven Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$2,937,000.00)** is requested for this project.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, may I now take this opportunity, to elaborate, on the funds required for both the Operational and Development Budgets. With regard to the Operational Budget, the National Assembly has clustered its activities under two (2) Main Programmes, namely; Legislative Management, Coordination and Support Services.

**Programme 1: Legislative Management - Seventeen Million, One Hundred and Twenty Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$17,128,000.00).**

The aim of this Programme is to provide leadership, guidance and specialised support in respect of Parliamentary proceedings and procedures, and related administrative services to the Presiding Officers and Members of Parliament. The Programmes' activities include, among others, the timely and accurate processing of Session Papers, Legislation and production of National Assembly's Hansards.

**Programme 2: Coordination and Support Services - One Hundred**



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**and Ninety Two Million, Three Hundred and Seventy Three Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$192,373,000.00).**

The aim of this Programme is to provide administrative support through proper financial management and optimal deployment of human resources, the provision of transport and legal advice to the Vote's Programmes and, training and capacity development for Members of Parliament and the Parliamentary staff members. Provision of relevant and up-to-date information, research, library and modern ICT services to Members of Parliament and the Secretariat.

Equally important is the need to strengthen capacity in the public relations division of our Parliament. Equally is the Programme of taking Parliament to the people. Moreover, the Programme also renders on-going and effective services to the Standing Committees of the National Assembly in their quest to perform their Constitutional Oversight mandate.

Parliament will convene the Fifth Session of the Children's Parliament in 2016. This Session brings together four learners from each of the fourteen political Regions to come and Debate on issues that affect them and make recommendations accordingly.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your attentiveness and anticipated support, and I kindly implore you to approve the Budget Request of **Two Hundred and Nine Million, Five Hundred and One Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$209,501,000.00)** for Vote 03. I thank you.

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

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Maybe you can take a glass of water because you are still going to be requested to introduce Vote 11.

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Vote 11 – “**NATIONAL COUNCIL**” – **N\$146,272,000.00** put for Introduction by the Honourable Speaker. Are you ready?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, there is a very close link between the National Assembly and the National Council – those two Houses constitute what we call the Namibian Parliament.

I rise before this august House to motivate Vote 11, that of the **NATIONAL COUNCIL**, which outlines the House of Review’s expenditure estimates for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

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

The National Council in the Financial Year 2014/2015 had one Programme Legislative Support Services, which had two main activities namely:

- Strengthened capacity of review and oversight.
- Parliamentary coordination and support services.

Under the activity “***Legislative Support Services***,” the Chairperson of the National Council conducted an outreach Programme to both the Kavango West and Kavango East Regions from 21 June 2014, to 03 July 2014. During the outreach, he discussed with the communities on the provision of the following Acts:

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

- i.    *Married Persons Equality Act, 1996 ( Act 1 of 1996)*
- ii.   *Combating of Domestic Violence Act, 2003 (Act 4 of 2003)*
- iii.   *Combating of Rape Act, 2000 (Act 8 of 2000)*

In the same Financial Year, the National Council took Parliament closer to the people in the //Karas Region, where it conducted its second Regional Session. The Session was preceded by several activities aimed at increasing public participation in the Law-making process. During the Session, the evenings were dedicated to community meetings as a platform for the community of //Karas Region to participate in the Law-making process. The community meetings were presided over by the Honourable Chairperson of the National Council. The number of attendees of the pre-session activities and evening community meetings in total were 812 and the number of interventions made was 680. This demonstrated the interest of communities' participation in the Law-making process. As a result the National Council will continue with this activity.

During the Financial Year 2014/2015, the National Council reviewed 9 Bills, 3 were passed with Amendments while 6 were without Amendments.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the National Council Parliamentary Standing Committees have developed a Digital Development Budget Tool which improved their oversight function on the execution of the Development Programmes in the MTEF. The tool links the Development Budget to the projects and their specific location, including the project milestones as stipulated in the development estimates expenditure. We appreciate the assistance rendered by the EU's Parliamentary Support Programme in the development of this tool. It is worth mentioning that the tool has been shared with different Regional Councils. I would also like to add that a number of Governors express similar satisfaction.

During the oversight function by the Committees, a disturbing practice by Offices, Ministries and Agencies was discovered that of verimenting funds

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meant for specific projects to other activities, thus denying citizens of development which this august House would have approved during the *Appropriation Bill*. The Ministry of Finance and National Planning Commission are called upon to address this concern. The National Council appeals to Offices, Ministries and Agencies to plan properly and stop diverting funds allocated to specific projects.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, over the years the National Council has requested this august House to fund its membership obligations to regional and international parliamentary bodies, for purposes of bench marking on best Parliamentary practices, and to participate in forums that set Parliamentary agendas to contribute towards strengthening principles of Parliamentary democracy.

Furthermore, the National Council has continued to equip its Members with the requisite skills and competencies to enhance their legislative and oversight roles. Training activities in the areas of budget execution, oversight and public relations were attended by both Members and support staff.

The National Council believes in the wellbeing of its workforce, hence a wellness centre has been established to this effect. The centre will promote employee wellness and educational activities on lifestyle diseases and conditions.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the National Council plans to conduct its activities guided by the House's Operating Programme of "*Legislative Support Services*." This Programme focuses mainly on two activities: Firstly, that of "*Strengthened Capacity of Review and Oversight*," and the "*Parliamentary Coordination and Support Services*."

In total, the National Council is requesting for an amount of **One Hundred Forty Six Million, Two Hundred and Seventy Two Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$146,272,000)** to cover its Operational

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and Developmental commitments during the Financial Year 2015/2016.

The activities related to “*Strengthened Capacity of Review and Oversight*” entails:

- The conduct of Outreach Programmes that the Presiding Officers undertake annually to educate the public on the Law-making process.
- To honour regional and international parliamentary obligations
- To strengthen the law-making process through the referral of Bills to Standing or Select Committees for further consultations with the citizens.
- The conduct of oversight activities by Standing and select Committees in line with the oversight function of Parliament.

Honourable Members, the National Council is requesting a total amount of **Twelve Million, Six Hundred and Eighty Three Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$12,683,000.00)** to fund the above mentioned activities for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

The second Main Activity of the National Council is “*Parliamentary Coordination and Support Services.*” This activity focuses on the following issues:-

- Improved citizens’ understanding and participation in the Law-making process, through the conduct of Civic Education Programmes and sharing of information through all mediums;
- Conduct National Council Sessions in the Regions
- Conduct capacity and competency building programmes for the Members of the National Council and staff members; and lastly
- Funding of Members of the National Council planned Constituency Activities.

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In total the cost under this Main Activities will remain at **One Hundred and Thirty Three Million, Five Hundred and Eighty Nine Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$133,589,000.00)**. This amount includes Operational and Development Budgets as follows:

Operational Budget – **Ninety Million, Three Hundred and Nine Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$90,309,000.00)**

Development Budget – **Forty Three Million, Two Hundred and Sixty Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$43,260,000)**.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I request this august House to approve the amount of **One Hundred and Thirty six Million, Two Hundred and Seventy Two Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$136,272,000.00)** for both the Operational and Development Budget of the National Council for the Financial Year 2015/2016. I thank you.

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

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Before I give you the chance to introduce Electoral Commission Vote, I would just like to humbly request the Honourable Members and remind you of Rule 108(j) – **General Restriction** in terms of reading newspapers and other documents not connected to the subject matter. Thank you.

Vote 28 – **“ELECTORAL COMMISSION” – N\$278,960,000.00** for Introduction by Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, this will be the last Vote.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Members, I am a little torn because I have revised the document that I was given and now I am

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getting another one. I do not know whether the changes that I injected are in there or not but I am going to soldier on.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it gives me a great pleasure to introduce the budgetary allocation for Vote 28 – **ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA (ECN)**, for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

A total amount of **Two Hundred and Seventy Eight Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$278,960,000.00)** is being requested for consideration and approval by Parliament.

As the Honourable Members of this august House are aware, the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) was established by an Act of Parliament. The *Electoral Act*, 2014 (Act 5 of 2014) sets out clear objectives of the ECN – to organise, direct, supervise, manage and control the conduct of elections and referenda in a free, fair, independent, credible, transparent and impartial manner, as well as to strengthen constitutional democracy and to promote democratic electoral and referenda processes.

In the fulfilment of this statutory mandate, the ECN has just concluded the successful, free and fair 2014 – Presidential and National Assembly (PNA) Elections. The elections were a historic event in Africa because it was the first time that EVMs have been successfully used. The 2014 Namibia's Presidential and National Assembly were also the first national elections in Africa to incorporate paperless balloting into the voting process. The use of ICT in the election process also included the biometric mobile Voter Registration Kits (VRKs) system to digitally capture biometric data of applicants during the registration process and the handheld Voter Verification Devices (VVDs) to authenticate voters at polling stations during the polling process. In this regard, we must congratulate the Electoral Commission of Namibia for a job well done. *(Applause)*

Furthermore, I wish to remind Honourable Members, that towards the end of the year we are going to have the Regional Council and Local

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Authority Council Elections. Therefore, in my motivation for Vote 28, I am very much mindful of the mandate bestowed upon the ECN, which invariably must reflect the financial implications of conducting a national undertaking of this magnitude.

Honourable Members, in this year, the ECN has three crucial Programmes under its Budget, namely:

- 1) Voter Education and Information Dissemination,
- 2) Administration of Elections, and
- 3) Supervision and Support Services.

In turn, these three Programmes have three major targets to meet, namely, to:

1. Ensure that all by-elections are carried out within 90 days after the occurrence of a vacancy within the Regional Council during Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period;
2. Register 90% of persons who become eligible for voting before 2015 Regional Councils and Local Authority Elections; and
3. Ensure that every eligible voter is afforded the information on elections and participate in the electoral processes by 2015.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the breakdown of the Budget for the three Programmes of the Electoral Commission is as follows:

1. **Voter and Civic Education and Information Dissemination** – Voter and Civic Education is one of the core functions of the ECN and normally precedes all other electoral activities. Therefore, the ECN has designed a comprehensive voter education and information dissemination campaign aimed at informing all eligible voters about these important events on the election calendar. In terms of Section 49 (1)(a) of the *Electoral Act*, 2014 (Act 5 of 2014) the Commission



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must, when supervising, directing, controlling and promoting voter and civic education, pursue the objective to make the meaning and purpose of elections well understood by the electorate.

The ECN will continue to use the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in all the national elections. It is the mandate of this Programme to ensure that all the eligible voters are accorded the opportunity to have all the required information on electoral processes. The voter education sessions together with advertisements will complement each other to help give required information to the public in order to make the public aware of the EVMs.

An amount of **Sixty One Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty Seven Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$61,967,000.00)** has been allocated for voter education. The purpose of this Programme is:

- to conduct voter education and disseminate voter information;
- to promote culture of democracy and good governance so as to ensure credible election processes; and
- raising public awareness on the need for free and fair elections, the building of democracy and political tolerance during elections.

Within the broader scope of this programme, the main activities to be carried out include:

- 1) The production, dissemination, publicity and sensitisation about Voter and Civic Education Publications, Production and Publicity;
- 2) The execution of Regional Voter and Civic Education;
- 3) The undertaking of Research, Monitoring and Evaluation; and
- 4) The conducting of Regional Voter and Civic Education Capacity Building.

## **2. Administration of Elections**

In terms of Section 49 (2) of the *Electoral Act*, 2014 (Act 5 of 2014) the ECN is mandated to hold elections, be it national, regional, Local Authority or By-elections and to ensure good governance and the consolidation of our representative democracy. During the forthcoming Financial Year, the ECN is obliged to hold Regional Councils and Local Authority Council Elections. Voting under this sub-activity will take place in all Political Regions countrywide. In addition, the ECN is in the process of preparing to hold By-elections in Swakopmund, Onyaanya and Otjiwarongo Constituencies during the first quarter of Financial Year 2015/2016.

Furthermore, during the course of Financial Year 2015/2016, the ECN may hold any other **By-election** that may emerge in case of a vacancy as a result of the resignation or death of any of the Regional Councillors. Budget estimates have been based on a projection of three (3) By-elections for the entire Financial Year, but due to the advent of the new Government, it is expected to conduct more elections this Financial Year than anticipated.

An amount of **One Hundred and Thirty Two Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety Seven Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$132,797,000.00)** is being requested in order to successfully carry out all the planned electoral operations as highlighted under the following activities:

1. Registration of Voters;
2. Holding of Elections;
3. Update of Voters Register;
4. Voter Verification Devices (VVDs) and Mobile Voters Registration Kits (MVRK's);
5. By-elections;

6. Legal Challenges, and
7. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

The current number of EVM units acquired during the Financial Years 2011/2012 and 2014/2015 is not adequate to run Regional Council and Local Authority Council Elections scheduled to take place towards the end of 2015. The required number of EVM units will equally and proportionally increase in response to the increased number of election teams needed in 2015 and beyond. Therefore, additional EVM units will be acquired during the Financial Year 2015/2016 to cover the gap experienced during the Presidential and National Assembly Elections.

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

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the purpose of this Programme is to provide administrative support to all the ECN's Programmes to ensure the proper financial management, optimal utilisation of the allocated resources and other administrative issues. Therefore, an amount of **Eighty Four Million, One Hundred and Ninety Five Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$84,195,000)** has been allocated to ensure the smooth running of the day-to-day activities of the Electoral Commission of Namibia.

The major activities carried out under this Programme include:

- 1) Minor renovation and maintenance of the ECN Head Office;
- 2) Training and Development, Gender and Capacity Building;
- 3) Acquisition and Maintenance of Information Technology, (IT) Equipment and Systems;
- 4) General Administration Costs;
- 5) Construction of Regional Offices;

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- 6) International fees and subscription;
- 7) Construction of ECN Regional Offices; and
- 8) Wellness Promotion, Prevention and Mitigation of HIV/AIDS.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in conclusion, this presentation makes a case for the activities and Programmes that the ECN wishes to undertake during this Financial Year. In order to discharge these duties successfully and thereby uphold the democratic principles and tenets of democracy enshrined in our Constitution and the Electoral Law of the Republic of Namibia, I urge all Honourable Members of this august House to support these motivations and approve the allocation of **Two Hundred and Seventy Eight Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$278,960,000)** for the Electoral Commission of Namibia for the Financial Year 2015/2016. I thank you.

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

Thank you once more Honourable Speaker for introducing all those three Votes within a reasonable time. Honourable Speaker, you may choose to stay or go and come back after we dispose of other Votes for Discussion. You may either remain for a while or go to your office until we call you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** I will take your offer to remain briefly and then exit together with the others who might have a cup of tea.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I Vote 4 – “AUDITOR-GENERAL” – **N\$84,725,000.00** put for Introduction by the Minister of Presidential Affairs. Honourable Minister

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**HON KAPOFI**

you have the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee for the Floor.

I rise to Motivate Vote 04, Auditor-General. The Auditor-General performs an important constitutional mandate to audit State revenue funds and report thereon to the National Assembly.

The Office of the Auditor-General contributes to the national objectives of our Government by helping the Nation to make the best use of public resources, and the audited bodies, to achieve proper accountability and transparency through compliance with regularity, propriety and accounting requirements.

The Office of the Auditor-General has set itself a number of targets during the Financial Year 2015/2016. The Office intends to finalise one hundred and forty (140) Audit Reports which include thirty two (32) Government Audit Reports, ninety nine (99) Regional and Local Authority and Statutory Body Audit Reports as well as nine (9) Specialised Audit Reports.

The funds will also be utilised to conduct one hundred and twenty (120) asset inspections throughout the country, which is intended to ensure that the relevant controls are in place to safeguard Government assets. Where possible the asset inspections will include Namibia's missions abroad. This Office also plans to reduce the outsourced audits by twelve (12) audits during the Financial Year under review.

The Office further plans to enhance compliance with International Standards for Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI) and improve the quality of its processes. It also strives to strengthen its operational and functional independence in line with international best practices which are endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly and International Organisation

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of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI). In this regard the Office will be guided by provisions of the Constitution and other legal frameworks of Namibia.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members of the House, the nine (9) Specialised Audit Reports planned during 2015/2016 are as follows: three (3) Performance Audit Reports; two (2) Follow-up Performance Audit Reports; one (1) Environmental Audit Report and three (3) other Special Audit Reports.

Environmental and Forensic Audits are new types of audits that have been introduced in the Office of the Auditor-General and will, therefore, require extensive training of staff to ensure that they acquire the necessary technical skills.

The Office has implemented a quality assurance, research and development and a training division to ensure that quality and factual Reports are produced at all times. The research and development is keeping the Office abreast with international standards and the latest developments in Public Sector auditing. Through its audits, the Office observed that there is a serious need for capacity building within the O/M/As and Regional Councils, Municipalities, Towns and Villages. It has, therefore, embarked upon a programme to render advisory and stakeholders education services on a regular basis to help improve Public Finance Management in the Government and its institutions.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, now, more than ever there is an urgent need for the Office to transform into a learning organisation where professionally qualified human resources can contribute to accountability, transparency and good governance. Changes in Government structures have compelled the Office as a Supreme Audit Institution to revise its organisational structure and policies in order to meet new demands and expectations of its stakeholders. The structure has been approved and resources for its implementation will be required for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

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**HON KAPOFI**

In the Financial Year 2015/16, the Office has set itself two Main Programmes and the amount requested is earmarked for the following activities:

**Programme 01: Public Expenditure Oversight**

This Programme consists of the following components:

- Government Audits;
- Accrual Based Audits; Specialised Audits;
- Research and Development;
- Quality assurance, training and development.

An amount of **N\$60,464,000.00** is required to fund this Programme

**Programme 02: Supervision and Support Services**

An amount of **N\$24,261,000.00** is required to fund the following activities under this Programme:

<b>Policies Supervision</b>	<b>N\$2,454,000</b>
<b>Co-ordination and Support Services</b>	<b>N\$21,807,000</b>
	<b>N\$24,261,000</b>

To enable the Office of the Auditor-General to achieve its goals, financial resources to the amount of **N\$84,725,000.00** will be required and I humbly request this august House to approve the expenditure. I thank you.

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

That is very nice and short. With that, I am guided by you. Should we go for tea break or should we continue? We go for tea and come back 10:50. So adjourned.

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

**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 10:27**

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**HOUSE RESUMES AT 11:00**

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

The Whole House Committee is called to order once more, and we are going into the discussions of the Votes.

Vote 05 – **“HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION”** put for Discussion. Any discussion? I recognise Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** I know it is Friday and there is an urgency for people to go to their Constituencies and farms which are also constituencies - I shall, therefore, be very brief. Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I wholeheartedly, rise to support our Budget.

This morning I was reminded again about how short life is. Two days ago I was with my Dear Friend and colleague Kamburona at his hospital bed and this morning at 05:00, I received a call that he was no more. Now that we are discussing this, it resonated at 05:00 what you meant that this is probably our Ministry.

Honourable Minister, I support the Turnaround Strategy that you and your colleagues have brought to this very important Ministry because Leadership is always a collective effort. Honourable Minister, you will go down in the annals of history as one of those Ministers who have brought the Ministry of Home Affairs to what it is supposed to be.

**Programme 02:** This is the only vice that is with the Ministry of Home Affairs – Directorate of Visas, Permits, Passports and Citizenship and I



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**HON VENAANI**

want to address the question of Work Permits. If we want to push our country's economic agenda with the skills deficit that we have in our Republic, issuance of Work Permits remains a bottleneck, especially to key Industries that are supposed to bring value. There is a company called Rolls-Royce Marine in Walvis Bay, a company that services ships. They have petitioned my office, and two or three international representatives of countries have also come to my office to discuss the difficulties they are experiencing in obtaining Work Permits, the issuance thereof. There are always delays when we want to bring in expatriates with necessary skills.

I am speaking under cautious correction because I know what happened four years back – I do not know what is happening now. It is a question of issuing permits, I do not know how it happens in our country, and why a bricklayer or a wheelbarrow pusher gets a Work Permit to come and work here. Four years back I could have spoken with authority that it was clear corruption. Some officials in our Ministry are in the business of issuing Work Permits to foreign nationals. If you want to go to China, India or any other country today to become someone's *handlanger* (assistant) you will never get a Work Permit. Namibia is the only country that gives Work Permits to manual labourers and that issue must be nipped in a bud.

Honourable Minister, what is the Ministry going to do to make sure that we issue Work Permits to people with skills that we need and not to people with skills that we already have? There was a report in the media the other day that Chinese painters were issued Work Permits and are doing painting jobs in Walvis Bay. Every morning, if you go to Pupkewitz, Pennypinchers or Built It, you will find experienced Namibian painters lying around there. These people have painted the whole of Windhoek, yet they do not get these jobs. However, somebody, a painter comes from other shores, like China and gets a Work Permit to come and paint here. When you need a Work Permit for a marine engineer, you are questioned; why do you want to come to the country and what are you going to contribute? While a painter is not questioned. I think this issue must be addressed.

Lastly, about three years ago I had the privilege of travelling to Angola

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**HON VENAANI**

Alone, trucking some stuff south of Angola. I was speaking and mingling with people and there seem to be Namibians, of course, between Namibia and Angola, especially at Ohangwena/Angolan border and the Kunene/Angolan border. There is this movement of our people between our two countries to a point that we have citizens on both sides of the divide that have dual citizenship – voting in Namibia and Angola. *(Interjection)* I speak factual things.

I was wearing an overall, driving a 30-tonne truck and nobody knew who I was. I posed this question. *(Interjections)* It is happening between Himbas. Quite interestingly, I met a Himba person, a brother to Chief Kapika. They look alike, when you see him, you would think he is the old man. They are brothers, but one is a Chief in Angola while the other is a Chief here. That is fine but my question is; what are we going to do to address the issue of the people between our two borders with dual citizenship?

Finally, it has been 25 years after Independence and we have not yet increased the rate at which identification documents are issued. Every time that we go to the polls, this year we are having Local and Regional Authority elections, we are inundated with sworn statements. What does the Ministry envisage to do and in what timeframe does the Ministry envisage to give each and every citizen of our Republic an identification document? If all drivers in Namibia have drivers licences, surely all Namibians born in this country must be able to have identification documents.

With these few remarks and knowing that it is a very important day for many people, I support the Vote.

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

Next is Honourable Deputy Minister Witbooi.

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

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also rise to support Vote 05.

I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister, the Honourable Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and the entire staff for the Turnaround Strategy, improved service delivery within the Ministry, the shorter queues and the changed public image in the perception towards the Ministry. The changed public perception is evident in the many SMSs from the public, which appear on a daily basis in our local newspapers. I can also testify that there is a total of change at the Ministry and I am happy for that. I just want to say that we, women, are the change makers just give us opportunities to prove ourselves.

My question is about foreign marriages. Honourable Minister, during October 2014, there was an article in one of our local newspapers reporting on the concern that there are some and I would like to emphasise *some* foreign nationals who marry Namibian women mainly to acquire citizenship and national documents. As a Deputy Minister responsible for Gender Equality and Child Welfare and, of course, as a woman, I certainly cannot tolerate this abuse some of our Namibian women have to endure at the hands of ill-minded and unscrupulous people who just want to marry our women to acquire citizenship and national documents. Honourable Minister, I am aware of the *Constitutional Amendment Bill* that amended the Namibian Constitution so as to extend the waiting period.  
(Intervention)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Point of Order.

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**HON VENAANI:** Can I ask the Honourable Colleague a question?

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

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

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, may I ask my Honourable Colleague a question?

On these marriages; are you aware that there are Namibian women, who out of their own free will are sending money abroad to husbands they never had or met before? They are sending their hard-earned money to maintain those people's lives with Facebook as their only means of communication. People are sending money to a point where they even lose pensions (*interjections*) I am talking about things I know. Are you aware of it? I think there is a dichotomy that we must address whether it is only the foreign (*interjection*) South Africa is even worse. Can we argue; what is wrong with our sisters?

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

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Thank you. It take note of your question but it does not give a reason to abuse us. Comrade Minister, I am aware of the *Constitutional Amendment Bill* that amended the Namibian Constitution so as to extend the waiting period required for acquiring Namibian citizenship, by marriage, from a period of not less than two years to a period of not less than ten years of ordinarily residing in Namibia as spouse subsequent to such marriage.

Honourable Minister, my question is: What is the current situation, after the Constitutional Amendment has been passed and what other Policies or

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**HON DIENDA**

legislations does the Ministry have in place to stop, forthwith, such practices where these people go around and enter into legal marriages with our women just to acquire citizenship and national documents? Once they have acquired national documents, they just disappear from the scene. With that, I support the Vote.

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

Thank you. Next is Honourable Dienda.

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**HON DIENDA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I just have five questions for five years.

Honourable Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, *Agent of Change*, you are an Agent of Change; my first question is on the *Head Office*. I read in the newspapers that you were laying the foundation for our new Head Office. Thank you very much for that. I hope that we will be able to accommodate that office very soon. The reason why I am asking this is that the Ministry of Home Affairs is a place that each and every Namibian has to visit at one stage or another, whether you like it or not. Honourable Minister, since parking is a problem in Windhoek, can you also make provisions for parking for the public so that we cannot spend so much money on parking meters and parking centres, and also to avoid walking long distances to your Office from these parking centres. That is my first question.

Honourable Minister, my second question is on these *legal claims* against the Minister of Home Affairs. I assume that you have legal advisors in the Ministry, can they not advise you, before we decline or do something that will harm a person's intention to stay in the country? The Law is very clear that a Namibian-by-birth's citizenship status cannot be taken away from anyone and, yet, we are saying that if you take up citizenship of another country, you cannot come back and claim your citizenship. There

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HON DIENDA**

are so many issues regarding this matter. I think we need to resolve this to be clear about citizenship by birth and educate our Nation so that we can reduce the legal claims against our country.

**Question 3:** When a *mistake* is made on a *national document*, for example a birth certificate, by an official from the Ministry of Home Affairs, why must I pay again for the document to be corrected while it was initially your mistake? You made the mistake by misspelling my name or surname and I now have to pay for you to re-issue another document.

**Question 4: *The Middlemen:*** Honourable Minister, we have companies that are helping people get national documents. Are these people registered? Where do they need to register? Sometimes these people run away with people's money. Some of them are doing a good job and I think it is a great way of creating job opportunities. Is there a legal mechanism within your Office that is permitting them to supply these services?

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:**  
Please repeat the question.

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**HON DIENDA:** I am talking about the middlemen who are assisting other people obtain their national documents. Is there a legal mechanism within your Office that is permitting them to supply these services so that our citizens cannot be robbed of their money? However, I have to say it, Honourable Minister, some of them are really doing a great job.

**Question 5: *Immigration and Border Control:*** Honourable Minister, a computerised system – it is very frustrating to stand in a long queue at the airport while the official has to manually process all the paperwork. It takes a lot of time and people are getting frustrated. Honourable

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**HON MUHARUKUA**

Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much. I support the Vote.

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

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee (*interjections*) *The Shadow Cabinet is rising.* Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we hear about a Turn-around Strategy – a Strategy that has indeed turned around the Ministry of Home Affairs. One has no choice but to commend the good work of the Honourable Minister in that regard. However, one is inclined to ask where it all started and I happen to think that this Turnaround started with a change of heart and mindset in the top Leadership of that Ministry.

I am saying this because in 2013, in Oshakati, a meeting was convened, by the Honourable Minister, with all the stakeholders, including Traditional Chiefs and Regional Councillors, to identify problems pertaining to this Ministry. That is the change of heart I am talking about and the willingness to listen to the people who matter. If the Government is to turn around everything to the magnitude of what the Ministry of Home Affairs did, including the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, there must be a change of heart to want to listen to the people.

Having said that, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Minister of Home Affairs, I want to address (*intervention*)

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**HON MEMBER:** *Undress! Laughter*

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

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Order, order!

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** I am Himba and Himbas are known to be Hereros, but I am not going to *undress*. I want to address Programme 01 of the Vote. I am aware that the Ministry goes out to communities with its Outreach Programme to register members of the public for identity documents. I have seen the following problems with this Programme: There are places, especially, in my Region, Kunene that are mountainous and cars do not have access to these places. At times the roads are so bad that vehicles cannot get to these places and people living in these areas are at times left out during the registration for national documents. However, during elections or when it is time for census, you will see aeroplanes or helicopters going to these people for them to vote or to be counted, but the same is not done for them to obtain identity documents.

Therefore, my question is: Does the Ministry, in this new Turnaround Strategy, have a plan to address the plight of these people? My next question is: During these Outreach Programmes, the officials go to places, stay there for, say for instance, two days, register people and return to the Regional Offices. After they return the people from the community that they purported to serve would come and ask to be registered for IDs or birth certificates because they were attended to when the officials were there. The reason for this is because the time given for these officials to serve these people, at times, is not enough and the reasons they give amongst others, is the lack of S & T. Saying; *we only got X amount of time because we will only be paid for that time* and people are left uncatered for. This also creates a window for fraud. What I mean is that someone from, for example, Angola would come and say; *I live in this area* and the officials will not have the confidence to say that we have serviced that whole area and did not leave out anyone because we were there for a extended period of time. Someone will just lie and say he is Namibian from X community whilst in fact he is not because the officials



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HON MUHARUKUA**

do not spend sufficient time within the communities to ensure everybody is registered.

Honourable Minister, my question is: Is there, under your plan, an opportunity for your officials to spend more time within the communities, especially in Constituencies that are as vast as the Epupa Constituency whose geographical outlay is quite inaccessible.

At times, someone from these communities would die and because of the places where they live, they do not go to the mortuary or register the deaths. They bury straightaway the day after. In some incidences because of the lack of death certificates of the parents, the children are not registered or cannot receive birth certificates. If, for instance, the father is Angolan and the mother is Namibian, when the mother dies, these children are denied birth certificates and as a result they cannot access Social Grants. Therefore, Honourable Minister, my question is: Does the Honourable Minister have a mitigation plan to counter these adverse effects on our society?

Honourable Minister, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, coupled with the issue of the Outreach Programmes is the fact that these officials go out to centres or to a place where they call or inform the whole community to congregate or gather for the purpose of issuing documents. However, you would find that there are two or three members in that particular community who live 80 or more kilometres away from the place where the registration is taking place. There is no transport and the road is very bad. These can be an old person or a person living with a disability who is unable to leave the village to go and register. What is the Ministry going to do to hear the plight of those people?

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me move to the Ovazemba community. I have had the privilege to work as a lawyer in Oshakati for an extended period of time, for three years and I have also worked around the Ruacana area. (*Interjections*) Please give us time for these two weeks, do not interrupt, you can it afterwards. The Ovazemba people in Ruacana, and I will say these words, are presumed not to be

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**HON MUHARUKUA**

Namibians by the Police and the Immigration Officers. If a person is speaking Otjizemba, he or she must be from Angola. This problem extends as far as questioning a Zemba person who is caught (I will use the word *caught*) with a Namibian ID. They are questioned!

Some Police Officers go to the extent of taking the ID arbitrarily and start investigating. That is discrimination. That is leaving out some Namibians.

In that regard, I want to say that we should perhaps look at the ethics of our officers and offer training to our people as to how they should treat fellow Namibians. (*Interjections*) Honourable Namoloh, maybe you should press the button and also speak on behalf of those people.

Further, I am an Omuhimba, Honourable Minister, and Honourable Mbumba also (*interjections*) not me I am not yet married, but Himbas can marry more than one wife.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Point of Order.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**  
I, really, am so sorry to interrupt. Can the President (of DTA) perhaps allow the discussion of the subject? (*Intervention*)

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**HON VENAANI:** I do not deal with subjects (*laughter*)

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**  
Okay, can you allow the Honourable Member to listen without undue influence?

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**HON MUHARUKUA**

I am interested in the allegation the Honourable Member made as to the ovaZembas not being recognised as Namibians. That is something that we should all be interested in. If you can probably elaborate a bit on those allegations and back them up with some evidence as to what is happening, and whether it is by some or by all Police Officer? It is something that we should not take lightly, if such is happening and you know that as lawyers, assumptions is something that we do not like and we would want you to substantiate your allegations before you sit down.

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

Sorry, I take note that the two Honourable Members are lawyers, but for the sake of time, I think the Honourable Minister will be able to answer because it is going to take some time if he has to substantiate with facts.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**

I just thought that it was too serious to be left like unchallenged, honestly.

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

We will hear what the Minister is going to say. I take note of that. Proceed.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Honourable Chairperson, I did not hear myself saying that Ovazembas are not recognised as Namibians. I did not say that. What I said is that there is discrimination and, yes, Honourable Minister Nambahu, not all Police Officers because I have not met all Police Officers, but I have encountered certain situations. If I may now be allowed to move on, Honourable Chairperson.

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**HON MUHARUKUA**

Honourable Minister, Himbas marry more than one wife and Himbas do not have this notion of a child born out of wedlock, a single mother, single father. In the Himba culture that does not exist. That is why we do not have street kids. There must always be someone (*intervention*)

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

Sorry, someone was talking. Can you repeat yourself again? I did not hear from the beginning.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** The notion of a single father or a single mother does not exist in the Himba culture. There must always be a father and a mother to cater for the needs of that child. That is why there are no street kids in the Himba culture. The problem in this regard is the following: If an Omuhimba lady gives birth to my child and I am not married to her, that child is not mine. It is the child of the maternal grandfather. In the Ovahimba culture, it is called *omuangu wa ina*. This was, in my view, designed to prevent the situation where you have these single-parent homes.

Now Ovahimba ladies are encountering problems when registering their children for birth when they are asked who the father of the child is. In her mind, in her conviction and in her culture the father of that child is not the biological father, but her own father and she would give the name of her own father because the maternal grandfather is the caretaker of his unmarried daughter as well as her offspring until such time she marries and then she leaves her children with her father to take care of. This is the problem now. (*Interjections*) In my case, my parents are married. I am surprised, Honourable Sioka is frowning, you were deputised by my aunt, she should have said this in the House.

Now, let me tell you. When she is registering her child for these Social Grants, the biological father of this child is maybe a distant cousin who

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**HON MUSHELENGA**

came from and returned to Angola. There is no one taking care of this child. What happens then is, say for instance, the father is over 60, 65 years. (*Intervention*)

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

Honourable Muharukua, your point is quite interesting but you are reminded that at this time you are allowed 10 minutes and you can come back again. I would like you to round up and come back again.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** I will come back.

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

Honourable Mushelenga, you have the Floor.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have one question to pose to the Honourable Minister.

Firstly, before I pose the question, I would want to commend the Ministry on the issue of the database of birth and death registration. Out of curiosity, I went to the Ministry and asked for the full birth certificates of my late parents. Thanks to the Ministry, I came to know where my paternal grandparents were born, which I did not know before. Then I found out that there was incomplete information on the full birth certificate of my mother, for example, where her parents are stated, it is not stated where they were born, but I aware of this information; I know where they were born and I know their birth dates and the dates of death.

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**HON SHIWEDA**

I was now asking those officials, in this case, because my children would one day also want to trace - if I know the information that does not appear on the system, and the officials do not seemed to have an answer, what do I do?

I would, therefore, want to ask the Honourable Minister whether you have mechanisms whereby people are able to come and provide information on their deceased parents or grandparents that need to be captured on the system, because we do this for posterity, for our children to know. I would want my children to know where their great parents were born and when they died. I just want to know what mechanisms are there for us who want to provide information to be captured and be recorded. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. Next, I recognise Honourable Anna Shiweda.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I thank you very much for this opportunity. I also want to rise to applaud the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration for the excellent Turnaround initiative, which has brought about these excellent results.

We as people, have been asking ourselves as to what recipe or magic the Minister has used to turnaround the Ministry so that we can also learn a lesson or two because we have ailing Ministries out there which we want to improve. In my opinion, and also from experience one good recipe is not magic. I do not think that Honourable Ithana went there with magic.

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**HON VENAANI:** Are you sure?

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HON SHIWEDA**

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

I am very sure (*laughter*) One good recipe is positive attitude - the positive attitude of staff members and that of the leadership. I think that is one magic she took along to the Ministry of Home Affairs – that attitude. If we can instil positive attitude in our own staff members, we will also experience wonders.

We know that Honourable Ithana left an excellent mark of positive leadership wherever she went and I think leadership in general is also a very good recipe or magic.

The one thing that we do not seem to misunderstand, because whenever it comes up, we want to talk too much, is funding. Whether we like it or not we cannot do anything without money or funding. If you look at the Budget of the Ministry, there is a jump when they started with these turnaround initiatives. Colleagues, we should not always think that when we ask for money, it is to be wasted. If there is a very good Programme and if the money is going for a good cause, let us approve it because after all they say *money makes money and money changes things*.

Therefore, we must look at the Programme we are going to implement and whether the money is going towards a good cause and then approve it. Finally, there is something that I want to mention because, as Leaders or as Citizen, we like praising other countries - *why do you not do this or that like South Africa or Botswana?* These two countries sometimes irk me because you always hear - *look at South Africa, look at Botswana, look at what they are doing!* We have good examples here that we do not recognise.

The Turnaround of travelling documents from 10 working days to 3 and 5 days is remarkable and I can testify to that. Sometimes in the case of an emergency, you can even wait while they are processing your application and you can leave the Ministry with your document. I want to tell you an example because we like praising South Africa. Just yesterday, I met a family acquaintance who is married to a South African. She lives with five children in South Africa whose parents live here. They wanted to

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**HON BEZUIDENHOUT**

come with the children for the holidays, unfortunately the children could not get travelling documents because it takes between 30 and 60 days in South Africa. This lady had to travel alone to visit the parents. Namibia has passed that stage and we must really give credit where it is due. With those few contributions, I want to support Vote 05. Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

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

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**HON BEZUIDENHOUT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. This is the Budget of the people as the Honourable Minister said – from *birth to death*. I think we do support the Vote wholeheartedly. The way I look at the future and the role the Ministry has played in the past, I would even support a request to looking for more funds. Honourable Minister, I have a few questions:

What do you envisage would be a smart ID or a smart Passport and what timeframe can you look at it if it is already agreed to in terms of a Policy or must we still investigate?

I asked you this same question few weeks ago and I am not asking you the question to, specifically answer now, but more to encourage the citizens to go and collect their IDs that they requested from the Ministry. The IDs are just piling up and it is not good to apply for something and you come one year later to hear that it has been destroyed.

The last question is about our border posts and if the Ministry can look at a strategy of coming up with a smart ID and a smart system at the airport or the border crossing points, which will enable the bulk of Namibian citizens to just kind of swipe something through the system and it will tell them they are Namibian and they can go through. Then we can focus on



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HON BEZUIDENHOUT**

the 5% to 10% visitors and the alert notices of Interpol – that is where we need to spend our time and not having the frustrations at the airport like Honourable Dienda said. Let us look at our systems, analyse them and let us be willing to test and see how it goes. However, the vision of the Government and the way that they have tried to go through the Office of the Prime Minister – those things that are possible that you can really cut down on wastage and increase our efficiency when it comes to border control and identification documents.

The one thing I do not understand is; why do I need a birth certificate, for example? I need to give it to a school to enrol my child, but why can the school not access the system to verify this full birth certificate? Why do I need to go and queue and pile up? We need to think of why we issue these things, for what purpose and what we can do to enable people who are entitled to the information, in terms of verification, to have access to the system.

I also want to congratulate the Ministry, I have been visiting the Ministry of Home Affairs, at least, every six to eight weeks, just hanging around and observe in my shorts. It has improved drastically in terms of attitude, in terms of the way you are seated there waiting for your number to be called or to be displayed. It is very good and the positive comments from the citizens, which Honourable Witbooi spoke about is very encouraging.

I would encourage you to keep on that route and let us as a Nation look at the positive side of the future that is definitely coming to this country. With those few words, I thank you very much Honourable Minister, and I am always supporting you in the background, in terms of what is going on. Thank you very much.

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

Thank you. Honourable Smit.

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

**HON SMIT:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I would like to ask the Minister of Home Affairs, Honourable Ithana a few questions.

However, before I come to my questions, I just want to say that before the appointment of the Honourable Minister Ithana as the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration, and before she came up with a Turnaround Strategy, I think for any Namibian to go to Home Affairs was that person's worst nightmare.

After the Turnaround, I must say today, it is a pleasure to go there and I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister for this fantastic job that she done there. When she was appointed as Minister there, we were saying that, especially me, things will now come right at that Ministry and they did.

My first question Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Minister is; is it not possible for our Passports to be issued for ten years instead of the five years because many of us can testify to the fact that after five years when your Passport expires, it is not half full because only few pages have been used. I presume a Passport is quite an expensive document to print. Although we pay for it, I think what we pay for is very little compared to what it really costs to print one.

My second question; how many applications were received for Namibian citizenship and how many of those were granted? From which countries were those people who applied and received Namibian citizenships?

My third question; how many applications for permanent residence were received during 2014/2015 and how many of those were granted?

My next question; how many people have applied for asylum during the past five years and how many of those applications were approved and from which countries were those people?

Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

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**HON MUHARUKUA**

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

Thank you.

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**HON SMIT:** Sorry, I just want to add that I support the Vote.

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

Honourable Muharukua.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I was saying that when these young ladies are registering their children for birth they, give their fathers' or grandfathers' names. When the children are going to register for Social Grants it perplexes the officials because the father's name on the mother's certificate is the same name on the child's full birth certificate. It creates problems. Amongst the problems that it creates is that (1) these children supported by elderly grandfathers are left out of Social Grants. (2) we would force these mothers to go and get another elderly man to register as the father because Himbas can marry more than one wife.

In essence, the system is coercing the citizens to commit a crime without knowing they are committing a crime. Honourable Minister, at the meeting that I referred to at Rochas in Oshakati, it was proposed that a provision be made on the full birth certificate for a maternal grandfather in order to cater for these needs of our society so that we do not leave some Namibians out. What I want to ask is; has your Ministry considered that favourably, and if so when is such a provision going to come into play?

Lastly, I talked about the shortage of time and the constraints placed on the officials when the outreach groups go to register people for identity documents. There are some Constituencies where this operation should be

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**HON JAGGER**

continuous because of the hostile terrains and I believe that the Honourable Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare will concur with me on this. For that purpose, I want to ask your Ministry to consider all those Constituencies with a provision of a permanent vehicle for the Constituency Offices for the registration of Namibian citizens for Identity Documents. Among these Constituencies is the Epupa Constituency and others. Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

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

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**HON JAGGER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. The leadership guru says; *success rises and falls on leadership*. It simply means that the leadership portrayed by the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs is clearly what the leadership guru refers to.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Page 7 of the Minister's Budget Motivation, Paragraph 2 – ***The Application for Citizenship by Descent, Naturalisation and Marriage***; there is another type of application for citizenship, I do not know whether it also falls under these three, and that is *Registration*. I got my citizenship through Registration, and if I say I got mine, it means that my broader community, the Riemvasmakers, also got theirs through Registration. There was a special Outreach Programme that was conducted for this community sometime back, but there are still many of them who did not receive a reply after their applications were submitted to the team that went out to the Region. They have not received their citizenship certificates and that is really a concern because these people cannot get Identity Documents because one has to apply with a citizenship certificate to get your ID.

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HON FLEERMUYS**

That means they experience problems when they want to apply for social benefits and that is pension monies for those who have reached the age of 60 years. They also experience or are denied the right to vote after being in this country for so many years since 1973/1974. They also experience problems when they have to register death because one needs the person's ID to register for that and also death claims for those who have taken policies for funerals. Nonetheless, we are indeed thankful for the group that received the citizenship certificates, Honourable Minister.

My other concern is on the border posts as somebody who travels, especially to South Africa. When you reach the border post at Ariamsvlei, you have to fill in forms and sometimes people reach there in the early hours of the morning, 02:00 or 03:00. You come there with 4 or 5 old people who cannot read and write, therefore, you must fill in forms for five people. Whereas, when you reach the border point of South Africa, within seconds, by pressing a button, you just give your Passport and then you can proceed. That is the same with the other road that you take through Onseepkans. Vellorsdrift on our Namibian side, this side of the bridge you must fill in forms again. Honourable Minister, I would like us to look into fast tracking that so that these services are sped up at our border posts.

Having said that, Honourable Minister, I applaud your Programmes, the Turnaround Strategy and hereby formally support your Vote. Thank you very much.

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

Thank you, I recognise Honourable Fleermuys.

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**HON FLEERMUYS:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

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**HON DIENDA**

**HON MEMBER:** Speak in Nama!

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**HON FLEERMUYS:** I can speak in Nama then I will translate it into English, I am comfortable doing that (*laughter*)

I am confident with that. I only want everybody to know that I am ready for whatever.

I am rising to ask the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs whether there is any provision made for the office in northern industrial area where we go to collect or enquire about our documents in the Budget. There are only two officers there to attend to the people and the queue goes up to street as there is no place to sit. Honourable Minister, I am very much thankful for your Turnaround Strategy, but I am very concerned about the people standing in the sun out there when they are applying for their documents.

I thank you very much, Honourable Minister. I support the Vote. Thank you.

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

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**HON DIENDA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Ithana, I want to find out about communication between the different offices in the Ministry of Home Affairs. Honourable Minister, are your offices linked to each other via a computer network? Can a person get married in Katima Mulilo and then get married in Keetmanshoop again?

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**HON DIENDA**

**HON MEMBER:** Yes, why not!

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Minister, my second question is on *Marriage Licence Officers – the Pastors and the Priests*: There was a bit of a scandal about people getting married in the corridors. There were talks that this service will be taken away from the churches and that we will all get married through the Magistrates' Courts first and then the church will bless the marriage. Is this true or not? I am a Catholic and we must first go to church to get blessings and to attend marriage courses so that we can know what we are getting into. I do not think Catholics will accept this one easily. (*Interjection*) You do not even go to church.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Please, order!

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**HON DIENDA:** *Birth Certificates*: When you apply for a birth certificate the father of the child must be present so that his name can be captured into the system, if you are not married. If you are married you only need the marriage certificate. Say for instance the father of the child is not present at that stage, therefore, his name will not appear on the birth certificate. If that specific father dies before his name is captured on the birth certificate, the full birth certificate will not have the name of the father on it. Sometimes women are not sure at that stage where the father is, what his name is, or he disappeared. (*Interjections*) You know, you come with false names!

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Order, order, please!

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HON VENAANI / HON MUTORWA**

**HON DIENDA:** That is my concern, Honourable Minister. My next question is the issue of *death certificates* issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Thank you for bringing the service of the issuing of birth certificates closer to the people. We can now apply for birth certificates at the hospitals when the child is born. Can we do the same with the death certificates so that they are issued at the place where the person dies so that we do not need to go back to the Ministry of Home Affairs? Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** Just one question that I needed to ask the Honourable Minister. At hospitals when a child is born, hospitals are issuing birth certificates, but when you pass on at the very same hospital you have to go (*interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** Your Colleague just asked that question.

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**HON VENAANI:** Did she?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Yes, she did. I recognise Honourable Minister Mutorwa.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and our



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**HON MUTORWA**

Deputy Speaker. I am simply taking the Floor to support this very, very important Vote. As Honourable Muharukua was eloquently articulating the issue of culture, it took me back to 1995 to 2008, those 13 years that I served as the Minister responsible for culture. It also took me back to Article 19 of the Namibian Constitution, which deals with the issue of culture. The arguments of Honourable Muharukua are hundred percent correct. It reflects the issue of unity in diversity. When you look at Article 19 of the Namibian Constitution, it reads as follows: *“Every person shall be entitled to enjoy, to practice, to profess, to maintain and promote any culture, language, tradition or religion subject to the terms of this Constitution and further subject to the condition that the rights protected by Article 19 do not impinge upon the rights of others and the national interest.”*

I am not responding on behalf of the Minister, I am just making a contribution. Dealing with issues of national documents is a question of these different cultures that we have, that we must respect, but at the end of the day should be subjected to the national requirements, to the national interest. Of course, it is a balancing act, because our policy is unity in diversity, not unity with diversity. In other words the unity is here and the various diversities in there. It is a balancing act. Inasmuch that we do, and we must promote our traditions and our languages, but at the end of the day as this particular Article is calling upon us, when everything is said and done (*intervention*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Point of Order from your Colleague.

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you very much for giving me the Floor. My apologies to interrupt my Senior Colleague here. Just for information sake, I think one needs to know what the comprehensive picture is and the Constitution in Article 66(1) is pretty clear when it

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**HON MUTORWA**

comes to the relationship between Customary and Statutory Law and just for confirmation I want to read it to the House. It says - *“both the Customary Law and the Common Law of Namibia in force on the date of Independence shall remain valid to the extent to which such Customary or Common Law does not conflict with its Constitution or any Statutory Law.”*

It means that if the Statutory Law requires that the name of the biological father is provided on the birth certificate, that prevails over the Customary Practice that is there and I think it is important that we are clear and understand that. Thank you.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
Thank you. It is not a Debate, there is no contestation here. It is just a reminder to us as National Leaders that our task, when we educate ourselves, those with whom we live and those with whom we work is not an easy one. It is a question of balancing, but other than that I think the point is well taken. I think what we have been doing for the past 25 years is really keeping this balance.

There is a national interest that we aspire to, which is national unity, building a Nation, as our President reminded us, on a solid foundation but using the different motor as he demonstrated here to find space there. However, other than that, I think you made the point, but it must be looked at within the other broader things that bind everybody together. It is the point that I just wanted to bring to the Floor. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Your intervention is fine, but I need more. Maybe the Minister will

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**HON KAFULA**

elaborate on that. I also need to get clarity on what you said in reference to what he is saying. She will explain, so I will not ask you to clarify. Honourable Kafula, please take the Floor.

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**HON KAFULA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Members, I rise to congratulate Honourable Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana for the well-crafted Budget Motivation for 2015/2016 and that of Vote 05 of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration.

Having been part of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration for the past 20 years, I claim to be one of the long serving citizens in that Ministry, since I joined it in 1994. I can say that since last year when the Honourable Minister took over, we could see drastic changes and a lot of improvements on the service delivery by the staff members of this - I always call it one of the backbone Ministries of our Government.

Congratulations Honourable Minister and your team and keep up the good job. I have only one question on Programme 1 – ***Civil Registration***: To be more specific on Page 4, you are addressing the issue of identity cards, birth certificates and marriages and I know for now we have three types of identity cards. We have the South West African ID, the Republic of Namibia – the grey one which was issued soon after Independence and the blue one. I would like to know as to when we are likely to phase out the other two, that is the SWA ID and then the Republic of Namibia ID, which was issued after Independence. It is just that specific question, since I do not see it being addressed under this Programme.

I fully support the Vote and I wish you further improvement on service delivery for the Ministry. I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Thank you. Anyone who would like to take the Floor?

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**HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

I give the Floor to the Honourable Minister. There were more praises than questions really, therefore, I hope you will be brief.

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

Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. By way of introduction, let me thank all the Honourable Members who have showered the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration with praises. At this point, I would also like to thank my Colleagues with whom I have worked, particularly, Honourable Dr Elia Kaiyamo, my former Deputy Minister with whom I have worked so hard in an excellent and mutually supportive attitude. Secondly, my officials who unreservedly accepted me as their new Minister at Home Affairs and Immigration and who took me through the ropes of what it meant to be a Minister at that Institution.

I have served our Government, our Nation in various capacities but serving at Home Affairs is indeed a pleasure, particularly, if you are doing the right thing because you are dealing with the citizens in various moods. Some come there happy, registering a newborn child - they are very happy. Others come there in tears because they have just lost a loved. Therefore, that Institution is truly a people's Institution and whoever is serving there should feel in touch with the reality of Namibia. My wish is that we minimise the suffering of our people, particularly, when they come to seek for documents without which they cannot access services provided by the State.

I really feel hurt when I hear that there are citizens in our country who cannot access services that the Government provides. The other day, after His Excellency has instructed the Minister of Finance to increase the Old-Age Pension from N\$600 to N\$1,000, I told my officials; this time we cannot allow senior citizens to be out there not getting their N\$1,000 promised by the Head of State. We must do everything possible to capture all of them. I hope the Minister of Finance is going to meet us halfway since the mobile registration of our people is very, very

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**HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

expensive because we will be using specialised vehicles. We will be having people taken out of their homes to go and camp out there, to register everybody who needs these documents.

It is not an easy job and I must say we have not taken Home Affairs seriously and we have not done justice to that Institution. What we have done is just a small portion. Our people are walking long distances to access services and our aim, (*interjection*) Doctor Kawana, I want you to leave Comrade Schlettwein so that he can hear what I am saying (*laughter*)

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

Thank you very much for assisting me. They are sitting there talking.

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

I want him to hear what I am saying because it is coming from a sore heart. Our people are walking long distances; leave alone what Honourable Muharukua talked about. Look at our Regions – this country is vast. Currently, services can only be accessed at Regional Offices. Look at the vastness of certain Constituencies that are far from the Regional Offices, for example, Karasburg from Keetmanshoop and Epupa from Opuwo and just think about it. We say our people are poor, but how do you expect somebody to travel 100 kilometres or 200 kilometres to come and apply for a birth certificate, death certificate or ID? The majority of them just give up. They just give up!

Therefore, our intention next time, is to make sure that we have registration offices of the Ministry of Home Affairs at Constituency level because, thanks to the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, every Constituency has an office. We are not asking for huge buildings, we are just asking for a corner where a person can sit with a computer and capture the applications as they come in. That will shorten the distances.

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**HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

That is just a picture that I want to give you in general.

You have asked specific questions but I should just tell you also that some of the information that you are seeking cannot be given off the cuff. It is not possible. Therefore, my promise to you is that I am going back, sit down with my officials and look at all the questions that require specific figures and information and come deliver it to you here.

Today I will answer the questions that I can provide answers to. The question by *Honourable Venaani* on *Work Permit Bottlenecks* is not complicated, but it is rather neither here nor there because our requirement as a Government is that, if a company wants to employ someone in a specialised field, this company should first advertise the position and failure to get what they want, they can now come to the Ministry of Home Affairs and say - *this is what we did and we could not find anybody competent or qualified to deal with this*. In that respect we will not hesitate to assist.

However, this involves many considerations. There are honest companies here which respect the Laws of the country. I have said, if our companies here want to deal with us in an honest way, they will find an honest partner and we will grant them what they ask for, but there are also some companies here which feel that, because where they come from there is probably unemployment, they therefore, want to import their unskilled people here. They have done it by hook or crook and that is why you mentioned that wheelbarrow pushers are here. You are told this person is an expert and a work permit is granted on the basis of a falsified claim. Tomorrow this person will be pushing a wheelbarrow.

Some companies just do not want to work with certain people, qualified or not. My question now is; if they run to Honourable Venaani, what do they want him to do? He is not Home Affairs and he is not Trade and Industry. Why are they avoiding the appropriate and right offices? (*Interjection*) That is your word against mine. If I say they have never been to my office to see me, you will say - *no, the Minister is protecting herself*. Tell those people go to the Ministry of Home Affairs or you can even call me, you

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are my son, and say - *mum, I have these people here and I am referring them to your office.*

The Immigration Control Board, which is a statutory body, comprises of experts drawn from various Ministries. The Ministry of Home Affairs is just a post office as far as that body is concerned. It is only my Permanent Secretary who serves on that Board with other experts from the Ministries of Trade and Industry, Labour, etcetera. They are the ones who take decisions and they take decisions based on the information provided. Otherwise, we do not have any other agenda to prevent anybody from importing people they think will add value to their companies, provided they do it in the right way.

*People voting on both sides* - we are sitting with the same problem raised by **Honourable Muharukua**. Citizens living along the borders are unfairly advantaged and disadvantaged at the same time. When they want to be Namibians for whatever reason, they are Namibians and when they want to be Angolans or Zambians for whatever reason, they can do that. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs ends up being accused of denying people citizenship. When a person comes to register for an ID, for example, he or she must provide the officials with information like; their village, parents, etcetera. That is where the problem comes; *because I am speaking Himba, I am now discriminated against because my father is from the other side and my mother is from this side.* There are always stories. There is no discrimination; our people must also learn to be honest.

For the time being, I think we will sit with this problem because the two countries, particularly Angola and Namibia are not at the same level in terms of service provision. We have pension for the elderly, we have hospitals and schools that are performing very well while Angola on the other hand is just coming out of a war situation and the services are not the same. Therefore, you cannot blame this on the Government. No! It is a creativity of the minds of our people at the borders. It is a problem.

*Sworn Statements* - this is a concern, not only to you, but to all of us and

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**HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

that is why I am saying I have given instructions that no elderly person should feel left out of the pension payout because it is easy to register young people. However, the old people do not have all the necessary information and sometimes they do not have energy to go to the places where the services are. We will therefore, attempt to make sure everybody gets the necessary documents.

*Honourable Witbooi*, thank you very much. You posed one question with respect to *marriages of convenience*. Today's marriages are taking place truly, in earnest, and I do not know whether the Ministry of Home Affairs would be able to stand it down, as long as poverty is apparently the issue and as long as there is a desire by syndicates out there wanting to acquire Namibian citizenship, this will remain a problem. It is real, but maybe we can find a solution together because our women understand marriage differently. It is no longer about love; it is no longer about togetherness, no! It is about meeting at the Magistrate's Court for one hour, entering into that agreement quickly and parting company forever as long as the account has been taken care of. That is what we are sitting with. Let us talk about how we are going to control it.

*Honourable Dienda*, *parking at the Head Office* is a problem. It is true. That is the argument I have used to convince my Colleagues to see the Ministry of Home Affairs, differently. We serve the people and when they go there, they have no parking. My officials do not have parking as well. They have to walk a kilometre or two to the office after parking their vehicles. That place is not suitable and I that hope in three years time we will be able to move to the new Headquarters of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration.

The other question was about *legal services* to the Ministry of Home Affairs. You know, to be taken to court does not mean that we are always wrong – people try their luck. There is an example of a couple who met here and fell in love. They are both from elsewhere. They got married here while they were working for their foreign companies for which they were recruited as experts. After they got married, they gave birth to a child and they took it that the child was a Namibian citizen. They took us



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to Court. I said this case was going to set a precedent. Coincidentally, this child could have been born anywhere, even on the moon. It is not a Namibian citizen – no. It was only born in Namibia. My children were all born elsewhere, but they have not claimed the citizenship of those countries. They were born there, coincidentally, because I was living in those countries.

It is not always the fact that we are found wrong, but people are trying their luck. Let them try.

*Mistakes made by middlemen;* one motivating factor why I had to crack my head and see how to turn Home Affairs around was to cut out these cartels because they are corrupting not only the public, but our officials as well. Instead of the official doing what he or she is employed to do, he or she leaves his/her job to attend to this middlemen because they are paid under the table.

We are going to computerise our system so that our citizens get the services as and when they require them. These middlemen will find themselves jobless. We will render them jobless! That is the only way we can defeat them, talking about it will not help anything. Your other question was on *computerisation*. We are going to do that.

**Honourable Muharukua**, thank you very much. I have answered the question on the Outreach Programme to various places. It is our desire to have offices at Constituency level to enable our citizens to access every service - birth, death, marriage certificates and name it, will be obtained there. Therefore, there is no need to single out death registrations or any other problems our people are experiencing, we will address them. It is not only the OvaZemba people who sometimes find themselves being questioned about their nationality. It is everybody living along the borders. You will find it everywhere, even in Zambezi because of the reasons that I have given you before.

*On the polygamous system of the Himbas and the cultural arrangement for children born of parents who are not living together;* I think

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**HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

*Honourable John Mutorwa* has assisted me with this one, although this is one issue I want to plead with you to stand over so that I come back to it later.

*Honourable Mushelenga*, thank you very much. *Database and Correction of Missing Information*: I am also requesting to stand this over, I will come back to it later.

*Honourable Anna Shiweda*, thank you, thank you, thank you a million times for the commendation. Let me just underline some things she said. Money, some say is the *root of all evil*, but money can also be the solution to many of our problems. Had it not been for money we would not be talking about the successful Turnaround Strategy of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration. I would like to thank the former President, the former Minister of Finance and everybody who came to the table when I went to cry about the state in which the Ministry of Home Affairs was. They agreed to go out of their way to allocate a huge sum of money for us to be able to address this issue.

It is still work in progress; I am not done yet until we put the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration at another level. What we have done so far is a just a tip of an iceberg.

*Honourable Bezuidenhout*, you have been a supporter of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and you always have ideas to share with me on e-Governance. We should properly move towards e-Government. We at Home Affairs are in that mood and we will get there with our Passports and Ids. If we want to become an e-Government, we will not need all these separate documents lying around to such an extent that Honourable Smit will be asking us to issue a Passport that is valid for ten years.

With e-Government, you will have all your data and biometrics information in one document; your Election Registration Card, your ID, your Passport, your Driver's Licence, etcetera so that when you go banks and other places, you have no problems. We must, therefore, move

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towards that - then we can talk. At border crossings in certain countries in Europe, the citizens just press a button and go through. They are not asked to give this and that by any one.

***Honourable Smit***, thank you very much. The Passport for ten years has its advantages and disadvantages. If for whatever reason a wrong person obtains a Namibian Passport fraudulently, this person will have this Passport for ten years - imagine having a Passport for ten years. Although the system is watertight, you never know. Particularly, gentlemen sometimes put their Passports in their back pockets, they sit on it, and at the end of the day the photo gets disfigured and when you put it under the machine, you can no longer read the information that is supposed to be on the chip. Let us stick to what we have now, it is safer.

I want to stand most of the questions over so that we can investigate and provide you with proper answers. The issue of Honourable Muharukua, when he took the Floor for the second is also within the category that I said I will come back later.

***Honourable Jagger***, thank you very much for the commendation also. We will give you information on *Citizenship by Registration* later because I want to investigate this. It is true, but it is not only the Riemvasmakers – you will remember that there was an issue of Angolans who came to Namibia some years ago, who are also taken as Namibians and they too have to get those certificates. We are seized with the issue and I hope to expedite it. My officials are sitting up there and they are listening. We will attend to it.

***Honourable Fleermuys***, the Turnaround Strategy is in the process. We are trying to make our offices as comfortable as possible. We have realised that it is not healthy for people to stand for too long while waiting to be served. That is why, at the Headquarters here, we provide seats; even if somebody has to wait for a longer period, he or she will do so in a sitting position. That is what we are planning to do to all our offices countrywide. It is coming.

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

*Honourable Dienda*, thank you very much. The *linkage* between offices is our aim and we are linked at certain offices and border posts. It is only at some places where there is no electricity where we do not have access to the computer system. It is a little problem but we are working hard to computerise all our systems so that we, in Windhoek, will be able to know what is happening at our offices in the rural areas and at border posts.

*Marriage Officers/Pastors* to be cut out of this solemnisation exercise is not true. We are just saying such people should be trained and be certified. They cannot just stand up, because they are Pastors and therefore, do all kinds of things. Some of the marriages that I just talked about were solemnised by Pastors. You will find a Muslim man getting married to a Catholic woman being solemnised by a Lutheran Pastor and you ask yourself; *what is this?* Muslim man, Catholic woman and a Lutheran Pastor?

*Father's Name on Birth Certificate*: This question is receiving our attention; it is causing some problems because our people do not understand this. There are a lot of things happening at the Ministry of Home Affairs, my darling. There are people who come there claiming to be fathers, yet they are not. There are ladies who register their babies with two separate fathers. That is why we are saying, let us encourage our citizens to register the children immediately after birth. Late registration has so many complications and claims, just because some people want to benefit one way or the other; either men or women.

*Honourable Mutorwa*, I have already given you my commendation.

*Honourable Kafula*, the three types of IDs you talked about; I only know about two. I know the South West Africa ID, which is still valid because we are not certain we have captured everybody and we have given them a Namibian identity card. I only know of two types – the South West Africa and Namibian identity card. I do not know about the third one. Maybe my officials will have to tell me about the third one, but whatever it is, we are working towards having one identity card for Namibians and that is the blue identity card of Namibia.

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**HON VENAANI**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, if I have not answered any of the questions posed by the Honourable Members, it is not by design it is maybe just because the questions were overwhelming. I thank you for your attention in your Ministry and for your interest in your Ministry. Thank you.

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

Thank you. Any discussion? Agreed to. All the Votes are our Votes, but because of time Colleagues and Parties, I will humbly request you to be very brief. The Honourable Member who will get a *Certificate of Briefness* is Honourable Dienda because she just asks what is needed. I hope we will emulate her.

Vote 06 – “**POLICE**” put for Discussion. Any discussion? Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** This is a very important Vote. I understand the need for us to go home, but I also understand that there is a need for us to discuss some of these things. I support the Vote wholeheartedly. (*Interjections*) It is an eye problem, it is not intentional - I do not wear goggles. My right eye is giving me problems and it is a Friday afternoon.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me address myself to the existing matter that has never been resolved in this country; ***Protection*** - Programme 01: On the issue of rifle registrations, there are many Namibians in this country, most of them farmers, who still possess unregistered automatic and semi automatic rifles. Many of them are using them for hunting purposes – R4s, AK45. There are a number of weapons in the country, even in the northern Regions.

What does the *Minister of Police* do to make sure that we either collect these rifles or register them because there is a lot of unregistered weapons

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**HON VENAANI**

under the new system in the country. (*Interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** Illegal weapons!

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**HON VENAANI:** They are not illegal, they are just unregistered weapons. There is also a famous rule in the Police – this is quite a personal matter. I once found a rifle forgotten at a place alongside the road where people eat (*lay-by*).

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Restaurant or?

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**HON VENAANI:** No, it is not a restaurant, the British have another word. The point that I am trying to make is that, when one picks up a rifle, being a good citizen, I gave it to the Police and told them that - *I found this rifle, 207 was the rifle's calibre and I do not know whom it belonged to.* That was probably 10 or 12 years ago. I also realised that there is a rule that, when you give in a rifle that nobody collects, the person who brought it has a chance to either get it for free or to buy it. One Commissioner of the Police called me about three or four years ago and said - *your rifle is still here, do you still want it?* I said - *yes, bring it, why would I not want it?* Up to now, I do not know where this rifle is. Does that rule still apply or not? If it does apply, I want my rifle. (*Laughter*)

Another issue that I also want to address on the Vote of the Police is the 303 Rifles, especially in the area of Kunene that are currently deposited at

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**HON VENAANI**

the Police Stations while farmers are struggling with wild animals coming out of Etosha. Since the statutory rule says that one must have a safe, thousands of rifles have been confiscated in the Kunene area and a lot of farmers are inundated with questions as to how long those rifles would be kept as many of us are hunters, farmers. We enjoy rifles so we buy them and some are collectors. Most of the time, modern people with good homes, farmhouses and houses in Windhoek put their rifles in a safe, but if you go and see a Himba house at Etengwa, the house would be this small because it is just a temporary, nomadic way of living. If I am a Himba man and I buy a safe to comply with the rule, that safe will never be used because the length of the safe would even be longer than the house, so the rifle could be placed on a tree or something.

Therefore, we must look and start relaxing some of these Laws because these are old rifles and they do not pose any security threat to the country, but farmers in those areas are inundated with wild animals.

I now want to move to the issue of *Police Vehicles*. (*Interjections*) Honourable Kawana, stop complaining, I am proposing the release of the rifles and to relax the Law a little bit so that they have their rifles. (*Interjections*) These are nomadic farmers. Elephants are walking over their children. I was just recently in Kunene where two children were attacked by an elephant, but they were luckily just thrown up and broke their hips. Therefore, one needs a rifle, even if it is just to threaten the animals. (*Interjections*) We are not promoting. We must be sensitive to people's needs, do not play with people's needs.

The other issue that I want to address myself to is the abuse of *Police vehicles*. Every time you see a new police vehicle in Witvlei, in Okatjoruu, in Katjinakatji, the car is apparently chasing people, and it is driven in a way that it is not supposed to be driven. The longevity of police vehicles is in question because there is a lot of abuse. People are not looking after the cars and many of you, I am sure the SGs know because I was the former SG of the Party - running Party vehicles. This is how people use the cars. You get a Government car, but you do not wash it. You get a brand new car, a double cab, but because you are whoever

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**HON VENAANI**

you are, you do not wash it, you have to wait until someone do it for you. Whom do you want to wash this car for you? The way we are using State properties is questionable. I want to know what the Police are doing. The Generals here must tell us what they are doing to maintain State property.

The other issue that I want to raise on the matter of *security* is the literacy levels of our Police Officers. You would run from your farm to Gobabis to report a cattle theft case of your animals that have been slaughtered on your farm - *it is a case of stock theft so and so, a suspect took my cattle*. The Police will take a dictionary to find out how to spell – *cattle theft* – and what it means. The other day I reported a rape case on my farm (*interjection*).

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**HON MEMBER:** So, you raped someone.

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**HON VENAANI:** Not me, I would not have reported myself. I was so stunned by this lady, she started looking for the word *rape* in the dictionary and I said - *no, you must be joking, this word should be so common to you that you must be able to spell it*.

I think we need to try to professionalise our forces. The issue of *dockets missing* is also a serious concern to our safety because people have a way of getting dockets. When are we going to computerise the dockets System so that there is a double proof system - even scanning these dockets saying - Honourable Ben Esau has reported a case on stock theft, we are making a copy of it in the system so that if the docket is stolen, there will always be a back up copy. It is an issue that has made many of us to stop reporting cases. (*Intervention*)



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**HON VENAANI**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Point of Order.

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**HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE:** Just a small question.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Do you accept the question.

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, he is my Senior.

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**HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE:** You have been talking about all negative things, what positive things can you talk about in the Namibian Police? *(System Off)*

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I think the system should be fixed so that you can be recorded. Can you come and fix these things?

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**HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE:** However, I think Honourable Venaani got my question.

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**HON VENAANI**

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Chairperson, who is on the Floor? No, Honourable Minister, there are many positive things that the Police are doing and I will come to that. However, here we are trying to nip the bad things that need to improve in the bud. This is why we are having the Committee Stage, in order to address the bottlenecks. I am one Politician, even at rallies and even my Colleagues behind me, said that Opposition politics should not be based – *Aye, Mukuru wandje! (Intervention)*

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Point of Order.

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**HON MEMBER:** *Oritjatano!* (It Friday).

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition has made a very important statement to provide some information, but before the Minister's response, is it possible that I pose a question, which will probably also assist the Minister in elucidating the needed information to the general public? Can I pose a question?

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

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
Honourable Venaani, you did state categorically that at one point, although you did not mention the date, but you said that from your farm, a

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**HON VENAANI**

very serious criminal incident took place and you took the trouble as a Political Leader to go to the Police Station.

Now living in a situation in a country where we are confronted by this very evil issues of domestic violence, one would like to know the Police Station to which this matter was reported and if need be, even the Police Officer who, if I listened carefully to you, who was did not know the meaning of the word because in this time of domestic violence, I think even those who did not go to school, immediately you mention the word rape it (*incomplete*) The question is, which Police Station, the date and what happened so that the Minister can follow up and take appropriate action. That is the question.

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**HON VENAANI:** I think for the purpose of this Debate, I just wanted to raise a point. Farm workers are nomadic in their nature. The lady was there, she was brought by her uncle who was there and then they left the farm. The case was reported in Gobabis, the Police Officer could not read. I do not know what happened to the case, I tried to follow it up, but the people have moved on. However, it is just strange to come at a Police Station and somebody is trying to look for the word *rape* in a dictionary because it must be common. It must be a common word that is used because stock theft, rape, housebreaking, all these words are just common even in Law – a Police Office should be familiar with these words.

Honourable Minister, I will come to the positive things that the Police are doing. However, I am trying to say is that I am one of those Politicians who do not score points for the sake of scoring points. When I see progress, I praise in the open. I do not even hide it and if you listen to the contributions of my Members, even when they came to the House they are admitting that there is a lot of progress in the last 25 years. We are not denying that. We are not anti-Police, but our purpose and premise of our arguments is to try to improve our system because the Police do not belong to the SWAPO Party or the DTA. It belongs to all of us. It is for our safety. The Government is led by the SWAPO Party, but it is also my

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**HON VENAANI**

Government because I am a citizen of this Republic. I contribute to the coffers of the State. The State, therefore, belongs to all of us.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
What is the question now?

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**HON VENAANI:** Can I come to the technical issues?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Yes, please.

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**HON VENAANI:** I have unlimited time and if the Members can stop interfering, I will finish very quickly.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Please come to the point so that we can dispose of those Votes as soon as possible.

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**HON VENAANI:** I also want to know from the Honourable Minister, what happened to the Community Police. How are we promoting it in our Republic? The Honourable Minister who asked me a question has a problem of goats that were stolen. (*Interjection*)

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**HON VENAANI**

**HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE:** Were they my goats or yours?

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**HON VENAANI:** Yours, do you remember, I got your goats.  
(*Interjections*)

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**HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE:** That was 34 years ago.

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**HON VENAANI:** No, it was not 34 years ago. Have you forgotten when they stole your goats? The Community Police indeed helps, especially, amongst the farmers. (*Interjections*)

The other issue that I want to raise which is quite fundamental is the *VIP Protection Police*: Sometimes we should perhaps review how we are using our VIP Police that are protecting VIPs because one thing is very clear. To be protected by someone who is hungry is very dangerous.

I am speaking from experience. I was anti-security until my Party said; you are now the Leader of the Party you must have security, drivers and things. You understand them from a vintage point of how you are with them and how they behave. We should have a very different S & T system attached to offices that are having those VIP protection or Ministries to deal with those people's overtime payments and S & Ts.

People are complaining that during the last election some of them were working overtime, *this, that, and the other* and up to now their S & Ts have not been paid. The VIP Protection Police are doing the overtime work of Politicians. Honourable Members, yesterday we sat here until 22:00. My people are up here and yours are up there – from 17:00 to

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**HON VENAANI**

22:00 and it can go on for a whole week during the Budget. That person does not even have food. Sometimes we go and eat at the restaurant while they are hanging around hoping to survive.

I know the problem and I do not want to prophesise the problem, I want to come to a solution. We must create a different S & T system, which is attached to offices. If you are protecting a Governor, the Governor's Office must have an amount of money budgeted that will cover for these things because it is a travesty for a person to wait for his or her S & T for two months. I always argue that a hungry person who protects you is dangerous to your own security to a point that when I am eating whether at Kalahari Sands Hotel they also eat with me because I do not want them to be hungry, otherwise they will compromise my security. Let us, therefore, address this question of VIP Police Protection Unit.

Another important issue is the *barracks* and this is the reason I support this Vote. One of the positive things that I would like to applaud the Honourable Minister for is the visible improvement of Police Stations, especially in the area of Otjozondjupa in my village Okatjoruu. We have a big beautiful Police Station there. However, there are many remote areas in Okongo where taps in houses where people are sleeping are not working. Namibia is incomparable to many African countries. You do not compare it. This is one country where you can have access to toilet facilities, nearly, in every town. We know some capitals where if you are not in your hotel room, between your hotel room and the person you are visiting you might not have a toilet, not even at the service station. This country should just improve from the level where it is. I want us to address the question of police barracks. Some areas are deplorable and horrible! Many remote areas, like Ondjambalala and many other places where you find the Police doing their work. That needs to be improved.

Lastly, *Training and Development*; it is important that we train our Police in new areas. Generally, many of us who are reading about military intelligence across the globe see that the conventional forces, either Police or the Army, are no longer equipped to address modern security challenges of the world. I want to hear what we are doing with regard to

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**HON VENAANI**

terrorism. Are we training people already now? Is this country terror-ready when we are attacked? Terrorists do not attack because they do not like Namibia. They attack because they do not want the Americans, they do not want Britain or they can attack an Ambassador or any other person.

Coming back closer to home I always wonder about the way this Parliament is protected. If somebody wants to walk in with a bomb here, he will walk in. Besides the scanners that we have here, all these entrances are open. At the Office of the Prime Minister you would see a proliferation of cars parked in front of her driveway. Any person can come in – at the Office of the Prime Minister, cars are parked up to her front door. A bomb can explode there and her life could be in danger or the life of any other senior official of Government. I want to know whether our Police are being trained in some new unconventional challenges that are confronting world security today.

Otherwise, we must support this Vote. We are proud of our men and women in uniform because this is one of the countries, and I am saying it again, perhaps, *Tate* Jerry Ekandjo should hear it again! This is one country where we have professional forces where Political Leaders do not need to consult forces for political decisions. We have neighbouring countries here if you want to reshuffle Cabinet, you must speak to the Head of Police to inform him that, I might be changing Namoloh, be ready. It is happening in our neighbouring countries.

We have Generals here who are political, but at the same time they are apolitical and professional. It is something that I want to commend them for because our democracy can be sustained and threatened by security forces, but the manner in which they have conducted themselves is marvellous. They must continue doing so because this is the country that we all have built; the house that the President was referring to. With these remarks, I support the Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Dienda.

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**HON DIENDA**

**HON DIENDA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Minister, I have six questions for you.

*Firearm Licences:* The *Arms and Ammunition Act of 1996*, Section 3.1 states that - *an applicant must be older than 13 years in order to qualify for a firearm licence*. Honourable Minister, I have a problem with that because it is dangerous for a fourteen-year old to be allowed to have a firearm. Can we please change that Act? It cannot continue like this. We read about people committing suicide and other crimes every day and if we allow a child, who cannot even pay his school fees to have a firearm we are looking for problems. That was the first question.

**Number 2:** *Training and Development:* Honourable Minister, we need to identify the shortcomings of our men in uniform. It will not help us to deny that it is not there. Honourable Venaani is right. There are some members in the Police Force who cannot even write a statement. They are there. What we must do is to identify those problems and send them for training in the English language and writing skills because we cannot be embarrassed as a country. Let us rather work on it and do something about it. It is there and it is happening. We must also add fitness training to that. Honourable Minister, after the in-service training we need to continue with physical training because these men and women need to be fit every day. They need to run after criminals and this will require them to be fit. How often does your Ministry do it?

**Number 3:** The *Neighbourhood Watch System* on Page 86: It is there and it has been budgeted for. I want to know how far the Police are in educating the communities on neighbourhood watch. I read about it on Page 86. There is nothing like that in my neighbourhood and I would like us all to be on the same page.

My next question is on *Accommodation for Police*; Honourable Minister, I think we can (*intervention*)



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**HON MUHARUKUA**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Did your President not mention that?

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**HON DIENDA:** My Dear, what he said and what I am saying are two different things. (*Interjection*) What do you know? Can you read my mind?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Okay, proceed then.

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**HON DIENDA:** *Accommodation of Police:* Honourable Minister, we can only solve this problem by giving our Police decent salaries so that they can buy their own houses. Our Police are not in a position to buy their own houses. They live in shacks, these are the same people who, after working for long hours, go home, and their lives can be in danger.

Honourable Minister, sometimes the Police recover items stolen from houses during break-ins. I want to know after how long can people come and claim their items and if people do not claim their things, what happens to those items? Do you put them on auction or do you allow the Police to help themselves to those items? Thank you very much. I support your Vote.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Muharukua.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Honourable Chairperson, let me start by saying I

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**HON MUHARUKUA**

support the Vote. General, your Vote should get more money. Some of the money that went to Defence should come to you, but be that as it may, let me start here. We have Police Officers, Warrant Officers, and Sergeants when they apply for Built-Together houses, they are told that they earn too much – N\$7,000.00, and do not qualify for these low-income houses. If they go to the NHE, they cannot afford the houses. Where are these people going to be accommodated? Honourable Minister, the Mass Housing (*intervention*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
You are a lawyer, it is Mass Housing.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** We speak English, differently. It is Mass Housing. Is the Chairperson also part of the Debate?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
No, I am correcting you to say Mass Housing and I am allowed to correct you.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Mass Housing is part of the NHE and they can also not afford it. Be that as it may, I would hereby want to add my voice to what Honourable Dienda said; our Police Officers must be better catered for. We know that the Government has done something for them by increasing their salaries and promoting them last year, but something more needs to be done.

Honourable Minister, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me come to something that is very close to my heart. The

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**HON MUHARUKUA**

promotion of a Police Officer who is alleged to have committed a crime is put on halt for the duration of the time the case is going on. We know how long our systems take to finalise cases. Let me give a specific example. In 2002 I was still at school - that is when I finished my Grade 12.

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**HON MEMBER:** How old are you?

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** I am 30 years old. In 2012, I was dealing with a case that occurred in Outapi in 2002. Ten years after I finished school, that Police Officer could not go on foreign missions to broaden his horizons. He could not be promoted to be at par with his peers of the same intake because of the case that he is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty according to our Constitution – a case that he might win in the end.

Let me bring something simpler, a Police Officer is alleged to have committed GBH (*Interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** What is that?

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Grievous Bodily Harm against an inmate in the Police cells. A person that could have an interest in spiting a specific Police Officer, until his case is finalised, he cannot be promoted. We are putting his life and his career on hold because of a case that is going on. What I want to ask, and also to suggest is the following:

Would it not be prudent, Honourable Minister, for your Ministry to ensure

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**HON MUHARUKUA**

that investigations in cases involving Police Officers are done as fast as practicable and perhaps, interlinked with that of the Ministry of Justice so that cases involving Police Officers are given priority. (*Interjection*) Justice should be a priority, but I am speaking about a specific plight. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, when I joined Parliament I thought they said you can talk for as many times as we can. If my time finishes, I will stop.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
You are doing well, it is only that you are taking too long. Proceed and try to finalise please.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** When I joined Parliament on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, I was impressed by the Police Officers around this building. The etiquette makes you think that these people were properly trained and that these people value their jobs. (*Interjections*)

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**HON MEMBER:** They do!

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Yes, that is what they are depicting, Honourable Secretary-General of the other Party. You should compare that to the situation in the Charge Office.

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

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**HON NAUYOMA**

**HON MUHARUKUA:** In the Police Charge Offices – Police are dismissive to people laying complaints; Police shouting and hurling insults to the public from behind the counters; de-motivated Police Officers. Honourable Minister, is it not perhaps prudent that we offer continuous training to our Police Officers, specifically in the Charge Offices. We should perhaps give them incentives.

I understand that the VIP Police, the Special Field Force and the Special Reserve Force have certain benefits, which could be what is motivating them. They are having a certain appearance to the uniform and that could be what is motivating them. How motivated would the person be that has to attend a specific scene or just to stand there wearing a bullet proof vest while I have to leave the Charge Office at Outapi or Ondangwa to attend to a robbery scene to exchange fire with purported criminals without wearing a bulletproof vest. How motivated would I be? This is why I am saying perhaps these are the things that you should look at and why you should received more money.

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

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Can I come back? I will come back.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Yes. Next is Honourable Nauyoma.

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**HON NAUYOMA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My contribution will be very, very specific. I have

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**HON NAUYOMA**

observed with concern, the conditions under which Police Officers at some roadblocks operate. I can give a typical example at Onuno in the Ohangwena Region. That roadblock has become a permanent feature in that area and people are operating under the sun and/or rain. I see no reason why the authorities cannot put up just a shade like we have at Oshivelo, for instance. I know how expensive that could be to see officers doing their job in the sun or in the rain.

Currently, when the sun comes up they sit under the tree and let the vehicles pass. Is that really what we want to see? How expensive could that be to treat our Officers in a dignified manner? The same applies to the Ongwediva and Oshiko roadblock. I do not know how people value the service of these Officers because when we support billions like these, we need to see a job that is done properly. The people that are involved in carrying out these activities must at least benefit from these billions and not only some people.

In my area at Ongha Police Station, I have observed that people started with corrugated rooms, up to now - I do not know for how many years now, they still have the same corrugated rooms; a place in which you cannot spend a day, you can only be there at the night. I think something needs to be done in this regard, Comrade Minister. You cannot expect people to work with a high morale in that kind of environment. The same applies to what my Colleague touched on earlier; salaries and benefits. You have chosen a capitalist system in this country and you will know that in capitalism or in a capitalist system, money decides on everything.

You cannot decide on a system that you cannot maintain. That is why we talk about a lot of corruption, kickbacks, *this and that* in this country; it is because of the system that you have put in place. You expect some people to work as long as they work, like the Police that we are talking about now, while you pay them peanuts. What do you expect from them in a situation where money decides on everything? When you do not have it, nobody wants to greet you, even just to say *hi*. What do you expect from that kind of situation?

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**HON NAUYOMA**

Comrade Minister, with these billions, come next year, if God permits, I do not want to be saying the same things over these specific places that I am talking now, including others. These billions should be enough.

With that in mind, Comrade Minister of Safety and Security, you have our support. We will continue to identify these problems and alert you wherever they appear. The professionalism of Police should seriously be taken care of. (*Intervention*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Point of Order.

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**HON KATOMA:** The Honourable Member says that the capitalist system that we have adopted is not good. Will the Honourable Member propose a good system that we are supposed to follow?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Did he hear what you said?

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**HON NAUYOMA:** Yes, did you hear what I said, because I said this is the system that we are using in this country – the capitalist system – and we know other systems that we cannot even talk about. You know the other systems, but this is one that we are using in this country is the capitalist system that only talks about money. Unfortunately, everybody in Namibia is a capitalist without *capital* because in my view, you cannot be a capitalist without capital. (*Interjection*) That is the problem because we think along these lines.

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**HON NAUYOMA**

The level of *professionalism within our Police Force* that we are talking about is very serious because the ethics that some Police Officers portray at those Charge Offices – you need to be big, like myself, to be properly attended to. If you happen to be small, you will have serious problems because the good part of this country is that people do not know who is who. They do not know people, and that is their luck or maybe the unlucky part of it. They can harass anybody without knowing who the person is.

Yesterday, I went to our Ministry of Veterans Affairs and I found two officials there. One of them was busy playing with his phone at the reception until the other one who was busy with some papers asked me to go to the other side. This person was just playing and when you report and make a case out of this they will say - *we will not pay those people they want to report us to authorities*. You can see the person is just relaxed there. Unfortunately, he does not know that I can make a noise out of that situation. I kept quiet and left. I asked what I was supposed to ask and then I left. That is our biggest problem because I do not understand somebody who just came from school now, two years back (*intervention*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Point of Order.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**  
**RESPONSIBLE FOR MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES:** May I pose a question to my Brother or my Honourable?

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

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**HON NAUYOMA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**  
**RESPONSIBLE FOR MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES:**

Honourable Member, you are talking about the height and the hugeness of a person. Do you not think that if you and I are involved in a car accident together you will have a higher possibility of dying? Thank you very much.

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**HON NAUYOMA:** What I am saying Honourable Royal is just to protect people of your size because nobody knows that you are a Deputy Minister. You will just be pushed around because that is the culture around here and feels sorry for people who are just being pushed around for no reason. These guys are not professional in most cases. Somebody who just came out school five years ago, through English as the medium of instruction up to Grade 12, cannot even write a small statement. It is funny when these people are taking these statements. You feel sorry for them.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** It is time to round up, please.

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**HON NAUYOMA:** I think this situation of the Police must be taken care of on a very serious note. You cannot just come here and talk about these things year in and year out and nothing happens. We really need to see change. When we talk about the Budget next year, changes on all the things that we talked about must be reported as having been implemented. I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Before we proceed, I humbly request Honourable Royal /Ui/o/oo to go

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**HON VAN WYK**

and check at the restaurant whether there are some Members of Parliament from this side. I am asking you because you are one of the oldest Members of Parliament here. Honourable Van Wyk.

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**HON VAN WYK:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. A lot was already said, I will not take a lot of time.

We have to commend the Police Force. I think the Government has done a good job so far to have a professional Police Force. There are a few problems and most of them were already attended to by my Colleagues.

Honourable Minister, I only have a recommendation for the Charge Office staff, I believe that we should give them customer care training. That will help them a lot. Honourable Minister, in order for us to serve our people better, we need to have human resources. I have noticed in the Budget that provision was made for the filling of vacancies, for example, we have 11,000 vacancies for Constables and only 5,600 of that have been filled.

On Page 10, the Honourable Minister, in his Motivation, indicated that the Ministry is trying to, at least, take in one thousand new recruits once a year. The Budget makes provision for about 3,900. I recommend that we look at two intakes of 1,000 during this year in order to make sure that we do not send money back to Treasury again. With those few words, I support the vote. I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Can I reasonably reduce the time of intervention for the sake of time, please? The next speaker, if possible, please make use of five minutes. In five minutes, you should be able to say what you want to say. Honourable Smit.

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

**HON SMIT:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Members, I want to pose a few questions, I think, three to be exact to the Honourable Minister of Safety and Security.

Before I get to my question, allow me to create a context for my question. I will start by referring you to a statement made by the City of Windhoek's spokesperson Mr Joshua Amukongo.

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

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Amukugo, I apologise for the pronunciation - to the Namibian newspaper in an article published on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February this year (2015). According to the spokesperson, I quote - *"Sustaining the City Police has begun to interfere with the development of the City to such an extent that we cannot keep on without extra sources of income, unless the residents decide to ask the Council to do away with security, which is the City Police."* This was an article on the Budget of N\$100 million for the City Police. I will come to the question, Honourable Minister. The Honourable Members are well aware that the City of Windhoek is already faced with housing and land crises and yet we expect them to divert its funds from essential services, like the servicing of land and housing. The City of Windhoek is in debt to the tune of N\$500 million, half a billion at the moment.

What we must not forget is, firstly, when the City Police was established in 2005/2006, its functions were meant to primarily compliment NAMPOL. It was never meant to replace NAMPOL in any way. The Minister said, in his Speech that - *the powers and functions of the force are the prevention of internal security of Namibia; maintenance of Law and Order, investigation of any offence or alleged offence. (Intervention)*

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

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

Sorry, Honourable Smit because of time, come to your question. I was saying Honourable Dienda is one of those people you can emulate. Please, come to your question.

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**HON SMIT:** Yes. And also the prevention of crimes. Now if that is the main responsibility as I have now quoted as said by the Minister, how is it possible that the residents of Windhoek actually have to fund a Police Force to do what NAMPOL is supposed to do in Windhoek? My first question is, why is it expected that the burden of covering these costs is placed on the residents whilst NAMPOL sits idly? You hardly see NAMPOL in the City of Windhoek. You mainly see the City Police.

How much longer does NAMPOL intend to continue passing off work that is actually meant to be done by it to the City Police, without providing financial assistance to the City of Windhoek to pay for this service?

Lastly, if the City of Windhoek were to be left without an alternative but to close down the City Police, and this is where we are headed, will NAMPOL be able to cope with this situation, if the City Police is to vanish tomorrow? Apart from all this, I support the Budget. Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

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

Honourable Limbo.

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**HON LIMBO:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Firstly, I want to say that this Vote is special in the sense that I have been serving in this Committee for the past four years. I have quite a lot of interest in this Vote. Yes, there a lot of problems in the Police but

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**HON KAFULA**

I can say that things are getting better because at the time when we started with different Police Stations things were really very bad.

I just want to say the Ministers who were tasked to take care of this Ministry did a wonderful job. On the question of training, I would like to say that the blame must not only be put on the Police Officers because I believe the problems stem from our schools. Police Officers are coming from our schools, therefore our education system is to blame. Education is the key, if we improve on it we will not have what we have today.

Let me come back to the question I wanted to ask the Honourable General; we see a number of our Police Officers committing crimes, for example, we read recently about a Police Officer who killed his girlfriend or wife, I cannot remember very well. I want to ask the Honourable Minister whether we have counselling sessions for Police Officers since some of them are working under very stressful conditions. Instead of blaming them, can we look into other means of relaxation for our Officers? They are also human beings and they need to be looked after mentally and otherwise. Thank you very much. I support the Vote.

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

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**HON KAFULA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Minister, I rise to tender my concern on the neatness of the dressing code of our Police Officers. I have observed, especially during our national events where you see this young men and women making us proud during the parade, but when you look at them as much as they are marching nicely, you also see the different colours of the uniform.

I want to find out as to how often they replace their uniforms because it makes it ugly at the end of the day when you see this one is white, the

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**HON MUHARUKUA**

other one is blue and so on. Therefore, I feel that we should look into their dressing codes to make sure that they all dress neatly in their uniform, especially at special events. Otherwise, I support the Vote.

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

Thank you. Honourable Muharukua again – two minutes.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Namoloh, I have indicated that you need more money.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** But you are saying that you are supporting the Budget. Otherwise, you have to withdraw that.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** I actually want to withdraw the fact that I support the Budget. I do not support it because I think you should get more money. You need legally qualified personnel in your major Departments, to ensure efficiency, but the question is; do you agree with me or not? I am not talking about your advisors at the Head Office, I am talking about a stationed lawyer in CID, that is the Criminal Investigations Department, to ensure efficiency and to remove these back and forth movement of the dockets between the Prosecutor at Court and the Police Force. The docket must go to Court and the Prosecutor must tell them to go and arrest, in some cases with instructions. Then the docket has to go back because instructions were not followed and it is creating a backlog in the legal system. You need legally qualified personnel at those levels so that the legal questions can be answered right there and then in the police office.

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

Currently, we are expecting the Heads of CID to exercise legal judgment while they do not have law degrees. We expect them to do what lawyers would do. That is why I say you need more money.

My second last point in conclusion; Honourable Minister, your cells around the country are full. They are overcrowded (*interjections*) not all of them, Opuwo is one of them and this creates (*interjection*) Okahao is also one of them. It creates an unsafe working environment for the Police Officers. It creates deplorable conditions for the inmates. You need more money to address that. Do you agree or not? That is the question.

Lastly, your Charge Office Sergeant personnel are also employees. Are there plans to equalise the working circumstances or conditions to that of the individuals working in, say for instance, your Head Office. What am I saying? When you walk into the Charge Office, there is a smell that comes from the cells – I used to go there on a daily basis, I know. The smell hits you as you enter the place. There are no air conditioners, but this is the first place or the first point of recourse for a person whose rights have been unduly violated. The simple request is; do you have plans to put air conditioners in your Charge Offices to ensure that the Police Officers who are there, for at least half a day, can have a peace of mind when they go to work every morning or every afternoon. Thank you.

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

Honourable Minister, you now have the Floor to respond.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Firstly, I would like to thank the Honourable Members for the interest they have in the conditions of service of these men and women in uniform. There were specific, pertinent questions put. I know *Honourable Venaani* has disappeared into thin air, I do not know if he wants to listen to this or not.

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

Did he leave you to listen to this?

On the question of *Rifle Registration and Rifle Licences*, it is fortunate that you asked me this question because immediately after Independence, as Chief of Staff of the Namibian Army, I was designated to go around the country with one of the Police Officers, General Tjivikua, who is with me here, to collect weapons from former Headmen and Chiefs, which were given to them by the Authorities.

We were first asking for a license for each weapon they had in their possession, and if they had a licence for a particular weapon, we would leave that weapon and we confiscated the weapons without licenses. We also took automatic weapons with us, while we left them with their shotguns and the 303s. We took every weapon which had no licence because they had to provide proof of a licence for a particular weapon. We were not looking whether there was a safe or not. We were just looking for a licence and that is the rule we applied. (*Interjection*) I was there, you were not there, you were still in school and you were still young. I am telling you what happened. Is somebody shouting from there or where is he shouting from?

During the subsequent years, there was an amnesty blanket and announcements were made over the radio for everyone who had automatic or unlicensed weapons in their possessions to bring them to the nearest Police Station or Headman. During the amnesty period, people were requested to surrender these unlicensed weapons without being arrested. There was also an amount of money offered if one surrendered your weapon.

That is what we have done to collect these automatic rifles from the society. Everyone with automatic rifles in their possession now, are doing so illegally as per the Law. (*Interjection*) Do you not understand? Put on your earphones or do you want me to speak in Otjiherero. Those were the measures that were taken to address this issue. There was a campaign to collect semi-automatic and automatic rifles, while for the 303 rifles, as per his specific question, we just had to determine if they were licensed or not.



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

The other question was on the usage of *Police Vehicles*. Yes, it is true there is an abuse to a certain extent and we are taking care of these issues so that people will only be allowed to drive police vehicles if they are certified to do so. When I was at Defence, it was more or less the same and we introduced the same system that for you to drive a defence vehicle, you must also have a defence licence. You had to be trained to drive those vehicles. That is the same thing we want to do here so that the Police will be able to drive a police vehicle after having been licensed and having gone through specialised training for them to be able to drive those vehicles.

The worst driving is societal, it does not only apply to the Police and I think we need to create an institution to see whether every driver on our roads has a valid licence and is allowed to drive a vehicle on our roads.

*Literacy:* Thank you **Meme Limbo** for helping us. Literacy starts from home and continue at school, the Police, nursing, teaching, etcetera. In most cases, the Ministers of Education are not here, I would tell you that most of our children who come out of these schools are illiterate. They cannot even spell. (*Interjection*) No, no, just wait.

If you ask somebody with a Grade 12 certificate to spell a word, they cannot spell. Once the University students were demonstrating, but they misspelt some of the words – University students here at UNAM! It is societal. It is not only with the Police. It is the way we teach our children and I think it is all over, it is not only with the Police. It is everywhere.

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**HON MEMBER:** But how where they accepted in the Police Force.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** They got into the Force because they have a Grade 12 certificate. (*Interjection*) **Meme**, we should not go into a dialogue.

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

We are training these people. When we recruit them, they go to Police Academies and they are trained in the disciplines, which they would take as Officers and it takes time to train them. Of course, as I said once, and you have seen (*interjection*) Honourable Muharukua and Honourable Dienda, please listen because you will ask these questions again tomorrow.

Just when I started as a Minister at the Ministry of Safety and Security, I said, in society some people have no passion for their work. Do you understand what I say? Did you see the type of SMSes that were sent?

*Now we know your true colour; why did you come here; you are old, why do you not go home if you have no passion for money.* I did not say people should not be paid, but I said if you want to be a professional who is committed to his/her work, you must also study on the job where you are. You train a person who does not have an interest and does not pay attention and then tomorrow they will say they have not been trained. It is true. We train a person who, while on training is thinking how much money he or she will get, but there is no passion or commitment to the job. We must have a passion for our work.

*Missing Dockets:* We are looking into this issue and I think there is a Special Programme to computerise this system so that they can be traced and that they do not get lost as is the case now. There is a tripartite arrangement between the Ministry of Justice, Attorney-General and the Ministry of Safety and Security, they are working on these things. There is quite some good progress being made.

*Community Police:* The Community Police is still there and they are being encouraged to continue. Some people from the Community Police with experience are recruited into the Police Force.

*VIP Protection:* It is always not good to have a hungry man or woman. We would improve everybody's conditions of services so that they are properly remunerated. At least now their S & Ts and salaries are pegged to the Ministries they provide their services to, it is not like in the past

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HON NAMOLOH**

when it was only from the Ministry of Safety and Security. Every Ministry can now take care of their bodyguards from their own Budgets. I would like to request the Honourable Members with VIP personnel to inform them in good time when they are travelling so that they can apply for their S & Ts. I understand that some Members do not inform the Police about their travelling plans in time, so they do not apply for their S & Ts and as a result, they travel without their allowances.

*Barracks and Accommodation:* When you want to do something you must have a clear mind on what you want to achieve. Some Honourable Members are saying they must have barracks while others saying that we must increase their salaries in order for them to buy proper houses. We are planning to build police villages, for instance, in Windhoek for those who do not reside here and have been ordered to come and work in Windhoek. They must have a decent place to stay, whether they are married or not, for the duration of their duty. They should be able to have their own houses in places where they come from because when they retire they will not go to the barracks because they are only a temporary residences. Like I said, we have already budgeted, we have designed and we will build police villages throughout the country where we have Police Stations in different categories to cater for married and unmarried personnel.

Some of these people will be able to buy houses through the Mass Housing Project. Luckily, I was dealing with Mass Housing. There are different categories of houses as per the level of income. They can be subsidised up to 60%. It is there and it has been done.

*Training and Development:* This is in the MTEF, I also mentioned that in my Speech. We are training investigators and we are also going to enrol some new Officers, of course, attrition takes its course and we need to replenish. The Force works with a pyramid system. The pyramid should be narrow at the top and wide at the bottom. We recruit systematically so that we do not inflate the structural system. When you take in 1,000 recruits, you must know how to place them. Otherwise, you would have a bloated system where you have more Generals all over the place without

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

soldiers. This is what we are doing and there is also training and development for specialised skills.

You also asked about *terrorism*. The country has special trained units in place to take care of this. It is not perfect but we will learn through experience. Even those countries that have experienced the acts of terrorism are still learning how to tackle this. It is very difficult because it is not a front or something which you can see. It always comes in different forms.

*Honourable Dienda*, the appropriate age to acquire a *firearm licence* is not 13, it is 18. We wanted to bring it up to 21 years, but it is still 18 and not 13. I do not know where you got the 13 from. Constitutionally, a person is regarded as mature from the age of 18 and not 13. Maybe you mixed that up with the American system, perhaps one is allowed to buy a firearm at any age there.

*Physical Fitness*: We will come to that. I served in Defence and I look the same all the years. My 1990 uniform still fits me. This is what is expected of everyone in order to stay fit. However, we will make sure there is a fitness programme so that one is able to run after a thief. We are looking at that.

*Neighbourhood Watch*: I think I mentioned this, it is the same as community policing.

*Stolen Items*: I do not have an answer now I will ask my people about what happens to all these items when they are recovered. This also includes stolen vehicles, I will have to find answers to all that.

*Honourable Muharukua*, when a Police Officer is presumed to have committed a crime, even a petty one, this is kept on a file of a person and it is pulled out, when the time for promotion comes. I think there is no transparency and it is not good governance. Some people do not go for a disciplinary for ten years and this prohibits somebody from being promoted. I have heard of all these issues and we are going to work on

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**HON NAMOLOH**

them so that such minor cases cannot take more than ten years. Why only pull out the file when somebody is being promoted? We are going to work on that and see how we can put a stop to it.

*Charge Offices:* People are being shouted at and so on, like I said earlier, these are all societal issues. The whole Namibian society is traumatised. You go to a hotel, you get the same treatment. You go into a shop - *can you not see I am busy?* You go to an office, the same. It is like this everywhere. I think we need to do something about this. It is not only with the Police, it is everywhere. The teachers are shouting at children at school. The nurses are shouting as well; the Parliamentarians are shouting at us and to us as Generals (*laughter*) I think we need to do something as a society.

If there is *counselling* needed, we all need it. We need to be counselled. After all these genocides and wars, we have never been counselled as a society. We are working on it and those who work with people on a daily basis need to be given training in customer care, which is, of course, very rare in Namibia. Sometimes we do not have those courtesies maybe it is the way we were brought up in the villages. We will be able to do that in order to equip the force so that they are very humble to the people.

*Improvement at Roadblocks:* If you look in the book, we have money budgeted to improve all Police Stations and other facilities around the country. It is being taken care of in the book there.

*City Police and NAMPOL:* City Police does not fall under us. We are working on how they should work within the City, including the boundaries of their work and duties.

We were talking about it and are also trying to see where the City Police should be and where the National Police should be, including their duties and where they can complement each other. We are streamlining all these duties.

*Neatness of Uniforms:* There is not always enough money to buy

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 21**  
**HON DIENDA**

uniforms and as to how often we change their uniforms, I will deal with the Generals to see how often and how much money we have to change uniforms.

*Honourable Venaani*, also mentioned this - we are not looking at a bigger Police Force, but we are looking at what modern equipment we can give them. This way we will have a smaller and well-equipped Police Force that will serve us better. I think I have answered most of the questions.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I put Vote 06. Any discussion? Agreed to.

Vote 21 – “**NAMIBIA CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**” put for Discussion. Any discussions? Before we give the Floor, allow my Colleague to take over. I recognise Honourable Dienda.

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**HON DIENDA:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have one question for the Honourable Minister. On Page 364 of the MTEF and I read, “*training was provided to 1,999 offenders in HIV and Aids Prevention Treatments to improve the welfare of the inmates from the current 60% to 75%.*” Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, prevention training will not be enough, we also need to give the inmates tools to prevent HIV and Aids. My question is, are condoms now distributed currently in prisons? I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. The next Member is Honourable Muharukua on my list and be straight to the point please, no statements.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 21**  
**HON MUHARUKUA / HON MAKGONE**

**HON MUHARUKUA:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Minister, one of the purposes of sentencing people who go to these facilities is to rehabilitate them and to provide them with training.

I just have one brief question; does the Ministry have a record of how many inmates are trained in a respective trade? If so, does the Ministry have some sort of tracking on how these loved ones of ours - they are our loved ones even if they are convicted, are faring after this training for the Ministry to be able to judge whether or not the training it gives is relevant to the respective changes that are occurring or to the lives out there? Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you so much for that brief question. Next is Honourable Makgone.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** On Page 6 of the Motivation – *Lack of Farming Equipment*: When you visit these correctional services farms, one gets hope that Namibia is able to feed itself because of what is happening there. We also know that they are donating to the Prime Minister's Office. It will be good if they can do it on a large scale. However, there is a 60% shortage of manpower on Page 2, which is a concern.

Honourable Minister, will the current Budget that we need to support cater for this 60% staff shortage? Thank you very much.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. The next Member is Honourable Shiweda. You have the Floor.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 21**  
**HON SHIWEDA / HON LIMBO**

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

Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My question was almost in line with what Honourable Makgone asked, but I still want to emphasise. Page 4 of the Honourable Minister's Motivation Speech speaks about the acute shortage of manpower of about 60%, as indicated. However, when you look at the Budget Allocation, both the Operational and Development, the trend is that this Budget is reducing over the MTEF period. That is a concern because if you have such an acute shortage of manpower and the Budget is reducing, how do we still recruit the 60%?

On Page 371 of the MTEF document – *Human Resources Capacity*: There are posts that have been approved and funded and with the 60% of acute manpower shortage, if you look at that table there it does not indicate the seriousness of filling those positions because there is no movement at all. The funded posts are almost just half of the approved posts. What I am saying here is that although we realise that we have serious manpower shortage and we have dilapidated facilities, the Budget is not geared towards that. Thank you. I think it is better than nothing and I support the Budget to start with.

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

Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Limbo.

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**HON LIMBO:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. On Page 3 of the Motivation Speech by the Honourable Minister, one of the main Programmes is the rehabilitation and reintegration of the inmates. If I can recall very well, the last time we visited some of these facilities, we found out that some of the workshops which are supposed to help the offenders, our brothers and sisters, to rehabilitate and to be integrated easily in society were empty and some were dilapidated. I would like to find out what the conditions are like



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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 21**  
**HON NAMOLOH**

now. Are they well furnished? If so, after looking at the Budget and with all the problems you encounter, are you going to manage to furnish some of these workshops? Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. I will now give the Floor to the Honourable Minister to reply.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would want to thank the Honourable Members for the interest they have shown in this Vote.

I would first like to answer one question that I left out, which is also very important: *Overcrowded Cells*: Not all the cells are overcrowded, there are a few that are overcrowded, especially those along the borders. Like I mentioned in my Motivation Speech yesterday, there are some like for example, Oluno, which mostly caters for all the other Regions. As we are building new Police Stations, we will also add holding cells at every station.

*Rehabilitation of Offenders*: You are talking to a new person, but we will be able to look into that. I have not seen any of my officers who keeps a record of inmates who have been released from prison, but I read that we still follow those who have been released and we give them training to be able to reintegrate into society and not offend again. That is the Programme which is currently in place, they are monitored. We will improve on it and make sure they stay out of trouble and contribute to society.

There are a lot of things and I think the Parliamentary Standing Committee, which visited these facilities saw what these people are

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**HON NAMOLOH**

capable of doing. They are doing a lot of good work. They manufacture, they repair, etcetera. I think next week or so, they are going to donate chairs to one of the schools in Omaruru area and many other things which they have repaired and manufactured themselves. Some of these repaired chairs were discarded by the Ministry of Education and they were repaired by our inmates. .

*Lack of Farming Equipment:* You have seen the farming, we need to improve on it and to produce more. We may get enough money to recruit 60% of manpower in one Financial Year, but in the MTEF, we may recruit some this year until we meet the 60%. That is why sometimes you see this year it is up and the next year is down, which means that we have dealt with some of the critical shortages. That is what ***Honourable Shiweda*** asked. That is why you see some of this. We sometimes predict the Budget of the next year and how to maximise performance.

*Facilities:* I was informed that we are improving our facilities daily. Like I said, I am a new person, I have not yet familiarised myself with any of the facilities, not even the Police Headquarters. I have a Programme to go around and I will be in a better position to answer most of the questions later, hopefully in a Ministerial Statement, and inform you about the status of some of the facilities and all these things.

Honourable Members, we are being told that Namibia is one of the countries whose Institution of Correctional Services is doing very well. Our facilities are better, compared to others, but we are not saying that we cannot improve on them because of other people, we still need to stay at par with the conditions of Human Rights and so on. I was once an Ambassador in a country where a Namibian was arrested. I flew out to one of the towns to visit this person in the cells. After my visit, I was wondering whether he could survive the evening until the next day. I really felt sorry for him. When people are detained, they are not condemned they still belong to society and we want them to live a decent life even if they are behind bars. With these few remarks, I think I have answered most of your questions. I thank you.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 21**  
**HON VENAANI**

**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Any further discussion? Yes, Honourable Venaani. You have the Floor.

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**HON VENAANI:** There is this serious matter, which also transpired in South Africa. When one person is arrested even for drunken driving and taken to prison – there is this issue of sodomy in prison. You were just drunk you, did not have any intention to go to prison, but you end up in prison for the wrong reason or you are accused. (*Interjection*) Some do know that if I commit this offence, the end result would be this, but it is so unacceptable. How can we ensure people's dignity?

Some people would want to do it out of pleasure. That is the problem. This is how you can take the dignity of a man (*interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** Where are the women?

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**HON VENAANI:** These things are happening to us most of the time. There is this culture where they say you are *recruited* (initiation). It is happening at the Katutura Police holding cells, apparently when you come there, you were just drunk, you must be *treated* (initiated) by the notorious inmates by taking a cold shower naked in the presence of cell wardens and/or Police Officers. How can we allow these things to happen under our noses? It tells a story about our prison system because you are presumed to be innocent until proven guilty by the Court of Law. When you go there, you are not guilty but you get raped in prison (*interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** Police cell.

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**HON NAMOLOH**

**HON VENAANI:** Okay, a Police cell, but in my language there is just one word – *Ondorong*, however, I accept the correction from my mother. What are we doing to address that issue? The paralympian, Oscar Pistorious was sent to prison to serve his sentence and now he is being raped. (*Intervention*)

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Minister, I am not going to allow any further questions, please. The Minister has already responded, I am not going to allow any further questions. You do not have the Floor. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** As I said, I am a new person - I have not familiarised myself with some of these things. The condom issue was a topic, it is a policy issue. You cannot ask me whether it is allowed. It is not yet there until we clear that.

What you said about being held in cells over drunk driving and some mysterious Police Officers or prison warden who puts such a person into a cell with notorious inmates, I think that is a moral issue. If the Officers are doing that, I do not think it is moral. It should not be allowed to happen. They can hear what the Parliamentarians are saying here and if it happens and it is not only rumours, we will look into it. Otherwise, I hope it is not the case. I thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Minister. Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 17 – “**URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**” put for

24 April 2015

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

Discussion. Any discussion? Honourable Uutoni you have the Floor.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Minister, my comment is on Page 15 of your Motivation and it is under *Compensation for Loss of Communal Land*. I think you have touched on a very important issue. However, Honourable Minister, in my opinion, I think something needs to be done before compensation takes place. The most important thing is to come up with what we call mass-urban planning which is very important. This means that you should map out the area that needs to be proclaimed as a township. You come up with a Master Plan – first look at the areas that you want to proclaim, currently now, we have towns you want to extend, once you have a Master Plan of those areas, you now budget for compensation because you know the areas that you want to develop in the next ten, fifteen or twenty years. After that, you can start with the servicing of land and then commence with Mass Housing.

Honourable Minister, that could be the key but if you just start compensating and servicing land on an *ad hoc* basis, you will not solve any problem. It is also very important if you tap into the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration to emulate the Turnaround Strategy because we see the same problem of mindset and attitudes. When you want to do this, people will tell you - *no, that cannot work, we have been here ever since*. That attitude is there. I think you need to emulate what the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is also doing.

Honourable Minister, we are putting too much emphasis on servicing of land. There is no serviced land currently, as we speak. Even if you want to build as many houses as you want, most Local Authorities do not have serviced land. The money we are budgeting for Mass Housing will go back. We need to look at some other things to be done first. There is no serviced land. There is maybe only two or three there in a given town.

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

Honourable Minister, when we compensate, we normally look at individual households. You will compensate Uutoni because you want to put up a house or you want to establish a town, but sometimes we do not look at the Senior Headmen. These people have been occupying that village for years and in some cultures, these people have given something like in Oshiwambo *ya gandja ombadhu ye kaya*. They gave something for them to acquire that village.

If you only compensate individuals, leaving out the Headmen who should also be compensated, the Headmen would think about what they gave to acquire the villages. We should look into that because it is very, very important. Once you do that, the Headmen will then be able to convince their people to move. Comrade Minister, people have realised that a number of towns are expanding, therefore, people in the surrounding areas have started to sell their mahangu fields, especially in the northern area.

Since people started to sell land, it has become chaotic. When you go there with your plans, it will be quite difficult. I think there should be strict rules that whoever is within a given area in the proclaimed land should not be allowed to sell a portion of the mahangu area. Right now everybody is doing what they want to do. .

Honourable Minister, the second last point is *settlement*. We are proclaiming new settlements under Regional Councils, but the problem is that the Regional Councillors are not given full powers to control the settlements. People in proclaimed settlement areas are settling anywhere they want and it is creating chaos. I am proposing that we employ settlement officers with knowledge and skills to help people when they are allocated land to avoid chaos in the next ten or fifteen years.

The last point is on the bureaucratic system within the Ministry in terms of town planning. Honourable Minister, you have the following bodies: the Land Board; Town Planning Board; the Surveyor General; and the Deeds Office. These people delay town planning. When you want to establish a township, it takes three years. This is the attitude I am talking about. There is too much bureaucracy. Why can these bodies not join forces to

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

plan together and assist each other? With this, Honourable Minister, I support the Vote.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. I now give the Floor to Honourable Katoma.

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**HON KATOMA:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have a question and two suggestions. I would like to know whether the Shacks Dwellers Federation of Namibia is part of the Community-Based Organisations, which are provided with financial support by the Government because it plays a crucial role in the Housing Sector. This group through its group savings initiative enabled many of their members to build their houses successfully in towns, villages and settlement areas in the country.

I would like to commend the Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development for the introduction of the *Urban and Regional Planning Development Bill* that will be introduced soon, as per the Budget Motivation Speech, to replace the existing *Town Planning Ordinance of 1954, Township and Division Legislation of 1963*. All these outdated Laws and bureaucracies have hindered the fast approval and implementation of township establishment to the extent that an application can take eight months or more. Honourable Uutoni mentioned that it can even take up to three years.

I am equally glad and delighted by the fact that the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development in its effort to promote rural urbanisation will facilitate the proclamation of various settlement in the country, which includes Oniipa in Oshikoto Region, Divundu, Tsandi and Okalango in Omusati Region to become Village Councils during this Financial Year.

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**HON DIENDA**

*Decentralisation:* The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development being the custodian of decentralisation should ensure that all the stakeholders are committed to this initiative because the full implementation of this Programme is long overdue.

Due to the fact that in the process the reluctance by some important stakeholders have been noticed, the successful and complete implementation of this decentralisation effort need to be accelerated. Honourable Shaningwa, the challenge is upon you to ensure full implementation of this noble initiative.

*Subsidy for Urban Poor:* Recommendation to the initiative in this Sector is that the Government should provide basic services such as water, electricity and sanitation in the formal settlement and simply leave it upon the Local Authority to cross subsidise such services with ever-increasing rates. This is because there is a limit to know how far these people, who pay their services, can continue to afford doing so. The Ministry should share this burden because Local Authorities are important pillars of the Government system.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Member, I am sorry to interrupt you but as I said at the beginning, we need to be on point. I do not want to see Honourable Members making statements. We ask questions or clarifications or we seek for more information from the Minister. Please let us stick to the point. Honourable Dienda, you have the Floor.

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**HON DIENDA:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My question is on Page 228 – *Shack Dwellers Association*: Honourable Minister, provision was made for the three consecutive years. (*Interjection*)

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**HON DIENDA**

**HON MEMBER:** Why are you looking at me.

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**HON DIENDA:** I can look wherever I want to, you are in front of me.  
(laughter)

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**  
**COMMITTEE:** Continue, Honourable Member. The General is comfortable with you.

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Minister, I just want to know about the control over the funds that the members are contributing on a monthly basis and the money they put together so that they can build houses. Do you have any input in the control of this money? I remember I read once in some newspapers that money has disappeared here in Windhoek and people did not know where the money was, they could not build houses. However, thank you very much for subsidising this effort.

**Question 2:** *Tribal Disputes* on Page 264 of the MTEF; Honourable Minister, how do you ensure that the Investigating Committees do not intervene in the outcome of the investigations in traditional matters? Sometimes they are there with all the hands, feet and body and everything and are part of these problems. How do you ensure that this does not happen?

**Question 3:** Honourable Minister, a *Computerised Database System* for people who apply for houses, whether it is through the Build-Together Programme, Mass Housing Programme or any other programme: Sometimes people are on the programme and afterwards when they go back, their forms disappeared and people who came after them receive houses while the ones who came first did not receive houses. Are there

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**HON DIENDA**

any future plans to put in a computerised data system or is there another one in place already?

**Question 4:** Honourable Minister, I have noticed that so far we are giving funding to almost hundred percent of our Municipalities or Villages, except for the City of Windhoek. Honourable Minister, the City of Windhoek is a real problem for us here. We are suffering at the hands of City of Windhoek. Maybe if you can also subsidise them, we will have some relief. Let me give an example; we must now all of a sudden pay N\$50 for the City Police. I did not ask for City Police in the first place. They introduced the fees on our bills without them even asking us.

The water and electricity bills that we are receiving from the City of Windhoek are extremely high. I live in Katutura, my house does not have a swimming pool and there is no single month that my account is less than N\$3,000 while we only take a bath once per day. There is something wrong with the City of Windhoek. It needs to be investigated.

**Question 5:** *Exemption of Tax and Rates for our Pensioners:* Honourable Minister, this is really something that we need to look into. With due respect, they cannot afford this. The N\$1,000 they are receiving is enough for food and clothes, but the tax and rates are killing them.

**Question 6:** I have to commend Honourable Derek Klazen who was a student with me. The Walvis Bay Municipality has given houses to its senior citizens for free because they have lived there for 30 years. Why can this exercise not been done in the whole country for the elderly? Our people are losing houses because of tax and rates and all these things. I thank you so much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**  
**COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Limbo.

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**HON LIMBO**

**HON LIMBO:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Page 9 of the Motivation Speech – *Planning Service and Designing Programme*: Honourable Minister, my concern is that yesterday, if I am not mistaken, we were talking about the greenliness of our country and that we need to make it more green. All our settlements, which are springing up all over the country do not have parks, even in our cities and urban centres. In the past, in Katima Mulilo we used to have a very nice park. From nowhere this park is now filled with houses and people started chopping down trees. Some of these trees have been there for years it will be very difficult to grow them back again. It will take us years.

I want to urge your Ministry, Honourable Minister that when you are at this stage make sure that the people are advised to have open spaces. Our children have resorted to playing on the streets and some of them will end up losing their lives because drivers who are supposed to use the roads are now competing with children.

Honourable Minister, the other concern is the littering by the shebeens within our towns. I do not know whether we can just let it go because you will find people dumping everywhere, especially in the newly proclaimed towns because the contractors are not really doing much. I do not know how we are going to make sure that if you are given a tender to clean, you must be able to clean. This thing of giving jobs or contracts to friends or Comrades must come to an end. We are making this country suffer, especially the poor of the poorest. They are the ones who are feeling the pinch because they are the ones who live in those littered places without service.

Let us try to be specific when we design our cities and towns and demarcate the areas specifically. Shebeens should not be erected where they are not supposed to be. Otherwise, you will not be able to differentiate between a residential area and a market place. With that, I support your Budget, Honourable Minister. Thank you.

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**HON KAVITA / HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Kavita.

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**HON KAVITA:** Thank you very much for the opportunity. Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House, Honourable Members, I am not going to take long, I would like to commend the Vote of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. My contribution has already been mentioned by the two Comrades who rose before me.

However, Honourable Minister, I want to emphasise the decentralisation of the Planning Service and Design Programme to the Regions because the delays and developments in the Region, specifically when you want to buy an erf or to create a new suburb, cost the Councils a lot of money.

We will, therefore, be happy to see this Pprogramme decentralised. Thank you very much and I support the Vote.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. I now give the Floor to Honourable Ithana.

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the Vote of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. I have one question and a recommendation to make.

The Compensation Policy for the development of townships, in particular the rural areas. Inasmuch as we are eager and willing to develop new towns, the unfortunate part is that these new towns are developed in areas that have been inhabited by people for a long time – for centuries. On the

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**HON IIVULA-ITHANA**

one hand, we want development and on the other, we have these people whom we are relocating. I do not know where we are balancing these two different interests. Honourable Minister, what I have seen is that, and I am not saying so because I am moving towards that, it is not a conflict of interest. The relocation of, particularly elderly people, is truly impoverishing them because (1) they do not have energy; (2) they have nobody to assist them. They know how to survive at the places where they have been living all the years. They have established themselves. They have their rooms, their *mahangu* fields or whatever field around where they derive their livelihoods.

Now, when they are relocated, and I have one example of one old man at Omuthiya – old! He was told to go and was apparently given a plot from what used to be his field and my question was, why does the Town Council not build a house for this old man at his plot in his field or wherever they have allocated him this plot and when he moves from this field where he lived all the years, he goes into the house that was already built for him? However, this old man was told to go. I looked at him and said - *go where and do what?* That old man will just go and collapse! That is just one example out of many who are affected in a similar manner.

Honourable Minister, are we thinking of reviewing this policy so that, for example, we say – *we will not relocate old people who are 70 years of age and above?* (*Interjection*) even 60, but I thought 60 is still young. We will just leave them and wait for nature to take its course. Immediately they are gone, we say nobody takes over those fields but they revert to the Town Council.

Honourable Minister of Poverty Alleviation, I wish you will also pay attention to this issue because it is contributing to the poverty situation in the country. Otherwise, Honourable Minister I know you are new in the portfolio, but I know your ability, please pay attention to this issue. I support the Vote.

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**HON SANKWASA**

**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. I now call upon Honourable Sankwasa.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Members, I rise to make my Maiden Speech, although I am not a maid. I have never spoken in this House since my appointment.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Not at this stage, Honourable Member.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** I have few issues to raise with the Ministry's Budget. One is the issue of land auctioning; why is urban land being auctioned and who have benefited or what category of people or class of our society benefited from land auctioning in the last ten years? Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole Committee, I am asking this because the auctioning of land keeps benefiting those with economic muscles whilst the majority of the citizens of this country do not have such. Honourable Colleagues and Honourable Members, free market economy leads to free doom, not freedom.

The second question is in terms of regional governance, which the Honourable Minister spoke passionately about. Do we have a legal entity or a Regional Council in this country called the Zambezi Regional Council because in some correspondence, in some of the newspapers, I have read adverts under the Zambezi Regional Council. I am asking this question because, legally, the *Regional Council Act* has not been amended to change the name from Caprivi Regional Council to Zambezi Regional Council. What we have is the Zambezi Region under the Delimitation

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**HON SANKWASA**

Commission as approved. We have Zambezi Region, which is not a juristic person and the Caprivi Regional Council, which is a juristic person. That is the legal position and I am sure that those who are from the legal fraternity will agree with me on this point, that you cannot transact business under the Zambezi Regional Council because, it is not an entity that has a juristic person.

What I am suggesting, therefore, is that the *Regional Council Act* borrows so much from the *Public Service Act*, 1980 (Act 12 of 1980) and the Regional Council, therefore needs an urgent Amendment or repeal because not only does this create confusion when it comes to these legalities, it also causes problems for human resource recruitment in these organisations. One, the Regional Councils are operating under the *Regional Council Act*, 1980 (Act 12 of 1980), which is an Act that has direct conflict with the Constitution and it also has the legal challenge where some staff members employed by national level Ministries gets transferred to Regional Councils. Their terms and conditions of service are automatically changed, which becomes an issue in terms of our existing *Labour Act*.

Therefore, my appeal to the Honourable Minister is that Act 2 of 1980 should be with the most urgency that can it can be accorded, be totally repealed because it is in direct conflict with the Constitution. It has no space in an independent Namibia. It was done before Independence. You find issues where, for example, a staff member if charged for misconduct under that Act if he or she is involved in politics, yet the Constitution talks about freedom of association and speech, which is allowed in terms of the *Public Service Act*, 1995 (Act 13 of 1995). We have one Civil Service in this country, we do not have two Civil Services. Therefore, we need to streamline our Civil Service or Public Service management.

The other issue that I want to raise under the same Act is the reference to Cabinet. Act 2 of 1980 refers to Cabinet and for the lack of proper legal interpretation, you find that Regional Councils are currently being referred to as Cabinet. In this country, there is only one Cabinet. We do not have 14 or Cabinets. These are the basic reasons why this Act needs to be dealt

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**HON VENAANI**

with, with all the urgency it deserves.

The other situation that I would like the Honourable Minister to address is the situation of the Council of Traditional Leaders. The Council of Traditional Leaders should be looked at as the custodian of our culture and customs. Therefore, it should be guarded against that, it should not have much politicising where you find recognition or non-recognition of Chiefs based more on politics than on our customs and culture. It creates confusion in the communities and will lead to disunity in the country. It should avoid politics at all cost. Let us leave culture and customs out of this Organ of State.

In conclusion, I wish to appeal to the Honourable Minister that what I have read requires due consideration because if any business person is going to challenge the current Zambezi Regional Council in the Courts of Law, we have no legal basis to defend that because they will be referring to the *Regional Council Act* that has a schedule that talks about Caprivi Regional Council.

With these few words, I support the Budget Allocation and wish the necessary transformation to be carried out and I know that under your leadership, the Ministry will be in better hands. Thank you.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. I give the Floor to Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** I have three brief issues. The society should not question our performance, we are working.

Honourable Minister, I support the Budget. The N\$330 million that was apportioned to housing is a joke. If we want to be in tandem with our



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**HON VENAANI**

projections and what we want to achieve at 2020, we cannot start with this under-budgeting. I understand you are a new hand and it is what you received, so do the best with it. I, however, hope that next year when you come here you will come with a substantial Budget for housing because of the backlog – I no longer believe in the corroboration of the figure saying that we have a backlog of 100,000 houses. I think our backlog should be in excess of 220,000 because when we were writing our Manifesto those figures, with experts that were around us, were not correlating. I, therefore, think the Budget of Housing for N\$330 million is a problem.

I want to address myself briefly on the Mass Housing Project. The intention of Mass Housing is correct but the problem is its implementation. The purpose of Mass Housing is the proliferation of cheap houses in society for us to avail houses. We leave to the speculators to determine price and that is wrong. We must nip this thing in the bud and say - *we will give a tender to build 100, 200 or 1,000 houses but we determine the cost at which these houses will be built.* You have to play by our rules.

However, the problem now is that, it is the developers that are speculating with poverty money. That thing should be turned around. That is the fundamental problem that I have with Mass Housing. The intention is good, but we have allowed a free hand to decide. We have allowed the market forces to determine the Project and a lot of money goes to profit-making as opposed to delivering houses. That needs to be addressed and I hope that under your watchful eye, you will make sure that the next batch of contracts would be designed in such a way that we determine the prices; for example, we will say - *for the roof we are going to pay you N\$6,000. If you want N\$10,000 for a roof, go and build another house.* That way the Mass Housing Project will be able to go on.

The other issue that I want to address, very briefly, is the question of access and I think Honourable Sankwasa raised it very eloquent. He raised the question of the market forces, the auctions, but I am raising another element of selling off large tracts of land to foreigners. *Vakuetu* go to Oshikango, Helao Nafidi – it belongs to the Chinese. If you go to

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**HON VENAANI**

Helao Nafidi, you will think that you are in a rural village of China. All the big business areas, the plots are gone. There is nothing wrong with selling to foreigners, but not at the expense that everything belongs to foreigners in our own country while we have people fighting for land.

We must be very cautious because Nkurenkuru is going the same way. It is a new town. People are looking for opportunities because we are looking at how Angola can maximise profits from Nkurenkuru. You already have South Africans flying over to see what will happen at Nkurenkuru. We should allow free market economy to prosper, but there should also be an element of balancing it out with our own people. I think our development banks should also play a role in helping our business people to build their own malls that they can rent out. The security is already there as opposed to just giving money because our local Councillors throughout the whole country are letting us down, whether we like it or not. They are letting us down by giving land to friends. These things must be nipped in the bud.

I also want to address another element coupled with land – town planning. I am looking at Oshakati comparing it to Ongwediva. Ongwediva is growing into my model new Namibia. If you have seen Ongwediva in 1992 and now, you will be proud of the progress that was made there and may her soul rest in peace, our last CEO that was there Ms Taanyanda. She put things in order and I am really proud of her. Every time I pass through Ongwediva, I am proud of what she has achieved. Oshakati is a different ball game altogether. The old Oshakati was a little bit moving one way, Oshakati West, and now it is becoming another city, I do not know - Dar es Salam or somewhere. (*Interjection*) No, the planning – this one is putting a good house here while this one is putting up a shack.

I once brought a Prime Minister friend of mine, the former Prime Minister of Niger on a private visit. I took him around Windhoek, Dorado Park and he said - *no, my brother I want to see Namibia, not this. I know the Boers were here but now I want to see Africa.* I took him to the Single Quarters and he said - *no, go to Africa.* I took him to the shacks. He said - *you*

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**HON VENAANI**

*mean the shacks are in a row?* This is our country and where we are running, we should not start crawling, it is time to fly now.

Town planning is becoming a serious concern and we must try narrowing it, especially Oshakati – I have seen the Master Plan and I disagree with the Master Plan, but anyway it is a Master Plan of Oshakati. It wants to look like Dubai City or whatever. I think we are copying too much, but anyway, planning is very important in our township so that we make sure that sewer lines, electrical lines remain in tandem with our needs.

Lastly, the question of Executive Mayors, I am a forerunner and in believe Executive Mayors – in towns such as Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Keetmanshoop, Oshakati, Windhoek, Lüderitz, we need to bring in an element of Executive Mayors because if you want to run Windhoek efficiently, you need somebody who can commit himself or herself. We need Local Authority Councillors with the right qualification and the right attitude because leadership is all about passion.

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**HON MEMBER:** And the right Party.

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, and the right Party. Be that as it may, we need to address that element as we are going to elections because our towns are growing.

The reason why Councillors are selling off these tracts of land is because they are trying to rake in money. Since you called a Mayor, you are getting N\$10,000.00. You are the Mayor and you have influence to determine what size of land to give. The question of Executive Mayors must come in because it will also improve service delivery and efficient management of our cities. I support the notion that you raised of subsidising cities and I support what she said.

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**HON VENAANI**

Finally, Honourable Sankwasa raised it very eloquently – Traditional Authorities. We are taking this country to war. This country could go to war and the war would start with the Traditional Authorities. Look at what is happening in the north. (*Interjections*) Uukwaludhi Traditional Authority – There is a war there. Go to Zambezi, everywhere in this country there is a new war brewing – Tsumkwe Traditional Authorities.

I want to come to the point that Honourable Sankwasa raised very eloquently. Let me just give you an example, and when I speak, I speak from a level of knowing what is happening. Chief Kapika has applied since 2001 and he was never recognised. He has now joined a Political Party. People are busy - *sign the papers, sign the papers for election purposes*. Let me give you another example, Peter Ilonga went and coronated the Chief in Etanga. What was Peter Ilonga doing at the coronation? How does that happen? Politics is mingling in Traditional Authorities. (*Interjections*)

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**HON MEMBER:** You are jealous!

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**HON VENAANI:** I am not jealous. When the war starts, I must run to areas to tell people to calm down because that is not the solution – *the route you want to take is not the solution. Go to Court, go to the Minister and talk to each other.*

Some of us playing *mid-wifing* peace in this country, day and night speaking to communities which want to take up arms against one another. However, the problem is the political mingling of Traditional Authorities, even in the south (*interjection*) but the authority lies with you. *Puratena*, you were the Minister – just listen! You had the last authority to appoint or not to appoint. When you appoint, do not appoint on the basis of political allegiance, appoint on traditional merit.

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**HON VENAANI**

**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** A Point of Order is allowed, Honourable Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** I just want to clarify something. Just a Point of Information to Honourable Venaani. What you are making are serious allegations. The Minister does not recognise, for example, the Chief Kapika you mentioned was not recognised because of a dispute which is still there. He is not yet recognised as we speak. We sent a Committee there, which comprises of different Traditional Leaders from different areas to investigate, verify and to conduct the local people to find out if he has been living in that area or he stopped living the area. It is on this recommendation, which they bring to the Minister to look at upon which the recognition comes. He may not be recognised if this recommendation says no. It is not automatic and definitely not political.

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**HON VENAANI:** The recommendation that was made by Kazenambo's Commission.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** No dialogue Honourable Member, let us get to the recommendation.

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**HON VENAANI:** Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the recommendations that were made by Kazenambo's Commission that investigated the Etanga Traditional Authority was in 2006, not such a long ago. Let me tell you what happened: In 2006, he recommended somebody who was in line, the person who was coronated by Peter Ilonga

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**HON VENAANI**

is a fourth generation in line and he is a Chief now because he is a member of the Ruling Party. We need to move away from this thing.

I want to give a proposition on how we can resolve this thing because there is one thing that we are all doing wrong. Everyone thinks where you come from, your background and your experience is the direct template of the whole country. When it comes to Traditional Authorities, they are Namibians, and if we want to maintain peace, let us listen to each other. There are Namibians who were displaced and being displaced from land, have also displaced their Traditional Authorities. If you look at the boundaries of Uukwanyama hundred years later, besides the border of Angola, it is still intact. The only displacement of the Uukwanyama Traditional Authority is the Angolan border because the Uukwanyama borderline stretches deep into Angola. That is the only displacement. *Mekuraere!*

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**  
**COMMITTEE:** Do not invite unnecessary discussions, Honourable Member.

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, Yes, this is a very important matter! The traditional borderlines in many Traditional Authorities in Kavango are still intact hundred years later since colonialism. However, the Namas, the Hereros and the Damaras because of displacement, they were forced to live in Ovitoto while we were living in Windhoek. Tjamuaha was here, Jan Jonker Afrikaner was here, this was our place. The Damaras were at Daan Viljoen.

When we were pushed into Ovitoto, for example, a Traditional Authority because of reserves where we were pushed and because of displacement, had to occur and Traditional Leadership had to rise up because wherever you congregate people, they will have Traditional Authorities. However,

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**HON VENAANI**

the argument that is being perpetuated by a Government that knows our history is telling us that if your father was not a Chief from this Royal House, then you are not a Chief. What about the people who were forced by being pushed in Otjimbingwe, who fought the war in Otjimbingwe and they were left there but they were governing in all those mountains of Erongo mountains, but yet today they are there?

I want to propose, and the Minister should hear me out, that we must look at the *Traditional Authority Act*, if it is a matter of cost to try to resolve this issue of Traditional Authorities by having a Chief and also create sub-Chiefs so that we can try to bring this matter to rest. The way I am telling you, my grandfather fought the Germans and he was 16 years old when he fought against the Germans. We were pushed into Okatjoruu in Otjituuu. Otjituuu did not exist the way it was. We were pushed there because we were coming from Ozondjahe where (*intervention*)

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

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**HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL**  
**SERVICE:** I am at a loss because of the way you are speaking, I do not think it is the duty of the Minister to appoint or to organise Chiefs. This is left to the Traditional Authority because it is not the line function of the Minister to appoint a Chief. The battle among the Chiefs is amongst the communities themselves. I think it is not for the Government to come in and I do not know what this has to do with the Vote because I thought you were just making an example, but now you are going deeper about people who were displaced etcetera. Unless we ask those colonialists who evicted people, why they did that, I do not know what you expect the Government to do with the recognition of Chiefs.

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**HON VENAANI**

**HON VENAANI:** You are being very reckless Honourable Minister. What you are saying is very reckless, very reckless - very reckless for your senior status, as a Senior Leader in this country to say that we must go and ask the colonialists why they displaced us. That is reckless to say that. Secondly, it is reckless to say that it is not the duty of the Minister. It is the duty of the Governors to harmonise relations in the country.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Member, can you assist us in moving on with the discussion?

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**HON VENAANI:** I am addressing the Council of Traditional Authorities.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Be specific to the point, Honourable Member.

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**HON VENAANI:** I am addressing the specifics.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** And assist the new Honourable Minister to reply on what you are clarifying. Yes, please, Honourable Minister Ithana.

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



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**HON VENAANI**

a Point of Order, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the question of Traditional Leadership in our country is going in all directions. It is a concern and we cannot address it this way. It needs its own space where we can talk and hear each other out. *(interjections)* I have the Floor and I am appealing to the emotions because I see our blood is now running very high. The issue of Traditional Leadership is a concern and I am saying we should not address it this way.

Let us deal with issues as we see them but let us also spare the agony of torturing her with issues that she cannot resolve. This one cannot be resolved just by the Minister and, therefore, to discuss this under the Committee Stage is just to do injustice to the whole question. *(Interjection)*

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**HON MEMBER:** Bring a Motion!

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**HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:** Yes, as he is saying there, bring a Motion.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Member, please get to your proposal.

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**HON VENAANI:** I am trying to come to a proposal.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Yes, please.

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

**HON VENAANI:** There is nothing unconstitutional to propose to broaden the scope of sub-Chiefs. Your thinking comes from where you come from because you are sitting on the same land where you come from. I am displaced. I am forced to live in a reserve by colonialism that brought me there and I am saying, for me to solve my problem - perhaps if it is a case of not to have a double cab, allow a person who is designated to have some sort of authority even if he works and gets N\$100 a month.

It could also solve problems because we are dealing with this complex matter. If we want peace in our country, let us listen to one another. If we are to start sending each other to colonialist, we can all be arrogant and we know the history of this country.

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**HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE:** But that cannot be done under this Vote.

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**HON VENAANI:** It is under this Vote. (*Interjection*) I conclude, stand up and make your own contribution. I am done.

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

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**HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE:** It just like the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs said, what we mean is that we cannot resolve this issue under this Vote.

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

**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** He has concluded his contribution, Honourable Minister.

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**HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND CULTURE:** We must solve this at another platform but not under this Vote. That is all I wanted to say and calm down. (*Laughter*)

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Let us continue, Honourable Members. Next is Honourable Namoloh.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I just wanted to help my Sister on the question asked by Honourable Dienda or by another Honourable Member who said the Investigating Committees that are appointed may not have an influence on this. The Constitution of these Committees is not partisan. It has no partisanship, it is very free, and we include Traditional Leaders from different backgrounds in these Investigating Committees. It cannot have any influence on the decision because these are different people who go there to investigate. The people from the Ministry are just staff members for clerical purposes and the information drawn from there is transparent and is given to the Minister to see their recommendations. That is done in a transparent manner.

I just wanted to help my Sister there that the composition of these Committees is drawn from all walks of life and, especially the Traditional Leaders. If you look at these people, they do not belong to that community, they belong to different communities and have different views. Having said this, I support the Vote.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 17**  
**HON VAN WYK**

**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you for that clarification, Honourable Minister. I now give the Floor to Honourable Van Wyk.

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**HON VAN WYK:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Minister, I have full confidence that the Honourable Minister and her team will bring Local Authorities on the right path. I have a comment or two and one question.

Namibia Planning Advisory *Boards* (NAMPABs) and Township Boards cause a lot of frustration and is good to see that these problems are going to get some attention. The Local Government Reform is a very good thing.

Honourable Minister, the plight of some Village Councils - we know that Village Councils suffer from not having funds, especially to pay NamWater. We would like to see the Government reaching out to the Village Councils. I think that the Town Councils on the other hand, just have to strengthen their revenue collection, put their house in order and they will be able to cope with their responsibilities to a certain extend.

Honourable Minister, it is a good thing that we see that we proclaim new towns and villages and that is a way of taking Government to the people. My question is; we know that we have a big problem at Groot Aub, over 4,000 people are residing there. It falls within the borders of the City of Windhoek and nothing is happening at Groot Aub. Sand mining operations are going on in Groot Aub and millions of dollars are generated by certain people, but nothing is going back there. I would like to request the Honourable Minister to investigate the situation at Groot Aub and see what we can do to solve the problems there.

It is sad to say that unfortunately, the Regional Councillor is not doing much to address the problems. I would like the Honourable Minister to have a look at what is going on at Groot Aub. On the Mass Housing, I

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**HON FLEERMUYS**

think it was a good idea to start this Programme to house our people. My concern is; are we catering for all our people? My belief is that the Build-Together Programme should continue alongside this Programme. I know that some Town Councils are still busy with the Build-Together Programme using the revolving funds but at one stage, I believe that they will also stop there. My plea is, Honourable Minister, let us not stop the Build-Together Programme because we know that this Programme caters for the low income groups.

Lastly, Honourable Minister it is clear from your Motivation that a lot of jobs would be created. We appreciate that. I just have one concern with this job creation. With this job creation unfortunately, and if you look at the Mass Housing Project, we can see that the bulk of this money is only going to a certain group while the people at the ground level are suffering. We are forced to go and take an advance on the salary and then it takes time for the project to pay out money.

Every time we have to go back to take an advance. When they receive the salary, they only receive N\$40.00, for example. I know of one person last year with the Mass Housing who had to go back every time to take an advance. At the end of the day when he received his salary, he only received N\$46.00 and he could not even go back to his house to be with his family. We would like to see that our people on the ground benefit. With those few words, Honourable Minister, I support the Vote.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. I now give the Floor to Honourable Fleermuys.

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**HON FLEERMUYS:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Honourable Minister, I am very proud of decentralisation but I have one fear because whenever there is

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**HON MUHARUKUA**

decentralisation or if there is work to be done at certain places, especially in the small towns, the big fish always get the cake while the local people get nothing.

This means that if there is a tender and I have a friend at the Tender Board or at the Municipal Council, I will get that tender whether you like it or not. I hope the Honourable Minister has a Decentralisation Policy in place that will block these channels so that these things cannot run through like water because people in the rural areas are already poor and are waiting for opportunities so that they can get a chance at employment. I believe if there is a Build-Together Programme coming to smaller towns, it should not be like in Windhoek because they built houses with only one door and you will not be able to build a toilet because the money is very little. The people who build these houses go away with everything and in the end the people who get the houses suffer the most. Honourable Minister, what you have compiled here with regard to these Build-Together Programme is very pretty and I thank you very much for that. I support the Bill.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. Now I have Honourable Muharukua. Honourable Member, you have the Floor.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I shall be brief. Honourable Minister, I think we have recently seen a mass influx of applications for urban erven motivated by what is now commonly known as Affirmative Repositioning. My question is; have you appraised your Town Councils and Municipal Councils? Do they have the capacity (1) to deliberate on these applications? What I mean is the processing of it, from handing in, right up to answering. (2) how far is; Government, your Municipalities and Town Councils with the applications in question? That is to say, how much progress have been made. (*Interjection*) Thank you for your

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**HON SANKWASA**

question. I mean the applications in general, including the so-called Affirmative Repositioning applications. If no noticeable progress could have been made, perhaps, because of lack of capacity, what measures have your Town Councils, Municipal Councils and Village Councils put in place to ensure that the plight of our people, specifically the youth is heeded to? Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Member. The last speaker on my list is Honourable Sankwasa.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Regional and Local Governance is one of my areas of specialisation. My recommendation to the Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development is to revisit the *Traditional Authorities Act* because when you legislate on cultures and traditions you must be very careful how you set up one standard. In this country, we do not have the same culture and same customs, we differ. Each ethnic group, each tribe has its own traditions, values and cultural issues.

When we legislate as Government, we need to be very careful. Therefore, that Act as it stands at the moment, even if it was the one that we were debating, Honourable Minister, it has a lot of loopholes which have been misused, which have created conflicts among our community members. It needs attention and separate discussion. That is my recommendation as we approve your Budget because when Chiefs are being recognised, some people are being recognised in other people's areas of jurisdiction and that is a problem itself.

Before we recognise the recommendation, if there are some other applications now before the House for recognition, they require a

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**HON SHANINGWA**

thorough investigation and not only look at whether you come from the royal family, what piece of land you occupy or who else is there. We must consider the whole issue in its totality. That is my recommendation.

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**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you for that recommendation, Honourable Member. On that note, any further discussion? Honourable Minister, I now give you the Floor to reply.

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**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, and Honourable Members for asking all the very contributive questions towards Vote 17 of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. Before I engage into giving answers that may be on the tip of my fingers, let me also thank my officials up there, my Permanent Secretary and the staff that are here to assist me in some of the things that need to be responded to on technical basis.

Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, you must now understand that I delivered a very long Speech hence, those long questions that I need to respond to. I want to thank all the Honourable Members, as a tradition that I have learnt in this House.

When they compliment you, you have to say thank you. I thank you Honourable Members for the nice comments that you have made and for wishing me the best of luck to take on the steering wheel of this Ministry.

The first question came from *Honourable Uutoni*. Those were not questions but rather advice from the experience he has gained when he was the Mayor of the town of Ongwediva. Let me agree with Honourable Uutoni on his contribution on serviced land that at the end of the day, it will enable us as Government to provide housing to our people.



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**HON SHANINGWA**

It is true that we do not have enough serviced land in our towns, villages and settlements. That is a fact. When I called my officials at the Headquarters of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, I asked the question - *what comes first?* Is it the chicken or an egg?

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**HON MEMBER:** Both!

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**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Yes, now you are saying both, we do not know which one came first because we do not know whether the chicken was there first to give us an egg or it was the egg that came first to give us the chicken.

We have a backlog to provide plus minus 100,000 houses to Namibians within a timeframe, but we cannot provide or construct houses in the air. These houses must be solid houses on serviced land, if we are talking about proper development. Honourable Member, I will look at this issue again with the team. You suggested that we perhaps need a Turnaround Strategy. I want to agree, but we must first make land available, we service the land and then we can build houses. We cannot say we want this much houses this year if there is no land. The fact remains we cannot build house in the air and that is the first thing that we want to address. I was just emphasising a little bit on what you said.

You have spoken about mapping out a Master Plan, yes, Honourable Comrade, various Town Councils already have their town Master Plans to date. They have already made indications as to the radius and boundaries around the main towns with time frames. The Master Plans are there, we only need money to start servicing the land because we need to grow from embryonic centre to the outskirts of town. However, not all towns have Master Plans, I am new in the Ministry, I have to find out from my people how many towns, villages and settlements have their Master Plans ready.

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**HON SHANINGWA**

The same Honourable Member also made a comment on the compensation of Headmen with the same funds that are made available to the Regional Councils to compensate people in the surrounding areas of a town, village or settlement area in order to make sure they make way for development. Yes, as I have eloquently said yesterday that the Ministry is requesting funds for compensation. There are people who are willing to give up the land if compensated. The calculations and evaluations towards that land have been made by the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement. Everything needs to be put together – the value and what is entailed on that land and then an agreement is reached between the owner of the land and the Ministry based on the amount that has been determined. I will have to go back to my officials about compensation for Headmen and we can tackle that at a later stage.

I will also leave the question on the proclamation of settlements and that Councils do not have the power to employ settlement officers for later in order to obtain more information. I am coming from a Region, and from my experience, we have Tsandi and Okalongo that were recently proclaimed and we have officials working at those settlements who are being paid by the Regional Council. It is also the same in Ogongo because we have Ogongo in Omusati Region where I was a Governor. Ogongo, Tsandi, Okalongo and Onesi, we have officials at these four settlements who are working there, capturing the data on the land. If this is not happening in all the Regions, I will follow it up and see what can be done and improve accordingly.

You also spoke about the bureaucratic behaviour, maybe the negative behaviour of NAMPABs, Deeds Office and Township Boards. Honourable Member, I want to assure you that, as I mentioned yesterday, if we have followed properly, somewhere I said that we are going to revisit this and we are going to repeal all these types of outdated Ordinances and Acts of 1964, 1965 and even some dating back to the 1950s. I think these types of things are in an advanced stage.

*Honourable Katoma* expressed himself on *decentralisation* and I have expressed myself very strongly yesterday on decentralisation. I should

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**HON SHANINGWA**

even couple this question with *Honourable Fleermuys'* concern. Decentralisation is not only about jobs. Decentralisation is about bringing service to the people on the ground. It is about national documents, Police Officers, water, boreholes, agricultural implements and all these types of things. This is decentralisation of service and the people who are affected, like I strongly said yesterday, are not only here in the capital city. Things must go down to touch the last person on the ground.

Honourable Members, when we are talking about decentralisation, maybe to beef up our understanding, I would like the Honourable Member to assist me and the Ministry. When we have tenders, why should the big fish come and take over? Where are those boys, young men and women who have been trained at VTCs in construction who are in your towns and villages and can build offices? These are small issues, why do those people not come in and start doing things in their villages and towns? Where is the CDC, the Constituency Development Committee that have said – *Minster of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development these are the Projects that we have identified in our Constituencies?*

These documents – MTEF and the Developmental Programme, specifically stipulated what should be done in different Constituencies and villages. These ideas came from your people. Why should you allow the projects that have been identified by the people of the vicinity to be taken by the big fish that you are talking about? What you have to do is to make sure that the small contractors are listed and they are known by the Village Council, the Settlements, Town Councils and the Regional Councils to enable us to share the cake without excluding the big fish because sometimes the small fish might not know how to do the job and they can be sub-contracted by the big fish.

I think it is a matter of us talking amicable. If we are saying nobody must be left out, nobody must be left out when we are sharing the cake and this is our duty because when we want to eat the cake as Namibians, the cake must not be eaten by me because I am SWAPO or by you because you are UDF or whatever Party. I do not know other Parties but I only know the

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best, which is SWAPO Party. We should all eat the cake and then during the elections, we go with our politics but when we have to eat the cake, we must look at how we can help one another.

*Honourable Ithana* was concerned about the elderly people who are being relocated from places where they have lived for centuries. It is really true, and it is a challenge for all of us, as Leaders and our elders who live there. I have a town where the people do not want to move because they feel they are not benefiting where they are told to go, while here at the Central Government we say people must pave the way for development. We are now standing at cross roads. It is either we develop this country or we will come to a standstill because nothing will happen if people do not want to path the way for developemnt. We must discuss this and I agree with the proposal that provision be made to build new houses for the elderly people above the age of 70 who live alone in their homes. I think that needs to be discussed. However, I do not want to commit myself that there are funds available for that now. There are no funds yet buy maybe it is something that should be considered in the future.

*Honourable Dienda*, you spoke about subsidies to the elders and alienation of the houses to the elders like Walvis Bay. I think this initiative was introduced during the time of Honourable Albertina Amadhila when houses were alienated in Katutura. It stopped nationally. Maybe we have to look at this once again. I am not committing myself to doing this yet, but I am saying we have to look at these again. We are billing a person who cannot pay and all these type of things. He or she eats from that N\$1,000 that they get. I think maybe, it will not be enough. We will have to relook that and see what can be done, but I am not committing funds, as I do not have the funds now.

The *Shack Dwellers Association* was made part and parcel of the Mass Housing Programme. We have discussed this with my officials. The Shack Dwellers Association will go their original way. They used to be assisted. We are going to get them back to the previous system as well as the Build-Together Project. I am still saying that through the Build-

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**HON SHANINGWA**

Together Project, some people were given material but the houses have been standing incomplete for 20 years.

Honourable Fleermuys, I am still saying that the Government can make use of the young men and women who studied at the VTCs, who have the knowledge to build these houses instead of giving the money or materials to a household and have an incomplete house after 20 years. That way these young men and women will generate money for themselves and improve on their skills. We must probably come up with another approach. If we fail, we must try to come up with another approach and we have to take our young men and women off the streets. They are trained but you will see them in Rehoboth, Gibeon, Kalkrand and everywhere wandering about. Why do we not give them this small job to complete those houses and take them off the street as the Government? We will assist the Shack Dwellers and Build-Together but maybe with a different approach which will work in the interest of all of us.

*We are paying too much to City of Windhoek, including the City Police. (Interjection)* but when they are taking care of you, you do not complain. This is a very good one. I do not have an answer now, but I have heard and my officials are up there, we will take that up and then we will engage into discussions.

*Tribal Disputes of Chieftainships:* Everyone wants to become a Chief. Is it really that we have disputes or we want to have employment? We must be fair and I want to agree with the person who said we are all Namibians but we come from various tribes with norms, traditions, cultures and chains that must be followed sometimes.

There are disputes in my office every day. My head is even growing bigger because with the majority of people, the moment they hear a Chief died, you will see all of them trying to bring in a Petition. *They want this one, this one must take over, that one must take over.* What happened to our traditions, our norms, our cultures and chains that we are talking about? You cannot just come in and say - *I want to become the King of*

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**HON SHANINGWA**

*Ongandjera Tribal Authority* if you are not *Omukwanailya*. Do you understand?

There is a chain that must be followed, a chain that is known by the elderly people of that clan. You do not even want to listen to the elderly, you just want to jump in. Why do you not first talk to the elderly people to be advised? If they are so old as you sometimes say that they are old and outdated, they may give you a free card. We just want to take over because we are learned and we can speak English. Do we have English in our norms and traditions? Do we not only speak Oshivambo, Nama, Damara or Rukwangali? It is not about English. It is about the chain. It is about our norms. It is about the tradition. It is about when and what should be done. Today I am told, if war breaks out, it is will be because of disputes. There will be disputes because people are taking the elderly people to Courts.

You do not come to Court in Windhoek, you go there to your Traditional Court to you solve the problem. Why come to the professionals? The profession of the cultures and traditions are in the Traditional Court. I think this is what we have to do, to avoid wars from breaking out.

Learned people, I think it is high time. We will be cursed by our elderly people. They go crying. The day before yesterday an elderly man of 90 years old came in my office crying because he has been bulldozed by the so-called learned people who want to take over because they were Commissioners, Principals, etcetera. What is this? My dear, if they will just give me power, I will not agree with some issues. (*Interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** You have the power!

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**HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Yes, thank you, it is true. I understand we are learned and this is democracy. I

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**HON SHANINGWA**

also understand that Namibia is free, however, there should be respect for our elders. We should not be the reason our elders sleep on pillows that are wet from tears. It is true. Things are not solved. My predecessors left a couple of disputes not solved just because Sofia, who thinks she was wherever and done whatever wants to take over. Why take over? Why do you not go to the office and start contributing to the nation-building effort of the Namibian Government with your education? What is there? Is it that car? Is it that salary of N\$1,500? What is this? Let us advise our elderly. I think I must have a topic on this because I am also from that clan, but I never attempt to become a Chief because I do not have time. I have to be here and contribute to the Nation at large. I am calling others to do the same.

*Honourable Limbo*, you asked a question about the green parks around our towns. Yes, I think it is very important. It is for all of us as Leaders to talk to our Town Councils and our Village Councils. It is sad to see our children playing soccer, netball in the streets because there is no provision made for them, but we have the audacity as Regional Councillors to give each other land. I am not going to mince my words here. (*Interjection*) Yes, I have to say it. As Honourable Members, we have to change. If we want peace with this Minister, we have to change. We can give big portions of land in towns to ourselves sitting in the Chambers, but we cannot leave a portion of land for our children to play soccer and netball. Is this fair? I think we all have to change. As we are planning, we are planning for a church, those churches that are applicable, and there are also those ones that are making noise. We leave the traditional churches when we are planning for a town, a school, a clinic, a kindergarten, a soccer field for our children and netball field for our children. The whole lot are houses and we forget the lives of our children that are at stake. We must change and I want you to go to my house in Outapi to see how I planned. It is a very beautiful house, after sleeping in *Okambashu* for more than four years, I built a very nice house because I know how to plan. I worked for the National Housing Enterprise.

*Littering*: It is our duty not to litter. Why must we throw rubbish all over the place? Regional Local Government and Housing is for all of us.

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**HON SHANINGWA**

*Shebeens:* **Honourable Dienda**, I do not drink. I do not know what is so sweet in alcohol. Do you understand? It damages your health and it destroys your capacity to think properly. Yesterday, I told you that since we returned from exile in 1989, I have never been admitted to hospital. I do not drink. I work so hard every God's day. I do not drink and I also eat natural foods - *ombidhi, omagungu and oshifima*. How did these shebeens come in? Where did they get the alcohol from? I have a problem. I will talk like *meme*. The alcohol in the shebeens originated from somewhere and the power is at the border. Why do we allow alcohol in Namibia? How much do we receive from alcohol? The people who are brewing alcohol do not drink, but they bring *drank goed* in the country every day. (*Interjection*) *Ek kan Afrikaans praat. Elke dag man, og!* It is so frustrating to see the trucks full of alcohol facing Windhoek, from Windhoek facing north, east, west and south. We cannot see the damage and we are blaming people that they are drunkards. We have to do something about it. The alcohol passing through the borders of this country is not to be consumed by the donkeys, cows, goats and horses, it is for human beings. This is where the problem is, let us face it. Are we trying to cure the symptoms or are we trying to heal the wounds. No, we must all do something and I call upon Namibians to stop drinking, it is a bad habit.

*Decentralisation and Design:* Yes, things must be planned. If there is something my officials are here. If there is something I hate so much, it is when a town is build in a way that you do not know where to start in order to lay pipes for sewerage, electrical lines, water, etcetera. You end up destroying a house and you will be requested to pay because you have destroyed a property.

**Honourable Sankwasa**, you asked a question on who benefits from the *auctioning of land*. I think I have to come back on this one, but I think we are also working on this. I have said it in my Statement yesterday that we are working on the auctioning of properties. Auction is not a good option.

We are still working on *governance* and we have proposed to repeal the Act of 1980. We are going to do this it is in my Statemnt. The old Acts



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are going to be repealed. Honourable Sankwasa, you also said that some Traditional Authorities are political and mingling in the whole thing. I think I have spoken very hard on this one but I think we have to respect traditions. I will look at the details.

***Honourable Venaani***, my Brother is very, very positive as a Leader of the Opposition and very patriotic. Poverty does not know boundaries and I definitely want to cooperate and work with you in trying to solve the problems of our poor people. When we come to our political activities we will meet differently, but as far as solving the issues of our people, I support the fact that we have to give one another advice. I am open for advice. I thank Honourable Venaani for his contributions and also that the N\$330 million is a joke. However, for now, we have accepted what was given to us, but I want to make a promise to the Honourable Minister of Finance that we should first prove ourselves. We cannot just ask for money, first prove yourself like Honourable Ithana. After you have proven yourself you can go and cry for more money. I want to make a promise to the Honourable Minister of Finance that my team, the two Honourable Deputy Ministers and I, will try to prove ourselves to see to it that we bring about a Turnaround Strategy in our style and see what we can come up with.

*Speculative Prices in the Market:* If we cannot address the issue of housing to the poor, the market forces that have money will come and take all of it and they will determine price. I have already called my officials and I told them that I am going to come up with my own Turnaround Strategy and I am determine that this House with the advice of technical people, I want to see a house costing N\$180,000.00 or N\$170,000.00. What you see now are houses that are ranging between 200,000.00 and N\$600,000.00. You look at what is left on the table for the children to eat bread, go to school, for transport, electricity, rates and taxes, etcetera - people are tightening their belts because the money has is taken up by the merciless market forces.

It is either, we come up with our price and those ones who are ready to pull with us in the same direction, they go with us and those who do not

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want, they stay. I will have to come up with a strategy saying - if you can build this type of house for N\$150,000.00, N\$160,000.00 or N\$170,000.00, I will move with you, but if you are asking for N\$200,000.00, N\$300,000.00 or N\$400,000.00, I cannot work with you. I will see how many people will support the Minister and say they will deliver within the range of the money that you are talking about. Why should these people determine what our people should pay? At the end of the day, a person ends up only working for the house.

You cannot even buy anything else you are enslaved by that property called a house for the rest of your life. I think it is not fair and something must be done.

*Helao Nafidi Land to Foreigners:* When I was a Governor, I told my business people to stop selling land to foreigners like hot cakes. Once a foreign woman came to my office, I could tell she was not a Namibian, and she said - *I heard that you told people that I must not buy land because I am a foreigner, but this is my ID, I am a Namibian.* I was so shocked. I was so shocked! It is a foreigner with a Namibian ID, who came to challenge me in my office because I said land must not be sold like that.

I travelled but I have not seen any Namibian having land elsewhere in the world like the people are having land here. We have to change. Land must be given to our people but we must also be reasonable and not take it the way it is happening now. If you take 100 hectares for yourself, my dear, I will take those hectares and you have to share it with other people. We must share, we are all Namibians. We have to share from this piece that we have that is so static. We grow as a Nation, but the size of the land stays the same. The size is not going to grow. It is the only size that we have, but why should you take so much for yourself? This time I am going to make you share with others. Foreigners must lease land like we are leasing in their countries. They must just lease because at the end of the day when we are no more, our children will be in trouble. No, we cannot go on like this! *Omake!*

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

The Development Bank of Namibia is a Government financial entity that was established to give loans or financial boost and assistance to upcoming entrepreneurs of our country. People are requested to go for HIV tests, to bring collateral, etcetera. After all these is done and everything is fine, then they will afford you the assistance. When people go there and they tested negative for everything, the bank ask for collateral. It is not the issue that they must provide collateral.

The Honourable Minister of Finance must look into this so that when these entrepreneurs have met all the criteria, they should not be asked for collateral because it is only the big fish with money who will have access to funding and not the people who want to come up and help themselves and grow in the system. These young men and women, after they have met the criteria, they must be given financial assistance for them to get off the shoulders of Government and move on, but not to be discriminated against by *a* and *b* behind those doors whom we cannot see.

I think this problem must be rectified. They must also be afforded financial assistance after they have won a tender. The bank can get its money after it has been paid - they deduct what is due to them. I am talking about the Development Bank, get what is due to them and give the rest to the person who got the tender and that should be the case and not to discriminate against the young men and women. It is not fair. Banks should give development funds to our business people.

*Executive Mayors:* We will look into this issue. I do not have an answer now. I think it is a policy issue. I will discuss it with my seniors and see how far we can go.

*Groot Aub* is a thorn in the flesh. I have to talk to the Honourable Governors and the Councillors to see how to rectify the problems at Groot Aub. I think I am done.

---

**HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**  
**COMMITTEE:** Thank you, Honourable Minister for that very well

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**ADJOURNMENT  
HON PROF KASINGO**

presented response. Any objection? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMES**

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Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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**HON DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I have to thank each and everybody who was here or is here up to now. We have been here for almost 10 hours, particularly the Seniors. It was a lovely Debate, I have enjoyed it. It was very lovely and very mature.

With this, the House adjourns until next Tuesday, 14:30. If you are going out of the city, drive safely. So adjourned.

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In terms of Rule 90(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 17:00 until Tuesday, 28 April 2015.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 17:00 UNTIL 2015.04.28 AT 14:00**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
28 APRIL 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

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

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**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Members, I have a brief announcement. As you are already aware, at the commencement of the National Assembly, it has to set up its Standing Committees for the preparations of its Deliberations as per Rule 38 of the National Assembly Standing Rules and Orders. These Standing Committees then continue for the duration of our National Assembly.

I would, therefore, like to invite the Leaders of various Political Parties, in the House, to a meeting planned for Wednesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2015, at 11:00 in the Constitution Room number 101. Your attendance will be much appreciated because we need to do some Housekeeping matters which require our collective attention. We do not want to leave anybody out as they say the Namibian House is dedicated to keeping everyone under the same roof. Thank you very much.

Any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Yes, Honourable Kavekatora, you have the Floor please.

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS**

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON KAVEKOTORA**

**QUESTION 12:**

**HON KAVEKOTORA:** Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, the 07<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 (*interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** We will not be here!

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**HON KAVEKOTORA:** I will be here (*laughter*), and you will also be here.

I shall ask the Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development the following questions:

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**HON MEMBER:** Why!

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**HON MEMBER:** We will not be here!

---

**HON KAVEKOTORA:** You know why. Before I do so, I would like to ask for the indulgence of this august House to suggest some outline of my questions.

It is on record that, in November 2014, the Presidential and National Assembly elections were conducted in terms of the *Electoral Act*, 2014 (Act 4 of 2014). This Act specifically provides in Part 5 – Conduct of Elections, Subpart 7 – *Voting at Polling Stations*, Clause 97, Sub-Clauses (3) and (4) the following:

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON KAVEKOTORA**

*“(3) The use of voting machines referred to in Sub-Section (2) is subject to the simultaneous utilization of a verifiable paper trail for every vote cast by a voter, and any vote cast is verified by a count of the paper trail.*

*(4) In the event that the results of the voting machines and the results of the paper trail do not accord, the paper trail results are accepted as the election outcome for the polling station or voting thread concerned.”*

Moreover, in the country of its manufacture, the EVMs, have been ruled unacceptable. Indeed, in the reportable case, in the Supreme Court of India Civil Appellate Jurisdiction (Civil Appeal No 9093 of 2013, Arising out of SLP (Civil) No 13735 of 2012). *(Interjection)*

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**HON SPEAKER:** Please give him a chance to conclude.

---

**HON KAVEKOTORA:** I thought that His Excellency, the President raised the bar but it seems like some of us are not aware of that. The Appeal that I am referring to is between – Dr Subramainian Swamy (Appellant) versus Electoral Commission of India (Respondent) the Supreme Court of India ruled as follows:

*“(29) From the materials placed by both sides, we are satisfied that the ‘paper trail’ is an indispensable requirement of free and fair elections. The confidence of the voters in the EVMs can be achieved only with the introduction of the ‘paper trail.’*

*EVMs with VVPAT system ensure the accuracy of the voting system. With an intent to have fullest transparency in the system and to restore the confidence of the voters, it is necessary to set up EVMs with a VVPAT system because a vote is nothing but an act of expression which has immense importance in a democratic system.*

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**NOTICE OF QUESTIONS  
HON KAVEKOTORA**

*30) In the light of the above discussion and taking notice of the pragmatic and reasonable approach of the ECI and considering the fact that in general elections all over India, the ECI has to handle one million (ten lakhs) polling booths, we permit the ECI to introduce the same in gradual stages or geographical-wise in the ensuing general elections.”*

Honourable Speaker, my questions, therefore, are:

- 1) What is your view, Honourable Minister, on the use of the EVMs without paper trail in all forthcoming elections (i.e. by-elections, Local and Regional Authority elections, as well as Presidential and National Assembly elections)?
- 2) What is your timeline and projection of when Namibia will comply with the peremptory stipulations of the *Electoral Act*, as cited above?
- 3) In the light of the Supreme Court Ruling of India, in respect of the use of EVMs in India, the country of origin of EVMs, is it not prudent to revert back to the time proven manual system, which provides a baseline prove in the event of electoral challenges?

Do not run away from challenges, they are part and parcel of our legal system.

- 4) Honourable Minister, do you think that the use of EVMs will provide the voters with the best possible options, in the event of the voter wanting to vote, but with the expressed intention to spoil his or her vote?

I so Move.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Member, please table the Question. Yes, Honourable Mutorwa, do you have a Point of Order?

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

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

Thank you very much for giving me the Floor. I am just looking at Rule 79, dealing with the nature of Parliamentary questions and I see that here under (e), it is stated that – *an issue that is already decided in the Assembly does not qualify for a question.*

To the best of my information, this House of the people, extensively, debated a Law here and by way of that Law that was passed here, this matter was then dealt with.

It now looks as if the question is directed to question the Law that was passed here. I do not know, I am just checking whether that question qualifies, Comrade Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. In the interest of time can we just hold on, so that we proceed and I will rule on that in due time? Thank you.

Notice of Motions? Yes, please?

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice:

That this Assembly: -

*Approves* the determination by the Ministry of Finance under the *Electoral Act* concerning the establishment of a formula for funding of Political Parties; and to establish the percentage of unspent money at the end of the

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HON SCHLETTWEIN**

Financial Year that Political Parties may carry forward.

I so Move, Honourable Speaker

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Can I ask the Honourable Member to table the Motion and take the Floor on the Motion?

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**A DETERMINATION IN TERMS OF  
SECTION 155 OF THE ELECTORAL ACT, 2014**

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

**BACKGROUND**

The Minister of Finance is required under the *Electoral Act*, 2014 (Act 5 of 2014), to make two Determinations in terms of the following Provisions of the said Act:

- Firstly: A Determination in terms of Section 155 of the *Electoral Act*, 2014, to establish the formula for funding of Political Parties; and Secondly: A Determination in terms of Section 161 of the *Electoral Act*, 2014, to establish the percentage of unspent monies at the end of a Financial Year that Political Parties may carry forward to the next Financial Year.

**PURPOSE OF POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING:**

When the *Electoral Act* was passed in this august House at the end of last

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HON SCHLETTWEIN**

year, we have realised that Political Parties and candidates need access to money in order to reach out to the electorate and explain their goals and policies, and receive input from the people about their views. We also recognised that political finance has a positive role to play in our democracy:

- a) it helps strengthen Political Parties and candidates; and
- b) it provides opportunities to compete on more equal terms. Indeed, sufficient access to funding is crucial to the overall vibrancy of an electoral and democratic system, which helps citizens believe in, and trust in politics and politicians.

It was in this spirit that in Part 3 of the *Electoral Act*, 2014, provision was made for the public funding of Political Parties. In the past, Political Party funding was made available, but this was not a legal obligation as per the statute, but it was done based on various Cabinet decisions. An extract of Part 3 of the Act is tabled together with the two Determinations for ease of reference.

Under Section 155 of the *Electoral Act*, 2014, the Minister of Finance is required to determine the formula for funding of Political Parties based on proportional representation. The formula is subject to the approval by the National Assembly.

Honourable Speaker, to facilitate the Debate and approval of the proposed determination on the funding formula for Political Parties by this august House, I took the initiative to consult with all Parties represented in the National Assembly. I sensitised the Parties regarding the Provisions of the *Electoral Act* of 2014 on the subject matter and the rationale for the formula and I want to take the opportunity to thank all the Parties and their Whips in the House for having joined me and cooperated very well.

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**FORMULA FOR FUNDING OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

The Determination on the formula for funding of Political Parties provides that the sources of monies for allocation to Political Parties should be limited to an amount not exceeding 0.2% of the estimated revenue to be collected in the State Revenue Fund in the Financial Year for which allocations are to be made. This means that the monies for allocation to Political Parties for 2015/2016 will be based on the estimated revenue to be collected in 2015/2016, as reflected in the recently tabled Budget documents. Please note, however, that the Determination indicates that 0.2% is the maximum allocation, which implies that the allocation can be less than 0.2% of revenue.

The current estimate of revenue for 2015/2016, based on the Draft MTEF for 2015/2016 to 2017/2018 is N\$58.441 billion, and 0.2% of that revenue yields a maximum amount of N\$116.883 million.

The *Electoral Act*, 2014 defines a “*Political Party*” for purposes of receiving public funds as a Political Party represented in Parliament, meaning both Houses. Hence, the funding formula must take the seats occupied in both the National Assembly and the National Council into account. The National Assembly has 96 seats and the National Council has 26 seats, which brings the total number of seats to 122.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, given the proposed shares and the formula as explained above, the funds to be allocated to each Party for the Financial Year 2015/2016 will not exceed the following amounts:

- SWAPO Party, with 101 seats in Parliament could receive a maximum of N\$96.764 million;
- DTA, with 6 seats could receive a maximum of N\$5.748 million;
- RDP and UDF, with each 3 seats could each receive a maximum of N\$2.874 million;

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- APP, NUDO and WRR, with each 2 seats could each receive a
- maximum of N\$1.916 million;
- The remaining Parties, i.e. RP, SWANU and UPM, who have one seat each in both Houses, could receive a maximum of N\$958,000 each.

The Determination further provides that the payments to Political Parties shall be made quarterly on the first working day in April, July, October and January of each Financial Year. The Determination further provides that the funds allocated to each Political Party in each Financial Year will be fixed to the amounts indicated in the Budget and that the amounts should not be adjusted in line with the actual revenue collected – whether higher or lower. This is to avoid unnecessary adjustments following the audit of the books of the State Revenue Fund.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I strongly believe that the Determination of the formula for funding of Political Parties is a fair way of providing funding to Political Parties and that it reflects the Provision of the *Electoral Act*, 2014, which clearly indicates that the funding of Political Parties must be based on the proportional representation of each Party in both Houses of Parliament.

It, therefore, follows that whenever elections for the National Assembly or Regional Councils take place the amounts payable to Political Parties will be adjusted based on the election results in the Financial Year following the announcements of such election results.

**PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS TO BE RETAINED BY POLITICAL PARTIES AT FINANCIAL YEAR END**

Under Section 161(1)(a) of the *Electoral Act*, 2014, the Minister of Finance is required to determine the percentage of unspent monies at the end of a Financial Year, which Political Parties may carry forward to the next Financial Year. This percentage is also subject to the approval of the

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National Assembly.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Provision in the Act for the amount of unspent monies to be retained at the end of any Financial Year is meant to limit the degree to which Political Parties can roll over funds beyond the year of allocation. However, practical experience shows that it may be at times justified for Political Parties to carry forward annual savings to future years. For example, this may be necessitated to the need to cater for extraordinary expenditure, for example, capital expenditure and/or the funding of election campaigns or Congresses. The Determination, therefore, provides that monies carried forward to the next Financial Year may not amount to more than 95% of the monies received by a Political Party during any Financial Year. Therefore, the Political Parties are allowed to roll over 95% of monies allocated.

**CONCLUSION**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, it, therefore, gives me pleasure to invite the Members of the National Assembly to take note of the two Determinations to be issued by the Minister of Finance under the *Electoral Act*, 2014. Since the two Determinations were drafted in the spirit of the *Electoral Act*, 2014, I expect this august House to support and to approve the Determinations. I thank you.

---

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Maximum allocation of funds to Political Parties in 2015/2016 (based on 0.2% of total revenue for 2015/2016)						
No	Party	Seats			Proportional Allocation	Rounded
		National Assembly	National Council	Total		
1	SWAPO	77	24	101	96,763,872	96,764,000
2	DTA	5	1	6	5,748,349	5,748,000
3	RDP	3	a	3	28,74,174	2,874,000
4	APP	2	a	2	1,916,116	1,916,000
5	NUDO	2	a	2	1,916,116	1,916,000
6	UDF	2	1	3	2,874,174	2,874,000
7	WRR	2	A	2	1,916,116	1,916,000
8	RP	1	a	1	958,058	958,000
9	SWANU	1	a	1	958,058	958,000
10	UPM	1	a	1	958,058	958,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>116,883,093</b>	<b>116,882,000</b>

<b>Financial Year</b>	2015/2016
<b>Total Revenue N\$</b>	58,441,546,335
<b>0.2% of Total Revenue N\$</b>	116,883,093

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, I know that there has been consultation with stakeholders, however, there might still be some burning questions that the Honourable Members would like to raise. Honourable Venaani.

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HON VENAANI**

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, since the Honourable Minister made such a substantive Motion without Notice, I think it just fair for us to discuss it. Since it is a Motion without Notice, it becomes a standing agenda of the House and we should be allowed to discuss matters related to and the matters that we raise –I seek your concurrence just to do that, Honourable Speaker.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Well, this is almost like an unopposed Motion due to several factors and especially after the stakeholders were involved in the consultations, I though there is a general agreement.

However, are you saying that there are still issues that you need to be resolved? The Floor is yours.

---

**HON VENAANI:** Thank you very much. Honourable Speaker, I want to thank the Honourable Minister for having tabled these new adjustments as it is required under the Electoral Law.

However, before I address the electoral Law, let me raise three issues that are very fundamental and coupled with this issue that I want the House to take note of and I also want our Party's strong reservations to be recorded:

1. In the current Electoral Law, and I think it is an omission by the last legislators. If you want to register a nominated candidate for the Regional Council, it would cost a Political Party N\$2,500.00 per candidate. If you field candidate across the entire country, it will cost N\$2,500.00 times the number of Constituencies that are in this country.



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HON VENAANI**

**HON MEMBER:** That is nothing.

---

**HON VENAANI:** Yes, it is nothing when you are receiving N\$96 million, so keep quiet. If you compare N\$6 million to a N\$100 million it is nothing. (*Interjection*) yes, wait, listen!

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Please, give him a chance.

---

**HON VENAANI:** Let me have my say. You can have your way, but I shall forever have my say.

Honourable Speaker, if one looks at that N\$302,000.00 – it makes it difficult for a Party that is receiving N\$950,000.00 per year, to be able to compete because 40% of their budget is already taken away by the N\$2,500.00. I, therefore, think we need to reconsider that because the purpose of our democracy is not to limit people from participating in democracy but we must allow more people and more Parties to be able to participate. That is the essence of democracy, so in the long run we should look at amending the registration fee for a Regional Councillor because that cost is very high.

2. The second question that needs to be raised in this country – very important and very fundamental is the question of foreign funding. When Political Parties are recipients of Party Funding from the Government, there is also money that is thrown in, especially on this part of the House from foreign donors. The purpose for regulating donor funds is to regulate donor influence in our politics. For as long as we are recipients of donor funding that we do not declare, first and foremost and secondly, that we receiving from foreign Nations

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consistently, it questions and starts eroding the credibility (*interjection*) It has, it is not a perception. It goes well when it is going well. Ask your Colleagues out there who are calling me and complaining – *go and raise this and that issue. (laughter)* they are calling me every night. They are saying I must help them raise issues. *Vitjata nao!*

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Point of Order!

---

**HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM:** Can I ask my Young Brother here, Honourable Venaani a small question?

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, my Elder Brother.

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**HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM:** Thank you. Honourable Venaani, do you remember the slush funds?

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, I do. Sit down now. (*Laughter*)

---

**HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM:** You are here today because of those slush funds, which were kept rolling over and over and the foreign funding you are receiving up to date. Otherwise you would not be here. However, that is not the main question that I wanted to ask.

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I just wanted to remind you not to forget that you are a recipient of the slush funds and you are here because of the continuous rollover of that amount of money. Thank you.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Venaani, can you continue please?

---

**HON VENAANI:** I am very well aware of the slush fund that you are talking about, but some of you are the biggest benefactors of those slush funds. (*Interjections*) What are you telling me? Whom did you buy your first flats from? You do not know things, keep quite. I will expose you for what you are, do not go there (*laughter*)

---

**HON SPEAKER:** It is not a dialogue.

---

**HON VENAANI:** How were they bought? People were killed in this country for slush funds. (*Interjection*) that is not the issue.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Can we please come back to the issue.

---

**HON VENAANI:** It is because he has raised this issue and it is very fundamental. Two wrongs do not make a right.

The premise of my argument is based on – for long politics will be

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HON VENAANI**

bankrolled or financed by what you term slush funds because we also have the new Chinese slush funds from the Socialist International that are bankrolling a lot of Political Parties in African Governments.

What I am trying to say is that we need to control foreign funding which influence our politics. That is very fundamental in any democracy.

---

**HON MEMBER:** Where is the evidence?

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**HON VENAANI:** How can you ask where the evidence is?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Please let him continue to conclude.

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, I will conclude. I know people do not want us to address foreign funding because any incumbent Government influences its process from foreign funding. However, it must be said that we must start regulating it.

Honourable Speaker, two issues must be put on record; that the Ruling Party, because of its size, is the biggest recipient of Party Funding and it erodes our democracy whether you like it or not. It does! You can look at it in any way you want (*intervention*)

---

**HON SPEAKER:** A Point of Order. Honourable Ekandjo.

---

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HON VENAANI**

**HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICES:** Can I ask the Honourable Member a small question?

\_\_\_\_\_

**HON VENAANI:** Yes.

\_\_\_\_\_

**HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICES:** If the Namibian people come out *en masse* to attend SWAPO Rallies.

\_\_\_\_\_

**HON VENAANI:** Do not speak to yourself, speak to me, I cannot hear you.

\_\_\_\_\_

**HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICES:** If the Namibians attend SWAPO Rallies *en masse* to give their votes to SWAPO and they do not attend your meetings, maybe only two or three attend, do you want to say it is not their democratic right to choose which Party they should elect?

You should complain to the people and ask them why they do not vote for the DTA. Go and ask them and not us here. Thank you.

\_\_\_\_\_

**HON VENAANI:** Last week I had a debate with the Honourable Member and you answered me the very same way. Today I will refrain from saying what I said you.

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HON VENAANI**

It borders on the same thing, but out of respect I will not say it but it. *(Interjection)* no, respect elders, that is just my style. I can disagree with them, but I respect them. There is nothing wrong for the Ruling Party to get what it is getting, it is democracy but it erodes democracy. Let me tell you why. Let me expand my argument. Any Ruling Party benefits from what is called incumbency advantage. You are all campaigning with black cars around the country. *(Interjections)* Yes! The petrol paid by Government using taxpayers money. You are driven around by taxpayers money.

*(Interjections)* I know what I am saying, hurts but it is the truth.  
*(Intervention)*

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Point of Order.

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**HON MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATIONS:** On a Point of Information; what the Opposition Parties tell the public out there is that the Ministers are campaigning for their Political Parties using Government cars, but they do not explain that Ministers pay for these cars and the Members of Parliament, including the Members of the Opposition receive car allowances from the Government to do their parliamentary duties. However, when they go and campaign for their Parties, they do not park the cars they bought with the allowance they are receiving here to do parliamentary duties. What is that?

---

**HON VENAANI:** That is a very shallow argument, my Dear Honourable Friend. All of you are using Government petrol. If you are using your Government cars and fill it up yourselves then the argument is in tandem with what the Members of Parliament are getting. You are using

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HON VENAANI**

Government petrol that you do not account for, day and night.  
(*Interjection*) yes, he is one of the biggest users.

---

**HON SPEAKER:** Can I come in now and offer a piece of advice? What we are attempting to do may not be 100%, but the way of going about it is that there must be some kind of dialogue, but not on the Floor of the House. If there were some issues you had an opportunity to discuss with the Honourable Minister.

I will allow you to put your case on record, but just bear in mind that, what will provide us with the way forward in the end, is an opportunity for you to come together as Political Parties and reflect on this issue in a mature way. This will not get us anywhere, so can I appeal for calmness and make your point as quickly as possible and allow other people to take the Floor? Thank you.

---

**HON VENAANI:** That is not the intention of this Member on the Floor. My intention is to raise the question of incumbency advantage and Business Sector influence. The Business Sector is kin – *ndino ondino* (*today is today*)! *Laughter (intervention)*

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**HON SPEAKER:** Yes, Honourable Tweya, you have the Floor on a Point of Order.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Honourable speaker, I ask your indulgence in the form of direction, really.

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HON VENAANI**

We have an unopposed Motion on the Floor and that is the Determination of the Government subsidy, can we please focus on that if the Honourable Member has a different view to address himself on the Government subsidy? However, if he has issues with any other funding, then it is really not relevant at this point in time. Can we please have direction?

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**HON VENAANI:** You are a Member of Parliament and you are saying that.

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**HON MEMBER:** Who are you?

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**HON SPEAKER:** No, no, I do not think it is appropriate to call another Honourable Member *who are you*. He is entitled to his views.

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**HON VENAANI:** No, I respect that.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Can I ask Honourable Venaani to continue and let us make progress.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker on a serious note – but I have not said a word (*intervention*)

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HON VENAANI**

**HON SPEAKER:** On a Point of Order, Honourable Dr Kawana.

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**HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE:** On a Point of Order, Honourable Speaker; I would like to remind the Honourable Leader of the Minority Party regarding foreign funding. That issue is comprehensively addressed in the current *Electoral Act*. I would like to refer the Honourable Member to Section 141 of the Act. I so Move.

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**HON VENAANI:** Very good. However, referring me to the Act does not denote the fact that our politics is influenced by foreign funding and all the Political Parties that are recipients of foreign funds have not declared that they have received money from foreign funders. (*Interjections*) we are coming from the first election, so I can let you declare it. However, that is besides the issue.

Honourable Speaker, I want to raise the question of the Business Sectors' support. In South Africa, for example, Corporate Companies like FNB, Breweries, and etcetera, also have a formula to fund Political Parties according to Party formulas. (*Interjection*) listen here Right Honourable Prime Minister. In South Africa, Standard Bank gives money to Political Parties during the elections.

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**HON MEMBER:** This is Namibia!

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**HON VENAANI:** I am talking about nurturing our democracy, if the Ruling Party does not want to listen, we must urge our Business Sector to also play their part to try to stabilise our democracy because we claim

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that it is an expensive process (*interjection*) we are not *obliging* them but we are *urging* them – English! (*Intervention*)

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**HON SPEAKER:** On a Point of Order, Honourable Esau.

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:**  
On a Point of Order, can I ask Honourable Venaani a friendly question?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Yes, please.

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:**  
Honourable Venaani, I know that you are the Leader of the Official Opposition Party.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Minority.

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:**  
Minority. I want to find out, were you not party to the determination of the formula of funding Political Parties here in Namibia? Can you please respond on that? Thank you.

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HON VENAANI**

**HON VENAANI:** I am not in Parliament because of your mercy, I was brought here by people just as you were brought here by people. I was party to the discussion, but I must make my concern to be heard by the country while we are accepting the formula the way it is. That is my right. Do you now want to take that right away from me just because I negotiated in the darkroom with you, I am no longer a politician that I am?

---

**HON MEMBER:** Calm down!

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**HON VENAANI:** Come on, do not ask me those questions, raise the bar.

I want to raise those issues that we need to work on in order to improve our democratic system because it is important that we raise them. Whether you like it not or whether you are uncomfortable with them, they are there and they are realities and we must respect them.

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**HON MEMBER:** It is time!

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**HON VENAANI:** I have unlimited time, but I do not want to abuse it.

Honourable Speaker, I want to tell this country that the Business Sector in our country should also follow suit because the subsidiaries of South African companies here are funding their democracies in South Africa. Do you want to show your new suit or what is your problem? *(Laughter)*

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HON VENAANI**

**HON SPEAKER:** Honourable Chief Ankama, on a Point of Order.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE**

**RESOURCES:** Yes, Honourable Speaker, on a Point of Information, my Brother Honourable Venaani, even if the Business Sector would have to fund Political Parties, firstly we should understand that we are the majority because we were elected by the majority. That is one.

It, therefore, means that even if the Business Sector had to fund Political Parties, there should be a formula that would definitely look at the majority still because the majority who are banking with the Business Sector that we are dealing with, for example, are members anyway.

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**HON VENAANI:** But there are masses out there who in poverty and are not banking.

---

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE**

**RESOURCES:** Whether banking or not, they are our members anyway so there should be that kind of proportion and you should understand that. Let me just explain, it does not make any sense (*intervention*)

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**HON VENAANI:** Take your own Floor. Do not explain these please.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE**

**RESOURCES:** Let me explain to you, it does not also make any sense,

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HON VENAANI**

for example, if we were to go to the Rallies with the Government cars, the petrol is still funded by the members who are inviting us because the majority who voted the SWAPO Party into power is the same majority who is inviting the SWAPO Party Members to address them.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Honourable Member, can I appeal, honestly speaking we have a Budget that must be finalised in good time. The way and the rate at which we are moving, it is a gentle appeal to Honourable Venaani – put your case on the Table. I do not want a dialogue.

---

**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Member, I must confess, has a new suit and it is a beautiful suit because he just rose to show his new suit, that is the thing.

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**HON MEMBER:** What about my jacket?

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, it is also a good jacket.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Let him get on with it please.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Speaker, I am raising a very important point. Honourable Ankama, take this into consideration; if the Business

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HON VENAANI**

Sector is using the same proportion because in South Africa they are funding Political Parties through the same proportionality and yet it saves Government of needed resources to expand the Political Parties funding because the business arm is also its paying its due to democracy. Therefore, there is nothing wrong to partner with the Business Sector to help Political Parties to stabilise our democracy.

Honourable Speaker, I want to say the following in conclusion, when we met on the discussions, we agreed that next year's consultation will take a different form. We accept the proposal as it is, but with an Amendment that next year the consultation will take a different form to look at real Political Parties' needs because one of the issues that is not properly addressed is the question of secretarial funding to Political Parties.

As we are speaking today, Honourable Speaker, we only have two Researchers for 46 to nearly 50 Members of the National Assembly and that element should be addressed in a Political Party Funding to help Political Parties and Members of Parliament to be able to execute their functions competently.

We, therefore, agree with the formula, but we want our reservation to be recorded that the Ruling Party is getting overly too much with the incumbency advantage and Chinese advantage. However, we agree that we support the proposal as it is with the Amendment that next year we are going to take a different route on this consultation.

Honourable Speaker, this is all I wanted to say, had this side of the isle listen to what I wanted to say. *Okuhepa.*

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. That last issue you raised is important in terms of every Political Party obviously. I was saying they have an opportunity to reflect on this issue further, it might not be 100%, so I think you made your case there.

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HON SCHLETTWEIN**

Honourable Hambyuka please. No, we will come to that, it is a different topic. Honourable Maamberua?

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**HON MAAMBERUA:** No.

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**HON SPEAKER:** So you are all covered? Thank you very much. Can I call upon the Honourable Minister, he might wish to reflect on this further. Any word of thanks?

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**HON MINISTER OF FINANCE:** Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members for the support that we have received. I can confirm that when we discussed the matter with the other Parties in the House, some issues were raised that were of the nature that Honourable Venaani raised now. In my response to those issues raised I informed that with the coming Legislative Provisions :

1. There is no discretion for the Minister of Finance to determine what the moneys are used for. So, whether the funds are for secretarial services or whether for any other activities, it is not up to the Determination to prescribe. The Political Parties must just give and inform us about their account, we pay in the money and they are then audited and it is accounted for in terms of another Provision of the Act. That was one point.
2. The point that the Ruling Party is often advantaged; again my response was that in terms of the Act, it is quite clear that the formula must be based on proportional representation. Again, there is no discretion to move away from that Provision and that is why we have crafted the formula as is.

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Honourable Speaker, on the usage of Government vehicles; I just want to inform that recipients of Government cars pay tax. It is a taxable benefit for a car that is worth N\$500,000.00, that tax amounts to N\$90,000 per year. This is a substantive amount that we, who are receiving these cars are paying. Equally, I think the allowance for Parliamentarians – they receive an allowance of N\$94,444 per year as transport allowance, which is a significant amount. I just needed to give information that the perception that the Executive use cars without refunding the State for the usage of those cars is incorrect. It is done through these taxes.

Again for information; I do not want to reopen the Debate but for your information, we have observed with interest that the United States Supreme Court has of recent ruled that funding of Political Parties, whether it is from donors or from the Private Sector is unrestricted. They have removed all restrictions and I think the reasoning was that if there are individuals, corporations or whoever who wants to further the interests of a Political Party, they should be free to do so and I think that was the basis of their Ruling – it furthers democracy.

With these observations and comments, I again thank the Parties for supporting the formula and agreeing to it. I thank you.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Any objection to the Motion being approved? Agreed to. Thank you very much. Notice of Motion? Honourable Hambyuka, you have the Floor.

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**MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY**

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS  
HON HAMBYUKA**

**HON HAMBYUKA:** Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 03, 04, 11, 12, 18, 24 and 28 of the *Appropriation Bill* be, in terms of Rule 90 of the Standing Rules and Orders, not interrupted, if still under consideration at 17:45. I so Move, Honourable Speaker.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you. Please submit the Motion Honourable Member. We move on with Messages from Head of State? Ministerial Statements?

There being none, the Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

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**RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE STAGE –  
APPROPRIATION BILL [B.5 – 2015]**

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**SECRETARY:** Resumption of Committee Stage – *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 – 2015].

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

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

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28 April 2015    **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 12**  
**HON SIOKA**

**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. Any objection? Who seconds? Agreed to. I now call upon the Deputy Speaker who is also the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

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**ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE**

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
The Whole House Committee is called to order. The Committee has to consider the *Appropriation Bill* [B.5 – 2015].

When progress was reported on Friday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2015, Votes 01, 02, 05, 06, 09, 17, 21, 23, 26, 29 and 30 had been agreed to and Votes 03, 04, 11 and 28 had been introduced.

Vote 12 – “**GENDER EQUAITY AND CHILD WELFARE**” – **N\$821,270,000.00** put for Introduction by the Honourable Minister, Honourable Minister you have the Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, let me at the onset express my gratitude to our President His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, for the trust and confidence he bestowed upon me, by re-appointing me as Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

In the same vein, I would also like to join others in this august House in congratulating Honourable Calle Schlettwein, the Minister of Finance and Honourable Tom Alweendo, the Minister of Economic Planning and Director-General of the National Planning Commission (NPC) and their

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teams for crafting and accommodating an inclusive Budget, aimed at tackling the needs of all women, men and children.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare commend the Government's commitment towards our people by putting in more efforts towards poverty eradication. This is a necessary step in improving human dignity of our citizens and we will do our best to deliver services.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, allow me to also in the same vein, extend my congratulations to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker for their elections, respectively and not forgetting my Colleagues who were elected to this House.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the Ministry is mandated to ensure Gender Equality and Equitable Socio-Economic Development of Women, Men and the well-being of Children.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is now my distinct honour, to present to this august House the Budget allocation of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare for the Financial Year 2015/2016. An amount of **N\$821,270,000.00 (Eight Hundred and Twenty One Million, Two Hundred and Seventy Thousand)** has been allocated to this Ministry. Out of this amount, **N\$807,580,000.00 (Eight Hundred and Seven Million, Five Hundred and Eighty Thousand Namibian Dollars)** is allocated for Operational Expenditure of the Ministry, while **N\$13,690,000.00 (Thirteen Million, Six Hundred and Ninety Thousand Namibian Dollars)** is allocated for Capital Expenditure.

Now allow me to outline the Budget Allocation for each individual Programme in the Ministry's Vote.

**PROGRAMME 01: POLICY SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES:**

The purpose of this Programme is to provide administrative support

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services, ensure efficient and effective service delivery, mainstream HIV/AIDS Programmes for staff members within the Ministry and strengthen coordination and networking at all levels. The Programme is also aimed at promoting ICT usage and access, improving staff competence, facilitating the development and acquisition of specialised skilled staff, construction, renovation and maintenance of Ministry's offices.

The following are the achievements of this Programme during the Financial Year 2014/2015:

- Completion of the renovation of the second tower of Ministerial Head Office (Juvenis Building) in the Khomas Region.
- Alterations and improvements to the Homes of Safety and Shelters in the Khomas Region.
- Renovations and improvements to the facilities of Namibia Children's Home and After School Centre in the Khomas Region.
- Renovations and improvement to the Regional Office in Opuwo, Kunene Region.

With the Budget cut this Financial Year 2015/2016, the Ministry will only be able to finalise current Capital Projects of: Epembe in the Ohangwena Region, Okatjali in the Oshana Region, Omuthiya in the Oshikoto Region, Sesfontein in the Kunene Region, Stampriet in the Hardap Region and will not embark on any new Capital Project this Financial Year due to underfunding.

A total amount of **N\$83,501,000.00 (Eighty Three Million, Five Hundred and One Thousand Namibian Dollars)** is allocated for this programme inclusive of capital projects.

**PROGRAMME 02. CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN**

This Programme is about providing Social Welfare Grants, to Orphans and Vulnerable Children, providing subsidies to Residential Child Care Facilities, managing shelters for the abused women, men and children, managing the operations of the Namibian Children and After School Centre, implementation of policies, standards and guidelines, provision of professional services and monitoring and evaluation of the Child Welfare Programmes.

The Ministry is taking care and protecting Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) under the age of 18 years due to conditions such as the effects of HIV/AIDS, poverty and general vulnerability.

This will assist our children to develop into confident and productive citizens as they grow up and that they will realise their full potential as citizens of this beautiful country.

Honourable Chairperson of the whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I am proud to announce that 170,816 children received grants during the Financial Year 2014/2015, which represent 85%. I am glad that amongst the Bills that were tabled to Parliament and passed last Financial Year; is our long overdue *Child Care and Protection Bill*. This Bill replaces the outdated *Children's Act*, 1960 (Act 33 of 1960) and provides an enabling environment for the care and protection of children in Namibia, which will be in line with the international standards, which Namibia ratified.

An amount of **N\$653,566,000.00 (Six Hundred Fifty Three Million, Five Hundred and Sixty Six Thousand Namibian Dollars)** is allocated under this Programme for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

**PROGRAMME 03: SUPPORT COMMUNITY AND EARLY  
CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT:**

The purpose of this Programme is to;

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- Facilitate the socio-economic empowerment of poor rural and urban communities through the provision of Income Generating Activities (IGA) start-up grants and micro-entrepreneur support system in order to contribute to community upliftment and improved livelihoods.
- The Programme also mobilizes and sensitizes parents and community members to be involved in early childhood care, education and development for children from 0 - 4 years of age. Early Childhood Development lays the foundation for learning, and prepares children for their future learning so that they become useful citizens and lead productive future lives.

The following are the achievements of this Programme during the Financial Year 2014/2015:

- 313 Income Generating Activities (IGAs) projects throughout the country were supported, in the form of equipments and materials, which benefited **2,783** people of which **1,818** were women.
- Some women were trained in production and business management skills, such as using beads to produce various products, leather processing and goat farming.
- Community Empowerment Centres were also equipped with materials, sewing machines for leather and computers aimed at empowering communities.
- 39,071 children were enrolled in community Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres; 350 ECD caregivers were trained, 806 caregivers were provided with monthly allowance, 98 ECD Centres (7 centres per Region) were provided with teaching/learning materials.

**An amount of N\$67,224,000.00 (Sixty Seven Million, Two Hundred and Twenty Four Thousand Namibia Dollars) is allocated for this Programme.**

**PROGRAMME      04:      PROMOTION      OF      GENDER  
MAINSTREAMING AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN:**

This Programme aims at promoting gender equality in all policies, operations and processes to ensure gender equality and equal opportunities for all, thus empowering women economically, socially and politically by creating conducive environment.

The Programme also aims at improving the status of women and girls, men and boys by ensuring equal access to all available resources for sustainable development. This includes the promotion of positive cultural practices and beliefs, gender research, development of gender responsive policies and Laws and to ensure that existing ones are reviewed or amended.

The following are the achievements of this Programme during the Financial Year 2014/2015:

- Namibia for the first time in history, saw an increased number of women elected to National Assembly in the November 2014 National Elections. Due to an increased awareness on 50/50 equal representation in politics and decision-making in the country, the Ruling SWAPO Party led by example by amending her constitution to accommodate more women. This is in line with the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development that calls for 50% women representation in decision making positions by 2015.
- However, Women's equal representation (50/50) in all areas of decision making structures is not yet fully achieved. Therefore, Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare will continue to advocate and lobby for 50/50 to become a reality in all spheres of life.

Colleagues, before I conclude, allow me to congratulate the down-to-earth man of SWAPO who have taken the step and pulled the *cow* – I am not saying the *bull*, by its horn and say – *in 2014 zebra style must be implemented*. We congratulate and salute you Colleagues. (*Applause*)

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**HON SIOKA**

Honourable Venaani, please listen to me, this is my message: in the same vein, Honourable Venaani, my Son – he is my son, I went to exile before he was born (*laughter*)

Honourable Venaani, let me extend my gratitude to your wife, when I was conducting this workshop, she was ever in attendance and made it a point that two women from the DTA came to Parliament. UDF also did the same. The lady you are seeing there, we were together and I influenced her to inform her colleagues to vote for her. For the Dear Party, it was good that they made it and my Aunt is back and for RP, we thank the old man for sending our Sister back. However, Colleagues, I am still urging you to amend the Law in order to bind all Political Parties.

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**HON MEMBER:** What about NUDO? (*Laughter*)

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** NUDO did not bring any woman. I will not say anything to anybody who did not bring a woman to Parliament. We have to make it a Law so that next time more women come to Parliament.

Now, let move on to Gender-Based Violence, a thorn in everybody's flesh.

- Violence against women, men and children is escalating to the extent that it is robbing us of the precious lives of our women. Women are being brutally killed at the hands of *some* men, but strangely, this is also the Programme that is severely underfunded.
- However, this should not deter us from working hard in bringing about a lasting change in people's mind set and to this end, the Ministry will continue to work with all stakeholders in the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the National GBV Plan of Action as



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**HON SIOKA**

well as the recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> National GBV Conference.

An amount of **N\$16,959,000.00 (Sixteen Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty Nine Thousand Namibian Dollars)** is allocated to the achievement of the daunting objectives of this Programme, which is very limited. Therefore, we need all stakeholders to fulfil the aspirations of NDP4 in ensuring a gender perspective in the implementation of their Programmes.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the valuable work and support of our development partners, as they continue to commit resources to the course of gender equality and child welfare, through various programmes such as capacity building and technical support in legislation, policy development, monitoring and evaluation of our Programmes. Amongst the partners that supports us are: UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN WOMEN and USAID through the President's Emergency Programme for AID Reliefs (PEPFAR), and others. Their support is very much appreciated.

It is now my humble honour to request this august House to approve the Budget allocated to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare under Vote 12 amounting to **N\$821,270,000.00 (Eight Hundred and Twenty One Million, Two Hundred and Seventy Thousand)** for the Financial Year 2015/2016, we will definitely continue to *do more with less*.

**Let us all work together to Stop Gender Based Violence and make Namibia a safe place for all!** I thank you for your attention.

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

Thank you, Honourable Minister for that very brilliant and brief Motivation of your Vote.

Vote 18 – **“ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM” – N\$642,521,000.00** put for Introduction by the Minister. Honourable Minister, you have the

Floor.

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**HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:** Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, permit me to share with this august House the Financial Year 2014/2015 achievements of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, and the Financial Year 2015/2016 Budget, as well as the prospects for the Sector during this Financial Year.

The mandate of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism is derived from Article 95 of the Namibian Constitution, which requires the State to ensure – *“maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilization of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future; in particular, the Government shall provide measures against the dumping or recycling of foreign nuclear and toxic waste on Namibian territory.”*

I believe with reasonable certainty that we are fulfilling this constitutional mandate. The Environment and Tourism Sector is increasingly contributing to the economic growth and social development of the country. Tourism is now recognised as the fastest growing Sector in the Namibian economy, and through NDP4 we have committed ourselves for Namibia to be the most competitive tourist destination in Africa by the end of NDP4.

The Ministry aspires to be a role model in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, promotion of natural resource-based livelihoods, environmental management and tourism development through innovation and partnerships.

To date a massive 44.5% of our total surface area is under some form of formal biodiversity conservation management.

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**HON SHIFETA**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I am satisfied that Namibia can consider itself a global leader in sustainable tourism. We recently hosted the *Symposium for the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism*, which is a global initiative launched in 2011 to inject sustainability principles into the mainstream of tourism policies, development, and operations. Our Programme is to certify environmentally friendly tourism establishments, known as Eco Awards Namibia, continues to grow from strength to strength with over 80 tourism establishments now certified.

The Ministry, through our marketing Statutory body, Namibia Tourism Board (NTB), has developed three new self-drive tourist routes, namely the Arid Eden (in Kunene Region), Omulunga Palm (through Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshikoto and Oshana Regions) and Four Rivers Routes (through Kavango East and West and Zambezi Regions). It is envisaged that these three new routes will unlock tourism opportunities for communal conservancies and remote areas, thereby enhancing the spread of benefits of tourism to rural communities. This will contribute to poverty alleviation and employment creation in line with Vision 2030.

Furthermore, Honourable Members, afford me an opportunity to highlight more achievements in this Sector. Moreover, Namibia's Tourism visitation continues to grow at international level. Several influential global publications reported, glowingly, on Namibia over the past year. The Lonely Planet named Namibia as its second best tourism destination in the world 2015. Namibia was elected as the 2015 Country Guest of Honour for the Common International Tourism Fair in France. The Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International recognised Namibia Tourism Board with Gold and Silver Awards for public relations excellence in the largest and most prestigious travel and marketing competition globally. Namibia and was presented with 5 Gold Awards and 2 Silver in various categories for its Northern American destination marketing project.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the statistics show that our marketing efforts are bearing fruits

with a steady increase in tourists arrival from around 984,000 in 2010 to 1,400,000 tourists in 2013. The 2014 statistics, which will be launched shortly, also show continued positive growth. Namibia Wildlife Resorts, which operates tourism facilities within our protected areas completed the major revamping of the Gross Barmen Resort in the Otjozundjupa Region that was officially opened in December last year.

The Naukluft Park Resort in Hardap Region was also upgraded and re-opened in December 2014, while the Duwisib Castle Lodge in the Hardap Region was reopened in January 2015. One hundred and twenty young Namibians have been trained in hospitality and are employed in these establishments.

Honourable Members, during the Financial Year 2014/2015, the Ministry made progress in the finalisation of the following policy documents, which aim to enhance the management of biodiversity and the broader environment:

- National Policy on Game Utilisation in Protected Areas and other State Land;
- National Policy on Conservation and Management of Large Carnivores in Namibia;
- Guidelines for Management of Conservancies and Standard Operating Procedures;
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan;
- National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan; and
- National Action Programme to Combat Desertification.

Our CBNRM Programme, which links biodiversity conservation to poverty alleviation, has grown to become one of the country's major development programmes. Namibia now has 82 registered Conservancies,

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**HON SHIFETA**

which cover more than 19% of the total national land surface.

Conservancies generate over N\$70 million every year in direct benefits to rural communities. Approximately 300,000 people, almost 13% of the country's population reside in Conservancies and benefit from this Programme, which has created 2,000 permanent and 3,500 temporary jobs.

During the year under review, the Ministry signed operator contracts to operationalise concessions awarded to the following communities:

- Nkasa Rupara (Wuparo Conservancy);
- Khaudum Concessions (Goerge Mukoya and Muduva Nyangana Conservancy) in Okavango West;
- Kazile Concession (Mashi Conservancy);
- Kwando Concession (Kwando Conservancy in Zambezi Region);
- Sheya Shuushona Conservancy in Omusati;
- Hobatere North Concession (#Hoadi //Hoas Conservancy) in Kunene;  
and
- 4x4 Guided Concession to Popyeni Safaris in Erongo.

Also two new head concessions were awarded to Ada Khaibasen Community in the Naukluft National Park and Kuiseb Delta Community which is across Hardap and Erongo Regions. These concessions range from traversing rights to development and operation of lodges and campsites in protected areas.

We continue to manage our wildlife based on the application of science through monitoring and research. A block count of rhino populations in Etosha National Park was conducted as well as aerial counts in Waterberg

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**HON SHIFETA**

Plateau Park, Mangetti National Park and in the Kaross and Hobatere sections of the Etosha National Park.

Honourable Members, it disturbs me to report that, in spite of all of our efforts, the illegal hunting of our rhinos and elephants has become a serious and increasing challenge.

The current illegal poaching activities, particularly of our rhino and elephant populations, needs to be urgently brought under control, particularly in the North-East Regions, Etosha National Park and the Kunene Region. The increasing scale and sophistication of poaching activities is a worrying trend and a very serious threat to our Tourism Sector, international reputation and the wider economy.

Comrade Chairperson, allow me to assure this august House that the Ministry will apply a zero tolerance approach to deal with this threat and we are prioritizing the reduction and ultimately the elimination of poaching. The Ministry is urgently establishing a dedicated anti-poaching department.

We are also strengthening our cooperation with relevant partners including the Army, Police, communities on the ground and the media. In the same vein, we will go out of our way to mobilize enough resources to address this threat, as we cannot allow poaching to escalate in this country.

Honourable Members, as we move towards the attainment of Vision 2030, industrial development continues to expand in Namibia. In line with the provisions of the *Environmental Management Act, 2007* (Act 7 of 2007), the Ministry continues to ensure that development takes place with the least possible effect on the environment. This is becoming more challenging with increasing volumes and types of waste being generated across the country. We are highly concerned with the untidy state of many of Namibian's towns, villages, informal settlements and roadsides, and will strengthen measures to arrest this situation in the Financial Year 2015/2016.

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As we have seen with the case of the Namib Customs Smelter, industrial processes can be highly harmful to human health and the environment. During the year under review, we have spearheaded the implementation of the Cabinet Resolutions on the smelter. This has included a medical assessment of over 3,000 staff, upgrades to the smelter facility to minimize harmful emissions and the exposure of staff, and the commencement of the process to establish a Namibia Institute for the Occupational Safety and Health of employees.

In addition, the Ministry has streamlined its processes of issuing environmental clearance certificates. About 260 Environmental Impact Assessments were processed during the period under review, while inspections were conducted to ensure that companies are adhering to the provisions of the Act and the implementation of their approved Environmental Management Plans. Over 50 sites were inspected countrywide including mines, quarries, sand mining operations and illegal tourism operations amongst others.

Honourable Members, it is important for me to use this platform to bring to your attention the importance of climate change, a problem generally agreed to have been caused by developed countries but one to which developing countries such as Namibia is especially vulnerable. We are now experiencing severe and more frequent droughts, which cripples both the Communal and Commercial Farming Sectors. Water shortages are now also a critical concern for the economy and we need to come up with innovative solutions so that we can counter these threats. This calls for increased budgetary provision across all Sectors.

At the international level, it is expected for a new climate change agreement to be finalised in Paris in December 2015. Namibia has been closely involved in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiation process and is leading calls for a deep cut in emissions from developed countries as well as an increased emphasis on support to adaptation measures for developing countries.

Honourable Members, investment in infrastructure is a key strategic

initiative of the Ministry. We completed the construction of the second phase of our Head Office in 2014. All Departments of the Ministry are now housed in one building, which has led to improved efficiency, accessibility of services to the public and cost savings. As the custodian of the environment, the Ministry lead by example by installing a roof mounted solar system at the new Head Office building. It is currently the largest solar system run by a Government Institution, producing a daily average of 1,050 kilowatts of clean electricity. Renewable energy systems are one way in which the environment can be an enabler and driver of economic growth.

The Environmental Investment Fund, through operationalisation of its Green Concessional Loans and soft loans, is also channelling support to the development of environmentally friendly products, green enterprises and the promotion of green jobs in the country.

During the year under review, the Fund supported a wide range of projects addressing food security and livelihood improvements, green technology and waste management as well as education and training in relevant academic areas.

The Ministry was privileged to have benefited from the Millennium Challenge Account Namibia (MCA-N), particularly in terms of infrastructure development in Etosha National Park. More than 95 staff houses were constructed to provide accommodation and a conducive and safe working environment for staff in the Park, while tourist roads were also upgraded and rehabilitated in a number of parks.

The Ministry has been constructing an elephant and predator proof fence covering the entire Etosha boundary since 2011. So far, 97 kilometres of the northern boundary fence has been completed. However, increasing damage to the southern and western fence has been observed in recent years due to activities by both elephants and communities, such that it is now in a very dilapidated state and in need of urgent attention. Our efforts to fight poaching in Etosha will be futile unless we upgrade this fence as criminals now have un-fettered access in and out of Etosha. Etosha is a



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key part of our National Heritage and an asset, which needs to be secured and protected.

The annual allocation of N\$40 million for this Programme is not sufficient as it translates into only 20 kilometres of fence construction per year. This means it will take the Ministry more than 10 years to complete the entire 824km fence. I, therefore, call for the allocation of adequate resources to this critical and pressing matter. Although we remain seized with this matter, I will be making a Cabinet submission in this regard in the coming weeks.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, permit me to present to you the budgetary allocation for the current Financial Year. The Ministry has been allocated a total of **Six Hundred and Fourty Two Million Five Hundred and Twenty One Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$642,521,000.00)** for the Financial Year 2015/2016. This amount represents:

- **Four Hundred and Eighty Nine Million Five Hundred and Twenty One Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$489,521,000.00)** for the Operational Budget; and
- **One Hundred and Fifty Three Million Namibian Dollars (N\$153,000,000.00)** for the Development Budget.

This year's overall allocation represents an 11% decrease on the allocation of the previous Financial Year. I would like to express my concern at this reduced allocation as it will mean that some of the targets set for the NDP4 for the Financial Year 2015/2016, based on the previous MTEF Allocation will have to be cancelled as these activities will no longer be sufficiently funded.

Tourism is a priority focus area under NDP4, and it continues to be an important generator of revenue, provider of employment, and vehicle for benefiting previously disadvantaged Namibians. It is, therefore, appropriate that sufficient and adequate resources a considered for this

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Vote to address critical challenges in the sector such as skills development, community-based conservation, infrastructure, environment protection and poaching.

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

**Programme 1: Wildlife and Protected Area Management,  
(N\$230,489,000.00)**

The funds under this Programme will be used for wildlife crime prevention and law enforcement in light of the ongoing challenge of illegal poaching. Under this Programme area, the Ministry seeks to conserve biodiversity for the benefit of present and future generations while managing human wildlife conflict.

Under this Programme, the Ministry will continue to support the Community-Based National Resource Management (CBNRM) Programme as an economic development and empowerment tool for rural communities through the consolidation and expansion of the Conservancy Programme and its support mechanisms.

**Programme 2: Protection and Management of Key Species and  
Natural Resources (N\$40,473,000.00)**

The Ministry will under this Programme conduct scientific research, surveys and monitor wildlife species and populations of ecological and economic importance. The Ministry will also involve local communities to expand wildlife conservation beyond state protected areas, through translocations of game to communal areas. Communities will also benefit through the awarding of tourism and wildlife concessions. Under this Programme area, the sustainable utilisation of wildlife throughout the country will be ensured through a rigorous system of permits and quotas.

**Programme 3: Tourism Development and Gaming**

An amount of **N\$84,750,000.00** was allocated to this Programme.

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The Ministry is in the process of finalising the National Sustainable Tourism Growth and Tourism Investment Promotion Strategies, and funds under this Programme will focus on their implementation as well as tourism marketing, regulation of the Gambling Industry and tourism research and statistics. Also under this Programme, a subsidy of **N\$50,000,000.00** and **NS20,000,000.00** is allocated to NTB and NWR respectively for support of their planned activities.

**Programme 4: Regulation of Environmental Protection and Sustainable Resources Management (N\$41,854,000.00)**

Under this Programme, the Ministry will continue to enforce environmental protection through environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments, environmental education, natural capital accounting, climate change adaptation and mitigation in the face of increasing drought events, as well as value addition to indigenous plant resources. This Programme will also seek to strengthen systems for the improved management of waste in towns and rural areas. Support will be provided to the Environmental Investment Fund under this Programme so that it is able to support community-based environmental projects and its Green Economy Programme.

**Programme 5: Planning, Coordination, Infrastructure Development, Maintenance and Monitoring and Evaluation, (N\$166,556,000.00)**

The funds under this Programme will be used for the further construction of the game proof fence in Etosha. In the face of increased poaching of elephant and rhino, consideration of increased resources to this project is needed.

Under this Programme, funds are requested for the development and maintenance of basic tourism infrastructure in the conservation areas and national parks, such as the construction of fencing, rehabilitation of tourist roads, construction of an office in Swakopmund and staff housing.

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**HON SHIFETA**

**Programme 6: Administration, Coordination and Investments**  
**(N\$78,399,000.00)**

The activities under this Programme are directed to administrative support such as human resource development, logistics and asset management and information technology.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, in conclusion, through the implementation of the above mentioned Programmes, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism continues to ensure that Article 95(1) of our Constitution is upheld.

At this juncture, let me take this opportunity to sincerely thank all my predecessors for their contribution to this important Sector. I also thank the Deputy Minister, Honourable Tommy Nambahu for his commitment and support.

I would further like to thank the Permanent Secretary, Mr Simeon Negumbo and his capable team for bringing the Ministry this far. NWR, NTB, Windhoek Country Club, Environmental Investment Fund and Zambezi Waterfront are also thanked for their tireless efforts. To our partners in conservation and tourism, thank you for engaging us and for your commitment to our shared goal.

I once again thank the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Honourable Minister in the Presidency in charge of the National Planning Commission and their staff for the allocation to Vote 18.

Honourable Members, I strongly seek your engagement and unequivocal support to this Vote. Therefore, I respectfully submit Vote 18 for your consideration. Thank you for your humble attention.

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

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**HON !NARUSEB**

Vote 24 – “**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT**” – **N\$4,468,823,000.00**  
put for the Introduction by the Minister. Honourable Minister, you have  
the Floor.

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

Honourable Members, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Minister of Finance, the Minister for Economic Planning and the National Planning Commission in the Office of the Presidency – if I do not have the sequence correct, please bear with me, and their staff members for having worked very diligently to table the Budget under which my Sector was also a beneficiary with the allocation that we have received.

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

Vote 24 is responsible for the oversight of the development of an efficient and effective transport infrastructure which contributes to the promotion of the country’s economic development and our attempt as a Nation at socially uplifting our people.

Namibia is daunted by the formidable task of maintaining the roads and railway lines due to flood waters during rainy season. Easy mobility for the people and Transport Industry remains our focus, therefore, maintenance and proper management of these Government Assets are a must and needs to be intensified and preserved.

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

Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, if you allow me, I now wish to present to you the Programmes

that will be discharged by the Ministry through the Department of Transport during the Financial Year 2015/2016 in order to ensure modern, efficient and reliable transport infrastructure in the Country:

### **Programme 1: Air Transport Administration**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole house Committee, Honourable Members, the purpose of this Programme is to ensure a safe, secure and efficient civil aviation infrastructure that contributes to the national air safety and security of Namibia. The Programme consists of four Main Activities, namely: Aircraft Accident Investigations; Government Air Transport Services; Civil Aviation Infrastructure Administration and Civil Aviation Air Navigation Administration.

#### **Aircraft Accident Investigations**

The Sub-programme Aircraft Accident Investigations is primarily responsible to fulfil the State's obligation towards Annex 13 to the Chicago Convention, to which Namibia is a signatory. The functions of the activity are amongst others to improve aviation Safety by determining the causes of Air accidents and serious incidents and making safety recommendations intended to prevent reoccurrence.

Honourable Members, for this Sub-programme, the Ministry would, with your kind indulgence, need an Amount of **Nine Million Four Hundred Forty Six Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$9,446,000.00)**.

#### **Government Air Transport Services**

This Sub-programme is tasked to provide a safe, secure and efficient air transport services to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency the Vice President, the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Government Officials and Foreign Dignitaries to local and international destinations.

Additionally the activity provides charter services to the general public

and special operations, including relief and rescue work when required throughout the country.

The VIP terminal at Eros Airport is being constructed under this Activity and the Ministry through myself, therefore, request an amount of **Sixty Six Million Eight Hundred and Sixteen Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$66,816,000.00)**.

#### **Civil Aviation Infrastructure Administration**

This Sub-programme ensures the implementation of the regulations in Namibia as well as the compliance of the regulations with the ICAO requirements; to ensure the compliance of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standards and recommended practices in Namibia.

In order to achieve the objectives under Civil Aviation Regulations, I would, therefore, request an amount of **Forty One Million Eight Hundred and Fifty Five Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$41,855,000.000)**.

#### **Civil Aviation Air Navigation and Infrastructure Administration**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Esteemed Members of this House, this Sub-programme ensures the construction and rehabilitation of Civil Aviation infrastructures. In addition, it is also responsible for service provision, and here we think about, Air Traffic Control, Aeronautical Information Services and Air Navigation and Technical Services and administration in compliance with the ICAO requirements.

In order to achieve the objectives under Civil Aviation Air Navigation Infrastructure Administration, which include Namibia Airports Company and Air Namibia, I request an amount of **One Billion, One Hundred Forty Six Million and Five Hundred Eighty Nine Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$1,146,589,000.00)** with the emphasis on only.

**Programme 2: Meteorological Services Administration.**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the main objective of this Programme is to provide meteorological services to the Namibian citizens and foreign nationals. In addition, it contributes to the safety and wellbeing of Namibians, to reduce the losses of their properties and to contribute to the sustainable economic growth of the *Land of the Brave*.

For this Programme, we request an amount of **Fifty Seven Million One Hundred and Sixty Four Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$57,164,000.00)** only again.

**Programme 3: Maritime Legislation Administration**

Madam Chairperson of the whole house Committee, Honourable Members, this Programme is to ensure the safety of life and property at sea; protection of marine environment from pollution by ships and to promote national maritime interests, I am sure the Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources is a very ardent supporter of the Programme.

I am requesting the approval and support of this august House, for an amount of **One Hundred and Fifty Nine Million, Seven Hundred and Eighty Nine Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$159,789,000.00)** only.

**Programme 4: Formulation Transportation Policy and Regulatory Oversight**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the aim of this Programme is to formulate and implement transport policies so as to ensure safe, efficient and effective mobility and universal access to Namibian citizens. It sounds like a toll order.

I, therefore, request an amount of **Seventy Five Million and Eight Hundred and Eighty Eight Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$75,888,000.00)**.



**Programme 5: Provision and Upgrading of the Railway Network Programme**

The purpose of this Programme is the upgrading and rehabilitation of our core national railway line network infrastructure in the Country. In addition, to support Trans Namib with adequate capacity of locomotives and all other equipments in furthering the provision of railway line services to the public.

For this Programme, an amount of **Nine Hundred Fifty Five Million and Five Hundred and Three Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$955,503,000.00)** is required to be allocated to the Railways Network Development, Maintenance and Rehabilitation Programme.

**Program 6: Planning and Development of Transportation Infrastructure**

Honourable Chairperson of the whole house Committee, Honourable Members, the purpose of this Programme is to develop and for the maintenance of roads in the country. This includes the construction of new roads, improvement of gravel roads to bitumen standard and maintenance of existing roads. The main objective thereof is to provide connectivity of rural communities to District Roads, to link the District Roads in rural areas as part of the National Road Network as well as the connectivity between Namibia and neighbouring SADC Member Countries. This Programme also includes the development and safety of air transport infrastructure as well as Maritime and inland water transport infrastructure.

Honourable Members, I, therefore, request for an amount of **One Billion Seven Hundred Sixty Eight Million and Eight Hundred Twenty Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$1,768,828 000.00)**.

**Programme 7: Provisions of Support Services of Vehicles, Equipment and Plant to Government**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable

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**HON !NARUSEB**

Members, the Ministry of Works and Transport needs to purchase vehicles that will be needed to conduct the Supplementary Registration of Eligible Voters and the Regional and Local Authority Elections that will take place towards the end of this year – I see the Director of Elections smiling here. Currently, there is a shortfall of 692 vehicles needed by our Electoral Commission.

I, therefore, request an amount of **One Hundred Eighty Six Million and Nine Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$186,000,9000.00).**

While I am concluding, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Members, allow me to register my profound gratitude to His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob for bestowing me with the privilege in appointing me as a Minister for the Ministry of Works and Transport. Equally, my deep sense of utmost appreciation goes to Former President Dr Hifikepunye Lukas Pohamba for entrusting me with full Ministerial status way back in March 2005. Similar sentiments is due to the Founding Father of the Namibian Nation, Dr Sam Shafiishuna Nuyoma for having appointed me then as the Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources in December 1997. I believe that their exceptional leadership qualities went a long way in shaping my persona as a worthy custodian of the trust so entrusted to me.

Last but surely not the least, if you allow me Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, a special word of recognition to my late Mamma – May her soul rest in peace, for her lifelong selfless dedication and guidance which was so crucial and instrumental in preparing me for life's challenges. By the same token my family, particularly my dear wife and children for their unconditional, caring and understanding support during my tenure in the service of the Nation. I can only beseech the Almighty to graciously bless us All.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Members, it is now my pleasure to submit Vote 24: **TRANSPORT**, to the amount of **Four Billion Four Hundred Sixty Eight Million and Eight Hundred Twenty Three Thousand Namibia Dollars**

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**HON !NARUSEB**

(N\$4,468,823,000.00) for your consideration and hopefully approval.  
Thank you for your kind attention.

**Summary: Vote 24 - Transport:**

<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Amount (N\$'000)</b>
1. Air Transport Administration	1,264,706
2. Meteorological Service Administration	57,164
3. Maritime Legislation Administration	159,789
4. Formulation Transportation Policy and Regulation Oversight	75,888
5. Provision and upgrading of the Railway Network	955,503
6. Planning and Development of Transportation Infrastructure	1,768,828
7. Provision of Support Services of Vehicle, Equipment and Plant to GRN	186,945
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,468,823</b>

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

Thank you, Honourable Minister, the paper is very attractive, brief and I think it is one of those that got you an A.

With that, I ask for your consensus whether we should go for tea or proceed. Tea? Then we can should just at least use ten minutes and come back. So adjourned.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:58**

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03  
HON MUTORWA**

**HOUSE RESUMES AT 17:20**

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

We are now entering into the discussions of Votes 03, 11, 28 and 04.

Vote 03 – “**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**” put for Discussion. Any discussions? I recognise, Honourable Mutorwa.

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

Thank you Comrade Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee for giving me the Floor.

I am simply rising to support our Vote and have some few questions Comrade Speaker, really for seeking information and support.

On Page 2 of your Motivation Speech with regard to the completion of the envisaged Parliamentary Building Comrade Speaker, you are informing us that this milestone project will be completed within a reasonable timeframe. I would like to find out what this reasonable timeframe is so that we can support to get that project through.

Then on Page 3 of your speech, there was **N\$5,000,000** budgeted for the renovation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum but unfortunately this project did not commence due to the fact that the recommended tenderer was disqualified. The next sentence is saying that – *the Ministry of Works and Transport will be requested to re-advertise*. I was just trying to find out, I thought the Parliament or the National Assembly as an institution with its Accounting Officer and administration, is able to advertise projects that are budgeted for under Vote 03 or is it so that the Parliament, in executing its projects, even in terms of advertising, it has to go to the Executive – maybe if you can just clarify that, Comrade Speaker.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON MUTORWA**

On Pages 3 to 4 a number of 13 Bills were passed, I know that we cannot blame the National Assembly. The National Assembly only deals with Bills that are brought here, but I was just thinking aloud whether there is any minimum requirement, for example, in our Rules and Conventions as to how many Bills the National Assembly is supposed to deal with per annum. Of course, the National Assembly waits for the Executive to bring the Bills here, but I just wanted to know if there is maybe a way that the National Assembly will also impress it upon us in the Executive.

Then on Page 4 – *Taking Parliament to the People*, is a very important project but I think Parliament, being what it is apart from taking Parliament to the people, they must also be taking the people to Parliament, particularly the young ones. I see there is a Paragraph, which I applaud, where young people are invited to Parliament to tours and so on, I think it is an aspect that we need to emphasise – *Taking Parliament to the People* but also bringing the people to Parliament for them to familiarise themselves with the workings of Parliament and so on.

Almost lastly, Page 4 of your Statement, Comrade Speaker, you are reflecting and you are reporting to the people, rightly so, that last year we did have a milestone workshop here that was hosted and organised sponsored by the National Assembly on Renewable Energy and we spent I think two days – it was a very good workshop. Then it is stated here that the deliberations of this workshop should culminate in a *Draft Bill* on the Renewable Energy in due course, which is something that I support, however, I just wanted to find out, considering that the workshop was organised by the National Assembly, is it expected that the *Draft Bill* will emanate from here since it will be historic in that sense? I will welcome that because the workshop was here, which resulted in the recommendations and we spoke so well. I know there is a Ministry responsible for Mines and Energy, but maybe working together with them, the question really is that it will culminate into a *Draft Bill*. Is it my understanding that the National Assembly will provide this *Draft Bill* as soon as possible also that we achieve the objectives of what we have agreed upon?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON MUTORWA**

Lastly, Comrade Speaker, on Page 9 – *The Parliamentary Service Commission*, I think it is something that we welcome too. The Parliamentary Service Commission will have an impact on the Secretariat Organisational Structure, but what is the progress in terms of putting in place a Parliamentary Service Commission?

On the same Page 9 on the *Parliamentary Village*, I am just adding my voice to that and not to agree with those who always couple public infrastructures to personalities. If there is a Parliament to be built here, there is this wrong perception that people associate such national infrastructure or facilities with the individuals who are currently Members of Parliament. If I look at this facility that we are using, it was conceptualised and it was constructed long time ago. The political ideology and objectives of those who constructed this, were completely different but it is a building that is being utilised by us in an independent Sovereign Namibia, serving us well.

The point is public infrastructures are very important because they are associated to State and the concept of a State - there is what is called the State is permanent other things come and go like Governments, but the State is permanent. Therefore, if we put up proper and solid infrastructures like this building, it will be an infrastructure that the generations that will come will utilise. Therefore, the issue of a Parliamentary Village, flags or whatever is absolutely important for the Members of Parliament when they come here, as the Deputy Minister has said earlier during the discussion of the Vote of Works. You are on a five year contract with the people of Namibia, maybe for us who are serving in the Executive it is different.

When they come here we do not expect them to construct their own houses but these will be State infrastructures, not individual infrastructures, meaning that people will come, the current generation of Parliamentarians and future generations will just come utilise them and so forth. Also, for example, when we have International Conferences organised by the National Assembly or the Parliament together with the National Council, and you invite Parliamentarians from other countries,

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON VENAANI**

instead of them being accommodated within hotels, they can be accommodated within such flats and Parliament will generate some income.

Today, I already saw people talking about – as if the Parliamentarians again with this short-sighted understanding of things, just look at what benefit them. This is not to the benefit of individual Parliamentarians, but it is to enhance the responsibilities and execution of duties of the Parliamentarians and for those who doubt, just go to the Constitution under Chapter 7, Article 63 that stipulates the *Functions and Powers* of the National Assembly – very heavy responsibilities and duties. Here we are, we are going to sit here up to I do not know when and, to end my story, these are facilities that are supposed to serve the current and future Parliamentarians who will come here and they remain State properties. All of us will go but they will outlive us like this Parliament, it was constructed long time ago but here this building is. We must thank those hands, hearts and heads that constructed this building, which can stand for many years to serve the independent, sovereign Namibia today. We must think long term. Comrade Speaker, I support the Vote.

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

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Venaani .

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, mine is also very brief. I rise to support our Vote. The Vote of the National Assembly a very important Vote. Coupled with that I just want to add my voice to what was mentioned by Honourable Mutorwa on the Parliamentary Service Commission. I think we must hit the ground running. Particularly, the reason why institutions such as Parliament are accorded the benefit of having a Service Commission is in realising the principle of separation of powers and by doing so helping these institutions to better look after people that are rendering services to it.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON VENAANI**

One of the issues that is disheartening are colleagues, what do you call this man in blue? Messengers, Sergeant at Arms – if you look at their basic salary of N\$2,400, people working for Parliament for years. If you look at Parliaments across the globe, the European Union, the People’s Congress in China, every where there is a system of a Service Commission to make sure that people working for these institutions are getting their fair share because they are rendering a particular important service to the country.

Honourable Speaker, I know both of you are newly elected, but we need to hit the ground running, making sure that we formalise the Parliamentary Service Commission. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the other day we had a Debate from the Table, the High Office talking about an interpreter that if you want to speak in your mother tongue you should organise a cousin of yours to come and interpret for you. That ought not to be the case and that is also not the general standard of Parliaments. It is the duty and honour of Parliament to have translators here, people who are trained to do that. Therefore, if I want to speak in English and want to go back to Oshiwambo or any other language that I want to speak, that translator must be there just to be able to catch what I am saying, whether I use an idiomatic expression or a proverb in my language.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Just proceed, you have the Floor.

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**HON VENAANI:** Can I be protected please?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Yes, you are protected.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON VENAANI**

**HON VENAANI:** This one Leader here is terrorising me. I think the question of interpreter, Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, should not be left at the mercy of Members because if you do that, you will create a bad precedent because you can bring a drunkard (*laughter*) Yes, it can happen, it is just the worst case scenario, you can bring somebody here who would be swearing at people because he is my translator. Therefore, Parliament, in maintaining its own decorum, must make sure that the people that we are appointing are professional people that can be able to execute certain functions.

Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I will hammer on this issue, and that is the question of security. If you look at what is happening with international Parliaments across the globe, they have become security targets and if you look at our Parliament – this place is not secured. A person can walk in here with a gun and do whatever he wants. This place is not secured. Right Honourable Prime Minister, you were not in the House last week, it is a reality. We cannot live as if we are living in a separate world from what we are seeing. We must make sure to increase our security.

Last week I was talking about the Prime Minister's Office, I am seeing cars parked in front of the door of the Prime Minister Office, Government cars. In this day and age, it is a security risk to do that. Our Parliament must really do something to make this place secure, especially the entrances on these two sides. We need to do more to make sure this place is secure because it is a national asset, National Leaders are sitting here and there angry people with different motives. People are angry at politicians even about things that politicians have no control over. Sometimes people are just angry at us and if you look at the general (*intervention*)

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** The General, me yes!

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON VENAANI**

**HON VENAANI:** Not the General (*laughter*) If you look at the retired General (*intervention*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Point of Order.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISABILITY SECTOR:**  
Leader of the Main Opposition Party, I would just like to provide a point of caution – by giving that kind of information here, are you not exposing us to the public about the current state of affairs here? Perhaps this is information that you could have given to the Speaker behind closed doors so that we do not expose ourselves because people who are listening out there may know by now what is going on here and start doing exactly what you are saying. Thank you.

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**HON VENAANI:** Well I would say your advice is good and I take it. I always take good advice, perhaps you have a point here, I disagree a little bit but I take your advice.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I also want to very briefly address (*intervention*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Point of Order.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON VENAANI**

**HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM:** On a Point of Information for my Young Brother; Honourable Venaani, I also want to caution you that some security matters need to be handled with caution, but I was also going to tell you that the people are not necessarily angry my Young Brother because when you were campaigning, you were sleeping in the *kambashus*, you were pretending to be sleeping in *kambashus* so people are not angry. The people welcome us in their midst, so let us be careful with our terminologies. Thank you. (*Intervention*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** It is fine you can ignore it.

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**HON VENAANI:** If you look at the general perception of society about governance and Leaders across the globe, in every society, you will find over 60% of people having no trust or little trust in their Leaders and governance. It is a general phenomenon across the globe. (*Interjection*) I will tell you why with time.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Honourable Member, do not respond to that.

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**HON VENAANI:** It is Parliament, do not worry.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** No, no they must stand up.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON VENAANI**

**HON VENAANI:** That is the essence of Parliament, we should talk to each other.

I wanted to address a very important point and that is the question of Motions that are adopted in the House. I will hammer on this point until we find each other. Motions should have direct applicability when they are adopted. I really want the Honourable Speaker or the Chairperson to make sure that this House is not relegated to a talk shop and lose its constitutional relevance by being a House where we talk and adopt Motions without direct applicability. I agree with the argument that the Right Honourable Prime Minister always advanced over the years that when we adopt Motions with financial implications we should also put the language (*intervention*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Point of Order.

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**HON VENAANI:** Executive dominance!

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
No, it is just to agree with what you are saying. Comrade Deputy Speaker, the Colleague is making a very important point, may I pose a question so that he can maybe just elucidate on what he is saying?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Yes, you can continue.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON VENAANI**

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

Honourable Venaani, when we had the Induction Workshop here, one of the items was the issue of updating and strengthening the Standing Rules and Orders because the point that you are making, and I agree with you, is not provided for in the current Rules, would it not be good if you have not done it before already, that in the effort of strengthening the Rules you can bring up so that it is incorporated in the Rules? I support you but would you not agree with this question?

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**HON VENAANI:** No, I do not agree because it is not the Rules that are problematic, it is the culture. However, we can have another argument about it. It is very important that we do not come to Parliament to make it another talk show. It must have weight and meaning. If we agree on something here it should be taken on. I remember that I, successfully, brought important Motions that were adopted by the House, but as we are speaking now, they are collecting dust. No person has ever worked on them. *(Intervention)*

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

Point of Order?

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:**

Honourable Venaani?

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, Cousin.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON VENAANI**

**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:**

We were together, I remember the time we came, the Public Parliament Access Centre (*intervention*)

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**HON VENAANI:** Are you talking about the Public Accounts (*intervention*)

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**HON MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES:**

No, the Parliament Access Centre was adopted in this House some years ago. What happened to it? It is funded every year, but where does the money go?

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**HON VENAANI:** I think we are saying the same thing in different ways in order to strengthen the relevance of our work and the National Assembly as it is supposed to be and as the Legislature intended it to be when we adopted our Constitution at the advent of our Independence.

Lastly, I want to give credit where it is due. I want to give credit to the library, some of us are ardent readers and our library has improved. It really looks good, there are some improvements, but there are some key documents, key papers, key books that should be in a Parliamentary library, books like Federal Papers, Montesquieu teachings and all these things must be there. I, therefore, think we should try not to forget that while we are improving, we make sure that we really pull up our socks because what we have done with our library in the last five years, Honourable Chairperson, was marvellous but we can do more to make sure that when a Parliamentarian or a Minister walks into the Parliamentary Library, you would be able to access important documents that really matters in a life of a Legislator. With these few remarks, I support our Vote.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON DIENDA**

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

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Dienda.

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**HON DIENDA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee (*intervention*)

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**HON MEMBER:** You are looking after the President.

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**HON DIENDA:** Always. I do not know why. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I just have four questions. The first question is on Page 18 on the *SADC Parliamentary Forum Building* for which we budget N\$3,700,000.

Honourable Speaker, I just want to know funding, according to this book, is only coming from our Government for the upgrading of this building. I agree with it, but my concern is whether there is no way that we can get money from other SADC Countries because they are also making use of these facilities, it is also their building, instead of only the Namibian Government contributing money towards it? This is my first question.

My second question Honourable Speaker, is on Page 48 of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and it is about personnel expenditure and my concern is that the under spending on personnel expenditure is very high; did you solve the situation currently, because we have more than 78 Members of Parliament now. This means that the workload is even higher; did you do something by appointing more staff members in this crucial areas?

Question number 3; Honourable Speaker, is coming from my heart as a Member of Parliament who went and came back. It is on the provision

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**HON EKANDJO**

made for outreach visits. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the problem I have with these outreach visits is that we do not give feedback to the people when we come back. We go there, discuss matters, prepare Reports which are being tabled in the House or sent to different Ministries, but no feedback is given to the people whom we have consulted as stakeholders. I just feel that we need to make provision for that part as well. You will find that another group will go and ask the very same questions again and the people are really becoming irritated with us because instead of giving them feedback we go and ask the same questions again.

Question number 4; here I agree with Honourable Mutorwa who was talking about taking Parliament to the people. Honourable Speaker, I want to add there; what is the possibility of sending questionnaires and suggestions to ask the public to comment on issues where they have a platform to bring this information to Parliament? That is also another way of participating in what is happening here in Parliament. Honourable Speaker, I support your Vote. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIR PERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Minister, Jerry Ekandjo.

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**HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of The Whole House Committee. Mine is just to emphasise my support for the Vote and also what Comrade Mutorwa has said regarding the new Parliament because future generations might come up with other ideas.

In the early 90s, the chairs in this Parliament were just benches in a form of a workshop. That is how this Parliament was in the 90s because that was the idea of those who constructed the building at the time. We came and made changes to the way we are sitting now. However, this is not



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HON EKANDJO**

enough because, as you can see, we have Members who are sitting very far in the corner there, we cannot even see them. I do not think it is proper for elected Members to sit there.

The Opposition does not like the idea because they are very few and they are just sitting in front here (*laughter*). However, for some Honourable Members we sometimes have to wear our glasses to see where they are since they are sitting in dark corners. I, therefore, think it is proper for us to have a new building that can accommodate all the Members. Twenty years from now, the future Parliamentarians might come up with an idea of having one House of Parliament instead of the current two Houses. They might also change the Constitution because in 1989, after the election that was supervised by the United Nations Transition Group (UNTAG) when the current President was the Chairperson of the Constituent Assembly, he asked the Party that was elected during that time to provide their Draft Constitution and SWAPO provided theirs which was in favour of one House of Parliament. Maybe the future generations may have the same idea, therefore, it will be prudent to build a bigger Parliament building that can accommodate as many Members as possible. The future Parliament might even have 200 Members of Parliament and we will have one building to accommodate them.

My question to the Honourable Speaker is; we have the Parliamentary Hearings – when Bills or Motions are referred to the Parliamentary Committees, these Committees in turn hold hearings and consultations with the populace after which the recommendations and/or findings are brought back to the National Assembly before being referred to the Second House of Parliament, the National Council. In their wisdom, the National Council also takes the same matter to the people outside whereupon the people say – *but you were here two weeks ago and we gave you our ideas, now you are back again*. Then they have to explain saying – *no it was not us, we are from the National Council and they were the National Assembly*. Is there no way of combining the Parliamentary Committees of the two Houses to form one team in order to avoid duplication of efforts when conducting hearings and consultations outside?

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**HON SIMATAA**

I think this happened in the past where they would take their idea to a town or village in a Region, for instance, Katima Mulilo in the Zambezi Region. They would talk to the people who would provide their input. When it goes to the National Council, they would say – *let us go to Katima Mulilo again* and these people would in the end say – *but you are confused because we already gave you our ideas* and they have to explain that theirs is the second House of Parliament. It is just a thought to perhaps sleep over and see if we can have one joint Committee instead of having these many Parliamentary Committees. Almost in the same fashion as the delegation going to, for example, the IPU where in most cases they represent both Houses as one group. I suggest that if the matter is dealt with by the National Assembly and referred to the Parliamentary Committee to conduct a hearing, the Committees of both Houses should hold on until the matter is discussed in the National Council before they depart as one team. Otherwise, I support Vote. Thank you.

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

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Simataa.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:**

Thank you very much Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. There are three issues that I wanted to touch on and a couple of them have already been raised by those who spoke before me. In advance, I am submitting my support for this particular Vote.

On the issue of Motions, I fully associate myself with the sentiments that were expressed by Honourable Venaani and I recall that a year or two ago, I made similar pronouncements in this Chamber on the issue of Motions. Motions are brought to this Chamber, they elicit substantive discussions and then at the end of the day, and some of them by the way, are very useful Motions – Motions that I have seen from my experience, limited as

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON SIMATAA**

it is, that have enjoyed support on both sides of the Chamber and at the end of our deliberations there are really credible suggestions and proposals that are made, some of which are simply left to gather dust. I think we need to focus on this soberly, for a lack of a better word, so that we can find better ways of ensuring that the conclusions that are arrived at after extensive deliberations on some of the more progressive Motions, can indeed be taken forward.

I am one of those Members in actual fact who has voiced my displeasure in terms of repeat Motions being tabled in this Chamber but because we do not do justice to the outcomes of our deliberations on these Motions, it is no wonder why Honourable Members keep on coming back because the intention is that they want to see sound outcomes being acted upon. Honourable Members, I think we need to reflect on that.

On the construction of a new Parliament building, once again many other Honourable Members had spoken on this. By the way, this project is long overdue. I was once a staff member here and those were years and years ago, I am now into my second stint as a Member of Parliament. This is a project that we started during the time of the late Mose Tjitendero and I was then a staff member here. Honourable Dr Kameeta is also here and he can bear testimony to that. When we conceived the idea of constructing a new Parliament building, including a Parliament Village for Parliamentarians by then, the cost implications were manageable now we are paying the consequences of delayed decisions and that is what you get when you delay your decision. Decision have got serious economic consequences. We need to factor that in our deliberations so that we must stop being emotional and opportunistic by contaminating very clear issues unnecessarily so.

As you look at us now, how many are we in this Chamber? At Independence how many Members did we have? 76, and today the Ruling Party has got more than those 76 Members, just the Ruling Party alone. We have more than 76 Members. This Chamber is not suitable for Parliamentary Debate, I am talking while having people behind me whose facial expressions I cannot even see. I cannot see whether they are happy

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**HON SIMATAA**

or angry. Some are in corners.

The space that we have here is not conducive, we cannot continue operating in the stone ages, we cannot. We really need a functional Parliament. I, therefore, simply wanted to add my small voice to those issues and make a point that, inasmuch as we have got other burning issues, let us not forget to construct a functional infrastructure that will stay the test of time. It is infrastructure, as Honourable Mutorwa indicated, that does not belong to any one of us, it is an institution that belongs to Namibia.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Point of Order. Yes?

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**HON DIENDA:** May I ask the Honourable Member a question?

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

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Simataa, you are speaking so nicely but whom are you actually blaming for that because you are saying you cannot look at the person behind, I can also not see the person behind me. We cannot blame each other, so whom are you blaming?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
He is just emphasising.

---

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON MUHARUKUA**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Thank you very much. I am not blaming anybody, I am just indulging in what I prefer to call constructive discussion.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
And highlighting the importance.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** And also correcting some of the expressions that I have read in the media to say, we must be forward looking. Let us not deal with issues with our minds focused on today because tomorrow, whether you like it or not, will come and when tomorrow comes, it will find you ill-prepared. On that note, thank you very much, once again.

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

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Let me use this opportunity to publicly air my condolences for the Kamburona family, including my personal Friend Himeezembi Kamburona for the loss. I, in the face of the loss, not very long ago also lost my own uncle Ken Muharukua. The pain is immense and I do sympathise with them.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, coming back to the issue, I am a progressive.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON MUHARUKUA**

**HON MEMBER:** A progressive what?

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Yes, I am a progressive, and I would want  
(*intervention*)

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**HON MEMBER:** A progressive General?

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Can I be protected, Honourable Chairperson of  
the Whole House Committee?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Yes, proceed, you are protected. Can you please listen?

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** I would love to see Namibia develop.

---

**HON MEMBER:** Can the Honourable Member explain himself?

---

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Yes, he will come up with the explanation and give the reason why he said  
he is progressive. Order please!

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON MUHARUKUA**

**HON MUHARUKUA:** Yes. Allow me explain. I would love to see Namibia develop. I would love to have the pride of Namibia having its own infrastructure. I am also a Patriotic Namibian. I am patriot to the effect that when I was younger when we sing the Namibian (*interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** But you are still young! (*Laugther*)

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** I am young now but I was younger then (*interjections*). Yes, when I was younger and we would sing the Namibian National Anthem, I would just get goose bumps on my skin, that is how much I love Namibia. I love Namibia so much that I would love to see it have its own identity, a face of its own. It is true, but at the same time I am also a realist. I did not go to Swakopmund in the recent years because there was drought – I prioritise and my money went to the cattle, so do I think that we must prioritise.

It is not so much that people like myself and some of my fellow young people say that – *it is not yet time to build a new Parliament*. Yes, we have more pressing issues and we must prioritise. We have had a drought for the past four years, would the money not (*interjection*) Honourable Royal /Ui/o/oo, please listen. Am I protected?

---

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Yes, proceed.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Please listen to the opposing views and then do what you want to do afterwards.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03  
HON MUHARUKUA**

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

While you are there, a Point of Order. Can we listen?

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**HON NEKUNDI:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Could the Honourable Muharukua scientifically provide to this august House the programme which has been neglected and by which margin it is compared to the Budget of the country?

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Honourable Chairperson, I would have thought the more prudent course of action could have been for my Honourable Colleague to first request whether I would want to take a question or not but nonetheless, I was going to answer that anyway. Let me proceed, we have been having a drought (*intervention*)

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

Point of Order.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD**

**WELFARE:** Can I ask the Honourable Member a question?

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

Do you accept the question?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03  
HON MUHARUKUA**

**HON MUHARUKUA:** I will give time for questions but for now, I will proceed. Yes, thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Did you decline?

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** We have had a drought for four years  
(*intervention*)

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**HON MEMBER:** You are a coward! (*Laughter*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Senior Member, that is not Parliamentary.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** I will not heed to the attempt to derail my contribution, I will proceed, General.

---

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Yes, proceed.

---

**HON MUHARUKUA:** Yes. We have had drought in Namibia for four years, if you have not seen it (*intervention*)

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON MUHARUKUA**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Yes, Point of Order.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:** On a Point of Information; I just want to share this information with the Members. According to the Standing Rules and Orders, our SWAPO Party Members are not supposed to sit there on the other side. According to the Rules and Orders they have to sit on the right-hand side of the Speaker. Thank you.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Honourable Chairperson, where is the Point of Order there? Where is the Point of Order? Please, Honourable Chairperson (*interjections*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Yes, proceed with your point. Order Colleagues!

---

**HON MUHARUKWA:** We have had drought for the past four years and we are feeding people with maize from Nigeria. Yes, we are feeding people with maize that is donated to Namibia. Would the money that we would want to pump into this Project not go a distance in feeding our own people? (*Intervention*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Point of Order. Colleagues, can we listen to one another? Yes?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON MUHARUKUA**

**HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE:** May I ask the Honourable Member a small question? Just to emphasise what the Honourable Deputy Minister Witbooi has said, for instance, when we refer to the you, the Honourable Members on the other side, we are pointing this way, but now the majority there are SWAPO Members as if they are part of the Opposition. I now say – *you on the other side*, it means that I am including the SWAPO Members as well because they were supposed to sit on this side. Now it is forming a U on the other side (*interjection*)

---

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Can we give him a chance?

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, perhaps I am new and I stand to be guided, the two purported Points of Order raised by the two Honourable Colleagues, are they Points of Order or are they things that they have to rise and say during their own contributions?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Member, just proceed with the point you would like to make.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Yes, we are feeding our people maize donated by Nigeria. Is it not perhaps time or would that money not go a long distance in providing our people (*intervention*)

---

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON MUHARUKUA**

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

Between the two of you, who was first? Should I give the opportunity to the lady? Yes, can you proceed with your Point of Order?

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**HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD**

**WELFARE:** Thank you very much, Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I am providing information: According to the Rules of this House, information is allowed, so it is what I am rising on. There is nobody who can blame me, if I want to ask a question, I can ask a question.

Now this is information that I am providing – the SWAPO-led Government is ready and the President reiterated that – *nobody will die of hunger in this country*. The Government is ready to build (*interjections*)

Give me chance, nobody would die of hunger. Listen here, I was the Deputy Speaker and a Chief Whip, so I have the experience in this House and I know the Rules, that is why I am standing here. It is a Point of Information.

The Government of Namibia is ready to take care of its people. During the drought period, whoever has crops or products, in whatever place, we are ready, we should, therefore, not delay the development, that is what Honourable Simataa mentioned that the more we delay, the more expensive things become. We will not be able to build any Parliament if we continue saying that – *we are waiting for the right time*.

Secondly, when we were fighting for this country, we were fighting non-stop throughout all seasons – winter, summer, whether it was raining or not and during the day or night, so why should we be given the right time?

There was no right time then. We are, therefore, ready to build a Parliament for these people. We cannot be kept hostage because of *the right time*, no, the Government is ready. Thank you, Comrade Deputy

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HON MUHARUKUA**

Speaker.

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

Honourable Muharukua, proceed and try to conclude. Honourable Members, I would like to humbly advise that the time is against us. Let us try our level best to limit our interventions.

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**HON VENAANI:** Why are we limiting?

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we in Namibia are asking our old people to use the money that they receive as pension to collect the drought relief food. Would the money that you are pumping into this programme not go a long way in obtaining this much needed food for these elderly people?

---

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

No, Colleagues, let us please take time into consideration. Honourable Chief?

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** We are talking about poverty.

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

Honourable Dr Ankama, I am not allowing further interventions.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON MUHARUKUA**

Honourable Member, because of time can you please round up, since you only have one minute of your ten minutes left.

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**HON MUHARUKWA:** Honourable Chairperson, I have only made one point, if my time lapses, tell me to sit down and I will rise again.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
No, I am not going to allow information any more please. (*Interjections*)  
Later please. Just conclude, Honourable Member.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Perhaps I will conclude with one point, but I will come back.

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

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** We have young people, single mothers, young professionals and people who are renting at the back of other people's homes because we have no serviced land. Could the money that we want to pump into a Parliamentary Village not go a long way in servicing land?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
You can come again. Order! I recognise, Honourable Manmbe-Ncube. I will give the chance to the Deputy Minister of People Living with

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03  
HON MANOMBE-NCUBE**

Disabilities. Senior Members, I do recognise that but can we now give a chance to the other Member who has asked for the Floor?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISABILITY SECTOR:**

Thank you, Honourable Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee for the opportunity.

If you allow me I would, first, like to start with the preamble that *disability is an evolving concept and it results from the interactions between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on equal basis with the others.*

Having said that, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I would like to remind ourselves that we are signatories to the legal instruments that have been passed in this House and for those who know, since I have been in this House, I have always been contributing to this Budget Debate. Perhaps other people have been talking about other languages such as Nama, Otjiherero and Oshiwambo and so on, but I have been talking about specific languages such as the sign language and Braille. We have people with hearing impairments and how will they be on equal footing if they cannot follow the Debate that is being discussed here in Parliament? They cannot even come and sit here in the gallery because they cannot follow the Debate and there is no interpretation. I have been saying this since I have been in this Parliament but it seems like it is falling on deaf ears, nothing has happened and I am also seeing that it appears nowhere in the current Budget, meaning that it has not been budgeted for.

Even for the visually impaired people, the Hansard does not come out in Braille, they can, therefore, not read the Hansard and follow what is happening in the development of the Parliamentary discussions. Hence, we are having the notion of no Namibian must feel left out, I think these

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**RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

Namibians will feel left out if they are unable to follow the Debates in Parliament.

Also, when taking Parliament to the people, during these gatherings, provision should be made for sign language interpretation so that the people can listen to what Parliament is taking to them. I would also like to support the construction of the new Parliament building for the mere fact that it will have enough space. I believe that with the political will that exists in this country, they would accommodate booths for the interpretation of different languages. For those of us who want the use of other languages in Parliament, the new building can make provision for interpreters when it is built. I so submit, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and I support our Vote. Thank you.

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

Thank you. I recognise the Right Honourable Prime Minister.

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I have listened very carefully to the points that were raised by various Members of Parliament and the issues that were raised are very important and are not new but they are issues that we have raised on several occasions before. I have suggested and would really like to implore us to consider this suggestion today with regard to how we can maybe deal more effectively with these issues that we are raising here.

We are commenting on the Programme of work of Parliament, specifically for the National Assembly and expressing ourselves on whether it is adequate to enable the House to fully carry out its mandate. I want to suggest that we should use the Committees that we have, first and foremost to scrutinise the proposals that come from our technical staff



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**RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

who constitute the Secretariat of the National Assembly. We can review the proposals that they have put in place or we can even change the approach and say that the Committee would first meet and define the issues that we consider should be the priority for the Programme of Parliament and we call the Secretariat to elaborate on these and come up with an action plan, which we will adopt and make sure that it is the basis for the budget request that the Secretariat should present on our behalf to the Ministry of Finance.

I do not really think that we are going to be able to achieve what we want if we take the platform of the Parliamentary Debate on the Budget to pinpoint the shortcomings and the strengths of our own Medium Term Plan because this is actually what we are doing. In my view, this Programme that is contained in the Medium Term Plan, should not be different from what we want it to be. The Secretariat has no mandate to say what Parliament should do. I think they are only trying to assist us and the only way we can guide them, effectively, is to find time outside of this platform and take ownership of this process to make sure that this how we want this Programme to be.

We will then ensure that the Strategic Plan of the National Assembly reflects what we consider to be the priority of the House as well as the annual plan and, therefore, the Medium Term Plans and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. If we can agree on that and start from this year in preparations for next year's MTEF, I think we would probably be able to ensure that what we would like to have is achieved.

With regard to the issue of the Reports and Motions that are adopted by Parliament not being implemented, I would like to suggest again here that we use the Committees to make sure that when we are fielding missions to familiarise ourselves with the implementation of Programmes or with the situation out there, we coordinate with the Political Principals in the Executive. I know that most of the time the officials are aware when the Parliamentary Committees are undertaking missions, but most of the time the Political Principals are not aware, and you find that sometimes

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**RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

the Political Principal is surprised to hear the conclusions of these missions and the content of the Reports that are tabled in the House and consequently you have a Debate between the Committees and Ministers. The Minister may be saying that the Report of the Committee is not accurate because the he/she did not have the opportunity to engage this Committee and make sure that first and foremost the information that is provided is accurate and that the recommendations by the Committee for adoption by Parliament are such that the Ministry would be in a position to implement them.

I think this is a matter that requires consultations to ensure that there is mutual ownership of the Report that we are going to adopt in this House by all Members considering that we have Executive Members of the House and Non-Executive Members. If you have a situation where the Non-Executive Members would come with these Reports and the reports are adopted and then later on the Executive Members are disputing or are asking questions about the Reports then you are not likely to have a situation where these Reports are fully implemented.

It is also important that, after the reports are adopted, there is also an opportunity for us to engage the relevant Ministries to establish progress with the implementation of the recommendations that are adopted before we come to the House. This is not to say that we cannot Debate these issues on the Floor of Parliament, I am just saying that we are more likely to get results if we utilise our Committees to discuss issues and to follow up on matters than if we leave them to the Budgetary Debate.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I would like to ask the Prime Minister a question?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Yes, ask me a question. Oh, should I sit down?

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**RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

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

Thank you. No, it is fine, I will comment later, just proceed or are you through?

---

**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Yes, I think I am through.

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

I would like to comment with the permission of the Speaker. Yes, I can.

On many occasions, I stood up to emphasise that we are supposed to do something concerning the recommendations adopted by this House. I was proposing that, apart from an individual Committee following up on the recommendations that were adopted, I was proposing that, taking the enlarged structure of the Executive into consideration, the Office of the Right Honourable Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister be tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that adopted recommendations are implemented. Some strong Committees can succeed with some Ministries while others cannot. Some people may find it difficult to go to their own Ministries and say – *you know that Parliament has passed this recommendations to do a, b, c and d and they must be implemented*, and some of the Committees are weak.

Some time ago, there were recommendations on Defence Infrastructure and that Ministry has done its level best and to make sure that the recommendations were followed through. This may not be true with others. I still propose that there be a structure within these three Offices to ensure the implementation of these recommendations, you can maybe discuss this. Thank you.

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**RT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER:** I like that comment highlighting the need for us to have an in-depth discussion of issues that

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**HON NAMBAHU**

are important outside the platform of a Budget Debate, that is the point I am making. We convene through one of the Committees and discuss the approaches, and the issues at hand and then we agree, because it will not be possible for us to deal with them here during the Budget Debate. That is what I am proposing.

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

Thank you and sorry for that intervention. I recognise Honourable Nambahu. Both microphones are on.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**

Yes. Let me just explain these two microphones function as one, if one is not working you can see both of them flashing. That is how handicapped this bench is although I am a veteran on this side. Honourable Members, you have to bear with me because this card here does not work and I am not going to dwell on that.

Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee for allowing me the opportunity to make a contribution. In the first place I want to register my support for this very important Vote and I only have two points to make.

Firstly, since the Prime Minister is my Senior, I would not want to say I take her views as if they were my own, but rather say I would want to align my view and my speech to those of the Prime Minister.

One thing that we have been debating here and talking about a lot is the status of the Debate and the outcome of this. If a person were to ask you, what happens after you Debate? I am sure none of you would have an answer. After you are heard, after you have vented out your anger and provided your recommendations, those become non-issues because they have no legal status, no one is obliged to take them on. The one that is good-willed will listen and hear that but there are no mechanisms in place

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**HON NAMBAHU**

to capture and make any one accountable to the recommendations that emanate from here. We have been saying these things, even while we were seated in those Committees and so on. I think it is time that we really conduct a thorough investigation and question all these approaches.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Which approaches?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**  
The ones of just having the Debate without attaching any status to the outcome of that.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Without following up. Okay.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**  
Comrade Deputy Speaker, Honourable Speaker, on the Budget Motivation Speech of the Speaker on Page 7, *Programme 1 – Legislative Management* and the second one is *Coordination*.

On Legislative Management, I am sure it is not only legislation that takes place on the Floor of this Parliament, there are Petitions, there are questions, there are Reports, where do we manage those? I am not blaming anyone but simply inviting you to think, what is the outcome of those? If there is a person who is responsible for managing legislation what happens to the Debate? Can there not be management of the Debates? Maybe we are not articulate enough, what he trying to say is perhaps that a person can still scrutinise the Hansard and get out of that,

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**HON NAMBAHU**

things that are useful and channel them to somewhere so that it becomes consequential. If we are not able to investigate, scrutinise and analyse so that we can come up with an effective way of making these things, we will not be able to get anywhere. Therefore, I invite you and I want to rest my case on that and go to the next point.

The next one is actually orientation. It is good that there was some orientation when we came here, but I think we need to deepen the content more of what we are being orientated on and sometimes if you have been in Parliament for maybe the last twenty years, it becomes a bit boring to come and hear the same things over and over. Therefore, we must be innovative, come up with things that are stimulating.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Which one are you referring to?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**  
I am talking about the orientation.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Do you mean induction?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**  
Yes, induction or whatever name we give it.

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

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**HON NAMBAHU**

**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**  
Yes, whatever name we call it.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** It is called induction.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**  
Alright. Induction. Thank you very much.

However, my point is here; even in Government you will find a person (*interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** Page?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**  
Page 7. When you find a person (*interjection*) Can we place an *okafuma* (a tiny frog) somewhere so that someone can jump.

The point I am trying to make is this, can we go on orientating or inducting ourselves somewhere, where we familiarise ourselves with the peripheries when we do not know how they core works? Can we not put it on our Programme as well, to go into the Ministries and acquaint ourselves with how these mechanisms work because how else will you be able to comprehend a system which you have not visited? It is a point that I think should really be made and also when people give Motivation of their Budgets we should familiarise ourselves with how they are structured. What structure do you have in place in order to implement that what you are asking for?

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON KAVEKOTORA**

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

Is it the Motivation in general?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**

The Motivation whether you are asking for some money to be apportioned to you or how are you going to implement the Programmes? I would want Parliament to ask what structures and what mechanisms you have in place to implement what you are asking for? With those few remarks, I rest my case. Thank you.

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

Thank you. Another one? Colleagues, can we try to make progress? Honourable Kavekatora.

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**HON KAVEKOTORA:** Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would want to be very brief, unless if the General asks me not to be brief.

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Yes, just be brief.

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**HON KAVEKOTORA:** Honourable Chairperson, normally when you are coming into a situation, you listen and you observe to start to learn the rules of a game. The rules of the game that you learn is what you continue applying moving forward. I just want to make one comment and that is that listening is a very important leadership quality and one might lose the message simply because you pre-empted the situation.

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**HON KAVEKOTORA**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Yes. Now, come to the actual point.

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**HON KAVEKOTORA:** I am coming to the point. There we go again.  
*(Intervention)*

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Order please!

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**HON KAVEKOTORA:** Honourable Chairperson, when I look at the Budget, I see the Budget as a mere activation of a strategic plan or an action plan for that matter and that is why, in my maiden speech,  
*(interjection)*

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**HON MEMBER:** Which one?

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**HON KAVEKOTORA:** There was only one. I have requested this august House to look at another intervention in a Budget cycle. The reason why I am saying that is because if the Budget is just an activation of an action plan, they missed the point to bring the figures and not to bring the activities that link to those figures. That is the point that I want to make and I am glad that the Right Honourable Prime Minister has alluded to that point twice now already.

Honourable Chairperson, there is a term in economics that is called *opportunity cost*.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON NAUYOMA**

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

Honourable Kavekatora, please do not generalise things. Is the opportunity cost related to what was presented by the Honourable Speaker?

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**HON KAVEKOTORA:** I am coming to that point. The reason why I am talking about the opportunity cost is that we are talking about the construction of a new Parliament building and in one of the speeches there was a lack of utilisation of State Assets, in one of the discussions previously.

My question is, when we talk about the construction of a new Parliament building, have we already considered the old Parliament building and its utilisation? That is the core of my question. Because it is an opportunity cost, you go and spend money that could have been spent on something else, but then you allow the old building that you already have to become a white elephant. Hence, my question.

Is there already a provision made on how to utilise this Parliament effectively so as not to become a white elephant like some other assets of the State? That is the question.

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

Yes. I recognise, Honourable Muharukua. Can I give you the last chance because you already had a chance? Can I move to the next Member and then you will be the last? Yes, Honourable Nauyoma please.

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**HONN NAUYOMA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine was specifically a question to the Prime Minister while she was busy with her intervention regarding the Executive.

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**HON NAUYOMA**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Nauyoma, yes proceed.

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**HON NAUYOMA:** My point is, is it for all intents and purposes that the Executive Branch of this House should have a *veto* on any Motion or anything that is brought to this Chamber, that if they do not agree with it, it is not to be considered or it is not to be put through to seek budgetary allocations?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Can you repeat yourself again please? Sorry.

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**HON NAUYOMA:** Yes. The Right Honourable Prime Minister was saying here that if you consult and the Minister, for instance, is not aware of that Motion or the decision that we are taking through the Committees, then it will not be able to go through because he will not agree since he was maybe not consulted or he is not aware of the Motion that was presented?

Now, is it for all intents and purposes that the Executive must *veto* the decision that was taken in this august House? That is the question that I was trying to put forward.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Well, I will give you a chance later to respond to that. Who else is there? Why is your light not showing?

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**HON NUJOMA**

**HON MEMBER:** I do not know.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I recognise Honourable Utoni Nujoma, the Honourable Minister of Justice.

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**HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I thought I was the last speaker.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Oh, sorry, you are now the Minister of Land Reform.

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**HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I thought I was the last speaker on this point so I just wanted to inform the Speaker that I wholeheartedly support this Budget.

Since I was under the impression that I was the last speaker, I just wanted to express my support because this is an important House, which serve as part of the whole structure of Government when we talk of checks and balances. Therefore, the Executive, the Judiciary and the Legislature should support each other. That is why I wanted to be the last speaker, only to express my sincere thanks to the Speaker for a good Budget and to give him my full support. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you, he needs that. Honourable Limbo.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 03**  
**HON LIMBO / HON MUHARUKUA**

**HON LIMBO:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I do not have a question *per se* but I just want to say – first of all, I support the Vote, the reason being that sometimes we, Namibians like talking and we just talk for the sake of talking. I am one of the people who were privileged to go to Kenya on the same issue of the Parliamentary Service Commission and we learnt that what is happening in other countries is not what is happening in our country, simply because we are trying to squeeze ourselves while we cannot carry out some of the activities properly.

If you talk about the Standing Committees, we only have two rooms here; the Blue Room and the Pink Room, so sometimes you would be in a meeting, like during our term, and you find somebody is waiting outside saying – *Colleagues it is about time the other Committee is waiting outside*. Now how are we going to be very active and very efficient in our work?

Secondly, these Public Hearings that we conduct are supposed to be open to the public, however when our people come to listen to us, where are they going to sit during our Committee activities? That is why today, we were reminded by Honourable Simataa saying that the more we delay with the construction of the Parliament building the more the money we are going to spend. We were supposed to start building already or even immediately when this idea was conceived, therefore, the time has run out and we must start now. With that I support the Vote. Thank you very much.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
The last one is Honourable Muharukwa.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** My points were overtaken by events. (*Laughter*)

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**HON BISHOP KAMEETA / RT HON KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Overtaken by events? Honourable Bishop Kameeta.

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**HON MINISTER OF POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** I want to make a maiden comment. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Budget of the National Assembly is the Budget of the Whole House, there you do not divide between Opposition, Ruling Party and so on, that is our Budget.

When it comes to the question of the new Parliament building, I think we must discuss that in the Committee and come up with a suggestion because in this House, I know we speak to the Electorate, but in a Committee we discuss sense and we know what we are talking about.

I listened very carefully to what the Right Honourable Prime Minister said and I think that is what she also alluded to, that there are certain things we cannot solve here. We can keep on talking about a new Parliament building in this House, we will not reach anything, so I would like to propose that this is taken to, I do not know which Committee, is it the Budget Committee or which Committee is it? However, a Committee should discuss this very calmly and look at alternative options and come back to the House with a suggestion. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Nauyoma put a question, would you like to respond to that?

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**RT HON PRIME MINISTER:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I just want to respond to the query of the Member who seem to understand me to be saying that the Cabinet has

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

to concur with everything that needs to be done by Parliament before it is done. That is not so, I am only saying that where you have multiple stakeholders, consultation and coordination is key to success. That is all.

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

Thank you. With that said, can I give the Honourable Speaker the Floor to respond?

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**HON SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. It has been quite a number of questions very interesting sparing me no chance of escaping and I am going to take you head-on. No fear of offending anybody, I am just going to tell you from my heart and I will be honest with you. However, I think the questions were balanced, very useful, constructive and there were some that I felt were misplaced but I suppose, they say – *this is the people's House and people can say things* so they should be allowed to air their views.

I have got a long list of questions from *Honourable John Mutorwa* and I will take my time to deal with them because I think he was very helpful. Now the question, what constitutes reasonable time in terms of the time frame? We are simply saying, of course, it will depend very much on the progress the project will be making in various phases of implementation. However, we are in a hurry and we want to have this done within a reasonable timeframe. It cannot be done within a year or two, we will give ourselves reasonable timeframe, but obviously that will be determined by our ability to sustain the phase implementation. That is my type of answer I can provide.

The other question that was equally important, refers to why the National Assembly is not taking upon itself to advertise this particular work to be done, but I simply want to say that the Ministry of Works and Transport is the custodian of all Government Capital Projects in terms of coordination,

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

in terms of liaising with the technical team and so on, but this does not exclude the National Assembly from being part and parcel of the implementation team. What happened, happened and we have simply been reassured that the Ministry concerned will take upon itself to make sure that this job is advertised as soon as possible. Again, this is not something new. The Ministry has been doing this work and as I said they are the custodian of most of the Government projects and our project is essentially part of the Government project.

On the issue of *Renewable Energy Bill*, I am very much interested in the dialogue and the discussion that took place on this particular issue. All I would like to say is that the Ministry of Mines and Energy is a partner Line Ministry with respect to this particular initiative and we would like to liaise with them. However, when the time comes for the actual tabling of the Bill, we can obviously discuss and agree as stakeholders, as to who will take the lead, but so far we are working in partnership with the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the recommendations and outcomes of the workshop were forwarded to that Ministry and they have responded in a very positive way. We look forward to working with them. This is not the end of the whole story, we will keep the Members of this House informed because the finalisation of that Bill will be brought back to the House and ideally be taken through the appropriate Committee, which is the Committee on Economics so that we can actually touch base on the way how and the manner in which it has been finalised.

On the number of Bills; I do not think that there is a particular Rule that says we as National Assembly should produce so many Bills in a given year. We simply reported on various Bills, just to give you the gist or the sense of what has been accomplished by sharing information, but I do not think there is such a rule that stipulates that it has to be so many Bills per year.

Question 4: Taking Parliament to the people and bringing the people to Parliament – I could not agree more with Honourable John Mutorwa on this. I fully support that. As a person, I also want to re-examine a number of things that we are doing, to try and do them, not necessarily differently



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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

but to either strengthen some of the things we have done so that we can improve on the methodology, the style and all the things. I, therefore, like the idea of taking Parliament to the people, but would also like us to bring the people to be more accessible to the public so that they can interact with the Parliamentarians to help us fully understand and appreciate some of the challenges that are confronting our people, up and down the Republic of Namibia.

The next question touched on the workshop and I think I responded to that, yes. Then the sixth one was on the Parliamentary Service Commission. Yes, all I can say is that it is part of the innovation and the improvement that we are seeking to strengthen the work of the Legislature and to make sure that we have a Parliamentary Service Commission that will cater for the needs of Parliament. It is an important step forward in terms of strengthening our role and have a Commission that would be much more sensitive and orientated towards lawmaking and in towards this end, we are making very good progress and I when we are done with the Budget and other priority items, I would hopefully like to see the Parliamentary Service Commission being brought here for implementation. That is something that I think all of us do agree to and are very much looking forward to doing something about. This has to be implemented in order for us take full advantage in the utilisation of its resources.

I think the last question from Honourable Mutorwa dealt with the Parliamentary Village. My own view is that I think there is a majority view of the fact that this is something as outlined in our Motivation, something that we should take on board. Although it is linked to the new Parliament building, it is also something much more practical. I have observed this, I visited a number of Parliamentary Villages in Cape Town, in Gaborone, in Lusaka but I must say there is a misconception about what a Parliamentary Village is all about. Some newspapers are referring to it as something where Parliamentarians are trying to basically save on the pocket money or whatever. It is nothing to do with that. It is not for free. It is decent accommodation, properly secured at the disposal of Parliamentarians. The majority of them come from our various Regions

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

and different parts of the country, so it is for them when they are here and particularly the new Members of Parliament who are here for the first time, perhaps to spend some time in Windhoek. We are simply saying, in other countries, our Colleagues have been catered for in this and that way. It is not something new or unique to Namibia, it is something that is practical and it is not for free.

Members would be accommodated in a secure environment where you can interact with your fellow Colleagues and do your work. Therefore, what is being reported is a complete misrepresentation of what we are proposing and we are not going to start something like this without planning carefully and consulting all the relevant stakeholders who should be involved before we have taken the final step. That is what it is and I think it should be taken for what it is not for what people are assuming it is going to be. I think I more or less responded to Honourable Mutorwa.

Coming to *Honourable Venaani*, on the Parliamentary Service Commission; I welcome your support and that issue be speeded up. I think there is a consensus on that, that we should do everything possible so that we act on that.

Your second question on interpreters; again this is your Parliament, we have Committees, these are the very things that we can discuss and agree on. Some people are saying – *well, I might bring the person who claims to be competent in a particular language*, only to embarrass himself and the rest of us. I take that into account, but I think we should have ground Rules that we agree to and once we have agreed to that then we can say – *from now on this is what we are going to do* and as usual, taking into account the financial implication for such a move.

I agree with the Right Honourable Prime Minister who said some of these issues should be hammered out in advance, agreed to and they do not need to produce conflicting interpretation or misunderstanding. If that is the case, so far we are saying you indicate when you want to speak, in a particular Namibian language and arrangements can be made, provided you also bring someone with whom you feel confident can actually help

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you to do so, but if you are going to change the Rules and say – *we must have standing staff fully paid for to do something like this*, this is open to another Debate. We have to harmonise our views; is that doable? Can we take that on board? And of course, if not, we then agree but for now let us do with what is in place as a Rule. However, we can revisit the subject in due time to make sure that we can actually manage to do so. There is no controversy, it is just a question of doing what is affordable and if we agree that may be done.

The third question is on the improvement of security around Parliament. I agree with you. This is an issue that I am equally concerned with, it is something that I want us to revisit and we will discuss at the appropriate level using our Committee system to see where we have done well and where there is still a need for further improvement.

On Motions and their financial implications and so on – this issue sounds innocent, but it is part of the methodology and the mechanism that we have to revisit in order to strengthen the manner on how we implement our decisions. When the Right Honourable Prime Minister spoke earlier, I was tempted to jump up. This is an issue that I want to take up towards the end of responses because it is very important.

Library; yes, the library as it is at the moment does not serve all our needs. We need to strengthen the capacity of our library in terms of sources to be consulted as well as staff and it must be linked to Researchers who should actually serve the Honourable Members of Parliament. It is, therefore, something that I would like to undertake in due course to see how we can improve on that.

I now move on to ***Honourable Dienda***. I always like her way of questioning; she will never raise just one question, they will either be four or five. I will answer you on the issue you raised, but I think I will also be answering a few others as well. On the question of carrying the burden as a host Nation to a regional institution – I think that is the point where you said, *yes, it is costing Namibia so much money* and you wanted to know, what the expenses that are being carried by other SADC Member

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countries are. I will give you a comparison, we have the PAN African Parliament in Midrand, Johannesburg, funded fully by the South African Government. It is so critical, even if other Members are chipping in, South Africa is carrying the main burden of hosting that vital Continental Parliament.

In Namibia, we do not hide the fact that we are the host country as far as SADC Parliamentary Forum Headquarters is concerned and this is part of the agreement that we have entered into, so we have the obligations to maintain the SADC Parliamentary Forum Headquarters in terms of its maintenance and everything associated with that. Therefore, there is very little room to escape, but I think you want to know what are the other additional costs that other people are covering? I do not have that particular aspect for now, but that does not prevent us to provide information to you so that you have an idea. For now let me just simply say the main burden of responsibility is upon our shoulders.

With regards to the vacancies that you referred to; yes, when I took office this is one area I have taken note of and I am sure the staff of the National Assembly have got my views on this one. We need to do better. I am a new boy in the seat, I am hardly a month so you cannot expect me to use my whip or whatever to make things move faster, but it is something that we have to work on as rapidly as possible. We are already engaged with the Public Service Commission to make sure that we speed up the process of the unfilled vacancies and it is our intention to do so because we are crying that we do not have enough staff serving on our various Committees and it is simply not acceptable not to do what should be done, and definitely the staff are working on this. This is going to be done as quickly as possible.

I am now moving quickly – I think it was *Honourable Manombe-Ncube* who raised the question of sign language interpreters and she spoke movingly about our brothers and sisters who are challenged in one respect or the other. I spoke to a young woman recently who managed to reach out to a young man who lost his leg, but who was so energetic and he was so eager to lead a normal life. All he needed is to acquire skills in the

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field of ICT and after he has done that he had a business to run and he was saying to this young lady – *thank you very much for doing this* and then told her, *I want you to know I am a normal person just like you.* I like that. If in Namibia we are able to do things like that then I tell you our future will continue to be bright.

Let me assure, Honourable Manombe-Ncube, that the budgetary provision has been made for sign language interpreters in the current Budget and we will make sure that we have the right people with the necessary skills for us to be able to provide that service. It is needed and we are ready to provide that. (*Applause*).

I just want to make a comment on what the Right Honourable Prime Minister said. Thank you very much, this is an issue that I am passionate about. The issue of organising our own House and the question of implementing Motions and whatever decisions we take here would require us to change and improve on the methodology that we are using. Our Committee system must work closely with Line Ministries that they have to oversee and I like that partnership. We must see that partnership because we have a task to perform and the Line Ministries are equally interested in our views in terms of how we are able to improve, inform and sensitise them on what we come across from time to time. We are, therefore, talking about partnership and once we improve on that then the rest of the issues of implementing our decisions will be much more manageable, it will be much more logical. I think this is an area that requires revisiting calmly and consulting, as well as making clear to each other that we need each other; the Executive and our various Committees need to work together in the interest of the country.

My Good Friend ***Honourable Nambahu***, on the new Parliament building, I had an opportunity to discuss with the Chairperson of the National Council, it is for both Houses of Parliament to improve on the inadequate space and everything that we experience so far. However, we also know of the fact that some people are questioning where we will have that building and its adequacy, the technical aspect where it should be is already being addressed through the Ministry of Works and Transport.

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**HON MWANINGANGE**

All I can say is that this is something that will cater for both Houses of Parliament and not just for the National Assembly.

What else can I say? There was a question on drought. Look, Namibia will never escape drought but I think our Government is fully prepared to make sure that we cater for the needs of our people. I thank all of you. Thank you, *Honourable Limbo* and *Honourable Kameeta*. Thank you very much. I am done (*applause*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I put Vote 03. Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 11 – “NATIONAL COUNCIL” put for Discussion. Any discussions? Any objections? Agreed to. Sorry, I recognise Honourable Billy Mwaningange. I will repeal the decision because he will be angry with me. Quickly, very brief.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Thank you very much, I was saying, I will obey the majority, however, I now thank the Deputy Speaker very much. I just want to touch on one small thing at the very beginning, on Page 1 of this Vote (*intervention*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Volume please, we cannot hear you.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Vote 11, at the very first Paragraph whereby (*intervention*)

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 11**  
**HON MWANINGANGE**

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

Honourable Mwaningange, can you remove the paper so that you can talk easily? Proceed now.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** I think this document is not good here. Honourable Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much for the opportunity accorded to me to say something on Vote 11 – “**NATIONAL COUNCIL.**” Basing my view on this Paragraph, which says – “*The Constitution further mandates the House of Review [that is the National Council] to recommend legislation on matters of Regional concern for consideration by this very august House.*” Yes, it is very correct. Now for the last 22 years, I have realised that there are some very critical problems which undermine the Regional Council to do some of the very important things.

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

And those are?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** I am coming to that. I think I am the only one on the Floor now, Honourable Deputy Speaker and Chairperson. These are issues relating to lawmaking. During the lawmaking process, of course, they review, but through Regional Councils, the Members of the National Council who are in that House of Parliament are expected to make some Laws. However, there is a problem with making Laws for themselves since decentralisation did not provide them with legal experts at the regional level. The Regional Councils did not have legal professionals at the regional level for the last 22 years who could help them with Legal Drafting or advice so that the Members who are coming to the National Council will be able to, besides reviewing, also make some Laws as is stipulated here. Therefore, I am just advising that

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**HON MWANINGANGE**

decentralisation says that we decentralise services and personnel. In future I think it will augur well if the Regional Councils are provided with legal staff in addition to other staff so that they can help these Members of Parliament. I thank you.

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

Meaning – if I understood you correctly, you would like to ask why the Regional Councils cannot come up with proposed Laws relating to their Regions?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** I feel that the Regional Councils are undermined, there are no legal personnel in the Regions.

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

To assist them?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:** Yes, As they are supposed to lay down Laws..

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

Honourable Speaker, would you like to say something on the question?

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**HON MEMBER:** There is no question but a request.

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**HON //GOWASES**

**HON SPEAKER:** The question that Honourable Mwaningange is raising is actually more related to the work at the Regional level – Regional Councillors not having legal mechanisms for advising them and so on. It is a question of personnel. Well, I agree with him because we fully support the question of decentralisation so that our leadership in the Regions are empowered with necessary capacity to do things that are required to be done. I can, therefore, only say that I have taken note of that.

It is not only a question that relates to the National Council, but I think it is something that all of us should hopefully bear in mind – and talk to the right people on the ground to see how far we can go in that regard. It is not so much a question directed to the Motivation before the House but it is a concern and it is duly noted and we will find a way how to address that particular concern.

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

Thank you. Any objections? Agreed to.

Vote 28 – “**ELECTORAL COMMISSION**” put for Discussion. Any discussion? I recognise, Honourable //Gowases.

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**HON //GOWASES:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine is on Page 6 – **By-election**. It is an expensive exercise to organise and hold such a by-election. Like now in the Erongo, Otjozondjupa and Oshikoto Regions, especially considering that it is only a few months before the bigger election for this year – 2015. I suggest that in future, Parties should already have replacement candidates ready for election to ensure a speedier succession process which would save cost. Thank you. I support the Vote.

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**HON VENAANI**

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

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, this is a very important Budget because it goes directly to the heart of our democracy. The Electoral Commission is a midwife of our democracy and there are two critical issues that I want to address myself on.

1. **Voter Education:** As we all know that during the last Presidential and National Assembly Elections, the time that was spent on teaching people how to use Electronic Voting Machines (*interjection*)
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**HON MEMBER:** Without a paper trail (*laughter*)

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**HON VENAANI:** Without a paper trail, was very little to a point that our election has created spoilt ballots. However, luckily these spoilt ballots have translated into some Parties receiving seats through spoilt ballots because if you look at the literacy rate of our people (*interventions*)

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**HON MEMBER:** Which Parties are those?

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**HON VENAANI:** Well, I do not want to mention the Parties but they are there – it could be your Party too. (*Interjections*). What I am trying to say is; I hope the staff of the ECN are here.

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**HON VENAANI**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Maybe they are down there.

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**HON VENAANI:** I hope they are here because they really need to listen to this because sometimes mismanaging processes takes countries to war – because there is this dichotomy that we always believe in that there is a relationship between the winning Party and the Electoral Commission. However, sometimes right or wrong, the mismanagement of staff in electoral bodies takes a country closer to the brink of war. We do not want war and, therefore, need to make our administration efficient. Allow me to air my views on two issues that transpired during the last elections and that should never happen again.

- The Electoral Commission announces – invites political actors to come and hear the election results. When we arrived there in 30 minutes after being told – *quickly come to the ECN the results are ready*, the results would only be announced the following day. Elections are a very (*interjection*) What are you talking about? This is a fact.
- 

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Point of Order.

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** I am sorry, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. May I ask my Honourable Neighbour here a very tiny question?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Will you accept a question from your Neighbour?

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**HON VENAANI**

**HON VENAANI:** Yes, but Neighbour, you are wasting my time please  
(*laughter*)

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**HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** Honourable Member, is it true that your campaign manager was also at the same time an Electoral Official's manager?

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**HON VENAANI:** Well, (*interjections*)

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**HON MEMBERS:** Yes!

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**HON VENAANI:** No (*laughter*) and can I tell you why – these are administration lapses created, not by Venaani's campaign, but by the Electoral Commission of Namibia and that is the very heart of the Electoral Commission of Namibia that we must discuss. She applied for a job – she was not my campaign manager but a social media manager, a campaign manager is something else because a campaign manager must be a guru who knows elections – she does not know elections but she is a social media campaigner.

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**HON MEMBER:** That is the same thing.

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**HON VENAANI:** No, it is not the same thing. You are speaking to someone who has been a Secretary-General twice, so it is not only Mbumba who really knows this kind of work. The Electoral Commission

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**HON VENAANI**

of Namibia would invite political actors to come and hear results. We come at the centre – *no, who invited you – no, we were just called, faxes came to our offices that we should come and hear the election result at results centre.* Then the results will be announced the next day at 07:00. What does that bring? It brings unnecessary suspicion.

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**HON MEMBER:** Just call, how authentic was that?

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**HON VENAANI:** It was authentic. The Professor was on Television announcing that – *come today, come hear your results.* That did not happen. Elections are very emotive in their nature, if this electoral administrative lapses are allowed, they can take countries to war. Let me just speak my mind on this one now.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
You are taking long now.

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**HON MEMBER:** Not exactly war, you are threatening people.

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**HON VENAANI:** What do you know?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Please you have the Floor.

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**HON VENAANI**

**HON MEMBER:** It is not war. You do not know war.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Order! Can we allow the Honourable Member to conclude so that we can also retire for the day?

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**HON VENAANI:** We can waste each other's time, there is no problem. Am I protected?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Yes, you are being protected.

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**HON VENAANI:** EVMs are very important, very crucial indeed. I was part of the delegation that went to India. India has a population of close to a billion voters. One billion, Honourable Lucia Ipumbu was with me (*interjection*) That is the attitude of not listening to one another that we will always blame you for rigging because you do not listen. We went and copied what the Indians are doing, correctly, but we go and copy halfway.

In the Khomas Region – in Windhoek, during last elections people voted until the next morning, something that should never be allowed, yet we copied the Indian process, they have the largest democracy in the world. In India when you go to a school, every classroom is a voting room. You are only allowed to be 150 in one voting room, so at a school where you have 40 classrooms, every classroom will be taken as a voting centre. The people are running the system that way. You spend twenty minutes in the queue, and you are done. In Namibia we went and voted EVMs (*interjections*)

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**HON VENAANI**

**HON MEMBER:** That is India!

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**HON VENAANI:** No, do not say that it is India.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Please proceed.

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**HON VENAANI:** We went and copied the system there. There it is working with a billion voters, but here with less than 1,500,000 voters, through you Chairperson (*intervention*)

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**HON MEMBER:** That is were it started.

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**HON VENAANI:** Do not disturb me!

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** a Point of Order. He is not done yet, it is a Point of Order from the other Colleague.

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**  
Just a mere honourable question to the Honourable Member, now that he is lecturing us on India, can he also enlighten us what the GDP of India is

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**HON VENAANI**

compared to ours? I missed that part.

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**HON VENAANI:** The GDP?

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**HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:**  
Of India, yes.

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**HON VENAANI:** If the GDP is the excuse then you should have never copied. The Indian GDP is now well copied and copied halfway. However, the point that I am trying to drive home, which is important and relevant to this Debate is the fact that Namibians are few, if we get extra EVMs, people can vote in seven hours and the whole country will be done voting. Of course, let us raise these issues, allow us to raise these issues.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Next. The next one (*intervention*)

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**HON VENAANI:** No, I will not be rushed, I am on the Floor now Honourable Chairperson. If that is the attitude, I will not allow myself to be bullied. I do not bully other people, I will not allow to be bullied, no.

---

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
You have made your point clear on the EVM, can you go to another point please?



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**HON VENAANI**

**HON VENAANI:** I am trying to drive a point home.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
What are you saying?

---

**HON VENAANI:** Do not push it, if you push me, I am here.  
**Administration of Elections:** We are allocating and apportioning money to the ECN to administer elections. My Dear Minister of Urban and Rural Development talks about distances, can you just put it in your imagination that Khomas that has the highest literacy rate in the country (*interjection*) *Puratena* (Listen) - one of the highest literacy rate in the country, listen. Khomas the highest in literacy rate in the country with all its infrastructure one of the well versed infrastructural Regions that we have in the country, and Khomas votes in two days while in areas where you have a higher literacy rates, poorer infrastructure they vote from 07:00 to 19:00 and they wer done. The population is double the size or even more than the size of Khomas. (*Interjections*)

I am talking about Regions, but how does that happen? How does it happen that Windhoek East with 20,000 voters (*interjections*), yes, listen – do not push it. Why are you so unsettled about elections? Why are you so defensive? Come on man, if you are credible, be credible! Listen to what I am saying.

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**HON MEMBER:** You are the problem!

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**HON VENAANI:** No, I am not the problem, you are the problem. Windhoek East (*intervention*)

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**HON VENAANI**

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

The more you informally interrupt, the more you delay the system, and the longer you are going to take here tonight.

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**HON VENAANI:** They can do whatever they want, I will be here  
(*interjections*)

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**HON MEMBER:** Order! Order!

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

Order for what?

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**HON VENAANI:** Windhoek East with 15,000 registered voters votes for two days, where you have infrastructure – lights and everything. In Constituencies with poorer infrastructure and longer distances it takes 07:00 to 19:00 to finish voting. This tells a story of our organisation (*interjections*) I know why you are worried, because elections must not be a topic that we discuss. Yes, the way that the Ruling Party is behaving – it is democracy (*interjections*)

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**HON MEMBER:** Talk to us here!

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**HON VENAANI:** I will. You will not stop me from speaking to the

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**HON VENAANI**

Ruling Party. I am talking to you - through you, to your Party. *Mbuae*, why would you stop me?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Now you are asking the Minister a question. (*intervention*)

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**HON VENAANI:** I am talking to the Ruling Party – you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Please, Honourable Venaani, do not respond to the informal interjections please.

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**HON VENAANI:** It is Parliament. We are in Parliament.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Yes, Parliament but we must have some order. You are the one who said you will protect the order of Parliament as the Leader of the Official Opposition Party. You have the Floor – proceed please.

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**HON VENAANI:** While we are giving money to the Electoral Commission of Namibia to administrate elections (*interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** Administer!

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**HON VENAANI**

**HON VENAANI:** To administer, yes, that word. To administer elections – we must remain critical to what they are doing.

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**HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE:** Can I ask a question?

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**HON VENAANI:** Yes, ask. I know you will lure the Ruling Party into a den. That is what he does.

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**HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE:** It is just for clarification, it is not a question.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Point of Information?

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**HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE:** Comrade, what happens is that, for instance, during the Presidential and National Assembly Elections, Namibia is regarded as one Constituency.

Now what happened in Khomas, for instance, is that you would find that there is a Polling Station at Tobias Hainyeko with thousands of people queuing there and the Polling Station opens from 07:00 up to 21:00. Come 21:00, the Policemen on duty are tasked to stand behind the last person and people were still coming in. Let us say, there are 120 people, at 21:00 sharp, the Policemen stand behind the last person. Since in

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**HON VENAANI**

Windhoek West, there is a Polling Station with only twenty people, for example, the people who were in the queue at Tobias Hainyeko move here because it is already 21:00. When they arrive at Windhoek West, they find that there are already Policemen behind the last person who is the twentieth person. They return to the previous Polling Station and also find Policemen standing behind the last person. The result was that these people could not vote, that is why they voted up to the following day because they had to be allowed. Those are some of the processes and you must also note that it is the first time we used this system in Namibia. India has been doing this for many years.

There will always be some mistakes with the first try just take it that way. Come the next elections, there will not be any mistakes. Thank you.

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

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**HON VENAANI:** I think what the Minister was trying to explain on the Floor goes down to the legality of the process that he was explaining (*intervention*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Muharukwa, your President did not even respond what are you rising on?

You could have prudently waited for him to respond and then you can stand up. Honourable Venaani.

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**HON VENAANI**

**HON VENAANI:** I accept his intervention.

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

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**HON MUHARUKWA:** Thank you. Does the Honourable Member, my President, know that there are some Polling Stations where the Electoral Commission of Namibia officials never went and where people were left unattended in the queues while we are saying that people voted from 07:00 to 19:00 at some Polling Stations?

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**HON VENAANI:** Well, it is reality. Honourable Minister Ekandjo tried to explain the illegality of the process here because the Law is very clear: if the Police find twenty people in the queue at 21:00 only those twenty must vote and not the ones who find the twenty and still join the queue.

What you were saying is that an illegal process was allowed for the elections to be able to take place. I think the argument is not between the Political Parties and the point that I am trying to drive home is that we are giving money to the Electoral Commission of Namibia (*interjection*)

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**HON MEMBER:** You are twisting facts.

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**HON VENAANI:** No, I am not twisting facts that is the reality. The Electoral Commission of Namibia must play its part to administer elections in a very credible manner. We want to see an improvement in

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**HON DIENDA**

the way they have administered the elections in 2014. That is all I am trying to say because if they continue this way (*interjection*) no, I will not understand because if India (*intervention*).

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**HON MEMBER:** It is our private conversation.

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**HON VENAANI:** If it is your private conversation, do not talk so that I can hear, only then it is private (*laughter*). If one billion people, in India, can vote in one day within seven hours, so can we and we can only do that by proliferating more Voting Stations in one school. End of the story.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Dienda.

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**HON DIENDA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I do not know, Honourable Chairperson whether the (*interjections*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Order! Can we listen please? We cannot sleep here. Can we listen to the Honourable Member on the Floor?

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Speaker, my first question is about the challenges faced by people living with disabilities on the election day. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House

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**HON DIENDA**

Committee, I was challenged because I took one of my family members there. There were two queues; one queue for the ordinary people and another for people living with disabilities. (*Interjection*) No, let me finish, I am the one who was there, why are you talking on my behalf?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
No, do not pay attention to them please.

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**HON DIENDA:** And for the elderly – Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, it is difficult for people living with disabilities to queue for so long. My request is: can we not have a special day of voting for them so that they do not have to go through those long queue? That is question number one.

The second question is about factors affecting voters' turnout, as my President was saying. At the Old Age Home here in town – I want to give you an example, the ECN was supposed to start with the voting process there at 05:00 and they turned up at 04:00 while the old people were still sleeping. People had to go and wake them up, telling them; *you must come and vote now*. This was so unfair. At Kappsfarm, they were supposed to be there at 05:00, they turned up 22:00 and everybody was drunk. It was a big disaster.

My third question, Honourable Chairperson is; (*interjections*) yes, these mobile things, it was just a disgrace, a disaster. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I think that we need to improve on the process of registration. Registration must be an ongoing process and not something which should take place during or when there is by-election(s). Why is the ECN not capacitated with that so that we can go and register anytime for any elections, just to make sure you have your cards? Why must we wait for certain periods.



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**HON DIENDA**

**Question 4:** It is with regard to the issue of N\$2,500 which each and every Regional Councillor of an aspirant candidate has to pay. I do not know where this comes from because we are not encouraging people to contest. For the Regional Council Elections, people can also participate on the ticket of Independent Candidates, so we are not encouraging people to participate in elections with this N\$2,500 per month. It is very expensive, I do not know where that idea comes from.

My other question is on Page 356 (*interjection*), no it is not the last one. Page 354-356 of the Estimates of Revenue – Income and expenditure. There are provisions made for entertainment for politicians, there is office refreshment, official entertainment, corporate gifts and all these things. I just need an explanation on this entertainment for politicians, what is it all about because I know when people are sent for training, they must go with their own food there, so who are these politicians who are being entertained by the Electoral Commission of Namibia? I cannot remember the DTA being invited and entertained by the ECN (*laughter*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Dienda, can you proceed with another question?

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**HON DIENDA:** Yes, my question number 4 is the hiring of the election staffs, during election time (*intervention*)

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**HON MEMBER:** Is that question number 6 now?

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**HON DIENDA:** Yes. The question is: why are they not paid on time because there is a Budget for them? They are now writing SMSes every day saying; *we are still waiting for our money, we are hungry*. Question

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**HON DIENDA**

number 2 (*interjections*),no, I am still on the same question 6 – 6.2.

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

Honourable Dienda, do not bother about informal interjections, you have the Floor, please proceed.

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I cannot understand – with a high unemployment rate in this country, since they are providing training to election officials, why can the ECN not make use of our unemployed Grade 12s and graduates, instead of taking people from the Civil Service who already have permanent jobs at the Ministries? (*Interjections*) no, General, no.

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

You do not have the Floor General.

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**HON DIENDA:** I have grown up knowing that people shall share, why can we not share in this regard as well?

Then comes *qualifications* (*interjections*), my goodness! Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, experience in this regard, in my view, does not hold water because people are being trained to do this.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, according to the Auditor-General's Report, there is a big concern regarding the staff of the Electoral Commission of Namibia who are being appointed on a temporary basis and I am talking about the staff in the Finance Department. If there is a need for people to be appointed in the Finance

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**HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

Department, why is not done on a permanent basis? These positions are not advertised because they are only temporary and people are being handpicked from somewhere. The reason why I am asking this question is, if these positions are so cruel (*interjections*)

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**HON MEMBER:** Cruel?

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**HON DIENDA:** Crucial, sorry. Why can these positions not be filled permanently by the people who are unemployed in this country? I do not know whether I must support it or not because I am not happy with the ECN at all but thank you for now.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Van Den Heever, you have the Floor.

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**HON VAN DEN HEEVER:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I do know that this is not a much favourite topic amongst our Members but unfortunately, we will have to speak out a little bit about the continued use of EVMs despite the problems we encountered during our recent elections. Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, (*intervention*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Van den Heever, talk to the current Vote.

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**HON VAN DEN HEEVER**

**HON VAN DEN HEEVER:** I am talking about the ECN. Page 353 and also Page 4 of the Budget Motivation about its continued use because it is on the Programme.

My question is in three-fold, I know and we appreciate the fact that we want to move ahead and that is why we are using technology, but we also know for a fact that we are faced with a population that is largely illiterate.

My question is: I am worried about the fact that people were trained for our election on the EVMs and on the election day the officials did not understand what they were doing. I attended training in Otjiwarongo conducted by the ECN and I posed several questions to the officials who were trained prior to the elections and they could not understand. They were reading from the manuals and they could not understand what they were reading. I am thus worried about the training which is given by the ECN. How are they giving the training? We also posed questions to them whether the political officials can also be part when their officials are being trained because we have experienced and are even having facts that officials were trained, but when they went to the Regions they were telling people that certain buttons on the EVM Ballot Unit were working while others were not working.

The training is a concern. Therefore, if we are considering money given to this Vote, we must rather look into the fact that we really train our people properly. We also experienced that our members were there and they were just taken from the list because people who were supposed to be there did not pitch up. That is all about training.

My second question: the system of technology that we are all fully aware of is beyond the means of significant sections of our populace. Does it not amount to a gross violation of our democratic process?

Lastly (*intervention*)

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**HON MBUMBA**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
In which way?

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**HON VAN DEN HEEVER:** From a purely cost perspective, was it not cheaper to rather conduct our elections using the old ballot method with a recognised paper trail, whether we liked it or not, instead of this new semi-technological method. I am saying this because when the results were about to be released they told us, at the ECN Centre, that the machines were stuck, they could not verify. They were going back to the paper methods to verify the votes. How can you verify the machine results on paper? It was worrisome because the ECN officials told us that the machines could not verify the results. That is the message we were given. They could not verify it because the machines got stuck.

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**HON MEMBER:** Stop blaming the machines!

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**HON VAN DEN HEEVER:** We are not blaming the machines, that is why we are talking about training. We do not want these EVM machines. I thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Senior Member, Nangolo Mbumba.

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

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**HON MBUMBA**

**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Can we listen to the Honourable Member?

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**HON MBUMBA:** I thought, in the first place, before we start complaining about the ECN, we should thank them for the hard work they have carried out. For sure it was not an easy job, definitely not and that the biggest recognition should go to the Namibian voters who could endure such tough and sunny days.

People always think that it is easy to do certain things. It is very difficult. I have learnt that there are things you cannot command, even if you give orders, they will not be respected; one of them is the kitchen. If I go home and I say; *I want my food now*, the food is not going to be there and those who are preparing the food will not deliver the food until it is ready. It is the same thing, nobody can give you the results of an election until they have reconciled all the figures, it is in the nature of the business of conducting elections. Therefore, for us to think that somehow those who will eventually end up winning, have been comfortable that they knew what was going to come and that they knew the hour the results will be announced, is not possible. I was there, we were as nervous as you were but we did not show our nervousness. We were concerned like you were, but we did not have to show that.

I remember in 1989, when they started reporting results from small places from the South like Bethanie and so on, one of our members started saying; *they are rigging the elections like there is no tomorrow!* Yes, but if you want to participate in elections, you should have the nerves to do it.

On the issue of other things that we are going to regional elections and they are going to be expensive. Yes, they are going to be expensive. They are really going to be expensive, but there is no other shorter way to say we will have a replacement. A replacement produced by what system? Therefore, let us improve. I definitely agree with those who are saying we cannot afford to have fewer machines when we have a bigger

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**HON SHAPWA**

election like this. Buy the machines and let us vote on time.

The other one is the definition of voting in one day. One day is not from 07:00 to 21:00, one day is 24 hours. We must really polish up our language. We cannot tell people from 07:00 to 19:00 or from 07:00 to 21:00 is one day. Where did you get that definition from? Those who think that the problems were only in Khomas, *(interjections)* Muharukua haama *(sit down)* *(laughter)*

Those who were only thinking that the problems were only in Khomas, there are people in the Ohangwena Region who are still crying up to now why they were not afforded their right to vote because people made some of those mobile Polling Stations permanent. Therefore, when we are crying and complaining, we are complaining to ourselves and not only to the ECN. Let us just prepare ourselves for elections as they come with confidence in our ability to do it. I thank you. You have no right to interfere with me *(laughter)*

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** I recognise, Honourable Lidwina Shapwa.

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

I rise to support Vote 28 – “**ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA.**” I think the ECN needs to be congratulated because they really try hard every time and they continue to make Namibia a shining democracy. However, my worry is with regards to the training of Polling Officers and Registration Officers. I am saying this because I experienced it on two occasions; one in 2009 and also now during last year’s registration. I think these officers are not properly trained or the ECN is actually trying to only train them on verification of IDs and the papers that

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**HON MUTORWA**

we are carrying when we go to Polling Stations but they are not really trained to understand the whole set up of elections to the point that they do not understand Constituencies. They do not even know in what Constituency they are registering, and they end up registering people who are, let us say, from the Windhoek West Constituency as being residents of Windhoek East, for example. It is only those who managed to query and say – *but I am not from this Constituency*, may have discovered that but the officer may already have registered so many people who have not discovered that. Given the rate of illiteracy which was referred to here, I suggest that some may not necessarily recognise it as fast as possible.

I think the ECN needs to really focus on the training of these people, not only on verification of IDs and so on. They also need to be enlightened more so that some of those mistakes are at least avoided.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I have a question because I have always wondered whether there is any verification mechanism to verify the names and identity cards or numbers that are normally provided by the small up-coming Political Parties, to see whether these are really names and IDs of living beings, I always wonder and I just want to know. Thank you and I support the Vote.

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

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Mutorwa.

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

Thank you, Comrade Deputy Speaker. This is one of those Votes that are actually not supposed to require a lot of questions because we are simply putting questions to ourselves. Why? Because the Electoral Commission, like the Parliament or the National Assembly is an institution. The Electoral Commission directly reports to Parliament and the Electoral Commission executes its duties and responsibilities in accordance with a



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**HON MUTORWA**

Law that was passed here in the Parliament.

I would like to suggest, if it is not yet done, Comrade Deputy Speaker, through you to the Speaker, I do not know when the Reports of the Electoral Commission, which Reports are tabled here in this House, how we deal with those Reports and how we treat those Reports. I thought, like the Auditor-General's Report when they are tabled here by the Minister of Finance find their place and their space to a relevant Committee of the Parliament; namely the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts for scrutiny, so that when they are scrutinised, if there are certain shortcoming and/or defects, corrective measures are then effected through that Committee of Parliament which exercises that oversight.

I think it will also be good if this particular House can maybe also add certain aspects to the Reports of the Electoral Commission and that when those Reports are tabled here, they stand referred to a particular dedicated Parliamentary Standing Committee which will then scrutinise those Reports, call in the Electoral Commission Officials and then those corrective proposals or recommendations are brought here. If they require Amendments to the Law then we do so. I think that will help us a lot.

I would like to join our Secretary-General, he did not apportion any blame but let us look at this issue of voting over one day; he was correct to say one day means 24 hours (*interjections*) Wait for me. If we are to correct the problems that we encountered because in the same Law we say voting from 07:00 to 19:00 which is twelve hours and we have experienced that there is a problem (*intervention*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Point of Order. Your microphone please, you are not being recorded.

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**HON MUTORWA**

**HON MUHARUKUA:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I want to ask the Honourable Member a questions, if he accepts it?

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**HION CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Let us have the question, Honourable Member.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** Honourable Member, if we are saying 19:00 to 19:00 the next evening, is that not 24 hours?

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Come again?

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** 19:00 one evening to 19:00 the next evening, is that not 24 hours?

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
07:00 in the morning and 19:00 in the evening, can you count? (*Laughter*)

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** That is not my question.

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

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**HON MUTORWA**

That is the question, yes. It gives you twelve hours. Honourable Muharukua, when I was the Minister of Basic Education, you were in school and you did well, so I think now that you have joined this House take your time, cool off and I can guarantee you, you will become a very good Parliamentarian, but patience is very important and *practice makes perfect*.

The point that I am making here is: look, I mentioned these institutions, and if you look at Article 12 of the Constitution where it states that – *sovereignty lies in the people and they will exercise that sovereignty through democratic institutions of the State*. The Electoral Commission is one of those institutions. The point is that we did experience a problem during the last elections where people could not finish by 19:00. How do we correct it? We do not correct it by pointing or shouting to Professor Isaaks, but we analyse and we look at the Law because whatever the Electoral Commission does, they do that in accordance with the Law. We have passed that Law here and the Law is obviously not something that is static, more so a Law that deals with very dynamic things like elections. We, therefore, analyse it then we come back and effect changes to the Law and move forward.

I think as the Secretary-General has said, so far so good as we are maturing. Honourable Venaani, of course, it is not the duty of the Leaders here to ignore problems. If there are problems, we have to properly look at them, effect some changes to address the problems and we move on.

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**HON DIENDA:** Are you going to stop?

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
Who told you that I am stopping?

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**HON MUTORWA**

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

No, I do not want to allow interventions because the time is against us.

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**HON MUHARUKUA:** What time?

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

What time? Proceed.

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**HON DIENDA:** May I ask you a question please, through the Chairperson?

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

Raise your question.

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**HON DIENDA:** I do not know where people want me to look, I can look everywhere I want to look.

Honourable Mutorwa, just a question. The Electoral Law says; *voting will take place from 07:00 until 21:00*, this is what it says. Now you are questioning the day of 24 hours. It, therefore, means then that we have to amend the Electoral Law because the Electoral Laws speaks about 07:00 to 21:00. If we want to make it from 07:00 today until 21:00 the next day, we have to make it clear to the people.

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**HON MUTORWA**

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

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
My Honourable Colleagues, that is exactly the point that I am driving at. The point is, if we discover that the days are a stumbling block in the Law, it is the duty of this particular House to rectify them. That is all. That is my argument.

Finally, I think Honourable //Gowases, and I am not taking over from the Speaker, but Honourable //Gowases raised the issue of the payment of N\$2,500. I am also inclined (*intervention*)

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**HON //GOWASES:** It was Honourable Dienda.

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**HON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY:**  
Was it Honourable Dienda? Okay fine. At the Constituency level for Political Parties to register, I agree there must be stringent conditions which they must satisfy like the national character to prevent that I should not just wake up tomorrow and form a Political Party with just my friend. However, in the Constituency where, in terms of our systems, Political Parties that want to contest a particular Constituency, they would sponsor their candidates and then those candidates go through their internal Political Party vetting and so on. Now once that has been done, I do not know why Political Parties should again be required to pay N\$2,500 to allow the person to participate.

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**HON MEMBER:** That is another argument.

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**HON NAMOLOH**

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

Thank you.

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

For me, I think that is an argument. Also then, of course, the issue of many by-elections – maybe we can change it to the list system, I am not a Lawyer but I do not think it will work because for the Constituency, it is direct, the *winner takes all*, you cannot apply a proportional system of elections in a Constituency base. Thank you.

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

Thank you. Retired Major General, I know the Army personnel does not take (*intervention*)

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Deputy Speaker. *Experience is the best teacher* and when people were talking about India and so forth – the EVMs are here because I was in India, having the experience that you were crying (*intervention*)

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**HON MEMBER:** So you made the deal?

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**HON MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY:** No, not a deal, as a Diplomat, I understood the problems at home and needed to find appropriate technologies. That is what I did and I wrote a letter here and

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**HON NAMOLOH**

ECN came to look at these machines because I saw India with 1.8 billion people voted in one day and we were 800,000 and our counting took two weeks. That is what touched me to seek advice. I think while we are just implementing the technology, we have started to condemn it again.

As the Secretary-General said, we must sort out small problems in order to perfect the system. It is ours, it will be with us. Some are telling us; *let us go back to papers*, what are we doing? Why are we not proactive to think better for tomorrow? Why are we going back again? I think this is what we should do.

The other thing also, what we acknowledged – you know I was still at the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development when these elections took place and I had a long chat with the Electoral Commission of Namibia and they will tell you. I took them through a military drill before you go to a battle – planning. I took them through that because this is a big battle and we cannot manage to fail. Of course, I was not at a level where I would be considered as interfering, I was more involved on technical issues.

The other issues which the Secretary-General has also mentioned were: when they established the mobile and stationary of fixed voting centres, there were mistakes, they possibly work with the Regional and Constituency people there. Popular places, missions and schools were turned into Mobile Voting Centres while villages there were turned into permanent Voting Stations and that has caused havoc. I, however, think that these are things which we should review, we should look at them and make some improvements.

The other thing we were complaining about is the biometrics. The EVM machines themselves, did not fail. What failed is what we call biometrics. Some of the Honourable Members here were asking about employing Grade 12 children and why we are taking Civil Servants instead. People who have no experience are the ones who have caused all this havoc you are crying about. It is true, I was there and I was responsible. The experience you have is better. These are the people we recruited to

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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

register people, and you see what has happened to the names? Did you see how names were mutilated? (*Interjections*) No, they could not spell the names of people properly and we had to redo all that. It was a mixture of those who have experience and, of course, our young people.

The other thing that we should also do is to allocate more money to the ECN so that they can train people extensively over longer periods of time because if you have no money you cannot train over longer periods. How would you pay them? You have seen some of them were going on strike because the money was not sufficient. Those who have been recruited from the streets wanted to get rich in one day. They wanted to get rich in the three days of voting. We must make money available to the ECN to be able to train people for a longer time.

I think, as the Secretary-General has said, it is the responsibility of all of us to look and evaluate this system. We should, in Committees, try to annihilate those bottlenecks and help to make it function perfectly for all of us, rather than saying; *let us go back to paper*. I support the Vote. Thank you very much.

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

Thank you. I will now give the Floor to the Honourable Speaker to respond, briefly, because most of the Colleagues have assisted with the responses to some of the questions posed.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Wonderful, I thought there were still more hands. I am going to move quickly. I might not refer to your names, however, I will try and summarise but do justice.

The first question came from my Dear *Honourable //Gowases* and her question was basically more an observation referring to the fact that holding by-elections are quite expensive. I think it is not only for you but



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**HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

it is for everybody and all I can say is that we should consider this as a possible future issue that can be taken up for review so that appropriate action can be taken. However, we cannot make a commitment here but to take note of what you have said.

*Honourable Venaani*, on the Voters' Education, can I be protected?  
(*Laughter*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Exactly. The Honourable Speaker is busy responding.

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**HON SPEAKER:** No single voter complained about not knowing how to use the EVMs. This is the information that the researchers in the ECN have collected and it is very important. It is very important for us to take note of that. (*Intervention*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
Honourable Kavetuna, the Speaker is speaking.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Then the second aspect to that - there were no spoilt ballots. I think it is also very important to note that there is an improvement to a certain extent. (*Interjections*)

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:**  
The Speaker is responding please.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 28**  
**HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

**HON SPEAKER:** *Honourable Venaani* referred to the fact that there was an important meeting called by the Electoral Commission of Namibia and for some reasons, this was not honoured. The information we have is that there was no such an event, but eventually he was invited to the next day with everyone else available.

Let me deal with the *Honourable Dienda* – the EVM makes provision for the Braille, for persons with visual impairment. This is something that is taken on board, it is actually being implemented to be used, so the concern there is taken care of. The question of having a dedicated day for visually impaired persons and elderly persons to vote, again, it is a matter for us to look into. However, if you say, since that particular provision is not available according to the *Election Act*, why can we have a particular stream organised for those people so that they are given first preference for them to be able to vote without being hindered. That is something that can be considered. The Law makes provision for continuous voters' registration and I think our Commission can definitely do that without losing time. Therefore, your concerns are obviously being taken into account by that particular provision.

On the question of refreshments provided during the Political Party Liaison Committee Meeting , it has nothing to do with gifts and all sorts of things, it is just a simple courtesy that is provided to those who are invited on a particular occasion, but the gifts are actually reserved for guests and visitors not necessarily for Political Party Leaders who might be invited.

Furthermore, more than 85% of election Officials are the unemployed youth. I think this is to the credit and the Electoral Commission of Namibia is doing a good job in this regard and I do not think we should be complaining we should rather compliment them. Temporary appointments are made during peak periods as provided for within the Law. Again, that is how we deal with those queries that have been raised.

The question from *Honourable Van den Heever* - I think I have experienced the panic on the morning of the actual election. I recall in a

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 28**  
**HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

particular Constituency where I went to vote, it was a kind of a slow start due to people being nervous because they were dealing with something for the first time. They were obviously trying to come to terms with the particular challenge, but I think the Electoral Commission of Namibia will be the first to say they will improve on training Political Party Agents and they will be able to continue to do this because training is absolutely essential and I think you will be hearing more about this. Therefore, commitment is there on the part of the Electoral Commission of Namibia. The delay experienced was not because of the EVMs, it was caused by the results verification process and I think we have to put matters in proper perspective.

On the issue that Honourable Mutorwa raised; I actually like the point you made and in terms of the Electoral Law, voting takes place from 07:00 to 21:00 but anyone who is found to be in line waiting to cast their vote, will be allowed to vote. The Voting goes on until the last person had an opportunity to cast his/her vote. I think that is the kind of system that we should encourage.

Again, *Honourable Charles Namoloh* made a very important point. This is our thing, it is our baby, if there are shortcomings it is through our collective endeavours that we can improve so that we can make the system functional and efficient.

I like the important point that was made by Honourable Mutorwa about subjecting the Electoral Commission of Namibia Reports to Parliamentary scrutiny so that they can further be looked at, and if there are issues that need to be taken up in order to improve and strengthen those Reports, this will help us. And should not only be confined to the Electoral Commission of Namibia's Reports, I think Reports that are due to be submitted to the House should actually be taken through the Committee system so that they can be looked at and strengthened because I know from my own experience, when we are there at the Committee level, we usually are so united, there is no partisan issues and I think we should make use of our Committee system because it serves us well.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 04  
HON DIENDA**

What else can I say, other than to thank all the Honourable Members for their contributions? Thank you.

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

Thank you. Any further discussions? Any objections? Agreed to.

Vote 04 – “AUDITOR-GENERAL” put for Discussion. Any objection? Agreed to. Please stand up Honourable Dienda.

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**HON DIENDA:** Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I just have three questions (*interjections*) On Page 1 of the Speech, this is now on the responsibility of the Auditor-General – *The Office of the Auditor-General contributes to the national objectives of our Government by helping the Nation to make the best use of public resources, and the audited bodies, to achieve proper accountability and transparency through compliance with regularity, propriety and accounting requirements (interjections)*

Where is the Honourable Chairperson?

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

Please proceed.

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Minister, what are the possibilities that the Auditor-General can also audit the books of the Education Sector, I am specifically here referring to schools. We are paying a lot of money for private auditors to audit our books at the schools – N\$20,000 per year, so as a Chairperson of a School Board it is a concern for me.

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 04**  
**HON KAPOFI**

**Question 2:** Honourable Minister, I think that we need to strengthen the independence of this Office. The Office of the Auditor-General does not have any teeth, my dear. Ministers, Municipalities, Local Councillors and Villages do not bring the books on time to the Auditor-General to be audited. And when they eventually bring the books, it is ten years later. *(interjections)* Now, it has become history so you want us, in the Public Account *(interjection)* no, you did not raise your hand Honourable Mbumba. You did not press the button, let me speak.

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**HON MBUMBA:** No, you cannot bind anyone like that.

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**HON DIENDA:** Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, when these books are being submitted to Parliament and we discuss it in the Public Accounts Committee, the information is already history. Therefore, what I am saying is that we must give the Office of the Auditor-General more teeth to deal with these matters according to the Law. Thank you.

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**HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Thank you. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor. The Minister is responding.

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**HON MINISTER OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS:** Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson.

I want to thank the Honourable Member for keeping me awake. I have been following the Debate, all of it, and I like the civility in the House, very cordial and I think we are making history as a people, given the

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**COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 04  
HON KAPOFI**

experience elsewhere. Therefore, I would like to thank all the Members for this atmosphere in the House.

On the auditing of school books, the development fund; I do not know whether the development fund is still there, maybe the private schools still have that. However, when it comes to Government schools, and because the Law governing the Education Sector makes provision for the Auditor-General to audit – those books can be audited. Anything that relates to the public, anything where the public interest is, the Auditor-General can be directed to do that. However, when it comes to the Development Fund, I think that has been done away with in terms of public schools. Maybe there are still some, but generally this is no longer an issue. But with the private schools, that is probably difficult for the Auditor-General because the Law may not permit that the Office goes and audit the books of private schools, however, I think that every institution that is using public funds should take good care of those funds.

Now, coming to the delays in making books available to the Auditor-General for auditing purposes; it has been a trend everywhere in the Local Authorities, but I think there are significant improvements with the Auditor-General. There have been, of course, backlogs but I think as we say – *everything has a beginning*, we are getting there. I thank the whole House for the support. Thank you.

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

Thank you. Any further discussion? Any objection? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again

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**ASSEMBLY RESUMES**

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**ADJOURNMENT  
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

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**HON SPEAKER:** Well, I am actually happy with the whole thing, everybody is lively, actively involved and engaged. You have done a good job, well done!

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**HON SPEAKER:** I have a small announcement, basically, to seek your views. Tomorrow is Wednesday, we have a meeting with the Leaders of the various Political Parties represented in the House. That is a separate matter.

However, Thursday, in view of the fact that Friday is a public holiday and it is a long weekend, are you willing to meet on Thursday morning rather than meeting in the afternoon, if that would help you in any way? Is that acceptable to the House?

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**HON MEMBERS:** Yes!

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**HON SPEAKER:** Hallelujah, well done. Thank you. On that note can we adjourn the House until tomorrow, the usual time? Until tomorrow Wednesday, at 14:30.

The House stands adjourned until 14:30, tomorrow.

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**ADJOURNMENT  
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

In terms of Rule 90(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 22:00 until Wednesday, 29 April 2015.

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**HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 22:00 UNTIL 2015.04.29 AT 14:30**

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**Department of Transport Vote 24**  
TECHNICAL DOCUMENT (FINANCIAL YEAR  
2015/2016)

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Department of Transport was assigned with the responsibility to ensure the provision of a safe and efficient transport services and infrastructure in the Country in balance with demands in the four transport modes.

## **MANDATE**

The Mandate of the Department of Transport is to develop, implement and regulate Sectoral Policy, ensure infrastructure development and management of transport.

## **DEPARTMENTAL OBJECTIVES**

- Ensure availability of efficient and effective transport infrastructure which promotes economic development and social upliftment.
- Ensure that the mobility needs of people and industry are met.
- Minimize adverse impacts of infrastructure upon the environment and society.
- Ensure that Government assets are managed to the benefit of the Nation.

## **DEPARTMENTAL TARGETS**

- Construction of 1046.15 km roads and upgrading of 1155.70 km rural roads to bitumen standard by 2017/2018.
- Rehabilitation of 172 km Trunk and Main Roads by 2017/2018.
- Planning for the implementation of one non-motorized transport (NMT) infrastructure pilot project between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay by 2017/2018.
- Construction of one new Vehicle and Driver Testing Station and upgrading of four existing Testing stations by 2017/2018.

- Construct, Maintain, Rehabilitate, and Upgrade about 438 km (Kranzberg - Tsumeb 400 km and Phase III: Northern Railway Line Extension - Ondangwa to Oshikango (38 km) of rail network in Namibia by 2017/2018.
- Construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of aviation infrastructure (Government Hangar, W/bay runway, DCA HQ, ATC towers and extension to the communication, surveillance and navigation systems) in Namibia by 2017/2018.
- Construction and Fencing of State Owned Aerodromes by 2017/2018.
- Construction, Upgrading and acquisition of Maritime facilities (Offices and Radar system) by 2017/2018.
- Extend the meteorological infrastructures to meet prescribed international standards of ICAO and WMO by 2017/2018.

## Targets

Target	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Construction of 1046.15 km roads	418.46 km	138.5 km	489.19
Upgrading of 1155.70 km rural roads to bitumen standard by 2017/2018	462.28 km	98.4 km	595.02
Rehabilitation of 172 km Trunk and Main Roads by 2017/2018	50.3 km	37 km	84.7
Planning for the implementation of one non-motorised transport (NMT) infrastructure pilot project between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay by 2017/2018			
To upgrade the core railway line network from Walvis Bay to Tsumeb 600 km and from Usakos to Windhoek (242 km)	274km	274 km	274 km
To construct Sand Dune Dunnels in order to allow free movement of trains to the Luderitz Port without stopping Aus - Luderitz (6 km)	0 km	3 km	3 km
Construction of new railway line between Ondangwa and Oshakati (38 Km)	0 km	19 km	19 km
Construction of one new Vehicle and Driver Testing Station and upgrading of four existing Testing stations	95%	100%	

by 2017/2018			
Government Hangar (Phase 2 VIP Terminal)	99%	100%	
Walvis bay runway	75%	95%	100%
DCA HQ	90%	95%	100%
Air Traffic Control towers Ondangwa and Swakop to be completed by 2018 and W/Bay and 98Rundu to be completed in the next MTEF	98%	100%	60% W/bay and Rundu
New Area Control for Windhoek FIR.	98%	100% of	10% of
		phase 3	phase 4
Construction of Opuwo Aerodrome	68%	17%	
Fencing of State Aerodromes	30%	30%	
Construction DMA office in Walvis Bay and !Nami#nus	30%	95%	100%
Maritime Radar system, Main control room and radar equipment	30%	65%	95%
Extend the meteorological infrastructure to meet prescribed international standards of ICAO and WMO by 2017/2018	18% (2/11)	36%(4/11)	45%(5/11)

## DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMMES

### PROGRAMME 01: AIR TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION

Budget Type	Amount
<b>Operational Budget</b>	
Main division: 05	877472000.00
Main division: 08	66816000.00
Main division: 09	9446888.00
Main division: 10	41855000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>995589000.00</b>
<b>Development Budget</b>	
Main division: 05	269117000.00
Main division: 08	0
Main division: 09	0
Main division: 10	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>269117000.00</b>

## **Purpose of the Programme**

To ensure a safe, secure and efficient Civil Aviation Infrastructure that contributes to the national security and its economy. This programme consists of three main activities, namely Aircraft Accident Investigations, Government Air transport Services and Civil Aviation Infrastructure Administration.

## **Main Activities**

The main activities that fall under the Programme are:

- Aircrafts Accident Investigations
- Government Air Transport Services
- Civil Aviation Infrastructure Administration (Air Namibia and NAC)

## **Strategic Activities**

Strategic Activities and Output to Achieve High-Level Strategies:

- Detect, investigate and prevent aircraft accidents.
- Provide Safe Air Transport to VVIP and VIPs.
- Provide safe and proper air traffic services (Air Namibia)
- Constructs reliable runways for aviation safety (NAC)

## **Achievements to Date**

Aircrafts Accident Investigations and Government Air Transport Services:

- One of the major past occurrence, is the crash of an Embreair 190 of Mozambique airline on the 29th of November 2013, in the Bwabwata National Park in the Kavango East Region, where unfortunately everybody on board was killed. Namibia as a contracting state to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) responded and handled the investigation very well in accordance with international standards.
- The construction of Government Hangar phase II VIP Terminal will be completed during the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

## **Civil Aviation Infrastructure Administration (Air Namibia and NAC)**

Namibia is obliged to as a signatory to the Chicago Convention on International Air Transport and its Annexes ensure that it implement systems that ensure the provision of air navigational services. This is inclusive of aeronautical telecommunications, search and rescue, development of charts and distribution of information in order to ensure the safe passage of aircraft overflying or landing without compromising the safety the aircraft, passengers, crew, ground personnel and property and the general public. This is the primary objective of the investments depicted below.

This is with reference to the building and installation of Air Traffic Control Centres and various Air Traffic Control Towers as well as in the Area Control Centre. This Division ensure that present and future investment by Namibia in maintaining, upgrading and replacing aviation infrastructure and investment in the technical and human and procedural capability as well as the education and training of current and future aviation professionals are consistent and responsive to Standards and Recommended Practices set by the International Civil Aviation Organization and comply with the Namibian Civil Aviation Regulations and Technical Standards.

During the review period the Ministry completed the construction of the Air Traffic Control tower at Mpacha Airport in Katima Mulilo. The tower was furthermore equipped with equipment and was taken into operation. The Ministry is currently in the process to start with the construction of a new Air Traffic Control Tower at Ondangwa, in Oshana Region. Aircraft Overflying or operating within control airspace obtain from Air Traffic Controller information very essential to their safe and efficient operations within controlled space. This is essential as it enable us to contribute to reducing the number of Controlled Flight into Terrain or number of loss of control in-flight fatal accidents and/incidences or fatalities, to reduce continually the global accident rate.

Another achievement made during the review period is the extension coverage of the Radar and Surveillance System by installing additional Wide Area Multilateration for the Hosea Kutako Terminal Movement Area. This new WAM equipment will make it possible to track Aircraft

down to Ground level at Eros Airport and give redundancy to the Radar at Hosea Kutako International Airport. My Ministry intends to commission the additional WAM Equipment in August 2015.

States are invariably audited against their ability to provide the necessary enabling infrastructure and equipment, tools to ensure that its aviation safety oversight functions are carried out. The quality of the Directorate of Civil Aviation scored during the ICAO Audit in 2006 a mere 45%. This score improved modestly to 56%, during the 2014 Audit by the Auditors from the ICAO. We are confident that the construction and completion of this building and associated support soft - infrastructure would take us to 100% and thereby raise our overall score in all the Eight Critical Elements 1 - 8. That overall score is currently at 59.7% and confirm that we have not yet established the safety oversight system considered effective in terms of the Eight Critical Elements.

The progress is good and the new DCA Head Quarter is expected to be completed at the end of 2015/16 financial year. There are some delays on the project due to the in South Africa strikes that affected the transportation of building material into Namibia, and the region however, the progress is pleasing at this stage. The Ministry will however have to approach Tender Board to get approval on additional requirements in order to complete the building.

We are also in the process of replacing the Instrument Landing System at Hosea Kutako and Walvis Bay airport. The Instrument Landing System is more than 20 years old and is long overdue for replacement this could not be done because of budgetary constraints and problems with the tendering process. It is, however, anticipated to have the Equipment replaced soon.

My Ministry is also in the process of replacing and upgrading the entire voice communication in the Namibian Flight Information Region with digital equipment. This involves the upgrading of the Voice Communication Switch, where the Factory Acceptance test is already completed. The Very High Frequency Radio Network as well as the Digital Voice Recorders.

The Aeronautical Information Services are furthermore in the process of migrating from the Aeronautical Information Services to Aeronautical Information Management and a major component of this project is the

ISO 9000 Certification as well as the Automation of the Aeronautical Information Services.

My Ministry is furthermore also busy with the rehabilitation and upgrading of the Walvis Bay runway. The new additional wide body aircraft parking bay is already completed and a new parallel taxiway to be constructed is planned for 2015. The progress is good after the project eventually could start, since the Contractor was delayed initially by a period of 5 month to get access to the construction site (airport). The Ministry has to approach the Tender Board for the expenditure, which resulted out of the denial of access to the construction site. The Ministry has also constructed an additional Wide Body Parking Bay as can be seen from the picture below.

The Air Navigation Services Provisioning Division, are not only spending funds on acquiring, upgrading and maintenance of the required air navigational facilities, equipment and procedural capabilities but enable us to generate revenue from Overflight Charges. The Ministry collected during the past 12 months a total amount of N\$57,411,998.34 from the services rendered. The Directorate is using some of these charges for the payment of Services required for Air traffic Control, but the intention is to transfer this remaining greater part of the funds to the new NCAA once created. Below you will see a graph representing the invoice vs. collected amounts. This source of income with many other proposed schemes of charges and with levies proposed would in addition to existing transfers to the Directorate of Civil Aviation become an invaluable source of income to the proposed establishment of an autonomous Namibian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA). Below is the curve indicating the growth in our collection rate since the commissioning of the Overflight and Landing Charging System.

### **Challenges**

- Finding a permanent hangar or space for accident wreckages for detailed investigations/analysis and office space for DAAI.
- Delays in security screening have caused serious setbacks in appointment of subcontractors resulting in project delays and high costs due to escalation.



- All concrete blocks of apron cracked and have been rejected by client Ministry.
- The vandalisation of fences at the State-owned Aerodromes remains a challenge.
- The dispute between the ministry and NAC on the upgrade of the Mpacha Airport and the Walvis Bay run way delayed the projects implementation and the projects required more funds then initially planned.

## **PROGRAMME      02:      METEOROLOGICAL      SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

<b>Budget Type</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Operational Budget	<b>33,699,000.00</b>
Development Budget	<b>23,465,000.00</b>

### **Purpose of the Programme**

To provide timely and quality weather and climate services, and early warning services to all sectors whose operations are sensitive to, and depend on weather and climate in order to maximize their resource utilization for the benefit of the people of Namibia, both present and future generations.

### **Main Activities**

The Main Activities that fall under the Programme are:

- Development and provisioning of Meteorological Services

### **Strategic Activities**

Strategic Activities and Output to Achieve High-Level Strategies:

- Construct reliable weather stations.
  - Provide reliable climatic data.

## **Achievements to Date**

- Acquisition and commissioning of a high resolution local area model for numerical weather prediction.
- Completion of the publication on aeronautical climatological summaries for Namibia. The completed manuscript has been approved for printing and copies will be issued to users after the printing works.
- Construction of meteorological offices at Rundu is near completion except for paving. Similarly, the construction of the meteorological office at Katima Mulilo is also about to finish.
- Successful sustenance of the certification for the ICAO/WMO driven ISO based Quality Management System (QMS) for provision of meteorological services following the annual audit by Bureau Veritas, the world renowned ISO/QMS external auditors.
- Completion of the reference publication “Namibia Monthly and Seasonal Rainfall Deciles for Quantitative Rainfall Performance Ranking and Drought Assessment.”
- The NMS has installed an upper air station at Ondangwa. This station is capable of taking readings in the upper atmosphere for temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, wind speed and direction. The installation of this station increased the number of upper air stations in the country to four a great improvement in the provision of meteorological services to the Aviation Sector.
- The procurement and installation of calibration chambers was completed as well as the procurement and installation of the Wind tunnel.

## **Challenges**

The unimplemented restructuring of the Meteorological Service Division continues to be a major challenge and constraint as it seriously inhibits service delivery due to staffing limitations. Planned new meteorological stations in the regions cannot be opened and some existing sections remain closed for lack of staff. Moreover, the few existing members of

staff are frustrated as many of them cannot be appointed to positions commensurate with their qualifications.

Although the Division managed to maintain its QMS/ISO certification obtained during the 2012/2013 financial period, and successfully retained during 2013/2014 after an international audit, the threat of losing this status is real.

The major factors that hampered and slowed down the operations of the section were shortage of staff, and funding levels. Instead of conducting 4 inspections only two could be completed for the meteorological stations and no rainfall stations were inspected.

### **PROGRAMME 03: MARITIME LEGISLATION ADMINISTRATION**

<b>Budget Type</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Operational Budget	63,864,000.00
Development Budget	95,925,000.00

#### **Purpose of the Programme**

To ensure fulfilment of the Ministry's objectives regarding safety and security of life and property at sea; protection of the marine environment from pollution by ships as well as to promote national maritime interest.

#### **Main Activities**

The Main Activities that fall under this programme are:

- Provide for the control of merchant shipping and matters incidental thereto i.e. recording, registering and licensing of all ships.
- Monitoring of vessels, shipping, fishing and mining activities in the Namibian coastal waters.

## **Strategic Activities**

Strategic Activities and Output to Achieve High-Level Strategies:

- Improved ship safety and security.
- Prevention of pollution in the Namibian waters.

## **Achievements to Date**

Since the inception of the Directorate Maritime Affairs, a notable number of achievements have been recorded as follows;

- New regulations on Construction and Equipment of Fishing Vessels as well as the Merchant Radio Installation Regulations were promulgated in 2002.
- Regulations on Training and Certification of Namibia Seafarers 2004 promulgated.
- Manning of Namibian Vessels Regulations promulgated in December 2003.
- The reviewed Wreck and Salvage Act has been enacted.
- Acquisition and installation of Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) facility for the facilitation of maritime emergency communication between ships and shore was completed.
- The installation of first ever DMA electronic database was developed and commissioned in February 2005.
- The Namibian tidal gauges (Hydrographic) station was acquired and installed at Walvis Bay port premise. It is operated by Namport on behalf of the Ministry (MWT).
- Relevant IMO international maritime conventions were acceded to to-date, such as:
  - Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention 1974/1978

- Collision Prevention Rules Convention 1972
  - Tonnage Measurements Convention 1969
  - Load Lines Convention 1966/1988
  - Convention on Certain Rules related to the Arrest of Ships 1952.
  - Marine Pollution Prevention(MARPOL) 1973/1978.
  - Standards on Training, Certification and Watch-keeping of Seafarers (STCW) - 1978/1995.
  - Standards on Training, Certification and Watch-keeping of Seafarers (STCW) — Fishermen 1995.
  - Intervention on High Seas Convention.
  - Search and Rescue (SAR) Convention 1972.
  - Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Navigation at Sea 1988, etc.
- Established Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) for the coordination of maritime emergency radio communication messages, etc.
  - While the Ministry's mandate is to regulate maritime activities in the country, it also assisted with the acquisition and commissioning of the Zambezi River Landing Craft and the river Dredging Craft at Katima Mulilo.

During the Financial Year 2014/2015, the Ministry has continued develop national maritime legislation by reviewing old and drafting new policies, with view to bring them in line with the internationally accepted standards and practices. The reviewed draft Merchant Shipping and Marine Pollution Bills are being scrutinized for legal advice by the Office of the Attorney-General.

Ship surveys and inspections are regularly conducted by the Ministry's ship surveyors in the ports of Walvis Bay and #Nami!nus (Luderitz) to ensure seaworthy national ships as well as ships on international seaborne trade calling at our ports.

Shipping activities to and from Namibian ports are on the increase, hence the existing port limits of Walvis Bay was extended to accommodate large number of ships calling at Walvis Bay port. The new port limit also help to enhance the enforcement of national maritime rules and regulations;

ensure prevention of sea pollution by ships as well as possible violations in Namibian territorial waters. May I take this opportunity to inform this August House that the portion of the funds required under this program will be used for Namibian Ports Authority (NAMPORT) development project, to construct new Container Terminal at the Walvis Bay port.

Progress has also being made towards the establishment of national maritime radar system. The system will provide Namibia the capacity, not only to ensure safety of ships in the coastal waters; monitor ships movements; fishing and offshore mining operations, but also provide for national safety and security. During the Financial Year 2014/2015, the Ministry has completed construction of the Maritime Main Control Room, to accommodate the maritime radar system, as well as Office Annex. It is envisaged that the procurement process and the installation of the much needed System in the main control room will start soon this Financial Year 2015/2016.

The Ministry will also continue to restructure the Directorate of Maritime Affairs into a national autonomous maritime administration in order to improve the provision of maritime services efficiently. The Draft *Maritime Authority Bill* will soon be tabled in Cabinet for decision-making.

As part of the maritime restructuring process, a new office building for the Directorate was constructed and commissioned during the Financial Year 2014/2015 at Walvis Bay. The office building will provide sufficient space conducive for provision of efficient maritime services to the shipping, fishing and offshore mining communities.

### **Challenges**

- Shortage of suitably qualified maritime experts nationals e.g. maritime engineers, maritime administrations, maritime legal experts, maritime safety administrators, marine protection experts, etc.
- Outdated maritime laws and regulations that address all national maritime needs.
- Unwanted delays are frustrating the Ministry's effort to develop maritime sector and achieve its objectives.

- Inadequate funds to meet all DMA needs, including the restructuring of national maritime administration to accepted standard.
- Unnecessary administrative bureaucracy.

#### **PROGRAMME 04: FORMULATION TRANSPORTATION POLICY AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT**

<b>Budget Type</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Operational Budget	49,808,000.00
Development Budget	26,080,000.00

#### **Purpose of the Programme**

To formulate and implement transport policies to ensure safe, efficient and effective mobility and universal access to Namibian citizens and foreigners alike. The programme is also responsible for the regulation of transportation services in the Transport Sector and for the development, review and administering relevant legislation.

#### **Main Activities**

- Transportation Policy and regulation administration

#### **Strategic Activities**

- Non-motorized transport facilities nationwide (urban and rural settings) and access to public infrastructure to promote the economic and social demands of all Namibia's citizenry.
- Conformity of all 21 approved Vehicle Testing Stations and Driver Testing Stations to Standardized technical requirements as approved South African Bureau of Standards (SABS).
- Standardized learner and drive testing assessments.

- Uniform grading of Vehicle Examiners and routine testing to assert competencies.
- Enforce adherence to technical and safety requirements to promote safe, efficient and effective passenger and freight operations within urban, rural and cross border operations.
- Ensure adherence minimum safety standards and maintenance standards to ensure that the asset value of the road network is sustained to support corridor movements and internal demands for transport services.

### **Achievements to Date**

#### **Upgrading of Vehicle and Driver Testing Stations**

This Project is an ongoing Project which is part of the 21 approved driver and testing stations by cabinet for construction and to upgrade some of the existing driver and testing stations. The aim of the project is to improve the standards of our driver and vehicle testing facilities in order to produce quality drivers and roadworthy vehicles. This project has a significant impact on the reduction of road accidents and fatalities. The focus at the moment is to construct fully fledged testing centres for Opuwo, another in Khomasdal for the Windhoek area and to upgrade the Okahandja testing centre.

#### **Legislation Reviewed**

The Ministry is currently reviewing the following Bills which it intends to table in Parliament during 2015/2016. These are, the Roads Bill replacing the outdated Roads Ordinance and the Vehicle Mass Bill, which will decriminalize overload offences to enable such offences to be adjudicated administratively.

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

During the period under review and in collaboration with GIZ, the Ministry of Works and Transport finalised the Sustainable Urban Transport Master Plan and are busy with the implementation phase. This Policy document's main objective is to reduce traffic congestions, road



accidents, air pollution particularly in Windhoek, Okahandja, Rehoboth and Hosea Kutako International Airport. It is also important to note that this plan has been replicated in the four northern regions and subsequently to the rest of the country.

### **Integrated Transport Master Plan**

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

### **National Road Safety**

Globally about 1.24 million people die each year on the world's roads. An estimated 20-50 million people are said to sustain nonfatal injuries as a result of road traffic crashes. Overall, road traffic injuries are the 8th leading cause of death globally. Namibia is one of the countries that are not performing well when it comes to road safety. The prevailing situation is precarious, thus calling for every road using Namibian to be worried. Namibia continue to report over 15,000 accidents per year out of which more than 3,400 are injury related with over 630 fatalities.

It was reported by my predecessor to this August house that work on the new *Road Safety Management Bill* had commenced. Due to ongoing consultations and the need to accommodate all stakeholders, it could not be table during the previous parliamentary session; however, I am confident that it will be tabled during this session. Once enacted into law, the Bill will provide the country with the requisite legal framework to holistically deal with the ongoing road safety problems.

In order to build a solid road safety foundation, the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Education, have moved towards integrating road safety into the school curriculum. To date integration for grade 1 to 3 has taken place with effect from 15 January 2015 and work for grades Teach6 Training Manu 4 to 7 is progressing well. This being work-in-progress, the project will continue until 2023, by which time road

safety education should have covered both primary and secondary school phases.

In addition the driver training system will be revised to close all loopholes which has produced the current poorly trained drivers. In the end all these efforts are needed to ensure that economic gains achieved so far are not undermined by road crashes and their resultant externalities such as human trauma.

### **Challenges**

- The current budget allocation is not sufficient to cover the infrastructural developmental needs for constructing new testing stations and upgrading of the existing stations to meet the required standard.

### **PROGRAMME 05: PROVISION AND UPGRADING OF THE RAILWAY NETWORK PROGRAMME**

<b>Budget Type</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Operational Budget	305,692,000.00
Development Budget	649,811,000.00

### **Purpose of the Programme**

To construct new railway lines, conducting feasibility studies for new rail lines, maintain, upgrading and rehabilitation of aged railway lines, acquisition of new locomotives and rolling stock, monitoring and evaluation of the performance of TransNamib. All these being done in order to provide efficient and effective rail transport services to the Nation.

### **Main Activities**

The Main Activities that fall under this Programme are:

- Railway Infrastructure Management

## **Strategic Activities**

### **Strategic Activities and Output to Achieve High-Level Strategies**

- Expanded Rail Network connecting to neighbouring countries.
- Freight & Pax Carrying Capacity with more passengers and cargo volumes transported by rail.
- Better track alignment and performance through proper maintenance.
- Modern Locomotives & Rolling Stock and train control system.
- Reduced train incidents and derailment accidents.
- Feasibility and Technical Reports (Documentation) produced.
- Rehabilitate, maintain and Upgrade railway network.

## **Achievements to Date**

### **CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RAILWAY LINES**

Considering that most of the areas in the various regions are not accessible by rail, it is important that more rail lines be constructed. This will lessen the burden on the road and also provide cheaper and affordable means of transport, to this effect the Ministry is currently doing Northern Railway Line Extension Project Phase III Project - Ondangwa to Oshakati.

### **CONDUCTING FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR NEW RAIL LINES**

Tender documents for five Commuter train feasibility studies were prepared, advertised with four being awarded during the Financial Year 2014/15. Work will commence in this financial year 2015/2016 Trans-Kalahari Railway Line:

In 2010 the Governments of the Republics of Namibia and Botswana entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the development of the Trans- Kalahari Railway Line Link and port in Namibia. Last year, 2014, the two Governments signed a bilateral

agreement on the development of the line. This was immediately followed by the signing of the Project Management Office agreement. The office from which the Project Management Office will operate has been identified and is ready for occupation. It was further agreed that each government contribute N\$33 million towards the activities of the Project Office. The government of the Republic of Namibia has since contributed its part and awaits the government of the Republic of Botswana to do the same.

### **Cape Fria - Katima Mulilo Railway Line**

A feasibility study was carried out in 2010 and submitted to Cabinet for its consideration. It is considered that a long time has elapsed since this was done and a review study and route alignment be carried out this financial year.

### **UPGRADING AND REHABILITATION OF AGED RAILWAY LINES**

Rehabilitation of Kranzberg- Tsumeb Railway Line Section:

Many of the critical sections between Kranzberg and Otjiwarongo have been improved and stabilized. Trains can now move at speeds of up to 50km per hour Project - Ondangwa to Oshakati.

### **CONDUCTING FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR NEW RAIL LINES**

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### **Trans-Kalahari Railway Line:**

In 2010 the Governments of the Republics of Namibia and Botswana entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the development of the Trans- Kalahari Railway Line Link and port in Namibia. Last year, 2014 the two Governments signed a Bilateral Agreement on the development of the line. This was immediately followed by the signing of the Project Management Office agreement. The office from which the Project Management Office will operate has been identified and is ready for occupation. It was further agreed that

each Government contribute N\$33 million towards the activities of the Project Office. The Government of the Republic of Namibia has since contributed its part and awaits the government of the Republic of Botswana to do the same.

### **Cape Fria - Katima Mulilo Railway Line**

A feasibility study was carried out in 2010 and submitted to Cabinet for its consideration. It is considered that a long time has elapsed since this was done and a review study and route alignment be carried out this financial year.

### **UPGRADING AND REHABILITATION OF AGED RAILWAY LINES**

#### **Rehabilitation of Kranzberg- Tsumeb Railway Line Section:**

Many of the critical sections between Kranzberg and Otjiwarongo have been improved and stabilized. Trains can now move at speeds of up to 50km per hour.

### **ACQUISITION OF NEW LOCOMOTIVES AND ROLLING STOCK**

#### **Locomotives and Rolling Stock:**

Several train derailments occurred during the period under review. The derailments were costly to TransNamib as some equipment was damaged beyond economic repair. The loss of locomotives, wagons and tankers reduced available traction power and severely hampered the provision of railway line services to the Nation at large.

Considering that the current locomotives stock is more than thirty years old, there is an urgent need to acquire more to strengthen the State Owned Enterprise.

## Challenges

- Contractors Performance.
- Changing Climatic Conditions, Strikes in neighbouring countries makes it difficult to obtain supplies on time.
- High Velocity Winds and sand dunes.

## **PROGRAMME 6 :      PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF                      TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE**

<b>Budget Type</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Operational Budget	23,106,000.00
Development Budget	1,745,722,000.00

### **Purpose of This Programme**

To develop road infrastructures in as well as the maintenance of these road infrastructure. This includes the construction of new roads and the improvement of gravel roads to bitumen standard. The objective thereof is to provide connectivity of rural communities to District Roads and also to link the District Roads in rural areas as part of the National Road Network.

The National Road Network is developed and preserved in accordance with the priorities set out in the Medium to Long Term Roads Master Plan and in line with the targets of the National Development Plans, the 2015 Millennium Development Goals and Vision 2030. In line with our 2015 Millennium Development Goals, the Government is striving to ensure that all citizens must not walk a distance exceeding 2 km to the nearest all weather road.

### **Main Activities**

The Main Activities that fall under this Programme are:

- Transportation Infrastructure Network Administration.

## Strategic Activities

### Strategic Activities and Output to Achieve High-Level Strategies

- Ensure safe and effective transport infrastructure.

### Achievements to Date

#### Road Construction and Upgrading

##### Completed Bitumen Standard Roads

- **TR 15/1 Tsumeb - Tsintsabis - Katwitwi road (Kavango, Oshikoto):** This project was done in three sections i.e. A, B and C and fully completed in November 2013.
- **TR 14/2: Gobabis - Otjinene road Phase 1.** (159 km). (Omaheke and Otjozondjupa): Construction started during November 2009 and was completed in October 2013. The project represents the first phase of upgrading to bitumen standards of the Gobabis - Grootfontein road which is part of the Trans - Kalahari Highway extension to the Trans - Zambezi Highway and to Southern Angola.

##### Completed Gravel Roads

The gravel roads shown in the table below were completed during the 2012/2013-2014/2015 MTEF period.

Item No	Road Name	Region	Date Complete
1	DR 3653: Oshikuku - Ekangolinene(DR 3608) (23 km)	Omusati	May 2013
2	DR 3448: Kaisosi (TR 8/4) - Cuma (DR 3401) (59.1 km)	Kavango East	July 2013
3	DR 3638: Onamutai - Ongwediva –Okatana (17km)	Oshana	July 2013
4	DR 3672: Outapi - Post (13.6 km) Okapalelano Border	Omusati	August 2013
5	DR 3670: Oshandi - Eembahu (TR 10/2) - Oshiweda (MR 121) (40km)	Oshana - Oshikoto	April 2014
6	DR 3657: TR1/11 Oshapapa (Oshali) - Epumbu (32 km)	Oshikoto	June 2014

7	DR 3449: Tjova (TR 8/4) – Divayi (35 km)	Kavango East	June 2014
8	DR 3674: Onayena (DR 3603) (Onankali) Omahenge (24.4km)	Oshikoto	December 2014

**Okandjengedi and Ongwediva** Bridges were completed during the 2013/2014 Financial Year.

### **Completed Bridges and Weighbridges**

**Gobabis Weighbridge.** The project was completed in February 2013. Namibia's current Overload Control Strategy and its Programme of weighbridge construction is based on a study on the management of weighbridges and overload control operations, which the Roads Authority finalized in January 2002. The study recommended the construction of weighbridges at Onhuno, Walvis Bay, Oshivelo, Windhoek Brakwater, Windhoek Aris, Katima Mulilo, Noordoewer and Ariamsvlei. Implementing these will positively contribute towards the reduction of overloading from an estimated 30% to 10% respectively.

### **Ongoing Road Construction and Upgrading Projects**

#### **Ongoing Bitumen Standard Roads**

- **MR 125: Liselo — Linyanti — Kongola - Singalamwe** (Zambezi): (212 km) of existing gravel road is being upgraded to bitumen standards. Construction is expected to be completed by June 2015.
- **MR 67: Omakange — Ruacana** (Omusati) (99 km). Construction started in April 2013 and is expected to be completed by June 2015. This project is funded from a Chinese loan.
- **DR 3608: Omafo — Ongenga - Outapi** (Omusati, Ohangwena) (98 km) Upgrading to bitumen standard started in April 2013 and is expected to be completed by June 2015. This project is funded from a Chinese loan.
- **MR 121: Eenhana — Oshigambo** (Oshikoto & Ohangwena) (48 km). Construction started in February 2014 and is expected to be completed by March 2016.



- **TR 9/1 & TR 1/6: Windhoek — Okahandja** (84 km) (Komas & Otjomondjupa). Rehabilitation and upgrading to dual carriageway of the first 8 km started in February 2014. From the Dobra River this project will continue to Okahandja completion is expected in April 2016.
- **TR 14/2: Gobabis – Otjinene - Grootfontein, Phase 2** (Section Otjinene - Okamatapati) (Omaheke & Otjomondjupa): Construction started in February 2014 and is expected to be completed by March 2017. The project represents the second phase of the Gobabis - Grootfontein road which is part of the Trans - Kalahari Highway extension to the Trans -Zambezi Highway and to Southern Angola.
- **MR 118: Rosh Pinah – Oranjemund** (98 km). (Karas) Construction started in February 2014 with completion planned for July 2016.
- **MR 91: Gobabis - Aminius - Aranos** (245 km) (Omaheke & Hardap). Upgrading to bitumen standards of this road started in March 2014 and is expected to be completed by November 2018.
- **TR10/2: Elundu - Eenhana (Ohangwena):** (25 km) This project is an extension of the recently completed Rundu - Elundu section. Upgrading to a bitumen standard road started in June 2014 and is expected to be completed by July 2015.
- **DR 3668 Okalongo -OmuveloWaKasamane Border Post** (Omusati): (15km) Construction of this road is expected to be completed by November 2015.
- **DR 3603: Onayena — Okankolo** (Oshikoto): (16 km) Construction started in February 2014 and is expected to be completed by December 2015.
- **DR 3615: Onamutuku (Olwani) – Oshikuku** (Omusati): (16 km) Construction started in August 2013 and is expected to be completed by August 2015.
- **MR 120: Okatana - Endola - Onhuno** (Oshana, Ohangwena) (34.6 km). Construction started in July 2012 and is expected to be completed by December 2015.

### **Ongoing Gravel Roads Construction**

- **DR 3524: Ngoma (Izimwe) - Nakabolelwa (23 km)** (Zambezi). To date 23% of project has already been constructed by Kubaraf Development Enterprises c.c.
- **DR 3427: Kamupupu - Mbururu (21.3km)** (Kavango). Construction has been ongoing since July 2012 and is expected to be completed by June 2015.
- **DR 3649: Onalulago - Epembe (46 km)** (Oshikoto) Construction started in August 2013 and is expected to be completed by December 2015.
- **DR 3673: Omuthiya — Onanke (33.4 km)** (Oshikoto) Construction has been ongoing since February 2012 and is expected to be completed by June 2015.
- **DR 3681: Epato – Onkani (38 km)** (Omusati) Contractor started mobilizing for construction in February 2015.
- **\*Isiye - Sifuha - Malindi - Schuckmansburg (50km)** Mobilization for construction started in December 2014. Construction is expected to be completed by July 2017.
- **DR 3635: Amwaanda - Omutambo Wo Mawe (100 km)** Construction started in June 2014 and is expected to be completed by April 2017.

### **Road Construction and Upgrading Projects Planned For Implementation**

In addition to the ongoing projects reported above, the Ministry has planned to implement the following projects.

#### **Bitumen Standard Roads Planned for Implementation 2015/2016**

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Road Name</b>	<b>Region</b>
1	MR44: Swakopmund - Walvis Bay road upgrading (44km)	Erongo

2	Oshakati -Ongenga (DR3609) Road Upgrading to bitumen standard (37 km)	Ohangwena Oshana Omusati
3	Oshakati - Omungwelume - Ongenga (DR 3609) Road (37.3km) Upgraded to Bitumen Standard	Oshana
4	Swakopmund-Henties bay-Kamanjab Link (412KM)	Erongo Kunene
5	Oshikango Bypass (Rehabilitation) 20km	Ohangwena
6	Keetmanshoop-Mariental Road Rehabilitation (386km)	Karas Hardap
7	TR 1/16:Windhoek - Okahandja Road Rehabilitation Phase 1 (67km)	Khomas Otjozondjupa
8	TR1/5: Windhoek - Rehoboth Road Rehabilitation (84 km)	Khomas Hardap
9	TR 2/1: Swakopmund - Walvis Bay RoadRehabilitation(30km)	Erongo
10	Omuthiya - Ongwediva Road Rehabilitation (110 km)	Oshana Oshikoto
11	TR6/1 Windhoek - HKIA Road to dual Carriageway (44 km)	Khomas
12	Upgrading of Karibib - Usakos - Swakopmund (177km) 2+1 Cross section	Erongo
13	Upgrading of 1635 Du Plessis Plaas - 1688 Epukiro Post 3 toBitumen standard (47km)	Omaheke
14	Construction and Tarring of the road from Opuwo to Epupa	Kunene
15	Construction and Tarring of the road from Opuwo toSesfontein	Kunene

### Gravel Roads Planned for Implementation 2015/2016

Item No	Road Name	Region
1	Construction of gravel road from DR 3624: TR 102 Om undaungilo (16km)	Ohangwena
2	Construction of gravel road from DR 3650: Onakalunga Epinga (9km)	Ohangwena
3	Construction of gravel road TR 10/2: Oupili - Onkumbula(40 km)	Ohangwena
4	Construction of gravel road of MR 123 — Okathitu (12 km)	Omusati
5	Construction of gravel road from MR 92 (Ombathi) - MR111 (Epato) (32.7 km)	Omusati
6	Construction of gravel road of Masokotwane (MR 125) - Machita (DR 3507) (32KM)	Zambezi
7	Construction of gravel road DR 3424: Mungunda (TR 8/4) - Shakambu (36.6 km)	Kavango East
8	Construction of gravel road Epato (MR111) — Onkani (46 km)	Omusati
9	Construction of gravel road Mpota (TR 8/3 — Bravo - TR15/1) (137 km)	Kavango West
10	(DR3610); TR 1/11) Mangetti West Quarantine Camp (Phase 2)	Oshikoto
11	Construction of gravel road Lizaui-Sachona (I 15km)	Zambezi
12	Construction of gravel road Uukwiyuushona (DR 3605) - Omuntele	OshikotoOshana

	(47.4 km)	
13	Construction of gravel road MR 120: Endola - Eembo (19km)	Ohangwena
14	Construction of gravel Ompundja road of Uukwiyuushona (DR 3605) - (35.5 km)	Oshana
15	Construction of gravel road DR3654; Omuthiya - Elambo) (DR3630) (48.8 km)	Oshikoto
16	Construction of gravel road from TR 102 Omukukutu Ombothe	Ohangwena
17	Construction of gravel road from Onheleiwa - Onedute	Ohangwena
18	Construction of gravel road from DR 3622: Omukukutu - Omboloka (25km)	Ohangwena
19	Construction of Oute Bridge — Opuwo to Etanga road	Kunene
20	Construction of gravel road DR 3444: Tsintsabis — Gaya (130 km)	Kavango East

### **Road Rehabilitation, Maintenance, Management of the Road Network and Safety**

The National Road Network consists of a total length of approximately 46,377 km of which 7,165 km are Bitumen Surfaced roads, 25,921 km Gravel roads, 11,541 km earth roads and 304 km of Salt roads. Earth roads consist of earth tracks, sand tracks and earth graded roads. Of the 46,377 km of road, about 1,446 km are proclaimed roads that have not been constructed.

The increase in traffic volumes and the increase in traffic loading due to Industry's preference to use road transport for delivery of their goods have lead to a faster rate of deterioration of the road network. To keep the roads serviceable, the Ministry has to increase its maintenance and rehabilitation effort.

### **Challenges**

- a) Road construction and upgrading is an expensive investment. Progress has been adversely affected by perennial underfunding of the Sector. The consequence of the underfunding has been that:-
  - Small projects have taken long to be implemented while projects being implemented have taken a lot longer to complete.
  - Late payment of Contractors and Consultants has in some cases lead to legal action being taken against the Roads Authority e.g. Dr 3608: Omafo - Ongenga - Outapi. SME's failed to perform due to cash flow problems e.g. DR 3615: Oshikuku - Onamutuku

(Olwani), MR 120: Okatana - Endola - Onhuno, DR 3673: Omuthiya - Onanke, DR 3427: Kamupupu – Mbururu

- b) Heavy rains resulting in flood damage to some road sections. In some cases contractors could not access portions of their work sections or borrow pits while waiting for water levels to subside. Completion of DR 3657: Oshapapa (Oshali) - Epumbu was delayed by 6 weeks due to high water levels in the borrow pits.
- c) None availability of suitable construction materials locally on projects in the Zambezi Region delaying completion e.g.
  - Liselo - Linyanti – Singalamwe - Kongola road project having to import base material from Zambia.
- d) Poor performance by contractors forcing Roads Authority to seriously consider cancellation of contracts and appointment of new contractors e.g.
  - DR 3668: Okalongo - Omuvelo Wa kasamane and
  - DR 3524: Ngoma (Izimwe) - Nakabolelwa.
- e) Abandoning of work by SME's after being paid leading to disruption of the work flows e.g.
  - MR 67: Omakange - Ruacana.
- f) Inadequate water for construction in project area e.g.
  - TR 14/2: Gobabis - Grootfontein Section Otjinene - Okamatapati
  - DR 3635: Amwaanda - Omutambo – Wo Mawe.

## **KEY POLICY INTERVENTION AND REFORMS UNDERTAKEN**

The implementation of e-NaTIS system: The E-NATIS system was launched on the 04th of October 2012. This system is aimed at improving the provision of real-time information on fraudulent driving or vehicle licenses. The e-NaTIS serves as the National Register for Vehicles and Drivers in Namibia. The system is also aimed at ensuring that all infringements are centralized within the e-Natis data base to provide improved service with regard to the payment of traffic fines, etc.

Furthermore, the e-Natis system have the functionality to control all face-value documents and future enhancements which incorporates strict electronic tagging of documents to eradicate the continuous falsification of vehicle licenses, registration certificates and driving license cards.

The Namibian Traffic Information System, known as the e-NaTIS in its latest form, is the product of many years of hard work by a team of dedicated specialists of the Roads Authority, the e-NaTIS Engineer and the Contractor. The e-NaTIS is a key national resource and has replaced the NaTIS (Namibian Traffic Information System) that was in operation for almost 15 years.

### **Air Transport Infrastructure**

Namibia is relatively well-endowed with aerodrome infrastructure with the existing network of aerodromes covering the full spectrum of commercial, economic and private uses.

The Ministry of Works and Transport (MWT) is responsible for the maintenance, of State owned aerodromes that are not under the responsibility of Namibia Airports Company Ltd, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism or the Ministry of Defence. Currently these number 27. Over and above this the Ministry was mandated by Cabinet to relocate Opuwo Aerodrome and to rehabilitate Katima Mulilo Aerodrome.

- The Ministry now has an approved Annual Tender for Routine Maintenance of State Owned aerodromes.
- The contract for detailed design, documentation and construction supervision for the new Opuwo aerodrome was awarded mid 2014 while actual construction was scheduled to start in the Financial Year 2015/2016.
- Rehabilitation of Katima Mulilo aerodrome started in May 2014 and is still ongoing. Due to delayed maintenance, when the contract was finally awarded, the aerodrome had deteriorated to such an extent that nothing short of full reconstruction of the taxiway and the runway shoulders would give value for money. Progress has been adversely affected by the need to import suitable construction materials from Zambia and shortage of construction equipment.

## **Maritime and Inland Water Transport Infrastructure Development and Safety**

As mandated by Cabinet, the Ministry of Works and Transport is currently investigating the feasibility study for the establishment of a port in the vicinity of Angra Fria/Cape Fria in northern Namibia. Terms of Reference were produced and currently NamPort are finalising preparation of procurement documents for Consultancy services to undertake the feasibility study.

### **PROGRAMME 07: PROVISIONS OF SUPPORT SERVICES OF VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND PLANT TO GOVERNMENT**

<b>Budget Type</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Operational Budget	171,945,000.00
Development Budget	15,000,000.00

#### **Purpose of the Programme**

To provides Government with reliable and safe road transport services. Maintenance and repair of productive equipment and vehicles and to construct a workshop, offices, wash bays for vehicles and parking facilities to protect the vehicles from the harsh weather conditions of the coastal areas.

#### **Main Activities**

The main activities that fall under this programme are:

- Purchasing and repairs of Vehicles, Equipment, plant and others

#### **Strategic Activities**

Strategic Activities and Output to Achieve High-Level Strategies

- Effective and efficient fleet management services.

**Planned Activities:** The Ministry of Works and Transport needs to purchase vehicles that will be needed to conduct the Supplementary Registration of Eligible Voters and the Regional and Local Authority Elections that will take place towards the end of this year. Currently there is a shortfall of 692 vehicles needed by the Electoral Commission. After the elections these vehicles will be distributed to O/M/As including the newly created ministries to meet their transport needs that stands at 668 vehicles. The Ministry of Works and Transport will be required to buy trucks for the distribution of drought relief food.

### **Challenges**

- Delays to complete feasibility studies for the renovations and upgrading of the Government Garages and the submission of bill of quantities for renovation to the workshops and offices.