

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SPEAKER

Prof P. Katjavivi (Mr)

DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Prof L Kasingo (Ms)

THE CABINET MINISTERS

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

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

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

DEPUTY MINISTERS

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

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

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

SECRETARY

Mr. J Jacobs

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Mr F S Harker

DEPUTY MINISTERS IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Mr K Nguvauva	<i>(Works and Transport)</i>
Mr T Diergaardt	<i>(Agriculture, Water & Forestry)</i>
Ms H Nikanor	<i>(Veterans Affairs)</i>

LIST OF MEMBERS AND PARTIES WHICH THEY REPRESENT

ALL PEOPLE'S PARTY (APP)

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

DTA OF NAMIBIA

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

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

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

RALLY FOR DEMOCRACY AND PROGRESS (RDP)

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

REPUBLICAN PARTY (RP)

Ms C //Gowases *(Chief Whip)*

SWANU

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

SWAPO OF NAMIBIA

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

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

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

UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF)

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

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (WRP)

Mr S Fleermuys	<i>(Party Leader)</i>
Mr B Kaapala	<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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**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
29 APRIL 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

BUSINESS SUSPENDED

WELCOMING REMARKS

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members we welcome to the Chamber, His Excellency Dr Nickey Iyambo, the Vice President and Acting President of the Republic of Namibia.

Dr Iyambo has been a Member of the National Assembly since the 21st of March 1990 and, of course, we know before that time he was a member of the Constituent Assembly. During his tenure as a Member of the National Assembly, Dr Iyambo served as a Minister of Health and Social Services from 1990 to 1996, Minister of Regional Local Government and Housing from 1996 to 2002, Minister of Mines and Energy from 2002 to 2005, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry from 2005 to 2010 and lastly as a Minister of Veterans Affairs from 2010 to 2015.

Again, on the 20th of March 2015, Dr Iyambo was sworn in as a Member of the Sixth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia. On the 21st March 2015, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hage Geingob, appointed Dr Iyambo as the first ever Vice President of the Republic of Namibia. This necessitated Dr Iyambo to relinquish his seat as a Member of the National Assembly. However, due to time constrain during the period of transition, Dr Iyambo was not able to bid us farewell and to bid farewell to this august House of which he was a long-standing Member. I

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**FAREWELL TATEMENT TO THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HIS EXCELLENCY DR IYAMBO**

thus welcome Dr Iyambo to the House and now would like to invite him to deliver his farewell address to us. Your Excellency, Mr Vice President you have the Floor. (*Applause*)

**FAREWELL STATEMENT TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
BY
HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. NICKEY IYAMBO, VICE PRESIDENT**

HIS EXCELLENCY VICE PRESIDENT – DR IYAMBO: Thank you Honourable Speaker, and thank you Honourable Members for the warm welcome. I wanted to come and say goodbye to you immediately after the President had delivered his State of the Nation address but then I thought that would be misunderstood, as though I was going to overdo the brilliant Statement that the President made. Thereafter, of course, you know the Minister of Finance came up with the Budget and obviously, I could also not interrupt its First Reading Deliberations. That is why the only chance I could get is today to ask for your kindness for me to say a few words to you, Honourable Members.

Honourable Speaker, Professor Peter Katjavivi, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Comrade Loide Kasingo, Leader of the Official Opposition Party, Honourable McHenry Venaani, Chief Whip of the SWAPO Party, Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele and Distinguished Members of the Sixth Parliament - a warm good afternoon to you all.

Indeed, *“for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven,”* and now is the time for me, imbued with the sadness of nostalgia to say goodbye to the Honourable Members of this august House; a House which became my home too, in the service of our people for over 25 years, since Namibia’s Independence.

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However, allow me, before I proceed with my partings, to congratulate the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, and all the Members of this venerable House on their election to the Sixth Parliament of the Republic of Namibia.

I am convinced that under the able leadership of the Speaker and his Deputy, the Honourable Members of the Sixth Parliament will rise to the occasion to pass appropriate Laws for us to achieve prosperity for all Namibians.

As you are aware, our newly inaugurated President, His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, as the SWAPO Presidential candidate in the 2014 National Elections, campaigned under two inspirational *mottos*: one, that the “*Legacy Continues*,” and the other is that – “*no Namibian must feel left out*.”

During the election campaign, Dr. Geingob emphasised under the “*Legacy Continues*” maxim that the Founding President, His Excellency, Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, brought Independence and peace for all Namibians, while the 2nd President, His Excellency, Hifikepunye Lucas Pohamba has cemented the traditions of stability and unity. Now, the task for the 3rd President, and by implication for the Sixth Parliament and all Government Branches, is to bring about prosperity and effective services for all Namibians.

On the basis of this Vision, Namibians from across the political divide, bought into the SWAPO Party’s Election Manifesto with a massive yes vote of 80% and 87% for SWAPO and its Presidential Candidate respectively.

Therefore, and as outlined by President Geingob in his recent delightful State of the Nation address, clearly a heavy responsibility rests upon your shoulders, mine, that of each and every Minister, Civil Servant, to tangibly, through honesty, hard-work and dedication, realise this Vision.

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And in the process ensure that no Namibian is left out; all must benefit from such prosperity.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, coming back to my good-bye message, it has been a wonderful and exciting journey, which started from the small village of Onayena, in Oshikoto Region where I was born and raised.

However, not to bore you with the memoirs of my life's journey, I have attached my Curriculum Vitae which you can examine in your spare-time. Here, it is sufficient to mention that my parliamentary role started during the first administration, when I was appointed as the first Minister of Health and Social Services on March 21, 1990 to 1996, by President Nujoma. We had to set up Government institutions from the foundation and establish Policies and Laws of governance which until then, were non-existent for the majority of our people.

In that era, for the national common good, we started the Policy of National Reconciliation. We had to learn to forgive and work together as Namibians with our white compatriots and others who previously opposed the Independence of this country. I believe it is this strong foundational cornerstone set-up 25 years ago by the founding fathers and mothers of our Republic, which has helped us to successfully weather infancy development challenges. In this process, Parliament played a crucially uplifting national role.

In this regard, as observed by the eighteenth century Irish political theorist and philosopher, Edmund Burke - *"Parliament is a deliberate assembly of one Nation, with one interest, that of the whole; where, not local purpose, not local prejudices ought to guide but the general good, resulting from the general reason of the whole."* In this august House, despite the historic two-thirds majorities of the ruling SWAPO Party, as responsible MPs we have always been guided by the collective wisdom of the common good for all citizens and not by populist, personal or narrow-minded interests.

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That is why, although we fight sometimes passionate verbal battles in this House, we do so with civility, tolerance and respect for each other as compatriots. This has been the case, regardless of our membership to different Political Parties. Our Debates and interactions, even at Committee level, have always been in the greater interest of Namibian citizens. Not once have we encountered the phenomenon of destructive chaos, malevolence, hatred and the like, in this House. I trust that things will stay this way as we move forward.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, after 25 years in various Ministerial roles ranging from Regional and Local Government and Housing; Mines and Energy; Agriculture, Water and Forestry; Safety and Security; Health and Social Services and Veteran Affairs, I have now been called upon, yet once again, to serve the Namibian people, this time in the capacity of the 1st Vice President of our country (*applause*) I did humbly accept this honour.

Twenty-five years is a short-time in the lifespan of a Nation, but for us individuals, it is a lifetime of creative energy used up, never to be redeemed again. During this time many stalwarts who established or strengthened the foundations of this eminent house have left us untimely – in total 45 Parliamentarians have passed-on. Hence, I will appreciate it if we honour their memory by observing a minute of silence, after I have mentioned some of their names: Honourable Mose Tjitendero, Honourable Peter Mweshihange, Honourable Moses //Garoeb, Honourable John Pandeni, Honourable Hendrik Witbooi, Honourable Natanael Maxuilili, Honourable Gertrud Rikumba Kandanga-Hilukilwa, Honourable Danny Tjongarero, Honourable Niko Bessinger, Honourable Richard Kapelwa Kabajani, Honourable Otto Herrigel, Honourable Klaus Dierks, Honourable Buddy Wentworth, Honourable Moses Katjiuongua, Honourable Barney Barnes, Honourable Hans Erik Staby, Chief, Honourable Chief Kuaima Riruako, Honourable Phillemon Moongo, very recently Honourable Rudolf Kamburona and many others whom I did not mention, however, we respect them the same way.

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HIS EXCELLENCY DR IYAMBO**

Honourable Colleagues, may I, therefore, request you for us to honour their memory.

MINUTE OF SILENCE OBSERVED

HIS EXCELLENCY VICE PRESIDENT – DR NICKEY IYAMBO:

Thank you. There are also those who are with us, but will never return to this House because they have retired, and although they are too many to mention here, I will on their behalf single out the outgoing Speaker - Honourable Theo-Ben Gurirab.

To them I say thank you all for the wonderful times we shared while forging the nucleus of a new Namibia – particularly for your cooperation and camaraderie through the many years.

To the incoming Members of Parliament, as we pass on the leadership baton to you, I advise that you follow the excellent example of respect and cooperation we have shown you: No person, groups, institutions or ideologies are greater than the collective interest of all Namibia and the wellbeing of its citizens; pursue that at all times.

Finally, I also thank the Founding Father, His Excellency President Nujoma, His Excellency President Pohamba, and His Excellency President Geingob, for the trust they have bestowed upon me, and for having prepared me over the years to serve the Namibian Nation in Public Office in this House and now in the Executive.

And now friends and comrades allow me to simply say goodbye, or better, *au revoir* - until we see each other again. Goodbye for the present, as we all embark on the maiden voyage of this new brave chapter of our political lives. I thank you very much. (*Applause*)

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**FAREWELL TATEMENT TO THE
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HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Comrade Vice President and Acting President of our Republic of Namibia.

Thank you for a message of encouragement and support as you bid farewell to this House. I am tempted to look back to our days as young men in foreign countries working for the cause of freedom and Independence of this country. There has never been time when we had a break from that duty throughout our many years in exile. I look upon you as an important counterpart, a source of support and inspiration.

A great deal is still to be said and we will certainly find time to recall that history for the sake of the young ones and those who are still to come to form part of this great land. We are indeed comforted by your farewell message and above all, we are comforted by the fact that you are not going anywhere (*applause*). You remain part of the embodiment of national institutions that are dedicated to working together for the good of this country. We also look to you, Comrade Vice President for support in all our endeavours as we strengthen our various national institutions including, the National Assembly.

We thank you for taking time to come and bid farewell to us. That is an indication that you have indeed been part of the family in this Parliament. You have never forgotten us and for that we thank you, and I would like you to know that collectively, we appreciate the fact that you have taken time to bid us farewell (*applause*).

With that said, I call upon the Sergeant at arms to escort the Vice President from the Chamber, and while we are doing that, I will call upon the Honourable Members to rise as we bid farewell to our Leader.

BUSINESS RESUMES

29 April 2015

**REMARKS ON XENOPHOBIC ATTACK IN
SOUTH AFRICA
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

**REMARKS ON XENOPHOBIC
ATTACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA**

HON SPEAKER: Please be seated. Thank you. We are marching on, of course. Let me continue with my little slot here where the Speaker is allowed to open his mouth.

Honourable Members, I just want to say something that will reflect the current development in our part of the world, and that is the event in South Africa.

Xenophobic attitudes and related violence have no place in our modern society and ought to be rejected and condemned with the contempt that they deserve. This retrogressive behaviour was witnessed in South Africa in 2008 and in the recent weeks. In the same vein, those in Namibia who had similar motives are strongly warned to refrain from this negative behaviour.

We condemn this attitude wherever it may be trying to germinate. We should weed it out. In this regard, we express our solidarity with the rest of the African and international voices that have condemned this practice.

The kind of intolerable attitude being displayed by a minority should not reflect or define the culture of the majority of South Africans. It is totally un-African, most especially, because it is inhuman and also because of the fact that Africa fought a shared unified war for freedom and Independence, and we are now forging a unified drive for regional integration. This behaviour undermines these very ideals of solidarity!

We therefore wish South Africa well in addressing this challenge and hope that it never ever occurs again in the region! These are comments I wanted to register so that our voice is recorded as having spoken loudly and clearly against inhuman behaviour that has taken place in our part of

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON HAMBYUKA**

the world. I just wanted to share that with the rest of the Members of the House. Thank you.

HON SPEAKER: Any Petitions? Any Reports of Standing and Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Motions? I take it the Chief Whip would like to take the Floor, Deputy Chief Whip.

MOTION ON THE BUSINESS OF THE ASSEMBLY

HON HAMBYUKA: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 12, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 24 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.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Would you table the Motion please? Thank you. Any further Notice of Motions? Message from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements?

The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

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

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

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**APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

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

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

HON SPEAKER: Any objection? So agreed. I now call on the Deputy Speaker who is also the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair.

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 Tuesday, the 28th of April 2015, Votes 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 09, 11, 17, 21, 23, 26, 28, 29, 30 had been agreed to and Votes 12, 18, 24 had been introduced.

Vote 13 – “HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES” - N\$6,489,082,000.00 put for Introduction by the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Before I read out my Statement, I just want to say - due to my new coming to the House, there may be some technical errors along the Speech. Please forgive me for that, Honourable Members.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I would like to thank the

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HON DR HAUFIKU

President, Dr Hage Geingob for the trust he put in me by nominating me to the Parliament and subsequently appointing me to lead the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

I would also like to congratulate the Speaker of the House, Professor Peter Katjavivi and the Deputy Speaker, Honourable Loide Kasingo for leading this House to enact Laws that will hopefully improve the living conditions of all Namibians irrespective of their political affiliation, religious conviction or cultural background.

Let me also congratulate other Members of this House, both old and new from my Party, from the Official Opposition and other Parties. It is my sincere hope and trust that together we will make this House truly dynamic, productive and responsive to the needs of all Namibians.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, like other Members of this House who spoke before me, I would like to thank the Minister of Finance Honourable Calle Schlettwein and Honourable Tom Alweendo, the Minister in the Presidency responsible for Economic Planning as well as their staff, for a well balanced and *Pro-poor* Budget, considering the competing national needs and global economic environment.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, optimal use of resources will without doubt ensure the socio-economic development of all Namibians and will greatly help us with our set developmental plans as well as realising national goals such as Vision 2030 and NDP4. Let me, therefore, assure this House, that despite the many challenges facing the Public Health Sector, it is our commitment in the Ministry to make sure Government Policies and Programmes are implemented without delay or obstruction. Many of these Policies and Programmes are aimed at promoting and protecting the health of all Namibians, especially the vulnerable ones, by providing them with quality and affordable health care services in all 14 Regions and ideally around the clock.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, to deliver quality health care to the public, the Ministry has to overcome a number of obstacles while

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HON DR HAUFIKU

facing a number of challenges. Among these are a critical shortage of skilled and technical staff which is almost now perennial and omnipresent, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, even drivers - especially ambulance drivers. There is, therefore, a need to recruit and train professional cadres to meet these needs. Already the Ministry has a number of doctors and nurses under training while trying to recruit expatriates to fill vacant posts, especially in District and Regional Hospitals.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, we will not be able to easily fill vacant posts in the periphery unless we provide much needed infrastructure and equipment for use by health professionals, especially in remote areas.

Medical equipment and transport, especially ambulances for outreach services and transfer of patients to referral hospitals, accommodation for staff - especially for nurses. Other amenities and benefits, such as bush allowances and access to internet connections for young professional cadres.

Ageing infrastructure, which are often poorly maintained and hardly repaired, is another challenge facing the Ministry. Most of these infrastructure need replacement as efforts to repair them will be more costly, examples are, but not limited to: Otjiwarongo District Hospital and we know that we are building a new hospital, Nankhudu District Hospital, which was basically an Army barrack for the UNTAG Members 25 years ago, and other health centres and clinics around the country. I mentioned those ones, Honourable Speaker, because those are the ones I visited very recently.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee – I am just advising you to refer to me as Chairperson, Sir.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

Honourable Chairperson, Okay. Lack of basic and life-saving equipment, especially in Health Centres and District Hospitals is another challenge facing the Ministry. For example, Tsumeb District Hospital, Okongo Health Centre and Onandjokwe Hospitals. The acquisition of some of this equipment, such as anaesthetic machines, cardiotocographic machines, ultrasound and colonoscopic machines are urgently needed at Tsumeb, Onandjokwe, Okongo and Nankhudu Hospitals. These are some of the technical mistakes you will pick up – I think there is a sentence or a word missing there, Comrade Chairperson.

Onyuva Clinic, which is 250 km northwest of Opuwo, needs to be upgraded to a Health Centre and the same goes for Oshivelo on the B1. I particularly mentioned Onyuva because there is a clinic there that was built a year or so ago but it is up to now not opened. We therefore want to open it and upgrade it immediately.

A surge in both communicable and non-communicable diseases and many social ills that have direct or indirect impact on health services, requires realignment and often expansion of resources for optimal management of these social ills. There is also a need for utilisation of modern technology for Health System Management, the so-called e-health - for better procurement, supply chains, financial and logistical management and better data management such as patient files.

HEALTH SYSTEM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the current staff establishment of the Ministry dates from 2003 and is thus unresponsive to the increasing and expanding demand for Public Health Services. It does not provide for adequate cadres for governance, management, patient care, infrastructure management and health technology as well as support services. There is, therefore, an urgent need to accommodate the mandate and staffing for new and existing health facilities.

Apart from the limited financial resources to meet the demand for health

infrastructure development and improvement as pointed out in the 2013 Presidential Commission Report that looked into the activities, affairs, management and operations of the Ministry of Health and Social Services, there remains another challenge of lack of in-house technical capacity. Government relies heavily on the Private Sector for engineering, design, construction and commissioning. These aspects come with challenges such as non-performance and poor workmanship by some contractors leading to delayed practical completion of projects. Land delivery system is another constraint facing the Ministry, especially in urban areas, where the country is experiencing migration resulting in expanding informal settlements which in turn demands the establishment of health facilities.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Comrade Chairperson, other issues facing the Public Health Sector are maternal and neonatal deaths, disease outbreaks, in particular cholera, measles, and the threat of Ebola remains a concern for the Public Health Sector and requires implementation of international Health Regulations.

Drug-resistant TB in the country remains high: 264 patients commenced on second-line treatment while 6 patients were diagnosed with XDR-TB.

CLINICAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

There has been an improvement in the provision of clinical care through the application of diagnostic technology, however, Public Health Services are unable to deploy this technology to the different parts of the country in order to detect, attend and minimize referrals. Where such technology exists, it is either out-dated, or there is a shortage of qualified staff to operate optimally.

Like other Sectors, the Health Sector, to a greater extent depends on the importing of goods and services, but mostly goods. For example, ninety five percent (95%) of goods used at health facilities are imported. In addition, the Public Health Sectors is also affected by the world economic environment with regard to currency fluctuations, which to a certain

extent, has an impact on the cost of public health and financial management. The lengthy turnaround time in acquiring products and services has an impact on the quality and timely delivery of such items. This, particularly, affects vital consumables such as pharmaceuticals, clinical supplies, and nuclear medicine to treat cancers, facilities maintenance and servicing of medical and technical equipment.

DEVELOPMENTAL SOCIAL WELFARE

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, despite the existence of safety nets to certain targeted groups of the population, which is geared towards poverty reduction, there are increasing numbers of people in need of social care and rehabilitation. As is generally known, Namibia is experiencing increasing manifestations of social ills, among them - Gender-Based Violence, drug abuse, child abuse, and suicides. Lack of coordination within the affected institutions and human resources for deployment into the communities to attend to such problems has been a contributing factor in limiting the Public Health Sector to effectively and satisfactorily deliver the services to the population. I, therefore, welcome the initiative taken by the Government in drawing greater attention to developmental social welfare services and poverty reduction.

Comrade Chairperson, the Ministry of Health and Social Services has a dual mandate to cover the Public Health and Private Sector health providers. This entails overseeing, and regulating Public, Private and Non-Governmental Sectors in the provision of quality health and social services. In addition, the Ministry provides medical and social services to state patients on the basis of equity, accessibility, affordability and sustainability. In the fulfilment of its mandate, the Ministry implements and attain its objectives through the following Programmes:

- a. Health system management and planning;
- b. Public health;
- c. Clinical health care services;
- d. Disability prevention and rehabilitation; and
- e. The developmental social welfare services.

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In order to meet the health sectors NDP 4 priorities and targets, there is a high level strategy which defines the high level priority of the Ministry to transform public health service delivery. These are:

- General improvement of public health and life expectancy;
- The reduction in morbidity and mortality especially maternal and infant mortality;
- Human resource development;
- Infrastructural development to improve access to health facilities;
- Pharmaceutical and related medical supplies; and
- Fleet management.

I would, therefore, like to briefly highlight some of the achievements. Please note that the Accountability Report is available for the Honourable Members to obtain detailed information.

PUBLIC HEALTH

In terms of the maternal health/safe motherhood, newborn care and Prevention of Mother-to-Child HIV transmission, I am pleased to say that 94% of the health facilities are providing Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) services while 93% of HIV positive women received Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART).

Child health successes cover the areas of immunisation of the under five-year-olds and routine immunization coverage and the Ministry has introduced three new vaccines into routine immunization, including Rotavirus, Pneumococcal and Hepatitis B.

In terms of HIV/AIDS management, the Ministry has managed to maintain 87% ART coverage exceeding the target of 84%. This is due to

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rollout of testing sites, increased access to care through ART outreach, and implementation of Integrated Management of Adult Illnesses.

The Ministry intensified the malaria prevention and treatment strategies such as vector control, effective case management, community mobilisation and advocacy and epidemic monitoring and response. As a result, the Ministry managed to reduce Malaria morbidity and mortality. This significant achievement has seen Namibia receiving an award for malaria control for the second consecutive time - here, I have to thank and commend my predecessor, Dr Kamwi, who was very instrumental in this regard (*applause*)

CLINICAL AND SPECIALISED SERVICES

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, specialised services such as open heart surgery and other thoracic surgeries such as stenting, angiography, pacemaker, hip and knee replacements, and specialised investigations such as CT scanning, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Cath Lab are available at the Windhoek Central Hospital.

For the procurement and management of pharmaceuticals and related supplies, the Central Medical Stores has recently maintained an overall stock level of 83% despite some challenges.

HEALTH SYSTEM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

To address the human resources shortages, the Ministry has adopted two strategies:

1. Recruitment of Health Professionals from all over the world through direct contract applications, bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements as an interim measure to fill vacant posts.
2. The long term strategy is training health professional cadres both locally and internationally to meet our demand. Currently, 1,594

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students are undergoing training in various health professions sponsored by the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

I am, therefore, convinced that these training programmes are not only in conformity with the Ministerial high-level strategy, but also the overall improvement of public health service quality and efficiency and the reduction of dependency on the external health professionals.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, regarding capacity building for effective health service management, it is important that the management and staff of the Ministry clearly understand the mandate of the Ministry, the high-level strategy and the urgency needed to improve public health services. During the last financial year, the Ministry, in conjunction with University of Stellenbosch, developed a training programme through which 186 senior and middle managers were trained. Another group of 90 managers received a specialised health leadership training through Intra Health.

Recognising the limited resources available, Public Private Partnership (PPP) has been identified as a vehicle to complement State medical services in terms of facilities, skills and technology. During the Financial Year 2014/2015, Cabinet has approved the PPP Policy for Namibia and a PPP Framework for the Health Sector. In December 2014, a PPP in Health Conference was successfully organised in Windhoek.

In order to address the urgent need to replace old Laws and Regulations affecting efficiency, the Public Health Care Service Delivery, National Health as well as the *Environmental Health Bills*, have been finalised and presented to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation (CCL), whilst the *Food Safety Bill* has already been received from the Legal Drafters.

Honourable Members, in line with the Ministry's Roadmap, 31 projects were completed during the reporting period and are categorised as follows: 8 clinics, 2 health centres, 6 hospitals components, 1 Regional Management Team Office and 14 student nurse pre-fabricated accommodation facilities.

Health service delivery is highly dependent on effective fleet management. The Ministry has, therefore, put in place a strategy for effective fleet management in order to improve utilisation and service delivery by the ministerial fleet. In addition, there has been reinforcement of specialised patient transport such as dental trucks for outreach services and other modified vehicles for Immunisation and Malaria Programmes. Other functions to be outsourced are cleaning, maintenance and catering. We are looking at possibilities of outsourcing drug supply and distribution management.

DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, during the last Financial Year, many Namibians received support through the Ministerial Programmes by way of devices such as orthopaedic technical devices, transtibial, and prostheses, while others were also screened for wheelchairs as well as cataract surgery to restore eyesight.

DEVELOPMENTAL SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME

During the year under report, the Ministry rendered therapy to one-thousand-nine-hundred-and-ninety-four (1994) clients who are addicted to alcohol and drugs. The Ministry has set up an in-patient programme at the Etegameno Rehabilitation Centre to provide community-based services on alcohol prevention and education with 16 patients per intake over a period of 4-5 weeks.

Comrade Chairperson, the Ministry of Health and Social Services was allocated an amount of **Six Billion, Four Hundred and Eighty Nine Million and Eighty Two Thousand Dollars (N\$6,489,082,000.00)** of which:

- **Five Billion, Seven Hundred and Ninety Million, Two Hundred and Sixty Seven Thousand (N\$5,790,267,000.00)** is for Operational Expenditure; and

- **Six Hundred and Ninety Eight Million, Eight Hundred and Fifteen Thousand Dollars (N\$698,815,000.00)** for Development Expenditure. This represents 10,3% of overall Government Expenditure.

In respect of revenue collection, for the Financial Year 2015/2016, an amount of **Seventy Three Million, One Hundred and Seven Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$73,107,000.00)** is estimated to be collected, if there is to be an improvement in the staffing of administrative clerks in all health facilities, in order to relieve the nursing staff from collecting revenue instead of attending to patient care.

Although the detailed Budget breakdown and the estimates of revenue have been explained in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Report covering 2015/2016 - 2017/2018, please allow me to briefly highlight Activities under the 5 Programmes to be undertaken during same MTEF period.

PROGRAMME 01:

PUBLIC HEALTH

This Programme intends to improve capacity and systems for disease surveillance, epidemiological analysis, data management and control measures including the study of the distribution and patterns of health events and health characteristics. The objective is to improve and protect the health and nutrition of families and communities. There are specific activities that are aimed at reducing maternal, infant and child mortality, morbidity and malnutrition. There are also activities to ensure the prevention of health hazards and diseases emanating from the environmental management. The Ministry also executed activities for the management of mental health and community-based health care.

A total amount of **One Billion, Sixty Eight Million, Seven Hundred and Forty One Thousand Dollars (N\$1,068,741,000.00)** is allocated to this Programme for both Operational and Development Expenditure.

PROGRAMME 02:

CLINICAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

The Activities under this Programme are designed to complement Public Health Programmes and they constitute wide range of Activities to deliver services in referral, Regional and District hospitals. This includes provision of minimum service package for in-patient and outpatient health care services to match the needs of the communities. For clarity, these public health facilities for in-patients include, amongst others, medical, surgical, paediatrics, obstetrics, orthopaedics, Ear Nose and Throat (ENT), etcetera.

On the other hand, out-patient service packages include, amongst others, emergency services, day procedures, diagnostic and assessment services, therapy services as well as the provision of similar services through outreach to rural, out-of-reach facilities and communities.

The Budget Allocation to this Programme is **Four Billion, Three Hundred and Thirty Nine Million, One Hundred and Thirty Eight Thousand Dollars (N\$4,339,138,000.00).**

PROGRAMME 03:

HEALTH SYSTEM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

Comrade Chairperon, Honourable Members, for effective health service delivery, there has to be clear and well defined activities for the purpose of developing the capacity for planning and management of health and social services in order to optimally and efficiently utilise the available resources dedicated to the sector. Particular attention is to be given to the following areas: Financial Resource Management; Human Resources and Performance Management; Policy Planning and Health Service Delivery Support – particularly health infrastructure development, the health information systems, research and development as well as health technology.

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This Programme will also include activities for the Public Private Partnership projects management in coordination with the Ministry of Finance and the Office of the Attorney-General, and other relevant institutions and O/M/A/S.

An amount of **One Billion, Ten Million and Two Hundred and Forty Five Thousand Dollars (N\$1,010,245,000.00)** is allocated to the Programme. Taking into account the state of health physical infrastructure and the public expectations with regard to improvement of the physical status of health infrastructure, the Ministry will manage these limited resources to meet the expectations within the MTEF period.

PROGRAMME 04:

DISABILITY PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION

Taking into account the existence of people with disability in our society, this Programme is designed to empower and facilitate their integration into the communities so as to be functionally independent. The Activities to be undertaken are Orthopaedic Technical Services, Blindness Prevention, Hearing and Visual Impairment and Institutionally Based Rehabilitation as well as the support to organisations of people living with disability.

To address the above Activities, an amount of **Thirty Five Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty Five Thousand Dollars (N\$35,965,000.00)** has been allocated to the Programme.

PROGRAMME 05:

DEVELOPMENTAL SOCIAL WELFARE

The Programme is designed to provide Activities geared towards the care for the destitute, vulnerable and targeted members of the society to live in a dignified manner. The Activities include Promotion of Family Wellbeing, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, and Statutory Residential and Institutional Care.

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The Budget Allocation to this Programme is **Thirty Four Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety Six Thousand Dollars (N\$34,996,000.00)**.

PARTNERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH DEVELOPMENT

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, as part of public health service delivery, the Government of the Republic of Namibia has been able to mobilize resources from various sources to complement the State Resources earmarked for public service health delivery. These partners include bilateral, regional, multilateral, Private Sectors, NGOs, foundations and individuals supporting our health sector. These resources have contributed immensely to the national efforts aimed at prevention and management of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. There has also been a significant support in terms of human resources, which contributed to the improvement of skills and knowledge of public health workers to deal with the reduction of maternal and child morbidity and mortality.

The overall achievement of national health indicators are attributed to the joint efforts between government, Private Sector and overall health development partners. During the MTEF period, development partners have committed an amount of **One Hundred sixty Six Million, and Eighteen Thousand, Eight Hundred and Ninety Three Dollars (N\$166,018,893.00)** towards Public Health Programmes channelled outside the state revenue fund.

However, the responsibility for the sustainability of these Programmes is increasingly with the Government. This is mainly due to the decreasing support and continuous improvement of Namibia's rating of development indicators resulting in the country increasingly not being eligible for Grants, even to the Social Sectors.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, the Ministry is fully aware of the looming challenges, the increasing public expectations for an accessible, efficient and quality public health services equivalent to the

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best in the world. We are also committed to utilising the available resources to advance innovative and creative strategies for the improvement of public health and social service delivery.

Finally, Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members, I now have the honour and privilege to present before you a sum of **Six billion, Four Hundred and Eighty Nine Million and Eighty Two Thousand Dollars (N\$6,489,082,000.00)** for Vote 13 for your consideration. I support the *Appropriation Bill* 2015/2016. I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. It was very fast and relatively brief.

Vote 15 – **“MINES AND ENERGY” - N\$295,172,000.00** put
Introduction by the honourable Minister or Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is my distinct pleasure and honour to present to the National Assembly the Motivation for the Budgetary Allocation of Vote 15 - **MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY**, for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

I would also like to congratulate the Minister of Finance and his team and all other stakeholder institutions for a well crafted Budget.

The Ministry was established to take custody of Namibia’s rich endowment, mineral and energy resources and to create an environment in which the mineral, energy, and geological resources contribute to the country’s socio-economic development.

The Ministry regulates, monitors and controls the Mining and Energy

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Sectors through the relevant pieces of legislation and administers these legislations in order to ensure that our resources are protected.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, it is now my pleasure to present our Ministry's Budget in accordance with the Activities outlined in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

**1. PROMOTION OF LOCAL AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN
EXPLORATION AND MINING**

The Mining Industry continues to be a strong pillar of Namibia's economy – the Industry contributed **Twenty Three Billion Namibian Dollars (N\$23 Billion)** export earnings and **One Billion Four Hundred Million Namibian Dollars (N\$1.4 Billion)** was collected for royalties for the benefit of the State Revenue Fund during 2014. This is expected to increase with projected contributions from new mines that will be coming on stream soon.

I am pleased to inform the House that the 2014 Report by Fraser Institute, a Canadian Survey Institute, revealed that Namibia immersed in 2014 as the most attractive investment destination in Africa, followed by Botswana and ranked in the 25th position globally, out of the 122 jurisdictions that were surveyed. 30 African Countries participated. This is no mean achievement and it is a clear testimony that the Ministry's efforts in conjunction with other Government organisations and Private Sector to ensure that Namibia becomes the desired investment destination, have paid off. The Ministry will not become lethargic but will continue to work hard in conjunction with the Chamber of Mines and all stakeholders to maintain this prestigious world recognition and market Namibia through various national, regional and international fora, such as the Mining Indaba - Cape Town, Africa Down Under (Perth), Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada - Toronto and many similar promotion and conference platforms.

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I am pleased to inform this august House that the Ministry has been reviewing the *Minerals Prospecting and Mining Act*, 1992 (Act 33 of 1992) to make it more responsive to current conditions and developments in the Sector. The *Minerals Bill*, including the Regulations, will be finalised very soon with technical assistance from partner organisations such as the Common Wealth Secretariat, to create an enabling environment that would benefit both the Industry and the country. I fully agree that transparency and stakeholder consultation is a requirement for successful policy formulation and, therefore, we shall endeavour to engage all stakeholders for their inputs.

In spite of the challenges during 2014, the Mining Industry is experiencing unprecedented growth with three new mines - Husaub Uranium Mine, Otjikoto Gold Mine and Tschudi Copper Mine, one currently being developed while the other two are in production. The Husaub Uranium Mine is expected to come into production in 2016 and is actually billed to become the second largest uranium mine in the world. The Otjikoto Gold Mine is the second gold mine in Namibia and went into production in December 2014. The new Tschudi Copper Mine is expected to come in production this year. This is indeed growing the cake with job creation and broadening the tax base for the fiscus. The mine safety performance improved immensely with zero mine fatalities recorded during 2014, while the Industry managed to lessen their lost time injuries. The Ministry will make efforts to maintain that momentum to ensure that the enlarged Industry is adequately regulated to uphold the safety record. The indispensable technology calls for adequate resources to efficiently regulate the Sector. In this regard, the Ministry needs to urgently fill all vacant positions to ensure that regular inspections are conducted timely on advanced exploration projects as well as mining operations. This will ensure that licence holders operate in full compliance with the *Minerals Prospecting and Mining Act*, 1992 (Act 33 of 1992) and the requisite Safety Regulations.

The Ministry has been tasked with implementing the Joint Value Addition responsibility under NDP4, as well as conducting an in-depth analysis on the beneficiation possibilities for Namibia's key mineral commodities and

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identify opportunities for local value addition and further beneficiation of minerals, I am pleased to inform this august House that the process is progressing well. The Ministry is required to conclude the process and develop a Mineral Beneficiation Strategy for Namibia during the Financial Year 2015/2016. Resources will be required to visit various manufacturing plants in selected countries to investigate policy options that Namibia needs to adopt in order to achieve the desired industrialisation through joint value addition and beneficiation in line with the NDP4 goals and Vision 2030.

The Ministry is setting up a dimension stone and semi-precious stone processing facility in Khorixas, Kunene Region for the benefit of small scale miners. Approximately 15 miners will be employed at the facility once completed. The construction of the facility is in its final phase.

In 2014, the Ministry adopted the FlexiCadastre system, a Mineral Titles Management System adopted by leading mining companies and Governments worldwide. The FlexiCadastre system is critical for our day to day activities in order to manage Mineral Rights efficiently and thus contribute to transparency and effective regulation of the Mining Industry. An amount of **Fifty Nine Million Seven Hundred Fifty Six Thousand (N\$59,756,000.00)** has been budgeted to promote local and foreign investment in exploration ensuring that Mineral production benefits the Nation.

**2. CREATION OF KNOWLEDGE OF NAMIBIA'S
GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES (N\$46,642,000.00)**

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the Geological Survey of Namibia is our National Institution entrusted with management and research of Namibia's geology. The institution has once again continued to enhance geo-scientific knowledge and awareness of Namibia's geological resources. Through dissemination of quality research and development activities, the Geological Survey of Namibia facilitates the search for mineral resources, geological engineering, land use planning and sustainable development with due regard to the environment. The institution has a high international status,

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its director continued to serve as president of the Organisation of African Geological Surveys, and many staff members are represented in national and international bodies.

Geology underlies everything! As one of its core functions, the Geological Survey of Namibia, therefore, provides updated detailed geological map data to its stakeholders. During the current Financial Year, another five 1:50 000 scale geological maps, and maps on the Cenozoic and Kimberlite geology of the Warmbad area, will be completed in the //Karas Region.

Furthermore, the aggressive National Airborne Geophysical Surveys Programme added an additional 19,500 line-kilometres of electromagnetic data to the National Airborne Geophysical Database with the view to improve the knowledge and understanding of the Sub-surface Namibian geology below the Kalahari sand cover, as well as to make Namibia even more attractive to local and international exploration companies.

The minerals database is also constantly growing and is used by many potential investors. No wonder Namibia was named the top-ranking mining investment destination in Africa by the Canadian Frazer Institute's 2014 global survey, singling out the Geological Survey of Namibia as one of the best and most cooperative geological surveys in the world!

The regional geochemical sampling Programme continues as well and is set to provide valuable information for environmental management and exploration. The Report for the assessment of the environmental risk potential work of 16 abandoned mine sites in the Erongo Region was finalised.

In addition, environmental risk assessment and monitoring work at the mines, in particular B2Gold, Kombat, Scorpion and Rosh Pinah Zinc was undertaken to assess any potential possible pollution by such activities from these mines. The Strategic Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) of the Namibian Uranium Province continued to provide

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guidance with regard to sustainable development of Namibia's uranium resources.

The Geological Survey's National Earth Science Museum continues to educate the Namibian public, especially young learners, about the importance of geosciences. Every year, the museum participates in open days like the National Heritage Week, which fosters interest in geosciences. In addition, several collaborative projects with international institutions have resulted in the discovery of new fossil sites, which have put Namibia on the palaeontological map of the world.

We have set aside an amount of **Forty-Six Million Six Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$46,642,000.00)** to enhance the understanding of Namibia's geo-environment, including its geological resources and minimise the negative impact of mineral resource exploitation on the environment.

3. PROTECTION OF NAMIBIA'S DIAMOND INDUSTRY
(N\$30,222,000.00)

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, Diamonds continue to contribute disproportionately to the State Revenue Fund and, therefore, this precious mineral continues to play a strategic role in the country's economy. Diamond Revenue continues to be stable despite decreases in production onshore and this is largely due to increased efficiencies in mining tools and technology offshore and high diamond prices.

It is thus compelling that the protection, monitoring and regulation of this Industry remain one of our key strategic focus areas. It is vital that the Ministry of Mines and Energy continues to have its eyes and ears on the ground at the source where diamonds are being recovered through our diamond inspectors and other Government Agencies, such as the Protected Resources Unit of the Namibian Police and Customs, to ensure that theft and smuggling of this product is kept at a negligible minimum.

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We, therefore, are grappling with logistical challenges and budgetary constraints that hamper our ability to be everywhere diamonds are being recovered – for our operations are vast on land and at sea. Given the concentrated value in each given carat, our presence in the field and our element of surprise is vital and cannot be overemphasised.

The Diamond Industry is facing other threats in the international market that are beyond our control. Liquidity has been very tight in places like India – where a bulk of the world’s diamonds are cut and polished – and the precarious economic situation in the United States of America, where more than 50% of the world’s diamonds are consumed, which gives us reason for caution. The first half of 2015 is rather a difficult period for the entire diamond pipeline, thus the effects experienced here in Namibia. Sales in the first quarter have been quite difficult with most buyers leaving diamonds on the table as they are unable to make the requisite margins from those sales. This poses a threat of retrenchments in our diamond cutting factories unless the situation changes for the better and soon. We, however, hope the situation changes for the better during the second half of the year as polished stockpiles deplete at the jewellery and manufacturing end of the pipeline.

Some of you may be aware by now that a Government Negotiating Team recently finalised negotiations of the Sales and Marketing Agreement with De Beers. The Ministry has been taking time to study the outcome of these negotiations and has been consulting with Cabinet Colleagues to have the new terms blessed. We are confident that this Agreement will change the diamond landscape in Namibia in terms of maximising benefits to the State through added beneficiation, increased revenue, increased jobs, improved skills and technology transfer. We want our diamonds to do more for Namibia and we believe that the increased supply levels envisaged in this new Agreement will go a long way towards achieving those goals. The Namibian Government, through a Special Purpose Vehicle, will also be able to sell and market a portion of Namibian diamonds in the global market in order to test the appetite for unmixed, pure Namibian parcels of diamonds. This is indeed a very important milestone and we are putting in place the machinery to expedite this agenda. An amount of **Thirty Million Two Hundred Twenty-Two**

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Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$30,222,000.00) has been budgeted for the regulation of the Diamond Industry.

4. ENERGY SUPPLY AND SECURITY THEREOF (N\$48,3 Million)

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the Ministry shall continue with Rural Electrification Programme, for which an amount of **Forty-Eight Million Three Hundred Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$48,3 Million)** is budgeted for the Financial Year 2015/2016, to ensure that electricity to public and private infrastructures in rural areas is provided. During the Financial Year 2014/2015 68 public institutions, 370 households and business centres have been electrified countrywide. An amount of **N\$ 160 Million** was budgeted for 2014/2015 Rural Electrification Programme, whereby **N\$100 Million** of that amount was utilised for the upgrading of overloaded distribution grid network in the Regional Electricity Distribution (REDs) areas.

The two major projects that government is looking at in terms of power generation are the Baynes Hydro Power Project and the Kudu Gas to Power Projects. The Baynes Project has reached a significant stage, namely the completion of the Techno-economic studies and acceptance by the Permanent Joint Technical Commission (PJTC).

The environmental and associated infrastructure studies to the amount of **N\$6.5 Million** are still to be finalised in due course.

The Ministry is continuing to support the use of Renewable Energy Technologies to provide energy to the remote public institutions throughout the country. Four (4) schools in the Kunene Region were electrified with containerised solar systems under the Financial Year 2014/2015. The Gam settlement in the Otjozondjupa Region was supplied with a Solar PV/diesel hybrid system and electrical networks system as such 216 households were electrified. The Ministry of Mines and Energy

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has also expanded the battery capacity of Tsumkwe solar Photovoltaic/diesel hybrid system in the Otjozondjupa Region.

Through the Solar Revolving Fund loan scheme, 564 solar systems were financed to an amount of N\$15 million up to January 2015. The demand still remains high for solar systems, especially for communities living in off-grid areas.

The Concentrated Solar Power Technology Transfer Namibia project activities started in 2014, and are to be concluded by 2016 with full feasibility study for the facilitation of the first Concentrated Solar Power Plant in the country.

In 2014 the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Institute was transformed into what is now called Namibia Energy Institute (NEI) to include the other Energy Sectors such as oil and gas, electricity and nuclear sciences. A further **N\$5.78 Million** is budgeted to continue with the transformation.

In order to ensure reliable and cost reflective energy, the National Energy Fund (NEF) has paid an amount of **N\$111.5 Million** for the fuel road subsidy to the rural/far outlying areas. The NEF received an amount of N\$ 382.4 million for the slate cumulative over recovery from the Oil Companies during the period under review. The fund collected an amount of **N\$268.5 Million** from levies to cater for the construction of the Strategic Oil Storage Facility for the Financial Year 2014/2015. The NEF will continue to subsidise energy prices and provide financial support to energy projects for the benefit of Namibian consumers. In addition, the NEF will supplement the Energy Budget to develop energy infrastructures and ensuring that the National Energy mix reacts positively to global energy turmoil.

Let me reiterate that reliable and cost affordable energy remains the Ministry's priority in order to uplift the socio-economic conditions of fellow Namibians. Moving forward, an increased capital injection is essential for new and existing Energy Projects.

PETROLEUM SUPPLY AND SECURITY

Improved Licensing in the Petroleum Industry

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Mines and Energy will continue to issue exploration licenses to deserving applicants and will continue to encourage partnerships between International Oil Companies, local entrepreneurs and NamCor as part of local empowerment and value creation. We have also started to deal with those licensees not honouring their financial and work obligations towards the Namibian Government, so that we remain with only those that have proven to be robust and resilient in this high risk Industry. More importantly we are going to start with regulatory reforms in the Oil and Gas Sector in order to meet the demands of the changing environment and to improve transparency in the allocation of petroleum rights. Although it is viewed as progressive and positive in the international market, it was put in place more than twenty years ago and we need to modernise it and make it more effective to meet the above stated objectives.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Sorry to disturb you Honourable Minister, I know the Speech is long but let us try to be short. I have noticed that a number of Colleagues are sleeping.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Please bear with me, as a first timer, I am sure I can be allowed to trespass a little bit.

Oversight of Strategic Storage Facilities Construction

This year we will start to implement the construction of the National Strategic Fuel Storage Pipeline and Marine Jetty Facilities in Walvis Bay

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in order to provide the country with security of supply of petroleum products in line with our White Paper on Energy Policy. The Ministry of Mines and Energy is desirous to fully take charge of this project in line with our mandate and expertise that we possess inside the Ministry. We are currently sorting out the last remaining funding issues between the National Energy Fund, Development Bank of Namibia and the African Development Bank before construction can commence.

Implementation of Kudu gas Project

As you may be aware, Government has decided to stand behind this very important project by committing to fund Namcor's 44% equity in the project, some of Nampower's costs as well as various project guarantees as part of our overall Government Support Package. This is the closest this project has ever been to Final Investment Decision stage since the gas field was discovered in 1974. We are very excited and appreciate the effort that all the stakeholders, especially the Ministries of Mines and Energy and Finance have made to bring this project where it is now. We expect the last remaining pieces of the puzzle to be put in place before we reach Financial Close before December 2015, and start with construction in early 2016.

Implementation of MoU Between Namibia and Angola on Trade in Petroleum

The Angolan and Namibia Governments are in discussion to implement the terms of the MoU in trade in petroleum that the two countries signed in June 2013. According to the signed Memorandum of Understanding the parties shall promote cooperation in the following areas:

- Trade in Crude oil, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and petroleum products;
- Refining, crude oil storage and petroleum products infrastructures;

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- Exploration, production and refining of crude oil in Angola, Namibia and third countries;
- Conduct research and joint projects that may be of common interest between the parties or third parties;
- Encourage reciprocal visits between officials of both Parties in the field of petroleum and natural gas, namely exploration, production, utilisation of natural gas, oil products refining, petrochemical, trading of crude oil and other products the Parties may agree upon;
- Encourage cooperation between the respective national oil companies for technological capacity building and skills transfer;
- Any cooperation in petroleum that the Parties may agree upon.

The two national oil companies Namcor and Sonangol are about to commence with discussions on how to operationalise this MoU by trading in crude oil from Angola and swapping it with refined products for 100% of the Namibian market. We believe that this presents us with an ideal opportunity to enhance trade between our two sisterly countries and provide Namibia with competitive petroleum products. The Ministry of Mines and Energy is overseeing this process and we expect this to be finalised in the next few months.

**5. SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES - COORDINATION
AND SUPPORT SERVICES (N\$67,965,000.00)**

The Support services requested a total budget allocation of **Sixty-Seven Million Nine Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$67,965,000)**. An amount of **Twenty-Six Million Six Hundred Forty-Two Thousand (N\$26,642,000.00)** is earmarked for existing personnel expenditure and vacancies which are expected to be filled during the current Financial Year.

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An amount of **Eleven Million Three Hundred and Forty Six Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$11,346,000.00)** is proposed to cover Goods and Services Expenditure for the Financial Year 2015/2016, to enable the Directorate to give adequate support service and ensure the smooth running of the Ministry. These services will enable the Directorate to render adequate support services to technical Directorates within the Ministry. An amount of **One Million Seven Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$1,727,000.00)** is dedicated for the procurement of office furniture and IT equipments, Acquisition of Capital, to create a conducive working environment and cultivating a high performance culture by improving the Information and Communication Technology for effective operation of the Ministry.

An amount of **Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$4,500,000.00)**, of the total requested Budget allocation, will be channelled to cover the Renovation and upgrading of the Head Office and all Regional Offices to ensure the continuation of maintenance of the Ministry Buildings. Part of the mentioned funds will be used to finalise the boundary wall of the Ministry Head Office to enhance maximum security of the building where we have experienced several break-ins.

An amount of **Twenty-Three Million Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$23,750,000.00)** is earmarked to fund the completion of the Swakopmund Regional Office, currently under construction with the view to bring services closer to the people. The building will accommodate all the Directorates of the Ministry to simplify accessibility other institutions, small miners, Oil Industry as well as the members of the public in the Erongo Region. The construction is planned to be finalised in September 2015.

In conclusion Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee – I can tell this was awaited with all the patience there is in the world (*laughter*) but please bear with me – , I would like to wholeheartedly express my thanks to His Excellency Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob for not just nominating me in his list of 8, but bestowing me with the responsibility of being the Minister of Mines and Energy.

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Lastly, before I sit down, Honourable Chairperson, I would like to recognise two important people in my life: My late Mother - may her soul rest in peace, for her unconditional love and guidance, as well as my late brother Moses Tunuu Kandjoze who not only was an active sports personality and farmer of note, but was also a pivotal figure as a journalist for the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation – and I think we all know that among the many journalists that remain, on that day, he broke the news on the Caprivi Secessionist event – may his soul rest in peace indeed.

Honourable Chairperson of Whole House Committee and Honourable Members, it is my pleasure to submit Vote 15 - **MINES AND ENERGY**. I so submit. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Honourable Minister. Honourable Minister, through you, I take note that you are new, but I think you find technocrats in your Ministry. Next time I would like the whole Speech to be framed. Thank you so much.

Should we go for tea break or should we proceed with Introduction of the Votes because I can see people are sleeping?

Vote 16 – “**JUSTICE**” **N\$736,631,000.00** put for Introduction by the Honourable Minister of Justice. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

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

Honourable Members, I rise with honour and humility to motivate Vote 16 - **MINISTRY OF JUSTICE** to this august House. In presenting this Motivation, I am mindful of the need to fast-track the Debate on the *Appropriation Bill* for immediate implementation. Indeed, our able

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Minister of Finance and his Colleagues have produced volumes of information, including the Accountability Report. The purpose of my Motivation, therefore, is merely to fill the gaps on the Vote of the Ministry of Justice. I am further mindful of the fact that we are at the Committee Stage of the Bill where only details should be addressed.

Chapters 9 and 10 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia vests in our Judiciary and Ombudsman specific duties and responsibilities. The Chapters outline their most critical duties and roles. In addition, the Judiciary and the Ombudsman are entrusted with numerous functions under a number of Acts of Parliament. Therefore, the Budget that I am presenting to this august House today, covers financial allocations to the Judiciary, the Ombudsman and Statutory Functions that are carried out by the Ministry of Justice. These responsibilities place additional demands and their implementation require both human and financial resources.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, it is important to point out that Vote 16 is sub divided into four Programmes in line with the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. The Programmes under Vote 16 have been reduced so that the Office of the Attorney-General can have its stand alone Vote. This is part of the ongoing reforms aimed at achieving the autonomy of the Office of the Attorney-General. The reforms will continue in respect of the Judiciary as per the amended Namibian Constitution so that the Judiciary also becomes a self accounting entity.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, at the end of the Financial Year, the Accountability Report will indicate the extent of implementation of the Programmes as well as the Challenges encountered. The Programmes under Vote 16 and the funds allocated to each of them are as follows:

Programme 01: Administration of Justice

This Programme has been allocated an amount of **Four Hundred and Seventy - Two Million, Two Hundred and Fifty - Four Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$472, 254,000.00).**

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Under this Programme, there are a number of Sub-programmes. Apart from the High Court here in Windhoek, we also have the Oshakati High Court which falls under Programme 01 together with the Supreme Court.

During the Financial Year 2014/2015, a total of 21,633 new cases were entered on the court roll of our Magistrate's Courts. In addition, a total of 21,258 old cases were carried forward, which brought the total number of cases to be prosecuted and adjudicated upon in the Magistrate's Courts to 42,891.

From this total, 22,668 cases were finalised whilst 20,223 remained on the court roll. I wish to report further that if we add 1,641 cases pending at the Regional Court, the total comes to 44, 532 cases at the Magistrate's Courts which include the Regional Court.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, it is common cause that there are a lot of challenges at the Magistrate's Courts level which need urgent attention. Article 12 of the Namibian Constitution requires that those who appear before our Courts should be accorded a fair trial. Article 12(1)(b) requires that trials should take place within a reasonable time. Therefore, more effort shall be made to ensure that we speedily address the backlog of cases.

The introduction of Community Courts has significantly reduced the workload in the District Courts as an alternative avenue to resolve disputes. I will engage our Traditional Authorities so that we improve the administration of justice at Community Courts level.

In order to incentivise witnesses to co-operate in the prosecution of crime, witness fees have been increased from N\$50.00 per day to N\$650.00 per day for food and accommodation with effect from the 1st of April this year (2015) for all witnesses subpoenaed to testify in the Magistrate's Courts and the High Court. We hope that this measure will go a long way in improving the administration of justice. Non-appearance of witnesses mainly due to low witness fees has been one of the major factors in the backlog of cases.

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The Directorate of Legal Aid continues to promote access to justice on the basis of equal opportunity by making it possible for indigent persons to be provided with the services of lawyers through the provision of free legal aid in defined cases. This is a constitutional requirement of the Namibian Constitution under Article 95(h) as well as the *Legal Aid Act* of 1990, which establishes a legal aid scheme.

The Directorate of Legal Aid is responsible for financing the cost of legal representation in over 80% of criminal trials in the High Court, Regional Court and Magistrate's Courts. In terms of the Act, the Director provides legal aid by either instructing a Legal Aid Counsel, that is, a lawyer employed and retained on the establishment of the Directorate or instructing private legal practitioners who are remunerated on the basis of a tariff of fees agreed with the legal profession and promulgated by the Minister of Justice in the Government *Gazette*.

Another Sub-programme which is covered under Programme 01 is the management of deceased estates, insolvencies, trusts and Guardian's Fund. The Master of the High Court is required by statute to supervise the administration of deceased estates, liquidation of insolvent estates, registration of trusts, appointment of and administration pertaining to tutors and curators, and the administration of the Guardian's Fund in respect of minors and mentally challenged persons.

The Guardian's Fund is established under the *Administration of Estates Act*, 1965 (Act 66 of 1965). The value of the Guardian's Fund has increased from less than three hundred million Namibia Dollars during the 1990s to **One Billion, Two Hundred and Twenty-Eight Million, Two Hundred and Eighty-Eight Thousand, Four Hundred and Seventeen Namibia Dollars and Sixty-Three Cents (N\$1,228,288,417.63)** in 2014/2015.

The Directorate of the Master of the High Court is about to commence with the development of an Integrated Financial and Case Management System during 2015/2016 to facilitate the speedy finalisation of deceased estates, protect information and ensure daily reconciliation of the

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Guardian's Fund's accounts. The keeping of manual records is a major challenge due to the high volume of files that the office is dealing with. It slows down turnaround time of applications and result in longer periods to finalise deceased estates.

Programme 02: Legal Services

This Programme has been allocated an amount of Thirty Nine Million, Twenty-Six Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$39,026,000.00). The objectives of this Programme is to translate policies into legislation, recommend reform of the Law, provide legal services and promote international cooperation in legal matters such as extradition and mutual legal assistance.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, the mandate of the Directorate - Legislative Drafting, is to translate Government Policy into legislation; which includes drafting of Bills and subsidiary legislation such as Proclamations, Regulations, Rules, and Drafting of Administrative Notices.

A severe shortage of experienced legislative drafters is an unfortunate reality. The Directorate consists of 16 legislative drafters with only 4 experienced drafters, who have to work on Bills as well as supervise the work of junior drafters and provide in-house training.

Legislative Drafting is a very scarce and specialised skill. To make matters worse, there are insufficient incentives to recruit and retain experienced legislative drafters. The Directorate experiences a huge loss when an experienced drafter resigns as it takes more than 7 years to find a suitable replacement. Due to some changes in the Government structure, more Bills are expected to be drafted and yet the Directorate is poorly staffed. If something is not done, we will experience more challenges.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, during the Financial Year 2014/2015, the Directorate of Law Reform continued to provide

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administrative and research support to the Law Reform and Development Commission.

The Directorate faces serious staff shortages because of a small and inappropriate establishment. Plans are underway to fast track the approval of a revised establishment through the Public Service Commission to enable the Commission to attend to its Law reform backlog. The Ministry also intends to implement most of the recommendations made by the Commission in respect of laws affecting inheritance and other Family Law issues.

Namibia's involvement in matters affecting the international community has steadily been on the rise. Chief amongst these is international co-operation to address matters of mutual interest amongst countries in civil and criminal matters. In this regard, matters related to extradition and mutual legal assistance will continue to enjoy the attention of the Ministry.

The Ministry is also responsible for co-ordinating the implementation of Namibia's Human Rights policy as articulated in the Namibian Constitution and various relevant international and regional Human Rights Instruments to which Namibia is a Party. As a State Party to various international Human Rights Instruments, Namibia is required to file and present periodic reports to the relevant Treaty Bodies.

Honourable Members are aware that, Namibia was elected to the 47 Member Human Rights Council for the period 2014-2016.

In this regard, the Ministry has assigned a legal officer to assist the Permanent Mission of Namibia to the United Nations Office in Geneva in dealing with matters of the Human Rights Council on a daily basis.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, allow me to turn to:

Programme 03: Promotion of Good Governance

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This Programme has been allocated an amount of **Twenty Million, and Twenty – Three Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$20,023,000.00)**. The Ombudsman is a Constitutional Office which exercises its powers and functions under Chapter 10 of the Namibian Constitution as well as the *Ombudsman Act* of 1990.

The main Activities in the Office of the Ombudsman are the investigation of complaints relating to maladministration, Human Rights violations, misappropriation of public funds and the over-utilisation of the natural environment. The Ombudsman also educates and sensitizes the public around the issues within its mandate.

The Ombudsman has established three (3) Regional Offices at Ongwediva, Keetmanshoop and Swakopmund and a further two regional offices are planned to be opened soon at Rundu and Otjiwarongo as soon as office space becomes available.

Programme 04: Supervision, Coordination and Support Services

Has been allocated an amount of **Two Hundred and Five Million, Three Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$205,328,000.00)**. The objectives of this Programme are to ensure an enabling environment and high performance culture, to provide administrative and technical support to Ministerial Programmes and to ensure proper financial management, gender mainstreaming, capacity building, as well as an equitable distribution and effective utilisation of resources.

During the Financial Year 2014/2015 , the following capital projects were executed: Upgrading of Magistrate's Courts at Outapi in the Omusati Region and Eenhana in the Ohangwena Region. Construction of a new Magistrate's Court at Katima Mulilo in the Zambezi Region has already commenced.

Feasibility studies were carried out to upgrade existing Magistrate's Courts in various Regions of our country. However, due to limited

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financial resources, first priority will be given to Omuthiya and Nkurenkuru, being new regional capitals.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, we are proud that despite some challenges, our Judiciary has maintained a good reputation, especially in the area of the independence of the Judiciary. Every international study has confirmed that our Judiciary is independent and competent. It is for this reason that we are scored very highly compared to some countries during international assessment. This has earned Namibia respect and admiration among the nations of the world. Today, Namibia is one of the beacons of democracy not only in Africa but the world over. Our international profile continues to grow, therefore we must do everything possible to ensure that we address the challenges faced by our Judiciary such as speedy disposal of court cases. We should render our support to the Honourable Chief Justice, His Lordship Justice Peter Shivute, who is the head of our Judiciary and his Deputy, Honourable Justice Petrus Damaseb.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, our Judiciary which is the third arm of the State, is charged with carrying out important national functions assigned to it by the Namibian Constitution, various Acts of Parliament, the Common Law and Customary Law.

In order to discharge these duties successfully and thereby keep our country on the path of progress, development, prosperity, peace and stability, I urge all the Honourable Members of this august House to give our Judiciary and the support staff, the means to do so.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice is also entrusted with numerous functions under a number of Acts of Parliament. We, therefore, require both human and financial resources.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, I now seek the indulgence of this august House to approve the allocation totalling **Seven Hundred and Thirty-Six Million, Six Hundred and Thirty-One Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$736,631,000.00)** for Vote 16.

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HON NAMUPALA

Of this total allocation, an amount of **Five Hundred and Ninety-One Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Six Thousand Namibia Dollars** (N\$591,856,000.00) is earmarked for the Operational Budget, while the remaining **One Hundred and Forty-Four Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand Namibia Dollars** (N\$144,775,000.00) is earmarked for the Development Budget. I Thank You.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. We will now take a 20 minute tea break and come back at 17:10.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 16:43

HOUSE RESUMES AT 17:20

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

The Whole House Committee is called to order. We are now going to enter into the Discussions for the following Votes - 12, 18 and 24.

I would like to humbly request each and everybody who takes the Floor to please stick to 10 minutes.

Vote 12 – **“GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE”** put for Discussion. Any discussion? I recognise, Honourable Lina Namupala. Yes, you have the Floor.

HON NAMUPALA: Honourable Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of the august House,

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thank you for giving me a chance to present my first contribution in this House. This is my Maiden Speech, it will take about four minutes, including my contribution to Vote 12.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Member, please use the microphone so that we can hear you clearly.

HON NAMUPALA: Yes. My name is Liina Ndilipo Namupala, born in Ohangwena and a nurse by profession who has served the Namibian Nation for the last 38 years. I am a Member of Parliament on the SWAPO Party ticket.

My sincere gratitude goes to the Namibian Nation for making it possible for all of us to be here and be part of this House. I salute the Namibian Nation for a job well done. As a new Member of the Sixth Parliament, I would like to thank the formidable mighty SWAPO Party for its outstanding leadership over the past 25 years.

With a hand full of thanksgiving, I would like to applaud the SWAPO Party rank and file through its structure, especially our former President, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, for the great initiative of eliciting the 50/50 gender balance and making it a reality. Hence, we have more than 40% women in this House. I would also like to applaud the SWAPO Party Women Council leadership for their continuous capacity building of women in this country through workshops and various training programmes.

I urge all the women to realise our potential and work to the best of our abilities in making Namibia and the world a better place. I believe that the development of this country surely requires the concerted effort of both men and women. I also applaud Madam Penhupifo Pohamba, our former

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First Lady. I would like to thank her for the tremendous work she had carried out over the past years. As a caring mother, she did a lot in our communities through successful Programmes - like the Programme that caters for widows and widowers, Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) as well as for pregnant women, just to mention a few. She is a phenomenal woman and this is substantiated by the numerous awards she received. You have indeed laid a foundation for our First Lady Madam Geingos, whom we believe is equally fit for this position. Madam Geingos, we ensure you of our full support and we will run this country's vision together.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, my contribution today is directed to Vote 12 as presented by Honourable Doreen Sioka, the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare - congratulations on the appointment, Comrade Minister.

I mentioned earlier that I am a nurse by profession and because of that background, I would like to see the Namibia Nation living a healthier social life. As we have all observed, our society is characterised by different social evils, for example, alcohol and drug abuse, teenage pregnancy and Gender-Based Violence, just to mention a few. It seems as if the Nation has turned a blind eye to all this, watching in silence without contriving a solution to these problems. We cannot hide from the fact that those social evils hinder many plans and programmes put up by our Government. With this in mind, I humbly request everyone in this Nation to think of the best way we can find suitable solutions to cure our society.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, today I will comment on Gender-Based Violence. We are all aware that this is a flagrant violation of Human Rights. We also have knowledge that this wrong-doing is perpetrated not only against women, but there are also men who suffer in perpetual silence. We humbly request a state of emergency on this matter. There is a need for a well designed research that can thoroughly exalt and dig out the root cause of Gender-Based Violence that leads to what we refer to as *passion-killing*, I am of the opinion that this term be changed. Rape and sexual abuse of our small children should also be dealt with

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All these need urgent attention, especially from this House.

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, we need to restore our reputation in Namibia. I do not have a question but rather some recommendations on how to tackle Gender-Based Violence problems in the same manner that we tackle diseases such as the HIV/AIDS pandemic in this country. We have to use our agility - the Line Ministry, stakeholders, communities, family members and individuals, need to join hands in finding ways or a panacea to these problems. I have the following suggestions to make that require urgent action:

- We need to conduct a survey or research to dig out the root cause of this issue in order to come up with appropriate recommendations on how to prevent Gender-Based Violence and related problems and this requires funds.
- Social Workers and Psychologists need to systematically visit prisons to counsel those who have committed such crimes.
- Families of those affected on both sides also need counselling for post-trauma effects and need regular follow-up.
- Church Leaders also need to take part in the counselling of affected people.
- Marriage counselling or education must be provided before marriage, strictly by Pastors and Magistrates.
- The society at large should keep a watchful eye and be vigilant to identify any signs of Gender-Based Violence and related matters before it goes out of hand.
- Awareness should be created and families must be educated on how to solve their own problems.
- Establishment of family support groups in communities.

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HON DIENDA

Furthermore, I am urging the Committee of Gender Equality and Family Affairs to take a serious note on this so that we can look at a long-term solution on this subject matter. I urge Lawmakers to revisit the *Domestic Violence Act* for possible Amendments. I also recommend that Psychology be introduced or included as a subject in the school curriculum as early as possible. Social Workers should be trained within the local communities so that they can provide counselling at homesteads as the need arises, like we did with HIV/AIDS.

Finally, on the document under discussion, Page 5 and 11, Honourable Minister, you mentioned that **Programme 01** on *Capacity Project* and **Programme 04** on *Gender-Based Violence* are underfunded, and I totally agree with you. However, you mentioned that there are several development partners who are willing to avail resources to these Programmes. This then is the time for us to redesign our proposal in seeking assistance from the interested philanthropist as well as the business community to assist restoring the moral rectitude in our country. Thank you for listening and I support the Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much, Honourable Member, for that wise advice. I now recognise, Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, can I ask my first ten questions now and the other ten later? (*Laughter*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

You can narrow them down to five questions.

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HON DIENDA: First the ten and then the other ten later. Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
As long as you are going to make use of the 10 minutes allocated to you.

HON DIENDA: Yes, Honourable Chairperson. Honourable Ministers, Honourable Chairperson, On Page 177 of the MTEF - **Placement of Children Under Foster Care**; the new Law gives permission for fathers to have 50% responsibility over a child. Are you aware that nowadays men disappear after impregnating women? (*Interjections*) No, let me talk. Now you are sitting with a full birth certificate, which indicates the name of the father - a man who has disappeared, he is somewhere else. Whenever you want to do something, they are asking for the full birth certificate - *where is the father of this child? He must come.* I think what we as women will do from now on is not to put the names of the fathers on those birth certificates.

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

HON VENAANI: May I ask my Honourable Colleague a question?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Will you accept a question from your Colleagues? Yes.

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HON VENAANI: Honourable Dienda, is it not prudent for *Eva's* family to choose and pick in a manner, people that would have a place to call them from, as opposed to saying that we run away? Perhaps is it not that (*interjection*)

HON MEMBER: But you do run away!

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes.

HON VENAANI: We do, but we run away on the basis of you picking the wrong one (*laughter*) People run away because you assume that because Ithete is wearing a nice tie, he is a good one and you leave Venaani on this side. When Ithete runs away, whose fault is it? Is it not the mistake of the picker who chose to go with Ithete as opposed to Venaani?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: It is based on the wrong information.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. You know, when we withhold that information from the full birth certificate and the man wants to claim it is his child, then he has to go for a DNA test so that after the result, upon agreeing that he is the father, I can take him to Court and say, "*Now you will pay because you are the one saying it is your child – so I want you to take up 50% responsibility.*" As it is now, the names are

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just there on the full birth certificate and the fathers are nowhere to be seen or found. When you go to the Maintenance Court, they come with lawyers and claim that they cannot afford to pay maintenance for the child, but when they come to Court for maintenance they have money to pay lawyers - just to come and agree that *this is my salary*, even a fake salary or whatever it is. Honourable Minister, this specific issue is creating problems for us women. I am a grandmother and I am speaking from experience.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes, proceed to the next question.

HON DIENDA: Page 179 - **Insufficient Staffing**, Honourable Minister. I know that a lack of social workers is a problem in your Ministry but I do not agree with the statement on Page 179; namely that we have a lack of local gender experts. I do not agree with that.

The problem is that we want to brain-drain local experts. We do not want to pay our people and we are only prepared to bring in people from outside to do the jobs which Namibians can do. I am specifically referring to two experts – Sarry Xoagus-Eises and Mr G Upi-Karuaihe. Why can we not employ them permanently in your Ministry because they are gender experts but yet they are being overlooked in our system?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Proceed to another question.

HON DIENDA: Namibians can also be approached, why must we always

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apply? Approach people and say, “*You are a gender expert, can we make use of your services?*”

Question 03: On Page 180 - **Renting of Hall**; there is a hall of the Ministry of Gender in Greysblock. The use of that hall’s facilities have been stopped. I do not have a problem with it being stopped because you do not want weddings to take place in that hall, but when people want to carry out Gender Activities Programmes in that hall it could be another means of income for this Ministry. Why can we not use the hall for that purpose and that purpose only?

Question 04: Honourable Minister, on Page 184 - **Child Welfare Grants**, I want to congratulate you Honourable Minister. At least a lot of children are receiving these Grants now but what I would like to hear is: What is the rationale of not increasing these Grants for the children because firstly, the children who qualify to get this money are children who have lost either one or both parents? Somebody else is now taking care of this child, you are, therefore, putting a burden on this person and you are only prepared to give that person N\$250 while the expenses of that child are very high. Can we look into the Welfare Grants for our children?

Question 05: Honourable Minister - **Women and Child Protection Unit**. In 2010, the Catholic Men Association handed over a Petition to the Ombudsman, Mr John Walters, asking for a name change of this Unit. The reason is that they felt that this Unit discriminates against men and I will tell you why. Men are also abused by us women.

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

HON DIENDA: Men also need a platform. They are not going there to

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cry, they go there to lay charges against us because if these men start beating us back – I beat him first and now he beats me back – we will be the first to run and lay charges against them because we are the first to go there and they do not go there in most instances. Therefore, please consider a Name change for this Unit.

Question 06: Gender and Culture - Honourable Chairperson, customary and traditional norms and practices, including the informal justice mechanism, might violate the Rights of women and children, and I will explain why I am saying this. In some cultures, it is okay for some men to have a relationship with a child who is 14 years old and that man would be supported by the parents of that child. In customary norms, it is legal, it is fine. Now, Honourable Ministers, my question is, are you educating Traditional Leaders together with parents and children about their Rights as opposed to training Traditional Leaders in one room and women in another room? We are just crying there because we cannot speak, but put all of us together so that we can sit and discuss this matter around the same table.

Question 07: Gender and Education - I will elaborate more on this when it comes to the Vote of the Ministry of Education. However, for now, I just want to say something. Teachers are not gender experts but I feel that this gender matter needs to be addressed in schools. It must be integrated at all the levels in schools - *poverty, ethnic backgrounds, traditional attitudes, pregnancies*, all these things needs to be discussed in education. We must talk about whether it is okay – single out sex education: You know, as a teacher by profession, you talk about sex while the girls and the boys who sit there have sex with each other every day. They do not want to talk (*interjections*) Yes, they are the ones having sex with each other.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Your only have one second left.

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HON DIENDA: One second? Let me just finish this one on **Gender and Education**, but I will come back with the other ten.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Other ten?

HON DIENDA: I said I have 20. My question is, do we need to have single sex education forums or do we need to put them together so that they can talk openly about these things? Honourable Minister Doreen, I am not finished. I will come back. Thank you so much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. I recognise, Honourable Van Den Heever.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine is very brief but it is two-fold - it is a question and a concern at the same time.

I am referring to the Budget Speech of Honourable Minister Sioka, under Programme 01. My concern is that she is making reference here that the Budget was cut and the Ministry will only be able to finalise the current Capital Projects at the different places mentioned, and then in very big letters she states that the Ministry will NOT be able to embark on any new Capital Projects. My concern is in connection with Programme 02 - where she mentioned about *managing shelters, for the abused women, men and children*. The reason for my concern is – I am referring to, especially in the Karas Region, Lüderitz in the !Nami#nus Constituency, where we do not have any infrastructure such as shelter homes. My question to the Honourable Minister is whether this situation would be

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looked into, so that provision is made for shelter and also houses to be erected in Lüderitz? I think that the Local Authorities can be tasked with the maintenance and the sustenance of such shelters and the Ministry can concentrate on the construction of the infrastructure, since they are currently so burdened with their Capital Projects and can unfortunately not afford to put up infrastructures in different Constituencies. I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you for that brief intervention. Now I recognise the Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support our Vote; that of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare - Vote 12.

Congratulations Comrade Minister, you are now one of the experts on gender issues, since you have been serving in the same Ministry for two terms.

Comrade Minister, Honourable Members, I rise to raise two concerns, which broadly cover four Ministries. That is, the Ministry of Gender itself, the Ministry of Basic Education, the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Poverty Eradication.

I would like to look at the issue of teenage pregnancy. Teenage pregnancy is mentioned as just one of the issues facing women in general, however, I would like to focus my attention on it because it is a very fundamental contributing factor to poverty in our country. When you look at the number of young girls dropping out of school, becoming young mothers with no means of sustenance and no means of going back to school, you cannot but see them as potential poor women.

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I serve as a patron to some schools and every time one visits some of these schools when they have functions, you hear about the number of young girls who drop out of a particular school per year and begin to wonder whether the Policy on Pregnancy for young girls is really helping, or if it is just retrogressing the progress of young women in furthering their education.

All of us as women were young at one point and I would like to refer to my own era. You may say it is a long time ago, but at least we had values that helped some of us survive the temptations of social attractions, because we knew that becoming pregnant while in school would not only cause one to fall out of school but attract all kinds of problems to yourself and your family. Even your parents would tell you - "*Girl, take care of yourself.*" This issue is cross-cutting to the Education and Poverty Eradication Ministries. What are we going to do when we are faced with this issue of increasing poverty in society while curtailing the progress that this country was supposed to make in promoting women to reach certain levels of development in society?

I want to hear how the affected Ministries think of addressing this particular issue. That is my first question. I will be listening to the Motivations from the four Ministries that I have spoken about because they are all equally affected.

Secondly, I want to address the issue of Gender-Based Violence. Honourable Minister, Gender-Based Violence is related to social a behaviour that is related to sexual behaviour involving people who are not ready to commit themselves to certain things.

Our society has left young people to fend for themselves in terms of ideas, resources and otherwise. Students from the rural areas go to schools in towns, they meet young men, most of whom come from mothers who were also young at the time they brought them to earth and not knowing what to tell them. I am not talking about fathers; fathers are nowadays a rare commodity to find (*laughter*). Many children - girls and boys, are brought up by single mothers or grandparents whose energy is already

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sucked up and can thus not cope with the demands of a young person.

Young mothers, who are the majority of the mothers today, do not know what to tell their children and, therefore, boys particularly, grow up not even knowing how to deal with a woman because they have never seen a relationship between a father and a mother. It is the first time they are meeting a woman and they have other concepts of what a woman is. What I am talking about really gets to the basis of our society. Our culture has broken down very much. We blame our young people for what they do but we are not thinking in terms of where they come from.

Ministry of Basic Education, Arts and Culture, what is your approach? You are not the issue under consideration, but I am linking the discussions so that we broaden our thoughts. Although we deal with different Portfolios, the problems run through all our institutions. Culture is not just traditional dances, culture is not just wearing certain types of attire, but culture is what we believe in and how we transmit it to those that follow us. I would like to know what are we learning in this respect, in terms of how to get back to where we came from? Otherwise, the problems just multiply.

With these few comments and questions, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I support Vote 12. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Dienda, you will be the last. I recognise, Honourable Minister Katrina Himarwa.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I just have a few comments and questions on the Vote of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

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Comrade Minister, congratulations on what has been done so far in this Ministry. When I was the Governor of the Hardap Region, it is one of the Ministries that I have been working very closely with and which I believe is making an immense contribution among the Regions. I just want to know how many Children's Homes are planned to be constructed, or do we currently have around the country, seeing that you mention about Children's Homes? However, I could see that your Speech mostly referred to Children's Homes in the Khomas Region.

Furthermore, we have a severe shortage in terms of social workers in your Ministry. What are the plans in the Ministry to address the shortage of social workers, if we have regard to the importance of having social workers? That is the other question. These things are falling apart, so I cannot even stand here (*referring to the drawers of her bench in Parliament*).

The **Income Generating Activities Programme** is a very good Support Programme through which communities are supported. They apply and receive various projects that help them put food on their tables, generate income, and are also creating jobs.

It is one of the Programmes that has been very successful as far as Hardap is concerned and, in this regard, I feel that there is a need for more financial support to be given to that specific Programme – seeing that it is doing a lot in the Regions.

That is it, basically. I was just supporting by saying that the Income Generating Programme Initiative Support should be allocated more funds so that we will be able to help more people.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Muharukua.

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HON MUHARUKUA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My contribution relates to the Maintenance Officers or Investigators. The *Maintenance Act* actually provides for Maintenance Officers or Investigators. These are the people who ought to be charged with investigating the financial circumstances of any person who is charged with having to maintain a child of another person. However, with my experience of at least working in Ondangwa, Oshakati, Eenhana, Outapi, these Officers are not being used. The financial situations of people who are supposed to maintain others are not investigated to see if these people can afford to pay maintenance. Let me give an example: You have a taxi driver, for instance, who goes to Court faced with a maintenance claim. He arrives there and says, "*I do not earn money. I do not work,*" but he is a taxi driver although he does not get a payslip. An investigator would be able to see that this person can at least afford to give N\$200 to this poor mother for the three children she conceived with this gentleman. Perhaps in that light, it is a question to the Minister, whether there are any plans to make the purpose of investigation more effective at least in the form of (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You can repeat that when we discuss the Vote of the Ministry of Justice.

HON MUHARUKUA: It has to do with the *Maintenance Act* and the maintenance of children (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: It is a cross-cutting issue. You may proceed.

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HON MUHARUKUA: I am going to move on to another issue. I had the privilege of speaking to a Judge once and the following is what the Judge proposed - my contribution is coming in the form of a proposal.

The *Combating of Domestic Violence Act*: Experience has proven that, many a times, people use this Act as a way of divorcing their spouses. *I am tired of this lady*, people go as far as saying, “*She is subjecting me to witchcraft and, therefore, she must be put out of the house.*” That is an extreme. Or, “*I am tired of this husband and must now claim and say - he is abusing me and he must leave the house,*” to the extent that one would want to call it an abuse of the purpose of the Act. However, there are situations where the Act actually fail the abused – the people who are subjected to domestic violence, and I believe it is common because we have all heard and seen women being shot after domestic violence orders have been granted.

One wants to propose, or perhaps ask the Minister, are there plans - is there a Policy from the Government’s side to start building safe havens for women and children that are being abused – I suppose there are also men who are being abused - so that we can save lives in order to prevent the rare cases that go through the nets and, by so doing, strengthen the operation of the *Combating of Domestic Violence Act*? Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. I recognise Honourable Ipinge. Honourable Ipinge, you have the Floor.

Honourable Ipinge, speak a little bit louder. Do not worry, you are no longer a new Member; you are just like us now. Honourable Katoma, can you assist the Colleague?

HON IIPINGE: Does it mean that I am going to start from the beginning

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again? Okay it is fine now.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you for granting me this time to say something. Firstly, let me congratulate the Honourable Speaker on his appointment as the Speaker and his Deputy, Honourable Loide Kasingo.

Secondly, let me congratulate our President, His Excellency Hage Geingob and the First Lady, Ms Geingos, as well the Vice President, His Excellency Nicky Iyambo. May our Almighty God give them wisdom to lead our Nation.

Thirdly, let me congratulate our Prime Minister, Honourable Saara Kuugongwelwa-Amadhila, and her Deputy, Honourable Nandi-Ndaitwah.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise in this Chamber for the first time and it is a great privilege to be able to do so. I owe this privilege to the people of Namibia who have elected me to represent them in this Parliament. I hope my efforts over the next five years will repay their faith. For those who chose otherwise, I will be working to earn their support during this term, regardless, I am here to serve everyone.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am to live up to the trust the electorate has put in me and I am thankful to my God who entrusted me to serve His people. I would also like to thank my family for all their support in the lead up to - and during the campaign. I was also touched that so many friends and family members were very supportive, many of whom were having their first ever experience of standing at the Polling Station. To all my Comrades, I say thank you.

Before I continue with my support for the Vote, I would like to acknowledge the efforts and sacrifice of my predecessor, former Deputy Minister of Gender Equality and now the Governor of the Kunene Region, Ms Angelika Muharukua, who tirelessly consulted with her team in Kunene to ensure progress.

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Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, my motivation for entering public life is clear. I want to help make Namibia a stronger, more prosperous, more secure and more inclusive Nation. I want to be a voice on the national policy-making platform that recognises sound and basic priorities.

The reality is that we need to continuously work hard to maintain the prosperity that we are enjoying today. Equally, our plans to address the poverty of our people in Namibia will lead to the realisation of our goals for Vision 2030.

Now, just to say something about the Vote: I am really happy that the Government is doing its best but I just have something that I want to share with the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. The children are receiving Grants from the Government, however, the problem is that the person who is looking after Orphans, Vulnerable Children or after an elderly is not the one who is receiving the money.

My proposal is for the Minister to please come up with some measures on how we are going to control this money. That is a very serious issue. If we are going to leave it like that, we are not going to reduce poverty in our community.

Before I come to my conclusion, I want to quote the words of our Former President, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba when he addressed Cabinet on March 2015, and I quote - *“If we are able to promote sustainable, socioeconomic development as we must, then the fruits of economic development should be shared fairly and justly. We must build our Nation on the basis of justice and fairness. This would be the foundation of peace, stability and security.”*

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of you on your appointment as Members of Parliament. I expect that we shall work hard so that we can improve the living conditions of our people. With this, I support the Vote. Thank you.

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HON MAKGONE

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Next, I recognise Honourable Sylvia Makgone.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would just like to extend on what the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs said on teenage pregnancy. Teenage pregnancy is a big concern. I was, or still am until today 22:00, a Chairperson of FAWENA, and as a Chairperson of FAWENA last year (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

What is FAWENA? Just tell us, for those people who do not know that.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

FAWENA is the Forum for African Women Educationalists in Namibia. This is an organisation that is looking at girls in schools - or the empowerment of women and girls in general. This is a Namibian chapter which started in 1999.

Now, as to what I wanted to say on teenage pregnancy: Last year, we wrote a proposal to look for funds to see whether we could get these teenage mothers back in school. An organisation funded us, but only with US\$5,000. We made an announcement over the radio after looking at which Region is suffering the most under this ill, and came up with the Kavango Region. We announced over the radio, requesting for all teenage mothers who want to go back to school to come.

They were many; from 12 years to I do not know what. You would not believe it. This is a concern and I do not know whether it is the policy or what. As the Minister was saying, we judge our children not knowing

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where they are coming from.

We said, *“You have to come so that we can train you because we want to take you back to school.”* When they came – since this money could only cater for a total of 50 girls it was not enough – , we had to select 50 girls. Others who were in school and heard over the radio that the training was going to take place also came; some of who were highly pregnant during this training. I was asked one girl, *“Why are you here - we will not be able to take you back because you will deliver any time?”* For all those who were there, if you asked them, *“Who did this to you?”* I do not know whether they were lying or if it was true but, luckily, it was their schoolmates, or whoever, that was responsible and not older men, according to them. It could be that they were lying, I do not know.

HON MEMBER: They were protecting the culprit.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Or if it was perhaps for protection, but this pregnant one was crying and I asked, *“What is it? Are you in Grade 11?”* She responded, *“Yes.”* I asked, *“How did you pass Grade 10?”* *“I passed with 39 points,”* she said. You get hurt when you listen to these things. 39 points, she is there, she is pregnant. According to her, the one who made her pregnant is just *someone there who cannot do anything.*

Out of the 50 girls who came, only two mothers walked up and said, *“I know that my child is coming for training, I will keep the child outside while she is in the training.”* All the others came with babies. It hurts.

Women who are sitting here, do you remember what I said during the Second Reading, that we are here and we are not equal to numbers?

I said we are beyond numbers and that should be seen as from this year.

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We should do something. It hurts when you are out there. If you do not see it for yourself you do not mind because you are just hearing about it.

This is just for my fellow women to know. They should know what is happening and really look into it. Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you for that information. The next one is Honourable Kawana, the Minister of Justice.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support our Vote.

I was in fact prompted to participate because this Vote is on gender equality, but now most of the speakers are only from the other gender. In order to maintain the balance, I am forced to rise. There were also some references made to maintenance and I want to clarify a few issues regarding maintenance. There was reference to domestic violence and I want to touch on that as well. Perhaps the other aspect that worries me, Honourable Minister, and we have to join forces to address this issue, is the culture of dumping children with grannies.

For your information in terms of the *Maintenance Act*; the person who has physical custody of the child is allowed to directly receive the maintenance money if the Court has ordered maintenance to be paid to the child either by the mother or father or the guardian. That is what the Law says. Therefore, we have to coordinate with you to make sure that this culture of dumping children with grannies comes to an end. People go back and bring another child almost every year, like a production factory - that issue must stop because the money must go directly to the people who have physical custody of the children.

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The other issue, and this will perhaps address the affected defaulters out there, be they mothers, fathers or guardians. I recall, I was the one who incidentally propelled that Law through this august House and I had a tough time, particularly from my male Comrades. However, since I am back at the Ministry of Justice now, and this Law is very close to my heart, I am going to instruct Maintenance Officers under Section 48 of that Law, which states that, “*On the application of a Maintenance Officer to the Presiding Magistrate or Presiding Officer, the perpetual defaulter who does not pay maintenance can be taken a photograph and put in the newspaper to warn other would-be mothers of the culprit.*” Those photographs are coming, just give me three months from now. You will start seeing those photographs in the papers to warn those mothers to avoid such irresponsible people (*applause*) In short, Comrade Minister, we have a stake, we are partners in this regard as a Ministry that is responsible for the *Maintenance Act* and as a Ministry responsible for Combating of Domestic Violence.

Let us, therefore, work together for the protection of the victims of domestic violence, especially women and children, although I know some men are also suffering in silence, but we will be there to make sure that we serve this Nation. Amen.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. I recognise, Honourable Jagger.

HON JAGGER: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine is on sodomy (*interjection*) Yes, it is on sodomy, which is very rife nowadays, especially in primary schools where some teachers, and I repeat where *some* teachers, are sodomising our young boys. It is very difficult to bring the culprits to book for the mere reason that parents or these boys do not know their rights.

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Another contributing factor is ignorance; it could be culture, tradition and poverty because these young boys are showered with gifts – they are showered with money and food. The communities, and some parents, also keep quiet; they do not report. They might only know and become aware when the child complains about pain, because the business is being done from behind. They, therefore, get sores, complain they cannot walk properly and this is when the parent starts to interrogate the boy. When these evil doings are reported to the education authorities – because as I said, this takes place mostly in our primary schools – you go out and conduct an investigation. It is very difficult to get that information from the parent, very difficult. You have to run around from this neighbour to the other neighbour, from this school friend to another school friend, to get this information. Instead of reporting this to the Police, parents, in many cases, especially in the rural areas, prefer to report this to the Traditional Authorities for compensation, because they might get livestock or money. They benefit but in the meantime the poor children, especially the boys, are suffering. We really need to get to the bottom of this evil doing.

What these teacher do – and I said some teachers – once they find out that this has been reported, is run away – sometimes even without resigning or else they resign and just disappear. Sometimes we are lucky to conduct disciplinary hearings. After the disciplinary hearing, the disciplinary hearing Committee compiles a report and sends it to the higher offices but this thing is also too bureaucratic because it takes ages! In most occasions, we tend to take the child away from the school where the teacher is because you cannot dismiss the teacher - you cannot do anything because the teacher is protected, since the teacher must be found guilty in a Court of Law.

This is evil, Honourable Minister of Gender, Honourable Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, Minister of Poverty Reduction and Minister of Justice - I think that these four Ministries should put their heads together and see how best we can work towards rooting this evil out. These boys are suffering and they are traumatised. We have Life Skills teachers in our schools but they do not have the requisite qualification to

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carry out counselling.

Social workers need to get into schools from time to time, find out about all these evils in our schools so that we save our children. It is not just girls, boys are also suffering. Yes, Honourable Minister?

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you very much. Through the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Honourable Member just mentioned that these evil practices are maybe sanctioned by traditional practices. She mentioned something of that nature. I do not know of any culture which sanctions some (*interjection*) Oh, did she not say that? But she mentioned something (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: She said they report it to the Traditional Authority.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Okay, then I am fine on that but I have a second point.

HON JAGGER: Can I repeat myself, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee? Honourable Minister, I said that instead of reporting these cases to the Police, especially in the rural areas, we experienced that they go to the Traditional Authorities instead, who then ask the perpetrators to pay in monetary terms or with livestock.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you for making that

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clarification. I just wanted to say that this is a very serious matter and I think our people should be told that whenever there is an occurrence of this nature, since it is a criminal offence, the best thing to do is to report to the Police and lay a charge because the Police is there. They have Women and Child Abuse Centres and there are people who are trained to investigate and to interrogate crimes of that nature. It should, therefore, not be something for the social workers because it is a straightforward criminal case. They should just report it to the Police immediately. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Honourable Hanse-Himarwa. Yes?

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: On a Point of Correction, the Honourable Member said that this is rife in schools. I just want to correct that it is not rife, because when we say it is rife we are putting the public in a panic mode. It is not rife. Of course, it is happening and there are individual cases of sodomy taking place at schools, but to say it is rife is to press a panic button and that should not be the case. I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Do you want to respond to that?

HON JAGGER: Yes. I am happy for the correction, Honourable Chairperson and Honourable Minister. Perhaps I have used the wrong word but said that it does happen in our schools. It does happen, and it happens in many of our schools.

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As I said, it is just not reported and communities are ignorant, and that in many cases, some of the parents defend the perpetrator. If I have used the wrong English word – I am not English – sorry for that, but it does happen and we need to get rid of that evil. Thank you, Honourable Chairperson.

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

HON NGHAAMWA: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I would, first and foremost, like to congratulate the Honourable Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for their roles in leading this august House over the next five years.

Let me also use this platform to congratulate the Right Honourable Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister for their new appointments. It brings me great joy to see women in leadership positions of these Portfolios and I should commend our mighty SWAPO Party for recognising women and implementing the *Zebra-style*.

I would also like to congratulate all the Honourable Members of this august House. I thank the Namibian Nation for exercising their democratic Right during the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly elections, which gave our mighty SWAPO Party a massive win. As a Lawmaker with the interest of the Namibian people close to my heart, I will actively participate and contribute to the decisions that will be taken in this august House.

I have a keen interest to study all the Laws and Bills that are tabled before this august House. I am also interested in seeing more Bills tabled that will improve the development of our Republic and protect the citizens of this country, especially Bills that are related to Gender-Based Violence.

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We have to look at ways that will minimise the use of alcohol and drug abuse in this country, which leads to Gender-Based Violence and passion killings of our citizens, especially our future generation.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, my plea to all of us is to work together and support each other as a team so that we can tackle the many issues that the Namibian people are faced with. I recognise the work done by the previous team and I thank them for paving the way. We should continue to build on the foundation already set.

In conclusion, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members (*interjections*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Sorry, sorry, order please!

HON NGHAAMWA: I wish you all good health and I have no doubt that we will excel at our duties to serve our Nation.

With these few words, I support the Vote. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you, Honourable Nghaamwa - she is the wife of the Governor of the Ohangwena Region.

Thank you. I recognise, Honourable Nauyoma and then, finally, Honourable Dienda.

HON NAUYOMA: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the

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Whole House Committee. I have two issues to talk about on this Gender Equality and Child Welfare Vote.

As my Honourable Minister of Home Affairs said, this thing is still a cross-cutting issue. I have got one or two observations to make. When my Honourable Minister of Home Affairs stood up and spoke about some years back, something came to my mind and clicked, "*Why were things different in our upbringing?*" This country was God-fearing.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Was what?

HON NAUJOMA: God-fearing. However, as we speak today, the youngsters that we are talking about here have no clue. That is why they have no respect for human life because they do not fear God. They have no respect for elders because they do not fear God. We were taught from our childhood how to respect the elderly, how to respect other people because this was done through religious teaching, but the moment we said - *Namibia is a secular State, anybody can do whatever they feel like* – I think, is where our problem began.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Point of Order. Yes, talk.

HON MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Chairperson, I am sorry for interrupting, I just need your guidance. My take is that we are at Committee Stage and that we are discussing Votes, Programmes and Activities. However, what I hear now is a general discussion, and I

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appeal to you to alert the Honourable Members not to generalise the discussion. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Yes. Honourable Members, particularly those who have delivered their Maiden Speeches, please do not go into the Second Reading. Identify the problem. I always say Honourable Dienda is straight to the point, although I do not like the number of questions she asks.

HON NAUYOMA: Here we are dealing with problems that need money – we can spend money but as long as we do not address the root cause of these problems, we will continue to spend money.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

What is the problem? You are doing fine, just identify the problem and be specific by stating that - *this is the problem* and the amount of money, for example, we are spending is not worth it.

HON NAUYOMA: Yes. We need to spend money on Programmes.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

What kind of Programmes?

HON NAUYOMA: Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am trying to come to

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my point and you are cutting me short.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Alright, proceed. You have the Floor. Honourable Member, you have the Floor.

HON NAUYOMA: Maybe I should leave it there for now, I think you have the solution.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

No, you are here to talk.

HON NAUYOMA: What I am looking at as the solution is that because the whole country is crying about problems, we need to spend money on Programmes that we think can alleviate these problems. Like the education that we are talking about. We do not have the Budget to train Social Workers at the village level and Counsellors at a local level, for instance and are the people who can read the signs and try to help out communities down there.

When we talk about Counsellors and Social Workers at a village level, these people are not known. People only know Headmen, which is why when something like this happens, they run to the Headman and people who are charged at that level only pay a certain fine, as my sister was saying here and it ends there. Money should be spent on identifying Programmes that can help sort out the root causes of these problems. You allow the continuation of treating the symptoms but you are not looking at the root causes of these problems. I think that is very important. I thank you.

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HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Mwaningange.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you very much Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I have very a brief remark to make under **Programme 03**, bullet number 3. It is mentioned here that the Programme also mobilises and sensitises parents and community members. Honourable Members, I think we are the community that is referred to here.

We are currently Honourable Members of Parliament as well as other Institutions, but a point is being missed by the society. When we mention Early Childhood Development as being an issue for all of us, I want to underline that we have Sectors such as Education, Health, Police, Traditional Authorities and Churches which also deal with issues of Early Childhood Development in the community, including the upbringing of those children. However, these Institutions are two-fold, meaning that a Teacher is a Teacher at school but in the community, he/she is a community member. A Church Leader is a Leader of the community at the Church level but in the community, he/she is a member of the community. A Police Officer is a Police Officer on duty but he/she has a house, a family and surrounding community after working hours.

I have noted that in most cases these Sectors that I have mentioned – the Traditional Authorities, Education, Health Workers, etcetera, happen to say - *We are doing it at our Institutions but when we get back to the community, we leave it to the community*, hence problems in our communities, especially those relating to children are not usually solved collectively.

Therefore, Honourable Minister, I propose that we also look into the matter of community involvement, not only when I am at the Institution where I am working as a Teacher and so on, but also when I am back in

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my community as a member of the community after carrying out my duties at work. As a Member of Parliament, when I am back at my village I put myself at the level of the community so that we solve community problems collectively, at the community level.

That is one of the elements I am trying to emphasise on, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Members. I support the Vote wholeheartedly. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. Did I recognise Honourable Sikerete? You have the Floor.

You have heard the concerns, please try to comment on a specific issue or ask questions (*interjections*)

HON MEMBERS: But you allowed others!

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Of course, I allowed the others. That is fine, you can proceed but please be very, very brief (*interjections*). I have also cut other people short, like the Deputy Minister of Poverty Eradication. Proceed please.

HON SIKERETE: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, thank you very much for the opportunity you have given me today to stand in this Honourable august House for the first time in support of Vote 12. Being a Community Activist in my Region, I want to support Vote 12 as a person who was working in close cooperation with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. Let me also use this

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opportunity to be brief in giving my Maiden Speech. I will be very brief.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Please be very brief because I have denied the Honourable Deputy Minister of Poverty Eradication the opportunity to do so and it will be unfair to now allow you to make a Maiden Speech.

HON SIKERETE: Thank you. I will just start talking about the problem in the two Kavango Regions. We are highly populated, especially in the two Kavango Regions considering the high rate of teenage pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, unfit parents, child head households, poverty, high rate of alcohol use and drug abuse. Due to these, many children are found wanting in term of care and protection. The two Regions do not have places of safety. Having Residential Child Care Facilities will, therefore, enable Social Workers to carry out proper investigation as to which family the child can be placed for foster care.

By doing a proper assessment and taking the best interest of the child into consideration, children who are in need of care and protection will not only have a roof over their head but they will also have a sense of belonging. This will enable children to have all the basic needs met compared to when they are on their own. Even though children's place of safety in the residential facilities is the last resort, children should often be integrated into families.

This does not improve the livelihood of the children in need of care and protection, as they are put at risk of being abused by their caregivers. Building one place of safety or a shelter in each Region will help those children who are in need of care and protection. This will also assist Social Workers in rendering their services and identifying children who require these services.

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Currently, Social Workers face the challenge of not having such facilities in the Regions. As a result, they make use of hospitals as a place of safety. I am just saying that when a Social Worker identify a child who is in need, we do not have any places, especially in our Region where to keep these children other than at the hospitals, which is not conducive for their health, as the children might be infected with other diseases.

All children deserve a safe environment during childhood where they are able to do their homework and enjoy family life, where their safety is ensured under the care of caregivers who have the ability to listen, care, support and communicate with the children in a manner appropriate to their age and level.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, everything I have said here is relevant to the electorate of this country. As such, I carry the concerns of our citizens at heart and I will do my best to speak my mind and stand for the needs of the Namibian people who sent me to this Honourable House. I thank you all for your attention.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Although it is a Maiden Speech, you have at least aligned it with the subject matter. I lastly recognise Honourable Dienda. Do you still have ten questions?

HON DIENDA: No, Honourable Chairperson, I forgot to do something - I forgot to give my Maiden Speech (*laughter*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

But you have already been here.

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HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, let me get to Page 186 of the MTEF that talks to - **Gender Mainstreaming At All Levels**. Honourable Minister, I just want to address three issues at this Sector. (*Interjection*) Please, I am not putting up a fight with you.

The first intervention is on circumcision. I know that it is not the culture of all of us to be circumcised and that there are some men who are scared of being circumcised (*laughter*)

HON MEMBER: How do you know?

HON DIENDA: I was the Gender Desk Coordinator at the Catholic Church. I was dealing with men from all walks of life, my dear. I also know that the Ministry of Health and Social Services has embarked upon a lot of Programmes to address that matter. However, Honourable Chairperson, I feel that this Programme needs to be spearheaded by us women, not by doctors (*interjection*). We will make a better impact than you have made as men,. Our message will have more weight.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Let us please watch the time.

HON DIENDA: Page 186 - **Gender Mainstreaming At All Levels**, this is gender mainstreaming at all levels. We need to educate our men ***properly***, not *half-properly*, which is why I am saying that we as women will be in a better position to talk about it. (*Interjections*) You know what I am talking about, yes.

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The second issue is - **Men's Organisations**. There was a men's organisation called Men for Change. It did not last long, Honourable Minister. Women's Movements have proven to have a greater effect on women's lives; they did improve their lives. Honourable Chairperson, I, therefore, think that we must do the same for men. We have fathers, we are the parents of boys, etcetera, and some day I do not want my son to say - *You were in Parliament, you were only fighting for your own things and you left me behind*. We should also think about how to educate our men.

The crucifixion will start now on my third point. We can and we should support trans-men and other non-gender conforming people (*interjections*). You know what I am talking about. They have organisations. (*Interjection*) No, I will not use the word that you want me to use. I will not. They have organisations and we need to invite them through their organisations to attend gender mainstreaming workshops.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Why?

HON DIENDA: Why?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes, I want to know why.

HON MEMBER: She is talking about transgender people!

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HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Transgender, yes. Why?

HON DIENDA: Gays and lesbians (*interjections*). Honourable Speaker, let me move on to - **Shelters for Abused Men and Women** - I know from my interventions with the Ministry of Gender that these centres always need to be a secret and I agree with that.

Honourable Minister, just two questions, how long are families allowed to stay there? That is question number one.

Question 2: Do the families receive counselling while the case is still pending? Are there Social Workers on board to deal with this matter?

Point number five – **Incest.** (*Interjection*) I want to talk about it. Do you know what incest is?

HON MEMBER: No, tell us!

HON DIENDA: These are cases where you find fathers sleeping with their daughters. (*Interjection*) It is in everybody's culture, it is happening in all the cultures. What are you talking about? It is not the culture but it is happening.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Please proceed.

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HON DIENDA: Fathers are impregnating their daughters. (*Interjection*)
The Honourable Minister knows what I am talking about.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes, she knows.

HON DIENDA: I saw some of the children who were born from this type of relationship, or whatever it is, at the SOS Children Village in Khomasdal. They were placed there for safety reasons by the Ministry of Gender. The girls who were impregnated by their fathers are still staying at home with the very same father who impregnated them. My concern is, Honourable Chairperson, if we do not make provisions for these children to be removed from there, it will continue and they will fall pregnant every year.

Honourable Minister, my question is, how is your office dealing with this matter?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Alright, proceed.

HON DIENDA: My last question is (*interjection*) You can say whatever you want but this is my Vote, I love it.

Teenage Pregnancy - this Policy, Honourable Chairperson, was merely created to protect school girls from teenage pregnancy in order to let them continue with their education. This Policy stipulated that - *a girl who fell pregnant can remain at the school until such a time that she gave birth.*

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The Policy even allows for her to be in school on the same day that she delivers that child. That same Policy permits a girl-child to return to school the day after she has given birth. I have a problem with this Policy in the sense that as a woman of 50 years, I must take maternity leave so that my body can recover and this is what our children are taking advantage of.

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

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the Honourable Member might be right, but could she please help us to interpret the Policy that she is quoting, correctly? To my knowledge, the Policy that she is quoting does not exist. Please let her quote from the Policy so that we can send the correct message out there, because it is not true that if a child gives birth today, tomorrow that child can go back to school. There is no such Policy. Can the Honourable Member prove to this House and to the Nation? Because it is not correct.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Minister, when can that child go back to school?

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY: Comrade Chairperson, I want her to read that Policy that she is now misquoting here, correctly. That is my plea, because what she is quoting there is not correct.

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HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Member?

HON DIENDA: Honourable Minister, honestly speaking, I said that the Policy says a child can come back anytime. That Policy does not say after three months but anytime, and *anytime* includes tomorrow.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Point of Order, Honourable Minister of Education.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE:
Honourable Chairperson, that Policy does not state that you can come back tomorrow. That is one.

Secondly, all circumstances are first interrogated, both socially or otherwise. For example, if a girl has delivered and there is no person that can take proper care of that baby, and the relevant authorities have not found a suitable person to take proper care of that child, the girl will not be allowed to return to school. It is not just a matter of saying - *get the baby today and come back tomorrow*. It is not that way. It should be put into context please.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, I stand on my ground, I know what I have read. That Policy says that a child can return to school at any time. I will not change it. I will give you the Policy. We must start reading documents.

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HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

May I assist you there? Honourable Dienda, perhaps after you have said that, you can propose for the improvement of that particular Policy.

HON DIENDA: That is where I want to go. The reason I brought up this issue is because I feel that the Ministry of Gender should join hands with the Ministry of Education so that we can revise the Policy. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

She said *thank you*, already.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: May I ask the Honourable Member a question?

HON DIENDA: Yes, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Having read and evaluated this Policy, what is your view on the benefit of having this Policy compared to what it was, and in your view, how many young mothers have been able to come back to school after having delivered these babies?

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, the first Policy on teenage pregnancy stipulated that a girl can come back to school after one year of

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delivering the baby so that she could have a bond with the child.

That was the first Policy. The second Policy now gives the girl the right to come back at any time. So what I am saying, Honourable Minister, is that you will find our heavily pregnant girls at school, they deliver, then come back as if it is nothing but some sort of fashion. This is where my concern lies with that; it is like a fashion because we can come and go as we please. This is the part that I am really having a problem with. Did I answer your question? Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

With that, can I give the Floor to the Honourable Minister to respond?

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Just summarise, all the questions have been answered.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: No summaries, because in this House we are used to making other people's health suffer.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, thank you very much that you entertained this Vote of ours, the Vote of **Gender Equality and Child Welfare**. Anyway, I will do justice because I was once a nurse and I was once a journalist. (*Interjection*) Yes, I was everywhere – I was once a teacher, a soldier, I wore many more hats; this is Doreen, and I am still a mother who takes care of and brought up men, women, boys and girls.

Thank you for the opportunity. Let me start with *Honourable Liina Kamariwa*. I agree with you and accept the recommendations that you have given us. What *Honourable Makgone* has said, as women, let us

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work together and advice one another in order to eliminate the PHD syndrome.

Let me quickly come to *Honourable Dienda*. Again, on the placement of children under foster care; run away fathers; birth certificates and so on, I will have a general answer. Comrade Dienda, we are mothers and they have fathers. Fathers are there to give us children in our family. We are people who mostly suffer with the children – you get pregnant with a child, you breastfeed the child, you stay with the child for long (*interjection*). Yes, it is true, but we have to take care of these children and the Government supports us.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Can we please give the Minister a chance to respond?

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE: A single parent is taking care of the children and the Government gives Grants to those types of people, except if you are working.

You mentioned the hall in Greysblock. This hall is being utilised. We do not want criminal activity to take place over there. Church people are using it and weddings are taking place there; I, therefore, do not know how it is dormant. Child Welfare Grants are not increased - thank you very much for detecting that, but in 2016/2017 it will be increased again. This Government is a caring Government.

One thing I would like to add is that when people were fighting for this country, both inside and outside, we had the aim of coming to develop and build it – this is what I was trying to say yesterday. We learnt a lot from other countries while we were in exile.

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On the Women Protection Unit; Catholic Men for Change – I just heard about it, I have not gone deep into that issue. I think my Permanent Secretary will issue a Report on that very soon. We are newcomers. Even though I was recalled, the name that was there was that of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Protection (WACP). Now your Churches have petitioned the Ombudsman for the name to change.

On Gender and Culture; Customary and Common Law – Yes, I mentioned that in my Speech and I think you have read it. I will therefore not repeat it.

Educating Traditional Authority: every time the Traditional Authority has meetings, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is invited. I remember one time when I was still the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, I addressed them in Katima and I am telling you, *I addressed them and put them on their knees*. I remember the quote that I gave them, it was, *“We politicians are here to come and go but the Traditional Authorities are permanent. If you do not comply or try to help us with these Laws that we are creating in the Parliament, it will be your problems.”* That is what I told them.

On Gender Education – Yes, I mentioned that it is being carried out.

Let me address some of the questions from the other Colleagues. You know, I do not like this system of people leaving after having asked questions. I will purposely leave out the questions of the two Colleagues who are not here.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes, proceed. Thank you.

HON MEMBER: Yes, that is good!

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HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Honourable Pendukeni, I think Honourable Nauyoma was trying to explain something and I start with this point. *Meme Senior* it is true, the problem is religion. In my earlier years, I had never seen a child dying, all I saw were old people. During our time you did not see school children dying because we were looking at God's face while the children today have turned their backs to God. What you are saying is true.

Teenage pregnancy is increasing. What are we going to do? What I will say is launching an awareness campaign and sex education is what we have to do. This thing should not be left to the Government alone, everybody should take responsibility as far as bearing children is concerned. Even if they are your aunt's or cousin's children, you have to take care of them and educate them truthfully when it comes to sex education so that we try to minimise these teenage pregnancies.

Another one was on Gender-Based Violence; and for those who are brought up by single mothers, what is your approach? Obviously, my approach as Government is to give them Grants (*interjection*) Yes, Grants to uplift the person who is taking care of the child. That is my assistance. The other one is to sensitise the Namibian Nation on the issue.

Honourable Hanse-Himarwa, how many Children's Homes have been constructed in Windhoek? It is true that I have been mentioning Khomas all along. You took it from my Speech. According to the history of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, this Ministry only became a full-fledged Ministry around 2005, if I am not mistaken, and I am speaking under correction here. This is the youngest Ministry – it was only a Department before. We cannot really decentralise everything. According to my Speech, there are almost two to three in Khomas because this is the Headquarters, where we have to concentrate before we expand everywhere. This is how we started.

UNAM is helping us on the severe shortage of Social Workers. There are

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people who are being trained now. They have taken in a big number.

When I was still a Minister of Gender, I suggested that the Grade 12 students should take Social Work Studies as a very important course with which they could enter the job market easily and quickly. The majority of the people who help us are from our neighbouring countries. This is where we are getting Social Workers from.

Honourable Muharukua, bye-bye. *Honourable Ipinge*, thank you for your advice. That is the SWAPO culture. We should advise one another and try to avoid the PHD syndrome.

My Sister Makgone, you have made mention about the radio announcement again and I have heard it. Also, when I was still at that Ministry, I went to Kavango and people saw me – I could call those pregnant girls, as well as the ones in Katima, to come and sit in front of us. I also went to the North because my first target was to talk to the children saying, *“Do not kill, but deliver. That is a human being, do not kill; deliver and bring the child if you cannot take care of him or if your parents are not able, the Government is there to take care of these Namibian children.”*

Honourable Dr Kawana, thank you very much. Let us work together Brother. I know that we are together.

Honourable Jagger, thank you very much for informing us about that story. It is becoming rampant, even though it was there, we thought it was somewhere - I do not want to mention the name of the Institution, maybe others will get annoyed. If it is in schools now, it is a Police issue because it is a crime to do those things, but we need sensitisation. As Lawmakers, this is our duty. As an ordinary Member of Parliament, you are a Leader of any Ministry wherever you are in your area, or when you go to Katima, you address these type of issues. You are a National Leader, you are not a Regional Leader. Therefore, you have to address these types of issues to sensitise our people that these are crimes and one will be arrested for committing these crimes.

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Honourable Nghaamwa, thank you very much for your support Mother, and for supporting the Vote.

Honourable Nauyoma, I have explained that you did assist me. I was almost lost in providing an answer to my Senior because I do not know how to answer Seniors. In my culture, a Senior would talk and if he/she says, “*I sent you for water, where is the water?*” I would stand up, go and bring the water without saying anything. I can see that that is the mistake that I have made.

Honourable Mwaningange, thank you very much for the advice that you provided to the Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare. He cared for me during exile, on the battlefield.

Honourable Sikerete, Colleagues, these houses are in the Regions, they are even in the Kavango Region. I am the one who opened them but you will never see these houses. They are not for your eyes. In fact, I do not want anybody to be questioning these houses or Places of Safety. Please do not mention them, otherwise people will start hunting for them where they are. These are special houses.

Honourable Dienda again, on MTEF - my Sister, the number you quoted here is a wrong one, it is not at all talking about circumcision. There is nothing mentioned on circumcision. (*Interjection*) Yes, if you had said that, but the circumcision that you mentioned here is carried out by the Ministry of Health.

On Gender Mainstreaming, all Ministries are obviously encouraged to embrace gender mainstreaming .

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Order, order, can we listen please?

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 12
HON SIOKA

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Men for Change is where CoD started, according to its history. I do not know why you are bringing it up and I cannot say that I will campaign for Men for Change because it is where CoD started (*interjections*) Yes, Forum For the Future was for Men for Change. I had a Men for Change case at my house, a SWAPO member from exile was brought by somebody to attend. I do not know if this person who brought the man from exile knew about this. They stayed at my house and this man said, "*I was brought to the wrong platform. The language was not that of SWAPO*" –

Gays and lesbians (*Interjections*) Honourable Dienda, this was unconstitutional, so no comment.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Minister, you have the Floor to continue with your response.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Pardon me?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I am just saying people should listen to you while you are responding.

HON MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

Yes. Perhaps we should talk and then you provide some clarifications to me. Let me invite you for a cup of tea on gays and lesbians. That is criminal in Namibian Law.

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HON SIOKA

On children who are impregnated by the fathers, Honourable Dienda, we will know only when these cases are reported to our Ministry or to the Police. If there is any case where a father impregnated his child and that child was taken back to live with him, I do not know about it. We have the same number of eyes, so the two eyes that you have are the two eyes that I have. I cannot see beyond that, and eagle eyes are not in the Ministry. You are our eyes, if you see them, come and report so that we handle the issue.

Then the Teenage Pregnancy Policy: This Policy you are talking about, even though it is a cross-cutting one, enables us to help the Ministry of Education. This Policy was created by the Ministry of Education. Maybe you should ask them because they are the ones who crafted it so that we can amend it if you see any loopholes.

Colleagues, we are doing our work in a good way. I always heard the Speaker saying that *we work*. Yes, we work but what about health wise? Sitting for long hours can result in kidney problems to tell you the truth. Anybody who is a doctor – we have doctors here – will tell you it is not healthy to sit for long hours. We have been sitting at our offices in meetings and here we are sitting again. Colleagues it is not healthy for our kidneys and maybe cancer can also develop.

I thank you very much for your support because nobody was objecting, everybody was in support of the Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Minister, I have to thank you in terms of the speed in which you have responded. I hope the others will learn from you. Any further discussions on Vote 12? Any objection? Agreed to.

Vote 18 – “**ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM**” put for Discussion.
Any discussions? I recognise Honourable Uutoni.

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 18
HON UTONI

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. On Vote 18, I will take it from Page 4 and 15 but I will start with Page 15 of the Vote Motivation.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, on this Page I have a problem when it comes to the money that is given as a subsidy to the Namibia Tourism Board (NTB) and Namibian Wildlife Resort (NWR). I am going to ask whether this money is utilised accordingly, that is, to the benefit of the targeted recipients.

I think this money is provided as a subsidy to help tourism development and also to do marketing, that is, to market the products in Namibia when it comes to tourism in Namibia and at the same time also to market the lodges in Namibia.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: No, proceed, I was just wondering if you could get to the subject matter quickly after you have made a short preamble, because you are one of the Seniors.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: But I am on the item.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Proceed.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION: Now my question is: If these products are marketed,

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HON UUTONI

are they being marketed through our own National Broadcasting television, that is, through the NBC? That is the question. If they are marketed through NBC, are they seen by the targeted audience – the targeted audience being tourists and visitors who come to Namibia?

Honourable Chairperson, you may be wondering why I am asking that question. Consider the following: Book yourself in at some of the lodges in Namibia. Let us say you want to watch NBC news in the evening - frankly speaking, even the employees will ask you what NBC is - *We do not have NBC here. If you want to watch the news look at ENCA*, and that is a South African Channel or - *If you want to entertain yourself, watch Super Sport on M-Net*. Then you ask yourself - *But I am asking for our own Broadcasting Network. Do these people not value our own national Broadcasting?* - *No, man*, it is really irritating. When you feel like going to the Manager, the Manager dodges you. It is not good. Then when I do not want to miss the news, I have to phone home and beg my wife or children to record the news for me so that I can watch it three days after my return because the lodges do not offer this service. The only service there is M-net, Super Sport and whatever.

Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism, I know that in your statistics you were saying that in 2010 you had recorded about 984,000 tourists who came to Namibia, and in 2013 you recorded 1.4 million. I think when these people come to Namibia and use our lodges, they want to see and know more about Namibia - about its culture and what we are doing here, but now they are presented with channels like M-Net and Super Sport, and they may be coming from countries where they already have the Super Sport channel but where the NBC is totally cut off. You ask yourself why is it like this?

Honourable Minister, go to countries like China, Russia, Angola and even France. As a visitor you will be bombarded with their own national channels, in their own languages but here NBC is totally unseen, yet you are given this N\$20 million and N\$50 million. Why is it like this? Is it really more expensive for lodges to install NBC channels than it is to install M-net and others? Is it expensive? Comrade Minister, please

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HON WITBOOI

encourage the lodge owners and Bed and Breakfast owners when you meet with them – I know that they are used to attending the meetings dealing with the economy but do not come to our meetings.

I also want to appeal to the NBC because this is a cross-cutting issue. The NBC can maybe come together with NTB and conduct a kind of survey to see whether what I am saying is true or not. The NBC also have to be proactive and make sure that our National Broadcaster that we are proud of, especially now that it has three channels, can entertain these visitors. They can conduct a survey to see whether the people in the Hospitality Industry really want to promote Namibia. It is very, very important Honourable Minister, and with this, Honourable Chairperson, I support Vote 18.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Next is Honourable Witbooi.

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

Honourable Minister, Namibia is rated very high as a tourist destination in the world. Our country is contrastingly beautiful, as referred to in our National Anthem. Beautiful attractions, national beauties, amazing diversity, diverse cultures - this is what Namibia is. Unfortunately, many Namibians do not visit our tourist sites and destinations because of economic reasons. Many Namibians will not be able to answer the question, if they are asked - *have you ever been at the Fisher River Canyon?* It is the largest Canyon in Africa, according to some sources.

Now my question to the Honourable Minister is, what measures have the

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HON BEZUIDENHOUT

Ministry put in place, if any, to encourage our local and domestic tourism positions?

I am aware that Namibia Wildlife Resorts encourages domestic tourism through products such as the Nam Leisure Cards. Although there are separate accommodation rates for Namibians and foreign nationals, these still remain too high for our people. We thus need to make it affordable for our Namibian people so that they are also able to enjoy the beauty of our country. When you visit some lodges you will only see foreigners there enjoying the beauty. Honourable Minister, please look into it. With that, I support the Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. I recognise, Honourable Bezuidenhout.

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

Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism, our ecosystem, our environment and our wildlife are protected as elevated by our national Constitution and we need to be proper custodians of that privilege.

Having said that, Honourable Minister, I am very worried about the current rate of poaching done on various species. I know it is in your Programme and I appreciate the fact that you are paying attention to it, but we need to pull out all the stops to counter that problem and to address the number of nationals through diplomatic channels in order to educate them.

In your **Programme 02**, which is to look at containing key species that will be diluted over a very short space of time because the animals could die out and we will do all sorts of funny things – I just want to encourage

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HON JAGGER

you to keep on with the wildlife crime prevention and to use the local communities to both assist and educate our people that if you take one rhino out of circulation, you have killed the whole community's long-term sustainability of animals or the benefits that are derived from these animals.

On **Programme 03**, I do not want to ask a question, but to look at the distinction between NTB and NWR which have different mandates. NWR is a commercial enterprise. They should be able to generate revenue for their operations to cover their costs. We have to reinvest the equity - we are given loans for a number of years to upgrade the facilities and those loans must be repaid to the banks but we need to keep a distinction between NWR and NTB.

NTB is the marketing arm of the country. They can get a direct investment in their operations but I have a problem when it comes to NWR that over and above, having their own revenue generation capabilities, they still receive a direct subsidy from the State. I am not saying *cut it off*, but just look at the mandates and what we want to achieve with these direct subsidies. I do support Environment and Tourism, as I am very fond of nature, and I do support the Vote - I just really want the Minister to pay attention to those things that involve the communities, for protection and for conservation. I thank you much, Honourable Chairperson.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Next is Honourable Jagger.

HON JAGGER: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I will be very brief but let me assure the Minister of Environment and Tourism that I do support the Vote.

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HON JAGGER

Somebody was kicking and asking me - *why did you not support the previous Vote?* I said - *I do support it, even in silence!* (laughter) So, Honourable Doreen in absentia, I support your Vote for the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.

Mine is on **Human Wildlife Conflict**: On Page 14 of the document – I have looked through this document but that is the only page where I could find Human Wildlife Conflict, Honourable Minister – it seems like the management thereof is provided for in Programme 01. We know that we experience Human Wildlife Conflict in many of our Regions in Conservancy areas, especially with elephants in Kunene, Zambezi and Kavango with hippos - and this is a big concern. The conflict takes form in loss of human life, injury of human life, killing of wildlife – even domesticated wildlife. Human beings and wildlife are in conflict because of the scarcity of resources. They compete for resources that are so scarce. Ranch land is scarce sometimes, also water resources, food etc; animals kill human lives without fear and so do human beings. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, this conflict is caused because the human population expand into wildlife territories and wildlife feel threatened because of that. The outcomes of Human Wildlife Conflict end in various negative results as I said; you lose human life, you lose animals and we need animals as they generate income for this country.

Crop damages - people lose crops in their gardens. This is what keeps them alive; and then there is a collapse of the wildlife population, reduction of geographic ranch land, etcetera.

Having said that, Honourable Minister, I just have three questions:

1. What are the management techniques on Human Wildlife Conflict proposed by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism that are in place for communities, apart from the traditional ones that they use in villages and settlements? I have seen, for example, that the traditional one from Mozambique is that they use chilli pepper because they have found that this plant keeps elephants away - seeing that elephants

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HON KATOMA

dislike the plant. That is traditional but what is there, particularly for Communities, to use to ensure that these animals do not come in conflict with them?

2. What is the Ministry's take on compensation for loss of human lives? Many a time you hear that a person was killed - a tourist was killed, so what is the compensation to the families who have lost a loved one through Human Wildlife Conflict? Is there a standard rate for compensation throughout the land for in-country residents or inhabitants and is there a standard rate for tourists, if they are killed by our wildlife?
3. Is there a standard rate for compensation when wild animals kill livestock, because sometimes farmers lose a huge number of livestock? Even for crops, what is there to get these people compensated?

Honourable Minister, this is just what I wanted to ask from you, and as I said in the beginning, I do support your Vote. Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you very much. I recognise Honourable Katoma.

HON KATOMA: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I rise to commend the progress made by the Minister of Environment and Tourism on the finalisation of the two Policies that are on Page 5 of the Budget Motivation Speech of the Honourable Minister.

The Policies are:

- National Policy on Game Utilisation in Protected Areas and other State Land;

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HON KATOMA

- National Policy on Conservation and Management of Large Carnivores in Namibia;

It is essential for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to review and harmonise the Policy on Human Wildlife Conflict. Honourable Jagger, I respond to what you have just asked now. To mitigate the impact of vandalism caused by the wildlife in the event that the wildlife destroys people's property (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
So are you repeating what Honourable Jagger said?

HON KATOMA: No, it is a different thing Honourable Chairperson. For example, mahangu fields, domestic animals and indeed the loss of human lives. The Policy in its current form provides for compensation as follows: For Mahangu fields a compensation of N\$800.00 per hectare will be provided; cattle N\$1,500.00; goats N\$200.00.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Honourable Katoma, I should think that is within the knowledge of the Minister.

HON KATOMA: I am trying to highlight this.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
No, because of time, just come to the question. Do not argue.

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HON KATOMA

HON MEMBER: Do not argue with the Chair!

HON KATOMA: I am not arguing. I am trying to highlight and come up with my suggestion.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
No, just put the question because what you are stating he is likely to provide. Base your question on the facts that are there.

HON KATOMA: I am trying to point out what the current Policy provides: Sheep N\$250.00, horse N\$500.00, donkey N\$250.00, pigs N\$250.00.

The most crucial one is the loss of life of a human being for which the Policy makes a provision for. A compensation of N\$5,000.00 to be provided to the family for funeral arrangements. Those compensations need to be reviewed, as they are not in line with the current commodity price and economic living standard of today's life.

On Page 6 of the Motivation, there is a sentence - *conservancies generate over N\$70 million every year*. I am proposing that this money be used to assist these people but only once the Policy is changed. Thank you.

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

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HON LIMBO

HON LIMBO: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. First of all, I want to declare my interest because I am going to talk about the Zambezi Waterfront. I am on Page 15, under Programme 03. Here it is says *some of these funds will be used for tourism marketing*.

Honourable Minister, if you go to Katima, especially during the rainy season, and you are told that the Waterfront is where you are going to stay, you will start thinking about whether you will be going into a resort or a mahangu field because the grass is as high as your car and because of the water where you are supposed to drive, you will need a canoe to paddle to your Chalet. Sorry?

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
They used to advertise it nicely on TV.

HON LIMBO: It looks very beautiful on TV but what I am trying to say is that this Waterfront took so long to develop, almost 14 years, and it is not yet complete. As you know, Katima, instead of capturing our tourists, they are just using it as transit. The Waterfront itself is very beautiful but there is no kitchen up to now. The last time we were there, people were asking - "*Where is the kitchen, we want food?*" There is no Restaurant and it was a little bit late, almost everything had closed in town. If we want to market that part of the country, let us put everything in place, so that our visitors can be comfortable (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes, you have the Floor.

HON LIMBO: What is your problem?

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HON DIENDA

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
No, do not respond to informal interjections, just proceed.

HON LIMBO: What I am saying is that that part of the country is very beautiful but it is not being marketed properly *per se*, because if you take a look at our tourists in that town, you would see that they look very confused. To be honest with you, I have been watching and it is a concern to me because everybody will tell you - *Katima is one of the most beautiful towns*, but you do not see it because the tourists do not enjoy that part of the Zambezi.

What I saw during December was not pleasing; people were there drinking and the grass was all over. I just want to find out if it is now directly under the Ministry of Environment and Tourism? You must do something for it to be attractive. Thank you very much. I support your Vote.

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

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Two questions.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Very good.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, it is either we attract tourists

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HON DIENDA

to our communities or we chase them away. My first question is on the Lüderitz Waterfront. Honourable Chairperson, the stores at the Lüderitz Waterfront are too expensive, people cannot afford to spend at those stores; they are merely a means of attracting tourists. Just imagine, at the Lüderitz Waterfront there is not a single Fish and Chips store.

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

HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: I am sorry to interrupt the Honourable Member. Honourable Chairperson, every time the Honourable Member speaks, she says Honourable Chairperson, as if the questions are addressed to you. I have been watching you, every time you ask a question, you do not ask a question to the Minister responsible, you just say - *Honourable Chairperson, what do you think, what and what*, and then you give the impression that it is the Chairperson who must respond (*laughter*). Direct the question, maybe through the Chairperson, to the relevant Line Minister, instead of directing it to the Chairperson.

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson, I am so glad that the teachers have been here for 25 years. Thank you very much. Lüderitz Waterfront: Honourable Chairperson, through you - are you happy now? (*Laughter*) The stores at the Lüderitz Waterfront, as I said, are very expensive. Just imagine; at the Lüderitz Waterfront there is not a single Fish and Chips store. Therefore, Honourable Chairperson, I think we really have to attract tourism.

Question 02: Honourable Chairperson, through you, are you happy Honourable Member? Honourable Chairperson (*intervention*)

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HON DIENDA

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

You can say - *through you, Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Minister* and then you go forward with your question. Proceed.

HON DIENDA: Price Control on Accommodation in Our Country:

Honourable Witbooi, I agree with you, Namibians cannot – it is not that we do not want to visit our resources, we cannot afford it.

HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE: But you can save money!

HON DIENDA: Oh, let me not answer that (*laughter*). I really feel that there must be a Law to regulate this; there must be a Law to ensure low prices for all these entertainment and accommodation places to be made more accessible for Namibians, while available at other prices for non-Namibians. Tourists come here because they have money to spend while we Namibians do not have it, yet we want to see our country. If I have to go to Gross Barmen and the price is N\$1,900, as a Namibian, I pay the same price as somebody who is coming all the way from Germany on holiday. Therefore, can we have a Law that controls prices on accommodation? Honourable Minister, I support this Vote.

I have ten other questions but let me sit down (*laughter*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I recognise Honourable Minister of Justice, Honourable Nujoma.

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HON NUJOMA

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: No, Land Reform.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Oh, sorry. Minister of Land and Reform. Yes?

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. I rise to support Vote 18.

I just have one issue, which Honourable Bezuidenhout raised. It is the concern about our wildlife, particularly the rhinos and other animals. We are signatories to the Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species of Wildlife Fauna and Flora, better known as CITES.

Namibia has been a very active participant at this fora and we convinced almost the whole world that we have been, and continue to take care of our wildlife - but with the recent events, this is a great concern because we have been at loggerheads with other countries like Kenya, Tanzania, etcetera. They burned all illegal ivory, elephant tusks, etcetera – they burned them in public to discourage illegal ivory trade but we were saying that we want to derive some benefits from the selling of this ivory. We are looking after our wildlife, so give us a chance to generate some income so that we can protect these very distinct species better.

However, just last week, I was at a Conservancy in Uukwaludhi. I went to Oshehekwa to give some farms to our communal land smallholder farmers.

These people were telling me that they had seven rhinos; five were killed and the two which remained were taken elsewhere for protection. This matter is very serious and I would like to urge my two young Ministers to take this matter very seriously. We must find a solution; we must not only be concerned but we have to find a solution. Thank you. I support the Vote.

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HON SHIFETA

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

With that, I request the Honourable Minister of Environment and Tourism to respond very briefly.

HON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson. I will try to be brief.

Thank you very much to the Honourable Colleagues who participated. The first question was from *Comrade Uutoni* about the money given to NTB, and then NWR, and also the question of the NBC channels which are not shown in some of the establishments.

Yes, I have also noticed that, even before I came to this Ministry, but what is important is that we are trying to encourage, especially private owners, to show our NBC channels but we do not have a Law to enforce this because the private owners will tell you *my visitors prefer this and that*. They are dictated by their visitors but we are trying to encourage them. I intend to call a meeting with some of the partners in the Tourism Industry so that we can discuss matters related to hospitality and other matters. We are trying to do something about the NBC situation – but then again, those who have DSTV, of course, have NBC as well. However, some prefer to show channels depending on the priority choices of their clientele.

Comrade Witbooi, on the accommodation rates – yes, these rates differ, the rates that are paid are not always constant because it depends on whether it is peak time or low season. When it is peak time, of course, they make money. However, the NWR rates for local clients are different and if you have a Nam Leisure Card, then it is almost 50% cheaper than if you are not a Namibian. For tourists, the rate remains the same, of course, but if you have a Nam Leisure Card, you do receive that discount.

They are not really expensive; I am referring to the NWR. We can set Regulations for the NWR but with private lodges, especially during peak

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HON SHIFETA

time, you cannot say this, it is a *killing* - we do not have the power to do so. There is nothing, there is no Rule or Regulation that empowers us to do that.

Honourable Bezuidenhout, on the high value species, especially when it comes to poaching: Yes, I registered your concern. As a Ministry, we are trying to do our utmost best to curb poaching incidents. Poaching has been in many other countries, especially in Southern Africa where there are high value species like rhinos, elephants and others, whose products make for such lucrative business due to their exorbitant prices - it has now come to Namibia. Definitely, criminals have networks; they have trans-national networks.

Last year, more than 1,200 rhinos were poached in South Africa, and that is only last year. During the previous years, 1,000 and something were poached. In Namibia, we are trying to make sure that we arrest the situation, which is why we have put up measures and are monitoring the situation. Although some of the cases that were reported in the media were discovered this year, it does not mean that they were committed this year; some were committed years ago because there are some thick vegetations where you cannot go by road. Therefore, we are trying to make sure that we intensify aerial patrol by helicopters. We can do that, especially now that we have decided to dehorn some of the rhinos. By the way, we have more than 1,300 black rhinos in total. In Etosha, we keep the largest black rhino population in the world – we have others in private farms and in Conservancies. We trans-located them.

We are trying our best to make sure that we curb that. We are now trying to investigate some of these cases; trying to determine, especially from the carcasses that were found by conducting post-mortems, the cause of death, because some of these may not have been caused by poaching but the mortality could have been as a result of natural causes. We will, therefore, have to determine that and classify which deaths were caused by poaching and which were natural deaths. We are going to determine that and then report our findings to the public.

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Honourable Jagger, yes, I agree with you on the Human Wildlife Conflict; especially in the rural areas where there are Conservancies where we have trans-located some of the game, as well as in some areas northeast and north central of Kunene, and also some privately owned farms, elephants are specifically involved. The population of our elephants has increased seeing that we had less than one thousand elephants in this country at Independence – they were about 700 and now they are more than 20,000, imagine that! The grazing area is decreasing rapidly considering that population growth. Coupled with that, people are trying to put up facilities everywhere and we thus do not have enough forest for the animals to graze. That is the reason why we experience that conflict. However, we are trying to mitigate the situation by raising awareness among the communities on how to co-exist with our wild animals – there are strategies on how to live and interact with them.

In some of the areas where the animals are, no communities lived there before, however, there are communities living in some of our protected areas now. We teach them various tactics, some of which are traditional, as well as strategies on how to ward off elephants while living with them. Some include providing additional water points at various locations, as well as fencing off some of the water facilities so that they do not destroy them.

However, it is true that we do not compensate victims. The money that is given is just to offset the losses. We do not compensate victims but we mitigate our losses and that may not be adequate. We are at least trying to appease the person whose loss was caused by the wild animals. We, nonetheless, intend to review that to see what can be done. It is, of course, not enough.

Honourable Limbo, concerning the Zambezi Waterfront, I have duly taken note. What happened to the kitchen was an accident – the people who built the kitchen probably did not coordinate with the Municipality. They constructed the kitchen on a NamWater water pipeline and had to, therefore, destroy it. I think Katima did not have water for one week because of that. We intend to build the kitchen during this Financial Year

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HON SHIFETA

and will attend to it diligently.

Honourable Dienda, the Lüderitz Waterfront is not under our Ministry, it is under the Ministry of Finance.

Honourable Nujoma, like I said before, we are trying to encourage local conservation. That is why we trans-locate high value game to these community conservancies. In that specific conservancy, there were seven rhinos but then there were incidents of poaching. We had to trans-locate two of them back to the area where they were better protected because we felt that it was not safe for the rhinos to be in that area, however, we are investigating the possibility of re-trans-locating the rhinos in the future. With this, I think I have done justice to the questions. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I have some advice in a form of a question concerning the question that was asked by Honourable Uutoni on NBC, which is not broadcasted in most of the private lodges.

I would like to propose that if there is no problem, your Ministry should come up with a Policy because I know that some of the owners of these private lodges do not even know who the President of Namibia is. My proposal is that you should perhaps think in terms of coming up with a Policy that demands them to have the national broadcasting channels at their respective lodges. It is not against the Constitution. Do you support that? Yes.

With that, any objections to Vote 18? Agreed to.

Vote 24 - “**TRANSPORT**” put for Discussion. Any discussions? I recognise the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration.

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HON IIVULA-ITHANA

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I once again rise to support this Vote because all of us, one way or another, find ourselves either as passengers or drivers on the roads and I, therefore, rise to raise a few issues:

One: The concern of this Nation – what is the Honourable Minister going to do about the carnage on our roads? I know, and read somewhere in the technical document that they are envisaging to build more testing centres for vehicles and drivers, however, Comrade Minister, one thing that I think is happening apart from driving under the influence of *whatever* it is, there is a syndicate issuing driving licences to people who have not gone through proper driving lessons. That syndicate exists and unless we nip it in the bud the carnage will continue. As a driver on the road, you do not have to be told because, literally, you can see which drivers do not have proper driving licences. There are people driving in a reckless manner in all kinds of circumstances and situations. I have seen my driver leaving the road to give way to reckless drivers many a time, in order to save himself.

Comrade Minister, in some countries such drivers are penalised by withdrawing their driving licences - penalise them on the spot or by doing something drastic to them. Something drastic must be done to save lives. I have a particular interest because we issue death certificates and looking at the number of the certificates we issue on account of road accidents, it has become a concern. Honourable Minister, I think something needs to be done in that respect.

My second issue is on infrastructural maintenance. I know that your Ministry is one of the expensive Ministries and it is not easy to maintain these infrastructures. However, speaking as a lay person, I think maintenance may sometimes be cheaper than new creations. I am saying so after seeing big airports that were built properly and left to go to waste. Take the Ruacana Airport for example: This airport is huge – even airbuses can land there; there is a long runway and it is well situated, but that airport is rotting away.

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HON WITBOOI

My question is *why*? This airport is strategically located; it is within the vicinity of one of our biggest green schemes, the Etunda Green Scheme and sometimes the produce from Etunda rot there because there is no transport. It can be used to carry these produce to the hubs that are being created in Windhoek and other places. The Ruacana Airport is around 150 kilometres from Ondangwa Airport and it is very close to our border with Angola. Why do we not link it up with our route to and from Angola so that we can keep it alive? Maybe Angola does not even know there is an airport there. Can we not make some plans to keep that airport alive? It is disheartening to see it just standing in the bush. Comrade Minister, I know you are new in the portfolio but I trust you have the passion, zeal and energy required for this portfolio. I wish you luck and I support the Vote. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. Honourable 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 24 that is dealing with our road infrastructure and public transport.

The Namib Naukluft Park includes Sossusvlei, the Sesriem Canyon, Tsauchab River, Naukluft Mountains, Duwisieb Castle, Sandwich Harbour, and many other lodges which are visited by tourists from around the world because of their natural beauty. The Naukluft Park and all its inhabitants and natural beauties link the park with the Atlantic Ocean, Walvis Bay, Maltahöhe, Aus, !Nami-#nus, Fish River Canyon and Ai-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park.

Honourable Minister, the road network between Walvis Bay, Solitaire, Sesriem, Sossusvlei, Maltahöhe, Helmeringhausen in Bethanie, which

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connects with the Maltahöhe-Mariental, Aus-Lüderitz, Aus-Keetmanshoop tarred road networks is a gravel road. From the direction of Windhoek, the road between the B1 to Klein Aub to Rietoog and Solitaire, which is gravel, is also used by tourists and Namibians to link with the attractions of the north Namib Naukluft Park.

Honourable Minister, my question now is: Can the Ministry and the Roads Authority conduct a feasibility study to assess the importance of tarring the gravel road from Walvis Bay to Solitaire, Sossusvlei, Maltahöhe to Helmeringhausen to Bethanie and the gravel road from the direction of Windhoek of the B1 road taking us to Klein Aub, Rietoog to connect with Solitaire, Sossusvlei and the rest of the Naukluft Park?

Honourable Minister, my second question: TransNamib has at numerous occasions caused inconveniences to passengers who make use of our passenger trains to the Hardap, //Karas and Erongo Regions. Inconveniences were caused either by delays or trains not departing according to schedules, breakdowns of trains and derailments. These incidences have caused our people to arrive late at their destinations, arrive late for their jobs – which could lead to disciplinary reprimands by employers, exhaustion and sometimes passengers would be stranded without food.

As a result of all these incidences, some passengers would think twice before undertaking a journey by train. In the same vein, people, young and old, including a significant percentage of the workforce in Windhoek travel from Rehoboth to Windhoek and Okahandja to Windhoek and back via roads, on a daily basis. Being aware of the housing and the land challenges the City of Windhoek is facing and will face, Rehoboth and Okahandja, including Groot Aub, are the nearest towns and village where housing and land is available.

What measures and plans, if there are any, will the Ministry and TransNamib put in place to provide a safer, faster, properly scheduled and comfortable train service? Considering the many incidents on our roads, our railway transport could be a safer, affordable, economical and

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enjoyable mode of transport in Namibia if it is fast, safe and comfortable. When will we reach that stage? With that, I support your Vote, my Brother.

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

HON DIENDA: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, the issuing of taxi licences is being done here in Windhoek, if I am correct. There are a lot of illegal taxis found around the country and the reason is because we do not have proper control. This problem would be solved if these licences were issued in the local towns. Everybody is now using his or her own car as an illegal taxi after work and during weekends, because there is nobody that will make sure to stop these illegal taxi businesses. Honourable Minister, what is the possibility of decentralising the function of issuing taxi licenses to the Regions?

My second concern is *the state of public transport in our country*. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, through you, we are in need of a viable and sustainable public transport network. I am saying so because our transport is currently plagued with health and safety issues. It has a track record of death and poor driving. Taxis are always involved in car accidents. There is always a taxi involved; even if it is an accident where a driver drives through a wall, there is always a taxi involved.

Many people who use public transport have no other options, they have to make use of it. It is not a matter of a choice. The poor maintenance of our taxis is also a concern. There was a concern raised here that taxi owners do not pay taxes to our Government and that is true.

I want to know from the Honourable Minister what the possibility is for

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HON DIENDA

his Ministry to have an office dealing with public transport. This issue of NABTA looking after the people is not working because NABTA is just a Union. We need a body that controls the Taxi Industry for our safety, as well as ensuring that the vehicles are properly maintained.

Municipal Buses: Honourable Chairperson, I think we have a problem with our municipal buses. I know it is an issue of the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, but as public transport that is provided to our people, we need to see whether we can improve on our municipal bus services in order to take the load off our taxis.

I also want to talk about *TransNamib Holdings' Railway Stations*: Honourable Chairperson, through you, Tses does not have a Railway Station. When you are waiting for the train in Tses, you stand where there is no shelter, and you cannot even find a place to hide when it starts raining. It is a concern for the people of Tses. I have noticed that over the next three years TransNamib will receive N\$950 million. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I am not saying we must not put money into TransNamib, but my question is: Is it really justifiable to always allocating money to them while there are no improvements at TransNamib Holdings. The Railway Stations and everything is in a mess. People are late for work, like Honourable Witbooi was saying; while they are receiving money. We must look into what the problem is. They are making money yes, but where does the money go? Is TransNamib really there for service delivery or what is the problem?

My last question is on the *RCC funding*: I have noticed on Page 313 of the Estimate of Revenue and Income and Expenditure that the RCC will not be funded during the Financial Year 2017/2018, but we are all aware it has been reported that the RCC is in financial trouble. Honourable Minister, does this mean that the RCC may close down or why is there no provision being made for the RCC for the Financial Year 2017/2018? I support the Vote. Thank you very much.

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HON NEKUNDI

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Yes, Honourable Nekundi.

HON NEKUNDI: Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. My revolutionary greetings to my Honourable Minister of Works, my Political Father.

I have a few comments, or possibly some advice to provide to my Senior that side. As I am going to do that, I wholeheartedly support the Vote, Comrade Minister.

One: Comrade Minister, as my mother has said, the road accidents have become one of the biggest concerns in our motherland. Through my layman's analysis, one can conclude that most accidents occur because of carelessness. People drive as they wish; people overtake where they must not overtake while others drive through red traffic lights. All these matters boil down to human behaviour.

Comrade Senior, I would like to suggest that apart from knowing the Rules and Regulations for a person obtaining a licence, he or she must equally be subjected to psychometric testing in order to determine their aptitude for the usage of the road because it affects other road users. Some people will overtake you when it is not safe to do so and when you hoot at them, they show you the middle finger. This is one of the behaviours that is causing our people to vanish. Comrade Minister, is it possible to consider this suggestion?

Comrade Minister, I have learned that each Sovereign State has its sovereign air space and whatever object using that space must pay a particular fee to the Sovereign State. Comrade Minister, is it true that our air space fee is not being collected? Or if that is not being the case then it is possibly collected by Foreign States, and if it is collected by Foreign States, it is an issue of capacity, 25 years after Independence? Is it not

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HON NEKUNDI

possible for us to develop our own capacity of people with the ability to collect the air space fees?

Comrade Minister, I am one of those people who travel extensively.

HON MEMBER: Because of S & Ts!

HON NEKUNDI: No, I do not travel for S & T purposes, if you need that, I can even give you N\$10.00 now. As an extensive traveller, one travels on gravel roads and on some of these roads, whether you have an off road vehicle or what are called soft cars nowadays, your car is forever shaking on the road. These roads are not properly maintained. Some roads are graded once a month while others are graded regularly, every week. How do we ensure that whoever is responsible for grading these roads does so on a regular basis? Do they consider the traffic load on those roads in order to ascertain how many times the roads have to be graded to maintain a good quality and standard?

Comrade Minister, my second last question is on taxi licences: I just learned, rightly or wrongly so, that taxi licences are equally issued to foreign nationals who come here as so-called investors just to operate taxis. I am aware that we have a free market economy and that we are a Member of the WTO, but that does not take away the same rules of the WTO that provide for an element of protectionism, if so warranted. If that is the case, can we apply that element of protecting certain Industries that are of minimal investment values?

The last question or concern is - some people call it bail out, I call it recapitalisation; as the State, we are shareholders and as such one recapitalises your entities. Comrade Minister, the big concern, however, is where private companies are flourishing but State-Owned Enterprises are not flourishing – the case in point is TransNamib, we also have Air

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HON JAHANIKA

Namibia and the RCC, and on the other hand, you have a lot of Chinese Companies as well as Dutch-owned Companies and South African-owned Companies constructing roads and they are progressing well while the RCC, despite having certain roads in Namibia reserved for it each year, is still going in the red.

TransNamib: Comrade Minister, you will see a lot of private-owned cars driving on the roads. I personally know of some people who started with a small *skoroskoro* truck and now have up to 20 huge trucks. That is indicative that the Industry is flourishing, yet TransNamib is not. What is the problem? Could it possibly be that our human resource competencies are not align to the goals and application of these skills within the Industry they operate in? Is it possible that they are evaluated on a quarterly basis, if not on a regular basis, and that their remunerations are aligned with their performance?

It is high time that a company is run on sound business principles and if it does not perform, then *hallelujah* - you do not perform. Let somebody with the required capacities run the operation on behalf of the State and the public. That is all, Comrade Minister. I hope you accept my input.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Jahanika.

HON JAHANIKA: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Allow me to rise and support Vote 24. However, before I do that, I would like to propose the following to the Minister of Transport:

1. A tarred road must be constructed in the Erongo Region from Omaruru via Omatjete to Okombahe.

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HON TWEYA

2. In the same Region, a tarred road from Karibib to Otjimbingwe, which is the home village of the Minister, must also be constructed. I do not think we will find it difficult to get that road tarred.
3. Concerning my Region, Omaheke, I want to see a tarred road linking the TansKalahari to Talismanus in the Otjombinde Constituency, then from Talismanus in the Otjombinde Constituency linking the same road to Epukiro Post 3, in the Epukiro Constituency and from Epukiro Constituency to Otjinene Constituency.
4. Lastly, linking Gobabis/Otjinene Constituency to Epukiro Post 3 via the Drimiopsis road which is about 60 kilometres. I support the Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. I recognise the Honourable Minister of Information.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY:

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, let me first give my unreserved support for Vote 24 of Transport. I have two questions:

The first one - I am not sure under which Programme, I am trying to get facts from either Programme 1 under *Air Transport Administration* or Programme 2. I am not sure, however, my question is: Air Namibia has international routes and domestic or regional routes. Lately, they have, without informing the customers, introduced that the domestic routes are no longer from Eros Airport but are now from Hosea Kutako International Airport - *damn, damn, inconvenience and no explanation at all!* (*Interjections*) I have used it and it is still being referred to as domestic; from Eros to Ondangwa is still domestic, however, from anywhere else in Namibia, it is only domestic on paper but in reality is not domestic, since you must still conform to the two hours before the flight requirement and literally have to travel for two days. It does not make business sense in

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my view, to still use Air Namibia elsewhere apart from Ondangwa, in comparison to travelling by road. What is the rationale behind this? They are saying that they need business, and yet they are putting themselves out of business through this type of actions. What type of management is this? That is my first question.

We need Namibians who think Namibian, act Namibian and promote other Namibians to make use of Air Namibia in order for Air Namibia to make money and stay in business. As it is, it appears that we have Namibians on paper who in reality are not Namibians, because they do not act like Namibians.

I have experienced this, which is why I am asking for patriotism from the people managing Air Namibia. It does not make business sense. They must come up with a rational explanation or they must restore the situation so that Namibians can support them by using Air Namibia, especially when we travel domestically.

The second question relates to Programme 04, Comrade Minister (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
A Point of Order from your Friend.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Point of Order, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I am sorry to interrupt my Colleague. On account of time, I do not want to take part in the normal Discussion, but may I give him information regarding this unilateral decision of the management of Air Namibia to do away domestic flights to Rundu and Katima Mulilo from Eros Airport?

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HON TWEYA

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY: Even the south.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: In the past, flights started off at Hosea Kutako International Airport and landed in Rundu. Normally the passengers from here go to Rundu. Some of them go from Rundu to Katima Mulilo and then those from Katima Mulilo come back to Windhoek. At one time, the flight landed from Hosea Kutako at Rundu Airport and from Rundu Airport, just halfway near Divundu, it turned back to the International Airport, apparently because it was dark and there are no Landing Rights at Katima Mulilo Airport, as well as at Rundu Airport. The consequence was that those passengers who were going to Katima Mulilo had to be brought back against their will to Windhoek (*laughter*). Are you aware of that? That is totally unacceptable.

The Regions there are up in arms because of this issue. The business communities are up in arms. We, the National Leaders, who are coming from that area are under pressure, and rightly so. Comrade Minister, we are going to fight this issue tooth and nail. Domestic flights must be operated from Eros Airport. That is our demand and we are not going to relent on that.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes, proceed.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Comrade Minister for that piece of information. Perhaps as a footnote, what usually happened is that those passengers were put in a hotel on the bill of Air Namibia while Air Namibia was already bleeding the State Cooffers. Does it make sense? Are these people still capable of running our airline?

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HON TWEYA

We need Namibians to manage our Institutions with pride and professionalism; we have too many wrong people in the right places.

My second question is, Comrade Minister - I have travelled from the !Karas Region to the coast and lately up to Zambezi. Most of our road signs can hardly be seen. Is it really too difficult to display - *Beersheba 40 kilometres or 50 kilometres?* And this is in the whole country. You can hardly see what the remaining distance to the next town is.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
He is indeed right.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY: Is it difficult for the people maintaining these roads just to put up clear signs as opposed to waiting until the whole country does not have any sign boards and requesting a billion dollars to rewrite all the boards while they are already highly paid for non-performance. They are paying themselves double, so-called performance bonuses for not doing anything, Comrade Minister.

Can we please restore our economy? The economy is bleeding and we have these so-called Namibians that are bleeding our economy. People are looking at us, their Leaders, what are we doing with these people that are bleeding the economy right in front of our eyes, Comrade Minister? As much as I support the Vote, something drastic must be done with the people that were entrusted to manage our institutions. I rest my case.

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

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HON SMIT

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

I rise to support the Vote 24, but I want address one question on the Western Bypass to the Honourable Minister of Transport. I would like to know when something is going to be done about that death trap – the road that has become a racing track. The normal speed is 120 to 140 kilometres per hour, however, you will find people who are still overtaking each other, if you drive on that road any time of the day.

If you drive at the speed of 100 kilometres per hour, the people behind you flash their lights showing you signs because you are driving at the speed limit - pushing you off the road and cutting in front of you, and there are no Traffic Police on that road. You do not see them. How many more people must be killed on that road? As recently as Monday morning, a little girl of about 10 years of age was killed there at the UNAM intersection. I passed there at 07:00 in the morning and that girl was lying on the road. The Traffic Police, wherever they were, did not even cover her body.

One and a half hours later I drove back the same way and that poor little girl was still lying there on the road – not covered. I could not believe my eyes. It is no nuclear science to know what must be done on that road. Firstly, the speed limit on that road cannot be 100 kilometres or 120 kilometres per hour – that road cannot take the volume of cars it does at that speed. It is not possible.

I would like to ask the Honourable Minister this: Can they not install traffic lights at the UNAM intersection, at the Prosperita intersection and also where you turn off into Extension 1 of Pioneers Park – where so many accidents took place already? Can we also not have more Traffic Police on the roads? From my time at the City Council, I know that that road belonged to Roads and Transport. It is not a road over which the municipality has jurisdiction. You do not see City Police or Traffic Police on that road; they are not working on that road because it is a national road. Can we not do something urgently on that road to reduce the speed

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HON HANSE-HIMARWA /HON NAMBAHU**

Limit. We can put traffic lights and have Traffic Police on that road? I thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Minister Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I also rise to support the Bill and to commend the Government on the progress it has made lately, in terms of the national road infrastructure. I am well aware that currently, for example, the Gobabis-Aminuis road is under construction and equally the Maltahöhe -Walvis Bay road is on cards. I had the opportunity to see the Transport Master Plan, and as I studied it, I did not see any provision for the tarring of the road that leads from the Mata-Mata Tripartite Gate, which is shared between South Africa, Botswana and Namibia linking up with the TransKalahari Highway that links into the Botswana border. I want to know why it is not part of that Master Plan, or if it is, when is it planned to be tarred, because it is a very important economic road for tourism as well as trade? Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Nambahu.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:

Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I also want to register my support for Vote 24 and make recommendations to my long-time Friend and Brother - my Senior Minister, on a few issues.

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HON NAMBAHU

Pothole repairs: I do not know whether that can be called work. I can assure you that if you give me that tender with a pick, a handle and a traditional basket without any car, I would do a better job than those guys that are repairing the potholes on our roads - without any engineer, just with old ladies from my village, I can do a better job. The road between Karibib and Omaruru, for instance, I honestly do not know who does that kind of repair. I support Honourable Kawana because if the maintenance defaulters have to have their pictures put in the papers, why do we not put the pictures of the Managing Directors of these people responsible for repairing potholes so that each and everyone knows exactly who it is that does such a bad job. I honestly want something to be done.

It is a shameful problem for us to think that tourists have reach the Namibian roads from other African countries with a sigh of relief that they have reached a country with good road infrastructure, only to come across the work done by these colleagues; they are simply not doing our reputation any good.

Property care: I do not know what the Government cars have done to Government to be punished by standing under the sun for the whole year. That is a punishment. I must be told what crime they have committed. Generally you would not want your car to stand under the sun, even just for two hours but at Government Garage in Ondangwa, a poor car is left standing there for all year long – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Why? Honestly, I want something to happen in that regard.

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

HON KAVEKOTORA: Comrade Nambahu, do you know that those cars that are standing under the sun for two to three years are sent to the auction for people to buy?

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HON NAMBAHU

I do not know whether you are aware of this, but how would you make money from a car that has been standing under the sun for three years? Do you expect people to buy these cars at a good price. What kind of business is that? That is, if you are not aware of that.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM:

I am very much aware of it. I am a frequent visitor of places like these and that is why I have noticed it. I thought it was just in passing, but if something can be done, like what we have done here at our parking, I think it would be a good thing.

Furthermore, I want to join those who are talking about the road signs. I also think that there is vandalism taking place; for example, at one time I was travelling to Keetmanshoop and on a board indicating that there are 100 kilometres remaining before Keetmanshoop, they removed the two zeros and only the number *one* was showing. People who have not visited Namibia before would be thinking that they are about to reach, while in actual fact there are still 100 kilometres ahead. Something should be done to curb this vandalism.

Comrade Minister, now that I am in Tourism, perhaps we will have to work together to come up with good Regulations that will enable us to have proper signs, and thus market our country in a better way to attract more tourists.

Train Services: I join those who are talking about this. However, I always had a problem – the railway line that was designed in the north was actually meant for the train to take the main traffic off the road, but it is not doing that. According to my small analysis, one of the reasons is that when coming from Ondangwa to Windhoek, you have to make a turn at Karibib. Has anyone ever thought of creating a link between Okahandja and Otjiwarongo so that the time that you take to travel to Windhoek by train is shortened? Perhaps just carry out a feasibility study.

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HON KARUPU

The last one is on the *Aviation Industry*. We all come from houses that have cars, we travel by road and we are all affected by, and talk about road transport but I think it is time that, as Government, we take aviation as an Industry seriously because for people who want to venture into training as pilots, they require a certain amount flying hours in order to have valid licences. However, if you are a black person, and let us call a spade a spade, you may train as a pilot but whose aeroplane are you going to fly to keep your licence valid? We are not in that Industry and my problem is that I do not see any policy propelling us into that direction. I think we should start looking at that as a potential Industry.

Lastly, why is it more expensive to fly to Ondangwa than it is to fly to Johannesburg? The justification that one hears behind doors leaves much to be desired, I mean, how different is the fuel that they use for flying to Ondangwa from the one that they use to fly to Johannesburg since one has to pay more than N\$2,000 for a flight to Ondangwa? It is more than N\$2,000 for a one-way ticket. Honestly, this kind of thing needs to be revisited if we want to attract people to support this kind of Industry. With these many remarks, I wholeheartedly support your Vote, Comrade Minister, and I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. I recognise Honourable Karupu.

HON KARUPU: Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, I rise to support Vote 24 – “**TRANSPORT**” that has an Appropriation Amount of N\$4,468,823,000.00.

I will be going straight to Programme 06 that deals with *Planning and Development of Transportation Infrastructure*. In the Honourable Minister’s Motivation Speech, he mentioned that the purpose of this

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 24
HON KARUPU

Programme is to develop and maintain roads in the country which include the construction of new roads and the upgrade of gravel roads to bitumen standards, as well as the maintenance of existing roads to provide for the connectivity of rural communities to district roads.

I wanted to bring under the attention of the Honourable Minister that despite the tremendous achievements our Government made in this economic area of constructing roads in this country, there are some communities that have only witnessed the ground-breaking ceremonies and the inaugurations of the completed roads in other parts of this country, but in some of those Constituencies there is no single gravel road that has been constructed to connect the people in the most rural areas to district roads. I can give an example of the Kapako Constituency in Kavango West; to date there is no gravel road constructed there since Independence. The same applies to Ndiyona Constituency; in Ndiyona Constituency, we have economic areas such as Khaudum and Sikerete National Parks, as well as the George Mukoya and Muduva Nyangana Conservancies that were mentioned. We encourage our fellow countrymen and women to visit those places but the question is, how do they access these places because (*intervention*)

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Point of Order from this side.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY: I am extremely sorry. May I ask the Honourable Member just a small question?

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

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HON KARUPU

HON KARUPU: Yes, I accept the question.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Yes.

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY: I am extremely sorry to interrupt you my Brother and Comrade. Does it also occur to you that if you connect those roads to the district roads it will also shorten the distance? If we improve the road to Tsumkwe, since it is to date in a very bad shape, it is going take you lesser time to get to your farm, to Ndiyona or even to Khaudum, instead of going all the way to Rundu and then travel another 200 kilometres.

Did you look into that aspect because this is also one road that could be shortened in terms of travelling distances for tourists who come from Omaheke, Gam and all those areas? Thank you.

HON KARUPU: Thank you. You have touched a part of my statement that I was about to deal with because if you use the roads from Okatere or from Ndiyona, you will be linked to Tsumkwe.

Honourable Minister, there are many communities who are carrying out agricultural and economic activities, residing between Tsumkwe and Ndiyona. There are even permanent Government infrastructures such as schools and clinics, but there are no road access to those infrastructures. I am talking about gravel roads. There is not a single one.

I want to bring this to the attention of the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport that when prioritising the areas for constructing new roads, those areas should also be taken into consideration. That is my concern and I support the Vote. Thank you.

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HON EKANDJO

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Honourable Member. I recognise Honourable Ekandjo and then Honourable Kafula. Honourable Minister, unfortunately you will be the last to take the Floor because it is your Vote that is under discussion.

HON MINISTER OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL

SERVICE: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Mine is just a word of advice with regard to the Western Bypass which Honourable Smit has mentioned.

Currently, the Western Bypass is regarded as a national road, meaning that it falls under the Ministry of Works and NAMPOL Traffic Officers are responsible for patrolling the highways while the City Police patrols within Windhoek. This means that the City Police has no authority over the Western Bypass since this is a national road.

I think the only solution is if an arrangement can be made where the Western Bypass is transferred to the City of Windhoek so that it becomes part of the City Council. There was such an idea some time back when we were in the Local Authorities. If one drives from Brakwater to the junction in Prosperita, there are no street lights – during the evening you would drive with your headlights on because the City Council cannot put lights on a road that does not belong to them. The only solution would be if that part of the road, from Brakwater to the Prosperita junction is transferred to the City of Windhoek. Only then would the City of Windhoek and its Police take charge. Otherwise, the road carnages that the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs referred to will continue to be there. I think that is the only solution - add lights and have City of Windhoek Traffic Police control the area.. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Kafula and then the Honourable Minister.

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HON KAFULA

HON KAFULA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support Vote 24, hence I would also like to contribute, however, I will not touch some of the issues that have already been addressed by the Honourable Members.

I would like to touch on the issue of road accidents. It is a serious concern and almost every week, if not every second day, we are losing precious lives of our countrymen and women, and what hurts the most is when we lose our small children.

Unfortunately, this is due to our attitude or behaviour on the road; we are careless and do not respect other road users. That respect should start with us, we should be able to respect others.

Most of these accidents are caused by trucks, mainly at night or sometimes during the day, because these truck drivers drive very long distances and they try to drive at night in order to reach the next destination in the morning as their masters expect them to deliver the goods that they are transporting from one point to the other.

Honourable Minister, I would, therefore, like to propose that we should perhaps monitor the trucks by putting setting up some time limit, especially at night. We could, for instance say that not trucks should be allowed to move after 18:00 in the evening until the next morning. As we have had the opportunity to travel to places like Germany, we came to learn that they have a timeframe of 18:00 until 06:00. All the trucks should be parked between the prescribed timeframe and they devices in place to monitor those trucks that are moving during the restricted time.

I have a feeling that if we try to follow that route, it may assist us with curbing the accidents that are happening on our roads. Otherwise, I support the Vote, Honourable Minister. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Finally, Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration.

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COMMITTEE STAGE: DISCUSSION - VOTE 24
HON IIVULA-ITHANA / HON !NARUSEB

HON MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION:

Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I avoided to raise this issue and I thought some other Colleagues were going to do so. I waited until I realised that nobody was courageous enough to do so, so I am going to put my head on the block – I have put it there several times and it is still on. Let me try again.

Comrade Minister, I know that you are a gender-sensitive person – I have known you for years as such and this issue cannot be left unsaid here. It is only in the Ministry of Works and Transport where every woman who rises to a position of authority is pushed off the position unprocedurally, and I have been waiting to hear what would happen in that regard. Nothing is happening; here we are praising the SWAPO Party Government for the 50/50 representation, yet we have women who are being victimised elsewhere. Comrade Minister, what are you going to do about these women, particularly in your Ministry, Air Namibia and TransNamib? What is going to happen to them?

I will not address the ones from other institutions under this Vote, but what is going to happen to the ones in the institutions that I referred to Comrade Minister? Otherwise, as I said, I support the Vote. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Honourable Minister, I know that you can summarise your response and would be through within a five minute span of time.

HON MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT: Today, I am not going to summarise, I want all the time I need. Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and my Colleagues, the Members of Parliament who took their time to raise issues of paramount importance to themselves and to this Nation.

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HON !NARUSEB

Perhaps, let me start with the last one, which is also very important. I know that the Honourable Senior Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration knows that this issue has been prevalent at several platforms where I was privileged to serve, like the Cabinet and others; and that at one stage, without disclosing too much, the current Head of State of this Nation, when it was under discussion, alluded to the very same sentiments that the Honourable Senior Minister gave expression to this evening. He raised an issue in terms of the leadership of several entities headed by women, including Namibia Wildlife Resort.

This is also an issue that I am observing. I am trying to inform myself as to the goings on within the Sector that I have been assigned to and naturally, I am not someone who to talk too much on something that I have not properly informed myself with. If you allow me, I would requesting for time to understand the goings on with particular reference to this subject matter and I can guarantee you that I will be appearing on TV making pronouncements on the goings on within the Sector that I have been entrusted to tackle certain issues on behalf of this Nation. Therefore, watch this space.

Now, coming to the issues that we individually raised, which appear to be centring on the same issues; TransNamib, Air Namibia, RCC, tarred roads, Road Master Plans, and mind you, you mentioned Otjimbingwe (*laughter*) as well as Omatjete, in addition to the many areas in Omaheke that you have mentioned.

Maybe I should start reading the notes. I hate getting notes; I really do not like it. In the first place, it is in the handwriting of those who scribble the notes, and knowing my own handwriting, it has become a toll order to try to decipher the handwriting of other people.

With regard to Ruacana, I am told that it is a very good proposal and I agree with that. If we have some facilities that would enable us to, as a Nation, enhance our communication links with very significant neighbouring countries, the case in point being Angola and the infrastructure is going to waste, the finger is pointed at yours truly because

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HON !NARUSEB

he is in the chair now and he must see to it that we do something about it, and something will be done about it. I think this is the short response to that, *Honourable Iivula-Ithana*.

Honourable Witbooi, I know those roads from Walvis Bay, all the way to Solitaire and then you link up through the Naukluft area and Helmeringhausen and the place that is so dear to me, from Helmeringhausen you land in Aus. Whatever decision we would eventually take should be informed by what we have carried out in terms of research and then it would also enable us to cost the project, because we cannot talk about something without concurrently considering the cost implications. Once we have done that, we hope that this House will be willing to grant the financial resources so identified, because it would make the lives of those who find themselves along those corridors much easier. It would also enhance our efforts at dealing with the phenomena of poverty because it would enable people to use those facilities to enhance trade along those corridors.

TransNamib: Honourable Witbooi, it is so true that many people probably ended up losing their employment, some ended up with final warnings and many other things that usually come with being late, particularly on a Monday. We also know that the rail infrastructure network is, for lack of a better term, *archaic*. Is it not? It has been put up with the first advent of colonialism and it probably had its first share of restricted maintenance. It has not been fully-fledged, which is why we have seized with requesting for funding so that we can do something about the state of the railway in our country.

Coming from a place that is now Usakos, not Otjimbingwe, which at some stage in the history of this country served as the hub of railway activity - someone alluded to the fact why we should travel from Ondangwa all the way to Kransberg, come to Kransberg – the next stop is Usakos. Usakos used to be the main hub of the maintenance of the railway system. All the trains – whether they were originating from the south, east or north, had a central maintenance workshop in Usakos. That is where all the locomotives and the wagons were maintained. You must also remember

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HON !NARUSEB

that during that era they had diesel trucks – I think diesel locomotives were introduced in the 60s. Before that, there used to be steam locomotives and you can also logically conclude that the railway tracks were constructed to fit in with what was available then. Use your imagination and try to develop an understanding of why there are frequent delayed arrivals at the destinations for the train services.

We need to completely overhaul the rolling stock and the railway tracks, and that is costly. Now that you have spoken about the issue of the railways, TransNamib - particularly the rail transport network, I hope you will understand when there is a demand for increased funding by the Sector of Works and Transport in order for us to be able to deal with the issues that you have so eloquently pointed out. Do we agree?

Transport: We are all agreed that the situation on our roads cannot continue the way we are experiencing it because we do not have any alternatives in the absence of the railway network, and I keep returning to this - if I could have my way, God willing, before I complete my term at this Sector, one thing that I would want to see becoming a reality is for us, as a Nation, to revive the railway network in our country.

I really want us to accept that inevitable reality that, if we want to lessen the burden on the road infrastructure network, we should do something about the railway network and it will come with its price (*applause*). The injection that we are probably starting to raise our voices about in terms of money being put in TransNamib, would probably be tenfold if we want to deal with the carnage on our roads.

RCC: We are all citizens of this country, is it not? And we observe what is happening. I think most of the problems come when we juxtapose the Government-owned entities and compare them with private entities. What is becoming so glaringly obvious is the management. It is the management and the attitude of those entrusted to run the affairs of State-Owned Enterprises. I think with exceptions here and there, without mentioning them, the attitude of our Managers, MDs, CEOs and General Managers should drastically be adjusted in order for us to be able to

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HON !NARUSEB

manage our State-Owned Enterprises progressively. That is a given. For some of us it becomes difficult to say things because we are not very good at hiding what we observe. It is an attitude of *what can I get, how can I align myself to personally gain maximally from where I am?* Instead of *how can I apply my thinking faculties to better promote the interests of the entity that I have been given the responsibility to grow?* You are quiet, Honourable Members (*laughter*) I think that is the attitude and it comes from the sense of believing that I am entitled to maximally receive returns where I am involved without necessarily putting efforts to assist the growth of the entity that I have been given responsibility over.

Unless we change that approach as people given responsibility, we will come back every year during the Budget Debate and put the poor new Minister of Works and Transport on the spot while knowing exactly what is happening.

Perhaps I am putting my head on the block. How do you then explain the phenomena that a company can declare bonuses to be granted – and it is a State-Owned Enterprise, however, we are told that this entity is practically bankrupt? As lawmakers, let us just strengthen each other's efforts; help your Minister, because not all of us can be Ministers, should help each other through your access to the communities that you all hail from, to change the mind-sets of our people. Nowadays, we are the masters of our own destinies, we cannot point a finger to any other person if things are not going the way we want to see them go. We are the ones to make it happen.

With these few remarks – you know that I will do as I promised the other day; I will work on the issues raised, the comments advanced, etcetera, and give each and every one of you, individual responses to the issues that you have raised. I do not believe in talking for the sake of talking and I am also mindful of the lateness of the hour. If you would grant me that standing, allow me to just thank you for your comments so that we can go home and be fresh for the proceedings of tomorrow. Madam Chairperson, I so Move.

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**ADJOURNMENT
HON PROF KATJAVIVI**

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I put Vote 24. Any objection? Agreed to. I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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

ASSEMBLY RESUMES

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Honourable Members. Well done. You have kept faith and brought us to the point where we are. I can only complain about not hearing anything about Ovitoto (*laughter*). Well, I think we got to the point where we should adjourn until tomorrow morning at 09:00. The House stands adjourned. Thank you.

In terms of Rule 90(a) of the Standing Rules and Orders, the Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 21:34 until Thursday, 30 April 2015.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 21:34 UNTIL 2015.04.30 AT 09:00

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
30 APRIL 2015**

The Assembly met pursuant to the adjournment.

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

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members, any Petitions? Reports of Standing or Select Committees? Other Reports and Papers? Notice of Questions? Notice of Motions? I will give the Floor to the Deputy Chief Whip.

MOTION ON BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

HON HAMBYUKA: Honourable Speaker, I Move without Notice that the proceedings on Votes 08, 10, 13, 15, 16 and 25 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.

HON SPEAKER: Please table the Motion, Honourable Deputy Chief Whip. Yes, Honourable Erkki Nghimtina, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION: Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Speaker, I give Notice that on Tuesday, 05 May 2015, I shall Move that this Assembly, in terms of Section 6(1) of the *Affirmative Action (Employment) Act*, 1998 (Act 29 of 1998) appoints the following

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**NOTICE OF MOTIONS
HON NGHIMTINA**

persons as Members of the Employment Equity Commission by
Resolution upon recommendation of the Minister:-

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|---|
| (i) | Mr. Nehemiah Nghishekwa | Representing the State |
| (ii) | Mr Bernard Kukuri | Representing the State |
| (iii) | Mr B Ngatjizeko | Representing the State |
| (iv) | Ms Josephine Sifani | Representing the State |
| (v) | Ms Maria Ndura | Representing the Unions |
| (vi) | Mr Ujama Kaahongoro | Representing the Unions |
| (vii) | Ms Ramona Wittsack | Representing the Employers |
| (viii) | Mr Johannes Kangandjera | Representing the Employers |
| (ix) | Ms Eveline Kambonde-Nsinano | Representing the Previously
Racially Disadvantaged |
| (x) | Ms Vincent Kanyetu | Representing the Previously
Racially Disadvantaged |
| (xi) | Ms Elise Nghitwikwa | Representing the Women |
| (xii) | Ms Amber Coerecious | Representing the Women |
| (xiii) | Ms Meriam C. Thomas | Representing Persons with
Disabilities |
| (xiv) | Mr. Raphael Shapulwa | Representing Persons with
Disabilities. |

I so Move Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister would you like to submit the Motion? Thank you very much. We move on - Messages from the Head of State? Ministerial Statements? I call upon the Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Honourable Tweya.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON TWEYA**

HON MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

TECHNOLOGY: Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, I rise to provide information on the Government feedback or responses that is being coordinated by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, relating to Government queries or concerns raised in the media.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members, the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) is responsible for the dissemination of Government information to the public through the media.

The Ministry would, therefore, like to inform the public through this august House that the *New Era* Newspaper has granted a space in its newspaper to be used by the Government's Offices, Ministries and Agencies to provide feedback or responses to the public on matters raised in the Media.

A Section for Government feedback or responses will appear in *New Era* every Tuesday and I am pleased to announce that the First Edition was already published in the last newspaper on Tuesday, the 28th of April 2015.

The Ministry has noted that some of the Government Programmes and Projects are not known to the public, as they are not well publicised. Of late, the Ministry has noted a number of questions and complaints from the public directed to different Government Ministries on Government services.

Such questions and complaints require prompt responses in order to provide timeously and factual information and correct the negative perceptions that might have been created about Government in order to avoid the public confusion on various issues.

These complaints and queries appear mostly on news articles, SMSes as well as on social media and other platforms.

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON TWEYA**

The Government will, therefore, through this platform ensure that correct and factual information is timeously provided to the public through the *New Era* Newspaper on a weekly basis.

Honourable Speaker, it is against this background that the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology would like to urge the public to make time and read this feedback or responses every Tuesday in the *New Era* Newspaper for them to be well informed and to avoid being misled by those whose business it is to mislead the public.

The Ministry would like to extend a word of thanks and commend *New Era* Publication for availing this space to the Government for informing and educating the public on all Government service delivery and different Programmes. I thank you, Honourable Speaker.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We welcome that important piece of information, we take note and act accordingly.

We move on, the Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

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

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

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

30 April 2015

**COMMITTEE STAGE – APPROPRIATION BILL
HON SCHLETTWEIN**

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

HON SPEAKER: Thank you. Any objection? Agreed to. I am aware that today is almost like a Friday, but I know one or two Colleagues here reminded us of something important – the information we were provided yesterday about road safety, and we are being urged to make sure that we do not drive in the in the middle of the night. We are being called upon to move as rapidly as possible and finish our work in good time so that those who wish to travel long distances are able to leave in good time. I am sure you will take that into account.

With that, I now call upon the Deputy Speaker who is also the Chairperson of the Whole House Committee to take the Chair. All the best.

ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE

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 Wednesday, the 29th of April 2015, Votes 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 09, 11, 12, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29 and 30 had been agreed to and Votes 08, 10, and 25 had been introduced.

Vote 08 – “**DEFENCE**” – **N\$7,229,301,000.00** put for Introduction by Honourable Speaker. Honourable Minister of Defence, you have the Floor.

30 April 2015 **COMMITTEE STAGE: INTRODUCTION VOTE 08**
HON YA NDAKOLO

HON MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members, it is an immense honour and privilege for me to present to this august House Vote 08 - **DEFENCE**, for the Financial Year 2015/2016. As customary, I shall also use this opportunity to share with the Honourable Members some matters relating to national and international defence and security.

Honourable Members, Comrade Billy Mwaningange, the Deputy Minister of Defence and I, the Leadership and Command as well as the entire rank and file of the Ministry of Defence and the Namibian Defence Force salute His Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia and Commander-in-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force, Comrade Calle Schlettwein, the Minister of Finance, and his Team and indeed the Government of the Republic of Namibia for continuing to recognise that *prosperity* and *defence* are Siamese Twins.

The Budget Allocation to the Ministry of Defence (MoD), once more, gives credence to our belief that a country cannot prosper without being able to effectively defend its people, territorial integrity and national interests.

We are extremely encouraged and challenged to do well and perform better by this Budget Allocation so that our Defence Force can continue to do its best to defend our Motherland for which many sons and daughters of this country sacrificed their lives in order to achieve our freedom and Independence.

We also believe that it would be meaningless to try to create prosperity for a country without defence mechanisms in place. Thus, we feel challenged to make sure that the resources put at our disposal are utilised properly in order to gain maximum national defence benefits.

It is important to take cognisance that among the main drivers of the

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HON YA NDAKOLO

current defence expenditure is the fact that the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) comprises of former soldiers of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) and the South West African Territorial Force (SWATF). This "*Old Guard*" is on the verge of massive exit from the Force. The exodus of NDF veteran soldiers started in earnest in the past five years and will continue for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). The "*new blood*" that has been injected into the Force since 1996, will be the main backbone of the Force and they will need intensive and long-term training and preparation. The Force also needs to be equipped with modern military soft- and hardware as most of the armaments of the NDF were inherited from PLAN and SWATF. In other words, the NDF is in the process of rejuvenation and renewal, both in terms of personnel and equipment.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the exodus of NDF veteran soldiers from the Force is not only costing the MoD and the country of valuable experiences, but also involves other expenses in terms of pensions, housing, leave gratuities and other retirement benefit payouts.

Over the past 12 years, my Predecessors and Former Defence Ministers have tried their best in outlining in detail the requirements of managing and running a modern Defence Force. We will continue with the same notion that running and managing a modern Defence Force is not a cheap exercise. The Defence Budget should, therefore, be seen in that perspective and get the support of all Honourable Members and the Nation at large for the general defence goods and services.

Comrade Chairperson, furthermore, our information and education efforts about the requirements of a modern Defence Force will continue in the foreseeable future in order to clarify the Constitutional roles, duties and responsibilities of the Ministry of Defence and the Namibian Defence Force.

It must be re-emphasised that the role of the NDF is essentially to protect and defend Namibia; a vast country of desert and semi-desert topography

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HON YA NDAKOLO

along the south-western coast of Africa, covering Eight Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Six Hundred and Fifteen (825,615) square kilometres, with a coastline of One Thousand Five Hundred and Seventy-Two (1522) kilometres and its entire habitats.

In terms of our Defence Policy, the Vision of our Defence Force is to be small, well-trained, highly mobile and professional Force, which will excel in fulfilling its Constitutional Mandate through vigorous training, possession of modern armaments, discipline and ready to defend and guarantee the security of the “*Land of the Brave*” and actively contribute to the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security.

Given the size of our population and the vastness of our country, we cannot afford, even if we wanted to, to have a large Defence Force. However, to achieve our Constitutional Mandate, efforts are being made to compensate this shortcoming of a small Force with mobility, manoeuvrability and possession of powerful means of monitoring, surveillance and lethal firepower, without which the country cannot expect of any effective defence of the national territory.

Therefore, it needs to be reiterated that proper training, equipping and sustainability of a modern Defence Force is a very expensive national undertaking. Contemporary Armed Forces require sophisticated weaponry and communication systems in order to detect and prevent potential threats and acts of aggression aimed at them and their Nation States.

The Honourable Members have possibly heard about the drone wars and other conflicts at arm’s length, including the use of proxy wars. Any Defence Force that is not properly trained and equipped will not be able to withstand any enemy acts of aggression, let alone detect or prevent it and defend its territory.

Therefore, it is important to understand that modern warfare is expensive because it requires highly trained personnel and state-of-the-art military soft- and hardware. Nowadays military competition is on cyber warfare,

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HON YA NDAKOLO

domination of space and Sea Lines of Communication (SLOC).

We very much appreciate the efforts of our predecessors for having put in place appropriate defence systems and organisational structures. We will continue to improve on the existing defence systems and structures and add new ones, when and where applicable, in order to make sure that the Management, Command and Control Systems in the Ministry of Defence and Namibian Defence Force are improved and implemented in order to achieve our defence goals and objectives.

Comrade Chairperson, our focus will remain to be on teamwork, welfare, reward and the improvement of conditions of service of members of the Namibian Defence Force in tandem with the uplifting of their professionalism.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members of this august House, the international security situation in general continues to be a depressing one and this gives enough reasons for Nations, including Namibia, to always be ready to defend themselves and their national interests. It is probably not necessary to list all the numerous ongoing world and regional conflicts and wars any longer here, as the Honourable Members might be familiar by now with the prevailing international security situation.

It suffices to say that whatever the case may be, such conflicts and wars affect all of us as African and Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries and Member States.

We should take cognisance that today's security threats, conflicts and wars are asymmetrical and unpredictable and are spreading at lightning speed. Equally, they have a fast spill over effect. Therefore, we need to remain vigilant and continue improving our defence systems and architectures internally, regionally and internationally.

One of the best ways to strive for peace and stability is to be prepared to defend that peace and stability. Thus, Namibia will continue to prepare its

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HON YA NDAKOLO

Defence Force for any eventualities and continue strengthening and upholding the existing ties with its neighbours and like-minded Nations in Africa and the world over.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, we should always be aware that Namibia, as a resource-rich country, would remain a contested territory for the foreseeable future. Thus, our Defence Force has to be ready to defend the country against any of the bad intentions and to have the necessary capacity to respond adequately to natural and man-made disasters that the country might be faced with.

We have the obligation to ensure that the Namibian Defence Force will not be distracted from its Constitutional mandate and obligations to defend the people, the territory and national interests of Namibia to the best of its abilities as stipulated in Chapter 15; Article 115 of the Namibian Constitution and in the *Defence Act*, 2002 (Act 1 of 2002).

Comrade Chairperson, our responsibilities are clear; to protect Namibia's resources and sovereignty, to assist civil communities and civil powers in case of emergencies and to contribute to peace building and maintenance thereof in the world through the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU) and SADC missions.

In the past Financial Years, the focus of the Ministry of Defence has been on ensuring that soft- and hardware defence systems, assets, structures and infrastructures are put in place. We will continue on that path to improve and upgrade the existing systems and structures in the Ministry of Defence and the Namibian Defence Force, including looking after the welfare and wellbeing of members of the Force.

The summary of the Defence Budget execution for the Financial Year 2014/2015 is attached as APPENDIX 1 while APPENDIX 2 shows the Programmes and Budget Allocation for the Financial Year 2015/2016 for the Honourable Members' scrutiny and consideration.

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To conclude, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee Honourable Members, the Ministry of Defence commends the 2015/2016 National Budget Allocation for incorporating poverty alleviation and economic growth measures. This approach recognizes the fact that only by growing our economy can Namibia have more resources to distribute to the different competing national needs, including the defence of our country.

It is now my distinct honour to request the Honourable Members to support and approve the allocation of **Seven Billion, Two Hundred and Twenty-Nine Million, Three Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand Namibia Dollars Only (N\$7,229,351,000.00)** to be invested in the Programmes of the Ministry of Defence during the Financial Year 2015/2016. *Defence Underpins Prosperity of the Motherland*. I thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Honourable Minister for that brief and brilliant Motivation of your Vote.

Vote 10 - **“EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE,” N\$11,321,689,000.00** put for the introduction by the Honourable Minister. Honourable Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, you have the Floor.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members, first of all, let me express our sincere thanks to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia for the trust he bestow upon me to lead the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, together with my Comrade Deputy Minister, Honourable Anna Nghipondoka. I should also thank the Honourable Prime Minister and the

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Minister of Finance as well as Minister of Economic Development and National Planning together with experts who helped in drawing up this Budget. The current, budgetary allocation is a testimony that after 25 years of Independence, the Namibian Government will continue to invest in education and skills development of its people, as that is the key to economic growth and development. Congratulations on a job well done!

Before I share with you the priorities and plans for the Education Sector, allow me to express my appreciation to my predecessors and all the experts in the then Ministry of Education who worked tirelessly to prepare this Budget which I am about to table in this august House. As we all know, the Ministry is renamed as the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture and it came with added responsibilities.

After 25 years of Independence, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, has followed in the footsteps of his predecessors to attach significant importance to the Education Sector through increased investments to education. Whilst we still have some challenges to overcome, I assure the Nation that the lift will no longer be a lengthy one as the investments we have made are beginning to show some efficient functioning in our schools system. It is just a matter of time before these investments will begin to pay off.

To my fellow Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament, my Deputy and I are not new to the Sector of Education, nor will we say we know it all. We pledge to rely on your support and advice along the way. Education is indeed a dynamic and collective endeavour, a solid investment one can never regret having made. The bright future belongs to those Nations who invest heavily in education. Namibia, therefore, is on the right track. The global village is all about a stiff competition and without sound education certainly, no Nation can make it to the top. We owe it to ourselves and generations to come, to make a difference in our quest for an industrialised country. It is true and befitting to say, and I quote – *“That Education is the Greatest Equaliser,”* Nelson Mandela. No individual or a Nation will be able to compete in this most complicated and fast changing world without Education, skills acquisition and

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re-skilling, if need be for Namibians to have a competitive edge among other Nations.

Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, continuous investment in education, is not enough, but the challenge is the choices we as a Nation are making. How productive is our Education System, are we able to measure our investment in terms of its returns, and more importantly is our investment responsive to the needs of our country?

Today, I will share with you the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture's Budget Estimates for the next three years. I shall discuss the major challenges facing the Education System. I shall then present you with an outline of the estimates to enable us overcome these challenges for the Financial Year 2015/2016, Programme by Programme. In presenting the annual estimates, I shall outline major achievements and proposed Activities to which we shall deploy the funds for which we seek approval and the support and advice of all Members in this House will be greatly appreciated.

Allocation for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2015/2016-2017/2018:

Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, we have estimated the total education expenditure in the Medium Term Plan for 2015/2016-2017/2018 at **(N\$35,994,678,000.00)**. An amount of N\$3,0 billion, representing 8% of the three year estimate of the N\$35,9 billion, is earmarked for Development Expenditure.

ALLOCATION	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
OPERATIONAL BUDGET	10,682,008,000.00	11,075,761,000.00	11,216,417,000.00
DEVELOPMENT BUDGET	639,681,000.00	1,162,715,000.00	1,218,095,000.00
TOTAL	11,321,689,000.00	12,238,479,000.00	12,434,511,000.00

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Budget for 2015/2016

With regard to the allocations for the Financial Year 2015/2016, I am delighted to inform the House that the estimates for the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture total allocation is **N\$11,3 billion, representing a nominal increase of 10% (N\$1.04 billion)**. This represents an increase of **11% (N\$1.08 billion)** in the estimates for Operational Expenses to **N\$10.7 billion** and **1.06%** decrease (**N\$39 million**) in the estimates for Development Expenditure to N\$639.6 million, compared to N\$ 678.6 million in the Financial Year 2014/2015. The requested funding will support six Education Sector Programmes replacing previously nine Programmes as follows:

Programme	2015/2016	Previous Year's Allocation 2014/15
1. Policy Coordination and Support Services	359,802,000.00	238,938,000.00
2. Pre-primary	238,391,000.00	339,249,000.00
3. Primary	6,607,253.000.00	5,826,836,000.00
4. Secondary	3,510,869,000.00	3,427,393,000.00
5. IALL (Arts and Culture included)	592,700,000.00	432,806,000.00
6. HIV/AIDS	12,674,000.00	10,005.000.00
Total	11,321,689,000.00	10,275,227,000.00

Major Challenges Facing the Education Sector

Out of the total allocation of **N\$10,6 billion** allocated for the Operational Budget to pre-primary, primary , secondary, adult education, as well as Arts and Culture, Head Office and Regions, **N\$8,0 billion** goes towards Personnel expenditure, which is **75%** of the total allocation for operational expenditure. These funds will remunerate over **37,743** funded posts out of the **39,207** approved posts on the structure.

The statistic above denotes that little is left for goods and services, subsidies and other transfers, and acquisitions of capital assets - operational, which shares the remaining **25%** of the Operational Budget.

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The combined allocation of Vote 10 for both Operational and Development Budget is **N\$11,321,689,000.00 billion** for the Financial Year 2015/2016, which includes the two added Directorates of Arts and Culture. The Development Budget allocation for this Vote is only **N\$639,681,000.00 million**, which is about **0.05%** of the total allocation. This speaks volumes that the allocation for Capital Project Development is inadequate, compared to the needs on the ground such as shortages of class rooms, renovations, teacher's housing, libraries, computer and science laboratories, and sanitation facilities.

However, I should acknowledge that execution of this Capital Project Budget has not been satisfactory at all, due to various factors such as other Line Ministries, i.e. Ministry of Works and Transport, involved, consultant teams, and internal inefficiencies. Our Ministry wishes to address this in order to improve the efficiency and service deliveries in terms of infrastructure development, here my team and I will ensure that needed services are delivered even if it may mean asking the Ministry of Works to permanently provide us with a team that will focus mainly on helping us technically to improve on the time loss.

It is becoming increasingly clear that we have to closely monitor and supervise the teaching environment to ensure that every minute is devoted to teaching and learning. *'Time on Task'* is the key to achieve the desired success and improvement of our Education System.

It is time that we devote our time and effort in improving the educational outcome if we have to measure the resources we invest in the Education System. Secondly, we also need to closely observe the learning environment and continuously strive to ensure that teachers utilise the most effective teaching and learning methods. In this regard, my team that just returned from Cambridge have identified a monitoring software that we hope to adopt for Namibia to closely monitor the performance of our system starting from the individual teachers all the way to my office. The software will allow us to monitor performance targets as determined by individual teachers in their specific subjects, individual Heads of Departments, Principals, Inspectors of education in their circuits as well as

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Regions and Head Office in real time. It will help us to respond timeously to areas that require interventions and assist teachers where such assistance may be required.

We observe that the cost of services associated with education continue to rise and constitute a significant portion of our expenditure. We spend **N\$500 million** annually on catering for **57,935** learners who are accommodated in 217 Government school hostels. This is in sharp contrast to **N\$80 million** that we spend annually on textbooks and learning guides and the **N\$640 million** earmarked for Development Programmes during 2015/2016. We shall have to critically look into more cost-efficient and cost-effective ways of running our school hostels.

Honourable Chairperson, of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, as a country geared, towards industrialisation and a Knowledge-Based Economy, a deliberate policy shift needs to be pursued to re-direct more resources to the most needed inputs that will have to improve the Education System outcome in terms of academic performance, such as more resources to the provision of textbooks, learning materials, ICTs, science and laboratory equipment, as well as libraries. But, *Time on Task* is the key to success.

I am reliably, informed that the performance of the Rukonga Vision School in the Kavango East Region is an example, It performed second to St. Boniface College in that Region just in its first year of Grade12 results. The hidden magic is once again, the *Time on Task*, which most of our teachers tend to neglect.

On the allocation of resources; Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members of this House, in addition, over the last year, we spent well over **N\$100 million** providing one midday meal to learners as part of the National School Feeding Programme. The figure again overshadows the amount that we spend on textbooks and learning materials. With the declaration of the Drought Emergency in 2013, we had to expand the School Feeding Programme from the targeted figure of 270,000 beneficiaries to 310,000 learners at pre-primary, primary and secondary

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levels. This will probably, repeat itself again and may even increase, given the poor rainfall and decline in harvesting expected this year.

Madam Chairperson, the point I am making here is that, as much as we are mitigating factors that will support our effort in keeping our most vulnerable children in schools, we should increase our investment in the educational inputs that will help us achieve our targets as outlined in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

We vow to closely monitor the School Feeding Programme to avoid possible wastage and to keep education costs within the available budget allocation though this has proven difficult, particularly when responding to drought which our Ministry does not budget for and yet required to provide assistance.

For the Financial Year 2015/2016 Estimated expenditure for Development Programmes will amount to **N\$640 million** compared to the 2014/15 allocation of **N\$678 million**. The 2015/2016 allocation on Development Programmes represents **5%** of the overall estimates. The allocation to development programmes is an insignificant amount in light of the 1,300 traditional structures and 344 open air classroom recorded in 2013; therefore, this remains a major challenge to the Education System. However, I acknowledge that there is a significant increase in the total estimate allocation for the Financial Year 2016/2017 and 2017/2018. Of which we expect to receive **N\$1.1 billion** and **N\$1.2 billion**, respectively.

Today, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Members of the this august House, I take it upon myself and my Deputy, and the entire Ministry team that we will do everything in our powers to start planning to achieve full implementation of our Development Budget for the next two Financial Years, that increase will not go to waste even if it may mean decentralising such Projects to Regional Councils to advertise, appoint and execute the Capital Projects earmarked for their Regions. I am aware of other Acts and regulations including the Ministry of Works that needs to be harmonised if this has to be achieved.

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The time for competing for resources with our Institutions of Higher Learning is now over, with the creation of the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, we at the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture will ensure to put all our efforts in ensuring that resources are fully utilised and the Regions gets their fair share to implement the Development Budget, speedily and candidly.

Education Programmes

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I shall now share with you our most important achievements during the last Financial Year. I shall provide this house with an outline of the major Activities to which we shall deploy the funds we seek for the Financial Year 2015/2016. I shall also highlight urgent educational challenges that still need to be addressed.

Policy Coordination and Support Services

The Programme Policy Coordination and Support Services comprises of Policy Coordination, Planning and Support Services, Quality Control, Management and Infrastructure Development, and Maintenance.

This Programme Policy Coordination includes the office of the Minister as the political head of the Ministry and the budget allocation to this function is **N\$5,520,000.00** for the Financial Year 2015/2016. Planning and Support Services comprise of the overall education planning and coordination functions, systematic collection, analysis and use of education data from all Programmes for accounting internally and externally for the resources used and the results obtained. This Programme has various interventions which promote evidence based planning, capacity building, coordination of decentralisation process and monitoring and evaluation of Education Programmes. In this regard, technical and financial assistance was obtained from development partners in terms of studies, researches which contributed to different phases of the education system and to the planning function. The European Union has allocated **N\$115,801,000.00** for each of the Financial

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Years of 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 respectively to support the foundational levels of the Education System.

Financial and Human Resource Management of the Ministry, including the functions delegated to Regional Councils, fleet management, provision of security services as well as general maintenance resort under this Programme. Two functions are allocated a combined total of **N\$221,040,000.00**.

The Programme further comprises of quality control, management of education service, training, monitoring and auditing of functions in relation to the delegated functions at regional level – somebody was talking about auditing of School Development Funds, here it is. The allocation to this Activities amounts to **N\$80,220,000.00**.

Infrastructure development and maintenance is charged with the overall responsibility of ensuring the implementation of the Development Capital Budget and maintenance of the existing infrastructure, the total allocation to this function is **N\$53,022,000.00**.

Pre-primary Education

Pre-primary Education remains the foundation of all education success, and to invest in education we need to start with pre-primary education. Research has proven that high-quality early learning can improve young children's health, social, emotional and cognitive outcomes. Investing in pre-primary education is the best education investment we can make as a Nation to lay a strong foundation. High-quality pre-primary education reduces grade repetitions and drop-outs. It reduces placements in special education. In the long term, it boosts access to tertiary education and graduation rates. In the final analysis, it will address the higher level of inequality in our society, and it will help us to build the most prosperous, stable society our country wish to achieve.

Today, parents have realized the benefits of the pre-primary school phase. They have noticed that children who attend the pre-primary classes tend to

succeed more easily at the primary education level and further education than those who do not. In addition to the drive from parents, the increase in learner enrolment at pre-primary level can also be attributed to the implementation of a free basic education.

With the introduction of free pre-primary and primary education our Ministry continues to exceed the target for pre-primary school enrolment of **22,000** by enrolling **24,659** children in 2014/2015 and **34,000** in 2015/2016.

An amount of **N\$238,391,000.00 million** is allocated to the pre-primary Education Programme. The allocated budget will be utilised for the salaries of pre-primary teachers; the construction of pre-primary classes; and learning and teaching materials, provision of playground facilities and other services related to Early Childhood Development Services.

Primary Education

With the introduction of free primary education, the majority of Namibian children are now attending school, regardless of their socio-economic situation. However, it is not just enough for children to have universal access to free primary education, but it is crucial that our children receive quality education and complete their primary education. Therefore, the Ministry will collaborate with other Ministries and stakeholders to ensure that there are a sufficient number of qualified teachers, classrooms and other condition of services that provide a conducive environment for learners and teachers in our schools.

The introduction of universal free primary education not only ensured compliance with Article 20 of our Constitution, but is also in line with UNESCO *Education for All*. It is our view that this introduction has resulted in a 3% increase in learner enrolment yearly basis and it is expected to increase. The introduction of universal free primary education continue to encourage parents to send their children to schools, hence the enrolment rate at this phase continue to increase meaning more teachers and infrastructure are needed in order to address the challenge.

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Phasing out fees at primary education level goes hand in hand with ensuring that schools are provided with all basic necessities. During the Financial Year 2014/2015, we disbursed **N\$135 million** to schools for this purpose and the same amount is allocated for the Financial Year 2015/2016. The disbursement benefitted **462,409** learners in grade 1 to 7 in a total of **1,723** schools and 6.9% of the schools are private with 5.9% enrolled. The funds provided at school level were utilised for minor maintenance of school buildings, school excursions, photocopying of learning materials and the purchase of stationery and other day-to-day school necessities.

A total number of **2,112,342** textbooks to the value of **N\$187.1 million** for both primary and secondary levels were procured compare to **806,633** textbooks to the value of **N\$87,4 million** purchased during 2014/2015 compare to **N\$85 million** spent in 2013/2014.

In addition, more than 1 million English, Science and Mathematics textbooks and teaching material for grade 5 to 12 learners of Government schools and some needy private school were procured under the MCA-Namibia programme to the total value of **N\$99 million**.

A combined investment in textbooks by the Ministry and MCA-Namibia has yielded the desired results, reducing the learner/textbook ratio to 1:2 at primary level. The purchase of textbooks during 2014/2015 have provided each and every learner at primary level with a textbook in the key subjects, English, Mathematics and Science, reaching the target ratio of 1:1. The Ministry will continue to invest heavily in the acquisition and distribution of textbooks to all learners until we reach our target of 1:1 ratio at all levels in all the subjects.

The Ministry continues to assess the performance of the Primary Education System by administering the Standardised Achievement Tests (SATS) for Grades 5 and 7 in English, Mathematics and Natural Science. These tests provide diagnostic information regarding learner performance on the assessed competencies.

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Unlike in 2013, the 2014 Standardised Achievement Tests was administered to Grades 5 and 7 learners simultaneously at a cost of **N\$5 million**. All learners in Grade 5 and 7 were tested, and a total of **57,443** grade 5 learners, **51.7%** male and **48.3%** female, from **1,181** schools and **48,025** Grade 7 learners, **48.6%** male and **51.4%** female, from **1,142** schools participated in SAT in 2014.

The Grade 5 learners of 2014 obtained an average score of **44%**, 17.6 out of 40) in English Second Language, which shows similar result when compared to 2013 cohort of learners. In mathematics, learners on average scored **47%**, 18.8 out of 40 in 2014, which shows an improvement of **3%** when compared to 2013.

Furthermore, the Grade 7 learners of 2014 have shown greater improvement across the SATs tested subjects. In English Second Language learners obtained an average score of **49%**, 24, 5 out 50, which shows an improvement of **4%** when compare to **45%**, 22.5 out of 50, in 2012. In Mathematic, learners obtained an average score of **48%**, 24 out of 50 in 2014, compare to **45%**, 22.5 out of 50, in 2012, while in Natural Science the performance have increased to **58%**, 29 out of 50, in 2014, when compare to **54%**, 27 out of 50, in 2012. It is worth noting that there have been relatively continuous improvement of **3%** to **4%** in Grade 7 Mathematics and Natural Science since the baseline in 2010.

Poor performance of learners in the Standardised Achievement Tests is a reflection of inadequate mastery of the assessed competencies by the teachers themselves, poor teaching methods or failure by the teachers to cover the assessed competencies in the syllabus. These shortcomings are addressed as part of the Continuous Professional Development Initiatives. This Programme will continue to be improved until best results are achieved.

Implementation of curriculum revision efforts will be a major development initiative during the Financial Year 2015/2016. The Ministry is currently training primary level teachers to implement the revised curriculum during the Financial Year 2015/2016. The

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implementation include the printing and distribution of supporting teaching and learning materials to the value of **N\$154,5million**. The revised curriculum is being implemented through a phased-in process. It has commenced with the pre-primary and junior primary levels in 2015 and continue with implementation at senior primary level in 2016.

Other initiatives to be implemented during the Financial Year 2015/2016 include in-service training for teachers by the Continuous Professional Unit. N\$14 million is earmarked for this Activity. Training will primarily focus on weaknesses in learner achievement as identified through the diagnostic tests.

The Ministry has also realised that the teaching of reading in mother tongue poses a challenge to teachers. Teachers will be trained on strategies and methodology to teach reading skills in mother tongue through the implementation of Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) techniques at a cost of **N\$10 million**, this is a continuous process to enable our teachers to achieve the desired competencies.

The English Language Proficiency Programme (ELPP) was rolled out during the Financial Year 2014/2015 at a cost of **N\$20 million** and the Programme continue to be strengthened during the current Financial Year to the cost of **N\$6 million**.

An amount of **N\$6,607,253,000.00 billion** has been allocated to manage and bring improvements to the provision of education to **449,243** learners at primary level. We complaining so much about education and failures in the Education System, yet we seem to be impatient. This is education.

Secondary Education

The number of learners enrolled at the secondary phase country wide are **182,945** learners from Grade 8 to 12 in a total of **694** schools, of which **8.2%** of these schools are private and provide for **5.2%** of the learners.

The through-put of learner to secondary is still below **60%** and overall

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access at secondary of only **58%**. Year after year the demand for spaces on Grade 8 increases, causing the Ministry to find fast alternative solutions to avail classroom spaces.

More demand for placement in secondary grades is expected to come with the implementation of free secondary education which is expected to be implemented in the 2016 academic year. Modalities are being worked out, but the Ministry promises to plan thoroughly to be able to provide for the expected increased demand.

On the national examination front, the quality output of secondary education show that the total number of school leavers who qualifies for entry into University remains low but increased significantly with **3,624**, from **7,300** in 2013 to **10,624**, in 2014.

I am happy to report to this august House that the review of the secondary curriculum is well on tract, the short coming of quality learning outcomes need focused interventions to drastically improve academic performance. This calls for target training and capacity development of teachers as well as the resources for the pre-vocational oriented subjects mounting to a total of **N\$155 million** needed for the full implementation of pre-vocational education. In addition to this, the demand for expansion of infrastructure remains a challenge at Grade 8 and 11.

The revision of the curriculum of basic education was a major initiative during the Financial Year 2014/2015. Panels of experts in various subjects have accelerated the pace of the process of preparing content and teaching and learning materials. As I indicated earlier, the revised curriculum will be implemented through a phased-in process which commenced already during the current Financial Year 2015/2016 with junior primary, pre-primary –Grade 3.

The amount allocated under the secondary education programme will be utilised for salaries, in-service training of teachers, provision of learning support materials, textbooks and other teaching materials as well as additions or improvement of teaching infrastructure. I am pleased to

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mention that an amount of **N\$3,510,869,000 billion** is allocated for secondary education during the Financial Year 2015/2016.

Information, Adult and Lifelong Learning (Inclusive of Arts and Culture)

The Information, Adult and Lifelong Learning Programme comprises of Community Libraries and Information Services, Adult Education, Open and Distance Learning at NAMCOL, Arts and National Heritage and Culture.

Arts, and National Heritage and Culture

Arts, and National Heritage and Culture are the newly incorporated Directorates in the Ministry, since March 21, 2015, to form up the new Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture.

This Programme has an immense potential for contributing to the attainment of our National Development Goal of ensuring that all Namibian are functionally literate. The Programme strives to open doors to knowledge, information and lifelong learning, especially for the poor for whom Government information facilities is the only means of access to information and education. It further targets out-of-school youth and adults through Open and Distance Learning Programme at the Namibia College of Open Learning (NAMCOL).

The Directorate of Arts aims to develop and promote Namibian Arts on regional, national and international levels. It further strives to develop the Creative Arts Industry and to transform Namibia into a creative, manufacturing country for the purposes of national identity, job creation and poverty alleviation. Arts Education and Training is offered on full - and part time basis through the College of the Arts, the National Extension Programme and other supported organisation such as the John Mwafange of Arts and the Otjiwarongo Arts Centres. Promotion of Arts entrepreneurship in visual and performance arts is done through exhibitions, production, workshops and festivals through National Theatre

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of Namibia(NTN), the National Art Gallery of Namibia and the National Arts Council of Namibia. **N\$61,358,000 million** is allocated for Arts Education and Promotion activities for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

The main purpose of the National Heritage and Cultural Programme is to identify, develop and promote the Culture and Heritage of Namibians for the purpose of nation-building, employment creation and nurturing of national pride, identity and unity in diversity.

Cultural festivals are organised on constituency, regional and national levels to bring Namibians together from all walks of life in order to promote unity and cultural diversity. These festivals have been improved in order to incorporate various cultural manifestations in Namibia. Other Programme Activities entail the collection, curation and preservation and conducts scientific research into the intangible cultural heritage and displays of our national heritage. In addition, the Programme embarked on the identification and proclamation of historical, spiritual and cultural sites. The Programme has also embarked on a project on the re-writing of the history of early liberation struggle by Namibian writers. An amount of **N\$95,389,000 million** is allocated for the preservation, promotion and cultural exchange programme.

Community Libraries and Information Services Activities under this Programme enables the Ministry to provide free public ICT access to communities through public/community libraries and Community Learning and Development Centres country-wide.

Under this Activities, three Regional Study and Resource Centres for Ohangwena, Oshana and Omaheke Regions were completed under the MCA-Namibia Programme they are now open to the public. And three community libraries were expanded and renovated in the three regions namely, Omusati (Okalongo), Omaheke (Leonardville) and Otjozondjupa (Otavi) and the communities in the above regions have now easy and free access to learning and internet facilities.

Comrade Chairperson, Honourable Members of this august House, I am

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delighted to report that during the financial year, the number of libraries providing the public with computers and internet access increased from 52 to 64, bringing the percentage of government libraries offering free public ICT access to **80%**. During the period under review **108,104** people accessed ICT through libraries.

However, I should note that lack of professional staff continues to be a constraint in improving the library network and its contribution to education, research and economic development. It also hampers the preservation of national documents and records. During the Financial the Year 2013/2014, the Ministry addressed this problem through an enlarged structure which includes staff with IT competencies. This new structure will help facilitate the expansion of ICT through community libraries and the three Regional Study and Resource Centres.

During the previous financial libraries country-wide, **930,622** members of the public visited **116,241** adults have access to ICT in 60 libraries and **4,033** children under the age of 12 have access to ICT at the 3 Regional Libraries.

At the same time, **228,361** books circulated through community libraries or Community Learning and Development Centres (CLDC). 38 Community Libraries are connected to the internet and 59 Community Libraries are equipped with ICT equipment, and 402 O/M/As staff members were trained in Record Management in 24 institutions.

Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Members of this august House, the Programme of Adult and Lifelong Learning enrolled **27,124** adult learners in Basic and Post Literacy Programmes, compare to **28,825** during the previous Financial Year, which was a decline by 0,9%. The other day somebody was talking about a large percentage of illiteracy in the country.

Out of **27,124**, adult learners enrolled in 2014, **13,749** which is **50,7%** were tested and **11,524**, which amounts to 83,8%, achieved basic competence in reading, writing and numeracy skills.

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Family Literacy Programme has expanded by **5%** per Region country-wide bringing the total number to **491** schools with family literacy Programmes.

I am also delighted to inform this August House that various training activities undertaken such as enrolment of **7,500** parents and caregivers of Grade 1 children enrol for the Family Literacy Programme compare to **5,230** during the previous Financial Year.

Namibia's Literacy Programme efforts continue to gain momentum over the years, the 2013 UNESCO award is a testimony to our achievement. However, insufficient funding to this Programme has hampered expansion and has delayed the implementation of a new Bridging Year Programme to enable Adult Upper Primary Education graduates and Formal Education Grade 7 School leavers to progress to Grade 10. This Bridging Programme will be the focus of work in adult education during 2014/2015.

The Namibia College of Open Learning (NAMCOL), continues to be a significant role player in efforts to provide out-of-school youth with life skills. In 2014, **11,345** part-time candidates sat for the Junior Secondary Certificate national examination, an increase of **9%** compared to the previous year. In addition, **24,811** part-time learners sat for the National Senior Certificate Examination, and **2,413** enrolled for Professional and Vocation/Technical Education and Training Programme. The enrolment in the Certificate in Early Childhood Development was **998** and for the Diploma for Early Childhood and Pre-Primary Education was **310**.

I am pleased to note that NAMCOL diversified and expanded its Open and Distance Learning Programmes and it is offering a wide range of Professional and Technical/Vocational Education and Training Programme (TVET), which is increasing in enrolment per Programme. The total allocation to this Programme amounts to **N\$592,700,000.00** the 2015/2016 Financial Year.

HIV/AIDS Management

Notwithstanding the decline, we shall continue to spread knowledge and skills on HIV/AIDS as well as the provision of psycho-social support to Orphans and Vulnerable Children. 157 National Mater Trainers on HIV and AIDS in education have been trained under the MCA-Namibia Programme, and modules developed for this training have been accepted by UNAM as part of the training resources for teacher education and development.

The trained professionals are expected to continue building the capacity for the teaching professional and sustain the gains of MCA Namibia intervention. The funds required for training activities, development of information material, as well as counselling support, amount to **N\$12,674,000 million.**

In conclusion, Comrade Chairperson and Members of this august House, this is *Education for All*. Namibia, continue to be among the leading Sub-Saharan African Country that is allocating enormous resources to the Education and Training Sector. However, skills deficit and lack of professionals in key areas of technical, scientific and others most needed skills continue to haunt our country. We are very grateful to the continuous technical and financial support provided by our development partners to make our dream of *Education for All* a reality.

It is worrisome to note that Namibia, like most of its peers in developing countries continue to lose its professionals to the developed Nations. However, as we continue to invest more in our human capital as a nation we still hope to realise our dream and it is a dream of a Knowledge-Based Economy.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Members of this august House, it is now my pleasure, on behalf of the Education Team to humbly request this House to pass Vote 10 for the amount of **N\$11,321,689,000.00 million.** I thank you for your support.

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HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. I carefully watched the Minister of Basic Education, she did not even drink water and she read 24 pages. If it was for your entire management cadre to establish whether you can do it, you have done it. However, I call upon them to trim it next time. Thank you, Honourable Minister.

Vote 25 – “**LAND REFORM,**” **N\$1,077,933,000.00** put for the Introduction by Honourable Minister. Before you start Honourable Minister, I think we can skip the tea break today, you may go and come, I will also be assisted by my Colleagues. You now have the Floor Honourable Minister of Land Reform.

HON MINISTER OF LAND REFORM: Thank you, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members, I rise before this august House with a deep sense of appreciation to introduce **Vote 25 - LANDS REFORM,** for the Financial Year 2015/2016 and to seek your support and approval.

At this juncture, let me take a moment to pay homage to the former Minister of Lands and Resettlement, Honourable Alpheus !Naruseb, the Deputy Minister, Honourable Theo Diergaardt and the former Permanent Secretary, and now Member of Parliament Ms. Lidwina Ndeshimona Shapwa for the sterling work done and the dedication shown to further the course of land reform and land administration during their tenure at the Ministry. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Land Reform is a key and strategic Programme in our National Development Agenda. Land issues affect all Namibians across social, economic and political divide. It is our mandate to ensure that no Namibian is left out and that is the basic principle on how land reform will proceed along the lines of poverty reduction and economic emancipation.

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I also want to reiterate my support for the Budget that was presented by the Honourable Minister of Finance, Honourable Calle Schlettwein earlier in this House and appreciate the efforts of the Minister in charge of National Planning Commission, their Permanent Secretaries and the entire team of dedicated staff for a job well executed.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, at this juncture, before I proceed with my Statement, allow me to state that land matters have in recent weeks become a centre of focus, as evidenced by the Debate generated on the issue in this august House. I have followed the Debates with a keen interest. While I do not want to repeat the sentiments already expressed by the Honourable Members, I believe the discussions are because of the importance of land to our National Development Agenda.

The Ministry of Land Reform has set itself ministerial targets to be achieved as per the following time differentials:

- 5 million hectares of Agricultural (Commercial) Land to be acquired by 2020 under the National Resettlement Programme;
- 5 million hectares of land in communal areas to developed into Small Scale Commercial Farming Units by 2020;
- 100 previously disadvantaged landless Namibians to be resettled per year under the National Resettlement Programme;
- 5 Integrated Regional Land Use Plans (IRLUPs) for five different Regions to be developed by 2016;
- 64 Small Scale Commercial Farming Units to be fully developed by 2016 in designated areas;
- Establishing a fundamental spatial data sets with a coverage of 75% by 2015/2016.

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Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, whilst tabling Vote 25, the Ministry acknowledges the various initiatives embodied within the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4) that are earmarked to address the socio-economic development of our country through improved project implementation and the targeted efforts to mitigate the challenges of unemployment. The Ministry's four key Programmes are premised on the national understanding of the need to create employment opportunities. As such we have made significant strides in these areas by fast-tracking the development of communal areas; acquiring land and allocating it to farmers and communities that hitherto had no access to land or a place to call home.

Having said the above, I now have the pleasure to present the 2015/2016 Budget for the Ministry of Land Reform, together with the highlights of achievements. The 2015/2016 Budget as expressed in its Medium Term Plan will focus on four key Programmes namely:

Programme 01: Land Reform Programme

The Land Reform Programme encompasses the following Activities;

- Land acquisition
- Land allocation
- Valuation, Property Taxation and Estate Management, and
- Land management and Administration.

Land Acquisition and Allocation

The redistributive Land Reform Programme continues to be a priority of the State. Though, many Namibians have been resettled and others have benefitted from other government schemes to get access to land it is important to note that the demand for land is still acute. In order to respond to this present need for land, the Ministry has acquired **2.7 million hectares** of land to date. To meet the set target of **5 million hectares** by 2020, the Ministry is still to acquire **2.3 million hectares** which translates to an annual acquisition target of **200,000 hectares**.

During the period under review the Ministry acquired **Forty (40) commercial farms** measuring **210,987.25 hectares** at a cost of **N\$257 million**, and **90 families** were resettled with the majority of **80 beneficiaries** from the **Youth category**. I am glad to note that in this instance the Ministry managed to exceed the set annual target of **200 000 hectares** by **5%**.

While we have made great strides in the acquisition of farm land, I wish to state that the price at which agricultural land is sold to the Government remains a concern and we are looking for means to address the matter.

My predecessor commissioned a Land Prices Study that revealed essential factors that should assist Government to intervene at appropriate and strategic points. It is rather unfortunate to note that of all the factors listed in the study, the media reported selectively on the effect that policy changes has on land prices. Needless to say, the report revealed major causes for prices escalation such as; under declaration of prices paid between private individual in an effort to avoid paying transfers fees. In that way denying the State its much needed revenue for development. The study showed that the price offered to the State is not the same as that at which the same land is sold to a private individual. We also noted that farms sold to Affirmative Action beneficiaries are pegged at much higher prices. These facts the media chose not to reveal and I am set to look deeper into the recommendations of the study to find ways to address this matter in a precise and systematic way.

Land Acquired Under the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme

The Agricultural Bank of Namibia has contributed to land acquisition through Affirmative Action Candidates. This, in our view is an important avenue and an extension of the National Resettlement Programme where able farmers are assisted to access land. In this Programme the state relinquishes the preferment right conferred upon the Minister by the *Agricultural (Commercial) Land Reform Act, 1995* (Act 6 of 1995) by providing a waiver in favour of a formerly disadvantaged Namibian who wish to buy commercial agricultural land. To this end land in extent of

Three million, three hundred and fourteen thousand, five hundred and seventy-nine (*Point*) one six seven four (3,314,579.1674) hectares was acquired by Affirmative Action Candidates.

Water Infrastructure

During the Financial Year 2014/2015, the Ministry developed and rehabilitated **Twenty Six (26) resettlement farms** in !Karas, Hardap, Khomas, Erongo, Kunene and Oshikoto regions. To continue with the implementation of the above stated Sub-Programme, the Ministry requires an amount of **Fourteen Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty Nine Thousand, and Six Hundred and Forty Seven Namibian Dollars (N\$14,929,647)**. The setup of commercial farms are in such a manner that the state buys a single farm from a family and this is subdivided and allocated to an average four families hence there is need to provide and in some cases extend existing water infrastructure to the various households. The cost of water rehabilitation is due to various factors. I intend to look into various options to rehabilitate water infrastructure on farms in a cost effective manner.

Fencing Infrastructure

During the same period, the Ministry rehabilitated fencing on four (4) farms in Hardap and Otjozondjupa regions respectively. To implement the above stated Sub-programme, the Ministry requires an amount of **Three Million, Eight Hundred and Eight Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty Nine Namibian Dollars (N\$3,889,949)**, *while the entire Programme implementation for land acquisition and allocation will require a budgetary allocation of Eight Hundred and Fifty Four Million, Eight Hundred and Forty Two Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$854,842,000.00)*. Here Honourable Members, I want to look at the “*draad spanners*” who are maintaining millions on kilometres of farm fences in this country as a means to create employment and to address the poverty situation of farm workers.

Valuation, Property Taxation and Estate Management

The Ministry of Land Reform is mandated to impose tax on commercial agricultural land. This Sub-programme is aimed at strengthening the Land Valuation and Taxation regulations on commercial agricultural land. Since the inception, an amount of **Two Hundred and Fifty-Seven Million, Two Hundred and Twelve Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Two Namibian Dollars, Seventy One Cents (N\$257,212,822.71)** was collected through land tax to the benefit of Land Acquisition and Development Fund, while during the 2013/2014 tax year an amount of **Two Million, Eight Hundred and Eighty-Three Thousand, Eighteen Namibian Dollars, Fifteen Cents (N\$2,883,018.15)** was collected as at June 2014. The Land Tax Payment and Reconciliation System was developed in order to strengthen the enforcement of tax.

Furthermore due to severe drought experienced in the Financial Year 2012/2013, exemption was granted to all farmers from honouring their tax obligation, this translates into **Fourty Million Namibian Dollars (40,000,000.00)** in land tax revenue which has been forgone by Government giving **7,000** farmers a subsidy and a relief to reorganise their investment priorities. For the efficient management and administration of this Sub-Programme the Ministry requires an amount of **Fourteen Million, Two Hundred and Thirty Eight Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$14,238,000.00)**.

Programme 02: Security of Tenure

Programme for Communal Land Development

The Programme for Communal Land Development is one of the Ministry's major Programmes on Land Reform. This Programme is addressing some of the core developmental challenges in Namibia, namely addressing the colonial legacy of skewed access to land tenure insecurity. Thus the Programme's main objective is to enhance sustainable land management practices, to improve productivity through securing land

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rights, the provision of infrastructure investments, and providing access to advisory services to allow beneficiaries in the communal areas improve their livelihoods. Under this Programme the Ministry is set to register the rights in communal areas and develop small scale farms to promote commercial and sustainable farming in the communal areas. The registration of communal land has been hampered by the phenomenon of unrecognised Traditional Authorities that are still to be addressed by Government. The other is the fact that sections of our community insist that they do not recognise the laws passed by this august House. We obviously have work to do to sensitise our citizens that a Law passed by Parliament governs anyone who resides in the *Land of the Brave*.

In 2012, the Ministry adopted a Road Map for the development of infrastructure on land designated for agricultural purposes in various regions. For the 2014/2015 Financial Year, an amount of **Forty Five Point Five Million (N\$ 45.5 Million)** was contracted on infrastructure development in the Omusati, Ohangwena, Kavango West and Kavango East Regions. A total of **204,000** hectares in these four Regions is being supported under the Programme for Communal Land Development as follows:

- Erecting a 635 km fence;
- Drilling 28 boreholes;
- Upgrading of 57 boreholes;
- Developing 15 kraals; and
- Installation of 96 km pipelines

Apart from infrastructure development, the programme also deals with communal land registration, and the preparation of Integrated Regional Land Use Plans. The Ministry has intensified the National Integrated Land Use Plans because it forms the basis of spatial planning and development throughout Namibia. An amount of **N\$13 Million** was spent on communal land registration and **N\$5.6 million** on land use planning while **N\$20 million** was spent on the construction of Regional Offices for the Ministry, supporting the functionalities of Communal Land Boards, as well as on operational activities of the programme. In total, the

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Programme for Communal Land Development spent approximately **N\$50 million** during the Financial Year 2014/2015. However, to implement this Programme the Ministry requires an amount of **Eleven Million, Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$11,350,000.00)**.

Programme 03: National Spatial Data Infrastructure and Establishment of Fundamental Datasets

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, the use of geospatial information is increasing rapidly. In order to provide this geospatial framework, the Ministry embarked on a number of Activities namely;

- Reform the National Geodetic Network
- Introducing a unique Parcel Identifier (UPI)

Geodetic Network

Geodesy, among other things guides the establishment of the national geodetic infrastructure. The geodetic infrastructure is the foundation for the precise location of objects on the earth surface. To identify precisely the location of land with the right quality for redistribution, a proper geodetic network consistent with the satellite technology being used by land surveyors needs to be in place. This is a reform Programme that extends the international coordinate system throughout the country. During colonial time the geodetic network only covered the so called police zone and left out the northern areas of the country which resulted in high cost of planning and surveying towns. The current system was developed in 1884 by German colonial government and is totally outdated giving as wide a difference of 10- 50 m on a boundary between two countries.

A road map for the modernisation of the Namibian Geodetic Infrastructure has been drawn up. Preceding this was the establishment of 22 zero order geodetic controls and 129 first order controls. In 2013, the Ministry with the assistance of GIZ, procured five Global Navigation Satellite System

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(GNSS) equipment. This equipment has been installed as part of a network of Continuously Operating GPS Reference Stations (CORS) located in Grootfontein, Keetmashoop, Oshakati, Gobabis and Swakopmund. Data obtained from these stations will be used by surveyors, engineers, geophysicists, meteorologists, planners, scientists, and others in support of a wide variety of applications. This is an African AU driven Programme and as such AU has committed to provide one control station per country to ensure that Africa is aligned to the global coordinate system or Global Navigation Terrestrial System (GNTS). The Namibian station is still to be delivered.

The cadastral infrastructure includes a unique identification of the land parcels deriving from the cadastral surveys. This is commonly referred to as a Unique Parcel Identifier (UPI). The cadastral identification is then seen as the core component of any land information system. The digital cadastral system has been developed and is being implemented. The UPI will enable each and every one to access a parcel of land: an ERF or farm as well as communal land parcels using the computer generated numbering system that is managed by the Survey and Mapping Directorate. I wish to use the opportunity to thank the Swedish Government for the assistance rendered to develop the road map on geodesy. The roadmap has clarified that the development of the country's coordinate system vest in the Surveyor-General. A national geodetic network will enhance the implementation of the main pillars of the National Development Plan namely infrastructure and logistics by facilitating the determination of suitable location is important for this Projects.

The Ministry requires an amount of **Fourty Million, Three Hundred and Ten Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$40,310,000.00)** to implement the above Programme.

Programme 04. Policy, Supervision and Support Services

This Programme encompasses the following Activities;

- Policy supervision

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- Coordination and Support Services
- Planning, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects and Programmes
- Acquisition and Maintenance of IT Equipment and Systems.

The purpose of this Programme is to provide support to the entire Land Reform and Resettlement Programme. The main focus is to supervise and coordinate the Ministry's Activities and operations which include; the development, application, interpretation, implementation, execution and formulation of relevant policies in accordance with legislative requirements and national objectives. This Programme also provides for the development of the monitoring and evaluation system that enable us to provide regular and timely update to the National Planning Commission on Capital Projects. The Ministry requires **Ninety Eight Million, Five Hundred and Eight Nine Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$98,589,000.00)** to implement the above Programme.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge and re-emphasise the importance of the Land Reform programme to the overall development objectives of our country. To this end I reiterate my appreciation to the Government through the Minister of Finance for responding to the request by the Ministry for additional funding as premised on the resolutions of the SWAPO PARTY and the recent Cabinet Directives to speed up the Land Reform Programme. The increase saw the Ministry's allocation adjusted from **N\$590 million to 1 billion** in this Financial Year. Finally, I am requesting the approval and support of this August House, for an amount of **1 Billion, Seventy Seven Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty Three Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$1,077,933,000.00)** to carry out all the 4 Programmes for the Ministry of Land Reform for the Financial Year 2015/2016. I thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you so much, Honourable Minister of Land Reform. We will now

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enter into the discussions of the three Votes - 13, 15, 16. Can you allow me to slash ten minutes to five minutes for each contributing Member for our benefit? (*Interjections*) Yes, one can say a lot in five minutes.

Vote 13 – “**HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES,**” put for Discussion. Any discussions? I recognise Honourable Van Wyk. Only five minutes please.

HON VAN WYK: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Minister. Yes, we all know that the Ministry of Health is one of the biggest Ministries and we can see that over the past 25 years a lot was done to take health services to our people and that should be applauded.

In the current Budget, we can see that the Government is really doing much and it is appreciated. Honourable Minister, there are some problems (*intervention*).

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Sorry Honourable Van Wyk. For those people who are coming in now, we agreed that the intervention today is just five minutes. Please proceed.

HON VAN WYK: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. There will always be problems, but I believe that the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services do have a dedicated team to attend to these problems. For example, we can see that in the previous Financial Year, a lot was spent on purchasing new vehicles, which includes ambulances. I just hope that the money was not returned to Treasury. In the current Budget, again we can see that provision was made to ensure that all our health facilities

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are equipped with vehicles.

Honourable Minister, on Page 4 of your own Motivation, you have indicated that some facilities such as the Tsumeb Hospital are in need of ultra sound machines - I just want to find out, what the lifespan of these machines is, because if I can recall, in 2003, the Tsumeb Hospital was one of the first hospitals in the country to receive brand new ultra sound machines.

Honourable Minister, you know that our people complained about the attitude of our health workers. You are aware of the complaint, but I believe it is in minority. Myself being a State Patient, I visited the State Hospital on Friday night for treatment and the help that I received there was excellent.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Where was that? Was it in Katutura?

HON VAN WYK: Katutura, yes. We need to attend to the attitude of some of the health professionals. I would, therefore, like to know; what measures will the Minister put in place to ensure that the public out there take note that we are trying to rectify the problems that we are experiencing in our facilities?

Honourable Minister, on the staff establishment, I am not quite sure whether this is the old staff establishment of 1992. If one looks at your vacancies and the positions on the staff establishment, it seems that there is a huge improvement on filling vacancies in the Ministry. However, if you go out to health facilities, people are always complaining that they are understaffed, so I am not quite sure whether this is still the old staff establishment or whether the new one was implemented. I know that there was a restructuring going on in the Ministry from 1999 until 2004.

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Was that staff establishment implemented?

On Page 176 the Programme - *Health Systems and Planning and Management*, I have noticed that provision was made for senior cleaners in our facilities and of the 70 position that were available, 47 were filled.

On the next Page, Page 177 of the Programme – *Clinical Health Care Services*, it is again indicated that there are 70 positions of Senior Health Programme Administrators and 47 are filled. I am not quite sure whether this is correct, was it perhaps not copy and paste? I hope it was not copy and paste. However, I think it is important for us to have cleaners in our facilities and also our facilities, and our health programme administrators are also doing a very important job. We should, therefore, look at that.

Honourable Minister, there is currently a concern about the situation in front of the gate of the Windhoek Central Hospital. We have vendors and a taxi rank on the northern side, which is causing a health risk. What will we do to rectify this problem? I am not saying that we should remove the vendors, but perhaps put some structures that will make it easier for them to operate from (*intervention*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Let us not deliver statements - time please.

HON VAN WYK: I am almost done, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. Honourable Minister, one of the previous medical superintendent at the Katutura Hospital once had a dream of renaming the Katutura Hospital, I just want to know if that is still on the cards.

Lastly, Honourable Minister, I think it is high time that we revisit the salary structure of our health professionals and the support staff in the

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Ministry of Health. This will enable us to retain our health professionals and also help the Ministry to attract specialist health professionals from across the world to serve our people. I thank you.

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

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have seven questions and my first question is on Page 204 about ambulance services.

Honourable Minister, I have realised that you received revenue income from ambulance services, but I have a concern about the same service in rural areas. Ambulances are not enough or there are none ambulances in some areas. Can you please tell us what your office intent to do?

My second question is about the HIV/AIDS Clinics in our country. Honourable Minister, I want to know how protected are the patients' health information because this issue seems to be publicised - in my opinion, we are discriminating against people. The Health HIV/AIDS Clinic is separate and it is written in big letters, which means that everybody is being told that - *I am HIV/AIDS positive*. I need my rights to be respected, so my illness should be protected. The People who can afford, are going to private doctors but the poor people who are making use of Government Services are the ones who are being exploited, this is one of the reasons why people do not go for ARV treatment at Public Service Institutions.

Honourable Minister, on HIV/AIDS, I want to read from Chapter 11 Article 95(j) of the Constitution - *“Consistent planning to raise and maintain an acceptable level of nutrition and standard of living of the*

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Namibian people and to improve public health.” Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, through you, another reason why people do not go or do not use the ARV treatment is because they do not have food to eat. I want to suggest that we as the Namibian Government should have feeding schemes by at least reintroducing the ePap that was there, so that the people can have something to eat before they take their treatment. That is a big concern for us.

Question 4: *Uniform for Nurses* - Honourable Deputy Chairperson, through you, I want to know how far we are with the manufacturing of the uniform of our medical staffs. It is a concern (*phone ringing*). I do not have this type of music on my phone. It is my son’s phone (*intervention*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Please assist the Honourable Member while she is posing her questions, because it is taking her time now.

HON DIENDA: Sorry, I do not even know how to switch it off. It is my son’s phone. He forgot it at home so I wanted to drop it at his workplace. Sorry for that.

Question 5 - *Welfare Organisations* on Page 196 of the MTEF. Honourable Minister, do you receive any reports from these Welfare Organisations because on Page 196 they received N\$3,000,000.00 from your office for assistance, so they must also report to your office on what they are doing. Do you receive reports and do you make follow-ups to see whether the money awarded to these organisations is worth the spending?

Question 6: Page 198; ***Pharmacists*** - does any pharmacist have the right to refuse to give medicine prescribed by a doctor to any patient for any reason? Whether one is angry or not angry with another person, does he/she have the right to refuse prescribed medicine? (*interjection*) Yes,

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they must not be angry by the way.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I give you one more minute please.

HON DIENDA: *Question 7: Mortuary Fees* - Honourable Deputy Chairperson, I need to compliment the Ministry of Health for the affordable service that it is rendering to the public, the people are paying N\$10.00 per day for that service and that is very good.

However, Honourable Minister, I had an experience last year where, thirty minutes after a relative of mine passed away at Katutura State Hospital, floor 5, Room B, the body was removed and taken to the mortuary. We were not even there to see the body before it was removed since it was removed within thirty minutes. The explanation was that the people from the mortuary were there and they thought it would be good for the mortuary to take the body. I put in an official complaint at the first floor, but until now I did not receive any feedback. What raised my concern is the story I read some years ago about someone whose body was placed in the mortuary even though he was still alive. I am troubled that my relative may as well have been fast asleep or in a deep sleep, since her body was removed within thirty minutes after she passed away. I thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

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

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HON KAAPALA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson and Honourable Members of the august House.

I rise to support Vote 18 but before I do that, I have a few observations to make. I was reading on Page 3 where it is stating – “*To deliver quality health care to the public...*” and I will combine that with Page 4 where it is talking about “*Medical equipment and transport, especially ambulances for outreach services such as the transfer of patients to Referral Hospitals.*” On this issue, I want to look at the Regions because I strongly feel that all Regions are equal and no Region is thus a Sub-region of another.

Honourable Minister, as I was looking at this issue I, some time back, observed a situation where most of the patients from Katima Mulilo were taken to the Hospital in the Kavango Region. I do not know for what reason, but I was told that they were taken there for special treatment. What is the difference between Kavango and Katima? This arrangement is still there, and I think it needs to be rectified.

My other concern is about the transfer of patients from remote Regions such as Katima to Windhoek which is quite an exhausting exercise. Even for a healthy person, after one has travelled such a long distance, you feel that you have to rest for almost a week or two upon reaching your destination for you to recover. (*Intervention*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: Now what is the question, Honourable Member? Please make a clear requisition.

HON KAPAALA: What I am trying to say is that when patients are referred, they travel to Referral Hospitals in *bakkies*, therefore, if this issue is still existent, I think it needs to be rectified.

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The case in point that I want to bring to the attention of this House is that I lost a person who was dear to me, who travelled in a *bakkie* after being referred to Windhoek. In this case, the doctor recommended something different and the administration did something else, and in the process the person died. I believe this case is still with the Ministry of Health. If these things are still happening where people are transported using these specific means of transportation to Windhoek, the Honourable Minister has to correct this. With these few observations, I support the Vote. Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Member. Next is Honourable Jagger.

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

I simply rose to air my concern on an issue that I am sure is not only concerning me, but almost the whole country. Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, it is common that the X-ray equipment in most, if not all of our State Hospitals is not functional. I start with my own house – in the Kunene Region, we have Khorixas State Hospital. If you go there, you will find that the X-ray machine or some equipment is not functional and you are asked to come back. However, you come back and wait, but nothing is forthcoming. If you come some other time, you are referred to Outjo and Outjo will tell you – *no, ours is also not functional*, then you have to proceed to Otjiwarongo and you will be lucky to find a functional X-ray machine in Otjiwarongo. Doctor, this is a lifesaving equipment which detects diseases or illnesses as early as possible. Can the Ministry, through you, Honourable Minister, please look into that, so that these

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lifesaving equipment are functional at all times.

Secondly, there were these special projects that were ran from the Office of the Prime Minister, I believe that they are now under the Presidency. That is the Ovatie/Ovahimba Communities that have lived on mountains for 17 years after Independence and nobody knew about them. These Communities established three villages: Ohaiua, Otjikoyo and Otjomuru but there is no clinic doctor. There is a corrugated iron sheet structure that was erected those years when Honourable Dr Libertina Amathila was the Deputy Prime Minister. Because of her background as a medical doctor, she trained some young girls on basic health care so that they could take care of members of the community.

Can these structures not be converted into clinics because these Communities are not yet civilised, we all need to work towards the civilisation of these Communities. (*Interjection*)

HON MEMBER: Are they not civilised?

HON JAGGER: Of course, yes, because they live in mountains. If you go there now you might not even find them because they go back to the mountains. We, therefore, all need to work towards the civilisation of these communities. Doctor, can we build clinics there to minimise the walking distance and save them from walking to clinics as far as Okangwati, which is very far and the roads are also rough. Since it is a Special Government Project, to assist these Communities, let us investigate the possibility of establishing clinics there.

Honourable Minister, on State Mortuaries (*intervention*).

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HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Is that the last one? I give you half a minute?

HON JAGGER: Yes, this is the last one, I can assure you. *State Mortuaries to be Upgraded* - shall we look into that also? I also go back to my home where there is a State Hospital, but the residents have to cover a distance of more than 200 kilometres from Khorixas to Otjiwarongo to store the bodies of their beloved ones until the day of the burial. Can we also look into having our State Mortuaries upgraded? Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Member. The next Honourable Member on my list is, Honourable Minister Shaningwa.

HON MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Members, I rise to support and commend the Honourable Minister of Health, Dr Haufiku for his presentation of the Budget. While doing so, I would also like to join him in thanking Honourable Dr Richard Kamwi for the work that he has done for the Ministry of Health and Social Services over the previous years. He has really done a lot and I think one need to say a word about that.

Honourable Members, I only have two points. The first one is on health - except for my own health condition, I am very illiterate as far as health issues are concerned. Honourable Chairperson, I have noticed with concern, and I think many other people have also noticed this, however, if

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it is normal practice, forgive me. I have seen that in many instances, when our loved ones are critically sick and are about to leave mother earth, there are no Intensive Care Units at some hospitals, like the area I came from to isolated a person who is in a critical condition from other patients. The person is just there amongst other patients until the last minute when he/she passes on. This sometimes leaves very bad memories in the eyes and minds of the other patients. I just want to propose that it is a humanly gesture to consider having Intensive Care Units in the future so that when people are in critical conditions and are about to leave us forever, they be isolated from the rest of the patients. I find it very painful that a person is just left like that. That is one, Honourable Minister.

Honourable Minister, the other point is; when you tabled your Budget yesterday, it was accompanied by a booklet - the Technical Report for the Financial Year 2014/2015. When I was a Governor of the Omusati Region, I found that part of Okahao Hospital that was under construction as an extension of that hospital was incomplete. However, since I was appointed as the Governor of Omusati, to date, that huge extension that was under construction is not yet completed. Apparently, the company that was constructing that hospital messed up. Things were left lying all over the place. This Project is worth millions of Government resources but nothing has been done. I am talking about a period of almost five years and plus, but when you are asking these type of questions, you are told that there is a problem between the Permanent Secretaries of Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Ministry of Works and Transport.

Honourable Minister, I have a very big problem because while the two Leaders are dancing on the grass, the population on the ground is suffering from their music. I think it is high time that, if the two Leaders are having a problem, we have to take it upon ourselves. We know who the professional builders are in this country, let alone, the Chinese. As Politicians, we can perhaps appoint one company to ensure that the Project is completed instead of us being haunted by the trouble that is brewing between the two Leaders who is hindering the Project from being completed. If you go there, you would cry blood from seeing how the material that have cost millions of dollars are just left like that, and

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nobody is doing anything about the situation. I think this situation must be rectified. When I said I was looking at the Technical Report, it is because I did not see Okahao Hospital in the Technical Report in terms of how much was allocated to that hospital in order for the construction to resume. We need to do something about the problem, Honourable Minister.

I plead with you Honourable Minister, please take this matter up so that that Project is finalised. Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Minister.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. I now give the Floor to Honourable Van den Heever.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I just have a few questions and/or concerns.

Honourable Minister, before I ask my question, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Minister and his technocrats for presenting such nice booklets. I wish all the presentations were in this format, it is easy to carry around and to read. Thank you for that, Honourable Minister.

Through the Honourable Chairperson, I would like to establish from the Honourable Minister whether the Medical Board has any regulations and procedures when it comes to the treatment of the elderly at private practices. Is there maybe any discount for the elderly when it comes to private practices, and I am specifically referring to the Khomas Medical Care - especially for the elderly who do not have Medical Aid? The reason why I am asking is - we know that the Katutura Hospital is treating

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our elderly for free, but we all know the situation there. That is one.

Number two: I received a call last week from people who are complaining, especially the diabetes and hypertension patients from the Outjo Hospital. They were complaining that whenever they come from outside towns or settlements to the hospital they are sent back because there is no medication at all. Apparently this happened about two weeks ago in Outjo. People are concerned because these are old people who come to the hospital and then they have hitch-hike back and wait for another two to three days or until the next Monday for medication. Another concern is that these people may collapse because of a lack of treatment and insufficient supplements.

The third point is on the system of assisting people at the Casualty Unit at Katutura Hospital. Honourable Minister, it is really a nightmare. I took my mother early this year to the Casualty Unit, there is no system in place, one does not know where you should report yourself and if you get a bed, you will be very lucky. I do not know if it is within any of your plans to try and rescue the situation because visitors are also traumatised when they leave the Katutura Casualty Unit, especially on Sunday nights, it is worse than other days and even worse than Evelyn Street.

My last one Honourable Minister, through the Honourable Chairperson is *(intervention)*

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: You have half a minute.

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: The Minister asked me to repeat *(intervention)*

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HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Members, that is why I am requesting you to stop making Statements. Get to the question so that the Minister can get your question clearly instead of making Statements that become confusing. Honourable Member, please repeat your previous question?

HON VAN DEN HEEVER: My question was whether there is a system of assisting people at the Casualty Unit at Katutura Hospital in place because there is no order.

My last one is, and I think it was touched on already by the previous Members. It is about the entrance of the Windhoek Central Hospital, specifically when it comes to the vendors, whether formal structures cannot be erected for them in collaboration with the City Council or the Local Authority. I am not really disputing the fact that the Katutura Hospital Service is effective when it comes to medication and treatment but the rats are taking over the hospital. I thank you.

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

HON MUNSU: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I firstly want to congratulate Honourable Dr Haufiku - he was my doctor before he became a Minister.

Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr Haufiku, I have a concern in my Region, the Zambezi Region. As I indicated in my Maiden Speech, we do not have enough doctors and health facilities in the Zambezi Region. We only have five doctors in our Region for a State

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Hospital. It is a General Hospital, but we only have five doctors who are not enough for us.

My second concern is that of referring our people to the Kavango Region, which is not good. How many kilometres are there between Katima and Rundu? It is a long distance of 525 kilometres. There is a high risk that someone may be involved in a car accident and because of the lack of facilities in our Region, patients are referred to the Rundu Hospital. A patient may die on the way because of the loss of blood and the long distance that has to be covered.

My uncle passed away last Monday in Katima because of the equipment that is not in a good condition and the lack thereof. There are no machines. He is now in the mortuary in Katima. He was supposed to be transferred from Katima to Rundu and Rundu was fully booked.

My third concern is that people do not have sufficient clinics. They have to travel from Kayenda to Kasheshe and how many kilometres are there between Kayenda and Kasheshe? From Nakabolelwa to Ngoma and from Lizauli to Sachona (*intervention*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, I think you have already touched on the long distances and transport issues.

HON MUNSU: And from Kongola to Sisheke (*intervention*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: What is the question, Honourable Member?

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HON MUNSU: It is a concern not a question.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Proceed, Honourable Member.

HON MUNSU: We need clinics in all these places, Honourable Minister.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The time is up, Honourable Member.

HON MUNSU: This is my (*intervention*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Your time is up.

HON MUNSU: Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Member. Next on my list is Honourable Namupala.

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HON NAMUPALA: Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, Honourable Members, thank you for the opportunity you afforded me to make my contribution to Vote 13.

First of all, Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr Haufiku, I would like to thank our President, His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob for appointing a person of your calibre. In your hands, both technically and practically, we hope that the Namibian Nation's lives are in safe hands.

Honourable Minister, I would also like to commend you for the way you presented this Vote, especially the way you placed the challenges on the Table, they were loud and clear.

I, however, have a few concerns to highlight. The Ministry has plenty policies, guidelines and directives to an extent that they are too many for implementation at operational level. In addition to that, the Ministry is also expected to change them from time to time as may be necessary to ensure good service delivery. The only concern I have is the chronic staff shortage of this Ministry that I have been working for over 38 years. This situation hampers the implementation of those Programmes. In some cases there is only one person working alone at a clinic or a health facility, and sometimes that person is under qualified - I am referring to the nursing staff here. Staff shortage is a matter of concern that needs urgent attention.

There is also a need to put a strategy in place on how to retain trained staff, especially those who are trained under the Programme of the Ministry and leave for greener pastures after they finished their training, which does not help the situation as it remains the same.

I also want to say something on the bush allowance. We really need to introduce it so that we can retain staff members at remote health facilities. We also need to look at the restructuring of staff establishment, which is long overdue, since 2008. This establishment will create employment at the supervisory which in turn will contribute to the improvement of

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HON LIMBO

Programme implementation.

We have to thank those Development Partners who pumped their resources into this country, but I think there is a need to come up with a proper strategy on how best this money can be utilised to benefit those it is intended to reach. We thank those loving countries and individuals from abroad who come and assist us with the challenges we are facing due to the shortage of staff, however, due to language barriers, especially in when it comes to remote places, they find it difficult communicating in local languages.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Half a minute, Honourable Member.

HON NAMUPALA: Therefore, we have to increase the training of local people on health issues, thanks to the 1,594 health students who are undergoing training, although this is like a drop in the ocean.

Before my conclusion, I would like to touch on voluntarism in this country. Some Programmes at operational level, were placed in the hands of volunteers and this has hampered the implementation of Programmes among our communities. More (*intervention*).

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Member, the time is up. Next Member on my list is Honourable Limbo.

HON LIMBO: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the

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Whole House Committee. First of all, I would like to start by thanking the former Minister for having improved quite a lot of our clinics in the Region - they were dilapidated while some of them are really in good condition. Although people are never satisfied, we should be thankful for what we have.

Dr Haufiku, I know you are given a very challenging Ministry, having said that, the Colleague who spoke before me mentioned problems within the Zambezi Region. More especially when it comes to the X-Ray Department, there are times when some of our patients are referred to Zambia across the border. They have to acquire passports and what have you because they cannot otherwise and that alone makes people to ask a lot of questions - *are we Namibians, Zambians or what are we?*

The reasons why we fought those days was to ensure that all Namibians enjoy the fruits of Independence, including the Mighty Zambezi Region.

Coming back to the transfer of patients, it is another concern. I know, I am talking from experience; even my Sister can bear witness. When our father was transferred from Katima to Windhoek, it became a nightmare. They ended up even telling us that - *if you have money go and hire an aircraft*, where on earth can we do that? Sometimes patients are transported without a nurse on board the *(intervention)*

HON MEMBER: the vehicle.

HON LIMBO: The vehicle, thank you my sister - there was nobody. This was a critical case but the patient was sent alone. They had to phone us and we contacted our cousin who is working in Rundu Hospital to rush to the scene. How many people have relatives back in Rundu to do that? That is a very serious concern.

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The other issue is of patients who are critically ill, they have to rely on their families who have to become nurses, whether it is during the day or night, you are being told to bring your blankets to go and squat there. During the dark days of this country, we never saw patients carrying blankets, pillows and what have you to the hospital, but now it is very common. That is another concern, Honourable Minister. I know my time is running out.

Coming to Programme 01; there are specific Activities that are aimed at reducing maternal, infant and child mortality, mobility and malnutrition. I sometimes attend antenatal clinics just to listen to what the nurses are telling these young mothers, instead of telling our mothers that - *you need to eat this*, they tell them things that they need to buy from Shoprite. I remember very well when we were in Zambia (*intervention*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I give you only half a minute, Honourable Member.

HON LIMBO: Yes. When we were in Zambia, nurses used to tell us - *instead of buying this, you must eat kapenda and you must eat this and that*, the local food that you can afford so that you can at least help yourself and the newly born baby. However, in our case, it is not done, I think the basics is something that we need to go back to so that malnutrition can be address once and for all because things have become expensive for some mothers. Thank you very much, Honourable Minister.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Member. Honourable Kavekatora you have the Floor.

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HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I will cut the congratulatory remarks because of time and I will go straight to the issues. (*Interjections*) Let him do it at his own risk.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Proceed Honourable Member, they are taking your time.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Time is not on our side. I just want to make a comment before I ask my question and the comment is that my Honourable Dr Haufiku has inherited a Sector which is in the ICU. I am basing that remark on the Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry that was done on the 31st of January 2013. I just want to say that the mission and the overarching objective of the former Ministers failed hopelessly at implementation, get me right. (*Intervention*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: That is not allowed, Honourable Member.

HON KAVEKOTORA: I am basing this on this Report and I am just making a statement.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: The Honourable Member is not in the House. If you do not know the Rules - you do not discuss someone who is not sitting in this House to defend him/herself.

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HON KAVEKOTORA: I am not discussing the person, I am discussing the issue.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, please proceed with your question, the statement is not honourable.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Honourable Chairperson, there is a difference between discussing an issue and a person.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You do not argue with the Chairperson, Honourable Member proceed with your question.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Well, those are new Rules, you have to tell me what is the basis of your argument.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, proceed.

HON KAVEKOTORA: I am not arguing, I am expressing a factual statement.

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HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: I will evoke the Rule and rule you Out of Order.

HON KAVEKOTORA: Well, that you can do, but I just want to
(*intervention*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Proceed, Honourable Member, for the last time.

HON KAVEKOTORA: I will continue. My first question on the basis duress is; how does the Honourable Minister intent to implement the recommendation of this Report? That is question number one.

Question 2: Did the allocation before the august House take this Report into account, in other words, are the financial contributions to Vote 13 adequate to address the recommendations of the Report?

Question 3: This has something to do with the bush allowance and it has been taken care of, I am not going to touch upon that.

Question 4: I need to understand what the Honourable Minister said and what he meant by a shortage of drivers at the Ministry, is it a shortage of people in Namibia who can drive or what exactly did the Minister mean by that?

And then my other question is on something that I have experienced several times, especially in the Kunene Region. When there is vaccination and immunisation of children, the clinics and hospitals close. I want to know, is that the policy of the Ministry to close clinics and hospitals during the vaccination periods? Why do they not close the diseases then,

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if that can be done? I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Member for the discipline. The next is Honourable Muharukua.

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

Honourable Minister, I have perhaps just four points. Firstly, the upgrading of Onyuva Clinic to a health centre is well received and one should applaud that. However, health centres do not exist in a vacuum, they exist because of certain problems that are peculiar to our Regions and our people. For instance, during the rainy season it is difficult for the people to come to the hospitals. Rivers are flowing, you cannot easily get someone from Okangwati to Opuwo Hospital because you have more than ten rivers flowing. You upgrade a specific clinic for you to be able to cater for the need of that specific patient at that place - it is, therefore, my understanding that these health centres should be manned by doctors. My following questions flow from there: In respect of the Onyuva Clinic - is your Ministry going to deploy a doctor who is going to be stationed at that clinic on a full time basis to fulfil the purpose of the upgrade?

Secondly, you have a health centre such as Okangwati that does not have any doctor and has never had any doctor despite that status - does your Ministry have plans, is it catered for in this Budget or at least in the MTEF for provision to be made in order to save lives?

Thirdly, Honourable Minister, and I will start by saying the following, please let me reiterate, one must put your question in perspective and context so that it is not misunderstood. (*Intervention*)

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HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: As long as you do that within the allotted time frame.

HON MUHARUKWA: I will try and do that in ten minutes, thank you. Five minutes?

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: One minute.

HON MUHARUKWA: Please give me five minutes. One day I was sitting in my office in Opuwo, my Secretary came rushing into my office, she said - *there is an Omuhimba lady giving birth outside*. I have never delivered a baby before, so I do not know, luckily I was with a client who is a midwife. She had to go and assist the lady giving birth, out in the main street of Opuwo - Mbumbiazo Muharukua Avenue, where all the cars are passing in broad daylight. This lady gave birth there.

I had an opportunity to speak to this lady afterwards and asked her - *why did you give birth in the street?* Her answer was the following: "*when you go...*" Honourable Members, please be honourable, these are serious matters.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: You are protected, please proceed Honourable Member.

HON MUHARUKWA: Why do you laugh when it comes to the Himbas?

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HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Proceed, Honourable Member.

HON MUHARUKWA: I had an opportunity to speak to her afterwards and this is the answer she gave me - she did not have the time to bath in order to go to the hospital to deliver her child there, however, the time she realised that she might suffer complications, she had no choice but to go to the hospital, it was too late. In other words, she feared going to Opuwo timeously to give birth because she had not showered. Now it is common cause that Ovahimba ladies put the *otjize* on their bodies. (*Interjections*) No, it is *Otjize*, not lotion. It made me inquisitive to ask why that lady would fear going to the hospital because of *otjize*. Honourable Minister, I believe it is common cause now that Ovahimba ladies in Opuwo are told that if you want to come and deliver your child in Opuwo Hospital, you must shower. You must clean yourselves of the *otjize*.

Question 1: Is that a National Policy? Shall I reiterate, is that a National Policy?

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Honourable Member, you only have half a minute left.

HON MUHARUKWA: Yes, I can always come back. I will come back. Is that a National Policy? That is one.

Question 2: One understands that perhaps this is done for hygiene reasons and one would, therefore, ask – is the Ministry in its Budget, catering for a solution to this problem where we put our ladies in fear of going to the hospital because of their culture. Is it catered for in this Budget? I can come back later and continue. Thank you.

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HON FLEERMUYS

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Member your time is up. Next on my list is Honourable Fleermuys.

HON FLEERMUYS: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole house Committee. I am pleased that I have to talk to a doctor because my concern is with the issue of *neuro chirurgie*. That is a big problem we have in this country. (*Interjections*)

HON MEMBER: We do not understand.

HON FLEERMUYS: *Neuro Chirurgie?* The doctor understands. He knows what *neuro chirurgie* is. (*Intervention*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: As long as the doctor understands what you are saying.

HON FLEERMUYS: Yes. I know that the doctor understands that is why I mentioned it that way because I do not want to waste my time struggling with English (*laughter*).

Whoever comes to get help at the Windhoek Central Hospital concerning neurosurgical issues, cannot be assisted because they do not have anything - the only thing the State Hospital has is the capacity to deal with brain scans, after which you have to go to a private hospital so that you can obtain further assistance, but you have to pay for that because the State

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does not have money to pay for you or to help you. You will thus have to wait and die because the State is not capable to help you with that issue. Doctor, I wanted to know whether you are planning to buy equipment that the private hospitals, such as Medi Clinic have, in order to make provision for that kind of treatment.

I do not have to raise the same issues other Members have raised already, like the distance from hospitals. People have died alongside the roads because of long distances, why do we not bring those services closer to the people whether they are at Roshpinah, Keetmanshoop, Luderitz etcetera? I support your Budget. Thank you, Doctor.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Member. The next one is Honourable Jahanika.

HON JAHANIKA: Did you forget about me? Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, I will start my contribution by thanking Comrade Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia for having appointed Honourable Dr Bernard Haufiku as a new Minister of Health and Social Services, whom I believe will be in a position to address problems that have been experienced during the past 25 years of our existence as an Independence Republic.

He is in actual fact my *messiah*. I believe he will make our Public Health System and Services more attractive to the majority of Namibians more than what we are doing currently, as we do not prefer public health facilities that we are running ourselves because none of us in this august House is using public health facilities - we are using the Catholic Hospital, Medi City and other private facilities.

The question is - whom are we running those facilities for? In order for

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our health systems and services to be transformed into effective and efficient facilities the following problems needs the attention of the new Honourable Minister:

- Shortage of health staff at many other health facilities, which mostly include qualified medical doctors trained at high quality universities in the world;
- Shortages of ambulances at many hospitals and clinics, we heard that people are using ordinary cars to transport patients, which does not give comfort to the patients;
- Patients who are being left with operation equipment, including bandages in their stomachs after the operation;
- Expecting mothers who sometimes have to fight with snakes and scorpions;
- Shortage of medicines at many hospitals and clinics - this leads me to making a proposal on how to address this issue.

I think the best way to address the shortages of medicine problem is to think of coming up with our own Namibian companies that can produce medical supplies locally, either a State-Owned Enterprise or joint ventures with the Private Sector on 49%/50% ownership. I assume that we do not have companies in Namibia that are producing medical supplies locally, therefore, we export everything, even Panado.

HON MEMBER: Import!

HON JAHANIKA: Yes, I am sorry, we import everything, even Panado. Finally, I would like to encourage the Ministry of Finance to continue

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allocating more money to the Ministry of Health and Social Services, even when they do not request that. I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Member. Next, I have Honourable Shapwa on my list.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I want to support Vote 13 of the Ministry of Health and Social Services. However, I think Dr Haufiku is really in for a challenge as it was mentioned earlier.

I have a few questions, but before I do that, I think you understand that the Sector we are discussing is very important and you should just allow us some time. I am not going to take too much time, but I need to provide some explanations as to why I am asking certain questions.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: But very briefly, Honourable Member, as long as you do that within your time frame of five minutes.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, I will try to do that.

I know that Dr Haufiku has said that they are going to get more people on board, but I think it is important to make sure that we work on the attitudes of the people that you are putting on board. The work attitude of our health workers is really a problem, and I am talking from experience

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because I am somebody who has always been in the hospital for the last 22 years, since I have a child with health problems and I have endured a lot at the hands of those health workers.

Doctor, you need to look at the attitude of the nurses, cleaners and everybody else, as I said earlier. That is very important because even with those few, if they were having the right attitude, I am sure we would have done much better than what we are doing it now. They have actually turned the hospitals into their businesses. There was a time, I think it is four years ago, when somebody was selling sweets at the theatre. I was shocked and I was saying to myself - *what time would these people really attend to the patients at the theatre if they are allowed to sell sweets at the theatre*. They are selling sweets, chicken, airtime and everything, and one wonders what time they are going to attend to their work.

I think those are really some of the things you need to look at first, before you get into others. They have to attend to their work. They should not be allowed to sell anything in the hospital at all. Why should they be allowed? The person is a cleaner, the ward is dirty and the person comes in with a bucket of chicken, selling to the patients and nurses. Even the nurses who are supposed to tell these cleaners – *no, go and sell that outside*, start buying from them. I, therefore, think this kind of thing should be completely prohibited in the hospital. I could say more it is only because I do not have enough time.

Now coming to the questions I want to ask; the first one is - what control do we have as the State over these small private hospitals that are set up in our towns? I am asking this because I actually know as a fact that there is a private hospital somewhere in Ondangwa where there are cases of people who were taken to the theatre and some people are now in a comma, in a hopeless state and cannot do anything anymore after been taken to that theatre. As I am talking here, I will be going to the North for a burial of somebody who died the day before yesterday in that very same private hospital. She was taken to the theatre and she did not come out alive, hence my question - are these hospitals really controlled and are their doctors qualified to operate on patients? Why are operations now

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done left and right everywhere? I think we need to look at these things as a Nation, otherwise our people will suffer. Related to that (*intervention*).

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: One minute left, Honourable Member.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: One?

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Yes.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Okay. Is it appropriate for a private doctor who operated on someone who eventually died in the theatre to select another private doctor to do a post-mortem? I was under the impression that it should be the responsibility of State doctors to do post-mortems to determine the causes of these unnatural deaths to ensure that people are not conniving with others to actually have the cause of death covered, if it is out of their negligence.

The other question I want to ask Dr Haufiku is whether most of the old hospitals have not yet reached their lifespan because I did not see anything in your presentation or maybe I missed it, that makes reference to building a new hospital, especially in the Khomas Region where we know that the majority of people go to Katutura Hospital - and Katutura Hospital also seems to be reaching its lifespan. I think we need something new Doctor (*intervention*)

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

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, I support the Vote.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you. Next Honourable is //Hoebes.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise in support of the Vote and at the same time I want to take advantage of the Debate to present the plight of the people of Mix Settlement.

Although Mix Settlement is about 20 kilometres from the city, the population of Mix is between 3,000 and 4,000 people on a given day. I have raised this issue with your predecessor last year and he undertook to look into the issue of establishing a clinic at Mix Settlement. I listened and read through your presentation with keen interest, but I could not see any clinic earmarked for Mix Settlement. My question, therefore is - what are the interim plans that you have for Mix Settlement with regard to the establishment of a clinic and what are the long-term plans because it is a little bit silent when one looks at the MTEF? Thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you for that very brief intervention Honourable Member. Next is Honourable //Gowases.

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HON //GOWASES: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, my humble plea is - let us try to outsource the cleaning services at our hospitals. There is a serious concern on the hygiene that is compromised due to the lack of supervision and insubordination. Cockroaches and rats have invaded our hospitals. In my opinion there is a lot of flattery at work, Honourable Minister. Flattery and job creation did not help the attitude of workers, and lack of supervision broke down the power of authority as well as checks and control.

Secondly, I would like to know whether the Special Medical Fund is still in existence. The other concern is about the slow implementation of Capital Projects, this is mainly attributable to the protracted tender evaluation process and contract negotiations. In addition, some of those who win tenders fail to execute contracts or simply abandon the site. I support the Vote. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Member. The next is Honourable Kawana please.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I commend my Dear Brother, Colleague and Comrade.

I have three issues to raise. Comrade Minister, just as a footnote to what has been said regarding the issue of Katima Mulilo Referral Hospital - I have also been raising this issue for so many years now, Comrade Minister. The people of the Zambezi Region are really suffering. As it has been said, they travel 525 kilometres to Rundu, so many have died on

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the way and when they die, it is a problem to bury them back home. Most of the time we are inundated with requests to assist and I think this issue can no longer wait, it is becoming too political, genuinely political, I must say. That distance is almost like from Windhoek to Keetmanshoop and if you want to go and visit your relative, you have to budget for 1,050 kilometres to go and come back. Comrade Minister, I think this issue is really very urgent. That is one.

Secondly, the issue of work permits for foreign medical personnel - Comrade Minister, this is also one of the issues you have to look into. When I was the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Attorney-General, I used to be inundated with this request and I have had an opportunity to talk to our Colleagues at the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and the Public Service Commission. What I do not understand, Comrade Minister is this – for a person who has been granted a work permit, when that work permit expires it should just be a matter of renewal, however, he is told - *go back to your country and come back again*. That is really one issue that I do not understand.

If that doctor has a work permit, say in the Oshana Region, he will also be required to apply for another work permit in Otjozondjupa and he will have to stay there for months on end as he is not even allowed to treat patients because the work permit has expired. All of a sudden, Otjozondjupa will phone the doctor to say - *your work permit is ready*. Please Comrade Minister, can you look into this one.

The other one is - when is the Ministry introducing what we call *flying doctors* or the periodic visits of doctors because Comrade Minister, as you know, this country is vast and there is no way you will be able to place medical personnel at every outpost, what they particularly do in other countries is that in outlying areas. For example, for Kunene North, which is very difficult to reach, you may perhaps have two to three helicopters belonging to the Ministry of Health that go to those outlying areas periodically. Places like islands, I have in mind Impalila Island – one could fly there with doctors, say, once a week. I think this will also help to alleviate the problems of health facilities and health services. I support

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the Vote. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Member. Now I give the Floor to Honourable Hanse-Himarwa.

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: Thank you, Comrade Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. May I commend the Ministry of Health and Social Services for the immense achievements over the 25 years in the entire country?

Speaking from the background that I am coming from, especially the Region that I hail from, a lot of constructions in terms of health infrastructure have been achieved; however, there is still room for improvement.

I want to contribute by asking when the Ministry of Health is planning to renovate the Mariental Hospital because I think it is long overdue. When you get into the so-called private ward, it does not look as if it is a private ward. It, therefore, needs renovations and upgrading because it dates back to the pre-independence times.

Also, when it comes to the clinic in Mariental, which is the capital of the Hardap Region, I have been requesting, since I became the Governor of that Region for a construction of a clinic because the dilapidated clinic that service the people of the capital of the Hardap Region dates back to pre independence, and it is in the town where most of the people who are using those services do not reside. I hope it is on the cards because I know the previous Minister made a promise, however, Comrade Minister, if the construction of the clinic and the upgrading and renovation of the Mariental Hospital could be speeded up, it will be appreciated.

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Finally, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, there is a challenge with the foreign medical doctors that are serving at our hospitals who are undermining and disrespecting people from the local communities. A lot of reports about some of the foreign medical doctors came to my office when I was the Governor and I believe that this also is prevalent elsewhere. Can the Honourable Minister attend to that, coupled with the attitude of the general medical personnel that has already been raised by the previous speakers? However, mine is more specifically on the foreign doctors who treat our people with disrespect and undermine local communities. I thank you and I support the Vote.

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

HON VENAANI: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I rise to support the allocation to a very key Sector. If we want to build and grow this economy, we need a healthy Nation. Therefore, health is very close to the hearts of many Namibians because it is key to the success of this country. Education and Health play such an important role, but let me go to the issues.

Honourable Minister, through the Deputy Chairperson, I have a big concern about the process of awarding tenders for the procurement of Pharmaceutical Drugs because it has become quite a blank cheque for these companies that are winning these tenders. They are buying the cheapest of the cheapest drugs on the market to avail to our people. How does the Minister envisage addressing that serious problem? I want to give you an example, knowing that you are a medical doctor. The current tablets that are given for high blood pressure, I have just forgotten the name, what are they called? The ones that they regularly give for high

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blood pressure. The point that I am trying to drive home is that because of their cheapness, I know every tablet has a side effect, but we know that the after effect of the tablets given for high blood pressure causes impotency in men over 50 years. *(Interjection)* Yes, impotency. So we have Gender-Based Violence. *(Interjection)* Yes, it is so serious! I even raised it with the former President of the Republic. *(Intervention)*

HON MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE: I thought that men stop at the age of 50 already.

HON VENAANI: No, 50 is not the age, men can go up to 95. Do not worry. This people can distract a person. The Minister of Education is Out of Order, Honourable Chairperson.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Proceed, Honourable Member.

HON VENAANI: Doctor, I really want to know how we can address this issue. It is the country's agenda and many of us have pronounced ourselves around the issue requesting to develop our own expertise around pharmaceuticals because other countries that have gone the path of the development stage have achieved that. What is it that we are doing in that regard because we are now buying from India, from new pharmaceuticals areas that are emerging? What is it that we can do to even start producing the most basic ones locally because people they are even selling fake ones. *(Interjection)* Yes, the fake ones are also given. How do we test? When we award tenders, we know our people are just there to make money and drive nice cars; they are not there to deliver services. Even companies that

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supply pharmaceuticals to hospitals do not have experts on board. There are no experts, these are just joint venture where one is paid N\$10,000,000.00. We are not building in-house capacity, which is key for our own development in the country. Foreign companies come here to do this or the other and one just hears - *I am partnering the Chinese and we are in a joint venture*, but the technical expertise is with the foreign company, there is nothing that is transferred to our people. Pharmaceutical procurement is a big concern that I have.

The second one is to perhaps look at an area on how to overhaul the Health Care Policy, and I think that is probably a challenge to the new Minister now, because our Health Care Policy dates back to 2010 and the development of the Health Sector is not something that you can plan for more than five years. One needs to adjust and adapt every five years. Therefore, I am just trying to ask the Minister whether you are looking at overhauling the current Health Policy and to reform it, so that it is in tandem with the modernised health facilities across the globe.

My last point is on two issues: ***eHealth Care*** - I was marvelled by countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. In those countries, the elders, for example, if one has to go for prescription or an appointment, the Government Institutions send an SMS. Now almost every Namibian has a cell phone, including farm labourers, what is it that the Ministry is going to do to make sure that we also engage our patients by taking advantage of the new eHealth Industry that is developing across the globe?

The very last issue is on ***Women Health Care*** - Women Health Care is very important, and here I am talking about particular areas such as the rural Kavango; Kavango East, Kavango West and generally all rural areas where a lot of mothers are delivering in very awkward situations, some even delivering in the bushes. What is the Ministry doing to make sure that we train more midwives in rural communities because I remember my paternal grandmother was an untrained midwife, but she has successfully delivered over 40 children. What is it that we are doing to make sure that we proliferate the number of midwives in rural areas so that we can ease

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the burden of mothers that are travelling long distances, trying to reach clinics in order to deliver? With those few remarks – health is important and I really support your Vote. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Member. Now I give the Floor to the Honourable Minister to reply. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor but you can take your time.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have been panel beaten enough, I hope I can still cope. If I had known before, I would have delivered my Speech just in five minutes to avoid a lot of invitations, but anyway I will attempt to answer some of the questions, perhaps not all of them. I will have a technical team here to support me. It is also part of the reason why I gave you this booklet. As you know, I am new in the Ministry, but that is not an excuse, I am in charge so I have to answer.

I think the first question was from the Honourable Member of the Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP) who mentioned that Tsumeb Hospital was provided with an ultrasound machine some time in 2014. That could be true, but I was in Tsumeb the day before yesterday and wherever I go, I tour the hospital and I establish whether they need ultrasound equipment in the maternity ward. They have one in the general ward; I was perhaps a bit biased because I am more interested in saving pregnant mothers. They, therefore, need an ultrasound device in the maternity ward, which is part of the prescribed WHO Emergency Obstetric Care in order to reduce mortality.

I also mentioned an anaesthetic machine that they need, because at the moment they have one. If there are two emergencies, there is no way they

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can cope with one machine. I mentioned these things just to alert the august House so that when we come back here to beg for money to buy that equipment outside the allocated Budget, we have your backing.

Then there was an issue of staff establishment; Honourable Member, this is part of the restructuring process, it will only be finalised once we finalise the restructuring process of the Ministry which is currently underway. I think this was mentioned by someone who knows the structure of the Ministry, perhaps he/she was a nurse or an ambulance driver – yes, I do agree that it took a bit long, that is why we agreed with the top management that it should be finalised within the next 90 days. The entire top management at the national level responsible for all the Regions will be in Otjiwarongo for the finalisation thereof. Wherever I went for my familiarisation visit, I told them that - *when we come to Otjiwarongo, you are not going to leave until we finish that structure*, so that is our undertaking. Once we finish with the structure, things will go smoothly because all the vacancies will be allocated and budgeted for and the staff norm will be out - that is actually the beginning of the restructuring process of the Ministry in all aspects.

Then one Honourable Member also raised a question in connection with *70 positions of senior cleaners*. I mentioned yesterday that we are going to completely outsource cleaning and, therefore, do not think we need to discuss this any further. The Permanent Secretary is preparing a document for the invitation of Expression of Interests for cleaning companies, so if you have a cleaning company, it is up for grabs. We will, however, not just give it to cleaning companies, we will set tough standards. There must be no difference between when you go to the Catholic Hospital and the Windhoek Central Hospital. We will, therefore, put all those conditions in place and we are not going to be sympathetic on being Namibian, etcetera. We are going to set the standards and you perform according to those standards. That is what we are going to do.

The same will apply to catering and security services. The cleaning up process will involve the northern gate of the Windhoek Central Hospital that I heard some Honourable Members mentioning. It will be cleared

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out, so there will be no selling of *kapana* and apples in front of the gates. We are not going to chase people far away, maybe we will accommodate them at some descend place that is safe for food, and so on. Nurses home, etcetera, will also be part of the cleaning up process.

On the *renaming of Katutura Hospital* - I was not aware of this one. I think it is one of those nice gestures that we can do within a day, so if it is still felt that there is a need to rename it, we will do it. I do not think anyone will die because we did not rename Katutura Hospital. Therefore, what is currently worth dealing with are issues of life and death as we heard from the reports of the Honourable Members. The renaming can be dealt with at any other time.

Then the *reviewing of the salary structures*, this is currently under review together with all the Public Service employees, perhaps I will tackle some of these points jointly because they have been repeated. All we are saying is that we need an attractive package, especially to encourage young professionals to go to remote areas - like bush allowances, connection to internet or telephone, proper accommodation and transport to and from work. That is perhaps not something we can go around, we can put everything else there, but if we do not have these things we are not going to attract professionals to remote areas.

Then the Honourable Member whom I only noted - from DTA but I did not capture the name, mentioned something about *insufficient ambulances* in rural areas and that they are not functioning. Yes, they may not be functioning well, but they are not completely non-functional. I have toured four Regions in five days and the lowest I have come across was 45% functional, however the rest of them have some form of transport but not *bakkies*. I have not come across a *bakkie* anywhere. I was at Outjo Hospital over the Easter weekend, there is transport. In rural clinics there are no ambulances stationed at the clinic, they are normally at a District Hospital or a Health Centre in some instances. These ambulances are used for outreach purposes to remote communities, so they go there with the staff members and once the staff finish doing their work, they come back to a District Hospital, for instance, Opuwo, etcetera. Yes, I

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understand that in some areas we need more specialised vehicles, like in Kaoko, we need 4X4 Land Cruisers or Defenders - those are the tough ones that can go to places like Onyuva etcetera. The same applies to the Zambezi Region. So we are looking at those issues and we are working on them. Sooner or later we will have them available.

Perhaps I would also touch on the point of the helicopter, I will try to bundle points that are related together in my response; there is no point in going one by one. Yesterday, I had a discussion with Honourable Minister, Penda Ya Ndakolo exactly for the situation in Kunene and we agreed in principle that the Army will help us when we have rain or when we have immunisation campaigns. We will negotiate and formalise an agreement with the Army, any other NGO or any other person willing to be part of the team to help us reach out to the people during immunisation campaigns and other health related matters. Perhaps we just need to formalise this agreement with the Ministry of Defence because they have also assisted in the past. This is not something new.

Then on *HIV/AIDS and privacy* – Yes, no one should be discriminated against on the basis of HIV infection or any other disease for that matter. The challenge is that HIV/AIDS patients, normally, and especially at initial stages need counselling on adherence, etcetera. It generally takes a longer time to consult an HIV patient than any other patient, except when you are coming to repeal. I am one of those who do not believe that they must be separated either in the ward or at the pharmacy, but there are certain circumstances where they need to be dealt with separately because of the peculiarity of the disease that they are suffering from. From my own experience, and I have dealt a lot with HIV patients in my clinical practice - society is slowly accepting and supporting people living with HIV in a non-discriminatory way. I guess we came a long way, so I agree with the Honourable Member that we must not discriminate, but medical practice is so complex, sometimes you have to sacrifice one thing for another. However, generally speaking, I do not pick up a lot of discrimination, there is good acceptance and good support in the community.

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On the *nurses uniforms* - I have a catalogue here. This matter has been sorted out and it is so regrettably that apparently, when my predecessor brought it to the House previously, it was misunderstood. What I am informed is that the Ministry realised the need to produce the uniform locally, but understood that there is not enough local capacity with many of the companies, especially SMEs, having to buy the material and the design and manufacturing thereof. The Ministry, therefore, wanted to help out and that is what they did - even now they bought the fabric according to specifications and standards, and this has even been approved by the South African Bureau of Standards. They shopped around the world and found that the cheapest supplier was in China, so they took a decision that they will buy the fabric according to the specifications and bring it here and give it to the company that is awarded the tender to manufacture. Unfortunately, some of the companies participated but did not completely comply with the safety standards and this caused a delay to the extent that nurses started asking for their uniform. A decision was thus taken that this tender be awarded to the August 26 Company - the Defence Company that makes a couple of fabrics. This is what I am informed. The manufacturing of the uniform is near completion and this includes the cap, the dresses and the shoes, so it is coming. Wherever I went, everyone was asking about that, but be rest assured that it is coming.

Honourable Members, there was a case of *whether pharmacists have the right to refuse giving medicine to patients*. I think that is a rhetoric question, we obviously all know that no one, including the Minister, is allowed to refuse providing medical services to anyone. I am not quite sure what the Honourable Member is referring to, but there was a case reported in a media, I think last week, about the Okuryangava Clinic. I personally requested the report on my table and I was informed that a young person from the Police Service who is known to be HIV positive, normally collects his medication at Okryangava Clinic. On that day he went to the clinic – he went to the pharmacy and the pharmacist was attending to vulnerable people, pregnant mothers initially. I am informed that the said client was very impatient, he started swearing at the pharmacist, even threatening to beat her up. I have the report on my table, I can bring it here. Out of fear, the young woman who is the pharmacist

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asked for help, and the man even became more aggressive whereupon she locked the dispensary cabin and went to the Chief of the Clinic to ask for help. When she came back the man was gone, only to come back in the afternoon with the reinforcement of another lady who now became the spokesperson and a Police Officer at the same; asking rather bravo questions, like - *do you know who I am?* And saying - *I will mess up your life*, etcetera. The story is long, but the pharmacist decided - *you go and cool down and come back tomorrow*. The reason why she did so was to cool the tempers in the first place and secondly, we know that for every patient on ARV treatment, when you are provided with the treatment for a month, there is extra stock for three months, just in case you could not catch up. She, therefore, capitalised on those three extra medications for the three days with the hope that when the gentleman comes back, he will have cooled his temper and he will still have that stock of three buffer zone. That is what happened. However, the gentleman came back the next day and he got the stock. Obviously no pharmacists or anyone has the right to refuse medication to anyone.

Perhaps the only caution, since it is better that I am in the Chamber after I have worked directly with the community and in a hospital, I tend to pick up that for a lot of the information we obtain from newspapers, the best way to get accurate information is to go to the Ministry and make a comparison with the information that you obtain from the community and balance the two to see which makes sense. That way, we will try and avoid a lot of hearsay and get the facts.

Then the *issue of the body that was removed within thirty minutes and taken to the mortuary* - I understand your concern. Let me just say that, normally life cease to exist after four minutes of oxygen deprivation. Therefore, if I remove oxygen from here, we will all be dead after four minutes. The thirty minutes is not really the issue, the issue is whether proper cessation of life has been diagnosed. Obviously a mistake could have happened and I hope that is not the case, but thirty minutes is not a short period to remove a body to a mortuary. If it was three minutes, I will say - *yes we need to check because that patient may just have been a bit comatose* and then we can move the body. However, thirty minutes is

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not really a short period.

On top of that, we now have modern machines to really detect whether there is a pulse, a heart rate or brain activities, which are basically the signs of life. If there is no brain activity and you are diagnosed with breath stem death, you are dead. However, if there was something special we could investigate.

Then *Honourable Johanika*, talked about medical equipment with reference to Katima Mulilo Hospital and the transfer of patients to Rundu, which has been echoed by many Honourable Members, including Comrade Dr Kawana. Yes, it is true, I was among the first people to condemn the transfer of patients over a long distance, but condemnation does not help, we need to do something. For those of you from, especially this part of the House who attended the Policy Conference in 2012, I made a statement that every Region should have a Referral Hospital, a Regional Hospital. That is still my philosophy. I would not go on to allow Katima Mulilo Hospital to stay a District Hospital, it is just too risky for us. We need to make it a Regional Hospital. It is in the pipeline. Soon and very soon, I think within this MTEF period it will become a Regional Hospital (*applause*) Our idea is that every Region has a Regional Hospital that will absolve patients from District Hospitals or Health Centres to be able to treat a lot of these ailments that we are referring, especially to Windhoek. That will take the pressure off Katutura, Windhoek Central Hospital as well as cut the costs of transport and accommodation. It will also ensure that people are closer to their families so that the families can visit them in hospital. Some of them have to go home and return to the hospital, which is also provided for. That is our idea. In fact when I was in Rundu the day before yesterday, I looked at the hectare that was offered to the Ministry in Nkurenkuru and I thought we can just build a big hospital at Nkurenkura, which is just 120 kilometres away, and then make Rundu a Regional Hospital. However, this is in the Master Plan, it is on the road map as well as on the Strategic Action Plan of the Ministry. Obviously it is not going to happen overnight, it will take a while but we are determined to bring it to its realisation.

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The Rundu Intermediate Hospital - well this is what I was referring to, that under the current system, you have the *so-called* and I am using the term *so-called* because I personally do not like it - the *so-called* four Intermediate Hospitals, that is; Rundu, Oshakati, Katutura and Keetmanshoop. My own thinking is that the word *intermediate* is like you are in transit to somewhere all the time, so make it a Regional Hospital because every other hospital can serve as a Referral Hospital. Even a District Hospital like Okongo can serve as a Referral Centre for patients coming from Health Centres and Clinics and those that are referred by community health workers.

We can just say we want Regional Hospitals - we equipped them with what we call minimum service packages and we outline the staffing norms for every one of them. It is a huge Project, but we have to push it.

Then there was a case of *a person who passed away*. I think my Dear Mother who was my patient made mentioned about that, my sympathy goes to you and the family. For the person who dies while being transported on a *bakkie* - it is not the Ministry's Policy to transport patients on unclassified vehicles, including *bakkies*. We have ambulances, we have buses, there are even special arrangements where a patient can be flown out of a Region, so I believe this case needs to be investigated at the regional level perhaps. However, it is not the Policy of the Ministry to put someone on a *bakkie*. Even if he was just transported from a Health Centre in the Region to the hospital, we do not do that. I suspect that there was perhaps some disagreement between the staff of the Ministry and the family. I would obviously not say who was right or wrong. As this happens quite often and I have seen it myself - the family may have decided that instead of waiting for transport coming the next day, they say - *this person is very ill, we can just take the patient in a bakkie* - I am just speculating here. However, it is not the Ministry's Policy to transport patients on *bakkies*. All the unnatural deaths are investigated, if this is deemed to be an unnatural death, it will be investigated - if it is linked to this, a proper inquest will be held.

Then from Kunene, I think it was *Honourable Jagger* who talked about

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Khorixas. I was in Khorixas on Saturday - you may now think that I am omnipresent because I was almost everywhere. That is why my eyes are swollen up, I have really travelled long distances and I have not finished even half of the country. I have not yet been to Omaheke, Hardap and //Karas, the reason being that most of the hot fires are being reported from these areas. I will thus go to the South afterwards, as well as Zambezi, which is the next destination. I want to visit Muyako Clinic because it is said to be a hotspot as well. I went to Kaokoland because I was told Onyuva is the hotspot, apparently there are even Americans who have an Army on the mountain and they are looking down with their guns, so I said - *let me pass their bullets*, only to find that they have a campsite at the NWR.

HON MEMBER: Comrade Pohamba would have dealt with them, but Comrade Pohamba is not here. Sometimes stories spread like that. I think I am perhaps the first Minister of Health to travel there by road, others went there by helicopter. I said – *let us take the road* and it took us eight hours on the road, but that is what responsibility is all about. I was in Khorixas (*intervention*)

HON MEMBER: Who was driving you?

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I was driving myself sometimes and interchanged with the driver. I was in Khorixas on Saturday, before I went to Kamanjab and Opuwo and one thing stood out in Khorixas - they are well organised. It was actually outside my expectation because we had a case from Khorixas about two years ago, that passed through our hands as independent investigators for maternal death. However, what I found there is completely outside my expectation. For me, Khorixas is one of the cleanest and well managed

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hospitals (*applause*) I asked the matron in charge - *when was this hospital build* because it was the first time I have been there and she said - *somewhere in the 90s*. It is well maintained and I applauded the staff for that. They have almost everything. I went to their theatre where they have two anaesthetic machines, they have an X-ray Department, which I visited and it is functional. I visited the X-ray Department, but they only complained that the toner for developing X-ray sometimes gets finished and the supply issue becomes a problem. Honourable Members, this is the problem I mentioned yesterday that, because most of our supplies come from outside, we tend to experience these types of delays, so Khorixas was just unfortunate in that sense. We are, nevertheless working on it. I was so impressed. I told them I will be working there on the 11th, which is just the Monday after this Session. I will be encouraging them because they had some challenges to perform caesarean, appendicectomy and circumcision, and I told them that - *I will come, if you have cases put them aside and I will spend the whole day here with you*. I will be in Khorixas on the 11th of May. It is a wonderful example of how we can maintain facilities and it comes down to management. So I am going there not to show-off or to be a panacea to the problem, but just to encourage and be with them so that we can amplify this good example to other parts of the country.

Then another Honourable Member mentioned the Ovahimba Community that has no Clinic and that people are treated in corrugated iron structures and he further made mention of Okangwati Clinic. Well, that is the problem, I am not sure, I probably have not been to that part of the world where people are treated under corrugated iron structures, but we will look into that. I will tell my technical team to look at that because we do not want anyone to be treated under corrugated iron structures. It is even dangerous, so we will look into that.

Okangwati has got a clinic, actually a Health Centre under construction and I tried to avoid Okangwati because it is not the worst in terms of distance and there is actually a tar road being constructed from Omakange to Okangwati that is why I diverted to Onyuva, but we will look into that.

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Somebody mentioned something about the mortuary at Khorixas. You know, when I visit hospitals, there are a few questions I ask:

- 1) Is the theatre working, especially the maternal theatre?
- 2) Is there any equipment to detect foetal heart rate, ultrasound or CTG Machines?
- 3) Is the incinerator working?
- 4) Is the mortuary working?

All of these things were working at the Khorixas Hospital and I have seen them with my own eyes, including the staff that I have travelled with. So that may be just something that happened once, I cannot account for that, but on Saturday when I was there, they were all working. (*Intervention*)

HON MEMBER: I mentioned about upgrading, Honourable Minister.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Yes, upgrading, we will do, I think it is in the Master Plan. We will upgrade but you know this is a large Ministry, we look at where the pressure is the highest and we try to reduce, so it will obviously happen.

Minister Shaningwa, my Governor from Omusati - *no Intensive Care unit for critically ill patients*. I think the Honourable Member wanted to say there is no isolation room because the Intensive Care is something else. To build an Intensive Unit, maybe a heart care unit, sort of halfway between the wards, we can do that. However, if somebody is terminally ill, the best is to isolate the patient in a specific room, you bring in a Social worker or psychologist, you bring the family in just to console them and to give them assurance and tell them you are doing your best, not to say - *this*

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patient is dying now, please accept, just so that they are consoled. We still have to employ that strategy, but the challenge we are facing is that of the lack of social workers and psychologists, especially in those areas.

I was impressed by Tsandi Hospital which is not far from Outapi where Comrade Governor hails from. Tsandi is like Medi Clinic Okakue, it is well managed. They even have a young social worker, a very enthusiastic team. So these are the spots of shiny stars that we want to emulate and duplicate to other Regions, even if it means taking a manager from there to another centre to sort things out.

The burning issue of Okahao Hospital - I knew that it will come up on the Floor that is why I went there specifically. From Opuwo, I went to Omakange which is nicely built. It is nice. From Omakange, I went to Okahao. I received some baptism of fire in Okahao, but this links exactly to the reason we mentioned that some of these contractors, not all of them, are not doing their work. The Okahao Contractor was awarded a tender something like five years ago, up to now it is not completed. What I am told by the staff is that they even now want to go to Court to get more money after they were paid N\$15,000,000.00 while the job is lying incomplete down there. To make matters worse, the area that previously housed the Out Patient Department (OPD), the Casualty Ward and X-ray Department have been demolished in view of building a new structure, only to find that the new structure is not completed and the people are now suffering. If I had all the power, I would go out myself (*interjection*).

HON MEMBER: Yes, you have the power.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Well, if you give me the power (*laughter*) I will just get a contractor that I know can do the job, even if I get this contractor from South Africa, but they are here in Namibia, and say - *my brother let us go to Okahao, I want you to*

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finish this, tell me how many days it will take. However, we need money. If I get the money, I will plead with Cabinet, even if I have to go as far as the President's Office. If they approve the Budget, I will get someone - you can call me a dictator, a tenderer or what, and I will tell this person - *let us go to Okahao and finish the work immediately*, that is my idea. There is absolutely no room for lingering around when people are suffering. That is my point. If I get the authority, I will sort it out. I would not say within a month, but within a reasonable period of time because there is no reason to delay that Project. Obviously, our Colleagues in the Ministry of Works will have to work with us on that.

Well, I am told that the contractor was the same contractor who was building the TB Ward in Keetmanshoop Hospital, and I really do not understand why we keep non-performing entities on our list of contractors. We have to scrape them off. We need to change the Law and state - *this is what you will do and within this time period, if you do not perform you are out*. Now there are these things of dealing underhand, where someone in the Ministry is maybe linked to the contractor, we need to root that out (*applause*). We have to get rid of that, otherwise we cannot move forward and that has multiple effects. If you eat today with this contractor and I see you eating, tomorrow it will be me who wants to eat and that is what is delaying our Projects. We, therefore, need to root that out.

There was a question from ***Honourable Van den Heever*** whether there is a discount for elderly people when treated in private practices. At the moment I am not aware of any Law that imposes private practitioners to give discount to anyone, including the elderly. It is entirely up to their discretion to decide whether to grant some discount to an old person or not. I have done it when I was running a private practice, but it is usually an individual decision. Perhaps we can look at that, but I cannot impose a Law on the private practitioners, what I can do is to bring them together, because I actually need a lot of them to sort out some of these mess. Like ***Honourable Kawana*** mentioned the Flying Doctors. Remember the majority of doctors in this country are in private practice and not in the Public Sector. All of you go to private doctors, you do not go to Katutura

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Hospital. You only go there to see if there are matters on which you can come and score points on here. We thus need to bring the private doctors on board with us and come to an agreement with them to allow a small discount when treating people of a certain age. That can be discussed, but it is not the case at the moment. It is a discretionary issue.

I now come to the *diabetic and hypertension patients who are sent back because of the lack of medication*. Perhaps I can tie this one with **Honourable Venaani's** anti-hypertensive impotence causing agents. On the returning patients, I have only seen it at Oshakati, it may have happened at other centres as well. The reason for this is because we have not strengthened the Health Centres and Clinics in the communities where people are living. If you are on diabetic or any type of recurrent medication that you have to receive monthly, it is better to get it at the Centre or District Hospital near you; you do not have to go to Oshakati. We are relieving the pressure from bigger hospitals like Oshakati and even Katutura Hospital - the people should get their medicine at the local centres. I know I have noted the incidents at Okuryangava Clinic and the public is sometimes sensitive, they even dodge and say – *no, let me better go to Katutura or Oshakati*. We have to create confidence in the system at the very periphery of society so that people can obtain their medicine from close to the places where they live. That is the only way we can reduce the queue at places like Oshakati.

I have been referred by the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration, Honourable Iivula-Ithana to Mr Cock, the gentleman who is implementing the Turnaround Strategy at the Ministry of Home Affairs and I was sitting with him yesterday. We discussed in details because we also need to turn around the Ministry of Health and Social Services. This Turn Around entails the attitude of staff across the country - cleaners, nurses and even doctors. We need to change attitudes. We are coming with that and part of the discussion entailed how we can reduce queues, just like we have done with Home Affairs. So this is in the pipeline, in July they will already do the Need Assessment and come up with a proposal.

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In conclusion, I think *Honourable Venaani* on this point, was referring to an anti-hypertensive medication called atenolol, they call it Ten Bloka and all sorts of names, and another one called Amiloride or Moduretic. I think Moduretic is very common in the Public Sector. The problem is not that they are cheap, they are cheap because they are generic drugs, they are not ethical products because the molecules have already been discovered by somebody else. All the person does is to replicate them, that is why they are cheap, and they are not bad because even in Germany, 75% of the medicine prescribed by the doctors are actually generic. Therefore, they are not bad in the sense that they are generic. It is just that we need to update our NEMLIST. The NEMLIST is the book in which all the medication that we are prescribing in the Public Sector and sometimes in the Private Sector are listed as approved drugs that we must give to our patients.

Now Atenolol or that drug that you referred to, has been around for a while. We are trying to replace it with new products because obviously no man wants to lose his manhood, this is anyway, not just for people over 50 years, I see that you are trying to push the age up to 50 to cover yourself Honourable Venaani (*laughter*), it can also happen at the age of 30 or 27. It is, therefore, across the board. Impotence, and I see men are always in denial about impotence, they always want to push to another category, however, the fact is that it affects 47% of men across the board, but we are ready to alleviate the problem by introducing new medication. Moduretic is not recommended for people who are diabetic and we are educating our colleagues to avoid prescribing those medications (*interjection*) Yes, what is easy to remember is that it affects 47% of anyone from the age of 37 upwards, maybe you are still below that age, so let us leave it at that (*laughter*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
COMMITTEE: So you are safe Honourable Venani.

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HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: The other issue that was raised was the *out of stock Outjo Pharmacy*. I was in Outjo during Easter, at the time of the Namibian Cup in Outjo. I know the matron in charge, Sister Kakujaha - I went to her, she took me around Outjo Hospital and I specifically asked - *How are your drugs stocking?* And she said – *no, problem* and I insisted that she show me. I went to see, and even a drug called haloperidol was in stock - now haloperidol is an antipsychotic drug. When I went to visit the mental hospital here, their stock for haloperidol was out, but when I went to Outjo, I found a lot of vials for haloperidol, so I asked her - *how did you manage to get stock here when the Mental Hospital in Windhoek does not have?* She said – *no, we manage our stocks very well*. Well, you can say they probably do not have as many psychiatric patients as we have here, but I just want to emphasise the point that there was medicine available at Outjo Hospital, at least during Easter. I do not want to underplay any shortages of stock, for instance, in Oshakati and Otjiwarongo, particularly Otjiwarongo. When I went there for the graduation of the Health Extension Workers on Saturday, they told me that they have some problems with the supply. Some of these problems have to do with the National Central Supplies, but others had to do with lack of management on the ground to realise that the stock is low and it is time to order. People wait until the stock is completely out and then they cry - *we do not have stock*. We are working on that and I was just discussing this morning with some people. You know, we get invitations left and right from people interested to help here and there. Today I had a meeting with companies that are willing to help us with the logistics of medical supply and distribution. These are the people who are helping the private wholesalers here, without mentioning their names.

Hopefully, with the building of a new Central Medical Store in Okahandja, which is central, we hope to sort out this problem of drug supply and distribution, but we are in life Colleagues, so issues will always be coming up. It will be interesting to exploit them politically, but the reality is that there will always be challenges. We just do not want to become complacent.

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I am almost there. At Outjo Hospital, the only real challenge we had was space, they did not have enough space. I advised them to convert the Nurses Home building to a storage space and build a new Nurses Home a bit outside, so that is the only challenge I picked up.

Then the *system of assistance at the Katutura Casualty Ward* – well, every hospital is supposed to have porters, the people who handle stretchers and wheelchairs when you arrive at the hospital, but you know, people can default and that is one problem. That is why I am talking about Dr Cock to come and address this issue. In addition to that, I think we need some ushers or just clerks to assist people and there are a lot of young people on the street whom we can employ. We will put them on the staff establishment as posts, so when you come at the hospital and you appear lost or even under normal circumstance, there will be someone who is ready to assist - someone asking - *how can I help you?* That is to make the system more efficient, however, at the moment there are porters who are supposed to help people, but sometimes these things happen, especially at the Casualty Ward on Mondays or after a long weekend, like this one, you can go there and see what happens. Some of these makings are not necessarily the faults of the Ministry of Health, but social ills that we are having in the country. For instance, up to maybe 60% of problems that those people experience are alcohol related, so we need to do something about alcohol consumption in this country. We can put state of the art facilities, systems and personnel in place, but if we do nothing about alcohol, we will fail. We, therefore, need to do something about that.

Then from the United People's Movement (UPM), the Honourable Member's name escaped me (*Hon. Van Wyk*) - Zambezi once again - *there are only five doctors*; and again *the referral of patients to Rundu*, which I already touched on. Yes, it is true, I have been to Katima Hospital several times, but I must disagree with the Honourable Member that we refer patients to Zambia, actually a lot of Zambian nationals come for treatment and shopping to Katima, so much that there is even an interest now to build a private hospital based on the facts that we are not only serving Namibians in that area, but people from our neighbouring

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countries as well. So it is rather the other way round, instead of us referring to Zambia (*interjection*)

HON LIMBO: No X-ray!

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: X-ray? Well, it could be that there is an agreement or something happened with the X-ray. That I cannot defend, I do not know. As I said, it is not only the X-ray machines, many of the items that we use are sourced from somewhere else and it is even worse for a remote place like Katima Mulilo. It is possible that they experienced problems with toner or the service of the equipment, we have serious problems with the repair and maintenance of equipment, so it was maybe not functional, but that does not mean that it is not there, it is there. There is no Ministerial arrangement, it was perhaps not functional, but maybe the doctor just tried to help so that the patient could obtain some help next door. I am not sure whether this was in the State or Private Hospital in Zambia.

I think there was also a question raised whether we are Zambians or Namibians, to my understanding we are Africans, perhaps with the exception of South Africa (*laughter*)

HON LIMBO: On a Point of Information.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Just to round it up, some of the issues that are raised (*interjection*)

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HON LIMBO: Point of Information.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: No, that is not allowed, Honourable Member.

HON LIMBO: I cannot keep quiet when there is a problem at the hospital.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: Yes, that is fine, I understand. However, if there is a problem at the hospital it is not for me to come and defend that unnecessarily, but I also need your support in terms of how we can go about alleviating this problem.

About the doctors; I was there myself, I know that at the times that I went there, there was actually only two doctors at the State Hospital - Dr Sitengu and Dr Ward, the rest are in private practice. I think there is a third one who just came from Zambia. It is a serious challenge because it is on the TransKalahari Highway and that is an area that is prone to natural disasters, people travel long distances - I appreciate that, that is why I said we need to make it a Regional Hospital and we need to pay visits by flying doctors from here to Katima.

When I was in Rundu, I met three doctors; one from Germany and two from Switzerland. They agreed in principal when I engaged them and asked - *would you like to come and help us train our young doctors in certain procedures?* They said - *by all means*. The Speaker also advised me that there are a group of doctors from Germany who are willing to come and help us in this regard. During my meeting of WHO next month, I will try to engage these people to try and attract them to Namibia. I also told them that wherever they go, I will join them in one or two visits.

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Katima, Rundu, Opuwo and Keetmanshoop are the priority areas, perhaps starting with Katima. I hope that will help a bit.

One thing I told Honourable Muharukua in Opuwo, not the junior one - because she was complaining in the same fashion, saying we must mobilise our young people to go and study medicine - it is very easy to come in the House and say we do not have this, but we do not pluck doctors from trees, we do not even get them through political mobilisation, like we are doing here. They are trained for seven solid years plus practise and to become a specialist, one have to study for ten years to become a doctor. Therefore, I think it is something that we should have embarked upon long ago, maybe just immediately after Independence, but it is never too late, there is always a begin.

I think we must be cognisant of the fact that we must not just produce *tenderpreneurs* who want to drive Range Rovers, etcetera after Grade 12. We must produce young people who are enthusiastic to go to medical schools, to go to engineering schools, architects, lawyers, you name them. We must create a pool of professionals, Honourable Hanse-Himarwa, to be able to solve this problem over a long term – oh, she is not here.

Again *someone passing away* - I think it is similar to the incidents that I already cited. *No clinics* - there are Health Centres, I had a discussion with Honourable Minister Kamwi during the handing over and he particularly mentioned Muyako Clinic. Muyako Clinic is my next destination, we need to make it a Health Centre and by definition of a Health Centre it means that there must be a doctor. This brings us again back to the dilemma of scarcity. We have to manoeuvre and see how best we can attend to this.

Honourable Members, there are no shortcuts and short-term solutions, when it comes to health issues, we have to embark on a systematic approach. I told my Colleague in the Ministry that we have to go to the basic and systematic approach, that is the only way we can ensure quality of service, but I will go there, do not worry.

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Then *Honourable Namupala* mentioned *strategies for staff training* – yes, I agree with you, Comrade. On *bush allowances* - I do not think anyone disagrees on that. I just want to repeat that the restructuring process is underway and we have ongoing training of both registered and enrolled nurses at Keetmanshoop, Rundu, Oshakati and Windhoek who are expected to complete very soon, while a new batch of trainees are to be taken in. With proper provision of amenities, including accommodation, transport, etcetera, we hope to attract these young people to the Regions, but they are also bonded because it is the Ministry that is paying for their studies. They are under contract to go and serve the less privileged part of the country.

Honourable Limbo, I think I am done with her response.

HON LIMBO: Yes, that was done.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I am sorry, the Honourable Members posed a lot of questions, so I will also take a while to respond. On *education on nutrition* – yes, there is a Programme under Public Health or Primary Health, it is under one of the two, my technical people are here to assist me. This Programme is to attend to malnutrition, especially of infants and those under 5 years of age, but this does not have to start at the clinic or hospital, we must start feeding our young ones in the community. When they come with kwashiorkor, we attend to them, however, the primary responsibility is at home.

Honourable Kavekatora, commented on the Sector being in the ICU, we probably still are at the Out Patients Department (OPD), not at the ICU yet. We can still manage if we just do the right things and pull together all the necessary resources while supporting each other, even in Political Houses like this, with differing views and positions because in the end it is

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All about Namibia and not the Political Parties.

There are policies, yes, but perhaps they have not been implemented successfully and we are looking into that. That is why we have an Action Plan that is based on the recommendation of the Presidential Commission of Enquiry. That Action Plan is now being rolled over, that is why we are as busy as the bees. *Shortages of drivers* was one of the challenges that I mentioned. There is now provision being made in the new structure of the Ministry to provide for drivers, especially ambulance drivers.

Then *Honourable Muharukwa*, I think I dealt with *Onyuva* already. About *someone delivering on the street* - you see, this is the problem we have, and that is why we need Community Health Workers or Health Extension Workers to educate our people right there in the communities where they live. Number one; is to educate young people about sexual reproduction and family planning - it should be available to them. If somebody is pregnant, the health workers identify this person to visit the clinic early enough to avoid this type of disaster. When somebody is delivering on the street - that person has been pregnant for nine months, so we missed that opportunity in almost eight months and a few days. That is the very reason why we want to educate our people through Community Health Workers. Kunene is where we piloted this Project so that people are identified early and obviously one or two people would come to the hospital because sometimes people do not even want to come to the hospital on time. Those who need emergency caesarean section, etcetera, it can be done at the hospital, but the important thing, and that is the way we can reduce maternal mortality, is to educate the people so that they to know when to present early.

I think I have touched on *the deployment of doctors*, but the problem once again is the demand for doctors. We can and we will put doctor at Onyuva once we convert it to a Health Centre, however, at the moment, we only have two doctors at Opuwo Hospital. That is again the demand that I am referring to. I cannot convert street vendors to doctors, we have to train them, that is the problem. Okangwati is the same, it is a Health Centre, but again we do not have a doctor there because we do not have

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enough doctors in Kunene.

HON MEMBER: Where are the doctors?

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE: Well, I will answer that in private my Brother.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE:
Honourable Fleermuys, the *problem with neurosurgeons* - this is even worse because it takes you on average at least ten to eleven years to study for neurosurgery, but it is not true that we did not have one. We had Professor Albertyn who has been working here for thirty years. We had Dr Mubala from Kenya, but unfortunately the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration turned down his application. I was fighting for that. I think we really need to come together – the Ministry of Health and Social Services, the Home Affairs and Immigration, the Public Service Commission and the Health Professional Council in order to create a Committee that will look into the applications of doctors and other scarce skills. I was even suggesting that they could either apply on line if necessary, or submit their documents to a specific Committee that runs around on their behalf and make sure that a, b and c is done, and when they come here, they just receive their work permits. We have to do that, otherwise we will not succeed.

I had a personal experience with a cardiologist who is working here, where I had pay a personal visit to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration, but then, I was not even aware that I will be in Parliament one day. It is thus incumbent upon us to make systems work more efficiently and effectively.

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There are two neurosurgeons in private practice here in Windhoek who have an agreement with the State to help out with patients while we are training. There is either one, or two young men we have identified who will be send to South Africa, I think in the next month or so to study neurosurgery. Hopefully that will alleviate our problem. The rest of it is the need for more doctors, as I have mentioned before.

There was a case mentioned here of a *bandage left in the patient's body* - Colleagues I cannot really account for all these incidents. Within the system of doctors or hospital there may either be one guy who made a mistake or something that happened, but all I want to say is that all of these cases are investigated. The problem is that by the time the results are out, the public have lost interest and they remain with the original stigmatisation. I have seen it with the purported *cell phone issue* here - the newspapers made good sales on the basis of the cell phone. I went to the Ministry and tried to find out and there was no cell phone.

In fact, with technology one can nowadays produce any type of images. You can paste Malema's head on the body of President Zuma and then people get confused, but it is just technology because people want to create fun filled publications that can sell. That is what I have seen happening. Therefore, the best thing to do is to always try and find out from the people who are actually involved.

Honourable Shapwa had a problem with *the attitude of staff members*. I mentioned that I had a meeting with the consultant yesterday, and he promised to come and work on it in July. We will not be able to change everything at once. I was almost chased by a young nurse at Rundu Hospital who did not know that I am the Minister of Health, who even refused to shake my hand. I did not even blame her or anything, it is the attitude of the staff generally, we need to change it and it will take a while. This requires the assistance of a consultant.

On the *selling of items* - I actually complained about this before I even came to the Ministry. We cannot allow staff to do business while on duty. We cannot. It is just like us here, we cannot go and attend to our

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HON DR HAUFIKU

businesses when we are supposed to be here. There is no negotiation about this. It is a directive that no one should sell *kapana*, airtime or whatever the case may be, while on duty. I do not think we are going debate on that.

Then the *death at a private hospital at Ondangwa*. The only private hospital I know at Ondangwa is the one that belongs to Dr Musweu. I do not want to mention names (*intervention*)

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Doctor, please speak through the Chairperson.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I am sorry. I just want to defend this Colleague because I know him for the last ten plus years. He is a very hardworking guy. He worked here at Katutura Hospital in almost all the Departments. He went to Oshakati where he and his wife set up a private clinic, like all of us here. They then realised the need for a Health Centre or a small hospital that is why they built that hospital in Ondangwa. It was opened by the then Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Honourable Haingura. I went to visit the centre myself, a state-of-art centre, well decorated, and it was approved by the Health Professional Council and by the Ministry of Health as a Health Facility with all the necessary equipment. Many of the equipment that they have, we do not even have in the Public Sector.

I cannot account for what happened and I do not want to defend the colleague, but I want to defend what I know about him. There may be other doctors making use of the facility, and an accident may have happened, but in medical practice, if somebody dies or something happens while that patient is under anaesthesia or under operation, it is my responsibility. That case must be investigated and then we find out what

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exactly is the cause. If somebody became negligent, obviously that person must be held responsible. That is not only pertaining to a private clinic in Ondangwa, but it can even happen at Aranos or Walvis Bay. The only thing I do not want us to start publicising is - *that is a clinic of death*. It is not true. That is probably one case out of how many and it must just be investigated, so that we find the root cause of death because sometimes an accident of heart block or anything can happen while the person is under anaesthesia and then it is blamed on the doctor while the artery was just about to burst. Colleagues, what I am saying here is that there will be an investigation. I do not want us to stigmatise my colleague and say - *your clinic is here killing people*. We must investigate and the result of that can be made public. If there is anything that needs to be rectified, let it be done. That is my plea, as much as I am sympathetic with the loss in that family.

Again you mentioned about the attitude, and I fully agree with you Comrade. We need to change our staff's attitude. This goes back to the strategy that we want to implement.

Then there was something mentioned about *Mix Settlement* – We have the Maxuilili Clinic at Mix Settlement and it is an outreach clinic that is even up to Dobra. I have asked the staff at Dobra when I went there – *do you have a clinic?* And they said they have, but I think there was a problem with stock for a few months. I told them that if they experience problems, the principal can call me, then we can attend to the whole Settlement of Mix. However, there is a clinic at the moment called the Maxiulili Clinic, this is what I was told.

Honourable //Gowases - *Cleaning Services*, I have attended to that already. The *Special Medical Fund* is alive, there is nothing wrong with it, perhaps it is just not being utilised. The *Implementation of Capital Projects* – yes, this is the reason why we return money to Treasury because the Projects are not completed, like the Okahao Hospital, and then we get a bad name. That is why I said we are going to apply stringent measures against contractors, especially those that are working on major Projects like hospitals.

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HON DIENDA

Honourable Dr Kawana, I hope I have answered you.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: That is correct, you answered me.

HON MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES: I have also touched on *the work permit*. *Honourable Hanse-Himarwa*, Mariental Hospital was one of the best hospitals according to Dr Hamata's Report on the hospital setting that I have received. Perhaps we need to expand a bit, I understand the Casualty Ward needs expansion and the clinic can always be added.

Honourable Venaani, I have already answered you. Thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Minister for that very good and detailed response. I must say that is a job well done. Any objection? Agree to.

Vote 15 – “**MINES AND ENERGY.**” Any discussion? I have Honourable Dienda. Honourable Member, you have the Floor.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I have three questions Honourable Minister:

The first question is about the *privatisation of basic services* - Honourable Chairperson, wherever there is a middleman involved in any transaction, the price will go up. I, therefore, want to know why we privatise the provision of electricity to the public to Erongo RED, *Nama* RED (*sic*) and

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HON LIMBO

all the REDs, I do not know them, they are too many (*interjection*) Yes, too many REDs now.

My second question on *prepaid electricity* – is that these centres are not available within a walking distance from people. If I have to take a taxi from Havana to buy prepaid electricity in town, it means I could have bought more electricity with the money I pay for the taxi. It will, therefore, be helpful if these centres can be brought within a walking distance.

Question 3: On Page 232 of the MTEF, what does your office intent to do with the late payments of royalties and penalties which is a challenge for your Ministry? Is there no Law that you can enforce for people to pay up? Thank you, Honourable Minister. I support your Vote.

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

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

Honourable Minister, on Page 12, *Energy and Supply* - first of all, I would like to really say you are trying your best, I know money is never enough to electrify some of the rural areas. I just want to bring the area of Liselo to your attention. Liselo is a stone throw from Katima town. Liselo and Musanga area are very close and the grid is passing through these villages, but they are in darkness and they have been in the dark since I do not know. I would like to find out, is there any plan within the Ministry to connect these villages to the national grid or any alternative energy, maybe solar?

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HON MBAI

Secondly, we were told that all the villages within the radius of 500 metres from a school can be connected if the school is electrified, but you find that in some of the areas it is not the case, maybe you need to revisit this. That is all I have. I support the Vote, thank you very much.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: Thank you, Honourable Member. I now have Honourable Mbai.

HON MBAI: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Please allow me to firstly thank the Honourable Minister on his comprehensive and well detailed Budget Statement.

I have only two questions or comments to make. Number one is on the issue of the ***promotion of local and foreign investment in exploration and mining*** - Honourable Minister, against the background of the 2014 Fraser Institute Report that has revealed that Namibia emerged in 2014 as the most attractive investment destination in Africa, what exactly is the Ministry envisaging or having in mind to capitalise on this excellent continental and global standing in terms of exploration and mining?

My second question is on the ***aspect of rural electrification*** - Honourable Minister, the project kicked off nicely in the 90s countrywide, but declined gradually in some areas. What I would only like to establish and to know is whether it because of a lack of budget or is there any change in the policy directives? I thank you.

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

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HON SHAPWA / HON KAVEKOTORA

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I just want to repeat what I have said during my Maiden Speech on the 16th of April 2015 in this House to the Honourable Minister by saying - Honourable Minister of Mines and Energy, under the Programme of Rural Electrification, please try to make sure that the electricity is provided to village homes and not to village *cuca shops*. Let the *cuca shops* go and tap electricity from their homes because we have students and people who are sick, who would need their medication to be refrigerated, they also need to have cool and fresh drinks. Why does electricity always run from one *cuca shop* to the other, leaving all the homes in darkness? I thought it is more prudent to provide electricity to homes rather than to *cuca shops*. That is my plea, thank you. I support the Vote.

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

HON KAVEKOTORA: Thank you very much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I only have two small questions.

One is about these geological surveys that are being conducted. The last time I visited the Ministry of Mines and Energy and looked at the map of Namibia, the whole map was almost covered by concessions. Now the question is; these geological surveys that are being conducted by the Ministry, are they being done on these concessions that are owned by individuals or are these surveys done for the benefit of the Namibian people at large? That is question number one.

Question number two: is the issue of the benefit of natural resources accruing to the Namibians? When all these concessions are in the hands

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HON KANDJOZE

of individuals, how do the local people in those areas really benefit from these concessions? Is there any way where the benefit could eventually accrue to the locals because obviously those are natural resources and they are also in the areas. How does the Ministry make provision for the benefits to accrue to the locals? I thank you.

HON DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE: In the absence of any other interventions, I will give the Floor to the Honourable Minister to reply.

HON MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I must first apologise for having missed this morning's starting Session, the mistake was entirely mine for not getting the communication to this morning Session. My sincerest apologies. Let me thank my other Honourable Members who made sure that I got the correct information.

Honourable Dienda, you have posed three questions - I hope I have pronounced your name correctly. Your first question was on *privatisation of basic services and regional electricity distribution*. I think this is a Policy of Government that had to make sure that all services are not left in the hands of the utility itself. It generates, it distributes and it also transmits. So the Regional Electricity Distribution purpose is to provide that these REDs actually serve Regions by way of taking over from the generator and transmitter and provide the Regional Electricity Distribution service to those Regions, and that is why there is an entire Policy of Government. I think that Policy speaks to shareholding of Local Councils as beneficiaries of this service.

Of course, this issue has come to the attention of Government in the form of a request and a submission to Cabinet to continue with the reforms so

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intended and it is now hitting a little bit of a snag in the formulation of the Southern and Central REDs, however, the other REDs are in place.

Now, I was speaking to some of the beneficiaries in terms of the CEOs of some of the towns, like a week or so ago, I was in Ongwediva and Oshakati and I managed to slot in a meeting with one of the towns' CEO and what he raised there was that a number of shareholders in a pool of the REDs to share the proceeds from inception have actually now increased, say from 8 to 16 in that sort of area and the dividends to the people have actually shrunk. Therefore, the benefits are somehow no longer whole as it were, it is thus now becoming a little bit of a problem.

However, the Electricity Distribution Industry itself held a Summit last year September whereby the recommendation was that the reforms should go forward. This issue is actually becoming a very topical issue because at one of the last CCT meetings it was clearly communicated that, the Ministry of Mines and Energy should go back in the field, establish whether the grounds of those reform, so many years ago, are as whole as they were in today's terms and whether the purpose is being served or not. We have been tasked with literally going back to the masses, so we collect data and look at whether the outcomes and recommendations from the Summit last year September is indeed truly what it is, so that work is underway.

Last week in Swakopmund, the Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy, Honourable Shilunga was able to meet with the Chief Executive Officer of the Swakopmund Town Council and Erongo RED, and at that meeting it became clear that they hold a totally different view. They are perfectly happy with whatever the distribution is. (*Interjection*) No, I am giving you a view of what we got; I am not saying that these are the findings, Honourable Derek. The reason why I am bringing this into the pot is that there is obviously a lot of work to be done around this whole issue. I know how strongly you feel, I also know and I have been having discussions with Honourable Shaningwa on this matter and her views are again very strong.

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Certainly from the little samples that we have been able to have and from the Directives of Cabinet Committee on Treasury is that we have to establish the truth on the ground as to which way we are going to be directed. Certainly these calls for your support, it calls for the Ministry to work in tandem with all other stakeholder Ministries. Our staff is actually on a task to conduct studies around the Regions. Unfortunately, the time given to us is only four weeks of which the four weeks have already expired and we are left with two, so I think this is a matter that still has a lot of work to be carried out.

In terms of EVMs, I think we all know that for those of us that are supplied by Regional Distributors or the REDs in some places, the outlets to buy electricity at shops and all other distributing agents remain Spars. I am from a village in Okakarara and usually what happens is that I buy my uncle's electricity in Okakarara, but when you are in Okaepe it is something different, you have 60 kilometres to travel. I think that is where you are heading at, and most people really do not have that ability, but with modern technology, I see how my uncle buys that electricity and he is 85 years old. He sends an SMS to his people and the people buy and text it back to him. I think modern technology is able to assist where facilities are lacking and all of us may share in that experience.

Late payments of royalties - I do not know whether this is our mandate. I think those royalties are paid to the Ministry of Finance, if not, then I hope to be excused for the lack of that information. I will find out what the true issues are, as you know, I am new but that should not be an excuse, like my Honourable Doctor Friend who is just as new, has said. However, this is something that should be worked on. Certainly it is a problem.

Honourable Limbo, on Page 4 - *Energy Supply and Rural Electrification*: In a nutshell, I am planning to undertake a countrywide tour starting with hot areas from the Kunene Region all the way to the entire north and far north east, just to establish for myself what these issues are. On the Rural Electrification Approach, let me say the following to that question:

The Master Plan first looks at the power supply to schools, clinics, other

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Government institutions, informal business as well as other community services, including households in the immediate vicinity of a 500 metre radius. If houses next to schools have not been electrified in accordance with that understanding as, Honourable Limbo has said, then this remains a matter to be investigated. I do not have a Report on my table right now that complains of this issue, so it is a new matter that one has to undertake and perhaps factually establish what is on the ground.

The Focus on Electrification of Public Institutions, Installations of Transformers at Formal and Informal Business Centres - that really is the approach with no service connections. Electrifying community households has been suspended in the Regions where there are un-electrified Public Institutions in rural areas. That could perhaps contribute to why the Programme has somehow declined, **Honourable Mbai**, in your comments.

Electrifying community households only happen where there are no un-electrified Public Institutions such as in the Erongo, Omaheke, Hardap, Otjozondjupa and //Karas Regions. Maybe your area falls within the Otjozondjupa Region and perhaps there could be others and these are issues that could be investigated and I have not really been on the ground after a month and about nine days in the office. The intention is to undertake a countrywide trip whereby officials will be called in to be part of that delegation.

Where Public Institutions are very far from national grids, off-grid solutions apply and one again needs to respond, Honourable Mbai and Honourable Limbo, as to whether the off-grid solutions have remained a budgetary issue or not. I think in dealing with those questions of villages near schools connected or not connected, again, I still feel that I do not have adequate answers for that question. I intend to be on the ground in the next coming few days, perhaps during the recess period just so we make sure that these questions come to the House and solutions are provided.

Promotion of investment and exploration - the business of finding mineral

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resources for the use of demands in the economy depends very much on geological, geophysical, geochemical exploration and surveys to be conducted. That research is an ongoing thing. Until such time that the geologists, the geophysicists and all those professionals go out to the fields, risk being bitten by snakes and spend many nights under skies, we would not have a lot of the mining activities that we have. Therefore, the bedrock of future mining activities and the resultant revenue to Government are really bred in that group of professionals. Those people need to get out and they need to knock on rocks, they need to bring samples, they need to drill, they need to formulate reports and they need to actually fly a lot of surveys. All of these information needs to be collected, studied, compiled and processing thereof is by advance computer software and hardware technologies. So there is a challenge in having all of these in one place.

Pertinent to the question, if countries such as ours, that are neither a high rain fall, different climate other than what we have today, does not remain very active in the eyes of investor community, just one year of absence and that void will be filled by your competitor countries. So, it is absolutely critical and important that the geological survey in the Ministry of Mines and Energy keeps promoting these kinds of activities and talk to investors to entice them to come to Namibia. That is perhaps why that report has identified Namibia as cooperating and as actually doing some excellent work around that.

Secondly, it remains an absolutely critical undertaking by the Ministry to never slack on that. There is a challenge from Mining Houses. Geologists, geophysicists, engineers and related professionals in these fields are constantly poached by Mining Houses. They get higher salaries and the challenge remains, we get poached from experience people, seasoned professional constantly leave to high pastures and this is a challenge. Our Geological Survey remains challenged for these purposes.

Honourable Kavekatora, on *concessions* - the Government does not fly these for the purposes of promoting private holders of these concessions. These are national databases that are really sold or help exploration

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companies to actually target their exploration efforts with a view to actually spur them on and you know we derisk their operations that are already really a lot of money. When you step into the Oil Industry it is hundreds of millions of United States Dollars, not even Namibian Dollars just to get a seismic vessel to actually scan our coasts or shores just for one exercise or let us say a 1,000 square kilometres of 3D, then times that by US\$12,000.00 per square kilometre, that is how intensive that is. Then you come to processing, you need the people that get in there, so these surveys become national databases to help derisking the process of exploration, be it oil, minerals or be it whatever in the business of exploration.

If you have evidenced that it is done for a private individual, I think approach the office of your Minister just to make sure that these kinds of activities are brought to a halt because in some cases it is tax payers' money. In other cases, it is truly the investors that put up their own surveys, for instance, in oil and gas. No tax dollars goes into those explorations, it is entirely their own monies.

In terms of *benefitting from natural resources* - I am sure that you have been part of this Government in terms of membership here. There are policies to enable local participation, be it the near miss policies and other fraternities. These days, locals are actually assigned or they can apply for licences and they get them. The only problem being, if you are not in the business of actually knowing where to go and knock and you do not have deep pockets, perhaps those are the issues that we need to start looking at. In the review of the current *Minerals Act, Prospecting and Mining Act*, I think these are some of the ideas; we have to look at how to beneficiate those to locals, but I think there is also a Local Beneficiation Committee, established under the Ministry of Mines and Energy to try and bring the benefits to locals. With those few remarks, I stop there. Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Any further discussions? Any objections? Agreed to.

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HON SIMATAA

Vote 16 – “**JUSTICE.**” Any discussions? I recognise Honourable Simataa. We keep to five minutes.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

I am taking the Floor to advance my support to the Vote, Comrade Minister, but then in the process of doing that, submit a few comments, particularly on the Directorate of Legal Aid. I think a couple of weeks ago, I recall reading a report, but unfortunately, I did not have ample time to validate how authentic this report was. The article referred to a group of citizens in Katutura who had approached the Directorate of Legal Aid with the intention of getting assistance in terms of challenging a Liquor License that was issued, given the nature of the operations in terms disturbing their peace and also impinging on their right to peaceful co-existence.

However, if the report is true Comrade Minister, it is indeed a cause for concern, particularly given the fact that if you look into the *Liquor Act*, there is a Provision that empowers individual communities to approach Courts of Law to seek for a review of an existing Liquor Licence or a revocation thereof in events of this nature. In as far as I can recall, and I am saying this under correction, Comrade Minister, this is the first time that a community is using that provision in the *Liquor Act* to call for the review of a Liquor Licence so issued.

Again what compounds the situation is that, very few of our private legal practitioners are keen to take on cases from communities, is it on the basis of *pro bono* or *pro amico*? I cannot recall what is the right legal term, however, I think it should be *pro bono*. If the Directorate of Legal Aid fails to provide assistance to a disadvantaged community, Comrade Minister, I would like to believe that that may border on a serious, I do not want to use the word indictment, nor travesty of justice, but it borders

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HON DIENDA

along those lines. My question, Comrade Minister, is whether what I read in the newspapers is true, I am praying that it should not be true, but if it indeed turns out to be true then my appeal, Comrade Minister, is that this is a case that needs serious, but serious review. Otherwise the right to justice will become an exclusive domain of very few Namibians. Otherwise, I support the Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Next, I recognise Honourable Dienda.

HON DIENDA: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. Just seven questions to the Honourable Minister.

Question 1: Honourable Minister, how and by whom was the regrading process done? Was it something that was done by experts in this field of Justice or was it just done universally for the whole Government?

Questions 2: The *Maintenance Act* of 2003 talks about Maintenance Offices. Honourable Minister, I know your staff told you that I was at the Court in Katutura to get this information. My question is why do we only have one Maintenance Officer for the whole country?

Question 3: *Maintenance Investigators* – there are no Maintenance Investigators in the country. Honourable Minister, I do have a serious problem with this one. When women or men are taking their spouses or their friends to Court for maintenance, there is nobody to investigate whether the information that is given to the Court is the correct information because people can come with fraudulent pay slips and whatever and there is nobody to investigate these issues?

Question 4 - is on the *Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders of 1995* - Honourable Chairperson, through you, this Law gives the mandate

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HON MANOMBE-NCUBE

for Maintenance Orders against persons staying or living outside the country. My question to you, Honourable Minister, is on the implementation of this Law. Do we have any agreement with any country to take people to book who are having children in this country, but are staying in China or any other country, for example, to pay maintenance? If there is any, can you please tell us which country we have this agreement with?

Question 5: Honourable Minister, on Page 212 of the Estimates of Revenue and Income and Expenditure, I have noticed that N\$15,500,000.00 has been allocated for the next three years to vehicles for the Supreme and High Courts. I support that one. My question, Honourable Minister is, will this also include vehicles for the Maintenance Sector because I think this is one of the problems that they are facing, they cannot go out to do investigations on cases brought to them?

Then I also want to add to the Legal Aid Provision that is made there. Say for instance, in cases where the legal funds are exhausted and there is no more money, is your office giving alternatives to the people because you are unable to assist them? Are you sending them or referring them to other institutions to help them or are you putting these cases on a waiting list for the next budget allocation? These are my questions and I thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Next, I recognise Honourable Deputy Minister Manombe-Ncube.

HON DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISABILITY SECTOR:
Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee for allowing me the opportunity to add my voice in support of this Vote.

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HON MANOMBE-NCUBE

Before I support the Vote, I have some few questions and observations to make. I would just start by saying that I will forever cherish and value the notion of *no Namibian must feel left out*. My question will be on the marriages above the red line - how far are we with the Amendment of this Law, which is actually coming from the 60s?

On Page 8, I would also just like to really commend the Ministry by intending to implement the recommendations of the Laws that are affecting families in terms of the inheritance and so on, because in the Gender Committee we have been advocating for that. We are, thus commending the Ministry for the effort made.

Then I turn to the *Criminal Procedure Act* as this Law is coming from 1977. On Sub-section 51, which is relatively to trespass - the proclamation of this Law in my view was enforced in order for the minority property owners to keep the indigenous masses at bay because these Laws have become irrelevant to the current democratic system of Government and it is time to amend them, Honourable Minister. They are outdated and need to be replaced with equitable Laws.

Then the third one is the *Road Authority Act*. This Act already curb the already limited grazing of landless Namibians and place heavy a burden of sanction, if these landless Namibians are caught in corridors alongside the road, grazing their cattle. Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, this will lead me to a further question - who really owns our hard won land? Should it only be for the minority who are protected by these Draconian Laws or all Namibians? How long should the majority feel as if they are in exile, where it is like exile within their border, hence the notion of *no Namibian should feel left out*? I support the Budget of the Ministry of Justice with the hope that this Law will be speedily amended and brought to the House with immediate effect. Thank you.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:
Thank you. I now recognise Honourable Kaapala.

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HON KAPALA

HON KAAPALA: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee and Honourable Members.

I rise to support Vote 16, with a few observations. I looked at a few things where we are talking about the administration of justice and good governance as well as at the other aspect where we spoke about Human Rights and I want to combine these two into one. What I want to suggest here is for us to look at the seriousness of the separation of powers. With this I mean separating the powers of the Judiciary, the Legislature and the Executive. So many small issues can be sorted out by the Executive, but these small issues are instead pushed to Courts and at the end of the day we deny justice to people who may not have money to go to Courts.

I know that we may have an excuse that we have legal aid, but I do not think that legal aid will be able to cater for the entire population of this country. I strongly feel that if the separation of power is observed, we will do justice to this country. I also want to look at the fact that, when I was in Katima Mulilo some time back, I looked at one property in Katima Mulilo that was sold by Local Government, while the case of this property was in Court. I was just asking myself that - *what is this?* Is this what we call corruption or is this what we call contempt of Court?

The other thing is that I saw a very huge project where they constructed approximately 400 houses in the same place, in partnership with Local Government. However, the end of the day, when you go to the Office of the Registrar of Deeds you will find that people who were working under that project as delegates sold houses, but they never received anything from that project. I, therefore, strongly feel that people who are supposed to protect the Laws are the ones who are breaking them.

I do not know, I also need direction because we have lawyers in this House - there are things we call Court Orders, you will find a Court Order that is just signed by a Court Registrar or Clerk, but then they will be talking about evicting a person without this person appearing before any Court. Is this maybe not undermining the Constitution of the country? In fact, I know that lawyers always want to defeat each other on a technical

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points, but I believe some of these things need to be sorted out? I thank you and I support your Vote.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Lastly, I recognise Honourable Van Wyk.

HON VAN WYK: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee.

Honourable Minister, I just have two questions and one is on legal aid or legal assistance. There is a case of alleged Gender-Based Violence where a Protection Order was granted and it was violated afterwards. The person was locked up about two years ago and applied for legal aid, but was informed that the Legal Assistance Centre cannot assist because it is a minor offence. Now my question is, what can we do to assist people in these kinds of cases? The person will be in custody for three years starting from August this year and does not have money to hire a private lawyer to attend to his case, so he is there in custody. What can we do to assist these people?

Then the last one, Honourable Minister - the Government is in the process to take services to the people, it is unfortunate that in some cases, some services are decentralise without notice. In case of the Rehoboth Estate Office, the office was closed about seven years ago without the knowledge of the Minister, and it is up to now still closed. Honourable Minister, I would like to find out, when will the Ministry reopen this office? I support the vote. Thank you very much.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you. Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

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HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Thank you very much, Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee. I would like to appreciate the support of this Vote. Justice is for all those who aspire and agree to the principle that God created all men equal.

Honourable Simataa, Legal Aid, Group Citizens' Application to Challenge Liquor Licence and Legal Aid Declined to Grant the Licence. I am not really privy to the article the Honourable Member is referring to, however, I am available, maybe I will be able to investigate and engage the Honourable Member. As I said in my Statement, legal aid is provided as per the Provisions of Article 95 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia as well as the *Legal Aid Act* of 1990, and a person who has the statutory function to determine whether or not to grant legal aid is the Director of Legal Aid.

However, I must also inform the august House that within the principle of coordination there are times when we discuss certain matters. Just recently there was a poor lady who was evicted from her house and through the concern expressed by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, I was able to take up the matter with the Director of Legal Aid although there was previously a decline to provide legal assistance because the women had engaged a private lawyer, legal aid was provided to this particular lady. You see, there are so many of these cases, especially evictions from residential houses on account of debt owed to Local Authorities, Municipalities. At that time, I was the Attorney-General and I took up this issue with the High Court under the leadership of the Deputy Chief Justice and I am really happy to say that there are currently new Rules of the High Court whereby, before a house is auctioned, the first requirement must be met where the Presiding Officer or a Judge calls the parties together to find out whether there are other alternatives than auctioning immovable property such as a house, which has an adverse effect on the family members. At the moment, I am more or less satisfied that the new Rules have to some extent really assisted to address that problem.

In addition, unlike in the past, and this is part of the question that was

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asked whereby on the instruction or signature of the Registrar of the High Court, property is auctioned through what we call Default Judgment. That issue was also addressed and taken up; within the current Rules, it is no longer possible in order to prevent such kind of action because the new Rules state that - before you go to the extent of auctioning an immovable property such as a house, the Court must satisfy itself that the debtor had some movable properties first which can be used to satisfy the debt. Therefore, the immovable property should be the last resort, but what has been happening in the past is that people just went straight to auction the house, however, as I said, there are new Rules now and that issue will no longer arise.

Honourable Dienda, Regrading – regrading as you know in terms of the *Public Service Act* of 1995 is something that is coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister with the involvement of the Public Service Commission. I do not know whether they are not satisfied with some of the regrading that were done.

Within the framework of the Law, there are always appeals. Therefore, those who feel or perceive to have been adversely affected can appeal to the Office of the Prime Minister and I know in many instances some of those appeals were accepted and rectification was done. In addition, in terms of the Rules, you can re-appeal if you are not satisfied, so there are some mechanisms that are put in place in that regard.

Maintenance Officers - Only One in the Khomas Region: I will have to look into that and I promised during the Vote of Gender Equality that as instructed by our President, His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, we are one team and we need to coordinate, so much so that I have to investigate first. I am going to undertake a tour of the country like other Colleagues because for ten years I have not been involved with the Ministry of Justice. My Colleague here and Honourable Iivula-Ithana were the ones who were involved when I left in 2005. Now I want to first appreciate what is on the ground and then rectify whatever needs to be rectified.

I am aware that there is a shortage of Maintenance Officers and in terms

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of the *Maintenance Act*, the Minister should appoint those Maintenance Officers. That is why I have to undertake that tour and also engage stakeholders. I am indeed still coming, I already spoke to your President that I am coming or I will extend invitations to all stakeholders, including the Opposition Parties to see how we can work together to improve service delivery to our Nation, because this issue is not really about partisan politics. However, we are determined to improve the administration of justice; of course, as you know, we also have to follow what was promised in the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto being the Ruling Party now.

However, as directed by the President, that does not prevent us to engage all stakeholders because we believe that all Namibians have a positive contribution to make to the welfare and democracy of this Nation. Therefore, that invitation will be extended next week to all Political Parties to engage on matters related to the improvement of the administration of justice.

You also asked why there are no *Maintenance Investigators* appointed and that is also part of the same exercise that I am going to undertake.

Reciprocal Maintenance Orders - whether there are agreements: Yes, there is a Law called the *Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act* of 1995. I know, that a number of agreements have been entered into with a few countries but the problem is that in Namibia we are somehow efficient in terms of carrying out orders that are coming from other countries, however, when there are requests from us for assistance to enforce orders which originate from Namibia, because of what we call some bureaucratic set up in some of those countries, it is really an uphill struggle. However, it is something that I will look into to make sure that some of these issues and challenges are addressed.

Of course, we emphasised and maybe prioritised some of those countries, for instance, particularly where Namibians were in exile before Independence. There are large communities in a number of countries, especially neighbouring countries that were independent before us like

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Angola, Zambia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Botswana. That is where we emphasise because quite a number of Namibians left children there.

Either men or women left children who need to be maintained. This, of course, also includes the neighbouring brother and sister country, Southern Africa, where there is also a lot of interaction culturally and otherwise. We, therefore, also have an agreement with the South African Government to make sure that the Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders are carried out, but it is something that we will be able to review to make sure that that system works.

On the *Provision of Vehicles* - well, as I said, there is going to be a separation, where the Judiciary will have what we call *self accounting*, whereby they will also need vehicles, that is why some of these Projects are included in the Budget. However, the Ministry of Justice has no independent fleet, we rely on the Government Garage and I am aware that from time to time the Government Garage also acquires vehicles and that is something that we will look into to see how we can allocate vehicles to the Directorates that you alluded to.

You also wanted to know *what will happen when the legal aid money is finished* – the Directorate of Legal Aid operates in two ways: They have what we call in-house lawyers, and in most cases those lawyers are in fact deployed to major centres, particularly in the northern areas. Of course, if the budgetary allocation improves, we intent to open up offices in quite a number of other centres so that we have our own in-house lawyers. We will obviously, never cease to engage the Private Sector, they play a very important role, particularly in specialised cases. However, what we currently do if we see that the Budget is depleted or exhausted is to use our in-house lawyers. Just to answer your question.

Honourable Manombe-Ncube, Marriages above the Red Line: Yes, whether marriage in Community of Property or out of Community of Property - we are seized with that matter and very soon we will be able to rectify it because I am aware of it. The Law says - *if you marry on the northern side of the Veterinary Cordon, unless otherwise expressly*

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indicated, that marriage is automatically Out of Community of Property.
We want to equalise that, I therefore, agree with you on that one.

Criminal Procedure Act 77 - Trespassing: Well, trespassing is not a colonial hangover or legacy, it is still a very important element because it is a Law that is also intended to protect your privacy. I, therefore, do not know - of course, we can engage to see how we can maybe improve, but to say it must be done away with because it is a colonial legacy, that may not be correct, because even the Constitution guarantees certain fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms and Namibians are entitled to enjoy what we call *quiet possession* or *quite enjoyment* of their property. However, we will look into that.

Road Authority Act Curbing Limited Grazing - We were just recently talking about accidents under the Vote of the Ministry of Works and Transport. If these animals are just grazing uncontrollably on our road, criss-crossing the roads, road accidents will really increase and I do not think it is a good idea to allow those animals just to graze like that without control. The issue of grazing in corridors is a symptom of access to land, so I think that is the approach we need to take in addressing the issue, and I am happy that you heard the Motivation of the Honourable Minister of Land Reform that measures will be put in place. His Budget more than doubled in order to facilitate the access to land by landless Namibians, so I think that is really where we should maybe concentrate instead of allowing those cattle to graze in corridors and thereby lose precious lives of our Namibians. I think we need to avoid that.

Now ***Honourable Kapala***, *Separation of Powers Need to Be Looked At* - I did not really get you properly, but separation of powers in terms of Constitutional Law means that the judiciary should not interfere with the work of the Executive and the Executive should not interfere with the work of the Legislature, and *vice versa*. Of course, that is also provided for in the Namibian Constitution. Therefore, I think the Legislative Framework for the separation of powers is currently more than adequate. That is why we are always cited as one of the shining examples of a democratic Rule of Law in our country, because we do respect the separation of powers.

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Lastly, on the *huge project that has been completed*, the *Deeds Office* and *names of people who never benefitted* - maybe we can engage on that one because I do not really know, I could not properly get what you meant by this. However, let us engage, as I said, I will have an open door policy with all Namibian citizens who want to play a positive role in the administration of justice, so that we can serve our people. On the *Court orders that are only signed by the Registrar* - I have responded that in terms of the new Rules that have been changed.

Honourable Van Wyk, about *Legal Aid Assistance for Minor Cases and Protection Order* - if an application is submitted by somebody with a murder case and another with a misdemeanour, the Director will obviously prioritise the case of murder because that person may be found guilty, but innocent sometimes. That is why the Law says; it is better to acquit a guilty person than to convict an innocent person - that is the principle of our Law.

There are priorities; the more serious the offence is, the more the attention that is given in terms of deciding whether or not to grant legal aid. With a minor case, one can normally even plead guilty and be fined on admission of guilt without having criminal a record. In most admission of guilt cases, if one pays a fine, there will be no criminal record compared to a case where a person has been killed by a vicious, irresponsible man. I think you will agree with me that those serious cases will definitely be given a priority over minor cases.

Decentralisation of the Rehoboth Office - you may recall that the Deeds Office in Rehoboth (*intervention*)

HON VAN WYK: No, it is a State Office.

HON MINISTER OF JUSTICE: The *State Office* - in terms of decentralisation, that is something which is very important, but I will have

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**ADJOURNMENT
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to investigate because I do not know why it was closed down, as you said.

I will have to investigate to ascertain the reasons why. However, on decentralisation, I agree with you – it is part of that principle, it is part of the commitment of Government and it is part of the commitment of this Nation that services must be brought closer to the people. That is all within the spirit and I am agreeing with you that that is very important. We will, therefore, have to investigate and see what can be done in that regard. Otherwise Honourable Members, I thank you for your support.

HON CHAIRPERSON OF THE WHOLE HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Thank you, Honourable Minister. I put Vote 16 – “JUSTICE.” Any objection? Agreed to.

I shall report progress and ask leave to sit again.

ASSEMBLY RESUMES

Progress reported and leave given to sit again.

HON SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Well, some anticipated continuing until 16:00 but there you are, progress has been made. We adjourn until Tuesday the 5th of May 2015, and convene again at the usual time being 14:30.

The House stands adjourned until Tuesday 14:30.

HOUSE ADJOURNS AT 14:45 UNTIL 2015.04.05 AT 14:30

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
SOCIAL SERVICES**
TECHNICAL REPORT (FINANCIAL YEAR
2014/2015)

MoHSS Progress Report - Financial Year 2014/2015

The Ministry of Health and Social Services' (MoHSS) mandate is to oversee and provide and quality health care services to all Namibians. Its mandate also entails regulating both public and private health facilities in the country.

In fulfilling this mandate, the Ministry crafted strategic interventions that were responsive to Vision 2030, NDP4 (National Development Plan4), its Strategic Roadmap Plan, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other international commitments related to health and social service delivery.

1. Public Health

Almost all health facilities in the country are now providing PMTCT (Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission) services while 93% of HIV positive women received ART (Anti-Retroviral Therapy) in 2014/2015. Of the 355 existing health facilities, 333 are providing these services.

A number of successes were recorded in the implementation of the immunisation Programme of the under fives. Routine immunisation coverage for Pentavalent (DPT3) reached 84%, while that of Measles stood at 76%. Supplementary immunisation was successfully conducted during a measles outbreak in specific Regions.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services introduced three vaccines into the routine immunisation programme, namely Rota, Pneumococcal and Hepatitis B zero dose. Seventy one percent (71%) of the districts are implementing the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) strategy to better manage ill children at facility level.

The engagement of partners in the provision of health service delivery is of paramount importance to complement Government efforts in promoting health and reducing diseases. Thus, additional Cold Chain equipment, namely, 30 deep freezers, 146 vaccine fridges, 50 RCW fridges and 1 010 vaccine carriers were procured through UNICEF (United Nations Children's Education Fund), WHO (World Health Organisation), CDC (Centre for Disease Control) and the Namibian Government, for the Regions.

In terms of HIV/AIDS management, the Ministry managed to maintain 87% ART coverage as per National Strategic Framework set targets of 84%. This is attributable to the simultaneous rollout of testing sites, increased access to care through ART outreach, increased human and material resources, and implementation of the Integrated Management of Adult Illnesses Programme.

The Tuberculosis (TB) burden in the country remains high. However, there has been a progressive decline in case numbers since 2006. The treatment success rate (cure plus completion rate) was 85% in 2013, while for the 2014 the TB success rate is at 87%.

Malaria morbidity and mortality has both declined by above 95% from the mean baseline of 2002/3 (morbidity = 428953; mortality = 1062). This was achieved through a combination of interventions which include malaria vector control, effective case management with Artemisinin Combination Therapy, community mobilisation and advocacy, epidemic monitoring and response. This achievement saw Namibia receive the ALMA award for malaria control for the second consecutive time.

The Radiological Safety and Protection of People and Environment are key focus areas under the Environmental Health Programme. Positive improvements were recorded in radiological protection in occupational exposure; public exposure control programme; the development and implementation of medical exposure control and a system for regulatory control of radiation sources, radioactive and nuclear materials.

The public exposure control Programme had a number of elements, which were not all addressed due to human resources and capacity challenges. Some good progress was made with regard to environmental monitoring and oversight of impact from authorised facilities. Although there were a lot of activities undertaken under the Programme, the improvement was a modest 40%, because the activities required under this Programme were many compared with the available resources and capacity.

The regulatory activities related to the control of medical exposures are progressing well. The improvement in performance from 36% to 50% is mainly attributable to this component of the Programme. Some issues that need strengthening include optimal performance of equipment;

competencies of technical experts in the area of radiation protection and generally the need to document and implement quality assurance Programmes in medical facilities.

Challenges

During the reporting period West Africa was experiencing the largest Ebola outbreak in history. Countries therefore needed to strengthen disease surveillance and preparedness. Namibia therefore responded upon on the public health preparedness capabilities on health system preparedness which encompasses the need for appropriate care and infection of identified patients, ensure that authorities and partners and travellers have access to current information and to ensure the availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) and screening at all entry points into the country. Substantial resources have therefore been committed to protect the safety of all citizen.

Maternal and child health remains a challenge and this situation is exacerbated through late referrals of pregnant women from lower facilities as for example in Oshana region only Oshakati Intermediate Hospital and Okatana Health Centre conducts delivery.

2. Health System Planning and Management

The Restructuring Task-Force (RTF) completed the first phase of the new staff establishment proposals. The proposals include two national directorates, namely Finance & Procurement and General Management Services. Furthermore, the proposals include four vertical functions (Human Capital; Training; Health Information & Research; and Health Care Technology & Infrastructure Management).

A total of 210 applications for work permits were approved, while 342 staff were appointed during the period under review, bringing the total posts filled in the Ministry to 10,350 out of 11,398. This represented a post fill rate of 90.8%. Only six staff retired during the reporting period.

The Ministry has appointed 48 students as interns. Forty (40) were appointed as Emergency Care Practitioners (ECP) at hospitals across the country while eight were attached to the Directorate of Human Resource

Management at the Head Office, four as human resource practitioners and the other four as accountants.

Transport – 1,443 cars were registered at NATIS. Of this number, 267 were older than the 2006 models. The Ministry has strengthen its fleet in particular with patient busses, Mini busses, Panel Vans, Trucks for transportation of goods and commodities, Dental truck for outreach services, and Picks-Ups, Double-cabs and Single-cabs for outreach program, in particular for malaria Programme.

An inventory of ambulances was conducted in all the 14 regions of which 79 of the total 132 ambulances were found to be in good running condition.

The MoHSS developed a Framework on Public Private Partnership (PPP) to complement State health facilities, skills, technology and finances. This has been approved by Cabinet as per Cabinet Decision No. 3rd/12.03.13/006. To operationalise this decision, the Ministry designed a Health Public Private Partnership Strategy and Implementation Guidelines as well as the evaluation criteria for bidders.

Amendment of Acts - The Public and Environmental Health Bill and the National Health Bill were enacted as laws during the period under review while the Draft National Food Safety bill was submitted to Cabinet Committee on Legislation for further scrutiny. The Blood Transfusion Bill was approved by Cabinet while amendments to the Human Tissue Act were forwarded to Cabinet for approval.

The Regulations on the Tobacco Act, 2010 (Act 1 of 2010) were launched and are currently being implemented.

Infrastructure Development - The Ministry reviewed and provided technical inputs in health facility construction plans in collaboration with the Department of Works and various project consultants. It participated in construction site transfers, progress site meetings; completion site inspections and attended to defects during retention periods where various problems and challenges were addressed and resolved. The facilities completed for the Financial Year are stated in the table below.

Table 1: Health Facilities Constructed

Project	Region
Onandjokwe Hospital - Re-routing of electrical services	Oshikoto
Rundu Intermediate Hospital - ART Clinic	Kavango East
Tsandi District Hospital - Administrative office and wards	Omusati
Katima Mulilo Hospital – Standby generator and power supply upgrade	Zambezi
Swakopmund District Hospital – ART Clinic at Tamariskia	Erongo
Windhoek Central Hospital – X-ray Department renovations	Khomas
Primary Health Care Centres	
Bethanie Health Centre and staff accommodation	//Karas
Kuisebmond - staff accommodation	Erongo
Primary Health Care Clinics	
Ehafo Clinic	Oshana
Onamutayi Clinic	Oshana
Ombombo Clinic and staff accommodation	Kunene
Otuani Clinic and staff accommodation	Kunene
Impalila Clinic and staff accommodation	Zambezi
Masokotwani Clinic and staff accommodation	Zambezi
Oshivelo Clinic and staff accommodation	Oshikoto
Outjo Clinic and staff accommodation	Kunene
Others	
Oshikoto RMT offices and staff accommodation	Oshikoto
Prefabricated Housing Units	
Staff accommodation at Gibeon and Stampriet clinics	Hardap
Student nurses accommodation at Tondoro, Rupara, Mupini, Bunya, Sambyu	Kavango
Staff accommodation at Enkono Clinic	Omusati
Staff accommodation Epembe and Ongulayanetanga	Ohangwena
Staff accommodation Groot Aub Clinic	Khomas
Staff accommodation Schlip Clinic	Hardap
Staff accommodation Eengolo Clinic	Omusati

Table 2: Health Facilities Under Construction

Project	Region
Otiwarongo Hospital - Nurses accommodation	Otjozondjupa
Oshakati Intermediate Hospital - Renovations of old maternity ward and other renovations to wards	Oshana
Rundu Intermediate Hospital - Maternity ward	Kavango East
Katutura Intermediate Hospital - Replacement of all hot and cold water piping inclusive of sewerage and drainage systems and upgrading of electrical reticulation and dentistry	Khomas
Windhoek Central Hospital - replacement of sewer lines, doctors' quarters, lifts and linking of water reticulation to the main water supply and rehabilitation of the water reservoirs	Khomas
Nkurenkuru Hospital - Environmental impact Assessment study for sewer. sitting of boreholes and connection to municipal waters	Kavango West
Okakarara Hospital - Laundry and kitchen repairs	Otjozondjupa
Omuthiya Hospital renovations and construction of clinic	Oshikoto
Okahandja Hospital - Outpatient department and casualty repairs	Otjozondjupa
Primary Health Care Centres	
Okalongo Centre and staff accommodation	Omusati
Aranos Centre and staff accommodation	Hardap
PHC Clinics	
Odimbwa Clinic and staff accommodation	Omusati
Iipandayamiti Clinic and staff accommodation	Omusati
Elavi Clinic and staff accommodation	Oshikoto
Ngoma Clinic and staff accommodation	Zambezi
OMUNDUDU CLINIC AND STAFF ACCOMMODATION	Ohangwena
Gewatjinga Clinic and staff accommodation	Kavango West
Shadikongoro Clinic and staff accommodation	Kavango East
QUEEN SOPHIA CLINIC AND STAFF ACCOMMODATION	Kunene
Nkurenkuru Clinic and staff accommodation	Kavango West
Etoto Clinic and staff accommodation	Kunene
Eloolo Clinic and staff accommodation	Oshana
Epupa Clinic and staff accommodation	Kunene
Maxuilili Clinic	Khomas
Others	
Oshana Regional Management Team Offices	Oshana
MoHSS Head Office - first floor east wing and Guard house	Khomas
Etegameno Rehabilitation and Resource Centre	Khomas
Prefabricated Units	
Keetmanshoop RHTC - Ablution and Offices	//Karas
Student accommodation at Aroab, Warmbad and Tses	//Karas

Challenges:

The current staff establishment for the public health sector is unresponsive and requires change to accommodate the mandate and staffing for health facilities. The structure therefore does not provide for adequate governance, management, patient care, infrastructure management and health technology as well as for support services.

For infrastructure development there is non-performance and poor workmanship of some contractors leading to delayed practical completion. The implementation of projects are further delayed by the lengthy period undertaken for tender evaluation and submission for contract award; delay in raising the necessary performance guarantee and insurances by contractors as well non-availability of land in both urban and rural areas for new projects.

Equipment in most facilities are old and worn out and have exceeded their lifespan and the maintenance thereof remains a concern as there is no fully established asset register and maintenance protocols. This has resulted in the down time of diagnostic equipment in particular X - ray.

3. Clinical Health Services

Hospitals provide institutional patient care, which includes general outpatient and inpatient care, intensive care services, diagnostic radiology services, laboratory services, operations, patient referrals and pharmaceutical services, among others. In terms of patients treated both at inpatient and outpatients facilities, a total 1,365,522 were attended to for the reporting period compared to 1,259,291 seen during the Financial Year 2012/2013. Of these, 979,046 were seen at outpatient departments and 386,476 were hospitalised for further management.

Specialised services such as thoracic surgery, angioplasty stenting, cathlab angiography, pacemaker, hip and knee replacements, reconstruction surgery and specialised investigations such as sonar and CT scans were carried out at the Windhoek Central and Oshakati hospitals respectively. Specialised services that have been provided for during the reporting period are reflected in table 3 below.

Other specialised services not available at the Windhoek Central Hospital such as dialysis and cardiac surgery were referred to the Haemodialysis

Treatment Centre in Windhoek and to Cape Town respectively, with financial assistance from the special fund.

Table 1: Health Facilities Constructed

Cardiac Procedures:	2013/2014	2014/2015	TOTAL
Open heart surgeries	81	130	211
Thoracic surgery operations	132	155	287
Angioplasty/Angiography	116	156	272
Pacemaker Implantation	20	26	46
Complex Devices	15	0	15
Renal Denervation therapy	4	4	8
Intensive Care Unit:			
Admissions	237	264	501
Recovery rate	79%	85%	82%
Dialysed	209	125	334

The Windhoek Central Hospital provides for psychiatry services. The statistics on the provision of these services for the reporting period are provided for in the table below.

Achievements	2014/2015
New first visits	81
Revisits	132
Home Visits	116
Admissions	20
Forensic Psychiatry	115
State President Patients	3
State President Patients discharged	4
Awaiting trials/observations	7

The Central Medical Store (CMS) serves as the Ministry's central agency for procurement, storage and distribution of essential medicines and related clinical supplies for the public health sector. Medicines procured, stored and distributed are those approved by the Ministry and are specified in the Namibian Essential Medicines List (NemList). The CMS manages about 1 600 items sourced from some 75 suppliers.

During the reporting period, 346 medicines registration applications were evaluated and 208 human and veterinary medicines were registered.

Challenges

Logistics and value chain of pharmaceutical remains a challenge as products are imported outside the country be it in the region or the rest of the world. Thus, the country remains vulnerable to exchange rate fluctuations, transportation and storage of products. The demand for health services have increased and this is illustrated from statistics from Windhoek Central Hospital in the table below. Hence the allocated resources is therefore stretched in the provision of health services

Table 2: Health Services Provided for at Windhoek Central Hospital

	FY 2013/2014	FY 2014/2015
Out patients:	39,007	74,786
In patients:	13,292	24,088
State referral in		6,227
PSEMAS patients		8,971
Private Medical Aids		2,292
Private patients (self-paying Namibians)		482
Exempted patients (e.g. pensioners, vulnerable) Foreign national patients.		675
Foreign national patients		1,576
Referrals out:		1,934
Patients to local private institution for special investigation (City Angiograph, ERCP, MRI) at the total cost of N\$5,984,471		934
Referrals of patients to Hospitals South Africa at a Total Cost of N\$2,575,0 09		36

3. Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation

In the last financial year, many Namibians received support through the Ministerial programmes by way of devices such as orthopaedic technical devices, transtibial and prostheses, and wheelchairs. Others received cataract surgery to restore sight, and ear operations to restore hearing. The specifics were as follows:

- 560 clients were fitted with orthopaedic technical devices at Windhoek Central Hospital, while 370 clients were fitted with orthopaedic technical devices in Erongo, Otjozondjupa, Hardap and //Karas regions during outreach clinics;

- 1,552 people had their sight successfully restored;
- 32 children with cleft lips and cleft palates were operated on;
- 623 People with disabilities were assessed, analysed and prescribed with wheelchairs;
- 47 hip replacements were performed;
- 20 knee replacements were performed, especially after the introduction of Causality Shifts for Doctors at Oshakati Hospital and
- 350 reconstruction surgeries were performed.

4. Developmental Social Welfare

Family Welfare - the MoHSS coordinated and facilitated the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Prevention of Suicide. Three regional committees were established and trained on suicide prevention while 15 regional social workers were trained on the implementation of strategies on first approach on prevention of suicide. Sixteen older persons were placed in Housing Units for Independent Low Income Older People and the management of such units was transferred to four regions.

Substance Abuse Prevention, Drug Control and Rehabilitation - Thirty-two clients were admitted at Etegameni Rehabilitation and Resource Centre. Of these, 30 successfully completed the rehabilitation. A multi-disciplinary team rendered treatment to alcohol and drug dependent clients.

Etegameni Resource Centre has been providing substance abuse, prevention and treatment services in Okuryangava. The Centre focuses on special populations at risk, and substance abuse related to TB and HIV.

Forty nine clients received individual counselling, while group work was conducted with 30 adult sex workers, 25 kiddies club members and 58 TB patients. Three Coalition for Responsible Drinking (CORD) cluster review meetings were held with 130 regional social workers. The CORD

committee members reviewed substance abuse interventions, shared best practices and lessons learnt.

An after-care cluster workshop was conducted with the //Karas, Hardap, Ohangwena and Oshikoto Regions on the implementation of aftercare activities with 37 social workers and ex-addicts.

Specialised Social Welfare Services - Three welfare organisations and one alcohol and drug rehabilitation centre were registered while eight residential care facilities for older persons received subsidies.

Mainstreaming of Persons with Disabilities - Two (people with disabilities were given access to permanent employment, while 32 were given access to temporary employment and 11 were given access to vocational training. Forty two visually (22) and hearing (20) impaired persons from all regions were trained in community health home based care and HIV/Aids.

Challenges

There is a great concern on the fragmentation and overlapping of developmental social welfare services between O/M/As resulting into resources not effectively utilized on matters related to social ills, alcohol and drug abuse and the enhancement for the rehabilitation and mental health centres.

**APPENDIX 1: BUDGET
EXECUTION AND EXPENDITURE
BY PROGRAMME FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR 2014/2015**

**VOTE 08 - MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT
OVERALL VOTE ACTUAL PERFORMANCE**

The Ministry implemented Fourteen (14) Projects and Nine (9) of them are on target.

The budget execution for the Financial Year 2014/2015 was N\$6,477,137,700, which represents an execution rate of 98%. The actual revenue collected for the period is N\$1,738,602, which represents a collection of 170% total revenue collected.

Breakdown \ Year	2014/2015	
	Estimate	Actual
Operational Budget	5,996,077,000	5,872,908,664
Development Budget	610,000,000	604,229,036
Development Partners	0	0
Total	6,606,077,000	6,477,137,700

BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO THE VOTE

Breakdown \ Year	2014/2015	
	Estimate	Actual
Personnel Expenditure	3,783,526,000	3,708,651,029
Goods and Other Services	1,013,516,000	975,137,052
Subsidies and Other Current Transfers	15,830,000	15,756,375
Acquisition of Capital Assets (Operational)	1,183,205,000	1,173,364,208
Capital Transfers (Operational)		
Operational Budget	5,996,077,000	5,872,908,664
Operational Capital		
Acquisition of Capital Assets (Development)	610,000,000	604,229,036
Capital Transfers (Development)		
Development Budget	610,000,000	604,229,036
Total State Revenue	6,606,077,000	6,477,137,700
Fund Appropriation		
Development Partners		
Grand Total	6,606,077,000	6,477,137,700

NON-TAX REVENUE

Revenue Source	Year	2014/2015	
		Estimate	Actual
Private Telephone Calls		5,000	5,404
Miscellaneous		400,000	1,273,685
Lost Equipment and Stores		50,000	4,331
Ministerial Files		300,000	455,181
Sale of Serviceable Stores and Equipment		70,000	0
Hiring of Helicopters		200,000	0
Total		1,025,000	1,738,602

Explanation for Variances 2014/2015

Private Telephone Calls: An amount of N\$13,897 was collected from private telephone calls.

Miscellaneous: The Ministry uses this account for revenue not accommodated in other revenue sources, such as revenue from UN operations etc.

Lost Equipment: Strict control measures were put in place that helped to improve losses; as a result, less revenue was collected.

Ministerial Fines: This revenue is generated from fines arising from Absent Without Official Leave (AWOL); discipline has improved resulting in the Ministry receiving less revenue from fines than was originally estimated.

Sale of Serviceable Stores and Equipment: There were no substantial items with significant value to be disposed off during this Financial Year.

Hiring of Helicopters: No Helicopters were hired during this time.

HUMAN RESOURCES CAPACITY

No of Staff	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014
Approved	26,923	26,923	26,923
Funded	25,923	25,923	25,923

PERFORMANCE OF MINISTERIAL TARGETS

The Mandate of the Vote

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) coordinates and administers the operations of the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) as provided for in the Constitution of Namibia (1990, Chapter 15, Article 118). This mandate is further elaborated in the *Defence Act* of 2002 and the Defence Policy, which *inter alia* require it to:

“Defend the territory and national interests of Namibia; Meet adequately defence needs: namely by guaranteeing territorial integrity, safeguarding against external attack, conventional or non-conventional, and to prevent violations of Namibia's land, sea and airspace; Operate effectively in support of the civil authorities if required; undertake peace support operations; Provide challenges and opportunities for employees utilising and enhancing skills, abilities and creativity; Develop a defence organization with which the people of Namibia will identify and in which they will take pride in, and operate safely with respect for, the environment of Namibia.”

According to the *Defence Act* of 2002, the MoD is responsible for the efficient organization, administration, resource mobilization and to provide leadership and control of the NDF through the Chief of Defence Force in order to implement its mandate, achieve its objectives within the approved budget, and set financial targets.

The Ministry's Strategic Objectives and Performance Targets for the Reporting Year:

Target 1 Recruitment: To recruit 1000 per year over the MTEF period.

Target	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Forecast	2015/2016 Forecast
17,000 over the MTEF	5,400	0	0	2,500	1,500

The target is measured as total of recruited young members against total Force strength needed.

The Ministry suspended recruitment for the last two years due to lack of accommodation facilities in Military Bases. The accommodation facilities and

the living conditions have improved; therefore, the directive from Cabinet to recruit 2500 members during the current Financial Year in order to ease the challenge of high youth unemployment across the country was honoured. Two Thousand (2000) members were already recruited during the first quarter of the Financial Year, whilst the remaining 500 were recruited towards the end of the year.

Target 2 Training: Specialization of at least 45% of MOD personnel by 2015/2016.

Target	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Forecast	2015/2016 Forecast
Specialization of at least 45%	38,5	39	40,0	41,0	45,0

The Ministry is on track in achieving this target by the Financial Year 2015/2016. However, due to the high rate of technological development it is predicted that this target will be ongoing.

Target 3 Education: Upgrading of at least 40% MOD personnel who want to further their qualifications at tertiary institutions by 2015/16.

Target	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Forecast	2015/2016 Forecast
40% by 2015/2016	30,0	32,0	34,0	36,0	40,0

This target was set to equip senior officers/officials with the necessary managerial skills at tertiary education institutions, and to prepare and equip junior officers/officials with the necessary skills in the three Arms of Services and at the Head Quarters.

The Ministry has introduced a Post Graduate Diploma on Security and Strategic Studies and a Bachelor of Military Science (Honours), in addition to the Master of Arts in Security and Strategic Studies (MASSS) Programme with UNAM.

The first graduates in MASSS graduated in 2009, the second group graduated 2011 and the third group started this year and is expected to graduate in the year 2016.

The first group in Post Graduate diploma on Security and Strategic studies started in 2013 and has graduated in 2014. The Bachelor of Military Science (Honours) degree also started with a foundation course in 2013. These are in addition to those who are at different Institution of higher learning.

Target 4: Carry out Research on Modern Equipment

Target	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Forecast
Research and acquire 15% of Defence Equipment by 2015/2016	12,0	13,5	14,0	14,5

Replace Obsolete and Outdated Equipment with at least 15% Latest Technology by 2015/2016.

Target	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Forecast
Replace 15% obsolete equipment by 2015/2016	11,5	12,5	14,0	14,5

Defence equipment such as aircraft and war ships takes many years to be manufactured and all these contracts are in foreign currency. This target is ongoing, as the NDF has to keep up with the global technological advancement.

Target 5 Accommodation: To improve and maintain existing infrastructure at least 20% by 2015/2016.

Target	2011/2012 Actual	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Forecast	2015/2016 Forecast
20% by 2015/2016	1,5	12,5	13,0	15,0	20,0

The Ministry is currently occupying old bases that were not made for permanent accommodation and these require day-to-day rehabilitation. The Ministry managed to construct more bases to secure adequate accommodation. The Ultimate Building Machine (UBM) was also acquired to expedite the construction of accommodation facilities. The Ministry started with this task during the Financial Year 2010/2011 and this is an on-going exercise.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

PROGRAMME 01: TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The Objectives for this Programme are:

- To capacitate all service men and women in uniform and civilian employees with professional skills and knowledge to improve productivity.
- The aim is to produce doctors, engineers, accountants, pilots, technicians, etc for self-sustainability.
- Recruit new blood and maintain on-going training of soldiers to be ready for combat and peacekeeping operations and prepare for emergencies and disasters at all times.

The Main Activities that Fall Under the Programme are:

- To feed, dress, equip and supply technical and other services to the members;
- Civilian and military training for Officers, Cadets and Recruits;
- Day to Day Maintenance of bases and Equipment Strategic Activities implemented and Output to Achieve High-Level Strategies in the reporting year.

Strategic Activities

- Conduct Training need analysis
- Improve staff skills and competencies

Outputs

- A well trained force.
- Combat ready Force

PROGRAMME 02: LAND OPERATIONS

The Objectives for this Programme:

- In accordance with the *Constitution and the Defence Act* (2002), the Army is responsible for guaranteeing sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- It also assists other Ministries and civil communities as required.

The Main Activities that Fall Under the Programme are:

- Protection of Territorial Integrity and National Key points
- Protection of the Capital City and Provision of Ceremonial duties
- Assisting civil authorities and provide support to relief operations
- Combating of environmental threats
- Carry out research and development on new technology and modernisation
- Procurement of property plant and equipment
- Acquiring of ammunition, Simulators, Surveillance equipment and Pyrotechnic
- Construction of new bases and rehabilitation of old ones
- Day to day maintenance of bases and equipment

Strategic Activities Implemented and Outputs to Achieve High-Level Strategies in the Reporting Year

Strategic Activities

- Design Land force strength and table of equipment
- Conduct force deployment capability

Outputs

- Potential acts of aggression threat will be met with robust force.
- Improved peace and stability in the region and beyond.
- A healthy and combat ready force.
- Number of new bases constructed.
- Number of old bases rehabilitated.
- Improved living conditions of soldiers.
- Adequate storage facilities.
- Improved quality of material & supplies.
- Modernised and modified defence equipment
- Optimal and adequate infrastructure.

PROGRAMME 03: AIRSPACE PROTECTION

The Objectives for this Programme:

The Air Force is responsible for safeguarding the Namibian airspace, enhance air capacity of the NDF and assist other Government Departments and Civil Authorities with air support operations.

The Main Activities that fall Under the Programme are:

- Brief description of activity Protection of Namibian airspace
- Ensure airspace security and protect national key points
- Acquiring Simulators and Air space Surveillance equipment
- Day to Day maintenance of Aircraft and Military Airports
- Training of Pilots and Technicians

Strategic Activities Implemented and Outputs to Achieve High-Level Strategies in the Reporting Year

Strategic Activities

- Conduct force deployment
- Conduct troop lifting capabilities

Outputs

- Healthy and combat ready force
- Improved living conditions of soldiers
- Well equipped with modern equipment
- Guaranteed welfare of personnel
- Protected Air Space

PROGRAMME 04: MILITARY HEALTH SUPPORT

The Objectives for this Programme are:

This Programme is responsible for administering the Military Health component of the Ministry of Defence, ensuring that Military Personnel receive comprehensive, efficient and quality medical services.

The Main Activities that Fall Under this Programme are:

- Qualified Military Health workers
- Healthy and combat ready force
- Modern medical equipment
- Guaranteed welfare of personnel

Strategic Activities Implemented and Output to Achieve High-Level Strategies in the Reporting Year

Strategic Activities

- Conduct wellness campaigns
- Conduct early diagnosis and interventions Conduct medical boards
- Rehabilitate patients
- Procure medical equipment

Outputs

- Qualified Military Health workers
- Healthy and combat ready force
- Modern medical equipment
- Guaranteed welfare of personnel

- Managed Health Care Scheme Administration

PROGRAMME 05: OFFSHORE DEFENCE

The Objectives for this Programme are:

The Namibian Navy has the principal responsibility for defending Namibia's maritime domain and coastline against attacks. It trains and operates routinely as part of an offshore protection force to develop capacity.

The Main Activities that Fall Under this Programme are:

- To feed, dress, equip and supply technical and other services to the members
- Military training for Officers, Cadets and Recruits
- Day to Day Maintenance of bases and Equipment

Strategic Activities Implemented and Output to Achieve High-Level Strategies in the Reporting Year

Strategic Activities

- Design force strength and table of equipment
- Conduct force deployment capability

Outputs

- Guaranteed Maritime security
- A well trained force.
- Combat ready Naval Force
- High level of staff competency

PROGRAMME 06: INTERNATIONAL DEPLOYMENT

The Objectives for this Programme are:

The aim of this Programme is to maintain defence representations in countries where Namibia has significant defence co-operation and interest.

The Main Activities that Fall Under this Programme are:

- Promote regional and International defence relations
- Deploy/ Defence Advisors/Military Advisors
- Deployment of Contingent Military Observers and Staff Officers to UN/AU and SADC peace support operations

Strategic Activities Implemented and Outputs to Achieve High-Level Strategies in the Reporting Year

Strategic Activities

- Conduct pre-deployment training
- Carry out peace keeping operations
- Participate in training Peace Keeping Operations
- Attend and host Joint Commissions
- Deployment of Defence Advisors, Staff Officers and Military Observers

Outputs

- Enhance diplomatic relations.
- Enhanced Defence co-operation.
- Improved regional and international peace/security/relations

PROGRAMME 07: SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The Objectives for this Programme are:

The supervision and support services is entrusted to the Minister who is responsible for advising Cabinet on all matters of Defence interest and ensure that the government decisions on defence matters are promulgated and acted upon.

The Permanent Secretary under the supervision of the Minister is accountable for the general financial administration of the Ministry and state monies under his control.

The Chief of Defence Force is responsible for efficient administration, discipline, command and control of the Namibian Defence Force.

The Main Activities that Fall Under the Programme are:

- To feed, dress, equip and supply technical and other services to the members
- Civilian and military training for Officers, Cadets and Recruits
- Day to Day Maintenance of bases and Equipment

Strategic Activities Implemented and Output to Achieve High-Level Strategies in the Reporting Year**Strategic Activities**

- Advice Cabinet on Defence matters
- Ensure implementation of Government Decisions Control Budget Expenditure
- Procurement of goods and services
- Enforce Public Financial Management

Outputs

- Political Control over the Military
- Efficient and Effective Budget Execution

EXPENDITURE FROM CONTINGENCY

Programme Name	Activity Name	*MD In Charge	2011/2012 Actual	2011/2013 Actual	2011/2014 Actual
Land Operations	Maintenance of Defence Assets	MDO4	0	0	7,758,741
	Maintenance of Defence Assets	MDO4	0	0	28,653,756
	Maintenance of Defence Assets	MDO4	0	0	850,022
	Maintenance of Defence Assets	MDO4	0	0	1,311,704
	Maintenance of Defence Assets	MDO4	0	0	7,123,137
	Services to the Jetty	MDO4	0	0	7,362,503
Total			0	0	53,059,863

Reasons: To honour contractual agreements

Outputs: Modernised and modified defence equipment Optimal and adequate infrastructure

Contribution to the high-level strategy: Protection of Territorial Integrity and National Key Points

Safeguarding the Namibian Airspace

MID-YEAR REVIEW

Mid-Year Ministerial Revenue

Revenue Source	Estimate	First Half FY Collection	Execution Rate (%)	Estimated Full Year Revenue
Private Telephone Calls	5,000	4,852	97.0	5,000
Miscellaneous	72,770,934	219,688	0.3	72,770,934
Lost Equipment	50,000	0	0.0	50,000
Ministerial Fines	300,000	206,731	68.9	300,000
Sale of Serviceable Stores and Equipment	70,000	0	0.0	70,000
Total	73,195,934	431,271	0.6	73,195,934

Explanation for variances 2014/2015

Private Telephone Calls: An amount N\$4,852.00 was collected from private telephone calls.

Miscellaneous: The Ministry uses this account for revenue not accommodated in other revenue sources, such as revenue from UN operations etc.

Lost Equipment and Stores: Strict control measures were put in place that helped to improve losses; as a result, less revenue was collected.

Ministerial Fines: This revenue is generated from fines arising from Absent Without Official Leave (AWOL); discipline has improved resulting in the Ministry receiving less revenue from fines than was originally estimated.

Sale of Serviceable Stores and Equipment: There were no substantial items with significant value to be disposed off during this time.

Mid-Year Budget Execution by Programme

Programme	P-Code	Budgeted Allocation	Revised Allocation	Actual Expenditure In First Half of FY	Execution Rate (%)
Training and Development	01	484,414,000	0	67,419,763	13.9
Land Operation Support	02	3,760,855,000	0	914,065,661	24.3
Airspace Protection	03	479,166,000	0	86,083,318	18.0
Military Health Support	04	138,800,000	0	22,881,065	16.5
Offshore Defence	05	465,773,000	0	82,791,595	17.8
International Deployment	06	96,500,000	0	12,784,425	13.2
Supervision and Support Services	07	1,181,569,000	0	132,184,898	11.2
Total		6,607,077,000	0	1,318,210,724	20.0

Explanation for Budget Revision

NONE

Achievements (under each Programme)

The Ministry was able to spent 20% of the budget during the first quarter of the Financial Year. The percentage spending is envisaged to increase from the second quarter of the Financial Year, as the Ministry will commence with the payment of the regrading for military personnel and the ten percent (10%) general salary increment of all the employees.

Challenges Experienced

Although the spending appears to be very slow during the first quarter of the Financial Year, it is worth noting that Sixty-three (63%) of the Defence budget is for Personnel Expenditure.

Most of the expenditure during the first quarter was to be remunerated from Personnel Expenditure, but due to the Continuous Authorization (which only allows a spending of 33% of the previous budget allocation); the Ministry could not honour the ten percent (10%) general salary increments and the appeal for regrading backdated April 2013 during that quarter.

APPENDIX 2: PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2015/2016

VOTE 08: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Introduction

Main Achievement in the Last Three Years

- The approval of the Defence Policy by Parliament
- The commissioning of the Helicopters
- The arrival of the Namibian Ship (NS) Elephant
- The successful conducting of the SADC Exercises
- Procurement and delivery of the Ultimate Building Machine
- Participation in various bilateral and multilateral meetings on Defence and Security
- Participation in Peace Support Operations
- Construction and completion of the Jetty Develop the research capacity of the Defence Industry
- In Namibia Successful deployment of Military Observers and staff Officers in Liberia, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Burundi, Sudan and Chad.
- Deployment of Defence Advisors in various countries

Main Expenditure Drivers for the Period (Personnel, Other operational, Transfers, Investment/Development Expenditure, etc)

From a total budget of N\$3.9 billion allocated for the Financial Year 2013/2014, the main expenditure driver is personnel expenditure with a 63.3% followed by Goods and other services with 19.6%, which is mainly training, and Acquisition of Capital Assets with a 13.2%.

The Main Challenges and Constraints Encountered by the Votes, in Spite of the Completed Strategic Activities.

- The Tendering procedures

- Dependence for materials from foreign countries
- Foreign exchange gaps
- Defence equipment that requires down payments which is against Treasury regulations
- The delay in manufacturing of Defence equipment
- Costly foreign training due to insufficient training institutions in Namibia.

Ministerial Targets

Recruitment: To recruit 1,000 per year over the MTEF period. The target is measured as total of recruited young members against total Force strength needed.

Target	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
3,500 recruits over the MTEF period	1,500	1,000	1,000

Training: Specialization of at least 55% of MOD Personnel by 2017/2018.

Target	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Target Specialization of at least 55% of MOD personnel by 2017/2018	45%	45%	50%

Education: Upgrading of at least 50% MOD personnel who want to further their qualifications at tertiary institutions by 2017/2018.

Target	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Upgrading of at least 50% MOD personnel who want to further their qualifications at tertiary institutions by 2017/2018	40%	45%	50%

Carry out research on modern equipment and acquire 16% of Defence Equipment by 2017/2018.

Target	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Carry out research on modern equipment and acquire 16% of Defence Equipment 2017/2018	15%	15.5%	16%

Replace obsolete and out-dated equipment with at least 16% latest technology by 2017/2018.

Target	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Replace obsolete and out-dated equipment with at least 16% latest technology by 2017/2018	15%	15.5%	16%

Accommodation: To improve and maintain existing infrastructure at least 40% by 2017/2018.

Target	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
To improve and maintain existing infrastructure at least 40% by 2017/2018.	20%	30%	40%

Overall Budget

Year	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Breakdown						
Operational Budget	2,960,088,571	3,387,880,015	5,996,077,000	6,514,302,000	6,607,527,000	6,607,527,000
Development Budget	454,228,458	494,162,212	610,000,000	654,025,000	734,500,000	754,000,000
Development Partners	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3,414,317,029	3,882,042,227	6,606,077,000	7,229,351,000	7,248,802,000	7,361,527,000

Budget Allocation to the Defence Vote

Year Breakdown	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2012 Actual	2014/2015 Estimate	2015/2016 Estimate	2016/2017 Estimate	2017/2018 Estimate
Personnel Expenditure	1,993,227,019	2,483,454,893	4,140,128,000	4,292,994,000	4,420,089,000	4,550,996,000
Goods and Other Services	738,232,443	773,382,706	1,149,829,000	1,478,746,000	1,354,627,000	1,329,300,000
Subsidies and Other Current Transfers	7,663,426	10,563,271	19,060,000	17,514,000	18,221,003	18,627,000
Acquisition of Capital Assets (Operational)	220,964,783	118,479,145	687,060,000	786,072,000	721,365,000	708,404,000
Capital Transfers (Operational)	0	0	0			
Operational Budget	2,960,088,571	3,387,880,015	5,996,077,000	6,575,326,000	6,514,302,000	6,607,527,000
Operational Capital	0					
Acquisition of Capital Assets (Development)	454,228,458	494,162,212	610,000,000	654,025,000	734,500,000	754,000,000
Capital Transfers (Development)						
Development Budget	454,228,458	494,162,212	610,000,000	654,025,000	734,500,000	754,000,000
Total State Revenue Fund Appropriation	3,414,317,029	3,882,042,227	6,606,077,000	7,229,351,000	7,248,802,000	7,361,527,000
Development Partners						
Grand Total	3,414,317,029	3,882,042,227	6,606,077,000	7,229,351,000	7,248,802,000	7,361,527,000

Non-Tax Revenue Collection

Revenue Source	Description (if any)	Budget 2015/2016	MTEF Projections	
			2016/2017	2017/2018
Ministerial Fines	Revenue charged against soldiers on AWOL	350,000	360,000	380,000
Sale of Serviceable Stores and Equipment	Revenue obtained from auctions of equipment	100,000	110,000	120,000
Private Telephone Calls	Revenue obtained from auctions of equipment	5,000	5,000	5,000
Lost Equipment and Stores	Refund lost equipment, negligence of officials	50,000	60,000	70,000
Miscellaneous	Revenue not reflected under above subhead, Peac Keeping Operations etc.	112,381,467	123,081,588	143,781,709
Total		112,886,467	123,616,588	144,356,709

Ministerial Fines: This revenue is generated from fines arising from Absent without Official Leave (AWOL); discipline has improved resulting in the Ministry receiving less revenue from fines than was originally estimated.

Sale of Serviceable Stores and Equipment: Revenue obtained from auctions of equipment.

Private Telephone Calls: Revenue obtained from private telephone calls.

Lost Equipment and Stores: Refund from lost equipment, negligence of officials.

Miscellaneous: The Ministry uses this account for revenue not accommodated in other revenue sources, such as revenue from UN operations, etc.

Human Resources Capacity

No. of Staff	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
Approved	26,923	26.923	26,923
Funded	25,923	25.923	25,923

The establishment of the Ministry of Defence and the Namibian Defence Force is based on the NDF Development plan and the fighting orbit. The NDF structures has to be linked to fighting capability of the Force which is determined by the strength and equipment of all Formations and Units of each service, be it Army, Air Force, Navy or Special Force.

Vote High-level Strategy and Corresponding Indicators

The Vote Mandate

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) coordinates and administers the operations of the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) as provided for in the Constitution of Namibia (1990, Chapter 15, Article 118). This mandate is further elaborated in the *Defence Act* of 2002 and the Defence Policy, which inter alia require it to:

“Defend the territory and national interests of Namibia; Meet adequately defence needs: namely by guaranteeing territorial integrity, safeguarding against external attack, conventional or non-conventional, and to prevent violations of Namibia's land, sea and airspace; Operate effectively in support of the civil authorities if required; undertake peace support operations; Provide challenges and opportunities for employees utilising and enhancing

skills, abilities and creativity; Develop a defence organization with which the people of Namibia will identify and in which they will take pride in, and operate safely with respect for, the environment of Namibia.”

According to the *Defence Act* of 2002, the MOD is responsible for the efficient organization, administration, resource mobilization and to provide leadership and control of the NDF through the Chief of Defence Force in order to implement its mandate, achieve its objectives within the approved Budget, and set financial targets.

NDP4 Priority	Human Capital Investment
High-level strategy	Train and Maintain adequate and competent workforce in the sector
Indicators:	Maintain trained workforce (%) of workforce trained
NDP4 Priority	Strengthen Internal Security
High-level Strategy:	Strengthen National & Territorial Integrity
Indicator:	Secure exclusive economic zone
NDP4 Priority	Enhance Regional and International Peace and Security
High-level strategy	Strengthen National & Territorial Integrity
Indicator	Global and regional domestic peace and stability
Ministerial Priority	Recruitment
High-level strategy	Recruitment of 1000 per year over the MTEF period
Indicator	NDF members recruited annually (%)
Ministerial Priority	Training
High-level strategy	Specialization of at least 50% of MOD personnel by 2016/2017
Indicator	Specialized staff trained by 2016/2017 (%)
Ministerial Priority	Education
High-level strategy	Upgrading of at least 45% of MOD personnel who want to further their qualifications at tertiary institution by 2016/2017
Indicator	Personnel with tertiary qualifications (%)
Ministerial Priority	Infrastructure development
High-level strategy	To improve and maintain existing infrastructure by 2016/2017
Indicator	Level of infrastructure development (%)
Ministerial Priority	Research and development
High-level strategy	Carry out research on modern equipment and acquire 20% of Defence Equipment by 2016/2017 Replacing of obsolete equipment with at least 20% latest technology by 2016/17
Indicator	% of obsolete equipment replaced

***P-Code: Programme Code; *A-Code: Activity Code; MD: Main Division**

*P-Code	Programme Name	*A-Code	Activity Name	*MD in Charge	Actuals 2012/2013	Actuals 2013/2014	Budget 2014/2015	Budget 2015/2016	MTEF Projections	
									2016/2017	2017/2018
01	Training and Capacity Building	01-01	Training of Military and Civilian Officers		188,598,501	201,711,808	483,414,000	462,553,000	460,354,000	467,865,000
Sub-Total					188,598,501	201,711,808	483,414,000	462,553,000	460,354,000	467,865,000
02	Land Operations	02-01	Protection of Territorial Integrity and National Key points		2,000,631,442	2,315,377,436	3,375,439,000	3,761,786,000	3,854,718,000	3,936,427,000
		02-02	Protection of the Capital City and provision of ceremonial services		218,485,179	268,021,800	385,416,000	509,361,000	512,649,000	523,328,000
Sub-Total					2,219,116,621	2,583,399,236	3,760,855,000	4,271,147,000	4,367,367,000	4,459,755,000
03	Airspace Protection	03-01	Protection of Namibian Airspace		232,997,788	269,044,489	479,166,000	478,417,000	474,852,000	482,076,000
Sub-Total					232,997,788	269,044,489	479,166,000	478,417,000	474,852,000	482,076,000
04	Military Health Support	04-01	Provision of Health Services		65,966,192	77,538,733	138,800,000	136,035,000	133,804,000	135,346,000
Sub-Total					65,966,192	77,538,733	138,800,000	136,035,000	133,804,000	135,346,000
05	Offshore Defence	05-01	Protection of Maritime Domain and Coastline of Namibia		201,731,283	248,750,662	465,773,000	511,507,000	508,675,000	516,813,000
Sub-Total					201,731,283	248,750,662	465,773,000	511,507,000	508,675,000	516,813,000
06	International Deployment	06-01	Promotion and strengthening Defence Diplomatic Relations		47,833,808	96,210,143	96,500,000	109,640,000	104,137,000	103,816,000
Sub-Total					47,833,808	96,210,143	96,500,000	109,640,000	104,137,000	103,816,000
07	Supervision and Support Services	07-01	Political control over the Military		4,400,533	4,049,241	13,009,000	10,296,000	9,670,000	9,586,000
		07-02	Procurement and Support Services		453,672,103	401,337,915	1,168,560,000	1,249,756,000	1,189,943,000	1,186,270,000
Sub-Total					458,072,636	405,387,156	1,181,569,000	1,260,052,000	1,199,613,000	1,195,856,000
Sub-Total					0	0	0	0	0	0
Vote-Total					3,414,317,029	3,882,042,227	6,606,077,000	7,229,351,000	7,248,802,000	7,361,527,000

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

PROGRAMME 01: TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The Objectives for this Programme are:

- To capacitate all service men and women in uniform and civilian employees with professional skills and knowledge to improve productivity.
- The aim is to produce doctors, engineers, accountants, pilots, technicians, etc for self-sustainability.
- Recruit new blood and maintain on-going training of soldiers to be ready for combat and peacekeeping operations and prepare for emergencies and disasters at all times.

The Main Activities that Fall under the Programme are:

- To feed, dress, equip and supply technical and other services to the members
- Civilian and military training for Officers, Cadets and Recruits
- Day to Day Maintenance of bases and Equipment

Strategic Activities and Output to Achieve High-Level Strategies

Training and Capacity Building

- Conduct Training need analysis
- Improve staff skills and competencies

Outputs

- A well trained force.
- Combat ready Force

P-Code	A-Code		2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Forecast	2015/2016 Forecast	2016/2017 Forecast	2017/2018 Forecast
01	01-01	Budget (N\$)	188,500,669	205,747,661	483.414.000	462,553,000	460,354,000	467,865,000
		Actual (N\$)	188,598,501	201,711,808				
		Output	100%	98%				

PROGRAMME 02: LAND OPERATIONS

The objectives for this Programme:

- In accordance with the constitution and the *Defence Act* (1990), the Army is responsible for guaranteeing sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- It also assists to other Ministries and the civil community as required.

The Main Activities that Fall Under the Programme are:

- Protection of Territorial Integrity and National Key points
- Protection of the Capital City and Provision of Ceremonial duties
- Assisting civil authorities and provide support to relief operations
- Combating of environmental threats
- Carry out research and development on new technology and modernization
- Procurement of property plant and equipment
- Acquiring of ammunition, Simulators, Surveillance equipment and pyrotechnic
- Construction of new bases and rehabilitation of old ones • Day to day maintenance of bases and equipment

Strategic Activities and Output to Achieve High-Level Strategies

- Design Land force strength and table of equipment
- Conduct force deployment capability
- Potential acts of aggression threat will be met with robust force
- Improved peace and stability in the region and beyond

- A healthy and combat ready force
- Number of new bases constructed
- Number of old bases rehabilitated
- Improved living conditions of soldiers
- Adequate storage facilities
- Improved quality of material & supplies
- Modernized and modified Defence equipment
- Optimal and adequate infrastructure

ARMY

P-Code	A-Code		2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Forecast	2015/2016 Forecast	2016/2017 Forecast	2017/2018 Forecast
02	02-01	Budget (N\$)	2,000,732,126	2,354,999,460	3,375,439,000	3,761,786,000	3,854,718,000	3,936,427,000
		Actual (N\$)	2,000,631,443	201,711,808				
		Output	100%	99%				

BRIGADE

P-Code	A-Code		2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Forecast	2015/2016 Forecast	2016/2017 Forecast	2017/2018 Forecast
02	02-02	Budget (N\$)	218,529,580	263,223,077	385,416,000	509,361,000	512,649,000	523,328,000
		Actual (N\$)	218,485,179	268,021,800				
		Output	100%	102%				

PROGRAMME 03: AIRSPACE PROTECTION

The objectives for this Programme are:

The Air force is responsible for safeguarding the Namibian airspace, enhance air capacity of the NDF and assist other government departments and civil authorities with air support operations.

The Main Activities that Fall Under this Programme are:

- Protection of Namibian Airspace
- Ensure airspace security and protect national key points
- Acquiring Simulators and Air space Surveillance equipment Day to Day maintenance of Aircraft and Military Airports Training of Pilots and Technicians

Strategic Activities and Output to Achieve High-Level Strategies

- Conduct force deployment
- Conduct troop lifting capabilities
- Healthy and combat ready force
- Improved living conditions of soldiers Well equipped with modern equipment
- Guaranteed welfare of personnel
- Protected Air Space

AIRFORCE

P-Code	A-Code		2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Forecast	2015/2016 Forecast	2016/2017 Forecast	2017/2018 Forecast
03	03-01	Budget (N\$)	233,029,674	269,284.800	479,166.000	478,417.000	474,852.000	482,076,000
		Actual (N\$)	232,997,788	269,044,489				
		Output	100%	100%				

PROGRAMME 04: MILITARY HEALTH SUPPORT

The Objectives for this Programme are:

This Programme is responsible for administering the Military Health component of the Ministry of Defence, ensuring that Military Personnel receive comprehensive, efficient and quality medical services.

The Main Activities that Fall Under this Programme are:

- Provision of Health Services
- Provision of counselling and medical testing
- Participating in national immunization campaign
- Train qualified Military Health workers
- HIV/AIDS Awareness campaigns, antiretroviral support and home based care for soldiers

Strategic Activities and Output to Achieve High-Level Strategies

- Conduct wellness campaigns
- Conduct early diagnosis and interventions
- Conduct medical boards

- Rehabilitate patients
- Procure medical equipment
- Qualified Military Health workers
- Healthy and combat ready force
- Modern medical equipment
- Guaranteed welfare of personnel

MILITARY HOSPITAL

P-Code	A-Code		2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Forecast	2015/2016 Forecast	2016/2017 Forecast	2017/2018 Forecast
04	04-01	Budget (N\$)	65,986,000	78,628,500	138,800,000	136,035,000	133,804,000	135,346,000
		Actual (N\$)	65,966,192	77,538,733				
		Output	100%	99%				

PROGRAMME 05: OFFSHORE DEFENCE

The Objectives for this Programme are:

The Namibian Navy has the principal responsibility for defending Namibia's maritime domain and coastline against attacks. It trains and operates routinely as part of an offshore protection force to develop capacity.

The Main Activities that Fall Under this Programme are:

- To feed, dress, equip and supply technical and other services to the members Military training for Officers, Cadets and Recruits
- Day to Day Maintenance of bases and Equipment

Strategic Activities and Output to Achieve High-Level Strategies

- Design force strength and table of equipment
- Conduct force deployment capability
- Guaranteed Maritime security
- A well trained force
- Combat ready Naval Force
- High level of staff competency

NAVY

P-Code	A-Code		2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Forecast	2015/2016 Forecast	2016/2017 Forecast	2017/2018 Forecast
05	05-01	Budget (N\$)	201,751,300	259,877,850	465,773,000	511,507,000	508,675,000	516,813,000
		Actual (N\$)	201,731,483	248,750,662				
		Output	100%	96%				

PROGRAMME 06: INTERNATIONAL DEPLOYMENT

The objective for this Programme is:

The aim of this Programme is to maintain defence representations in countries where Namibia has significant defence co-operation and interest.

The main activities that fall under this Programme are:

- Promote regional and International defence relations.
- Deploy/Defence Advisors/Military Advisors.

Deployment of Contingent Military Observers and Staff

- Officers to UN/AU and SADC peace support operations

Strategic Activities and Outputs to Achieve High-Level Strategies

- Conduct pre-deployment training
- Carry out peace-keeping operations
- Participate in training Peace Keeping Operations
- Attend and host Joint Commissions
- Deployment of Defence Advisors, Staff Officers and Military observers
- Enhance diplomatic relations
- Enhanced Defence co-operation
- Improved regional and international peace/security/relations

SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

P-Code	A-Code		2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Forecast	2015/2016 Forecast	2016/2017 Forecast	2017/2018 Forecast
07	07-01	Budget (N\$)	4,401,180	4,314,284	13,009,00	10,296,000	9,670,000	9,586,000
		Actual (N\$)	4,400,533	4,049,241				
		Output	100%	94%				

PROGRAMME 07: SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The Objectives for this Programme are:

- The supervision and support services is entrusted to the Minister who is responsible for advising Cabinet on all matters of Defence interest and ensure that the government decisions on defence matters are promulgated and acted upon.
- The Permanent Secretary under the supervision of the Minister is accountable for the general financial administration of the Ministry and state monies under his control.
- The Chief of Defence Force is responsible for efficient administration, discipline, command and control of the Namibian Defence Force.

The Main Activities that Fall Under this Programme are:

- To feed, dress, equip and supply technical and other services to the members
- Civilian and military training for Officers, Cadets and Recruits Day to Day Maintenance of bases and Equipment

Strategic Activities and Output to Achieve High-Level Strategies

- Advice Cabinet on Defence matters
- Ensure implementation of Government Decision
- Control Budget Expenditure
- Procurement of goods and services
- Enforce Public Financial Management
- Political Control over the Military

- Efficient and Effective Budget Execution

SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

P-Code	A-Code		2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Actual	2014/2015 Forecast	2015/2016 Forecast	2016/2017 Forecast	2017/2018 Forecast
07	07-02	Budget (N\$)	453 673 663	410,045,368	1,168,560,000	1,249,756,000	1,189.943.000	1,186,270.000
		Actual (N\$)	453672 102	401,337,915				
		Output	100%	98%				

Activity Supported by Development Partner

None

“DEFENCE UNDERPINS PROSPERITY OF THE MOTHERLAND”